

**Development of Skills of Adolescent Children in
Yemmiganur Mandal, Kurnool District
(Andhra Pradesh, India)**

***PROGRESS REPORT
OCTOBER 2016 – SEPTEMBER 2017***

Submitted to



M. Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MVF)

201, Narayan Apartments, West Marredpally, Secunderabad 500 026, India

Tel. No: 91-40-2780 13 20, 2770 02 90, 2771 01 50

Fax no: 91-40-2780 88 08, 2770 16 56

E-mail: mvfindia@gmail.com

Website: www.mvfindia.in

The Background

M V (Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya) Foundation has been working extensively on the agenda of upholding child rights through community mobilisation and in convergence with government line departments across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for more than two decades now. The organisation recognised during the course of its work with children that addressing the higher education and career needs of children after they had graduated from High School was central to long run sustainability of its intervention. It accordingly collaborated with *Fair Childhood – GEW-Foundation* 'Education instead of Child Labour' to implement a project entitled "*Development of skills of adolescent children in Yemmiganur Mandal, Kurnool District*" in 18 villages of Yemmiganur mandal from October 2017 onwards

The project seeks to address the concerns of adolescent children in the age group of 15 to 19 years who have not been able to complete their education and are now left without an education or employment. These children will be trained in soft skills to make them employable. Those who wish to continue their education will be supported and encouraged to complete the class 10+2 examinations.

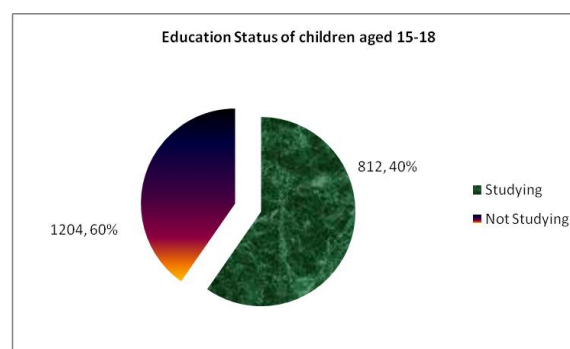
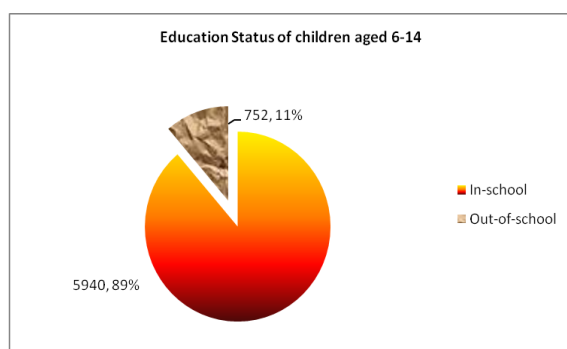
The CRPF (Child Right Protection Forum) is an extension of the main staff who will be implementing this programme. Their role is in assessing the local situation and lobbying with local leaders and the government to address children's issues. They play an important role in making the issue of child labour and rights visible. By addressing the issues of dropped out children we are ensuring reduction of child labour and also providing a direction for adolescent children find their path of interest and employment.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Survey

The first step in the intervention was the conduct of a 2-month long survey on the educational status of children aged 5-18 years, in 18 villages of Yemmiganur mandal. Details were gathered on the numbers of school-going children aged 6-14, out-of-school children aged 6-14, children aged 15-18 that were continuing their education, and children aged 15-18 that were out of the education system. Information was also collected on the number of children that had dropped out at the Class 10 and Intermediate levels and could be targeted for the Skill Development programme. The survey was preceded by the conduct of an orientation session with resource support from Chief Coordinator of MV Foundation Mr Y Rajendra Prasad, District Coordinator Mr J Bhaskar and Project Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy. The summary of the survey outcomes is as follows:

Children studying						Children out of the education system					
B	G	T (6-14)	B	G	T (15-18)	B	G	T (6-14)	B	G	T (15-18)
3154	2786	5940	799	405	1204	250	502	752	383	429	812



The members of the team undertook the survey in teams of two members each until they got used to it and later took up the exercise individually on their own. Response to the survey was largely positive. However, some respondents initially refused to share information, as they suspected the motives of the survey team. Some doubted that they would lose their entitlements under social security

schemes. Another non-government organisation that had conducted a survey in Soganur village had taken the signatures of the villagers stating that they needed them as proof of the survey. They had later used the signatures to lodge a complaint against the local Anganwadi Worker with the District Collector and the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) authorities. The team members clearly stated their agenda, following which the villagers cooperated. College undergraduates and college-going youth in a number of instances asked the team members why they were eligible for the Skill Development Course when dropouts were being considered.

Community Meetings

The volunteers had undertaken this survey during November – December 2016 to ascertain the education status of children aged 6-18 years. They held 57 meetings with youth aged 18-25 years to discuss the computer coaching programme, Class 10 exams through Open stream, child marriage, gender equity and the importance of education. They also discussed the problems being faced by the youth and informed them that they could get trained through Hyderabad based Yashoda Foundation and seek suitable employment. These meetings had a combined turnout of 792.

