



Glocon

...the Global and Local Community Conversation

WEEK 2
Srayikadu, Kerala, India
February 6th –8th 2012

Foreword: appreciating, encouraging, and sharing local community story

This is a synthesis from Srayikadu, the second location of the Glocon 'story'. Each location will have its own synthesis so we can accumulate insight on local and global patterns of community response and transfer, and organisational adaptation. The 'themes and sub themes that matter to us' are the core of Glocon learning. Sincere thanks to local and country hosts, and to the local communities, for showing the future.

Background

The 'Signal Club' was started in 1994, and was registered in 2002. After the tsunami it became a referral and action group of young people, now numbering about 141 members. After the tsunami, community counseling was introduced, which engaged the Club members as active learners and facilitators. The confidence and integration achieved addressed their feeling in part, that NGOs need to think much more for the future of communities as they try to help after a disaster. The current members are a new generation –the older generation has passed on leadership, yet tries to mentor their successors. Now, they say, is the time to go back out and find out more about their own community, as they did just after the tsunami.

Key Sections

- *Glocon visit team members*
- *Process*
- *Where are we now?*
- *Transfer*
- *Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us*

See www.affirmfacilitators.org; www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm;
See also the facebook group "Glocon participants". By end of February, the first update will be available through the www.affirmfacilitators.org website and the facebook page. The background to Glocon is described in the concept note, on the affirm website.

The Glocon visit team

- Bobby Zachariah (India)
- Sue Searle (UK)
- Peter Stickland (UK)
- Alison Campbell-Glocon facilitator
- Ian Campbell –Glocon facilitator

Glossary

GP-Glocon Participants

SALT-Support and Learning Team

GLASCA-Glory Arts and Sports Club

TSA – The Salvation Army

Process

Day 1 Monday February 6th: Greetings with Signal Club hosts to clarify purpose, local community locations to be visited, and the approach. Glocon and local teams agreed to debrief at the end of every visit to track the community journey, key determinants and outcomes happening. SALT visits were made to homes in small teams, and Signal Club timeline was prepared.



Day 2 Tuesday 7th February: Visit to Azheekal community 5 miles along the coast, an example of transfer of vision to GLASCA. Discussion of several hours was hosted inside the home of a community member, and transfer map made. Reflections afterwards with the Signal Club.

The Glocon team in action



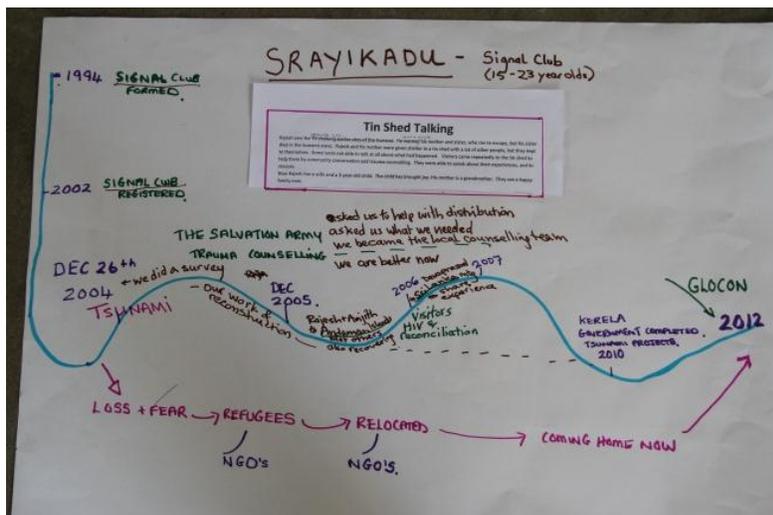
'There is a special relationship with TSA-we are glad it still exists. We want it to continue. Many organisations came and went –TSA keeps coming back.'



Day 3 Wednesday 8th February: Meeting at Signal Club with older generation leaders. Debrief of previous day visit. Reflections on characteristics of the Signal Club approach and new generation. Journey an hour downriver to a second transfer community, Perumpally -- a tsunami resettlement colony.



Glocon vision and direction: a history



The Signal Club timeline reflects the combined history of visiting team members and Signal Club members, from early 2005 to 2012. 'Trauma counselling' for psycho-social support was started in early 2005, in local homes and neighbourhoods, and continued for three years, through the facilitation of community conversation by the Signal Club team.



