

The Yeoman Service of Capuchin Fathers in Dayalbagh Rural Development Programme

Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra (CKSK) is a voluntary organization run by Franciscan Capuchin Fathers of Karnataka Province, registered as a Society in 1976. The CKSK works for the holistic development of the most vulnerable deprived and excluded sections of the society through total human development which has been very much realized in Integrated Community Development.

CKSK is situated in Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, is at the eastern end of the coastal district and at the foothills of the Western Mountain Ranges. We are working since the year 1969. Today we are assisting 785 poor, most vulnerable children in 45 adopted villages. Our mission is “To create an environment of hope and respect for the needy children of all cultures and beliefs in which they have opportunities to achieve their full potential and provide practical tools for positive change to children, families and communities”.

CKSK works for the marginalize poor by intervening in their various issues and enabling them to face them with confidence and limited available resources. It intervenes with people at their different stages of human development. Holistic and Integral development of the family is the goal and it is realized through total human development. It begins its developmental activities by strengthening the most wounded and vulnerable sections of the society, viz., the women and children. So to empower powerless and voiceless women it has introduced the concept of Self Help Groups, where some sort of financial security is mustered by them. So much so most of the Self Help Groups (SHGs) have become mini Rural Banks, where they lend and borrow the loans with lesser interest and also share the benefits. It has enabled them to gain not only financial security but also honour and dignity. This is very much seen in the recent just concluded elections where through the constant motivation and training 50 women contested panchayat elections and 30 got elected. They also actively involved in fighting against anti farmers issues, Hiv-aids, child harassment and work strenuously to improve their economic standard by engaging in various self-employment activities. As a result of our efforts now under the patronage of Vimukti SHG Federation there are 356 Self Help Groups of men and women comprising of nearly 5000 families.

The total and integrated human is realized through various sections such as Health and Sanitation, Education and Livelihood. The activities that are undertaken under different sectors:

Health and Sanitation: The Project organizes different health awareness programs through mass awareness, demonstration, transmission of information, rallies and street plays. The members enrolled under the Health Insurance Scheme of the Project increased from 597 to 2400 families. This data shows the increased responsibility of the family members on

health aspect in the rural villages. Following are the some of the health activities of the Project.

- Adolescent Camp for 830 girls and boys.
- Training for 210 Eligible couples
- On going Breast feed campaign- Awareness programme
- On going Training on Hygienic (Malaria, chigungunya, swine flu etc.,)
- On going HIV /AIDS Rally, awareness to community, schools, colleges and high risk involved groups
- Support for the Sanitation to 388 families
- Assistance for House construction to 79 families
- Assistance for roof repair of the houses to 203 families.
- Assistance for electrification to 59 families.
- Assistance for safe drinking water to 26 families
- Public wells in 2 communities.
- Assistance for RCH (Reproductive Child Health) to 80 families
- Assistance for disabled children to 46 children
- Insurance for Women through SHG- National Insurance Scheme- 2300 members enrolled.
- Voluntary Blood Donation and Grouping camp- 100 people
- First Aid Kit distribution to Schools-45 schools
- Preparation for adolescent stage in-15 rural Government schools
- Dental checkup and denture distribution program- to 137 members
- Street play on solid waste management in 35 schools and colleges
- Gynecological camp to meet the medical needs of the women was held in the Community
- Medical assistance to the 1500 severe cases patients
- Quit plastic Program to eradicate the plastics-in 35 schools.

Nutrition

The second major area of focus is the nutrition of the child as there many mal-nourished children who are more vulnerable to various illnesses and who will ever remain backward unless their nutrition level is raised. It has been observed in the Project operational area that due to poverty and lack of economic resources the nutritional level of the child remains below standard. To bring about a considerable change both in the nutritional and attitudinal standards, the Project has emphasized on imparting right nutritional habits among the children and their mothers. Issues like economic status lack of accessibility of health services, food insecurity and misconception related to food, poor hygienic practices, limited knowledge of parents in terms of child care especially about nutrition and management during illness need to be handled effectively. The Project selects malnourished children and mothers to give more attention on their health. The programs under the nutrition:

- ❖ The Project maintains the health of each child and monitors the nourishment of the children in the preschools.
- ❖ Demonstration on low cost nutritious food preparation to pregnant and lactating mothers
- ❖ Double fortified salt distribution to the schools.

