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Village Voice

Village Reconstruction Organisation – India

V O L I | APR – SEP | 2 0 1 6

Extending

Dear Friends

Greetings from VRO,

As an organization VRO needs to keep on reshaping itself to make its presence relevant and meaningful in the villages. VRO has been working for the development of tribal and rural population since four decades and over the period of its journey, VRO has been taking steps to keep itself up to new stipulation, operational standards, professionalism, transparency and accountability. A lot of changes has been made at structural level of the organization i.e. the regional operation of VRO has been revised to circle level operation so as to work in confined target areas. This decision of moving to circle level operation had kept the project, finance and administration teams to rework on various standards that are into practice in the past. Unlike last year, the finance and project teams are now going ahead with new energy with the incoming of new Finance Manager and new Project Officers who are now sharing the workload of the Operational Team. The circle level operation gave chance to many volunteers to take up leadership responsibility. The new structural changes enabled us to reach the stakeholders more locally and effectively. The new approach also made VRO to reach village holistically covering children, youth, women and village leaders through different project activities. I should take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who accepted the change with an open heart and expressed their willingness to learn new concepts in order to keep them equipped with new skills and methods. Certainly our beloved donors are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love and Prayers

Peter Daniel, SJ; Operational Director



Summer Training for Volunteers

The volunteers were capacitated through various training programs during April and May. A total of 6 trainings were organized for the volunteers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. The volunteers were trained on Spoken English, Computers, Tailoring, Embroidery and Social Work Concepts. Unlike yester years, we collaborated with the other institutions and Jesuits who rendered their professional services.

S.No	Training On	Training At	In Collaboration	VRO	Others*
1	Tailoring & Embroidery	Nallapadu	JMJ Technical Training School	11	32
2	Spoken English & Computers	Perecherla	Jesuits	19	-
3	Spoke English & Computers	Jaggampeta	Jesuits	11	13
4	Tailoring & Embroidery	Chandikhole	USHA International Sewing School	6	5
5	Spoken English and Social Work	Ashapuri		20	-
6	Computers	Ashapuri	Benu Computer Training Institute, Gashipura	6	-

*Includes community workers and villagers



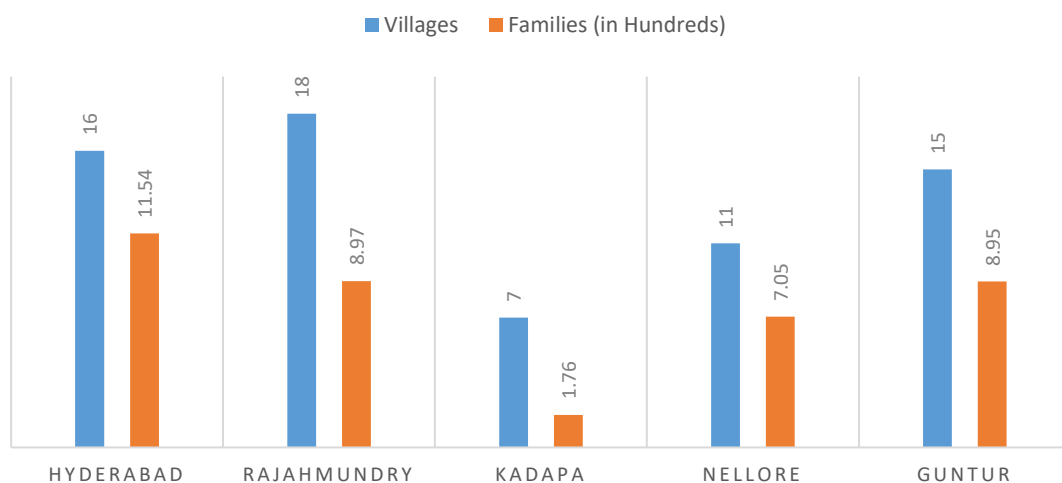
Training on Finance Management – KKID

The new Finance Manager has taken up the responsibility from June 2016 and organized within short time a professional training at Karl Kubel Institute of Development, Coimbatore. All the accountants attended the training from 21st to 23rd of June. The training provided them with insights on Legal framework of NPOs, principles of accounting and financial management, system of internal control and accountability, financial documentation and reporting, method of financial reporting to donors, etc. The accountants in their feedback about the training reported that the opportunity of training at KKID provided them with an understanding of how financial matters are handled at different organizations. They also added that the training enabled them to identify and analyse different scenarios that would side-line the finance during implementation of the project.