'After tsunami, everyone took charge and did their own initiative and we did not wait for someone to organize us.' Sanal Kumar



'We had done a survey of damage and loss just after the tsunami-we were ready. When The Salvation Army came and expressed interest to work together, we were able to collaborate immediately.' Amjith

'We did not realize that we did something significant –we started with a small group and we have influenced many people.' Amjith



Tin Shed Talking

*Rajesh saw the strange sea. He sent a message to warn his mother and sister, who ran to escape, but his sister died in the tsunami wave. Rajesh and his mother were given shelter in a tin shed with a lot of other people, but they kept to themselves. Some were not able to talk at all about what had happened. Visitors came repeatedly to the tin shed to help them by community conversation and trauma counselling. They were able to speak about their experiences, and to recover. Now Rajesh has a wife Sumitra and a 3-year-old child. The child has brought joy. They are a happy family now.

*Rajesh was the President of the Signal club



Home visit to Sumitra and her mother in law. The tin shed time has passed, memory remains, joy fills the house.

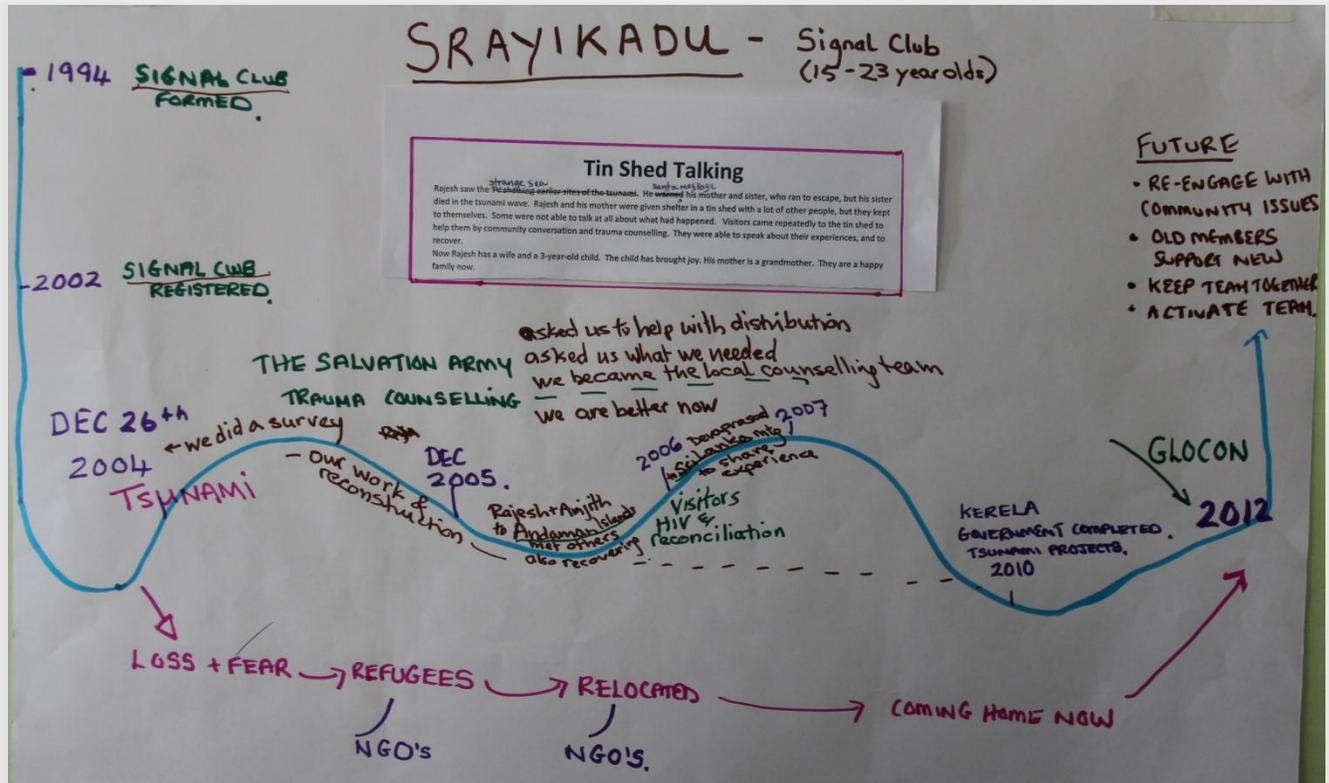
'They came many times to listen and his (Rajeesh's) mental pain lifted' -mother in law



'We should now find out the health concerns in our own community.' – Suneesh, Srayikadu Signal Club, (after a visit to Azeheekal community)

Where are we now?

