

ANEKALREHABILITATION EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (READ) CENTRE
Annual Activities Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

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 Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. At present it is working in 180 villages in Karnataka and 28 Tribal hamlets (Tamil Nadu) covering 120000 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.

READ Centre: Transforming Lives and Protecting Vulnerable Communities

The READ Centre continues to stand at the forefront of community empowerment, child protection, and social justice initiatives in Karnataka. Working closely with vulnerable children, women, families, community institutions, government departments, and grassroots stakeholders, the organization has made significant strides in safeguarding children's rights, preventing exploitation, and promoting access to essential social welfare services.

Between June 2025 and March 2026, READ Centre implemented a comprehensive programme focused on child protection, prevention of child marriage and trafficking, strengthening community vigilance systems, supporting survivors, and ensuring that marginalized families access their rightful government entitlements.

Protecting Children from Child Marriage

Child marriage remains one of the most serious threats to the wellbeing, education, and future prospects of children, particularly girls. During the reporting period, READ Centre successfully addressed **916 child marriage cases** across project locations.

Through timely interventions, community awareness programmes, counseling, engagement with families, and coordination with local authorities, hundreds of children were protected from entering early marriages. These interventions enabled many girls to continue their education, pursue their aspirations, and enjoy their rights as children.

Preventing Child Trafficking and Exploitation

Human trafficking continues to pose a major risk to vulnerable children and families affected by poverty, migration, and social exclusion. READ Centre actively worked with communities, vigilance groups, schools, law enforcement agencies, and child protection mechanisms to prevent trafficking and rescue children from exploitative situations.



During the period, **87 child trafficking cases** were identified and addressed. Through these efforts, children were protected from abuse, forced labour, unsafe migration, and other forms of exploitation, helping restore safety and dignity to their lives.

Supporting Survivors through POCSO Interventions

Children who experience sexual abuse require immediate protection, psychosocial support, and access to justice. READ Centre provided assistance in **8 cases related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**. The organization worked closely with families, legal authorities, child welfare institutions, and support services to ensure that affected children received appropriate care, counseling, protection, and guidance throughout the legal process.

Connecting Families to Social Welfare Schemes

Poverty and social exclusion often prevent vulnerable families from accessing government welfare programmes designed to improve their quality of life. Recognizing this challenge, READ Centre implemented the **Niti Ayog** Schemes initiative to connect eligible households with social protection schemes.

During the reporting period, **11,450 vulnerable families** were successfully linked to various government welfare programmes. These linkages helped families access benefits related to education, health care, social security, pensions, housing, food security, and livelihood support. This achievement represents a significant contribution toward reducing poverty, strengthening family resilience, and improving the overall wellbeing of marginalized communities.

Strengthening Community-Based Child Protection Systems

Sustainable child protection requires active community participation and local ownership. READ Centre facilitated and strengthened Community Watch and Protection Committees (CWPCs) to identify risks, monitor vulnerable children, and respond to protection concerns at the grassroots level.

A total of **85 CWPC activities** were conducted during the reporting period. These activities enhanced community awareness, improved vigilance, strengthened reporting mechanisms, and encouraged collective responsibility for protecting children.

Mobilizing Communities through the 100 Days Campaign

Community awareness and public engagement remain critical tools in preventing child marriage, trafficking, child labour, and other forms of exploitation. Through the intensive **100 Days Campaign**, READ Centre mobilized communities, schools, youth groups, parents, local leaders, and government stakeholders around child rights and protection issues.

During the reporting period, **185 campaign activities** were successfully completed. These activities generated widespread awareness, encouraged community participation, and strengthened local action against harmful practices affecting children.

Documenting Stories of Change

Beyond numbers and statistics, READ Centre believes in capturing the human stories behind every intervention. During the reporting period, **25 case studies** were documented, highlighting the journeys of children, families, and communities whose lives were transformed through timely support and intervention. These stories demonstrate the resilience of vulnerable communities and showcase the positive impact that collective action can achieve in protecting rights and promoting social justice.

Building Safer and More Resilient Communities

The achievements of June 2025 to March 2026 reflect READ Centre's unwavering commitment to protecting children, empowering vulnerable families, and strengthening community-based systems. Through partnerships with government departments, community leaders, civil society organizations, schools, and grassroots volunteers, READ Centre has continued to create meaningful and lasting change.

Key Achievements at a Glance

- Child Marriage cases addressed: **916**
- Child Trafficking cases addressed: **87**
- POCSO-related cases supported: **8**
- Vulnerable families linked to **NITI Ayog** welfare schemes: **11,450**
- CWPC activities conducted: **85**
- 100 Days Campaign activities completed: **185**
- Case studies documented: **25**

These accomplishments represent thousands of lives touched, protected, and empowered. As READ Centre moves forward, it remains dedicated to building a society where every child is safe, every family has access to opportunities, and every community is equipped to protect and promote human dignity.

Educational Support for Slum-Dwelling Children and Youth

READ Centre has been providing educational assistance to 60 children and young people from economically disadvantaged slum communities in the southern part of Bangalore City. These students come from highly vulnerable families facing severe social and financial hardships. Many of their parents are single mothers, widows, or daily wage laborers struggling to meet their basic household needs.

Most of the mothers work as domestic helpers, construction workers, street vendors, or other informal sector laborers with irregular and low incomes. Due to their difficult economic circumstances, they often find it challenging to support their children's educational expenses, including school fees, uniforms, books, transportation, and other learning materials.

