

Site Visit: BCT (<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=33>)

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I VISITED BCT ON THE NEW YEAR DAY. BCT, BHAGAVATULA CHARITY TRUST IS STARTED BY DR.S PARAMUSWAR RAO, WHO OBTAINED MSC PHYSICS FROM VIZAG'S ANADHARA UNIVERSITY AND A PHD FROM USA IN THE NEUCLEAR SCIENCES. HE LEFT HIS CAREER IN USA TO SETTLE DOWN IN HIS NATIVE VILLAGE, WHICH IS ABOUT 35 KMS FROM VIZAG. FROM LATE 60S TILL TODAY HE HAS BEEN DOING A MAGNIFICENT SERVICE IN THE RURAL UPLIFTMENT. BCT IS A WELL KNIT, ORGANIZATION WITH A REGULAR STAFF OF ABOUT 70 PERSONS APART FROM SOME SEASONAL CASUAL STAFF. BCT IS ACTIVE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS;

- 1) HEALTH AND HYGINE
 - 2) WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
 - 3) PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
 - 4) DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SKILLS
 - 5) APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL/ AGRICULATURAL SECTOR
 - 6) SPREADING SCIENTIFIC METHODS OF FARMING
 - 7) SPEADING MESSAGE OF PROHIBITIION (AGAINST ACHOHOL)
- ETC

THE MANAGEMENT COMITTEE CONSISTS OF VERY EMINENT PERSONS WHO ARE VERY SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONAL WHO RETIRED FROM SERVICES AND TOOK UP VOLUNTARY WORK. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO ARE RETIRED TOP IAS OFFICESERS, SCIENTISTS ETC. THE PREVIOUS SECRETRARY DR.S.SATYAMURTHY WHO WAS DIRECTOR R&D OF EICHER MOTORS WORKED FULLTIME FOR 6 YEARS AFTER HIS RETIREMENT.

THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED INDEPENT CENTERS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE AREAS SUCH AS:

KRISHI VIGNAN KENDRA TO WORK IN THE AREAS OF:

(i) SOIL SCIENCES

(ii) HORTICULTURE

(iii) ANIMAL BREEDING

(iv) HOME SCIENCES

(v) SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR BOYS LIKE FITTING, MASONARY, HOUSE WIRING ETC,

(vi) SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR GIRLS SUCH AS HANDICRAFTS, TAILORING AND ENBROIDARY.

THEY HAVE VERY WELL DEVELOPED CLASSROOMS AND FACULTY FOR THE ABOVE

I HAVE MET AND INTER ACTED WITH THE STAFF MEMBERS WHO INCLUDED:

SOIL SCIENTIST WHO DOES THE TESTING OF SOILS AND SUGGEST THE MOST APPROPRIATE CROP TO BE RAISED/ SUGGEST METHODS OF IMPROVEMENT OF SOIL TO SUIT SPECIFIC CROPS;

HOME SCIENCE GRADUATE WHO WORKS IN THE AREAS OF PICKLE MANUFACTUE, HYGINE, SANITATION, BASICS OF NURSING, PRIMARY HEALTH;

VETERINARY SCIENCE GRADUATE WORKING IN THE AREAS OF ANIMAL HEALTH ETC;

AGRONOMIST/HORTICULTURIST: WORKING IN THE AREAS OF NURSARY RAISING, PLANT PROTECTION, SEED PRESRVATION ETC.

THE SALARIES OF THESE PERSONS IS PAID BY INDIAN COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTUREAL REASEARCH BUT THEY WORK UNDER BCT MANAGEMENT. THEY HAVE PUCCA BUILDING WHICH IS ECOFREINDLY AND BUILD BY USING LOCAL MATERIALS/ ARTISANS TRAINEES ETC.

THE SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IS PRESENTLY HAVING MORE THAN 40 STUDENTS AND ABOUT 3 INSTRUCTERS, SOME OF WHOM ARE THEMSELVES TRAINED IN THE SAME FACILITY. I HAVE TAKEN SOME PICTURES OF THE SAME. I COULD COUNT ABOUT 20/25 SEWING MACHINES IN THE CLASS ROOM. THE STUDENTS WOULD BE GIVEN A SEWING MACHINE FREE AT THE END OF THE COURSE TO ENABLE THEM TO EARN THEIR OWN LIVLIHOOD.

