

Development as an Awakening Process; The Sarvodaya Approach



Dr.Vinya Ariyaratne

President

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

Sri Lanka

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

Sarvodaya – *“Awakening of All”*

Shramadana – *“Sharing of Time, Thoughts and Energy”*

Individual

Family

Village

Urban

Nation

World



Spiritual

Moral

Cultural

Social

Economic

Political

A holistic/integrated approach

- Recognition of;
 - inter-connectedness of all beings and all systems
 - multiple determinants of poverty
- Development is an outcome as well as a process
- Notion of “well-being”
- Development as an “awakening process” encompassing Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Social, Economic and Political dimensions

Sarvodaya Strategy

Present an idea; a philosophy
Initiate process of self-development

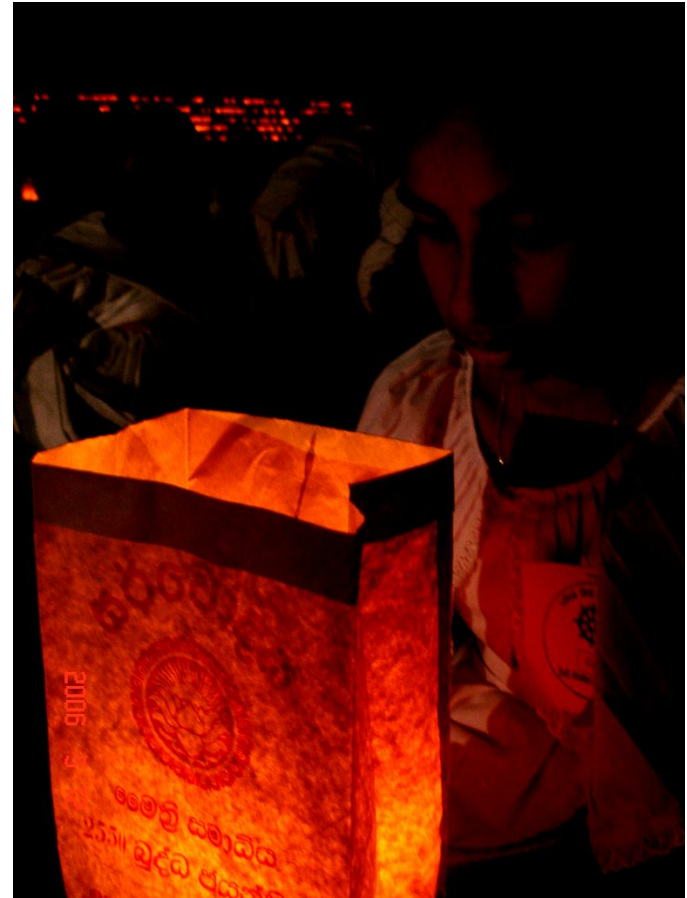


Support those who pick it up as best as we can

Path to *Paurushodaya* – Personality Awakening

Four *Brahma Vihara*'s
(Sublime Abodes)

1. *Metta* – Loving Kindness
2. *Karuna* – Compassionate Action
3. *Muditha* – Altruistic Joy
4. *Upekkha* - Equanimity



