

2016-17

## 35AC ANNUAL REPORT



**RISHI VALLEY RURAL EDUCATION CENTRE(REC)**  
**Krishnamurti Foundation, India (KFI)**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. Background .....	3
3. Middle School Activities.....	4 - 8
a. Students health and hygiene .....	4
b. Waste management, gardening and kitchen garden.....	4
c. Campus cleaning .....	5
d. Arts & crafts .....	5
e. Annual sports .....	6
f. Excursion / exposure visits .....	6
g. Yoga for hostellers .....	6
h. Life skills .....	6
i. Interaction with university students from Switzerland and Germany .....	7
j. Rec middle school children participation in RV sports 2016 .....	7
k. Workshops conducted for/by children .....	7
l. Computer classes for students .....	8
m. Shadow puppet show .....	8
n. Farewell for grade 7 students .....	8
4. Satellite School Activities .....	9
a. Mothers meetings .....	9
b. Cultural exchange program .....	9
c. Cluster sports.....	9
d. Computer classes for satellite school students .....	9
e. New satellite school buildings .....	9
5. River Activities .....	10 - 14
a. Content development .....	10
b. Teacher Training Programs .....	10
c. Switzerland teams visit .....	10
d. German teams visit .....	11
e. Millennium Alliance Due - Diligence visit .....	11
f. Workshops .....	11 - 14

## **RISHI VALLEY RURAL EDUCATION CENTRE (REC)**

Krishnamurti Foundation, India (KFI)

35AC Annual Report 2016 – 2017

### **Rishi Valley Rural Education Centre's Outreach Program**

#### **Executive Summary**

Krishnamurti's philosophy of education, reflected in the activities of Rishi Valley Education Centre and Rural Education Centre, is best expressed in his own words: The purpose, the aim and drive of these schools, is to equip the child with the most excellent technological proficiency so that the student may function with clarity and efficiency in the modern world. A far more important purpose than this is to create the right climate and environment so that the child may develop fully as a complete human being. This means giving the child the opportunity to flower in goodness so that he or she is rightly related to people, things and ideas, to the whole of life. To live is to be related. There is no right relationship to anything if there is not the right feeling for beauty, a response to nature, to music and art — a highly developed aesthetic sense.

RIVER (Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources), Krishnamurti Foundation India has created a world class, innovative, cost-effective, and proven methodology to increase the quality of education provided to rural children. This results in higher levels of student learning, increased teacher ownership and greater school accountability. RIVER has productive partnerships with government and private institutions across India and beyond. To date, more than 3,00,000 schools are using this model in 15 different languages, over 900,000 teachers have been trained to use this methodology and more than 20 million children have benefited directly from RIVER programs. In 2005, this organization was awarded the Global Development Network Award for being 'The Most Innovative Development Project – 2004'.

In most developing countries, sub-standard, low-quality rural primary schools exist, wherein Teachers are not adequately trained and ill equipped to handle such situations. RIVER methodology addresses this reality. It is designed as a student-centered curriculum. The methodology allows the teachers to address mixed ability primary classes in a creative way and offers them a self-paced, exploratory approach to education. The model addresses teacher and student absenteeism, joy-less schools, and the disconnect between schools and communities.

---

## Background

**The Rural Education Centre (REC):** the REC was set up on the Rishi Valley campus in 1976 on 14 acres of land, with three objectives. The main aim was to extend the educational resources of Rishi Valley School into the neighboring impoverished countryside. A second objective was to regenerate the landscape in this drought prone district consisting of



degraded forests, denuded hills and small valleys. Lastly, a village-based educational system was promoted with the hope that in due course village schools would become the nucleus for the establishment and growth of village commons where fruit bearing trees, fodder and fuel would be grown, which would lead to the regeneration of rural life.

**Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources (RiVER):** Rishi Valley Institute for Educational Resources (RIVER), its Teacher Training Unit, Curriculum Development Cell and model schools are located on campus. The training facilities include dormitories and dining facilities. A residential Middle School is situated on this campus. It is an experimental school, where students are taught in vertically grouped classes, with the help of innovative material; students are prepared for the class 7 examination of the Andhra Pradesh State Board. Academic training is supplemented rich programs in craft, music, athletics and puppetry supplement academic training.