Participants from Malkapur informed that they had no Upper Primary School and that the nearest one in Banavasi had been closed down. The nearest Upper Primary School was located 5 kms away in Kotekal but no transport facility was available. They were encouraged to petition to the District Collector and the District Education Officer. Registering youth associations was another important issue that was discussed with the youth. They were informed that doing so could be advantageous to them in many ways. They responded favourably with youth from Malkapur, Banavasi, Kotekal and Bodabanda expressing their willingness to get associations registered. Youth from Kotekal and Devibetta pledged not to marry or abet the marriage of girls aged below 18 years. One youth from Kotekal offered to prepare children for the AP Residential Junior Colleges (APRJC) entrance test.



The broad outcomes of the meetings are as below:

- The participants actively promoted the course and as many as 36 youth from outside the project area applied for the course offered at the SDC
- Youth personally followed up 26 children for the eligibility test held for admission to APRJC (Andhra Pradesh Residential Junior Colleges)
- Youth followed up 57 children for the Open stream of exams
- Youth from Malkapuram and Bodabanda villages petitioned for transport and drinking water facilities respectively to the District Collector, the Project Officer of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the DEO (District Education Officer) and the MEO (Mandal Education Officer) and also followed up both issues personally
- The participants motivated 8 eligible youth to get enrolled with Yashoda Foundation for vocational training programmes
- Youth from Malkapuram village identified space for setting up a library in the village.

International Women's Day

Two women's meetings were held in Kotekal and Kadimetla with 35 and 20 participants respectively on the occasion of International Women's Day. The meeting in Kotekal was the first of its kind under the project. The project was introduced to them. The local school teacher and the Anganwadi Worker spoke on the significance of the occasion. They urged the women to educate their daughters at least up to Class 10 so that they could be independent. They replied that their husbands were not very supportive. They were informed that they had an alternative in the Open stream. Two girls registered for the exams after the meeting. Three Anganwadi Workers addressed participants in Kadimetla on the background of the International Women's Day and exhorted them to educate their daughters so that they could aspire for a brighter future.



Residential Coaching Programme for 50 children to impart computer skills and prepare them for accessing government skill training centres

A full-time non-residential computer training programme was conducted for 50 adolescent girls through a Skill Development Centre set up in the Yemmiganur mandal headquarters. It was not possible to set up a residential Centre in the mandal because most of the applicants were unwilling to register for a residential course. The Course was publicised through word of mouth and during village level meetings with community stakeholders. Three staff members were recruited to implement the Coaching programme. MV Foundation volunteer Mr Uchirappa was entrusted with the overall responsibility of administering the programme. He was supported by two faculty members Ms Meena and Ms. Keshamma.



Legislator from Yemmiganur Mr Jaya Nageswara Reddy formally inaugurated the Centre on 18th January 2017 in the presence of Mandal Parishad President Mr Shankaraiah, Mandal Parishad Development Officer Mr Ramamurthy and Mandal Education Officer Mr Nagabhushanam. Also present were the Market Yard Committee chairperson Mr Sanjanna Chowdary and of Telugu Desam Party Mandal Convenor Mr Ramalinga Reddy.



The list of trainees was finalised in early January 2017 and formal instruction commenced on 18th January 2017. The first batch had an initial intake of just 16 members but this number went up to 23 within a week's time and to 50 by the end of the first month. The Course had two components, namely Computers and Spoken English. Classes were held in two sessions – morning and afternoon. Girls attended the first session and boys attended the afternoon session. The following was the timetable fixed for the sessions:

Morning Session

Time	Group 1	Group 2
9:30 – 10 a.m.	Project Computer Class	Lab/Typing
10 – 10:30 a.m.	Lab/Typing	Project Computer Class
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	English Class	Lab
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lab	English Class

Afternoon Session

Time	Group 1	Group 2
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Project Computer Class	Lab/Typing
2:30 – 3 p.m.	Lab/Typing	Project Computer Class
3 – 4 p.m.	English Class	Lab
4 – 5 p.m.	Lab	English Class

The curriculum for the Computer classes consisted of MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point and the Internet in addition to an introduction to the Parts of the Computer, Hardware and Software. The content was more practically oriented than theoretically and consisted of Exercise Sheets. The trainees were initially required to master typing skills, after which basic commands were introduced to them. No teaching module was designed for purposes of instruction. The project staff instead came up with 23 MS Word and 8 MS Excel Sheets that they were expected to complete by the end of their Course. Basic commands were taught to them in MS Power Point. These were supplemented with hands-on sessions.



The Course was primarily intended to benefit dropouts, most of who found it quite difficult to adapt to learning after a long gap. In addition, not all of them had access to computers. Some of the trainees even found it difficult to improve their typing skills. The instructors were patient and encouraged them all along. The trainees gradually picked up. The trainees' progress was very slow in the initial stages

and they generally took 4-5 days to finish just one project. They slowly increased their pace and most of them are capable of finishing one project in just one day's time. Emphasis was laid on self- and peer-assessment by the trainees and they learnt to rectify their mistakes by themselves.