- ❖ .With the slogan” clean and green” the SHG women are participating in *shramadhanas* (Voluntary Labor Service).
- ❖ The kitchen garden facilitates the production and use of vegetables and nutritious plants. This is also called as the *Vanamahotsava* program.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Qualitative education is the requirement of every child. The CKSK with support of various donors and generous hearted people, the community members runs 4 Preschools. The main object is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years. The Project implements programs, imparts knowledge through formal and non-formal education. The Project preschools which are running by the Project are in interior places and the small babies enjoy early childhood development through these preschools. The Organization implements the Preschool program with the support of community members where there is lack of (Integrated Child Development Schemes) ICDS centers. The Project already handed over three preschools to the Government Department (ICDS center). The Project surveyed 30 preschools of ICDS centers. As per the survey the ICDS centers lack proper infrastructure and play materials. Based on the survey the Organization tries to support these centers by organizing the following activities.

- ❖ Supplying of nutritious food to the Project preschool children
- ❖ A training program on the topic of ‘Child care and Development’, Creative teaching and puppet making for Government and Project run preschools
- ❖ Regular medical check up has been arranged at 4 preschools of the project in collaboration with Fr. L. M. Pinto Charitable Hospital, Badyar. It has created awareness among the parents and enabled them to keep regular touch with the health of the child. To monitor the stages of child development, height and weight measuring machines have been provided to the preschools.
- ❖ Preschool children were taken out for out door environmental exposure, which helped the children to get recreation and learn behavioral aspects like adjustment, mannerism, love of nature etc.
- ❖ Annual day celebration was held at Project 4 preschools and 10 government preschools. it has created a festive mood, and has given ample scope for the children to exhibit their talents in 10 government backward preschools.
- ❖ Provided Play materials to 95 preschools
- ❖ Assistance for toilet constructions to 16 preschools
- ❖ Assistant for roof repair of 7 preschools
- ❖ Infrastructure to 15 preschools
- ❖ Anganwady Quality Improvement Program at 15 preschools

Home based care: First three years of a child's life are crucial to its later development and personality formation. Since children under three years spend most of their time in the family, the family environment is crucial for their overall development – this not only means the physical environment but more importantly the nature of the interactions between adults and children. Awareness given to the mothers of preschool children regarding child care and development at four clusters. Importance of breast feeding, weaning practice, low cost nutritious food preparation, immunization etc., were taught during the training. Mothers too are motivated to compulsory birth registration, to avail facilities from the Government like madilu kit, Bhaygayalxmi yojane etc.,

BASIC EDUCATION:

Education programs are focused on facilitating quality education services. Through the survey and the interaction with SDMC and School Head masters it is found that due to the lack of proper infrastructure, lack of teachers in government schools children are not getting quality education. So the Project tries to give quality education in government schools by providing infrastructure, appointing teachers and by organizing child friendly programs. Following are the activities undertaken for the education program to achieve the goal.

- Assistance for learning materials to 2302 children
- Assistance for college fees to 1031 children
- Assistance for professional courses 126 children.
- Reading Improvement Program to slow learners of 71 Government Schools
- Skill Improvement In Mathematics in 60 schools
- Appointment of school teachers where there are insufficient teachers in 170 Government schools.
- In addition to facilitate the qualitative education, the Project has provided infrastructures to the schools. Assistance for toilet construction to 12 schools
- Cupboard to 13 schools
- Repair of playground in 2 schools
- Repair of compound wall 4 schools
- Library books to 50 schools
- Learning materials to 30 schools
- To encourage academic and sports activities, playing materials and learning materials are distributed to 59 schools
- Training to SDMC members are conducted to render their best services for their schools.
- Mothers committee meeting is organizes to plan and to review the programs of the Project.
- Training on creative teaching is organized to the 600 government schools teachers.