Aims of the programme are:

- To promote village-based education
- To train teachers and teacher trainers in a multi-grade multi-level methodology (MGML) developed by RIVER
- To publish instructional materials in the MGML methodology
- To draw working children into the school system
- To create green spaces around the school campus for the conservation of bio-diversity in general and medicinal plants in particular
- To raise awareness of health, nutrition and sanitation
- To actively involve the community in the day-to-day management of their children's school

**Satellite schools:** There are currently seven satellite schools (laboratory schools), several of which are in village commons. Vidhya vanam serves as the resource center for these schools, and in turn, each satellite school is a resource center for its village. Each school has multi-grade schools with an average ratio of one teacher to 20 students of various ability groupings. The schools have been involved in land reclamation schemes, reforestation, beekeeping, health, hygiene and family planning. A residential Middle School, that caters to students from our Satellite schools, with an emphasis on the girl child. Health care, midday meals and clothes are provided free to all the children of the school.

### **Middle School Activities**

#### ***Students health and hygiene***

A screening test on vision and hearing for REC Middle School Children was conducted by the middle school teachers in the month of June under the guidance of Dr. Karthik Kalyanram. A periodic health checkups and awareness classes on health & hygiene were conducted by Dr. Ramesh.

- Screening test details are given below.
- Total children undergone screening test - 59
- Children identified with vision problems – 04
- Children identified with hearing problems – 01
- Five children were referred to the eye & ENT specialists in nearby town, Madanapalle for further treatment

#### ***Waste management, gardening and kitchen garden***



Middle School children got exposed to organic farming at Rishi Valley Vegetable garden. They got exposure on different aspects of organic farming like preparation of soil, pests controlling and cultivation of new crops like broccoli, cabbage, red cabbage, zucchini, lettuce and cherry tomatoes. After the exposure to organic farming at

Rishi Valley Vegetable garden, children started growing some vegetable plants in their school kitchen garden. They have planted radish, fenugreek, brinjal, tomatoes, chilies, beans and gourds. In Kitchen Garden the students cultivated Pumpkins, beans and green leafy vegetables.

### **Campus cleaning**

Campus cleaning is an ongoing daily activity by the children wherein they segregate waste into degradable and non-degradable and prepare manure for the plants. Every fifteen days once all the plastic wastes in the campus were collected and dumped in the big dustbins by the student groups.

### **Arts & crafts**

A collaborative arts and crafts activity was organized to promote mutual learning/cultural exchange between main school and REC middle school students. The following activities were jointly conducted.

- Cooking classes
- Paper craft
- Soft Toys making
- Kite Making
- Neighborhood watch
- Outdoor Exploration
- Life skills
- Theater – Bilingual Dramas (English and Telugu)
- Computer classes
- Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess and Carroms



Children were also learned to make different handmade crafts using a local eco-friendly material such as jewelry with seeds, silk thread, and paper, greeting cards with pressed leaves and flowers, bookmarks and other decorative craft items. The 8th grade children from RV and 7th grade children from REC Middle school together performed a bilingual drama at REC in the month of October 2016.

### **Annual sports**



The annual REC sports meet was organized on 27th and 28th of January 2017. Middle school children participated in various track and field events. Children participated in various cultural programs organized on this occasion. Around 380 students from 7 satellite schools around 300 ex-students and 400 parents and local people attended this Sports meet and participated eagerly. Primary school students took part in several track and field events on this

2-day occasion. As usual, Mothers participated in few events with lots of enthusiasm. They enjoyed sport meet with Rangoli.

### ***Excursion / exposure visits***

Excursion to Basic Seed Farm -Central Silk Board -Andhra Pradesh: A local excursion visit was organized along with RV Students to Basic Seed Farm -Central Silk Board - Andhra Pradesh, Sericulture center near Horsley hills to get exposure on the process of silk production. Another local exposure was organized on silk weaving at Neerugattuvaripalli. Students Interacted with the local silk saree weavers and exposed to the process of silk weaving. Students went to the local village called Kantevaripalle to observe pot making. Students interacted with the local potters and learned techniques of pot making. Students were taken to VELUGU School which is a school for differently-abled children. Students also interacted with the aged people at old age home which are attached to the school. As part of social studies, students were gone to a cold storage near Angallu village.



### ***Yoga for hostellers***

Every alternative day at 6.30 am children are practicing Yoga.

### ***Life skills***



*Cycling for Girls:* The Cycle program is specially designed for empowering young girls by increasing their mobility and independence in a deeply patriarchal society. In the month of February, REC Middle School started this activity for girls. Within a short time, 11 girls of 7th grade were trained in cycling. 7th-grade Students were also trained on basic cycle repairing and maintenance.