Meena shares her experiences thus: "Some of the children had problems with spellings and some of them could not even type properly. They are more confident now. There are children that are more interested in the use of various tools and there are some that are only

good in typing. However, the most successful ones are the ones that are good in both. I had a tough time teaching them the basics, due to their weak foundation. We conduct Group Discussion and debate sessions for the trainees on Saturdays and show them motivational and educational videos. They have improved a lot now and are confident of facing interviews.

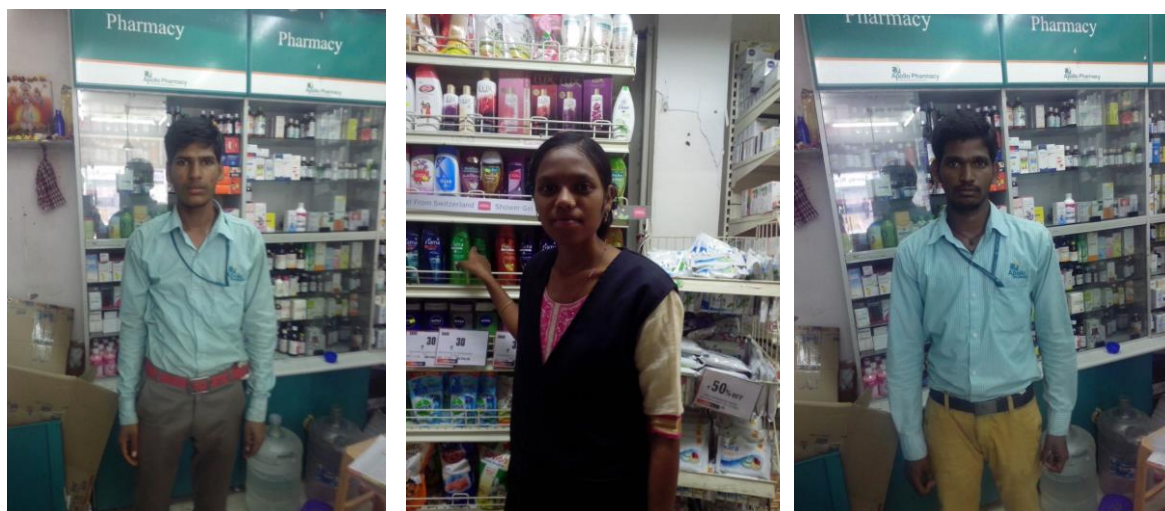
Another problem that I faced was with the dialect. The children's dialect varied from the one that is used in formal teaching and I had to get used to it. I have also personally benefited from this project. I have understood the concept of child labour. I had worked as a computer instructor in a school and in a training institute in the past but this is new to me. I have to share details of the trainees' progress with their parents and with the project staff here. I also use concept based teaching methods here rather than the traditional sequential teaching method this has been very helpful to the children. I feel happy about this new position of responsibility. The trainees are eager to attend their next English

class and ask me what new thing I am going to teach them. There is nothing more satisfying than this to a teacher.”

There were some hiccups to the programme in the beginning. One girl from Kotekal had enrolled for the Intermediate programme in Yemmiganur and was being stalked by a local youth. She slapped him once on the cheek and informed her parents of the incident. They took the issue to the notice of the police and got the youth jailed. They also withdrew her from college for reasons of security. This episode had its impact on the parents of 7 girls that had been attending the Centre and they stopped attending classes for 5-6 days continuously. Upon coming to know of this from Lakshmi's parents, they paid a visit to the village and interacted with the girls' parents. They asked the parents to be practical and to not generalise everything. They were told that if anything were bound to happen, it would happen anywhere and at any time regardless of any number of precautions. They were convinced and sent the girls to the classes.

Four girls from Daivamdinne dropped out because they could not afford to spend on their daily travel. The volunteers spoke to the Depot Manager and got bus passes issued to them, after which they became regular. In an interesting incident, 20-year old Shanti from Malkapur was restrained by her parents, who wanted to get her married because her younger sister had got a suitable groom. They wanted to get Shanti married as per tradition but she told them sternly that the Course was more important to her than her marriage and that they could do as they liked with her sister. Her parents eventually yielded. Three more girls from the village shunned marriage to enrol in the Course.

Twenty youth from the first batch of trainees (including 10 male and female each) were sent to Hyderabad in the last month of their course. They were linked to M/s Tech Mahindra, where they were imparted additional/refresher skills in the areas of Listening, Typing, Communication, Interpersonal Interaction and Spoken English. They attended these classes from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. every day for six days a week. Subsequent to their training, two girls each were recruited by Vodafone and Food Bazar. Five boys were employed by M/s Apollo Pharmacy. Two trainees dropped out due to health reasons and an equal number resumed their education. The remaining trainees received placement offers but did not accept them due to various reasons and are currently on the lookout for better opportunities.



Lakshmi from Kotekal is an inspiration for the other trainees. She was very regular to her classes but abruptly stopped coming to the Centre for 10 days for a known reason. Upon inquiring into the issue, the local volunteer came to know that some of her father's friends had advised him against sending the girl to the Centre because the Course was of no use to her. He had not sent her for 2 days and she convinced him to let her continue but her elder brother had objected to this. Two of the volunteers met her brother and counseled him. She duly resumed her classes and picked up from where she had left within just 2-3 days. She ranks in the top three of the batch. She is thankful to her father for having trusted her. She is studying in the second year of the Intermediate programme. She is of the opinion that the knowledge that she has gained can help her in not just seeking employment but can also aid in self-employment.