Path to Family/Group Awakening

Satara Sangraha Vastu

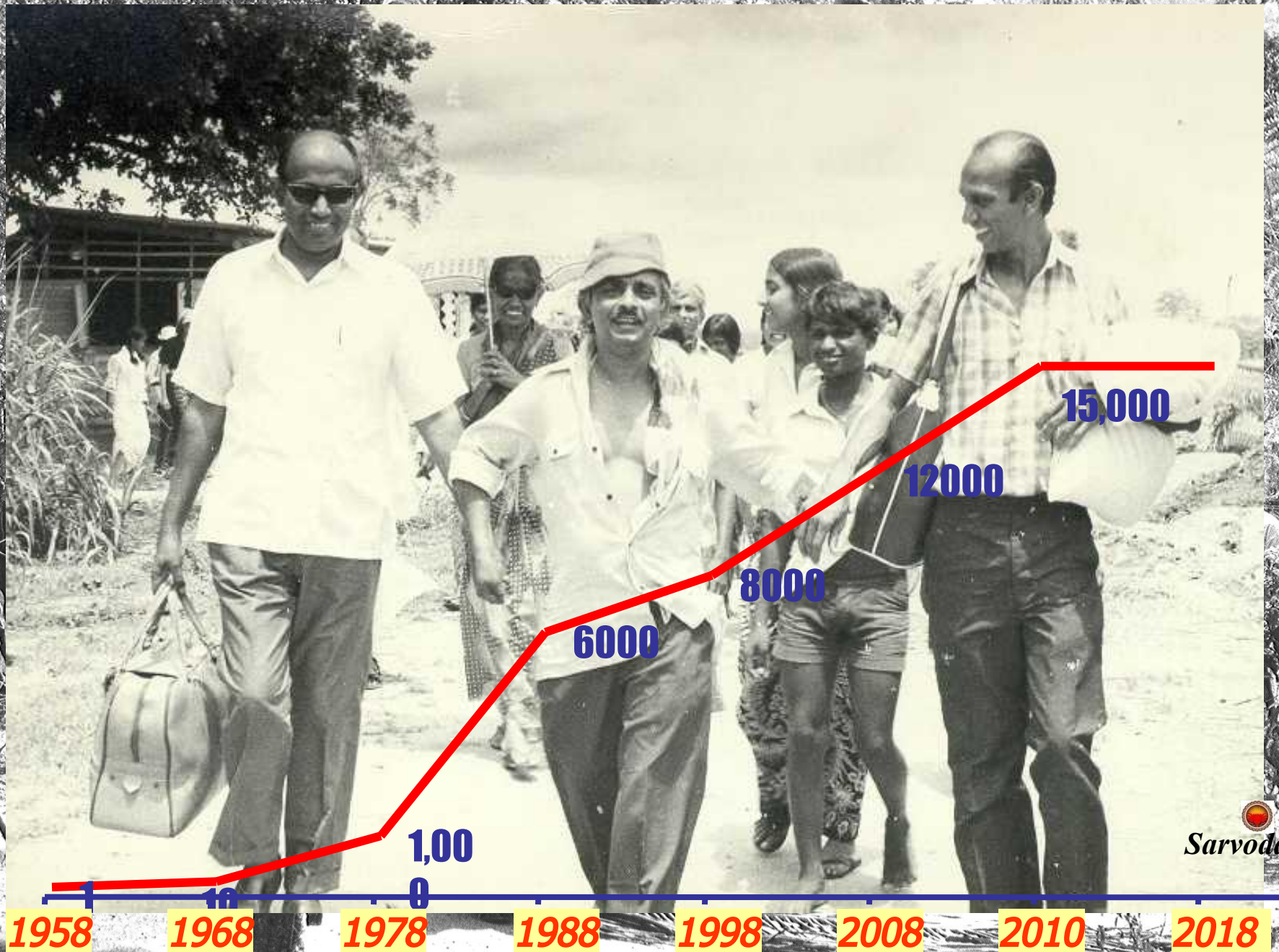
(Four principles of social conduct)

1. *Dana* - Sharing
2. *Priyavachana* – Pleasant Language
3. *Arthacharya* – Constructive Action
4. *Samanathmata* - Equality



“We build the road – Road builds us”






