

**Enabling Implementation of the Right to Education Act through
involvement of Gram Panchayats, School management Committees
and Local Communities**

Half Yearly Report July - December 2013

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
MPDO	Mandal Parishad Development Officer
MPPS	Mandal Parishad Primary School/Elementary School
MPUPS	Mandal Parishad 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 Parishad 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
Tehsildar	Revenue Officer at the Mandal Level

Summary of Activities

During the reporting quarter one important event that took place was that the Gram Panchayats plunging into action. Out of 11 gram panchayats in the mandal 8 Gram Panchayats held reviews about the children's status in their jurisdiction. Members who participated in the meetings took serious view of the non-functioning Anganwadis and schools and initiated measures to correct them.

The campaign against child labour on seed farms has drastically brought the incidence of child labour in all the villages. While this is a positive sign on one hand, the other one is more and more people coming forward to protect the child rights and become child defenders. White washing and cleaning the premises of schools by youth and CRPF speaks volumes about the growing concern about the children, which can be viewed as a leap forward in the movement for protecting children.

There were two noteworthy developments that took place during this half year. While one is cohort analysis. The analysis disproves the government arguments that there were no out of school children. During one year alone and that too on a small area like the project area, 11 children have dropped out and another serious violation of RTE is that detention on the grounds of irregularity and lagging behind academics. Duplication of names has been beyond doubt established.

Another important development is encouraging and motivating late teens to join open school system. This will go a long way in the process of development.

What follows is a brief report of the activities taken up during the reporting period.

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

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	Schools cleaning, follow up of irregular children and drop outs, teachers' punctuality, UNCRC
CRPF	Absenteeism, infrastructure, head counting, Midday meal, cottonseed, farms visits, petitions, UNCRC
Women	UNCRC, Girl children's rights, Absenteeism among girls, Child Marriages
Farmers	Labour contractors, Visits to farms
Caste Leaders	Campaign against child labour
Elite of the village community	Community contribution
SMC	School visits, visit to seed farms, collection of contributions, duplication of enrolment, MDM
Gram Panchayats	Sub Committees and review,

Major decisions taken during these meetings are as under:

- Visit to cottonseed farms
- Collect contributions for infrastructure
- Cleaning the schools' premises
- Removal of fake names from the schools registers
- Submit petitions for resolving the problems of School
- UNCRC Celebrations
- GP Reviews with the line agencies

Below are the outcomes of the meetings:

- In the month of October youth visited farms 485 times in all the villages, and followed up 400 children who were hard ore child labourers
- In the month of December youth followed up with the children of migrating parents in Dornipadi, Kishtipadu and W Govindinne.
- In Primary School (main), in Dornipadu village the firewood stored in the school premises by neighbours was removed by the SMC, CRPF and youth
- CRPF contributed for black boards in the Urdu School in Chakirajuvemula and levelled the school grounds
- CRPF white washed the special school in Dornipadu
- In Chakirajuvemula Mr. Y Raju, whose issue was reported in the previous report was reformed. He is attending to school regularly and punctually. Children's attendance gone up from 34 to 56.



DETAILS OF THE MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Sl.no	Meetings	Village Level		Mandal Level	
		No of Mtngs	No of Ptcpn ts	# Meeti ngs	# Partici pants
1	CRPF	20	319	1	45
2	Youth	1	17	-	-
3	SMC	15	317	-	-
4	GP	8	290	-	-
5	Farmers	10	133	-	-
6	Teachers	23	134	1	15
Total		77	1210	2	60

- CRPF repaired the water tap in the Special School, Gundupapala. They installed the tap outside the school premises as villagers are disturbing the school. CRPF levelled the ground in the same school.
- Youth cleared the jungle in the main school and special school, Chakirajuvemula
- Youth in W Govindinne raised the school grounds with 4 tractor loads of sand
- In Arjunapuram SMC directed the Head Master to strike off the names of children attending private schools and as

attendance is marked for them also in the local UP School. Thus the names of all the 6 children were removed from the registers. SMC is monitoring attendance and MDM on a regular basis.

