

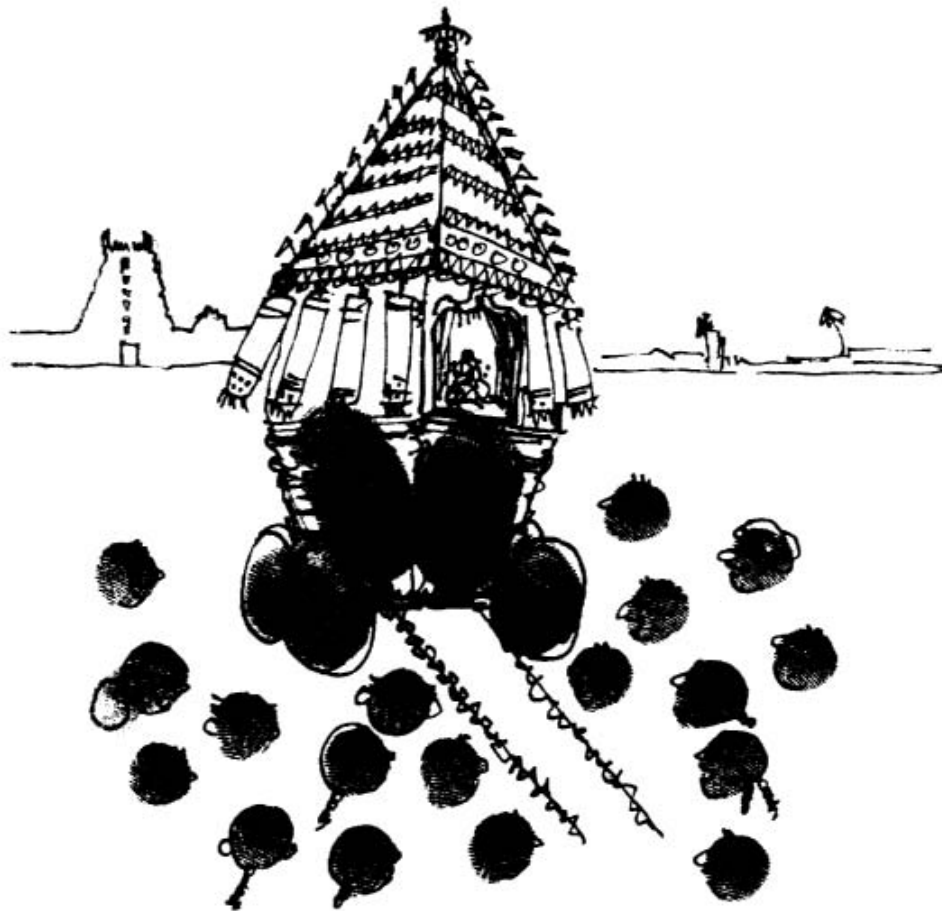
Cooperation



Group Action

OBJECTIVE: To help learners analyse group actions undertaken in the village

Present the two case studies given here, one by one. Help learners discuss the first before presenting or discussing the second.



CASE STUDY 1

Chettinagar is a coastal village in Tamil Nadu. The village has a nice, fairly big, temple for the Goddess Sengazhani Amman. The temple surely is a centre of attraction in the

village, as is the case with all coastal villages. The people in the village maintain the temple, arrange for the daily rituals of worship of the Goddess and for celebrating an annual 10-day festival with zeal. This is a season for enjoyment and the festival is celebrated on a grand scale.

The case panchayat, an elected committee, is responsible for the administration of the temple and for settling disputes in the village. The committee decides on the modes of collection of funds for the daily rituals in the temple and the annual festival. The modes decided upon are

- (a) The right to auction the fish landings on the sea-shore is leased out and the lease amount is to be given to the temple;
- (b) The right to collect the tax of 30 paise from each of the cycle traders coming to the village, is leased out and the lease amount goes to temple funds;
- (c) Every kattumaram (or boat), or every net that is spread in the sea fetches a tax of Rs 2 a day, which again goes towards the temple funds. The right to collect these funds is leased out and the lease amount is given to the temple
- (d) During festival time, the amount of money to be paid by each house is fixed according to the number of members and their economic status.

During festival time, the committee takes the responsibility of organizing the whole affair with the help of the people. Generally, there is a meeting almost every week, when all the villagers meet, discuss everything related to the celebration of the festival, etc. The information to be passed on to the villagers in general is discussed and arrangements made for communication. Any objections are thrashed out in the meetings. People abide by the taxes agreed upon. Generally the temple is well maintained and the festivals are well organized.

CASE STUDY 2

Nanilakuppam is a small village with 300 fishing families. There are 5 streets in the village and only one drinking water tap/pump. Therefore, there is scarcity of drinking water. There is a pond which is used for bathing, washing, cleaning the cattle, etc. So the water is dirty. Even then, some of the villagers use this water for drinking since the only tap available cannot cater the needs of the whole village. Therefore, many of them suffer from water-borne diseases. In addition, during summer, the pond dries up completely and water shortage becomes acute. There seems to be no use in complaining to anyone.

The Government proposed to install two more pumps and asked the village to decide where the pumps should be installed.

There was a dispute as to which two streets should be selected. The residents from each Street wanted to have the pump in their respective street. A meeting convened to **settle this matter did not arrive at any decision.** The villagers started quarrelling among themselves. One day, **persons from the Government came prepared to install the pumps,** but the villagers prevented them from carrying out their work, as they did not come to a decision about the place where the pumps were to be fixed. The workers returned without installing the pumps.

Help the discussion with the following questions

What is the procedure followed in Chettinagar village and in Nanilakuppam village ?

Do people understand what they did and what others **did in carrying out the work ? What efforts are made in these villages ?**

What are the attitudes of people in the two villages towards the task ?

What contributed to success in Chettinagar village case and to failure in Nanilakuppam village ?

What about your own village ?

Can you present any real incidents that happened in your village and analyse them ?

Generally cooperative group action is successful when all people involved understand the work or the problem to be solved, as also their roles and the roles of others in the accomplishment of the task . They should also understand the potential and problems of themselves and others.



Our Cooperative

OBJECTIVE

To help learners extend the idea of cooperation to many more spheres of their life

If members of the group are already exposed to an experience of cooperative venture, discussion on what they see as their strengths and weaknesses could be conducted to highlight the constraints in running a cooperative.

Running a cooperative is not easy. We may start a cooperative enthusiastically, but we have to run it effectively. And that **is difficult.**

What are the problems in running our cooperative ?
Let the group list down the problems and then help identify the reasons

- Inactivity/lack of enthusiasm among members. There has to be active participation by all members of the society, otherwise the society will exist only on paper.
- Some powerful group/individual may always try to dominate and take full advantage of the cooperative. This will not render justice to all the members.
- Members should have trust in one another and understand one another. Lack of understanding and distrust will only hamper progress of the cooperative.