

ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR THROUGH COMMUNITY
MOBILISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RTE ACT
DORNIPADU MANDAL, KURNOOL DISTRICT

PROGRESS REPORT
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Submitted to
GEW

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Acronyms and Abbreviations used

BC	Backward Communities
CRPF	Child Rights Protection Forum
DEO	District Educational Officer
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay-Residential School for Girls, a scheme named after Mahatma Gandhi's wife being implemented in the country
MPDO	Mandal Parishath Development Officer
MPPS	Mandal Parishath Primary School/Elementary School
MPUPS	Mandal Parishath Upper Primary School
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation
OSC	Out of School Children
RDO	Revenue Divisional Officer
RTE	Right to Education
SHG	Self Help Group (of women)
SMC	School Management Committee
SSA	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan- Education for All, a scheme implemented with the support of central government
SSA-PO	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan- Project Officer
TFCR	Teachers for Child Rights
UP School	Mandal Parishath Upper Primary School
Vidya Volunteer	Education Volunteer-A local educated youth placed by the local Government to teach in schools wherever there is shortage of teachers
Tehasildar	Revenue Officer at the Mandal Level

Summary of Activities

During the reporting period the major development is SMCs and CRPFs of the concerned villages reviewing the achievements of children in terms of acquiring standards. This has resulted in the decision to organise summer schools in 7 villages. In 5 villages villagers and CRPF have paid honoraria to the volunteers placed in the schools and in other 2 villages MVF contributed. In Kishtipadu village parents, youth and CRPF have contributed Rs. 15,000/- to meet the expenses of purchasing an inverter. This is to overcome the erratic power supply rendering the computers sanctioned to the school redundant. When the School Committee members, CRPF and Youth visited DEO, demanding placement of an additional Vidya Volunteer, he was so impressed for the concern of villagers, that he has been paying for the volunteer, from his pocket as rules didn't permit him to place one.

During the enrolment drive in the month of June a total of 267 children including 5+ aged and older children who were hard core child labourers were admitted in schools by CRPF, youth and SMC. Another major development that took place during the half year period was in the direction of creating child labour free villages and child friendly panchayaths. In this direction, interaction between the farmers of Dornipadu (mostly seed farmers) and Uyyalawada (where children's work was prohibited by farmers in seed farms with the initiative of MVF) was organised. Batches of farmers from Dornipadu were taken to Uyyalawada, where this interaction took place. Dornipadu farmers explained them that they were not incurring any losses for engaging adult labour. After these visits with 11 farmers, farmers' club was started in one of the villages in the mandal. A public meeting with the farmers was also organised, in which farmers have participated and the RDO and MVF's National Convener addressed them. During the reporting a tragic event took place. Ramanjaneyulu a ten years, school going boy, who was working on a harvester lost his right hand. Though demands were made for suitable compensation, very little was paid to him as the story explained in a box.

Activities Taken up

Facilitate the processes of strengthening of all local institutions such as Gram Panchayats, CRPFs and youth groups keeping the various provisions of the RTE Act

Community Meetings

Ongoing meetings were held with youth, the CRPF, Farmers and women to discuss the status of implementation of the RTE Act, child labour in cottonseed farms, child marriage, expanding the base of the CRPF, problems faced in school and organising summer schools. The agenda on each of these meetings is as below:

Youth	Follow up of children, Enrolment drive, rallies, RTE, Survey of OSC in the villages and Quality education
CRPF	RTE, Organisation of summer schools, Survey on the conditions prevailing in all the schools, KGBV and hostels in the Mandal and to identify children of single parents and orphan children , contributions for the school development, anti-Child Labour day,

	Rallies, Midday meals, follow up of absentees, petitions to officials
Women	National Girl Children's day celebrations, Anti Child Labour Day, Girl children's rights, Absenteeism among girls, Child Marriages
Farmers	Exposure visits to child labour free villages in Uyyalawada Mandal, interaction with farmers and public meeting
Caste Leaders	Dropouts, absenteeism, Community contribution
Elite of the village community	Community contribution

Key issues discussed during the meetings:

- Checking migration of children
- Placement of additional teachers and vidya volunteers in schools
- Quality education in schools
- Readmitting dropouts in schools
- Enrolment drive
- Child labour in seed farms and migration of children
- Infrastructure in schools
- Child marriages
- Utilisation of school funds
- Provision of electricity to schools
- Organisation of summer schools
- Placement of volunteer teachers in the schools
- Creation of child labour free and child friendly panchayaths

The major decisions taken during these meetings are as under:

- Organisation of summer schools
- Collect contributions for running summer schools
- SMCs resolved to identify children who needed additional inputs with the help of school teachers
- SMCs to select teachers for summer schools
- Submit petitions for resolving the problems of Schools, KGBV and Hostels identified by CRPF during the study
- Enrolment and group motivation drives planned would reach out to out-of-school children
- Planning was taken up for celebrating girl children's day in January and Anti Child Labour Day in June 12th
- Facilitation of interaction between seed farmers of Dornipadu Mandal with the farmers in Uyyalawada who are not employing children on their seed farms

The below are the outcomes of the meetings:

- When the schools were reopened for the fresh academic session a total of 197 children of 5+ age were admitted in schools, 8 hard core child labourers were admitted in Social Welfare Hostel for boys, another 12 child labourers (girls) were admitted in KGBV and 16 more labouring boys were admitted in local schools, further 34 students studying in Private institutions joined government schools.

- In 7 villages summer schools were organised to improve the academic levels of children who were in need of additional academic support
- During the half year 8 petitions and memoranda were submitted to various authorities seeking resolution of the problems faced by children and schools. Some of them were resolved and in case of some other issues the issues were kept pending.
 - Drinking water was sanctioned to the MPPS (Main) Dornipadu
 - Problems of drinking water, toilets and flooring of class rooms in W. Govindinne were resolved
 - Villagers have come forward to donate land for playground in the school
 - District Educational Officer has come forward to pay for the salary of Vidya Volunteer in Arjunapuram as he was impressed by the concern of villagers towards the development of school
- A total of 15 in Kishtipadu from the mandal that had been proposing to migrate along with their parents were prevented
- Mandal CRPF was formed

The details of meetings held are as follows:

Group	Village level		Mandal level	
	Meetings	Meetings	Meetings	Members
CRPF	30	497	4	111
YOUTH	18	367	-	-
SMC	33	745	-	-
PARENTS	5	157	-	-
FARMERS	32	593	1	140
WOMEN	4	70	-	-
TFCR	-	-	2	20
Total	122	2429	7	271

Enrolment



As the schools were reopened for new academic session enrolment drives were organised in the mandal. School teachers, School Management Committees, Anganwadi Teachers, CRPF and youth participated in the events that were held in the villages. Rallies, door to door meetings, identification of 5+ aged children, out of school children were part of the programme. Parents were explained about the entitlements of children under RTE. In some places parents complained about the teachers' irregularity. However, in many places an important development that took place was that many parents, attracted to the government schools, resulted in withdrawing their children from private schools and admitting them in the local government school.

- In *Gundupapala* village out of 20 children in the 5+ age group 13 were admitted in the government school and another 7 were admitted in the private school. A 4th class

dropout boy, who was working in a paint shop was readmitted in the school. *P. Ramesh, S/o Siva* (both the parents are agriculture labourers) who was engaged to work in agriculture was readmitted in school. *Parimala*, a 3rd class drop out, *D/o Jayanna*, who was working on seed farms for the last three years was readmitted in class-8th in the local High School. *M. Asif, S/o Imam Basha*, a 7th class student was found absenting school for the last 10 days and was engaged to work in a shop for Rs.2000/- per month was identified and was readmitted in the school.

