

the

Village Voice

Village Reconstruction Organisation – India

V O L U M E II | OCT - DEC | 2 0 1 6

Towards Sustainable Solution

My dear Friends,

At the outset let me wish you all joy-filled, grace-filled, hope-filled and peace-filled New Year 2017 and Happy Pongal.

As we begin the New Year and as we celebrate Pongal we look back and thank God for the success that we have made by His power and at the same time fill our hearts with hope, courage and energy to march forward to fulfil our vision during the New Year 2017.

With immense joy we present the activities during the past three months (October to December 2016). Certainly I believe that this exercise will fill our hearts with energy to move ahead in our service to the poor.

I am also happy to share with you that VRO has taken its first move to shake hands with ENZEN, a company based at Bangalore, (which believes in Renewable energy) in search of sustainable solutions for the poor. VRO has entered into an 18 month-agreement with ENZEN to study three areas (Tamil Nadu, Telangana and South Odisha) and propose viable projects in developing sustainable programs for the poor. Both of us are excited about the collaborative effort. Let us look for the best for our people.

Once again wishing you a grace-filled New Year 2017 and Happy Pongal,

With love and prayers

Peter Daniel SJ

Operational Director -VRO.



Children Health Camps

The project officers and their team organized medical camps for the children of 6 circles in Andhra Pradesh. The response from children, parents and villagers was good and cooperative. The support of the local government doctors made the camps a success. The Doctors from different government hospitals supported this program and the children were given proper medication after due check- up by the doctors.

Circle	Region	Camp Dates	Supporting Doctor	Children Treated
Kurmedu	Hyderabad	20 th to 25 th July, 2016	Dr. Subhash, MBBS	230
Sagarsangam	Nellore	6 th Nov 2016	Dr.D.Madhusudan, Dr.N. Ramadevi, Dr.M.V. Rajesh Yedav, Dr.T. Suneel	237
Pelican Nivas	Nellore	8 th Nov 2016	Dr. Ramakrishna Yadav	256
Perecherla	Guntur	28 th Oct 2016	Dr. K Rakesh Pradeep, MBBS Dr. Ch. Venktarao MBBS, MS Dr. Ramya MBBS, MS Dr.Divya, MBBS, MS All the doctors are from Govt. General Hospital, Guntur	246
Pragnam	Guntur	28 th Oct 2016	Dr. J. Sravani, MBBS, Dr. Babu, RMP;	487
Rajupalem	Guntur	28 th Oct 2016	Dr. Sai Balaji	342



Children Festival

We celebrated Christmas celebrations (Neighbourhood festival) in our respective circles from the 17th to 23rd of December 2016. The local government officials were invited for the event. A total of 3003 children participated in the celebration. The children, using children fund, were able to organize the event and purchase prizes for the winners. VRO also distributed gifts to all the Children.

S.No.	Circle	Region	No.of Study Centres	No.of Children
1.	Perecherla	Guntur	6	260
2.	Rajupalem	Guntur	2	65
3.	Repalle	Guntur	5	133
4.	Arogyanagar	Kadapa	5	193
5.	Peliconnivas	Nellore	5	196
6.	Sagarasangamam	Nellore	5	187
7.	Kurmedu	Hyderabad	5	237
8.	Namavaram	Hyderabad	1	40
9.	Jaggampeta	Rajahmundry	20	704
10.	Kothakota	Cluster	14	339
11.	Gonasika	Cluster	18	465
12.	North Odisha	Odisha	2	44
13.	South Odisha	Odisha	7	140
		Total:	95	3003



Youth Skill Development

This year, we have revised the course structure from 10 month to 3 month course to train more youth. All the centers of Andhra Pradesh are having 3 month course while Odisha is still following 10 month course pattern. During the reporting period, 2 batches were passed out from 2 centres of Andhra Pradesh and new batches have started. The detail of passed-out students as per course and centre is below:

Course	Center/Circle (Residential)	Region	Passed out (Jul - Dec)	Current Batch (Dec-Mar)
Driving cum Cell Phone Repair & Electrical works	Perecherla	Guntur	14+15	15
Driving cum Electrical Works	Jaggampeta	Rajahmundry	24+24	15

Closing ceremony was organized in both the regions and local panchayat leaders and government officials were invited to distribute the Course Completion Certificates to the trainees. Sri. D. Venkateswarlu, Sarpanch, Perecherla, was invited as chief guest for the ceremony at Perecherla, Guntur region while Mr. Jothula Nehru, MLA of Jaggampeta, was invited as chief guest for the ceremony at Dream Land, Rajahmundry region.



Success Story of Vanam Anjali

I, Vanam Anjali, learned tailoring at kurmapalli village of Kurmedu YSD Centre from July to November 2016. I am 22 years old. My husband is a mason. I have two girl children (2 ½ years and 1 year). I saw the Village women going to the field for work to get money and later going to VRO Centre to learn tailoring.

Since I could not go to work with my 2 children, I wanted to learn tailoring. When I went with my 2 children to the centre my villagers fooled me saying “What are you going to learn with these 2 kids of yours?”. But I took it as a challenge and learned tailoring for 5 months. During the 3rd month of my learning I procured a tailoring machine with the help of a bank and started to learn more at my home. I learned perfectly well to stitch blouse, skirt, chudidhar, etc. In the month of December alone I earned rupees 3000/- by stitching clothes. I am sure to increase my income as days go by. So I am very thankful to VRO organization and the Management for giving me the opportunity to learn the skill. The women who fooled me are now coming with their clothes to be stitched by me. I am proud of myself.



