SAHANIVASA

## HALF YEARLY REPORT July 2015 to January 2016

**On “Rural Poor Children’s Access to Education”**

Introduction:

The academic year started with big challenge as the government of Andhra Pradesh decided to close down 51 primary schools in Chittoor(18), G.D.Nellore (20) & Palasamudram (13) mandals where our partnership with ASHA in school education has direct and indirect impact in the villages for the last one decade. The main reason stated initially, is that the students strength in a school falls below minimum of 25 is not viable. Hence, the proposal is to merge with neighboring school within the range of 3 kms distance. Though it appears convincing, in reality, there are small hamlets at the distance of three to five kms from the school having five to ten children at school going age. We have been negotiating with the government, to find the way to address the issue. It is in this context, the government proposal only increases school dropouts when the school is in distance.

SAHANIVASA has history of engaged parents for long time to convince them that their children should go to schools even when they are in seasonal migration (to work in Bangalore- Brick-kilns from January to May every year). After three to four years regular motivation and social pressures in the villages, the parents found a way out for the problems by arranging the food and other basic needs for children with old people in the village when they are in migration. This way, our partnership with ASHA helped to give the special coaching for primary school children to become on par with the other students. This led to the increase of the strength of primary schools and the necessity to negotiate for sanctioning of new schools wherever the schools are in distance beyond two kms. It was in the year 2004, 2006 and 2007, the government has come forward to start 12 new schools to reach out all the children in their respective villages. 8 out of 12 schools are closed during the year.

The decision of the government during the year, was not only disturbed SAHANIVASA and more so the parents. Hence, SAHANIVASA engaged the parents committees to gather at every school level to talk about the problems encounter due to the closure of the schools. The main issues drawn from the discussions: 1). Agriculture coolie parents will not be able to accompany the children to schools which are in distance. 2). It is not safe to walk for children, if the school is beyond one km. Nowadays in rural areas, child kidnaps are taking place by child-trafficking mafias. 3). There will be more dropouts particularly girl children if the school is close down in the village.

The committees gathered collectively decided to approach their respective panchayats. Subsequently, panchayat resolutions are taken 28 villages recommending that the government should not close down the schools just because the students are below minimum. These 28 schools has students from the range of 17 to 25 students. The memorandums are submitted collectively to the district collector and District Panchayat Education Officer. The panchayat resolutions are also submitted by the panchayat presidents requesting to continue the schools. The government is finally agreed to stop the closing of all the 28 schools with the condition that the children of those schools will not be going to private schools.

Similarly, negotiated with the district administration to provide transport facilities for the remaining 23 schools which are closed down. Finally the district administration agreed for such proposal and engaged Autos to transport children from their respective villages to school and bring them back at the evening not only in the villages of three mandals but also entire district. This process took 40 days to get implemented. As a result, some youth in rural area got opportunity to mobilize subsidized loan from SC sub plan funds to get Autos – employment opportunity.

**Primary schools functioning:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Name of the village** | **Name of the mandal** | **1st class** | | **2nd Class** | | **3rd Class** | | **4th Class** | | **5th Class** | | **6th Class** | | **Total** | **Caste** |
|  |  |  | B | G | B | G | B | G | B | G | B | G | B | G |  |  |
| 1 | Chinnaganupalli | Chittoor | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 36 | SC |
| 2 | Vengamanayani puram | Chitoor | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 42 | SC, BC |
| 3 | Diguvamasapalli | Chittoor | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 33 | SC |
| 4 | Diguvagandriga | Chittoor | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 32 | SC, BC |
| 5 | Pachanapalli | Chittoor | 4 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 41 | ST,SC |
| 6 | Ananthapuram | Chittoor | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 32 | SC,BC |
| 7 | Anagallu | Chittoor | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 22 | SC,OC,B.C |
| 8 | Kuruchivedu | Chittoor | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 41 | SC,OC,B.C |
| 9 | Bangareddy Palli | Chittoor | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 45 | SC,OC,B.C |
| 10 | Thalambedu | Chittoor | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 28 | B.C |
| 11 | Chettigari Palli | Chittoor | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 80 | SC, ST, O.C, BC |
| 12 | Mukkalathuru | G.D.Nellore | **4** | **5** | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 54 | SC, BC |
| 13 | Murthinayanipalli | G.D.Nellore | **3** | **2** | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 41 | SC,BC |
| 14 | Yellapalli | G.D.Nellore | **2** | **3** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 61 | SC, BC, OC |
| 15 | Ambodaram Palli | G.D.Nellore | **3** | **4** | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 40 | SC,ST, BC |
|  | **Total** |  | **60** | **55** | **43** | **44** | **39** | **33** | **42** | **53** | **52** | **48** | **55** | **51** | **575** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Despite of parents go for seasonal migration (January to May) to work in brick-kilns in out skirts in Bangalore, all school age children are regular in attendance. Altogether 575 students covered special education in 15 villages. There are 284 girls out of 575 students. As it has been the practice, the elderly relatives of the migrant families made arrangements for children to stay back and go to government primary schools regularly. The parents committees in each of the schools monitor mid day meal functioning and regular timings of the schools. Our teachers conduct classes in the morning from 7.30 to 8.30 AM and evening between 5 to 7PM. Morning hours they spend time doing home work given by the regular school. Evening hours they are engaged in review the syllabus and chapters taught in the class, playing, storytelling, reading library books and so on. The children’s clubs engaged in extracurricular activities viz. collection of wild seeds, sowing them in the common lands at rainy days (8 schools), tree plantation in the school area and also in common lands (7 schools). Each school conducted their own activities – elocution competitions, sports and games on the eve of children’s day. The children were also given gifts.

One may wonder about the migration despite of 100 days employment assured under MGNREGA. The migrant workers in the above villages have been skilled in brick work and have been migrating for the last three decades. Today they are no more in distress migration because they get higher wages than the MGNREGS in brick-kilns and also each one of the family migrating have been taking advances one year before to work. This culture has been continuing and they are no more interested to stay back in the season.

**List of the Primary School teachers**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Villages** | **Name of the teachers** | **Educational Qualification.** |
| Chinnaganupalli | Soni | Inter |
| Vengammanayanipuram | Latha | B.A. failed |
| Diguvamasapalli | Madavi | Inter |
| Diguvagandriga | Jansi | Inter |
| Pachanapalli | Josmine | B.Com failed |
| Ananthapuram | Raja | Inter |
| Anagallu | Chandra Babu | Inter |
| Kuruchivedu | Mala | B.A |
| Bangareddy Palli | Pushpa | B.A |
| Thalambedu | Bindu | Inter |
| Chettigaripalli | Kalpana | Inter |
| Mukkalathuru | Ravathi | B.A |
| Murthinayanipalli | Ammu | B.A |
| Yellapalli | Devi | Inter |
| Ambodarampalli | Porkodi | Inter |

Unlike high school teachers, two out of 15 teachers are male. The teachers are coming from their respective villages known to every student and their family background in the village. Therefore, understanding students is become easier. Female teachers being very fascinate of teaching with primary school children, they have been respected in the village. In the words of Ravathi, Mukkalathuru teacher “though we are part time teachers, the kind of respect and status that we enjoy in the village makes us to commit to learn new skills to work better with the students. We are also respected because as educators in the village help the parents and community to write applications to the government officials for schemes prepare petitions / complaints to the police stations and other appropriate government departments. Because we teach the children, we get vegetables, pulses, ground nuts and all those are grown by the families in the village. I am proud being a teacher in my village”.

**Teacher’s monthly meetings:**

One full day meetings are conducted every month. These meetings are to review the performances and also update the knowledge and skills. Once in bi-monthly experts are invited to help our teachers to learn innovative methods of teaching. During this year, the participated resource persons are Mr. Bopathi , Mandal Education Officer, Dr. Revathi, Professor of Education Department, S.V. University and Mr. Anjaiah, Sr. lecturer from S.V. Teacher training college. The orientation is given for both high school and primary school teachers.

**Parents motivational meetings:**

This year the parents motivational meetings are devoted to discuss and also plan out strategies to represent the officials when the schools are proposed to closed down in the beginning of the academic year. The panchayats also cooperated by taking resolutions against such closer. As a result, we could able to retain some schools as explained above.