- SMC changed the MDM agency in the Special School, Dornipadu
- SMC took serious view of the MDM agency in Gudupapala as they are providing one egg for two children and changed the agency
- In Arjunapuram, Ramachandrapuram and Kishtipadu SMCs are monitoring the MDM everyday
- In Arjunapuram, as per the decision made in SMC meeting remedial classes for the children are begun
- SMC of Primary School in Kishtipadu contributed for an overhead tank
- AS the funds were not sufficient for constructing a toilet in the Special School in Chakiraju Vemula, a lady teacher working in the same school made a contribution for the completion of toilet.

- Sarpanch of Kondapuram took initiative to stop villagers from dumping scrap in the school premises.
- In the teachers meeting held at mandal level on July 18, *Teachers for Child Rights*, Dornipadu mandal was formed. Teachers have decided to strengthen SMCs by organising monthly meetings and meetings with the parents every quarter. They also resolved to adopt various strategies to ensure that no child would absent school for petty reasons.
- The mandal level CRPF meeting that took place on October 8 decided to launch a campaign against child labour on cottonseed farms and to follow up with every child who were to be weaned out of work, to strengthen the schools by participating in the school related activities and development activities and to respond to any violation of child rights.

The details of meetings held are given in the side table above.

Gram Panchayats-Review Meetings

Excepting three Gram Panchayats (Ammireddy Nagar, W Kothapally, Burareddypally) all other Gram Panchayats reviewed the children's situations in special meetings attended by the Sarpanches, Ward members and the personnel of all the line agencies, viz., teachers, Doctors, ANMs, Panchayat Secretaries, Village Revenue Officers, Anganwadi Teachers etc. Following are the agenda points discussed in these meetings:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Quality education | • Midday meals | • Infrastructure |
| • Absenteeism | • Teachers shortage | • Anganwadi Centres |
| • Children's Health | • Birth Certificates | • Bangaru Thalli |
| • Child marriages | | |

Mandal Educational Officer has participated in the Dornipadu Gram Panchayat meeting.

Most of the Gram Panchayats expressed concern over the low standards in the government schools. They felt both teachers and children should attend schools punctually and make teaching and learning a meaningful exercise. Panchayats told MDM agencies to follow menu and provide tasty nutrition to children. Regarding infrastructure, there was more concentration on lack of toilets and panchayats. All the Panchayats appealed SSA to sanction funds for construction of required number of toilets. Parents of girl children told to make best use of the *Bangaru Thalli* scheme. In Chakiraju Vemula the Gram Panchayat has come forward to pay the honorarium for a vidya volunteer.

In many Panchayats the functioning of Anganwadi teachers was discussed thoroughly. In Arjunapuram, the Anganwadi teacher was reprimanded by the Panchayat as she is running the centre in her home. Panchayat told her to move the centre to the School and asked the Head Master to supervise her functioning. Further, she was offered an additional payment of Rs. 200/- every month to be paid by all the parents for working till the school is closed. She accepted. The Anganwadi Teacher and Aya are not attending to duties properly in the Centre no: 4, in Dornipadu. Gram Panchayat told them to leave the job if they are not interested. As a result, they started attending to their duties properly.

Gram Panchayats reviewed the school health programme also. As per the job chart ANMs are to attend schools once in every fortnight and check children's health. However, ANMs were not attending schools at all. Dornipadu, Arjunapuram, Ramachandrapuram, W Govindinne, Kishtipadu and Chakirajuvemula panchayats took a serious view of this and told ANMs that they must attend the school health programme. As a result ANMs have been visiting the schools once in every fortnight.

In Dornipadu and Arjunapuram issuance of birth registration began following these panchayats decided about it.

Campaign against Child Labour in Cottonseed Farms

Farmers told organisers and labour contractors not to bring child labourers. Farmers and recruiters are demanding to show ration cards to prove the age of workers. In the cottonseed farms “no child labour boards’ are installed. Farmers are sending away children who ever come to them seeking work on their farms.



A campaign against child labour is organised during the reporting period. As part of the campaign, the following activities were organised:

- Scrolling on the cable networks against employing children and the possible punishments for violators as per the law.
- Petitions to RDO, Tehsildar, Sub Inspector on the farmers employing children
- Survey of farms
- Interactions with seed farmers
- Tom tom
- Committees with farmers
- Wall writings
- Display of boards at the farms that there are no child labourers
- Raids
- Rallies
- Visits to farms by the Sarpanches
- Checking autos for the children being trafficked to work on seed farms

During the visit of committee of farmers a labour contractor was found employing three children. Children were sent away and the contractor was warned that he would not be tolerated next time. In Chakirajuvemula and Dornipadu raids were conducted by the Tehsildar. In Chakirajuvemula a farmer Mahabub Hussain was found employing three children on his farms. Tehsildar warned him and the children were sent away. Hussain said he will not engage children hereafter and executed a bond to this effect.

