

the Village Voice

Village Reconstruction Organization – India

From Director's Desk

My dear friends and partners,

Having remembered our beloved founder director Michael Windey, SJ on 20th September, on his 6th death anniversary, we have enthused ourselves by his spirit and commitment. He is a man who believed that villagers have the spirit and hope to fight to grow in their lives. As his followers, we too believe the same. Hence, we bring forth the latest issue of 'Village Voice' to tell you how joyfully our beloved villagers, (children, women, village council members) are growing towards taking up the programs in a self-sustainable way. The contribution made by our stakeholder's is praise worthy. When our people take more and

more initiatives towards their development we are doubly motivated to commit ourselves towards their development and upliftment. Come let us rededicate ourselves for the cause of building **"Better Villages For A Better World"**

Enjoy reading ' Village Voice'
Love and prayers
Peter Daniel SJ



Self Sustainable

Facilitating community to identify and generate local resources

Community Generated Funds

Through continuous motivation and facilitation, we were able to enable the stakeholder groups like children and women to mobilize funds within the community and the same is used for the development activities in their own village

Children's Fund

In all our Supportive Assistance for Children (SAC) satellite centers (72), the children were educated on savings and they were motivated to save one rupee a child per week. The fund is collected in a moneybox maintained by a child elected by the children. They gather at the end of the month and with the facilitation of community worker, they update all the other children about amount collected and expenditure. They also decide on what needs to be met through children's fund. Some of the notable ways that children utilized the fund are as follows: Independence Day celebration; purchase of stationary material, purchase of medicines for sick children, games & sports events. During the reporting period, 8000 INR was in the children's fund in all the villages.



Women's Fund

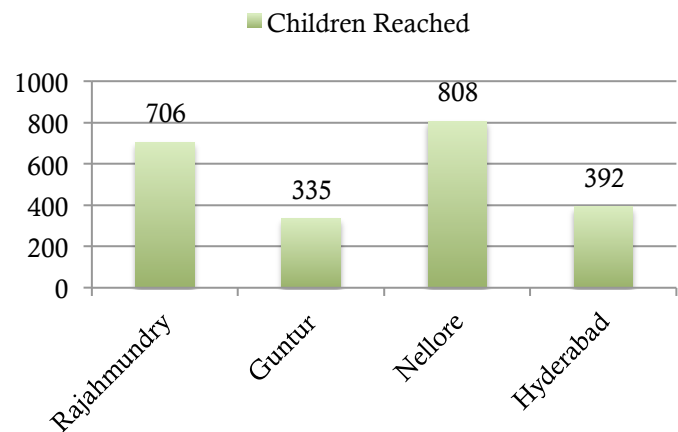
Similarly, skill-training centers for women were moved into village and 21 Community Based Tailoring Centers were started this year. Through this approach of moving sewing machines into villages, the women became more responsible and committed towards training. In all the centers women started collecting fund that is used towards repair and maintenance of sewing machines. At some villages, women started saving amount as groups to purchase a sewing machine.

Supportive Assistance

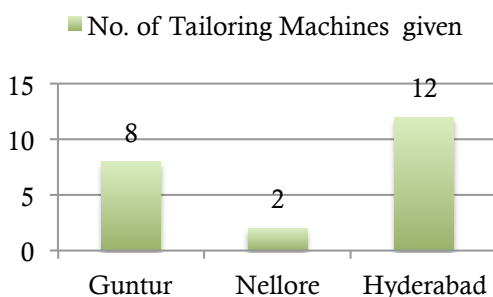
School Bags, notebooks and Sewing machines given to children and women respectively

School Bags to Children

As part of Supportive Assistance for Children (SAC), school bags along with slates, notebooks, exam planks, geometry box were distributed to children. We have aimed and budgeted for 1,600 children and happy to reach a total of 2,241 through our 13 SAC programs covering 72 villages. It was reported by the community workers that there has been as significant increase in children's regularity to school. After the distribution, the children's strength in all the villages increased.



Tailoring Machines to Women



Skill training centers for women under Livelihood Learning Center (LLC) and Gramashakthi Training Center (GTC) are provided with tailoring machines. All the machines are placed in the village and the women have accepted to take care of the repair and maintenance of the same. A total of 22 machines were distributed to 20 villages.