Sarvodaya

Evolution of Sarvodaya over 62 Years 1958 - 2020

*Community Mobilization
through volunteerism*

- Satisfaction of basic human needs
- Locally planned and resourced

1958

1968

1978

1988

1998

2008

2010

2018

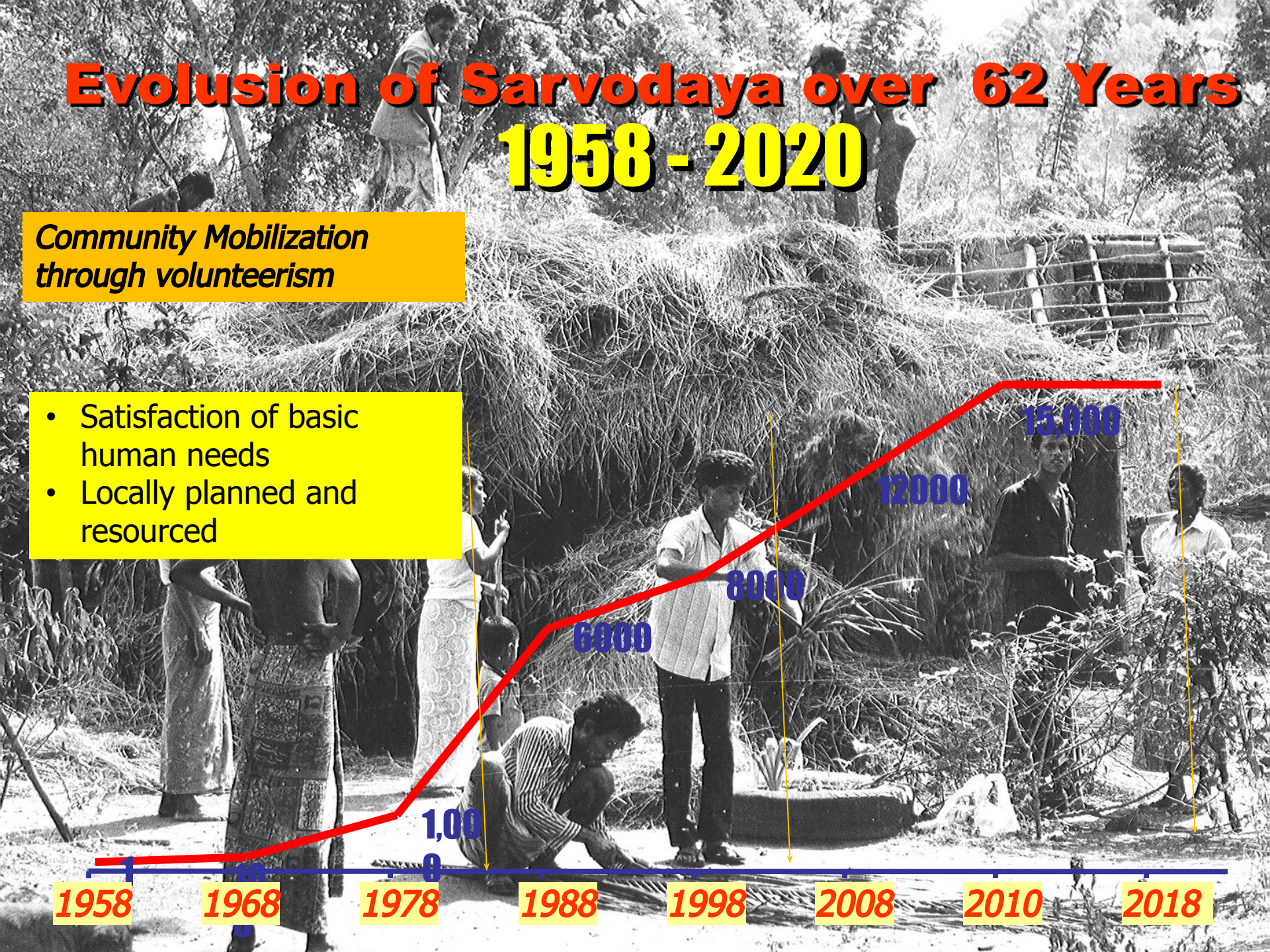