Malleshwari from Malkapur was not capable of typing fast try as much as she could. For the first ten days of the Course, she would step out of class teary-eyed. She had shared this with her parents, who had been against her decision to enrol, right from the beginning. Her mother was of the opinion that she would be better off if she learnt sewing and tailoring, which would give her steady income. The girl felt very badly about her inability to type because she had opposed everyone at home and had been spending money on her travel. Her instructor took special care of her and got her to spend an extra hour every day. she has shed her negative attitude now and has progressed quite fast. Her father is proud of her now. She attributes this to her instructor's patience.

The project team motivated 17 boys and 11 girls to apply for training courses offered by Yashoda Foundation. Four and two of them respectively have been successfully placed in D Mart.

There was high demand from students of the Intermediate programme for the training programme, following which a special batch of 45 days' duration was conducted for 40 boys. They were taught the basics of Microsoft Office and they were given 18 projects as part of the course. These included 10 Word, 5 Excel and 3 Power Point projects. They also practised typing skills for the first 10 days. these classes were held from 2-5 p.m. The course was publicised through youth meetings and meetings with adolescent girls. Response to the course was encouraging, as most of the trainees had fairly good English speaking skills and had prior exposure to computers. More than 75% of them recorded 100% attendance. No formal tests were held and their performance was assessed primarily on the basis of the instructors' observations. They were also imparted basic life skills such as public presence, interpersonal communication and the importance of self-learning. Mock interviews also formed part of the course.

The second batch of the computer training programme was held from April – July 2017 with 13 boys and one girl. A Typing Module was introduced in addition to the existing syllabus. They spent up to 45 days honing their typing skills. All 14 of them were part-time college students and resumed their education in the new academic year. One of them got employed in Bengaluru and another of them applied for the Open Degree exams.

The third batch of the computer training programme was conducted from July – October 2017. A total of 40 boys and 39 girls had applied for the course but a number of them were too old to qualify and were motivated to continue their education. Some others had also been studying full time. They were also followed up. 2 boys and 9 girls were linked to Yashoda Foundation. 17 boys and 5 girls were also studying full-time. English skills of the Class 5 level were introduced to them in the form of stories, conversation/dialogues and dictation with small words. They were also given online audio listening and paper reading practice.



Community meetings were held as a platform to involve community is group motivation and one-to-one motivation sessions to reach to the target groups and to ensure retention of trainees in the course. Whenever a child dropped out of the course for 2-3 days, the team followed them up. They were also given inputs on how to behave in the classroom. Input sessions on gender issues, child marriage, child marriage and life skills were also arranged for the trainees once in 10 days.

Local legislator Jaya Nageswara Reddy organised a Job Mela in the mandal headquarters on 23rd September 2017 as part of a government initiative. The project team forwarded the candidatures of 4 boys and 12 girls for the Mela.

Formation of Adolescents' Committees, Orientation and Training programmes

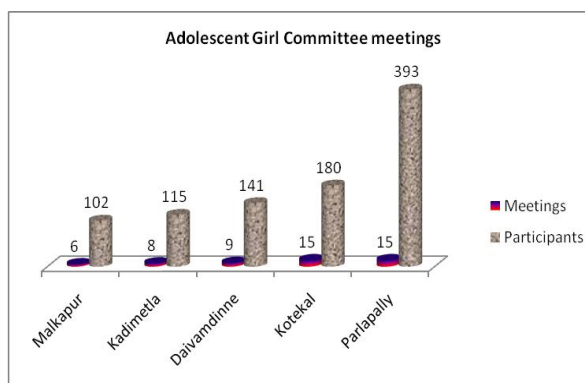
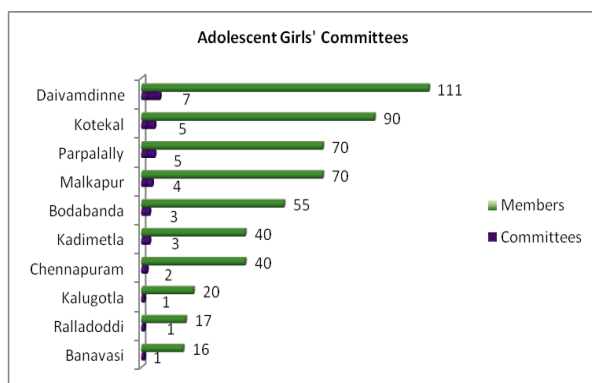
Formation of Committees

The project area in Yemmiganur mandal has been divided into five clusters for ease of programme administration. These clusters are: Daivamdinne, Kotekal, Malkapur, Parlapally and Kadimetla. Meetings were held with adolescent girls aged 11-18 years at the cluster level and they were addressed on gender based discrimination. They were informed that such discrimination has a direct impact on their education. Unfortunately, small incidents involving infatuation/elopement are often blown out of proportion and parents decide in favour of early marriage. Adolescent Girls' Committees can help prevent this by giving them a platform to identify and solve their issues on their own. Girls in and out of school could associate with these Committees. Meetings were also convened with male youth to involve them in the agenda.