**MGNREGA and its impact on parents:**

During the year, the government of India and Andhra Pradesh initially planned to stop MGNREGA. They have also collected village wise data of performances so that they can justify the such decisions. It is in this context SAHANIVASA joined with all those organisations engaged in campaign to positively influence the government to drop such decision. After three months volatile situation, understanding the voices of people the central government has withdrawn the proposal but reduced the budget and also slow down the payments in such a way that the workers will slowly loose the interest to apply for the work under MGNREGA. SAHANIVASA has taken this as a challenge and motivated the workers to work for 15 days in MGNREGA and spent five days to get the wages. This way, our workers in the project area are able to get wages once in 20 days instead of 16th day in UPA government. In all other places, payment of wages are delayed a minimum of one month days where the workers are not organized. During this year thanks to good rains in Chittoor district after 25 years (at the cost of heavy floods and more than 80 irrigation tanks bunds are broken and damage of houses), all the irrigation tanks are flooded with full of water led to the agricultural operations. Although there is a short of skilled labour in agriculture, the entire area is brought under cultivation using the technology. The share croppers also got work after long break. Unlike earlier years, drinking water problem is resolved as the dried bores are recharged. All these are positively impact on the children’s education.

**High school education program:**

Last year experience of fall down the percentage of pass in public exam at first attempt was a good lesson for SAHANIVASA teachers team. Of course we could able to get 99% results after the instant exam. Anyway, we will learn a lesson that regular success will leave the sense of over confidence. This is what happened to our results last year after getting 100% continuously. During the year, the teachers become so alert to work hard. Both the government teachers and our teachers worked hand in hand during the year. The teachers and students are very eager to wait for the upcoming public exams to be held between 24th March and 4th April. This year the syllabus was completed by November in all the schools. Since then three revisions are taken place. Weekly tests and monthly performance tests are conducted not only in the regular schools and also by our teachers. In order to get out of the children from too much burden once in three months each school is conducted local excursions.

**The teachers monthly meetings:**

All 30 teachers spent one full day for every month to review their performances and also planned for the upcoming months. These meetings were also useful for the teachers to exchange views and clarifying the doubts on subjects between them.

**Training on RTI:**

Two days trainings were conducted for all the teachers on 10th and 11th October on the Right To Information Act and implementation strategies. This has been the interest of the teachers for quite some time as they have been the volunteers in the villages not only helping the community to get access to the schemes and also to find out the status of implementation of schemes, land distribution, school budgets and facilities etc. The two days training was conducted by P. Chennaiah and Advocate Rajendran who has experience in implementation of the Act.

All the 30 teachers have formed into five groups and each group has taken responsibility to collect the data on specific issues in three mandals – 1). Implementation status of Right To Education. 2). Status of pensions – old age, widow, disability. 3). Status of PDS shops allocation. 4). Status MGNREGA implementation. 5). Status of S.C & S.T. sub plan. Followed by the training, they have been trying to collect the data on each of their responsible areas. In the mean time, a flood has taken place in the area. As a result, all the teachers had to divert collecting the relief materials locally and distribute to the most needy families. All these extra activities did not divert their concentration on education.

**Xth Class students consolidated list:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl. No** | **Name of the centers** | **SC** | | **BC** | | **ST** | | **OC** | | **Total** |
|  |  | **B** | **G** | **B** | **G** | **B** | **G** | **B** | **G** |  |
| 1 | Mukkalathur | 14 | 14 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | **51** |
| 2 | G.D.Nellore | 15 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 4 | **50** |
| 3 | Vepenjari | 13 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | **63** |
| 4 | Kalapalli | 16 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 3 | **58** |
| 5 | Talambedu | 14 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | **49** |
| 6 | Bangareddypalli | 15 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | **53** |
| 7 | Peddagantapalli | 15 | 14 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | **48** |
| 8 | A.D.Kandiga | 10 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | **41** |
| 9 | N.R.Petta | 9 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | **44** |
| 10 | Siddam palli | 11 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | **44** |
|  | **Total** | **132** | **116** | **69** | **80** | **26** | **21** | **26** | **31** | **501** |