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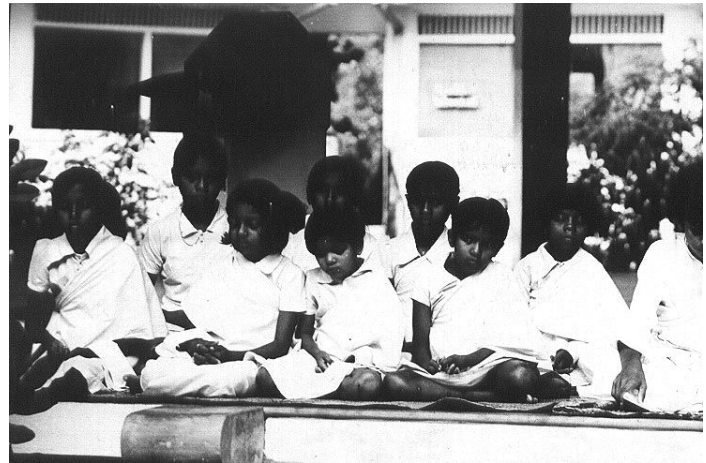
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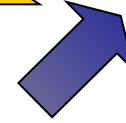
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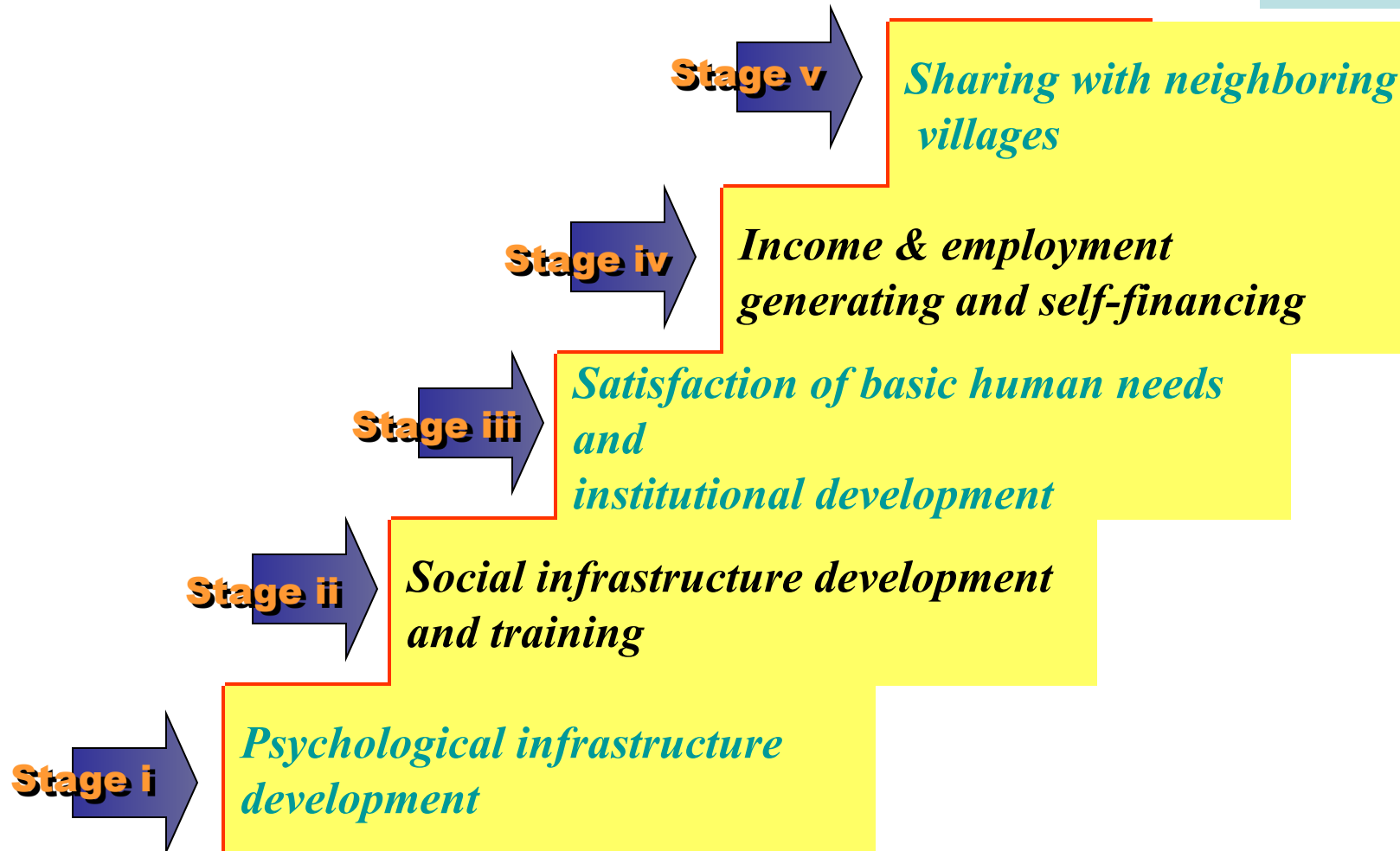
Community Mobilization to address social issues



