

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

Newsletter - January 2013 to March 2013

PREFACE

Timbaktu Collective, as part of its Children's program has been running the Children's Resource Centre at Chennekothapalli (CK Palli) village with an aim to provide free access to various learning and development resources to the children of Prakruti Badi, local children and youth of the village. It provides resources like books, play materials and space to interact to the Government/private schools in CK Palli village, the junior college and the children's clubs in the three mandals of CK Palli, Ramagiri and Roddam.

The facilities include a library, various indoor and outdoor games materials, computer classes and arts and crafts facilities. It also hosts various events and festivals for the children. Asha-Bangalore has supported this initiative that serves more than 500 children and youth every month.

LIBRARY AND SPORTS

The months of January, February and March had been dedicated to repair the damaged books, and create a computerised catalogue for the available books and educational CDs at CRC. In January, CRC also issued the library membership cards to children and youth.



The morning school timings gave children the opportunity to spend more time in the centre. Total number of children and youth who used the CRC in these 3 months was 2162. Children from Liberty Convent, a local private school had their library classes in CRC regularly. During the examinations in March, children and youth used the syllabus books more than the other books.

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.

SCIENCE LAB AND COMPUTERS

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.

The computer classes continued from the last quarter. Out of 22 who started in the last quarter, 17 finished in this quarter and learnt MS Office, HTML and DTP page maker and



paint. Youth and children practiced what they have learnt. The computer cataloguing of the books continued in this quarter.

ARTS AND CRAFTS (ACC)

In this quarter 3 new trainees joined the centre. The total number of trainees in this quarter was 7. A 10 days tailoring workshop was conducted where 20 new dresses were stitched for the Prakruti Badi children.

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 Rs 2690 in this event.

The ACC trainees learnt to make anklets with beads from Barabara, a friend of Timbaktu from Germany.

A 4 days training on fretwork on MDF (plywood) for toy making was planned for the ACC trainees in March. Unfortunately the training had to be postponed to April for some unavoidable circumstances at the resource person's end. The trainer from Village Toy Makers, Madanapalle



introduced fretwork to the ACC fellows. Post the training in April from 15th to 18th, the trainees made vases, lamps, key chains and toy furniture's.

In this quarter, Mr. Ranjeet Ranade a financial consultant from Bangalore was invited to discuss the business viability of ACC. It emerged from the discussion that ACC should not

run as a business enterprise. Two major reasons being-

1. There is a floating population of trainees
2. The stuff that were made are varied and from the perspective of 'orientation' in making a variety of things and not specialising in a few products. The quality of products is not upto the mark to make a business plan because of lack of consistency of trainees and proper business plan. However it was suggested that it can continue as a training unit for children in hand crafts.

EVENTS

During Sankranti, a *Rangoli* competition was held at CRC where CK Palli Balala Sangha children and Prakruti Badi children took part. Apart from the winners of the competition, all 68 children got participation gifts.



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 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.

Republic Day was celebrated in CRC on 26th January where children from CK Palli participated for flag hoisting and sweet distribution.

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, and discrimination with HIV positive patients; need to protect trees and violence in school.

FUTURE IDEAS

The CRC team wants to completely redesign the space and make it a vibrant learning space for children and young people. Future ideas include 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 idea is to also invite resource people and expand the learning opportunities for things beyond the school curriculum.