- In *Revanoor* 13 children (5+) were admitted in the school.
- In *Kishtipadu* out of 27 identified 5+ aged children 21 were admitted in the local primary School. 5 children who were studying in Private Schools withdrew their admission from the respective schools and joined the local government schools in various classes.
- In *Dornipadu* 40 children of 5+ age were identified, of whom 30 were enrolled in schools. 12 OSC girls were admitted in KGBV. Eight boys were admitted in the Social Welfare Hostel. There are a total of 45 OSC as against 74 prior to the enrolment drive.
- In *Arjunapuram* 20 children were enrolled in school
- In *Ammireddynagar* 13 children were enrolled and 6 children from private school were admitted in the government school
- In *Ramachandrapuram* 9 children were admitted and 2 children from private schools were admitted in government school
- In *W. Govindinne* 25 children were identified in the 5+ age and 16 of them were admitted in the government school while 6 students withdrew admission in the private school and joined government school
- In *Chakirajuvemula* out of 46 children in the 5+ age 36 were admitted in the school, and 15 students of private school joined government school
- In *Bhagyanagaram* out of 6 children in the 5+ age 4 were admitted in the school
- In *Kondapuram* 4 out of 6 and in *Burrareddy* 5 out of 10 in the age of 5+ were admitted in the government school
- 12 migrant children were admitted in the school in *Kishtipadu*

- **On the whole 197 children of 5+ age were admitted in schools, 8 hard core child labourers were admitted in Social Welfare Hostel for boys, another 12 child labourers (girls) were admitted in KGBV and 16 more labouring boys were admitted in local schools, further 34 students studying in Private institutions joined government schools.**

Arjunapuram and Vidya Volunteer

VenuGopal had worked as Vidya Volunteer in the UP School in *Arjunapuram* for about a decade. The striking feature of his working is that, his wife was also always seen teaching children. If anyone out of curiosity asked them, the couple used to say that they were interested in children's education, and want to be in their service, therefore she was teaching without expecting any monetary benefits from either the government or from the school. However, when MVF volunteers started probing into it deeply, it was understood that there was a parallel private school run within the school premises. It took quite a number of meetings of the SMC to stop them running the private school. At last both of them left the school. During these SMC meetings, parents built pressure on them and the teachers. As they left there was only one teacher remained in the school. The SMC managed to get 2 more teachers from other schools. Head Master assured parents of imparting quality education. Vidya Volunteers who were appointed later in this school are spending extra hours in the morning and evening helping children complete their homework and helping other students who required additional teaching.

Follow up of children

In most of the schools long absenteeism of children used to be common. Especially during the cross pollination season in hybrid cottonseed farms (August-December), harvesting green chillies in Guntur (March to April), Harvesting Bengal gram in the month of February children used to absent in large numbers. With the help of CRPF, SMCs, School Teachers, Youth, Anganwadi this trend is being controlled. In many villages migration of children along with their parents was being checked. Parents too have been realising the importance of their children's education and preferring to keep their children in their relatives' homes during their absence in the village. For example in Kishtipadu village, previous year there were 15 children who absented for long, went away with their parents when they migrated to Guntur. This year not even a single child went with them. It was in the bid of regularising children the regularity of teachers is often questioned. As their punctuality is debated in the villages, teachers also started attending schools punctually.

Celebration of International Anti-Child Labour Day (June 12)

To generate awareness among general public about child labour and various national and international laws and obligations against child labour, International Child Labour Day was celebrated on June 12. Rallies were organised in important villages denouncing child labour and demanding effective implementation of RTE. Table below explains the number of rallies and villages where they were held:



Sl.No	Villages	Date	Groups participated	No of Participant
1	Krishtipadu	06-07-2013	CRPF,Youth, elite of the Village, Children, Teachers	70
2	Arjunapuram	06-10-2023		124
3	Gundupapala	06-06-2013		52
4	Govindinne	06-06-2013		75
5	Dornipadu	13/6/13		146
6	Kondapuram	06-10-2013		45
7	Burareddypalle	06-12-2013		41
8	ChakarajuVemula	06-07-2013		54
Total				607

Summer Schools

The serious debates that took place over slow learners led to start summer schools, to fill in the gaps in the learning levels of some of the students. MVF was asked to organise these schools. As a result summer schools were started in 7 villages viz., Ramachandrapuram, Arjunapuram, Kishtipadu, Chakirajuvemula, Gundupapala, W. Govindinne and Dornipadu. In the first 5 villages, parents and community have come forward to pay for the teachers' honorarium and in the last two villages, MVF has born the payment. Selection of teachers was made in the SMCs' special meetings in which parents, teachers and MVF Volunteers participated. Only qualified were placed to teach the students. Head Masters and school teachers prepared the list of children who needed supplementary teaching. Teachers' honorarium was decided as Rs. 2,500/- per month. These schools were run from April 24th to

the end of June. Focus was on teaching Telugu, Mathematics and English. Work books supplied to the students. A training programme was organised to the teachers of summer school prior to the beginning of the programme.