Village Development as a Continuing Holistic Process



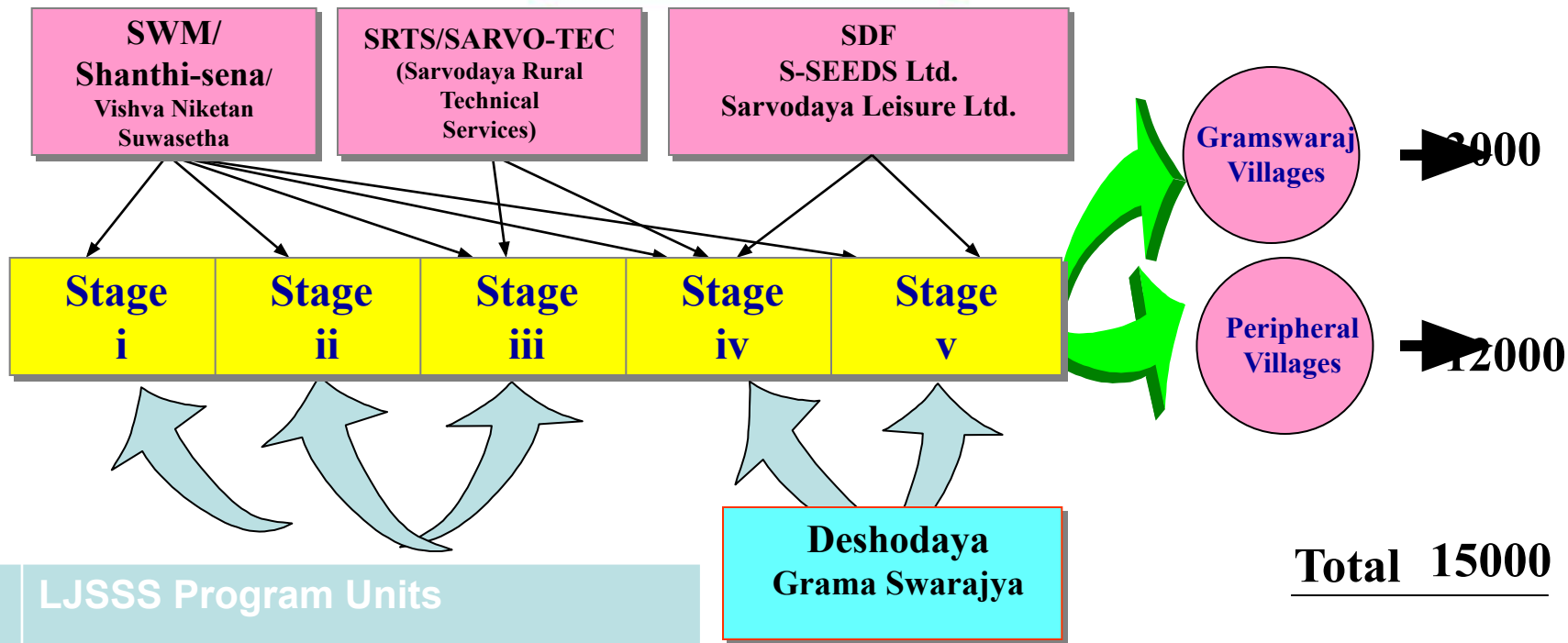
**Grama Swarajya
(Self Governing Village)**



Ten Basic Human Needs

- A clean and beautiful environment
- Safe and adequate supply of water and sanitation
- Adequate supply of clothing
- Balanced Nutrition
- Basic Housing
- Basic health care
- Basic communication facilities
- A minimum supply of energy
- Holistic education
- Spiritual and cultural needs