Door-to-door visits were undertaken to spread word of the Committees and parents were informed of the proposal to conduct adolescent girls; meetings in the villages. They were asked to permit their daughters to attend these meetings, which were convened in schools and other public places in the village. Committees were later formed with 15-20 girls. The concept of the Committee and its importance were explained to them. The Committee would enable them to speak on our problems and strengthen them through unity. They were also addressed on personal health & hygiene, child marriage and the importance of education. Older girls were counseled to apply for the Class 10 exams through Open stream. The details of Committees formed village wise and meetings held with them are as below:

Village	Committees	Members
Banavasi	1	16
Ralladoddi	1	17
Kalugotla	3	49
Chennapuram	2	40
Kadimetla	3	40
Bodabanda	3	55
Malkapur	4	70
Parlapally	5	70
Kotekal	5	90
Daivamdinne	7	111
Cheeraladoddi	2	37
Errakota	2	25
K Thimmapuram	3	48
Guvvaladoddi	2	34
Pesalladinne	1	15
Total	44	717

Cluster	Meetings	Participants
Malkapur	6	102
Kadimetla	8	115
Daivamdinne	9	141
Kotekal	15	180
Parlapally	15	393
Total	53	931



The girls were impressed with the presentations and not only joined the Committees but also spread word of it to their peers. They assembled once in a month. Anganwadi Workers and women's self-help group members were invited to give them inputs on issues affecting their welfare. Some parents were initially reluctant to send their daughters to the meetings but the volunteers informed them of the computer course and told them that their daughters could benefit from it.

The volunteers also convened 50 meetings with a turnout of 712 adolescents to discuss the Skill Development Centre, the ill effects of child marriage, gender equity, the Open stream of examinations, and vocational training through Yashoda Foundation. The project team also collaborated with ANMs, Anganwadi Workers and ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) to facilitate administration of Rubella vaccine to girls where necessary.



Members of Adolescents' Committees followed up 15 girls to the SDC and also motivated 5 children at give the Class 10 exams through Open stream. They also followed up 10 children for the test held for admission into APRJC.

Orientation of Adolescent Committees

A mandal level orientation session was held on 8th April 2017 in Cluster level Resource Centre, Banavasi for 55 leaders and deputy leaders of Adolescent Girl Committees. Resource support was provided by District Coordinator Mr J Bhaskar and Project Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy. Points on the agenda included Gender Discrimination, Genetics and Gender Equity. The participants were divided into 3 groups and asked to debate and answer three questions, namely:

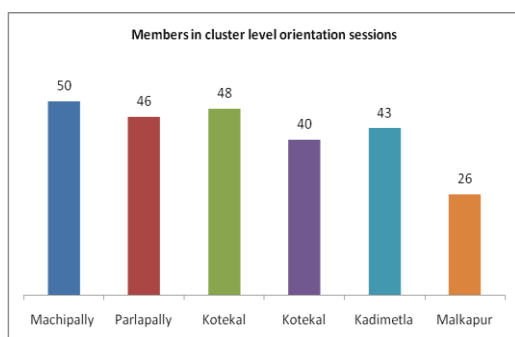


- ◇ What comes into your mind whenever you speak of a boy and of a girl?
- ◇ What are the differences between boys and girls?
- ◇ What differences between boys and girls are physical and what differences are linked with social values/ perceptions?

The resource persons later spoke on the importance of the Committee, the advantages of forming a Committee, norms governing the functioning of a Committee, the roles and responsibilities of the members and gender equity. They also pointed out that many people wrongly consider their fate, sins or good deeds as the reason that determines whether boys or girls are born to them. It is in fact genetic factors that have a role to play here. The speakers concluded that it is not possible to change physical differences between males and females but social perceptions can and have to be changed.

Cluster level training sessions were also held on 6 occasions with resource support from Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), self-help group members and the volunteers. The primary objective of the sessions was to educate the participants on various aspects of the Child Marriage (Prohibition) Act. A set of 11 Flexi Banners developed by the project team was used for the purpose. The participants were given inputs on the definition of child marriage according to the Act, different clauses of the Act, penalties for violation of the Act and Child Marriage Protection Officers at different levels. A presentation was also made on the ill effects of child marriage on the wellbeing of the girl child. The girls were called upon to have a stand against child marriage and to have a clear strategy to combat this social evil.

The details of orientation sessions and participants are as under:



Venue	Date	Members
Machipally	17 th March 2017	50
Parlapally	18 th March 2017	46
Kotekal	18 th March 2017	48
Kotekal	20 th March 2017	40
Kadimetla	20 th March 2017	43
Malkapur	13 th April 2017	26
Total		253

The impact of the orientation sessions has been encouraging. During the feedback session that was held at the end of the session in Parlapally, Rajeshwari from Class 7 informed that her parents had fixed her marriage. She had been staying in a hostel in Adoni. She had discussed the issue of the marriage proposal with her fellow members of the Committee. They, along with the members of a Committee in Adoni, had rang up the police to prevent the wedding.