Children who participated in the summer schools were students of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th classes. They were divided into three groups based on the abilities they already acquired. For teaching Telugu, the primer (ThelikaPadaala Telugu Vachakam) written by late Prof. Bhadriraju Krishna Murthy was used. Flash cards, charts and other teaching – learning material was prepared during the training programme which was later extensively used in the class rooms. Schools were run from 8 am to 12:30 in the afternoon. Head Masters of the concerned schools were vested with the responsibility of following up and supervising the functioning of teachers and evaluating the performance of children. The intervention has proved to be successful as most of the students who attended the summer schools acquired the levels of learning corresponding to the classes they are studying. These schools had a positive bearing on the parents of the children, who came forward to admit their children in schools. Schools could build confidence of the parents about the quality. This got reflected in the admission of private school students in the government schools.

Mr. Irrigela Rama Pulla Reddy a local political leader has contributed notebooks and other stationery to the children.



Exposure Visits

Dorniadu is one of the mandals where Cottonseed is grown on a large scale in the district. Employment of children on cottonseed farms is a normal practice here. MVF has been putting its best efforts to stop farmers from engaging children in this work. The organisation has successfully mobilised Government machinery, cottonseed farmers, youth and other sections of the society against engaging children in any form of work including cottonseed farms, in the neighbouring Uyyalawada Mandal. In a bid to replicate the efforts in DornipaduMandal, several meetings were held with the farming community in Dornipadu, chiefly with the hybrid cottonseed growers. Volunteers explained the successful experiment that was carried in Uyyalawada mandal and requested them to emulate the example by employing adults on their farms.

As volunteers went on talking about this issue, it raised a kind of curiosity in some farmers. With such farmers, 11 farmers' clubs were started in 8 villages. On March 4, a dialogue with the farmers of Uyyalawada was facilitated with 18 farmers of DornipaduMandal (belonging to Kishtipadu, W. Govindinne and Gundupapala), who visited the place on an exposure trip. Though there was no work related to cottonseed farm going on at that time, farmers of

Uyyalawadatold their counterparts “we were also engaging children as you are doing now. There has been heavy mobilisation in favour of the child rights. We were motivated to join the movement to protect the rights of children. Since then we stopped engaging children on the farms. Now, we are employing only adults, and there was no much difference in the margins”. Following this another batch of farmers (13 from Dornipadu and Chakirajuvemula) had visited Uyyalawada on March 22.

The interaction between farmers helped in changing the mind sets of Dornipadu farmers. They too pledged not to engage children in the work. Farmers’ Clubs are meeting regularly and are engaged in the campaign for child rights. A maiden attempt was made and expected that it would snowball into a movement over a period of time, wherein, children would completely be stopped from engagement of any form of work.

On August 25 a public meeting was planned with the RDO. Accordingly, Revenue Divisional Officer-Nandyal and Mr. R. Venkat Reddy – National Convener, J.Bhaskar Co ordinator MV Foundation participated in a meeting of farmers that was held on the same day. Local Tehasildar, Mandal Parishath Development Officer too participated in the meeting. RDO in his address stressed the need for expanding the experiment, while Mr.Venkat Reddy spoke about child rights. Mr.Reddy has stated that child rights are human rights and focused on the girl child rights. Some model farmers too spoke on the occasion.

During the reporting period School Management Committees *W.Govindinne, Gundupapala, Chakarajuvemula, Dornipadu, Ramachandrapuram, Kondapuram and Kishtipadu* visited the school in *Arjunapuram* in two batches on April 18 and 20, and interacted with the members of school management committee. They learned about the monitoring mechanisms introduced by the SMC to monitor quality of education and midday meal programme. They appreciated the congenial environment in the school created by the SMC, *Arjunapuram*.