CHILD PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTION:

Children are not passive recipients of experience, but are instead active contributors to their own wellbeing and development. They think of themselves as contributors to their families, playing their own part in the care of younger siblings and incapacitated adults and in household maintenance and survival. Keeping this in mind Project organized programs to protect the children and give given opportunities to participate so as to share their feelings and the problems. The main activities under this sector are as follows.

- ❖ Street play training to Youth Clubs: Project trained 15 youths on street play. This team will give awareness to the community about the child rights and women related issues.
- ❖ The Project trained 15youths on Nirthya nirupaka on the impacts of MSEZ to mark the all India Anti SEZ Day.
- ❖ Child Well Being Committee: The Project formed 12 Child well being Committees at Project level with the objective to reduce the violation of child rights and create an enabling environment that supports children's positive development.
- ❖ Training on child rights and Gramasabha: The Project organized awareness program at schools on child rights and Gramasabha to the children, SDMC and to the school teachers.

- ❖ Training on conducting Children's Gramasabha to the to the Panchayat members.

- ❖ Children Clubs: To give an opportunity to improve the capacities of children, clubs are organized once in two months at four clusters. The Project has 66 children's clubs at 38 villages.

- ❖ Children Camp: Children's holiday camps have been playing a vital role in the development of personalities of children. 25 summer camps were organized with the collaboration of local people.
- ❖ World Day for the prevention of Child Abuse:
World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse was organized to give awareness to the various communities. The objective of this program is to give more attention, efficient protection skills and preventive measures to be taken at family, local and community level.

- ❖ Child Resource Center: To provide ample opportunities to nurture the talents and to give space for their talents, the project has established 2 child resource centers.
- ❖ Training on Carrier Guidance: The Project organizes carrier guidance to the youths to select the best course for their higher education.

LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT OF THE POOR (LEEP)

Vimukti SHG Federation: Self Help Groups are basic structure for all the developmental activities of the society. With the hard effort of the Project staff the SHGs are extending to the nearest Villages of Bantwala Taluk and

Chikmagalur Taluka. The Activities supported by the Project for the Income Generating Activities are as follows.

1. Tailoring classes to 200 girls
2. Assistance for Goat rearing 84 families
3. Assistance for Piggery 56 families
4. Assistance for Poultry 25 families
5. Assistance for Jasmine Cultivation 30 families
6. Assistance for Azola cultivation 34 families
7. Assistance for wormy compost 57 families
8. Assistance for seasonal vegetables
9. Assistance for petty shop 79
10. Assistance for agriculture 350
11. Assistance for Rubber cultivation 150
12. Umbrella unit 4 girls
13. Tailoring Unit (Uniform stitching center 10 girls)
14. Shaymiyana Group Venture 20 members

To implement all the above programs we have qualified and dedicated staff with aims- objectives and goals to develop the rural children and their families. Due to the loving sacrifice of our various Sponsors, we have been able to reach out some extent to the poorest of the poor. What we have achieved is little, there is more to do and it is possible only through the generous and good hearted people. There are also most vulnerable people such as Hiv/aids, T.B patients, differently abled, malnourished etc. We all have responsibility to do something for these little and unfortunate brothers and sisters. Hence the Organization always on its heels to create a just and humane condition for all these less fortunate. We need your support and contribution towards this most urgent humanitarian cause. So whatever your loving contribution will certainly enhance these most vulnerable, deprived and excluded children, youth and women to live a dignified life in the society. We assure you our sincere prayers and gratitude for your sacrifice and contribution. May God bless you all.

Bank details:

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Branch Maleshwaram

Bangalore.

A big Thanks to you and best wishes.

Fr. Vinod Mascarenhas

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