Remembering Fr. Windey

6th Death Anniversary of Founder Director Fr. M. A. Windey

On the occasion of 6th death anniversary of Fr. M. A. Windey, Founder Director, VRO, Remembrance Day was organized at Head Office Pedakakan and at regional offices in respective regions. Bust of Fr. Windey, is erected at Head Office premises.

During the meeting, Fr. Windey's speech was played to remember his words and enrich his vision and mission in each one of us. Later, board members, ex-volunteers and volunteers shared their experiences with Fr. Windey and thanked him for providing them an opportunity to work for the people.

Apart from regional offices, the villagers of suryanagar, vasanthanagar and udayapuri village also observed death anniversary of Fr. Windey, our volunteer participated in the same. The villagers thanked Fr. Windey for the movement that he brought in to the village and wished the organization to carry forward the movement with the same spirit.



Extending Hands

Response to Nagaram Schedule Tribe Colony Fire Accident

On 5th July, 2015, people of Nagaram Schedule Tribe colony faced the tragedy. 110 thatched houses were burnt to ashes due to explosion of a cooking gas stove. Within a span of 20 minutes the structures in the entire colony are down and people ran to the nearby government college to save their lives. We should thank the local NGOs, which took effort to provide the villagers with immediate relief such as tents, cooking vessels, bedsheets, etc. that are needed for their daily living.



VRO visited the village after the incident. With consultation of the people, it was decided to work on building temporary shelters (thatched houses). A series of discussions happened with the villagers and as part of their contribution towards housing, villagers accepted to give leaves for roof. VRO with support of Loyola Public School (LPS), Nallapadu, donated material i.e. bamboo and ropes needed to build the house. The people constructed a total of 83 houses within a week. As we are informed by the local MLA about the government housing for the villagers, the thatched houses were put leaving enough land that can be showed to the government to raise the concrete structure.



Later, school children of LPS were taken for an exposure to the village and they were oriented about the incident and how the villagers came out of the situation. The children felt happy to spend time with the villagers and during their feedback; they expressed their interest to support people who are in need. Apart from this, 56 children were supported with school bags, notebooks, planks, etc. so that they continue their education. We are also planning to start supervised study at the village.

This is an action that we have taken beyond our plan and budget and this is possible through the continuous efforts of our volunteers and local donors that entrust the work of rural development on Village Reconstruction Organization.

Community Initiatives

Actions taken by local communities to support themselves

Women supports Anganwadi



The women of Madhanapuram village, Kurumedu SAC, Hyderabad Region, were motivated with the act of supportive assistance by VRO to government school children. They have decided to do their share for their community. They have identified the need of slates for children at Anganwadi, which is located in the same government school compound. They have raised a local fund of Rs. 460/- and purchased slates and slate pencils for 10 children. They have awarded the same to children during a parents meeting at school.

Community supports children

At the inspiration of VRO action towards children's academics support, the villagers of Govindapuram, Jaggampeta Cluster, Rajahmundry region, have collected the bags from animators of NREGS work in the village and have given the same to 12 children.

Children Initiative

The school playground area of Krishanpuram village, Jaggampeta cluster, Rajahmundry region was never cleaned and the children did not identify this as a problem. They were educated about environmental cleanliness at their supervised study and our volunteer conducted an environmental camp. Today, Idol of Sarswathi (Goddess of Education), which was not cleaned for a long time is cleaned and the children do flower decorations in turns.



Trainings – Professional Development

Children Parliament Training

One of the component of SAC is children parliament and as it is a new concept for the volunteers we have have organized a 3 days training program at Ananda Joythi for all our SAC volunteers from 20th to 22nd July, 2015.



Training for FCs at KKID, Coimbatore

In one the operational team meeting, Field Coordinators have requested an opportunity to refresh the skill of FCs. Hence all the field coordinators were sent for a external training at Karl Kabuel Institute for Development (KKID), Coimbatore. The two day workshop have given them an idea of what are the challenges of NGOs and methods of monitoring

Field Training – Community Meetings

It was observed that volunteers are finding it difficult to organize community meeting and follow them up. Mr. Jean Paul and Ms. Sandhya organized a field-based training who have practically taught the volunteers and gave them tips on conducting community meetings.



Project Implementation Planning

The grey area that has put us into improper monitoring is lack of proper implementation plans. It has been a challenging to follow up with the plans of various projects, as they are located far away from each other. Hence, a special meeting was held in the month of September to prepare concrete routine plans which will enable us to effectively monitor our projects.

Village Reconstruction Organization

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