

# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL – MARCH 2023



SUBMITTED TO: MEM FOUNDATION

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**Reporting period: April 2022 – March 2023**

**Project Title:**

**Supporting the education of children of the hilly terrains of Thally and Kelamangalam Blocks in Denkanikottai Taluk who are at risk of never attending or discontinuing schooling due to social-economic circumstances.**

**Objectives of the project:**

1. To help children become physically fit, develop character and learn skills
2. To ensure the holistic development of the tribal children
3. To enhance the vocabulary and reading skills of the children
4. To promote “Information Literacy” among the tribal children
5. To equip the children with general knowledge books and keep them updated
6. Acquisition of motor skills
7. Improvement of technical and tactical efficiency
8. To identify and nurture talent in Music
9. To reduce school dropouts and ensure retention of children in schools towards implementation of the Right to Education Act 2009, with a special focus on ensuring the right to education for girl children.
10. To eliminate the practice of child marriage and to prevent girls from falling prey to camp labor
11. To encourage the students to pursue higher education
12. To explore the student’s interests in sports and cultivate them.

## Key Activities of the year

### 1. School enrolment program:



The interventions and our experience with tribal community development while working in the field revealed that there is an urgent need to address some of the issues concerning the education of tribal children. RDC organized enrolment campaigns in Doddammanchi, Kempagari, Bellaty and made sure that the dropout children enrolled in school again through the RDC Staff and volunteers. 134 children participated in the enrolment campaign. RDC staff, Volunteers, School teachers and parents participated in the enrolment campaign. Progress of the program and the measurable outputs weretraced regularly through field visits. Enrolment and retention rates are monitored and counselling wasgiven to the dropout children and their parents.

RDC encouraged the school-going children to pursue studies. The importance of education and the ill effects of child marriages and child labor were also highlighted in the campaign. Children were motivated to attend evening study centres organized by the Rural development council, for better learning.



## Impact created

- Compared to the last year, more than 10% of students have joined schools in this academic year.
- On an average 20- 30 students who are studying class 9 & 10 are getting married in one year. Now, Child marriages rate have dropped from 17% to 4 %. In the recent year, out of 52 tenth passed out students, 9 got married..  
This year out of 45 students only 2 children got married after class 10<sup>th</sup>.
- No. of students studying class 11th & 12th has thus also increased.  
**Last year –33, This year – 47**
- As a result of regular orientations, visits and enrolment campaigns, the overall percentage of school – going students of all ages have increased.  
Primary – 93%  
Middle – 78%  
High school – 71%  
Higher secondary – 47%

## 2. Evening study centre

The evening study centre is one of the highly beneficial programs that is being carried out across 10 villages through RDC- MEM support. RDC with the help of our staff and volunteers ensures continuous, joyful learning for the tribal children along with the Government schools. 391 children (Boys – 184, Girls- 207) are attending evening classes. Emphasis is given to Tamil subject. Other subjects like Maths, English are also taught to the students. Syllabus is framed for these functioning study centres, based on which classes are conducted. Assessment is done periodically to test the understanding level of the children.



**Impact:**

1. Students who knew to read and write in Tamil – 91
2. Maths (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) – 52
3. Spoken English basics – 66
4. Yoga and Kungfu classes are also conducted for the tribal children.
5. Children who knew 12 Aasanaas-122
6. Kungfu - 43
7. Sports and cultural events, celebrations were organized every now and then to trigger the interest among children in attending schools regularly.

**3. Children Gathering on Important Days**

Important days	Date	Name of the place	No. of participants
World Environment Day	25.6.22	Doddamanchi	78
Children’s day	16.11.22	Doddur	226
Pongal Festival	20.1.23	Kempagarai	53
Independenceday	15.8.22	Geratty	62
Republic Day	26.1.23	Chikmanchi	58

On these days, children were given chance to exhibit their skills and talents through various sports and cultural events in the presence of Panchayat Leader, Forest ranger, school Teachers and parents.

**Impact:**

1. These occasions laid a platform to exhibit the potentialities of the tribal children.
2. The various competitions, prizes motivate, encourages and ensures the dropouts to attend evening study centres and schools regularly.
3. The inspiring speeches and thought-provoking life incidents of the chief guests helped the children to face challenges, accept failures and work hard towards success.



#### 4.Setting up library

In order to enhance the reading skills, enrich them with general knowledge, inculcate good habits and mannerism and to learn about great leaders , brave women and warriors of the school going students in Doddamanchi & Geratty villages, an Library is set up on 11.2.23.



This library was set up in 2 places –Doddamanchi high school and Geratty high school.t Each library has 100 books. The library was inaugurated by Denkanikottai subordinate court judge Mr. Selvan and Forest ranger, Mr. Seetharaman. They also spoke about the importance of reading books and its benefits.



#### Impact:

1. This library will help increase the reading skill and general knowledge of 528 school going children.
2. As there are no libraries found in this marginalized community, this thoughtful initiative by MEM and RDC will help the children understand what a library is? what kind of books will library have, and its importance.
3. Teachers and principals of other schools will be encouraged to donate book to our libraries.