I AM SURE THAT THIS AREA IS WORKING VERY WELL AND DOING A LOT OF GOOD SERVICE TO THE RURAL WOMEN IN THE BACKWARD AREA WHERE WOMEN ARE TREATED VERY BADLY.

BCT NEED BE FUNDED TO SUPPORT BY WAY OF FUNDING THE SALARIES OF THE TEACHERS/ FUNDING THE PURCHASE OF SEWING MACHINES TO BE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS/ STARTING OF NEW COURSES LIKE PREPERATION OF HOME FOODS/PICKLES/ FOOD PACKING/PREPERATION OF MANGO JELLY/MANUFACTURE OF ECOFRIENDLY LUNCH PLATES,BOWLS OUT OF BANANA LEAVES REINFORCED WITH WASTE PAPER/ BOOK BINDING/HANDMADE PAPER

I AM SURE ANY FUNDING TO BCT IS AND WILL BE SUBJECTED TO GOOD USE.

SCHOOL PROJECT:

BCT HAS SET UP A FULL FLEDGED SCHOOL WITH A PUCCA BUILDING HOUSING ABOUT 20 ROOMS IN 2 FLOORS. THERE IS A STAFF OF 12 MEMBERS WHO ARE TRAINED GRADUATES IN DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. CLASSES FROM 5TH TO 10 TH ARE BEING RUN WITH ABOUT 150 STUDENTS.THE METHODS USED ARE VERY UNIQUE:

STUDENTS ARE FULL TIME BOARDERS HELPING THEMSELVES IN GROWING THIER VEGITABLES/ LEARING BASICS OF HORTICULTURE/COOKING/HOUSE MAINTANANCE

CLASS ROOMS HOLD ALL THE READING MATERIAL REQUIRED THE STUDENTS NEED NOT CARRY ANY BOOKS WITH THEM.

WITH IN ONE CLASS THE STUDENTS ARE DIVIDED INTO SMALL GROUPS OF 4/5 WHERE THEY LEARN BY DISCUSSING AMONG THE GROUP. THE TEACHER CO-ORDINATES WITH 4TO 5 SUCH GROUPS, AND HELPS THE TO SET THE AGENDA FOR THE HOUR/DAY

EACH CLASS ROOM IS PROVIDED WITH A DESCKTOP COMPUTER FULLY LOADED WITH THE LESSONS FOR THE DAY. THE LEARING IS BY INTER-ACTION WITH THE COMPUTER.

DEPENDING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF TH STUDENTS A WEEK STUDENT IS MADE THE RESPOSIBILITY OF A STRONG STUDENT, SO THAT PARTICIPATION IS FELT AND PRACTICED AMONG THEM. THE TEACHER ONLY GUIDES THEM.

THE STUDENTS COME OUT AS COMPLETE PERSONS INSTEAD OF JUST LEARNING READING AND WRITING.

THERE IS NEED TO SET UP SMALL LABS IN THE SCHOOL TO MAKE THE LEARING MORE EFFECTIVE. THERE IS NEED TO INCREASE THE STAFF.

SUMMARY:

BCT IS DOING A COMMENDABLE WORK IN EACH OF THE AREAS TAKEN.

THE ORGANIZATION IS VERY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE.

ANY FUNDING IS USED VERY EFFECTIVELY.

THERE IS A CONTINUOUS NEED OF FUNDING

BCT IS HAVING A BRAIN CENTER TO COME OUT WITH EFFECTIVE IDEAS/PROJECTS/IMPLEMENTATION METHODS.

VERY SENIOR /EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL WITH SERVICE MOTIVE ARE PART OF THE MANAGEMENT.

THE STAFF MORALS IS HIGH AT EVERY LEVEL. MOST OF THEM ARE BCT PRODUCTS.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

I FULLY RECOMMEND ANY FUNDING TO BCT

THERE IS A LOT TO TELL ABOUT BCT BUT SPACE IS A LIMITATION. REST IN PERSON.

THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT BCT.

PICTURES FROM THE VISIT:



