

Sari Connection

Volume **1**

July 03,
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Progress Report of Sari Recycle Project by **PARCIC**
<http://www.parcic.org>

RECYCLE SARI PROJECT

Thanks to all your great help, here we publish the progress report of our Recycle Sari Project, "Sari Connection Vol.1". We have been donated more than 500 old saris from individual supporters, and both non for profit and for profit organizations.

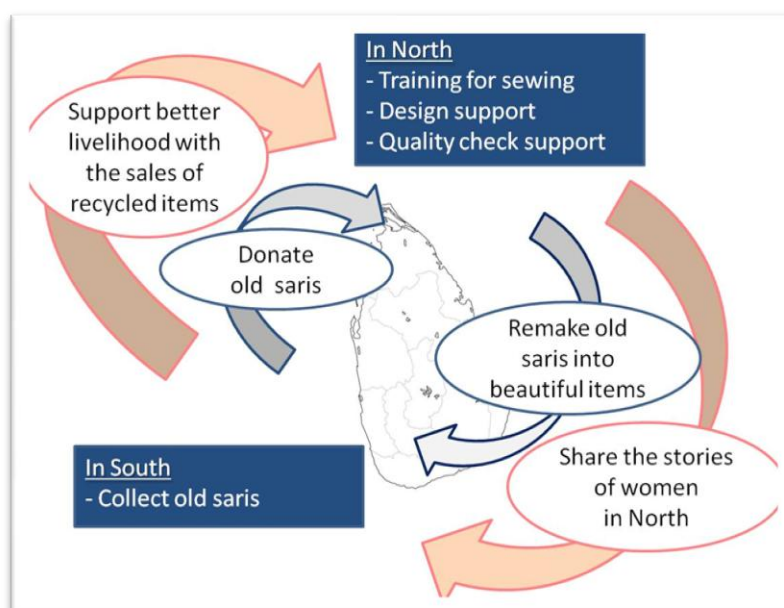
❖ PURPOSE

This project aims to support the improvement of livelihood of female - headed households in the North. We collect old saris from the South, and send them to the North where women groups work in remaking old saris into beautiful clothes and accessories. These items will be sold in Sri Lanka and exported to Japan. The tailors, women in North, wish to stabilize their life with the sales. Also, we expect this project will create the linkage between women from South and North for peace for the present and future.

❖ UP CYCLING

We do not just "Recycling" which just reuse your saris as a material but "Up Cycling", because your old saris are given value; 1) your saris are

refashioned into fabulous new items with a professional designer from Japan, and moreover 2) your saris empower women in North to get over their difficulties.



Women in North

Women working for this project live in Vadamarachchi east DS division in Jaffna. Most of them experienced the displacement from their own houses several times due to the civil war and the tsunami. After the end of the civil war in May 2009, they lived in the camp for one and half years and returned to their own villages in October 2010. Since last year the projects for constructing the permanent houses have been going on and some of them have gotten permanent houses, but still many people live in temporary housing with Palmyra leaves. Still they do not have electricity at home in this area. People are trying to rebuild their life little by little.



One of the women's temporary houses in Jaffna made with Palmyra leaves. Still many people live in this kinds of temporary houses.

FROM NORTH

We are working with 13 women from 2 villages in Jaffna at this moment. We organized the women's group with 6-7 women in each village in April of this year. All of them were already given the sewing machines and have gotten the basic sewing trainings by PARCIC and other agencies. They have been working as tailors at home but their income is neither stable nor enough for their daily life. Their monthly income from sewing work is SLR. 1000-5000. Only in the big festival time such as Deepavali, they can earn more. They sincerely wish to improve their sewing technic and earn more income through this project. Therefore, since this May with a great motivation, women have started to improve their sewing technic with teacher employed by PARCIC.



Meeting with the women in Manatkaadu, Vadamarachchi east



Sewing class in Uduthulai, Vadamarachchi east



Blouses made by women!

FROM SOUTH

We have collected more than 500 saris with your kindness. We visited some community events, individual home, companies, and NGOs to share our idea. Additionally, our friend Ms. Smriti helped us with spreading our idea across the island with her article on Sunday Times (See right). We have already sent some of saris to Jaffna, but still we are calling for MORE SARIS. If you or your friends have any old saris, please contact us !!!

OUR NEXT STEP

In Jaffna we will have two Japanese volunteers for the better designing and pattern making in July. They will stay in Jaffna and work with our women for three months. We hope we will show the "UP Cycling" products made by the women in the next report soon. We are looking for the places where we can sell their products. If you are interested in adding some of them to your shop or showroom, please contact us !!!



Sunday Times (Feb 10, 2013)

PARCIC is a Japanese NGO working in Sri Lanka since April 2004. Primarily, we contribute to improving livelihood in Jaffna, Mullaitivu, and Deniyaya. In Jaffna and Mullaitivu, we are working in fishing communities providing livelihood assistance both after the tsunami and the war. In Deniyaya, we are supporting tea small holders to convert to organic tea farming.

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