## 5. Parent's Teachers children meeting:

Date	Name of the Place	No. of participants
20.8.2022	Doddur	65
22.8.22	Chikkamanchi	47
10.10.22	Geratty	43
3.12.22	Kempagarai	39
22.1.23	Kodagarai	52



Parents- teachers – children meetings were conducted on the above-mentioned dates. In this meeting, emphasis was given to parents on sending their children to schools regularly, avoid sending children to work and also to stop child marriages. Parents were asked to train their children to brush teeth, take bath and attend schools regularly. Teachers were also insisted to give attention to every child's physical, mental and emotional well-being and to also take effort and care on the slow learners.



## 6. Staff Review Meeting:

Staff meeting was conducted regularly every month. The project staff were motivated and encouraged to voice out the needs and problems of the community people to the concerned government officials apart from addressing the educational needs of the tribal children. It was also insisted to regularly monitor that all tribal children attend schools without break.

## 7. Staff Welfare Fund:

RDC, for the first time in the 20 years has given incentive to all project staff. This initiative have made the staff happy and boosted their working spirit towards the betterment of the community.

## 8. Linkage with Government officials

RDC staff and volunteers collaborated with the Government to ensure that the tribal people avail all the benefits that are available, exclusively to the tribal community.

The following were the benefits, the tribal people received:

Met Individual needs of the community members:

1. Aadhar card- 59
2. Ration Card – 43
3. Pan Card – 79
4. ST Certificate – 25
5. Old age pension – 15

## Resolved village issues –

- Bathrooms and toilets with water facility were constructed and given for 28 families living in 5 hamlets of the Doddamanchihill. This has reduced the emotional turmoil of the girls and also ensured their safety.
- Doddurvillage people suffered a lot due to water scarcity. RDC volunteers along the villagers brought this issue in GRAHMA SABHA. Action was taken to solve this problem. An overtank with 3000 litres water capacity was constructed and given.
- In Geratty village, the community hall constructed and given by the forest department was about to collapse. This was taken to the knowledge of the forest department, and the renovation work has thus been completed.

## 9. Impact Stories

### Success story – 1



Bhuvaneshwari hails from Kempagarai village. She was continuing class 9 in the village high school. RDC volunteer Ms. Vanmathi informed us that marriage was fixed for Bhuvaneshwari with a boy named Kabilan from the same village. RDC Staff visited her house and spoke with the parents. The parents came up with lot of untrue reasons. RDC staff spoke patiently and convinced them. Counselling was given to the girl as well on the importance of education. The girl expressed her interests to continue education as she was part of our drop out enrolment campaign once. Finally, the parents stopped her marriage plan and started sending her to school. She is regular to school now. Our volunteers and staff continue to encourage and motivate her to continue education.

### Success Story – 2

Ms. Madhevi is the daughter of Mrs & Mr. Mallan and Gowamma from Bellaty village. In order to meet their expenses, they work as labourers in the brick Kiln in Hosur district along with their child who was studying class 4 in the Government school. RDC Volunteer came to know this and informed RDC that Madhevi has dropped out from school and started working in Brick Kiln with her family as bonded labourer. RDC staff communicated with the family members and managed to get their owners number saying that they need work. The owner was contacted and threatened that his contact number will be given to the police station and complain will be filed against him for making a 8 years girl work in brick kiln. RDC staff also spoke with her parents. The family members were reluctant to come back to their



village, as they have to work for the next one year for the money, they have received from him in advance. RDC staff advised Madhevi's parents to send her to grandmother's house so that she can continue studies. After repeated counselling, Madhevi was sent back to her grandmother's house. She is attending school regularly.

### **Success story – 3**

In Kempagarai, 31 families were living without HousePatta for so many years. During RDC's survey in this village, we came to know about this. The youth federation members and RDC Volunteers took this to the knowledge of the Doddamanchi Panchayat Officer. They enquired about the kind of land it is and also said they will come and visit the plots. Even after 15 days they did not turn up. They were reminded again on 2 Feb'2023. On 13th Feb the leaders and officials came and visited. They asked for few information for every individual, which was submitted on 15.2.2023. District collector then informed that there will be a Grahma Sabha camp conducted on 8.3.23. On the same day the volunteers and the federation youth members gathered all the family members and attended the camp. They managed to get PATTA for all the 31 families.



### **Success Story – 4**

#### **Construction of New Water tank in Doddur village**

In the Thoddur village, the over tank was in a bad condition. As a result of continuous orientation, conferences and workshops our youth federation members started working towards addressing the pressing needs of the community people. One among them was the request submitted to the Panchayat Leader Ms. Kamala Thangavel on 6.9.22 for the change of over tank. There was barely no response from the panchayat leader irrespective of repeated reminders and petitions with the signature of all the community people. This was taken to the Grahma Sabha where the Government officials questioned for the delay. An resolution was passed in the Grahma Sabha. An immediate order was passed and the water tank construction started on 29.1.23.



**THEN**



**NOW**

#### **10. Plans for Next year 2023- 2024**

- i. Evening study centers for the tribal children
- ii. Libraries to set up in 2 hills
- iii. Health Education, Career Guidance and Counselling to the girl children. Continuous monitoring, support and motivation for higher education.
- iv. Organizing village level meetings for the community members to identify, understand and represent their need to the concerned government officials.
- v. Conducting periodical parents – teachers and Children’s meeting to strengthen the student-teacher relationship and to ensure retention of children in the schools.
- vi. Exposure trips for children to educate, enrich the knowledge level of the children.
- vii. Observing important days by mobilizing all the children of the community.
- viii. Encouraging and ensuring the overall wellbeing of the children through various sports events, cultural, sports clubs.

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