

CHILDREN RESOURCE CENTRE

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2012-13

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Submitted by
Timbaktu Collective

INTRODUCTION

Timbaktu Collective, under its 'Child Rights programme - *Chiguru*' is running a Children's Resource Centre at Chennekothapalli. The aim of this centre is to provide free access to learning and development resources to the children of *Prakruti Badi* and children and youth from villages around, which includes school children, members of *Balala Sanghas* and youth groups.

In the year 2012-13 it was planned to make CRC more accessible and resourceful. CRC planned to cater to the needs of the children by providing new trainings along with new resources valuable for the children's development and growth.

OBJECTIVES

In the year 2012-2013, the objectives of CRC were:

1. To provide a learning space with a variety of resources accessible to the children
2. To create opportunities for children to learn various crafts
3. To create facilities for celebration of events and festivals.

ACTIVITIES AT CRC

The activities that were planned for 2012-2013 at CRC were running a library with more than 10000 books in English and Telugu, a science laboratory, a computer learning facility with 100 educational CDs, an arts and crafts workshop with tools and materials for painting, fabric work, tailoring, bamboo craft, electronics, weaving etc, and also organize play facilities, children's festivals and events.

Here is a narrative of this year's activities and events.

1. CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

For the reporting period, CRC had planned to conduct atleast 2 library classes with the local schools, provide books to the local children and to *Prakruti Badi* and conduct reading-writing activities every month in the centre. The target was to reach atleast 500 children and youth each month with opportunities to avail good reading materials.

The library served children and youth of Chennekothapalli with its educational books, children's magazines and newspapers. This year CRC could reach out to 600 children on an average every month. CRC had also been useful to children from far-off villages. The Back to Basics programme for slow learners promoted by Timbaktu Collective in the 30 villages got 478 Telugu story books on a rotation basis. This helped almost 900 children with poor educational resources in acquiring language skills through additional reading materials. CRC had planned that atleast two library classes will be conducted every month. Therefore as part of the institutional tie-up with CRC, Liberty Convent, a local private school had its library classes in CRC every Saturday. As proposed the library was also effectively used by the *Prakruti Badi* children who took 370 books in the course of the year on a rotation basis.

The Library received new supply of books from the Hyderabad Book Fair, *Manchi Pustakam* Publications and old books from Wooden Toy Makers (Madanapalle). In the third and fourth quarter, sorting, repair and computerized cataloguing of books was done. Library membership cards were issued to readers in January.

2. COMPUTER LEARNING FACILITY

CRC had planned to offer free computer course to atleast 60 youth and children of which atleast 50 would learn the basics of computer usage and can do simple paint and word programs. It also proposed to conduct learning events on computers at every quarter and screen educational films twice a month.

CRC has been able to create opportunities for children and youth to learn the basics of Computers. In the first six months of the year, children and youth used the computers to learn drawing, with some help from the librarian. In the second semester, CRC was able to appoint a computer trainer, a three months syllabus was prepared for the children and the youth who would come for the classes. The total target for the course was 60 but only 22 enrolled for the free morning and evening classes. The course comprised of lessons on HTML, MS word and painting. Out of 22 enrolments, 17 completed the course. Though planned that a learning event on computers will be conducted in every quarter, CRC could not facilitate it due to lack of a computer trainer to take this responsibility.

As proposed every Saturday, educational films were screened after the library hours.

3. SCIENCE LAB

For the year 2012-2013, CRC had proposed to conduct Science related events every month and celebrate Science days three times in the year. It also planned to develop simple Science based toys and exhibit them in the local schools.

30 children from the Liberty Convent came on Saturdays to use the microscope, models for skeleton and body parts as part of their Science classes. Unfortunately the Science Lab could not be used as affectively as planned, mainly due to lack of a Science teacher to could hold the classes on a regular basis. For the same reason CRC could not hold Science related events at a monthly basis as was proposed.

However a two-days Science workshop was hosted at CRC where 264 middle school and high school children participated from all the three mandals. The resource person was Mr Manjunath Kittur, who is a Science teacher form Bangalore. Children learnt simple experiments on water pressure, vacuum, air pressure, surface tension, inertia, pendulum, ignition temperature, charge, sound, refraction, reflection, dispersion, magnetism, reflex, perception, chemistry, pythagorean puzzle and optical illusions through practical experiments.

4. ARTS AND CRAFTS (ACC)

CRC had planned to work with 10 trainees consistently for the whole year and train them in tailoring, drawing, fabric painting, clay work, puppet making, banner making, knitting, screen printing, toys and articles making with bamboo. It also proposed to develop a product profile of ACC with their costing details.

In this reporting period, ACC could not work with 10 consistent trainees for the whole year which was the biggest constraint for ACC to function. However this year ACC trainees underwent numerous trainings. They had 3 tailoring sessions over the year, one was for 15 days and the other two were 10 days each. Then they had 4 days of fret work training, 3 days training on screen printing and one day of jewellery making with beads.

CRC participated in the Paryavarana Parasa on the World Environment Day in June organized by Timbaktu Collective along the CBOs. CRC showcased it's ACC products and made a sale of INR 5500. CRC had put up a stall in the Bio Diversity Festival in Hyderabad from 13th to 16th of October, 2012. For that the following new bamboo articles were made: 30 pieces of 3 types of pen stands, 2 tea-trays, 20 pieces of wall hangings, 12 sets of 7-pieces puzzles. At the festival CRC stall made a sales of INR 7,525. In December, ACC made 600 bags for *Dharani* FaM Coop Ltd and 1550 bags for *Durgasakthi*,

one of the 4 Women's Cooperatives, promoted by Timbaktu Collective. ACC also screen printed slogans on 27 flags and 600 towels for the International Women's Day rally conducted by the *Mahasakthi* Federation of Women's Cooperatives promoted by the Collective.