The Satellite Tailoring Centres:

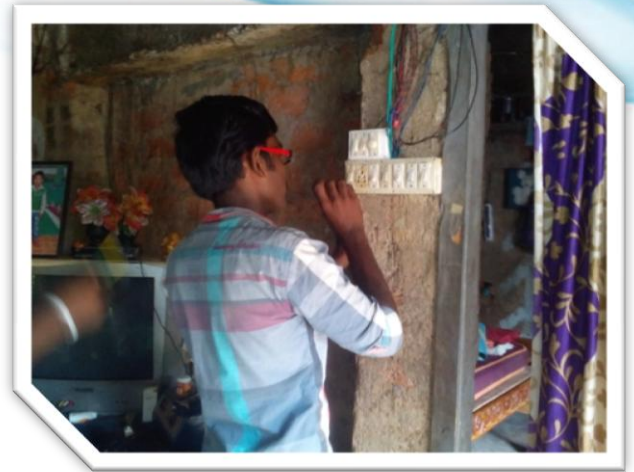
The satellite tailoring centres are very success this year. The detail below gives us an idea how many women are getting trained in our tailoring centres. When they complete 5 months course certificates were given to them. Sri. R. Ravindra Kumar Naik, MLA of Devarkonda, distributed Course Completion Certificate to 120 women of Kurmedu Circle on 9th December 2016 .

Course	Center (Satellite)	Circle/Region	Passed out (Jul - Oct)	Current Batch (Nov - Feb)
Tailoring	Perecherla	Perecherla	-	25 (Started Newly)
Tailoring	VRO Office	Repalle	11	15
Tailoring	Devathpalli	Hyderabad	96	72
Tailoring	Kurmedu	Hyderabad	120	85
Tailoring	Sagarasangam	Nellore	35	30
Tailoring	Pelicon Nivas	Nellore	32	40
Tailoring	Arogya Nagar	Kadapa	40	40
Tailoring	Rajupalem	Guntur	33	30
Total			367	337



Service Camps

As part of the projects, the trainees at the YSD projects were motivated to be the agents of change and were taken to the villages to serve the families using their learned skills and also to motivate the people on various social issues. The trainees repaired the switch boxes, electrical lines, fans, tube light frames, etc. in 83 houses of BSR Patnam, Vatticheruvu, Govindapuram and Krishnapuram villages free of cost. The trainees of Muniguda conducted health awareness program and repaired the clothes in the village of Muniguda. The trainees of Ashapuri made the Birgovindpur village totally a plastic-free with the support of the villagers.



Village Empowerment and Entitlement Community Based Organizations

The main focus of VRO in the next coming years is on building sustainable communities. Hence, as an initial step towards sustainability, we have started Community Based Organization (CBOs) which will handle the Village activities. We introduced the concept of Mutual Aided Credit Society (MACS) with an objective towards economic stability of the communities. 138 women were selected from the 20 targeted villages and called for a 2 days training at Ananda Jyothi, Nambur. Mr. Prakash (One of the Chief Functionaries of Panchayatraj) and Mr. Jayaraj, briefed about the legality and stipulation of the government in the context of MACS and also clarified all the doubts of the women related to the MACS.



Village Rebuilding Program

VRO laid Foundation Stones in 2 villages during the reporting period. We were successful in involving the local leaders and officials in the process of village rebuilding. The following are the details of the villages:

S.No	Village Name	Families	Foundation Date	Invitees
1	PedaSelgam Vizayanagaram Dist	24	11 Nov 2016	Rev. Dr. Prakahs Mallavarapu, Arch Bishop of Vishakapatnam
2	Garuvupalem Guntur Dist.	22	22 Nov 2016	Sri. KanthilalDande, IAS, collector, Guntur Sri Anagani Satyaprasad, MLA, Repalle MRO & MPDO of Nizampatnam Sarpanch and Vice Sarpanch of Garuvupalem



Local Contribution and support

Officers of the Essels Mining's Barbil visited OAH, Ashapuri on 22nd November 2016. The team, consisted of 6 members including our well-wisher Mr. N.R Daspatnaik, visited the centre and interacted with the old people and distributed blankets, lungis, towels and sarees to our 12 inmates. They also provided the old people with a sumptuous dinner.



Water Management Training: Water Management

Training for the villagers of Bayakumutia G.P was organized in Katarapalli village on 27th October 2016. The objective of the camp was to make the people aware on the preservation of water and the management of water resources. 52 villagers from 12 villages attended the training camp. Mr. Pratap Chandra Behera, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWSS), Banspal Block, Government of Odisha was the resource person.

Domestic skill training:

The skill training on making Phenyl, detergent liquid surf, Ujala, and bleaching powder was given to the women groups and skill trainees at all the YSD Centers of Odisha.



Pooling of Local Funds through Government Schemes

A lot of effort is been taken by Fr. Valangani SJ, Associate Director, to pool the government resources. For this purpose an awareness training program on Government Schemes and Projects were organised for the likeminded NGOs on 12th Nov 2016. Mr. Aris Mohammad was the resource person, who explained on NSDC and on different skill training programs available with the Government. Members from 13 NGOs participated in the training program.

Neighborhood Festival

Fr. M. A. Windey often said, “Coming together is good, talking together is better and working together is best”. This year the volunteers and the children of various evening study centres participated in neighbourhood festivals during which semi-Christmas celebration was observed. The festival was organized from Dec 17th to 23rd December 2016 in all the Circles. The volunteers shared their experiences and the children performed play-lets, dance and sang songs. Gifts were given to the volunteers and to the children as well.



At the end of the festival, our Operational Director, Fr. Peter Daniel SJ, communicated his message and announced “**Towards Sustainable Solutions**” as the theme of the year 2017.



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