Timeline: Srayikadu community, Kerala, India -- derived by synthesizing three SALT home visits with discussion with past and present Signal Club leaders.



'Many houses that were built by NGOs are not suitable –they are hot, congested and distant from our places of work. NGOs should have listened more. Houses closer to the seashore which are left unused are being demolished now because the government does not want them being used for illicit purposes.' Suneesh

'During my visit to Andamans in 2006, as a facilitator with TSA team, I shared my experience with the community. The people there were ready to do a team approach after that. I am a quiet person, but I have learned how to relate to others well.' Amjith





'I went from my place at Srayikadu to Sri Lanka international conference to share our story with many people. I saw other countries that were worse off, and I learned about other cultures and countries. I was able to come back and share what I had learned.' Devaprasad

'Not all local groups have survived. We have valued owning the responsibility ourselves, and we have been here for the community. We have passed on the leadership'. Amjith

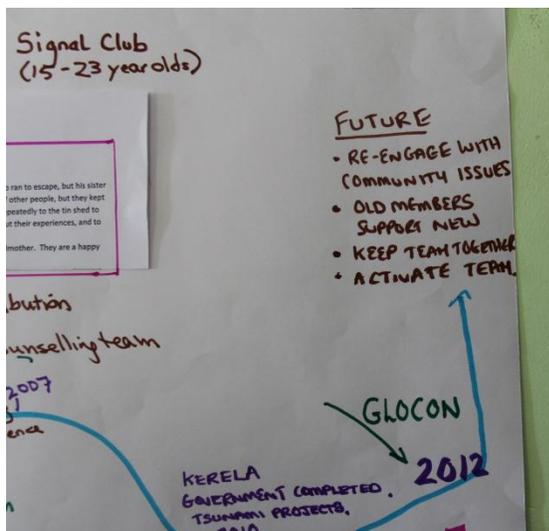
'We had in fact asked for training of different kinds, but the NGO's were not geared for this.' Devaprasad

'We have lost our playing ground –they built in the grounds of the temple and no-one uses the buildings –a waste of one crore rupees.' (Suneesh)



Signal Club: the next 7 years

(Derived through discussions with older past generation leaders and some current leaders)



'After visiting Azheekal community, we realize that Signal club could also respond to health issues. We influenced others first and now it is our opportunity to learn from them.' – Nidheesh

'Understand the current concerns of your community by home and neighborhood based SALT visits' – Ian

'The role played by our club is significant. Now some of us are in a financially better position and we now need to give back to our Club even with financial support'. Amjith

'At the tsunami, we were not visionaries and not looking far ahead enough. If the tsunami happened now, we will know how to care for our own community. We would ask organizations for different things -not necessarily nets and boats, but things to take us into the future.' Amjith



'We have learned from the mistakes of our seniors. In a similar way, our young leadership should learn from our failures so that they do not repeat them.' Amjith