CRC participated with a stall in TdH's National Partners' Meet in Pune 4th to 6th February. TdH supports the Collective's Child Rights Program. The trainees made 10 bamboo flower bouquets, 30 key chains and 35 purses which were displayed the stall along with other materials. CRC made a sales of INR 2690 in this event.

In the last quarter, Mr. Ranjeet Ranade and Ms. Richa Govil business consultant from Bangalore was invited to discuss the business viability of ACC. It emerged from the discussion that ACC may not run as a business enterprise. Two major reasons being-

1. There is a floating population of trainees
2. The products that were made at ACC are varied. The trainings are able to give the fellows an orientation in making a variety of things but not specialising in a few products. Therefore the quality of products is not upto the mark to make a business plan. The other hindrance is the lack of consistency of trainees to make a proper business plan. However it was suggested that it can continue as a training unit for children in hand crafts.

5. SPORTS, GAMES AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

CRC had planned to create opportunities for children to engage with sports through sports competitions and atleast 10 sports related events in the course of the year. It proposed to train atleast 100 children in games like badminton, kho-kho etc.

Junior children's Sports day was celebrated in August where 400 children from Chennekothapalli and other villages of the 3 Mandals enthusiastically participated. Small children from *Prakruthi Badi*, and Back To Basics program took part in competitions in frog-jump, sack race, lemon and spoon race, carrom and connect 4.

Senior children's sports day was celebrated on 11th November at CRC. A total of 400 children from Balala Sangha and Prakruti Badi participated in the event. The games which were part of the competition were – kho-kho, badminton, shot-put, long jump, chess, kabaddi and quiz. 40 children won prizes for various sports, taking home new geometry boxes and dictionaries.

Apart from this, on average 40 children in each day enjoyed playing caroms, chess, connect4, business games indoors. Outdoors they played cricket, badminton, tenni-coit and the slides and swings.

6. EVENTS

CRC planned to organise events like elocutions, essay-writing competitions, quiz, drawing and rangoli in the course of the year. Celebrations for Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day, Sankranti and Sports days were planned.

CRC offered its space for various events for children in the course of the year. Apart from the Sport's days many other events in CRC interested children. Children's day was celebrated on 14th November with 300 children from Balala Sanghas, Back to Basics centres (for slow learners) and *Prakruti Badi* as participants. Children sang songs, shared jokes, did One Man Shows for each other. Performers of a traditional local folk art called *Gurruvaiyulu* from Kurnool district were invited to perform for the children and also explain them about the art. Quiz during the Senior children's sports day attracted attention of the children.

World Disability Day was celebrated on 10th December at CRC in which 600 people participated. The guests for the event were – the MPDO, the MRO along with representatives from Timbaktu Collective. The event was also attended by children from Balala Sanghas, who also performed *Chekkabhajana* in

the roadshow that was organised as part of the event. This has increased their awareness on the issues that are faced by people with disabilities

A two-days Science Workshop was held in CRC on 24th and 25th of February. Mr. Manjunath Kittur from Bangalore was the resource person for the workshop. 264 children from 3 Mandals participated in the workshop and learnt experiments in Physics, Chemistry and did Mathematic puzzles.

A Film making workshop took place in CRC from 4th to 8th February. 25 students from Chennekothapalli and Ramagiri Mandals participated. Over the 5 days, children were introduced to the basics of film making. At the end of the workshop the children made 5 films on their own. The films were about 5 different social issues like harmful effects of chemicals in food, child labour, discrimination with HIV positive patients, need to protect trees and violence in school.

FUTURE IDEAS

The CRC team for the coming academic session wants to completely redesign the space and make it a vibrant learning space for children and young people. In order to do that, participatory discussions were held with children of Chennekothapalli to know their expectations from a children's resource centre in their village. Some of the ideas that emerged were creating opportunities for star gazing, film appreciation, engaging with literature, art, new games and theatre workshops, creating a mobile library, institutional tie-ups for the Science lab, computers and sports. The CRC team plans to invite resource people to conduct these learning events to expand the learning opportunities for things beyond the school curriculum.



Screen printing



Tailoring training



Children enjoying the swing and slides



Children in indoor games



Children in the library



Film making workshop



Jewellery making with beads



Paryavaran parasa stall



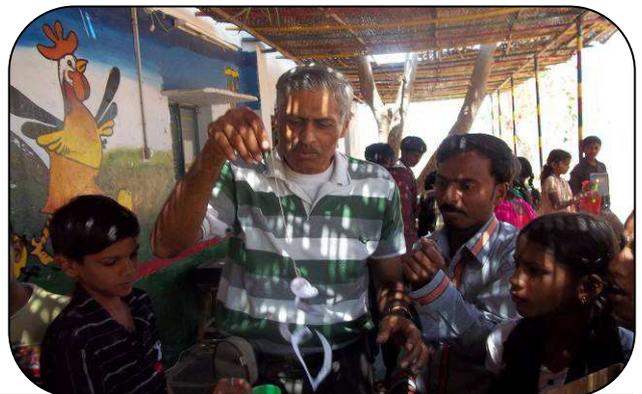
Rangoli making competition



Sack race on sports day



School children using the computers



Science workshop