The formation of Committees has had a generally positive impact on adolescent girls. Turnout of girls has gone up in the meetings. They have become more articulate and their public speaking skills have improved. Most Committees are recording minutes of their meetings. The members are sharing information that they receive on potential child marriages. One Committee each in Kotekal and Parlapally are convening meetings on their own and are inviting the volunteers to attend them. The girls are also participating actively in campaign activities. In an interesting incident that took place in Malkapur, girls from the forward Lingayat community, who had never entered the SC (Scheduled Castes) Colony in the past, willingly participated in a meeting of the Committee that the volunteer convened in the Church. They have also made known their readiness to attend subsequent meetings in the same venue. Girls from both the SC and Backward Caste communities had participated in the meeting.

Two training sessions on gender related issues was held for 75 male youth and 50 girl youth in CLRC, (Cluster level Resource Centre) Banavasi on 25th and 27th May 2017 respectively. Project Coordinator Harihara Reddy provided the resource on the occasion.

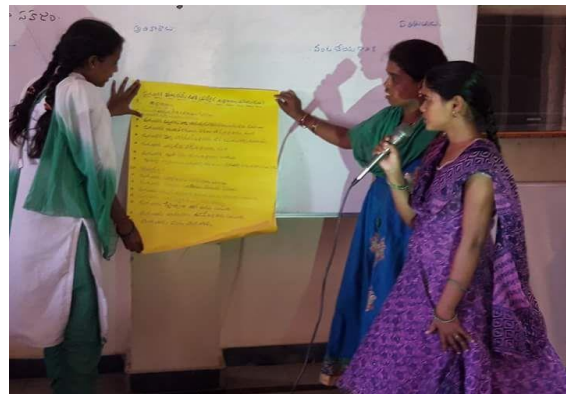
The resource person made a presentation on the below issues:

- ✓ Patriarchal setup of our society
- ✓ Importance of education
- ✓ Negative portrayal of girls/women in media
- ✓ The role of religious institutions, the government and the family in stereotyping the role of girls /women in society

A set of 12 pictures that the team had developed was used to highlight the manifestations of gender based discrimination at home and in school. The speaker pointed out that one classic example of gender bias was evident in legislation relating to marriage, wherein the minimum age at marriage for girls is 18 and for boys is 21. Discrimination is also evident in religion. He opined that breaking stereotypes alone could bring about change. The participants also engaged in group work to identify other factors (in addition to the ones listed in the 12 charts) that influenced gender discrimination. He ended with pointing out that Change begins at Home and urging them to change their own attitudes towards girls/women in their families.

A training session on gender issues that was held in CLRC Banavasi on 7th July 2017 was attended by 47 ASHAs. Harihara Reddy was the resource person. He involved the participants in an interactive discussion on the various forms of gender based discrimination. Responding to a question from him on why no men applied for the post of ASHA, they replied that men didn't go for low paying jobs. They also believed that they had to be paid more than their wives were. The participants were exhorted to take a stand on gender based discrimination and to treat their daughters and sons equally.

A cluster level training session on child marriage legislation was held in Kotekal on 20th April 2017 with the participation of 50 adolescent girls. They were given detailed information on Acts relating to child marriage, penalties, ill effects of child marriage and on CMPOs (Child Marriage Prevention Officers) at different levels from the village to the State.



Reaching to Children

The project team followed up children for various exams and for admission in different institutions. 6 boys cleared the Class 10 supplementary examinations. 9 boys and 14 girls passed the Intermediate

supplementary exams. 2 boys and girls each were also followed up to residential institutions (Gurukula). 8 girls had applied for the Teacher Training Certificate entrance exams, which they had to give online. They were, however, not exposed to the use of the computer. They were given 15 days' on hands practice at the SDC. Counseling sessions on higher education opportunities were organised for 21 boys and 27 girls from Malkapuram and Daivamdinne villages.

The project team also undertook group motivation exercises with the help of community groups to enrol children aged 6-8 directly in school, follow up out-of-school children to school and publicise the Open stream of examinations. They also gave wide publicity to the SDC.



The details of outreach are as under:

Particulars	B	G
Open 10 th Registration	25	12
SDC Registration	94	39
Direct School Admission	15	40
Mainstreaming of out-of-school children	16	9
Followed up for APRJC exams	32	18
Admitted in APRJC	3	0
Followed up to Junior College	30	28
Fee exemption	Rs 18000	Rs 18000
Admission in Hostel	3	7

In addition to the above, issuance of TCs, Caste and Income Certificates, Aadhaar Cards and other documents was facilitated for 56 children.

The volunteers gathered details of the Hall Tickets of all children that had appeared for the Class 10 exams in academic 2016-17 and informed them that all children that had not succeeded in clearing the exams would be given coaching for the Advanced Supplementary exams to be held in academic 2017-18. Meetings were convened at the school level for the purpose as soon as the exams were over. They counseled all girls to continue their education after the Class 10 level. All children were also encouraged to apply for the test held for entry in government run APRJCs. They paid the fees for interested children and ensured personally that they gave the test. The fees of 103 children were sponsored in all.