As a follow up action after relieving children from the seed work, 23 children were admitted /readmitted in the school as shown in the table below:

Village	Boys	Girls	Total
W Govindinne	4	3	7
Chakarajuvemula	4	1	5
Kishtipadu	1	1	2
Gundupapala	0	2	2
Dornipadu	6	1	7
Total	15	8	23

UNCRC Celebrations

To mark the children's day essay competitions were held on the theme of "Child Rights" for the students of VIII to X classes in three schools (2-ZP High Schools and the lone KGBV). Students who stood first, second and third were given prizes that were sponsored by the CRPF, GP Sarpanches. In a meeting held on November 20th in which school teachers, students, Panchayat Sarpanches, SMC chairmen, CRPF members took part, Tehsildar and MEO given away prizes to the winners.



Open School Admissions

With the help of youth, 37 young boys and girls were identified and motivated to appear for open school examinations. As there was no contact classes facility in this mandal MVF is planning to support contact classes programme for these children.

Cohort Study

In the month of July, a cohort analysis of the children who joined government run schools in the year 2012-13 academic year was taken up. Only those who were admitted afresh in these schools were tracked. And their continuation or otherwise in schools is tracked. Analysis of this cohort's movement revealed the following:

- There are 21 Primary Schools in the mandal, of them two are Urdu medium schools and rest are Telugu medium schools.
- There are 2 UP Schools and 2 High Schools.
- In the Primary Schools the total admission in the year 2012-13 was 1119 with 514 boys and 614 girls.
 - Of them 425 boys and 528 girls, total 953 are studying in the same schools and were promoted to the next class.
 - 18 boys and eight girls (total 26) are found studying in the same school but were detained in the same class for several reasons like under age, not studying well, being irregular to school.
 - Two girls were reverted to lower classes to ensure that they would be in age appropriate classes
 - Names of 8 boys and 10 girls are found to be carried more than two or three schools (including government schools and schools under private management).
 - 5 boys and 6 girls moved to other government schools and 15 boys and 17 girls moved to Private schools
 - 4 boys and 8 girls migrated with their parents and 6 boys and 3 girls have dropped out
- In the Two Up Schools
 - 87 boys and 85 girls (total 172) enrolled during the last academic year.
 - Of them 85 boys and 81 girls are studying in the same school and were promoted to the next higher class.
 - A boy and two girls were detained
 - A boy joined private school and a girl migrated and another boy dropped out.
- In the two high school 176 boys and 168 (total 344) girls enrolled during the last academic year.

- Of them 172 boys and 166 girls (total 338) got promoted to the next higher class and are continuing in the same school.
- Names of 4 boys and a girl are duplicated in other schools and a girl has dropped out.

Workshop on RTE

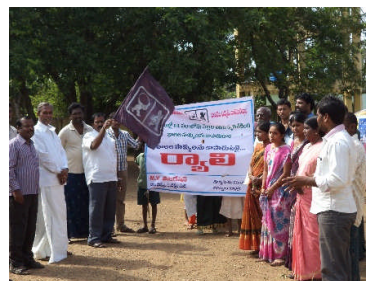


On Oct 31 a workshop was organised for SMC Chairmen and Vice Chairmen in which the MEO also took part. The workshop was organised on the implementation of various provisions stipulated in the RTE. Mr. J. Bhaskar, Coordinator-MVF acted as resource person.

Rallies

On the onset of cross pollination season in the hybrid cottonseed farms in the month of September rallies were organised in 5 villages (Kishtipadu, Dornipadu, Gundupapala, W. Govindinne and

Chakarajuvemula) in which Sarpanches and ward members of the concerned villages, SMC Chairmen, Members, CRPF, Youth, teachers, MVF activists and parents took part. A total of 452 persons took part in all. Participants in the rally shouted slogans against employing children in the seed farms.