Contributions by the Community

During the half year parents, elite of the village, CRPF and political leaders contributed an amount of Rs. 43,600/- towards creating different facilities in schools and also for books and other stationery items for children. Details are given in the table below:

Sl.no	Village	Month	Purpose	Contribution group	Amount
1	Kishtipadu	January	MPUPs Inverter contribution	Community, Village elite, Employees and CRPF Group	15,000.00
2	Gundupapala	January	Republic day Programme	Youth, CRPF	1,500.00
3	Kishtipadu	April	Summer School Volunteer	Village elite and CRPF	2,500.00
4	Arjunapuram	April	Summer School Volunteer, Material	Mr.E.RampullaReddy and Mr.Balahussain	5,500.00
5	Ramchandrapuram	April	Summer School Volunteer	Village elite	2,500.00
6	Chakarajuvemula	April	Summer School Volunteer, Material	Village elite	5,000.00
7	Gundupapala	April	Summer School Volunteer, Material	Village elite, Youth	3,100.00
8	Kishtipadu	June	MPPS Painting, Fans and Furniture purpose	Parents Mr.Zeelanbasha and Mr.HussainBasha	5,500.00
9	Arjunapuram	June	Petition Send District Collector for required teachers	Community	3,000.00
Total					43,600.00

Interventions of Support Groups

- In MPUP School, Arjunapuram there are only three teachers. The Upper Primary Sections do not have a teacher. The local Child Rights Protection Forum and the School Management Committee members (28 in all) went in auto rickshaws to

Kurnool, to represent the problem with the District Collector. District Collector appreciating their interest suggested them to meet the District Educational Officer-DEO. When they met the DEO, he too expressed his happiness for the interest evinced by the locals in their children's education. Though, he wanted to sanction vidya volunteers to the school, there was no sufficient strength required to appoint them. Hence, he offered to pay salary for a vidya volunteer from his pocket. The gesture was gently accepted by the villagers.

- The Mandal level CRPF convened a meeting of all the SMCs at Mandal level in which funds utilisation, quality of education etc. were debated. In the meeting the Mandal Federation of SMCs has been formed.

- Government has given computers to the school in Kishtipadu. However, the power supply was erratic. Power supply is almost not there during the day time, i.e., during the school hours. Therefore, members of CRPF, SMC and parents contributed an amount of Rs. 15,000/-. SMC and Head Master decided to spend another Rs. 5000/- from School Grants. With the entire amount (i.e., Rs. 20,000/-) they bought an inverter, and the computer is now used.

Tragic Story of Ramanjaneyulu a ten years old boy *Ramanjaneyulu* a 10 years old boy

in W. Govindinne village of the mandal is living with his mother *Lakshmi Devi*. His father died a few years ago. During the vacation he works on the farms of others and supports his mother. On January 15, he was called by the owner of a Bengal gram harvester. While working with the machine, his right hand got crushed and was later amputated. The machine owner gave him Rs. 20,000/-, farmer contributed Rs.10,000/-, villagers contributed Rs.35,000 and he got an insurance of Rs. 1.5 lacks. The boy is now practicing to write with left hand. A police case was filed.

- As mentioned earlier a vidya volunteer is placed in the UP School, Arjunapuram, with the financial assistance provided by the District Educational Officer. MV Foundation too has been supporting for the salary of another vidya volunteer. In this school there are 33 children who are in the need for additional academic inputs. Therefore, the two volunteers are working extra hours in the morning and evening. During the fore noon they are teaching them from 7 am to 8:30 am and in the evening after school hours they are teaching these children till 6 pm in the evening.
- During the half year a total of 122 meetings with various support groups (CRPF, Youth, Women Groups, SMCs, Parents and Farmers) took place at the village level in which a total of 2429 members participated. At mandal level 8 meetings were organised with CRPF, Girl youth, TFCR and Farmers. (Details of these meetings are annexed to this report).

Celebration of National Girl Children's Day

National Girl Children's day was celebrated in the mandal on Jan 24. In the mandal headquarters town, a rally was organised on the eve in which girls studying in the local KGBV, High School, and girls from the schools of Bhagyanagaram and Kothapally too participated. School Teachers, Mandal Level Officers, CRPF members, SHGs' members and parents took part in the rally. Later, a meeting was organised in the evening in which speakers stressed the need for protecting the rights of girl children and advised parents against performing marriages to their girls until they complete the age of 18 years. Cultural programmes that followed the public meeting focused on gender equity, girl child's education etc. A total of 275 persons had participated in the rally.