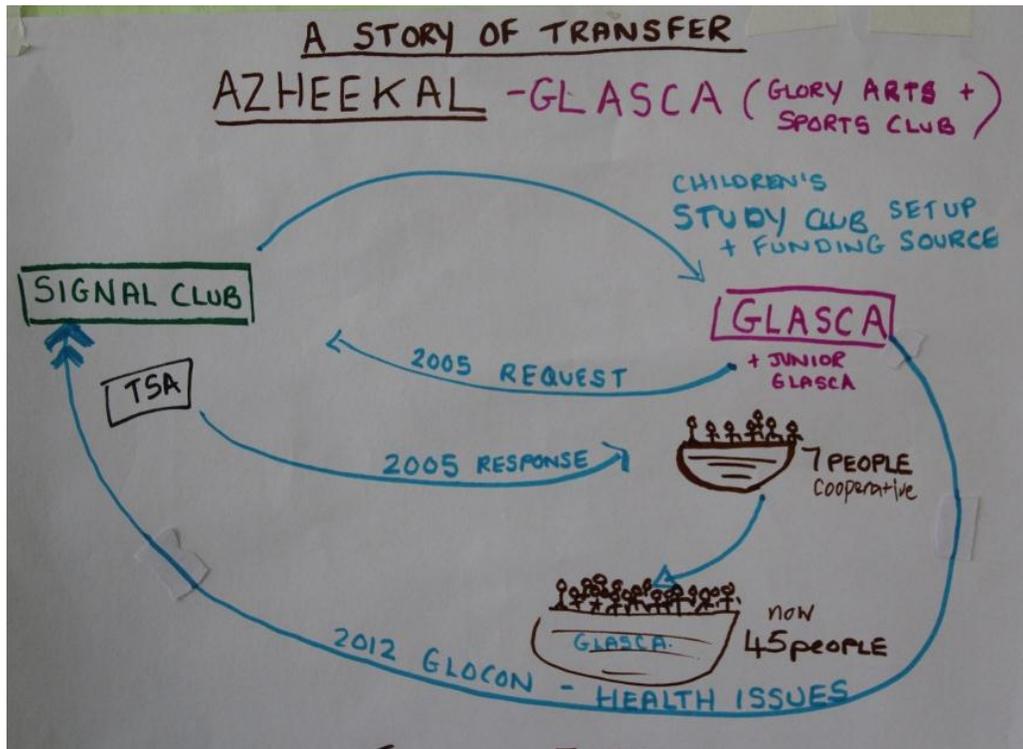


'It is high time we engage with the community again –I am challenged to give more consistent support to the younger leadership while they are learning'. Amjith

'This meeting will help us awake from our slumber'-Devaprasad



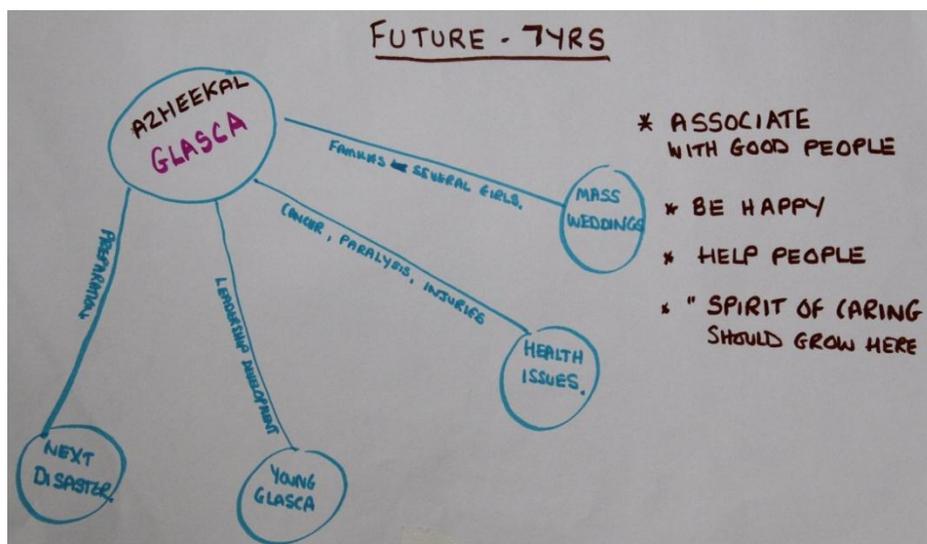
Timeline and transfer: Azheekal community -derived from Signal Club and a SALT visit with community members who are associated with GLASCA (a local community action group in Azheekal)



'Some did not get support in this village – through the Signal Club, TSA established a cooperative group of 7 people with a boat. We have kept this system, expanded to 45 people now, and bought a bigger boat.' -Joymon

'We have not lost any of the investment.' -Shibu

'It is part of our culture to care. With time and energy, we can also help another community.'
 -Shaji



SALT: Perumpally

Perumpally is a tsunami resettlement colony along the river, where the Salvation Army has constructed homes. The Signal club has visited this location a few times with the Salvation Army team to facilitate community engagement in the redevelopment. A revisit was made to discover progress made.