Nearly one-half of the children (50) are attending coaching classes for the APRJC entrance test, in addition, 8 girls that were enrolled in KGBV (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) were referred to KGBV Kurnool for a similar coaching programme being offered there.

Ten girls that had applied for a Teachers; Training Certificate entrance examination were also given tips on how to approach the test.

Details of children that had given the Intermediate exams and had failed them were also followed up. They were personally met and motivated to reappear for the exams The details of children that failed the exams and of children that have applied for the Advanced Supplementary exams are as below:

Cluster	Children failed	Children reappearing
Daivamdinne	26	25
Malkapur	6	6
Kotekal	15	15
Kadimetla	29	27
Parlapally	39	38
Total	115	111

Saroja, the 16-year old daughter of Obilesu and Keshamma from belonged to a big family with 6 children. She had passed out of Class 10 in 2016 and had been working as a wage labourer. The project team met her during the enlistment drive and asked her if she would be interested in joining the SDC. She was ready but her parents were against the idea and replied that there was no use trying to teacher her anything, the reason being that they planned to get her married. The local organiser spoke to them at length and convinced them to visit the SDC. She later attended the course and was sent to Tech Mahindra for further inputs. She returned home after two months of successful training, as she was younger than 18. She, however, consented to write the Intermediate exams through Open stream.

Narasimhulu and Nagaveni, aged 22 and 18 years respectively, belonged to a very poor migrant family from Daivamdeinne. They had both managed to clear the Class 10 exams but discontinued their studies. A youth meeting was convened in the village to discuss the issue. Some of the youth owned up the responsibility of motivating the family and spoke to the couple. They asked the both of them how long they would continue to deny their children a dignified life. They also convinced both their children to enrol for the course offered by Yashoda Foundation. They were successfully placed with D Mart. In an interesting development, Narasimha and Nagaveni sought employment in Hyderabad and got employed with an E-market.

20-year old S Veeresh from Malkapuram had failed the Class 10 exams and cleared both the Class 10 and the Intermediate exams through Open stream over time. He later enrolled for the Open Degree programme. The project team identified his case during the enlistment drive and advised him to apply for the computer training course. He was a quick learner but lagged behind in typing speed because he did not get enough on-hands practice at the Centre. He spent an hour and a half every day at another typing institute to hone his skills. He was sent to Hyderabad to attend the training session offered by Tech Mahindra and later got employed by Apollo Pharmacy. His father had initially opposed his decision to go to Hyderabad but changed his mind after Veeresh was placed. He says, "I am proud that my son has started earning now. He sends me Rs 5000 a month but I have told him to keep the money with him. I have asked him to get settled first and share his income with me later. This is a big amount of money but the fact that he has improved his status in life is more important to me."



Mallesamma – the 22-year old daughter of K Narasimhulu and K Lakshmi from Chennapuram had dropped out of Class 6 long ago and had later cleared the Class 10 and Intermediate exams. She had been attending a Tailoring course. The project team met her during a routine field visit and motivated her to shift to another training institute in Yemmiganur, where she would be charged only Rs 200 a month as against the fee of Rs 1500 that she had paying in Adoni. She was willing but told them that her parents were unready. The team convinced her parents and also explained the project to the person in charge of the institute in Adoni. He willingly returned Rs 1500 from the fee that Mallesamma had paid and she shifted to Yemmiganur. She was enrolled in the computer trainig course in the morning session and attended tailoring classes in the post-lunch session. She was later sent to Hyderabad, where she was given further employability skills at Tech Mahindra. She got recruited in Food Bazar eventually, where she was offered a monthly salary of Rs 8000. Her parents, who had earlier proposed to

marry her off, are a happy lot now and are proud of her. They are thankful to the project team for having guided their daughter properly.



Cohort Analysis

A cohort analysis exercise was taken up to track the school-going status of all children passing out of Primary, Upper Primary and High Schools from the project area. Names of all such children were collected from the DISE (District Information System for Education) database and headcount were taken up to ascertain how many of them had shifted to other schools and how many of them had discontinued their education. It was noted that the names of many long dropouts had continued to feature in school registers. These children were followed up to school. Head teachers of some Upper Primary/High Schools had refused to take in children in Class 6 on the grounds that the children did not have class wise learning levels. The project team told them that they could not detain children in the same class, following which the children were taken in.