**IXth Class students consolidated list:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SL.NO | NAME OF THE CENTRE | SC | | BC | | OC | | TOTAL |
|  |  | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |  |
| 1 | MUKKALATHUR | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 32 |
| 2 | G.D NELLORE | 18 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 84 |
| 3 | VEPANJEERI | 9 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 33 |
| 4 | KALEPALLI | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 34 |
| 5 | THALAMBEDU | 10 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 55 |
| 6 | BANGAREDDYPALLI | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 32 |
| 7 | PEDAKANTIPALLI | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 26 |
| 8 | A.D. KANDIGA | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 27 |
| 9 | N.R. PETA | 27 | 24 | 16 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 95 |
| 10 | SIDDAMPALLI | 14 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 40 |
|  | TOTAL | 110 | 86 | 80 | 61 | 72 | 49 | 458 |

**List of the High School Teachers:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sl. No** | **Name** | **Caste** | **Sex** | **Qualification** | **Subject** |
| 1 | K. Rajani | S.C | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 2 | R. Gopi | S.C | Male | B.SC | English |
| 3 | E. Prasanna | S.C | Female | B.A | Science |
| 4 | P. Viola | S.C. | Female | B.Com | English |
| 5 | S. Baby | B.C | Female | B. Ed | Mathematics |
| 6 | R. Stephen | S.C | Male | B. Sc | Mathematics |
| 7 | S. Hari | S.C | Male | B.A | English |
| 8 | V. Vanitha | S.C | Female | B. Ed | Science |
| 9 | N. Ganesh | S.C | Male | B.A | English |
| 10 | T. Cheranjeevi | S.C | Male | B.Com | Science |
| 11 | P. Prabakar | S.C | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 12 | E. Somasekhar | S.C | Male | B. Ed | Science |
| 13 | S. Haridas | B.C | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 14 | P. Shivaji | S.C | Male | B.A | English |
| 15 | R. Ammulu | S.C | Female | B.Sc | Science |
| 16 | M. Paradesi | S.C | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 17 | G. Sarasa | S.C | Female | B.A | English |
| 18 | N. Lakshmana Reddy |  | Male | B.Sc | Science |
| 19 | T. Gopi | S.C | Male | B.A | English |
| 20 | G. Jaya Chandra Reddy | OC | Male | B.A. B.Ed | Mathematics |
| 21 | K. Babu | S.C | Male | M.A | English |
| 22 | P. Ramesh Babu | S.C | Male | M.Com | Mathematics |
| 23 | R. Doraswamy | S.C | Male | B.Sc | Science |
| 24 | A. Sudharkar | OC | Male | B.A | English |
| 25 | Nagabushanam | BC | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 26 | P. Babu | S.C | Male | B.Sc | Science |
| 27 | K. Bhaskar | S.C | Male | B.A | Mathematics |
| 28 | K. Rajamani | S.C | Male | B.A, B.Ed | English |
| 29 | D. Hanumanth | S.C | Male | B.Sc | Mathematics |
| 30 | N. Bujji Babu | BC | Male | B.A | Science |
| **31** | **R. Manogaran** | **S.C** | **Male** | **B. A** | **Coordinator** |

Classes for 9th class students are given equally important by rotating the teachers both morning and evening hours between 9th & 10th class students. The morning sessions are conducted between 8to 9.15 AM and evening sessions are from 4.30 to 6 PM for 9th class. Similarly, 10th class morning sessions are the same as 9th class but in the evening the 10th class students spent times between 4.30 and 7 PM.

**Conclusion:** In the context of government trying to relinquish their responsibilities from primary & secondary education in gradual manner, it has become boom for private institutions to reach out middle and lower middle class families by sending buses to rural areas to pick up the children and also taught them English. As a result, government schools strength of children is fall down drastically. In other words, the government schools are becoming the centers of the children from poorest of the poor families sending children to government schools is an indication of poverty. The lower middle class families in rural area feels sending children to government school is below their dignity and do not want to identify their children with so called low caste children. As a result, the government is closing down the schools which has below minimum strength – means pushing the poor families back to swelling the illiteracy among the children. Government primary responsibility of providing education for all is becoming distant reality when it comes to the very poor localities which are in distance to the schools. Therefore, the concern is that the children from far of villages are to be link to the primary schools and the government should be made accountable to respond to those needs. SAHANIVASA is planning to work in collaboration with other NGOs to address this issue.

Last but not least, we thank ASHA for its partnership continuously in the journey of education.

P. Suria Rajini Chittoor

Executive Director 04-03-2016