

ANEKAL REHABILITATION EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (READ) CENTRE  
59. 2<sup>ND</sup> MAIN, SRI MARUTINAGAR, JP NAGAR 7<sup>TH</sup> PHASE,  
BANGALORE. 560078. INDIA  
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2020 TILL MARCH 2021

**Introduction:**

Anekal Rehabilitation Education And Development (READ) Centre was registered in Karnataka, India as a society in 1984 by a group of socially committed individuals who were from different faiths, regions, education and professional skills with a motto of "For the People, by the People and of the People" to rehabilitate, resettle the post leprosy, disabled and displaced people. Later years the organization shifted its approach through holistic community development by involving community based organizations and like-minded individuals to strengthen people centered participation and local good governance that may lead into sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of the marginalized and downtrodden.

READ Centre has been closely associated with state and central government rural and urban community development activities by an inclusive strategy mechanism by involving like-minded NGOs, Self Affinity Groups, right based local, regional, national and international organizations either through affiliated networking or through direct actions. READ Centre has been working in 900 villages in south Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala states. At present it is working in 35 villages in Karnataka and 28 Tribal hamlets (Tamil Nadu) covering 37, 500 populations.

**VISION:**

Every person has an equal opportunity to participate, enhance the dignity with quality of life to create sustainable development for future generations.

**MISSION:**

Work with the community by motivating, educating and strengthening local good governance to create lasting solutions to end poverty, hunger, and social disparity and to build sustainable livelihood alternatives.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- To motivate, educate and organize the community for participatory development activities.
- To improve the nutrition, health, hygiene and education of under privileged children to build better future.
- To assist the women at risk to set up sustainable livelihood activities to improve their socio – economic status.
- To train and equip the working constituency in leadership, local good governance and holistic development practices.
- To collaborate and network with local, state and national governments and like-minded institutions for people centered activities

### **Child right and protection policy**

READ Centre is committed to the welfare of children anywhere it works. It promotes and respects the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which outlines the fundamental rights of children, within its sphere of influence. It also expects its contractual partners to adhere to those standards, to undertake everything possible to prevent child maltreatment and to respond and report if maltreatment would occur.

### **Tribal Student's Education Promotion:**

READ Centre is an active member organization that coordinates, sponsor, and network with the Tamilnadu and Karnataka " Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL – TN and Karnataka) It has been instrumental and supportive organization in organizing, networking on the issues like Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Bonded Labour and compulsory and free education for all children till 14 years. READ Centre has been keen in working with the local and state governments to promote and be accountable in practicing Right to Education (RTE) and Right to Information Act (RTI) that are tools for empowerment and protection of Child Right, especially in the Tribal area of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts in Tamilnadu, as well as Ramanagaram District in Karnataka.

We have re-enrolled 125 young Irular Tribal students from 30 villages of Denkanikottai block in Krishnagiri district. TN. 45 Iruliga children from Ramanagaram taluk in Karnataka. 25 Tribal students have been admitted in the colleges in Hosur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Erode. These students receive state government scholarship the sum of Rupees 6000/ per students per annum 20 students receive Rs.120000/ for their higher studies. They have been provided hostel facilities with food and shelter and uniforms. 45 Girls and 36 boys from 15 tribal villages have been identified and admitted in the tribal hostels. 10 boys 5 girls who have completed their plus two studies recommended for engineering, nursing studies in Coimbatore, Hosur and Salem with full scholarship. 185 tribal girl students are in the waiting to receive such kinds of educational and economic support from the organization that we are yet to locate any individual or organizational donor/s. At Ramanagar area the baseline data collection has been completed. We are in the process of doing need analysis and action plan in the due course of time.



### **Education through " Walk a Talk":**

This method was taught to our staff by AID INDIA Chennai in order to promote interactive learning methods that will remove inhibition, shyness and fear of learning by the tribal kids. The teachers from the same villages trained by READ Centre field staff to help them in teaching young kids, English and Science through play, sing songs, storytelling and inter personal dialogue. Under this activity 320 Primary school benefit directly. Now many of them can read English well and can speak words fluently.



An interactive class room conducted by volunteer teacher in one of tribal schools

#### COVID-19 and Personal Hygiene Education:

Hand washing is one of the most important and basic hygiene habits all adults should teach our child. It is also an effect way to prevent the spread of germs in school. The children are taught to wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating food; after using the toilet, coughing or sneezing, playing in the school ground etc. Washing hands with soap and water shall become a daily habit to be cultivated with all children.