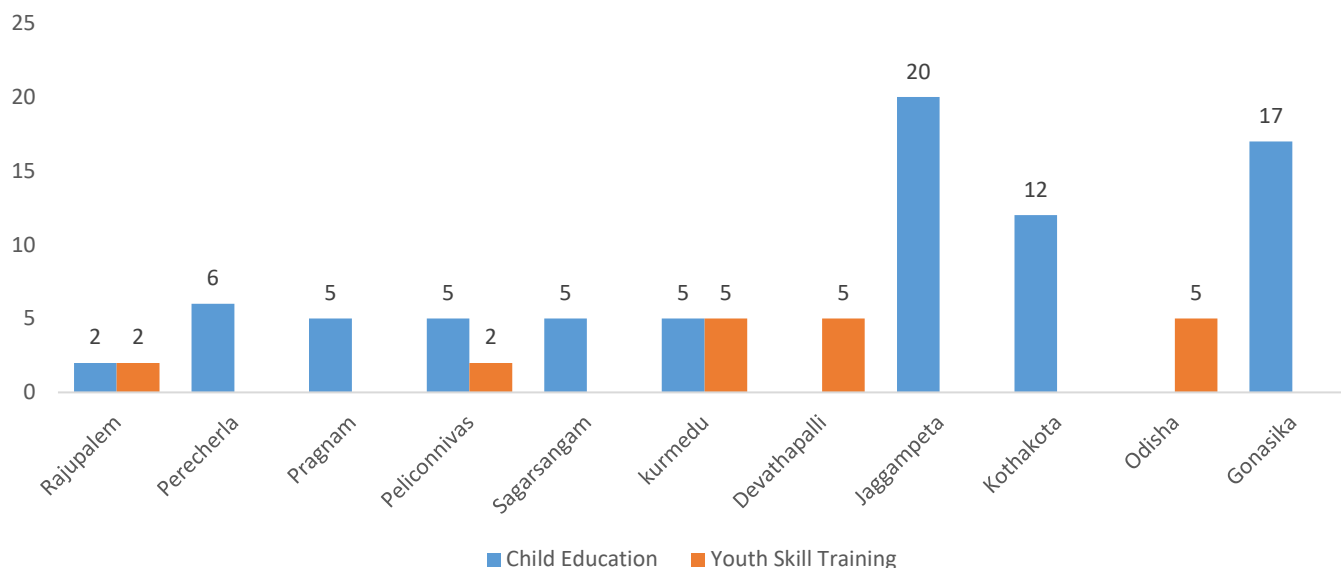
Baseline Survey

This year all the target areas baseline survey was done under the supervision of Project Officers. The volunteers were provided with survey format. The data was consolidated and presented to the villagers in every circle. During the discussion, the issues were identified such as widow vs widower, child marriage, child labour and migration that need to be looked into. Below is the overview of hamlets and families covered for the financial year apart from the two clusters where we cover 56 hamlets:



Community Worker Selection

Last year, we have motivated village community and facilitated them to identify local youth who are an asset within the community to conduct supervise study for children. As we are successful in conducting community based programs, we have extended ourselves in more concrete way. This year 106 villages were facilitated to identify community worker. A total of 57 community workers were identified to conduct evening study centres while 49 were identified to conduct tailoring skill centre. The details of community workers under each circle are as shown in the diagram:



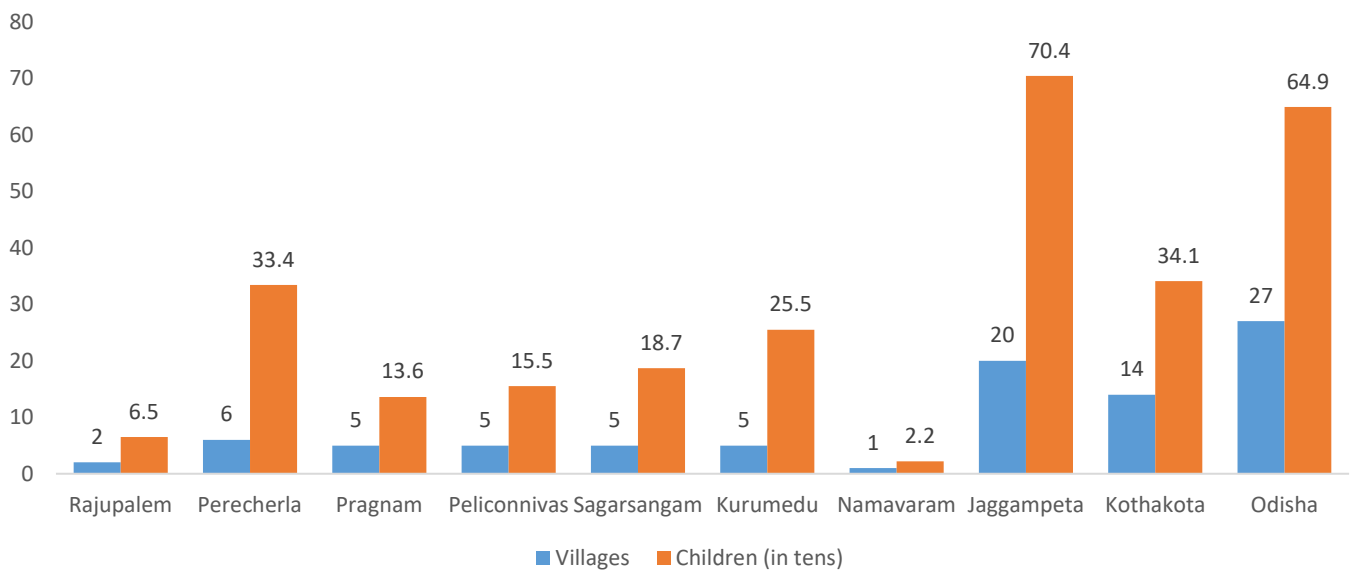
Odisha Advisory Committee Meeting

Networking is one of the major skill that is need for effective functioning of the organization. Since inception of VRO Odisha, an Advisory Committee was formed to support and advice VRO Odisha and its programs. The OAC is actively involved in the project activities at VRO Odisha. OAC meeting was organized on June 16th 2016 during which the members have promised to support the activities of VRO. Dr. Surya Narayana Behra, Horticulturist, promised and had given sapling to 500 families of Gonasika Cluster. He also added that he can support the health team in conducting heath camps cum identifying ingenious medical practices. The OAC is extensively supporting VRO Odisha in terms of legal matters, project activity implementation and building rapport with the government officials.



Supportive Assistance for Children

Like last year, we supported 3040 children this year by distributing educational kits including bags, books, exam planks, etc. so that children can excel in their academics. After supportive assistance, children enrolment in the school has increased as they have sufficient study materials to attend school. The number of children attending evening supervised study at the satellite centres has increased. Parent's economic burden lessened and their trust gained. Apart from above, parents took responsibility to contribute some money towards children fund which can be used for the welfare of the children in later period. Around Rs. 50,000/- was collected till now and once the children parliament groups are registered, the fund will be transferred to respective children parliament at the community. The details of villages covered and children reached under each circle are as follows:



Networking and Collaboration

Over the past decades VRO has been pooling resources locally to effectively reach the stakeholders. This year as part of our Youth Skill Development (YSD) projects we have built contact with locally available resource persons who can train the youth on interpersonal skills, entrepreneurship skills and community mobilization skills. The resource persons viz., Mr. Roshan Kumar, Perecherla and Mr. Sudhir Das, Odisha provided the respective trainees at their regional centres with inputs on public speech, acting, dancing, awareness songs, personality development, attitude, attending interviews and pooling loans from banks. We have also collaborated with different resource person viz., Mr. Prakash, Additional Project Officer, Bhopal; Mr. Shanmuka Rao, District Project Officer, Velugu; and Mr. Jayaraj, Expert on MACS to train our volunteers on the concept of MACS. This process of networking enabled VRO to pool knowledge from different experts to carry forward the activities.