Visits

Members of Mandal Child Rights' Protection had visited school (only UP & Elementary Schools), Hostels for boys and girls and the lone KGBV in the mandal to identify the problems and see the facilities available in these institutions. Following are the findings of CRPF:

Findings on KGBV

- The institute doesn't have teachers to impart computer skills, though there were computers.
- Till June 29 (the day KGBV was visited) note books were not supplied to students
- Trunks and blankets were not supplied
- No of toilets and bath rooms is not in sufficient number
- Food served is of bad quality

Findings on Social Welfare Hostel for Boys

- Food quality issatisfactory
- There is no compound wall
- There has been severe drinking water problem in the hostel
- Toilets are dysfunctional
- Budget has not been sanctioned for the last five years for white washing the hostel building
- The hostel premises are surrounded by bushes
- Health check-up is done once in a month'

Findings on BC Welfare Hostel for Girls

- No proper health check-up done
- Doctors come to hostel for check-up when borders are in class (during the school hours)
- No drinking water

Findings on Schools

- A total of 27 schools (Upper Primary and Elementary Schools) were visited
- As per RTE there should be another 4 teachers to be placed. There were 57 teachers as against 61 as per norms
- Out of 27 schools 13 schools do not have compound walls. Among the rest 11 have compound walls and another 3 have compound wall but in ruining staged
- Number of schools which have ramps is 9
- There are 72 class rooms in all
- Schools in Dornipadu, ChakirajuVemula, Gundupapala have additional accommodation, schools in Bhagyanagaram, Kishtipadu, Arjunapuram, W. Govindinne, KothapallyandRamachandrapuram have sufficient accommodation. Schools in other villages have shortage of accommodation.
- There are three schools in the mandal which do not have toilets
- Though there are toilets in 13 schools, they are dysfunctional
- Though there are urinals in 12 schools all of them are dysfunctional.
- Only 13 schools have play ground
- Two schools in the mandal were closed down as the strength is less than 10 and the teachers who were working in these schools were relocated. Children studying in these schools were provided transport allowance to reach the nearest school

A petition was submitted by the CRPF to the Mandal Parishath Development Officer MPDO, demanding resolution of the problems in the schools.

Petitions and Memorandum

Sl. no	Date	Village	Group	Petition submitted too	Purpose	Remarks
1	Jan 17	W.Govindinne	Youth,CRPF	Tahasildhar	Request to book a case on the owner of machine who employed Ramanjaneyulu a 10 years boy whose right hand was cut while working on the machine	
2	Jan 30	Dornipadu	Youth,CRPF	MPDO	MPPs(Main) Drinkingwater,Kitchenshed and Toilets problems	DW sanctioned
3	Jan 30	Kristipadu	Youth,CRPF	MPDO	MPPS Kitchenshedproblem	
4	April 2	W.Govindinne	Youth	MPDO	MPPS(Spl) Drinkingwater,Kitchenshed and Toilets problems, flooring	Except Kitchen shed all others sanctioned
5	April 2	Chakarajuvemula	Youth,CRPF	MPDO	MPPs(BC) Drinkingwater,Kitchenshed and Toilets problems	
6	Mar 25 and 27	Kondapuram, Arjunapuram, Kristipadu, Dornipsdu, Chakarajuvemula Gundupala and Govindinne	CRPF	SSA State Project Director and Dist Collector	On SMC Reorganised (Power to only SMC Members)	
7	March 19	Arjunapuram	CRPF	Tehasildar	School ground, School beside water security wall problem	land for Playground given by villagers
8	June 11	Arjunapuram	CRPF,SMC, Village elite	Dist Collector, DEO,SSA-PO	Required Teachers	DEO Charity

During the half year 8 petitions and memoranda were submitted to various authorities seeking resolution of the problems faced by children and schools. Some of them were resolved and in case of some other issues the issues were kept pending. Following table explains the details:

Orphan Children

An exercise was also undertaken by the CRPF to identify the children of single parents and orphans. In KGBV it was found that 25 children were having single parent and another 5 were orphans. In this regard the CRPF requested the District Collector in a representation, to start special homes for orphan children and single parent children.