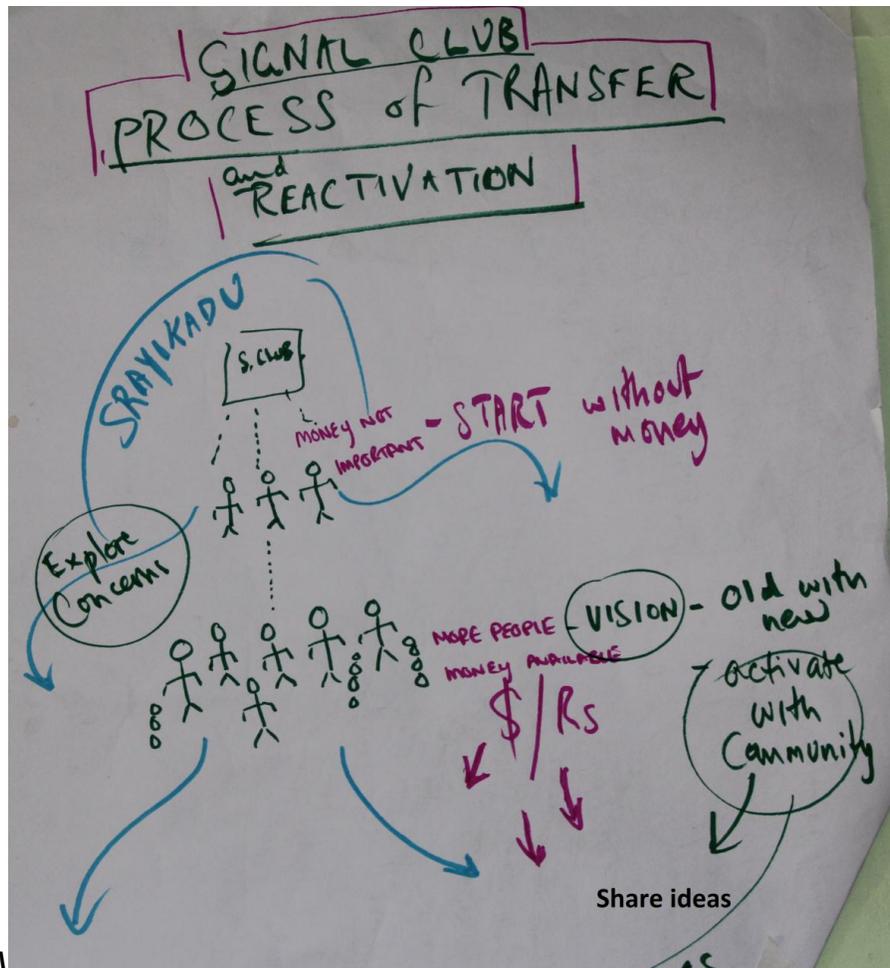
‘We are new in this area. The idea of working for our own community is new to us. We would like this area to develop, but do not know who has the time and leadership abilities to lead us. Can you guide us?’ – Perumpally community member

The Signal club has invited the community members to visit them to share and learn. They are also planning to follow up by re-visiting Perumpally.

Transfer

Process of team activation and transfer: Signal Club

'We started just as a group of 10 people -- we put the vision first and the approach and then people started joining' – Sanal Kumar



'We should not put funds first and activities second –we should explore concerns first then the money will come' Amjith

'We have never been constrained for funds –only by the team. I have been waiting for fellowship to develop between us.' Suneesh

'Act together. THEN the fellowship will come' –Prasad

'I am very happy from the inspiration of the elders.' – Suneesh



'We feel blessed together because we visited together. God will bless you and give you a good future – Ian

Amjith responded by saying, 'We thank God for every bonus. You have influenced our life and way of thinking. This is always remembered. Your visit came at the right time. There are strong coincidences.



Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Pics of discussion on themes (debrief pictures)

Note that each visit will enable strengthened analysis of some or one main theme

Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer
- Invitations back home
- Community to community transfer –*see text for SALT visit to Perumpalley*
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative

Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood
- Caring presence which motivates expanding change

Transfer

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment-*at Srayikadu, the tsunami generation leaders have passed concerns and responsibility onto the current generation leaders, whilst committing to 'staying together'.*

Faith foundations

- Caring by being with
- God present in situation in grace –*authentic reflection on 'blessing' –seen as a bonus by the Signal Club team, expressed by the visiting team just coming and listening and provoking thought again. The Christian understanding of grace before and within and behind all we do, nurturing personal relationship with each other and with God, was resonant with an understanding of 'coincidence' and 'bonus' received because of a trusted and sustained relationship.*

Facilitation team

- Organisation transitions
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

Learning from local experience (SALT)

- Humility-disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Strengths based