Windey Memorial

On 20th September, Fr. Windey's Death Anniversery was observed at all the project areas. The main meeting was held at Head Office for which the volunteers, ex-volunteers and board memebtrs were pesent. The participants shared thier experiences with Fr. Windey and thanked him for the impact he made in villages and in their lives. Similar meetings were held in different villages and at VRO centres.



Service Camps

The trainees at YSD centres were empowered to be the social agents for a change through invovling them in service camps. The trainees of YSD Jaggampeta and Rajanagaram visited Govindapuram and Krishanapuram where they attended to the eletrical repair works of the houses in those two villages. The trainees of all YSD centres at Odisha conducted awareness camps in the near by villages.





Bobaralanka – Flood Relief

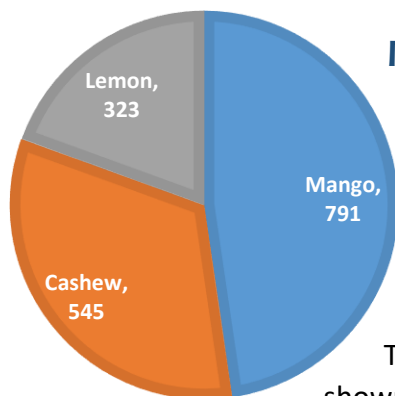
Due to the heavy rains in the last week of September, the canal was flooded and houses of people living next to the canal were washed away. In response to the disaster, on 27th September, we facilitated the villagers to meet the in-charge MRO to submit request letter on the issue of evacuating present place and providing a permanent dwelling place/land. We facilitated the people to get rice, dal, kerosene, etc.

Later in the afternoon VRO-Repalle-Circle staff along with Project Officer, VRO-Pedakakani, visited the hamlet and facilitated the distribution of blankets and mosquito nets to villagers. Local Government officers like Revenue Inspector, and Village Revenue Officer visited on the day. After distribution of things we educated them on the ill effects of drinking dirty water and to have safe drinking water.

Workshop on MACS

This year has been a year during which VRO has taken up new concepts to reach villagers more effectively. This year, we have introduced the concept of Community Based Organization (CBO) with an objective to build up the strength of the community in order to address issues on their own. A two day workshop was conducted for 138 women from 20 villages from all the circles. The women were provided with information on uses of Mutual Aided Corporative Society (MACS) and how to form the group. The resource person Mr. Jayaraj explained the legality and stipulations of government. He also added how women can procure more loans and be self-sufficient to address the needs of the village.





Plantation in Cluster

In both the cluster areas, we supported the farmers by supplying them with saplings. In Gonasika, a total of 1637 saplings were supplied to 557 families of 12 villages.

The details of plants are as shown in the diagram. In kothakota 140 families who were supported through agroforestry are now provided with gap filling samplings.



Independence Day Celebration

In all the youth skill training centres and satellite centres trainees and children observed Independence Day and the local officials were invited as chief guests. Games and sports competitions were conducted for children and the winners were awarded. The trainees were provided with insights on freedom struggle and freedom fighters. The resource persons motivated the youth to be the change in their villages. They themselves thanked VRO for taking initiative to shape the youth.



Trainees Pass-out

YSD program is now restructured to 2 months program to reach at least of 3 batches a year. By end of September 2016, 38 trainees of perecherla and Jaggampeta finished training on driving, cell-phone repair and maintenance and electrical work. The trainees were also awarded completion certificate at the end of the course. The local sarpanch of perecherla; Sr. Joshi, JMJ were invited as chief guest to address the trainees during closing ceremony. The resource person encouraged to utilize the skill to make income.





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Village Voice | Vol I | Apr – Sep 2016

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