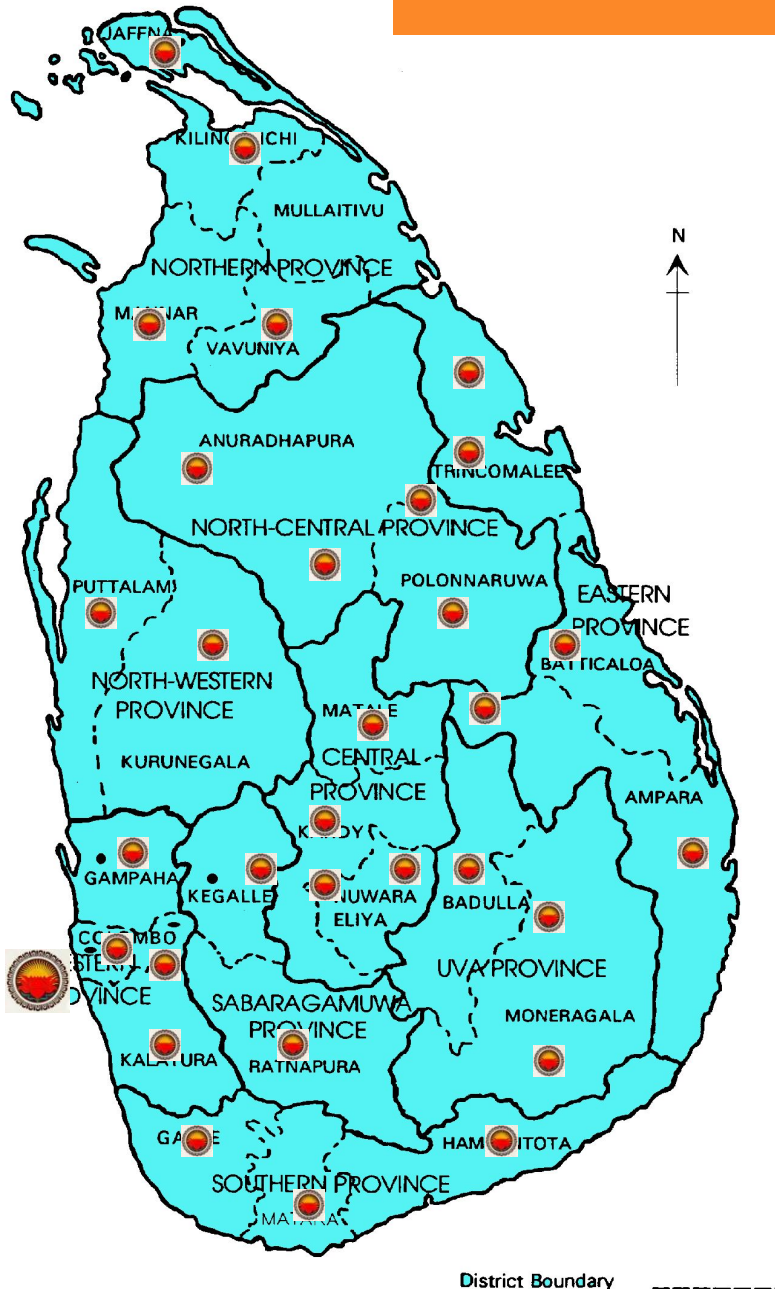




LJSSS Program Units	
1	Field Operations Division (FOD)
2	Sarvodaya Shramadana Central Unit (SSS-CU)
3	Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning (SIHL)
4	Sarvodaya – Fusion
5	Projects Division

- Organizational Structure**
1. Governance (Legal Compliance)
 2. Management (Personnel, Administration, Finance)
 3. Business Development

Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka



- Outreach to 15,000 villages
- 5400 legally registered village societies
- 25 District Centers
- 8 Development Education Institutes and 4 multipurpose community centers and 3 Farms
- 11 legally independent national organizations

A holistic approach

- Satisfaction of basic human needs
- Leadership development and voluntarism for social change
- Participatory democracy and good governance at village/community level
- An independent and representative community organization with a strong legal basis
- Capital formation
 - Spiritual
 - Social
 - Financial
- Part of a network of self-governing villages (Gramswaraj) aiming national awakening (Deshodaya)



Capital formation at community level

- Spiritual
 - Inner peace through meditation
 - Moral development through collective community action
- Social
 - Relationship building, social cohesion, ethnic harmony, protection of vulnerable sections of the populace
- Financial
 - Village savings mobilization, enterprise development
 - Surplus generation and investment within and/or outside the village



Towards an alternative economic system

- “Spend one portion of the earnings for consumption, invest two portions in business or industry, save one portion to be used if & when in distress” (Singalovada Sutta)



Current Economic Model

- Poverty and environmental degradation
- Economic model based on “profit generation” not on human welfare
- Features of this economic model
 - “Survival of the fittest approach”
 - Unequal income distribution and inequities
 - International interventions and corporates
 - Disempowerment of communities
 - Creation of paper money
 - Credit led economic growth

Elements of an Alternative Economic System

- Satisfaction of Basic Needs
- Use of renewable resources
- People based approach
- Gender equality
- Aim for a Self-sufficient economy
- Bottom up approach for development
- Sharing and caring
- Supportive Role of the State
- Use of appropriate technology including information communication technology (ICT)
- Savings led economic growth

