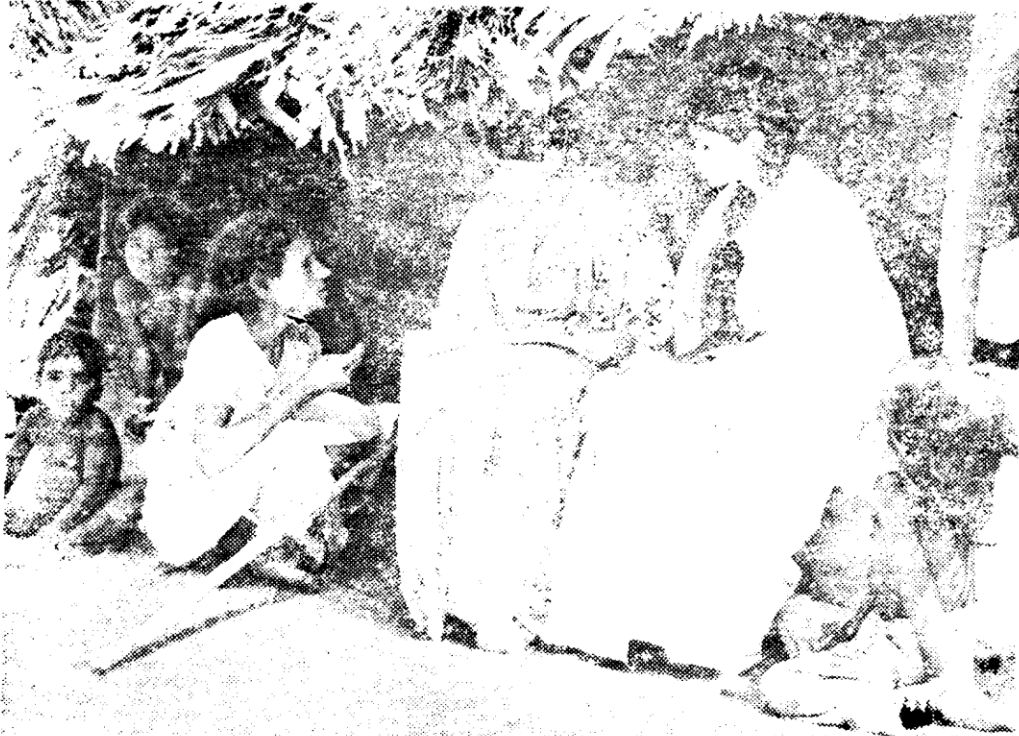




August 24, 1973



Students of the Stella Maris College interviewing a hut dweller for the Lions Club survey in Inchambakkam.

Girl Students Help Lions Club Project to Improve Village

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER

MADRAS.

The speeding van halts near the small hamlet. Twenty young college girls alight from the vehicle. With brushes and paint in hand, they enter and emerge from the tiny huts, engage themselves in a chat with the villagers and note down various particulars. They paint door numbers for easy identification of the 300 scattered tenements.

The visit by the Stella Maris students is to study intensively the problems of the villagers and put through the "research-cum-action" project sponsored by the Lions Club of Madras East which has "adopted" the village.

Situated on the sea-shore, 15 kilometres from the city, Inchambakkam, like any other village, lacks even basic amenities and sanitation. The Club, which started a Medical Centre in the village about three years ago, has now prepared a scheme to make it a model village.

The project gives priority to improvement of the health, educational and socio-economic conditions of the people. A leadership survey was first made to select persons in whom the villagers have confidence. Through these leaders the villagers are approached to find out their needs.

Explaining the features of the project, Mr. G. Kittu Rao, Vice-President, said the Club, with the help of the Government machinery, would first educate the residents on various aspects of hygiene. Immediate attention would be paid to desilt all wells in the village and construct parapet walls for them. Though the people of the area depend largely on fishing and agriculture, a majority of them suffer from malnutrition and are afflicted by disease. It was proposed to provide a com-

prehensive preventive-cum-curative medical centre for which a building at a cost of Rs. 70,000 would be constructed. Public latrines, an amenity which the village lacks would be set up. The

women would be taught tailoring and other handicrafts.

Based on the experience, guidelines for "adopting" villages would be drawn up and placed before the Club's District Conference. Mr. Rao said. He hoped these guidelines would help the other Clubs in sponsoring similar projects.



Sociology students of Stella Maris College painting door number on a hut in Inchambakkam village for the research-cum-action project of Lions Club, Madras East.