We have been keen in prevent the Pandemic of COVID-19 through provision of Face Masks, Hand sanitizer and social distance. Children have been motivated to be aware of that germs are everywhere. They can be transmitted from the hands, feet and skin into the body causing diarrhoea, food poisoning, respiratory infections and malnutrition. It's critical to establish simple habits of hygiene among children to ensure that they grow up healthy and strong. It is important to understand that to establish hygiene habits among children; the parents must engage them so that they can be educated every now and then.

#### Irular Tribal Community and Sustainable Livelihood:

Their common future is the" ability to meet the needs of the present without, compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs". The concept of livelihood is rapidly gaining acceptance as a valuable means of understanding the factors that influence people's lives and well-being. 'It is comprised of capacities, assets, and activities required for means of living. Slowly the tribal community is experiencing that a livelihood will be sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capacities and assets, both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.

#### Promotion of minor millets:

Many promotional rallies, food festivals, and competitions were organized both in rural and urban areas to change the mindset of people around millets. Whereas READ Centre working area tribal population have been taking sincere efforts to safeguard the traditional seeds of millets, vegetable, and pulse and cereals, through SEED Banking and redistribution process.150 small tribal farming families benefit from this activity. Each farmer has one to two acres of dry land totally measuring 450 acres. Around 620 people benefit from this livelihood activity.

### The objective:

Increase consumption of millets in tribal areas, Improve productivity and better marketing for better price realization, that will lead to saving money, saving seeds, improving collective bargaining, removing middle men exploitation, decision making by the women farmers, and reclaim the lost legacy of tribal agro based economy and self-good governance aiming at sustainable livelihoods. At present the Irular tribal community has formed 5 self-help groups that also has SEED Banking where they collect all kinds of grains that are procured from the farming fields in the tribal area. These are organic in nature no chemical pesticides used, no seed from the shops cultivated.

### Homestead vegetable gardens:

Home gardening is an ancient and widespread practice all over the world. In the literature, home gardens are classified as mixed, kitchen, backyard, farmyard, and compound or homestead garden. The household garden is a small-scale production system supplying plant and animal consumption and utilitarian items either not obtainable, affordable, or readily available through retail markets, field cultivation, hunting, gathering, fishing, and wage earning. Household gardens tend to be located close to dwelling for security, convenience, and special care. They occupy land marginal to field production and labor marginal to major household economic activities. Featuring ecologically adapted and complementary species, household gardens are marked by low capital input and simple technology.



READ Centre has assisted 120 tribal families to set up their own vegetable gardens both for their own use and if surplus availed to batter with or sell to other consumers if needed. They have grown Drumstick trees, Curry leaf trees, Papaya, Lemon, Pomegranates, guava and pumpkins creepers apart from tomato, potato, beans, Avarai, thuvurai and greens. They have multiple uses including indigenous medicine and home remedies for certain illnesses, kindling and alternative fuel source, manure, building material, and animal feed. Home gardens as a 'place for innovation' with the potential to improve the livelihood of tribal communities.

### Tribal women's Self Help Groups:

In the tribal society, the tribal women have adjusted themselves to live a traditional life style in the local environment and followed occupations based on natural resources. Due to the constant efforts taken by READ Centre staff in organizing, motivating and educating those the tribal women have begun participating actively in the functioning of SHGs which in turn has led to their empowerment and their own community. Once after the introduction of Self Help Groups, the tribal women have begun to actively participate in all spheres of social activities.



The income generation, before and after participation in SHG showed significant increase. This shows their empowerment status because of the stimulus SHG. This would be possible by organizing more entrepreneurial training programmes to the tribal women.

There are five such groups function in five villages. Each village has a SHG that consists of 20 women members. They save rupees one hundred a week out of their hard earning. Each member has her own pass book, total savings of 20 members' entered in the general ledger of saving. Five such registers are maintained by the President, secretary and the treasurer of the group. Different issues that affect the women are discussed and many a time constructive decisions made to solve the problems. Mainly issues like, Child marriage, extra marital affairs by men and women, child labour, migration, health and alternative livelihood.



A women' self-help group is engaged in discussing on "**Animal Vs Human conflict**" faced by the village almost every day. Elephants enter into villages destroy crops and kills people when they try to chase them out of their fields or village. The group facilitators of each self-help group are observed to have motivated the members to involve themselves in social welfare activities. These factors might be the reason for their high level of participation in social developmental activities.