A call for a Radical Transformation

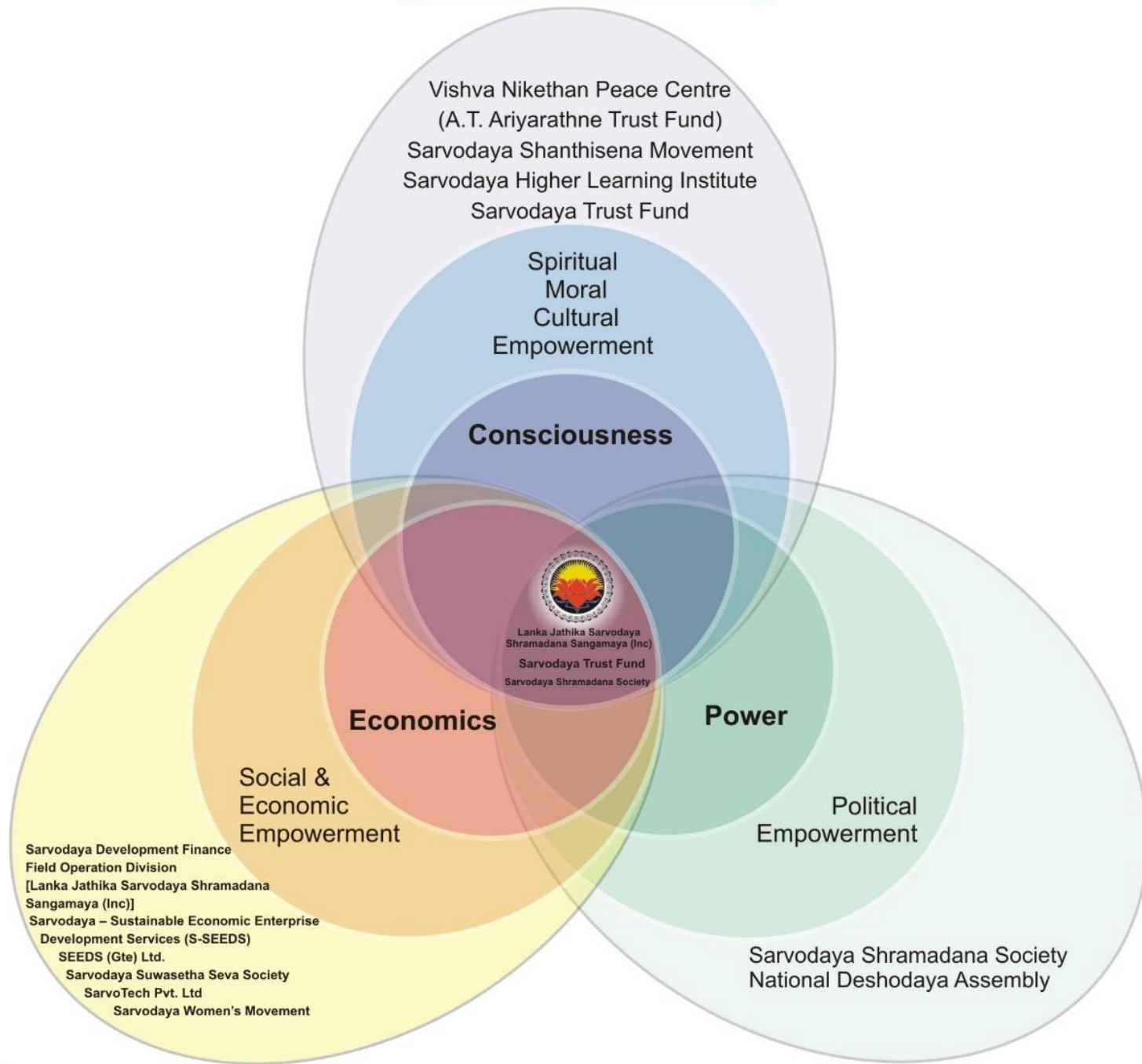
An alternative Economic System

- Not trying to create “rich few”
- Not making “profits” by destroying the environment and/or communal harmony.
- Not engage in “immoral” activities though perfectly legal
- Not make unfair deals & not take poor for a ride
- Recognize & give priority to social objectives while working within the existing economic environment

Transformative Approach

- Voluntarily give up wasteful styles of living
- Share part of their wealth to enable the poor to generate enough income to meet their minimum needs
- Take steps to remove structural injustices that keep majority powerless & poor
- Does not regard spiritual activities as “uneconomical”
- Ensure community savings circulate within the community







**BUILD A JUST, SUSTAINABLE AND
COMPASSIONATE SOCIAL ORDER
THAT FULFILLS THE BASIC HUMAN
NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
THROUGH INDIVIDUAL AND
COLLECTIVE AWAKENING**