The students supported by READ Centre are between 8 and 21 years of age and are pursuing education from Grade 5 through Pre-University (PUC) and college-level studies. Through partial educational sponsorship, the organization helps ensure that these children and youth continue their education without interruption and are protected from school dropout, child labor, early marriage, and other risks associated with poverty.



In addition to financial assistance, READ Centre encourages students to develop confidence, academic motivation, and life skills that will enable them to build a better future. The program seeks to break the cycle of poverty by creating educational opportunities for children from marginalized communities and empowering them to become responsible, self-reliant, and productive members of society. Over the years, this initiative has contributed to improved school retention, better academic performance, and increased aspirations among children and youth from Bangalore's urban poor communities. By investing in education, READ Centre is helping vulnerable families create pathways toward social mobility, dignity, and long-term economic stability.

Promotion of intercultural festival and Mass marriage:



READ Centre, in collaboration with SKKS Organization, successfully organized **Varnangal 2025 – Onam Celebration with a Cause** on 21 September 2025 at North Bangalore. The event brought together approximately 3,500 participants, including families, community members, volunteers, sponsors, and well-wishers, creating a vibrant platform that combined the cultural richness of Onam with meaningful social responsibility. The celebration was graced by the presence of Sri B. A. Basavaraj, MLA and Former Minister, along with other distinguished guests. Through traditional cultural performances, Onam Sadya, Shinkari Melam, music, dance, and community participation activities, the program promoted cultural heritage, social harmony, and inclusive community engagement.

A major highlight of the event was the Mass Marriage Initiative for seven underprivileged couples, aimed at reducing the financial burden on vulnerable families and enabling couples to begin married life with dignity and security. Each couple received 6 grams of gold, marriage attire, household utensils, provisions, a cot and mattress, an almirah, and financial assistance of ₹10,000. This welfare intervention demonstrated the organizers' commitment to supporting disadvantaged families through practical and sustainable assistance. The successful collaboration between READ Centre, SKKS Organization, volunteers, sponsors, and community supporters showcased how cultural celebrations can be transformed into impactful social development initiatives, strengthening community solidarity, volunteerism, and collective responsibility while delivering tangible benefits to those most in need.

Livelihood Enhancement and Renewable Energy Support for Irular Tribal Communities

READ Centre has been actively working to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Irular tribal communities through sustainable livelihood promotion and access to essential development resources. During the reporting period, the organization facilitated support for **50 small and marginal tribal farmers** to access soft loans, government subsidies, and livelihood assistance. The support included the provision of quality seeds, agricultural tools, mini tillers, cattle-rearing units, and country chicken-rearing initiatives. These interventions have helped tribal families strengthen their agricultural productivity, diversify income sources, and improve household economic security.

In addition to livelihood support, READ Centre has promoted access to clean and sustainable energy solutions in remote tribal settlements. The organization facilitated the installation of **solar-powered home lighting systems and fans** for **45 Irular tribal households** residing in the villages of **Gootkal, Anthigondhi, and Ramadev Petta**, located in the Ramanagara district, approximately 70 kilometers from Bangalore. The total value of the solar energy support amounted to **₹17.15 lakh**.

This renewable energy initiative has significantly improved the quality of life of beneficiary families by ensuring reliable electricity for lighting, household activities, children's education, and enhanced safety during nighttime. The intervention has also reduced dependence on kerosene and other costly energy sources, contributing to environmental sustainability and improved health outcomes. Through these integrated livelihood and energy-access initiatives, READ Centre continues to empower vulnerable tribal communities and promote inclusive rural development.

College Students Internships: READ Centre facilitated internship placements for 15 college students for a period of four to five weeks. The interns were drawn from NMIMS, Bannerghatta; CHRIST (Deemed to be University); and BES College. The internship programme provided students with valuable exposure to grassroots community development and social realities.

During the internship, students gained practical insights into community structures and the socio-cultural, economic, and educational conditions of rural and marginalized communities. Key learning areas included social and economic analysis, understanding community dynamics, youth participation in nation-building, civic responsibilities, environmental protection, and the importance of planned economic development. The programme also highlighted the role of education in community transformation and sustainable development.



Through field visits, interactions with community members, and participatory learning activities, the interns developed a deeper understanding of social issues and strengthened their commitment to social responsibility, community service, and inclusive development.

Conclusion

READ Centre sincerely expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all our funding partners, supporters, and well-wishers whose generous contributions have enabled us to continue our mission of community-based participatory development and empowerment among vulnerable and marginalized communities.

We are especially grateful to Access to Justice USA, Jose Alukkas – Bangalore, Sri Ram Global School – Bangalore, Tentacle Aerologistix Pvt. Ltd.- Bangalore, Colruyt Foundation - Swiss, Community Campus 87 (UK), NMIM Institute, Christ – Deemed University and BES – College State and Central Government Departments, and our committed individual donors for their continued partnership, and financial support. Their invaluable assistance has helped us implement impactful interventions in the areas of education, child protection, women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, health, environmental conservation, and social justice.

The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to the collective efforts of our partners, community leaders, volunteers, staff members, and beneficiaries who have actively participated in creating positive social change. Through collaborative action and community ownership, READ Centre has been able to strengthen local capacities, improve access to essential services, and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

As we move forward, we remain committed to serving disadvantaged communities with dedication, transparency, and accountability. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and expanding our efforts to build resilient, self-reliant, and empowered communities where every individual can live with dignity, opportunity, and hope.

READ Centre – Empowering Communities, Protecting Children, Transforming Lives.