One of women group leader was killed by an elephant in the wee hours when she went to attend her nature call. She did not notice the wild animal was standing behind the trees. She was a lonely person without family. She was also helping in the Anganwadi midday meals center in one of the villages. We feel it is a great loss for the village people, the parents of those kids who come to Anganwadi center. We have applied for compensation from the forest department, they have paid Rs.50000/ as an initial money to meet the needs of formalities and rituals. The department has agreed to pay the remaining Rs.350000/ later once clearance from the Chief Conservator of forest is done. The money will be given to next kith and kin of the deceased.

Strengthening Village Forest Committees (VFCs):

We have been closely working with Village Forest Committees since four years. Although we have failed to achieve our goal in combating middlemen intervention, in setting up VFC based co- operative sale pattern, we have succeeded in bringing these committees in one place every month to encourage them to discuss forest and community based issues that affect them directly with their livelihoods and environment of forest. Members of the VFC are oriented periodically the following aspects: The VFC shall assist the Forest department in planning, protection, and conservation and development wastelands. The VFC shall effectively perform its duties and responsibilities and play an important role in management of JFPM areas. The VFC shall also play important role in the development of any Government land included for JFPM purpose. In case of afforestation, the VFC shall assist in identification of land, choice of species, and mode of protection and shall also provide necessary assistance and co-operation in protection and management of plantations. The VFC shall play important role in enriching the forests by preventing encroachments, forest fires, illicit cuttings, smuggling of forest produce and poaching of wild animals and regulating grazing and such other functions which are needed to develop forest resources.

#### Educational Assistance to students from Slum area in Bangalore City:

Bangalore has an estimated population of 12.34 million in its urban area in 2017, up from 8.5 million in 2011. It is now the 24th most populous city in the world and the fastest-growing Indian metropolis behind New Delhi. The city claims an area of 709 square kilometers. Nearly one million poor live in slums, and about one-third of slum dwellers fall below the poverty line, with a monthly income of less than Rs 2500 (\$55). The poor in Bangalore live in various habitations and spaces: notified slums, (the government is responsible for providing some basic services to notified slums), non-notified slums, temporary squatter colonies, pavements and railway stations or labor camps that are temporary shelters provided by builders to migrant construction workers. READ Centre is giving financial assistance for 60 students mostly girls to pursue their higher studies. Around 20 students attending PUC level education, 30 students attend graduation level (degree) 10 students have taken up professional course like nursing, laboratory technician. All these students come from either single parent, or orphaned who are looked after by their grandparents or aunts. READ Centre has trained staff to manage the education activities and monitoring of those students by visiting their homes and educational institutions to assess the education level and needs of those students.

#### Assisting communities in securing government entitlements and schemes:

Apart from assisting tribal communities READ Centre staff team has been helping others from minority section, widows, destitute, orphans, and single women, differently able persons to secure their pensions, subsidies and loans from the state and central government departments. 350 tribal families have been assisted to receive their community certificates by the order of the district collector of Krishnagiri, 75 families from Ramanagar – Karnataka has received community certificates and land Pattahs (record of right) from the Deputy Commissioner – Ramanagar district. 27 families have been granted with new ration cards, 30 families have received handicapped pension, 12 families have been granted with green house scheme that will cost around Rs.2400000/ totally. 5 parents have received birth certificates of their babies.

54 families have received their KISSAN YOJANA amount Rs.104000/- New Aadhar cards for 27 persons distributed. With the support of Lions Club of Krishnagiri READ Centre staff has organized a general medical camp where 150 persons attended. Many of them have been treated with free medicines and

some of them were referred to government medical centers for better medical treatment. An eye camp was conducted with the help of Lions Club, 180 people received free spectacles after free eye checkup.



A volunteer teacher (in Saree) with her high school going girl students

Conclusion:

READ Centre's governing body, administrative and field staffs like to thank the communities who have been always welcoming and willing to be part of all efforts taken by us all. Without the direct support of working constituency (i.e. the community) it would have been hard time for us all. Many a time local government officials, local leaders, traditional leaders were not convinced by our work, in later stage when they understood our efforts and commitments for the community, they have come forward to shoulder part of responsibilities, in order to make our intervention towards positive outcome. We thank them for their support and concern.

The District collectors or the Deputy Commissioners have been attentive to our requests, appeals that are people centered. We value their greater support in realizing our intervention with the working constituency. We want to thank with gratitude, the funding partners to carry out our roles and responsibilities among the needy. Individual donors in India, The Centre for World Solidarity – Secundrabad, Telengana, Community Campus 87, Middlesborough – UK, Pro-creatura Foundation – Switzerland, Tribal development department, forest department and health department for their support and co – operation. We need all of your support in the days to come. Thank you all.  
Staff team & Executive Director