Quality Education and MVF's monetary contribution

During interactive meetings with the Head Masters and teachers of the schools of MP Primary School (Main)- Dornipadu, MP UP School-Kishtipadu, MP Primary School (Main)-W Govindinne, MP Primary School-Ramachandrapuram and MP UP school – Arjunapuram regarding imparting quality education, teachers complained that children were not doing home assignments, absenteeism being high and funds supplied by the government for TLM being low as the reasons for low standards. The State Project Coordinator who also participated in the meetings has assured to support them in this respect. Following this MV Foundation has contributed Rs. 20,000/- to four schools and Rs. 15,000/- to UP School Kishtipadu for purchasing Teaching-Learning material. Thus an amount of Rs. 95,000/- was contributed.

Petitions

CRPF mandal unit and village units of Dornipadu, Chakarajuvemula submitted petitions to RDO, Tehsildar and Sub Inspector of Police on children working on cottonseed farms. On these complaints raids on the farms in these villages were conducted by authorities. The Kishtipadu unit submitted a memorandum to the MPDO requesting funds for kitchen shed.

School Visits

During the reporting period School Management Committees, CRPF, youth and parents visited schools to evaluate/supervise quality of education, midday meal programme and other facilities in the schools. Details of the visits were given in the table below. Following the visit, visitors suggested concerned staff for the improvement of performance.

Sl.no	Date	Village	Ptcpt Group	Partic ipant s	School	Purpose
1	3.7.13	Dornipadu	CRPF,	4	MPPS(Main)	Class wise absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
2	8.7.13	Chakarajuvemula	CRPF,SMC	5	MPPS(Main)	QIP, Infrastructure problems, MDM
3	9.7.13	Kristipadu	CRPF,SMC	5	MPPS	Class wise absenteeism, Education and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
4	5.8.13	Gundupapala	CRPF,SMC	2	MPPS(Main)	MDM
5	6.9.13	Arjunapuram	CRPF,SMC	6	MPUP	absenteeism, MDM, Computer education
6	18.10.13	Arjunapuram	CRPF,SMC, Parents	8	MPUP	Class wise Education
7	16.10.13	Dornipadu	CRPF,SMC	4	MPPS (Main)	Class wise absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
8	22.10.13	Gundupapala	CRPF,SMC	3	MPPS (Main/ Spl))	Class wise absenteeism, MDM, Drinking water, Toilets
9	18.10.13	Chakarajuvemula	CRPF,SMC	4	MPPS(Main/ Uudu,Spl(BC))	Class wise absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
10	5.11.13	Kristipadu	CRPF,SMC	4	MPPS	Class wise absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
11	5.11.13	Gundupapala	SMC	3	MPPS(Main/ Spl))	Class absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
12	5.11.13	Dornipadu	CRPF,SMC	5	MPPS(Main/ Spl)	QIP, Infrastructure problems, MDM
13	15.12.13	Chakarajuvemula	CRPF,SMC	3	MPPS(Main/ Uudu,Spl(SC))	Class absenteeism Education and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
14	4.12.13	Kristipadu	Sarpanch, CRPF,SMC	6	MPUP	Class absenteeism and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM, School building problems
15	1.12.13	Govindinne	Sarpanch, CRPF,SMC	6	MPPS(Main)	Class absenteeism, Education and Headcount, Infrastructure problems, MDM
16	8.12.13	Dornipadu	Sarpanch, CRPF,SMC	8	MPPS(Main)	MDM, Toilets, Drinking water

Contributions

Gram Panchayat Sarpanches, ward members and SMC chairpersons, individuals and village elite have come forward to organise various events like organising a Panchayat meeting, or a rally. These contributions were meant for meeting the costs of invitations, refreshments and other incidental expenses. Further, MV Foundation has been given large number of shoes by the US based TOMS Shoes. MVF was asked to distribute shoes to all the school children in its operational area. In this regard many people have come forward to contribute for the socks for children. For all these purposes a total of Rs.58,250 worth goods and services were provided by them. Details of these contributions are given in the table on the next page.