The outcomes of the cohort analysis are as under:

S. No.	Village	School	Total Children			Followed Up			Dropped Out		
			B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
1	Daivamdinne	ZPHS	113	47	160	5	16	21	5	21	26
2	Kotekal	ZPHS	31	17	48	10	3	13	5	12	17
3	Kadimetla	ZPHS	15	3	18	2	1	3	7	2	9
4	Malkapuram	ZPHS	13	8	21	13	6	19	0	2	2
Sub Total			172	75	247	30	26	56	17	37	54
1	T.S. Kulur	MPPS	10	13	23	0	0	0	1	3	4
2	Malkapuram	MPPS	11	12	23	2	0	2	1	2	3
3	Chennapuram	MPPS	12	10	22	0	2	2	0	1	1
4	Parlapalli	MPPS	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Banavasi	MPPS	6	8	14	1	2	3	0	0	0
6	Bondebanda	MPPS	12	15	27	0	0	0	1	4	5
7	Parmanudoddi	MPPS	5	8	13	0	0	0	0	3	3
8	Enugubala	MPPS	11	11	22	2	2	4	2	2	4
9	Enugubala	MPPS	5	8	13	0	1	1	1	0	1
10	Garladinne	MPPS	5	8	13	0	3	3	0	1	1
11	Devibetta	MPPS	14	11	25	0	2	2	1	3	4
12	Thimmapuram	MPPS	5	11	16	0	3	3	0	2	2
13	Daivamdinne	MPPS (N)	13	11	24	1	4	5	1	2	3
14	Daivamdinne	MPPS (M)	28	33	61	4	5	9	2	5	7
15	Kadimetla	MPPS (N)	14	24	38	0	4	4	1	3	4

16	Kadimetla	MPPS (M)	33	30	63	2	1	3	5	8	13
17	Cheeraladoddi	MPPS	4	9	13	0	0	0	0	1	1
18	Ralladoddi	MPPS	11	10	21	0	0	0	0	1	1
19	Pesalladinne	MPPS	12	13	25	0	0	0	0	2	2
20	Nagulapuram	MPPS	8	10	18	0	2	2	0	0	0
Sub Total			222	257	479	12	31	43	16	43	59
1	T.S. Kulur	MPUP	14	11	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Thimmapuram	MPUP	9	11	20	0	2	2	1	8	9
3	Parlapalli	MPUP	7	8	15	3	7	10	2	3	5
Sub Total			30	30	60	3	9	12	3	11	14
Grand Total			424	362	786	45	66	111	36	91	127

ZPHS – Zilla Parishad High School, MPPS – Mandal Parishad Primary School
MPUPS – Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School

Head teachers of 4 schools had not issued TCs (Transfer Certificates) to children, which had delayed the latter's admission in higher classes. When contacted, the head teachers came up with lame excuses, One of the organisers literally called up the DEO from the spot during his visit to 3 High Schools and the official sent across the TC books. Both the head teacher and the in-charge head teacher were unavailable in HS Nandavaram when the organiser had gone there. He was asked to come after 3 days but the books had not arrived. Finally, the TCs were issued after he ran from pillar to post for nearly a week.

In another instance, one boy had been asked to pay Rs 200 towards admission in Class 6 in Weavers' Colony HS, Yemmiganur. The organiser said there was no way the child would pay anything, in response to which the head teacher informed that this fee was being charged for school development. The organiser rang up the DEO yet again. He called up the head teacher and asked why he had demanded money. The head teacher sheepishly replied that the clerk, and not he, had asked for the money. The DEO took him to task and he finally enrolled the boy.

Exposure Visits

The volunteers visited the MV Foundation project area in Holagunda and Halaharivi mandals on 12th and 13th March 2017. They divided themselves into two teams on the first day. One team visited Hardhageri in Halaharivi mandal and interacted with adolescent girls on various aspects of capacity building. They had a first glimpse of 11 Flexi Banners on the Child Marriage (Prohibition) Act. These banners had been developed by the project team. The same agenda featured in Suluwayi, Holagunda mandal. A joint staff meeting was held in the MV Foundation office in Holagunda on 13th March 2017. They mutually shared experiences. Speaking on the better record that they had with adolescents and parents, the staff from Holagunda informed that they made it a point to contact 10-15 families every day regardless of the outcomes.

Visit by Ms Judith

Ms Judith, representing GEW, visited the project implementation site in Malkapur, Kotekal and Daivamdinne on 24th February 2017. She interacted with some members of the Adolescent Girls' Committee in Daivamdinne on what they had learnt through their association with the Committee. She also spoke to the parents of some of them and asked them if they would send the girls to study. When they replied in the affirmative, she asked what it was that had prevented them from educating their daughters earlier. They informed that they were happy with the newfound knowledge that the girls had gained. She also asked the girls about their timetable. She later asked them to show her the food that they consumed locally.

Ms Judith spoke with some girls in Kotekal that were enrolled in college and asked them if they sat beside boys while in class or if they were seated away from them. They replied that they did not sit

with boys. She later spent some time with members of the Adolescent Girls' Committee and asked them how frequently they met and what they discussed on these occasions. She reviewed the activities that youth from Malkapur had participated in during the course of the project implemented by MV Foundation in their village with support from UNICEF (United Nations Children Fund) in the past.

Campaign Activities

World Day against Child Labour was observed in 5 villages of the mandal on 12th June 2017. Rallies were held with 480 people from these villages. Wall posters were also pasted in 200 locations. Public meetings were held in all 5 villages and all children urged to be in school. Elected representatives, mandal officials, representatives of local institutions, youth, adolescent girls, teachers and villagers were involved in these events.



Distribution of TOM's Shoes

A total of 5481 needy children, including 2935 boys and 2546 girls, from 42 schools of 22 villages were given TOM's shoes through MV Foundation.