Sl.no	Month	Village	Purpose	Contribution Group	Amount In Rs.
1	July	Kristipadu	MPPS Water tank	SMC Chairman	7000
2	August	Gundupalala	Independence day prizes purpose	Sarpanch	500
3	August	W.Govindinne	Independence day prizes purpose	Sarpanch	1000
4	August	Chakarajuvemula	Independence day prizes purpose	SMC Chairman/Sarpanch	500
5	August	Kristipadu	Independence day prizes purpose	Sarpanch	500
6	October	Arjunapuram	Volunteer	Sarpanch, V.Sarpanch	3000
7	September	Gundupalala	Cotton seed campaign	VE Ramagovindareddy	500
8	November	Dornipadu	School Bags	Monsanto Company	12000
9	December	Dornipadu	GP Meetings (Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments)	Sarpanch	1500
10	November	Kristipadu	GP Meetings (Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments)	Sarpanch	500
11	November	Ramachendrapauram	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Vice Sarpanch	1000
12	November	Gundupalala	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Sarpanch	1000
13	November	W.Govindinne	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Sarpanch	1500
14	November	Chakarajuvemula	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Sarpanch	1000
15	December	Arjunapuram	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Sarpanch	1000
16	November	Kondapuram	GP Meetings Banner, Invitation letters, Refreshments	Sarpanch	1000
17	December	Kristipadu	For Socks	CRPF, Ward members, VE	3200
18	December	Dornipadu	For Socks	Sarpanch, Village elite	3000
19	December	Ramachendrapauram	For Socks	Vice Sarpanch	1800
20	December	Bagyanagaram	For Socks	Sarpanch, Village elite, Teacher	2000
21	December	Kondapuram	For Socks	Sarpanch, Village elite	900
22	December	Arjunapuram	For Socks	Sarpanch, Village elite	2450
23	December	Gundupalala	For Socks	KDCC Bank Manager	1750
24	December	W.Govindinne	For Socks	Sarpanch, Village elite	3850
25	December	Chakarajuvemula	For Socks	Cotton seed Org, Village elite, SMC Chairperson & V. Chairman	5275
26	December	Umapathinagar	For Socks	Teacher	525
				TOTAL	58250

Stories from the field

The Story of Dharma Raju

Lakshmi Narasaiah is a priest in a temple in Harivaram, a village in the mandal. He had migrated from Perusomula, a village in the neighbouring Sanjamala mandal. His daughter Maunika is studying 9th class in the local Zilla Parishad High School. PET of the school Dharma Raju trapped her in the name of love and for few months he took her to films, and other places like Ahobilam etc, and had developed sexual relationship with her. As a result the girl conceived. The news spread across the village and when the local news contributors heard about it they started investigating the issue. PET took the help of a local leader one Raghunatha Reddy. Raghunatha Reddy threatened all the news men of grave consequences and bribed them. He directed the PET to pay a lump sum amount to the girl's father and he warned him (girl's father) that he will lose his livelihood if he talks about the incident anywhere. However, the local TV9 (A vernacular Telugu News Channel) reporter came to know about this. The issue was shown as breaking news and was telecast across the State. District Educational Officer reacted immediately on the news and ordered Dy. Educational Officer to enquire into the incident. Soon after the news was cast in the Television, Dharma Raju fled. In ire the villagers raided the school and broke the cupboard of the PET in which they found a bunch of love letters Dharma Raju wrote to many girls. It was understood that more than 10 girls were trapped by the PET. Unfortunately, Dharma Raju was only transferred, pending enquiry.

In Kishtipadu, the Ayah in the ICDS Centre poured boiling water on a small girl. The girl was admitted in hospital with burn injuries. The Panchayat gave a ruling that Ayah should pay for the costs of the treatment and thus she paid Rs. 10,000/-.

During the survey of Cottonseed farms in W Govindinne, a girl Ramadevi (12 years) was found working on the farms. In a bid to motivate her parents to admit the girl in the school, they learned that the girl is a school drop out for the last two years (studied up to V class) and that her marriage is fixed and going to be performed in three days. CRPF and MVF activists who gathered around called the PD-W&CW, CDPO and the Supervisor – ICDS over phone and informed them about the proposed marriage. Upon the directions from the above, CDPO, Supervisor-ICDS and Police Constables with Panchayat Sarpanch summoned the girl's parents. All of them gave counselling to parents. They explained them about the health hazards the girl will have to face and the legal implications they will face. They succeeded in convincing the parents, as a result of which the marriage was cancelled. An agreement was executed by the girl's parents to the effect of cancelling marriage.