*Painting:* Students learned wall painting and painting their blackboards.

*Cooking:* Students learned some nutritional recipes in their weekly cooking classes.

*Carpentry:* Every Thursday, 20 students from the middle school were trained in carpentry. Mr. Atul, Rishi valley school taught carpentry for the students. Students made wooden spoons under his guidance.

### ***Interaction with university students from Switzerland and Germany***

A collaborative art and cultural activities was organized to promote mutual learning/cultural exchange between “Padagogische Hochschule St. Gallen University” and “Wurzburg University” and REC middle school students.



### ***REC middle school children participation in RV sports 2016***

REC Middle school children participated in various track and field events during September 2016. Children also performed a traditional kolaatam dance on this occasion.

### ***Workshops conducted for/by children***

Storytelling workshop: On 30th August 2016, an orientation program was organized on storytelling and character designing by Ms. Prathibha Singh, Founder, and Chief Architect, The Storytellers, Gurgaon and on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Mr. Derrik, from Landon, UK, visited REC and conducted a story telling session for children.



Dengue awareness camp: On 24th September 2016, a rally was organized on ‘Dengue’ awareness in nearby habitations in Poojarivaripalle and Sreeramula varipalle villages.

Hand wash program: In February, an orientation Program on “Hand washing” was organized by Ms. Jayashree from an NGO - Gram Panch from Panchgani, Maharashtra. The Hand wash activity was introduced to children by a hand-washing song. A simple arrangement was made with a plastic bottle for complete hand wash.

‘Save water–save life’ painting competition: The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India (GoI) conducted the 7th Nationwide painting competition on Water Conservation for Students of 6th, 7th Classes at School, State and National levels as a part of its campaign on Water Conservation to create widespread awareness among Students .REC organized School level painting competition was organized for 2 hours duration on 05.10.2016 on the theme of “SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE”.

The very purpose of this program is to sensitize the society through student community towards the issues of water and need for its conservation

### ***Computer classes for students***

Grade 6th and 7th students attended computer classes at REC campus regularly. Students are showing interested in learning basic computer skills. They are also enjoying the learning process and playing educational computer games. The students got familiarized with basic computer components, typing skills, and educational games to help them feel comfortable working with computers.

### ***Shadow puppet show***

With the intention of preserving and popularizing the traditional art form of shadow puppetry, the children in the REC middle schools have been taught how to perform shadow/leather puppet shows based on the Panchatantra tales. The script for these puppet shows is written in the Telugu, which enables the younger children to develop their oral skills. Later the same story appears in the form of an activity on arts, crafts and reading comprehension.



The entire process of learning shadow puppetry enables the Students to develop various skills like singing songs, creating their own puppets for the story, reading, and comprehension by practicing dialogues. During puppetry classes, Students were exposed to role plays and coordination skills working behind the screen. Grade 7th Students performed a puppet shows various occasions. These tours helped the students to learn team spirit and life skills.

If anyone is interested in organizing a puppet show please write to Mr. Anil Duth who is in charge for puppet shows. Email: [anil.duth@river-rishivalley.org](mailto:anil.duth@river-rishivalley.org)

### ***Farewell for grade 7 students***



On 27th March 2017, middle school students have organized Farewell function for grade 7 students. Students performed few skits followed by nice delicious dinner. 8th grade students from Rishi valley school also participated in this farewell function. They also expressed their experiences during their schooling in REC. Teachers had given them best wishes for their bright future.

## Satellite School Activities

### ***Mothers meetings***

Mothers meetings were conducted periodically to review the students' progress. Satellite school teachers and Coordinators conducted the meetings. These meetings help in strengthening the healthy relationship between school and community.

### ***Cultural exchange program***

From Rishi valley school, 40 students of 6<sup>th</sup> class, visited Sundaravanam satellite school which is at 12 kms, from Rishi valley. Rishi Valley class 6 students and Satellite school students spent one day together and interacted with each other by singing folk Songs, English songs, story reading and listening. Later they had dinner at the Satellite school. They spent a night in the village. A cultural program was organized in the village at night for the entire group. Overall it was a fun cultural exchange between these two groups.



### ***Cluster sports***

Cluster sports for Satellite schools were conducted on the 14th of August 2015 in three locations. Satellite school students participated in sports in 3 different locations. The local community also involved in this event with great enthusiasm and encouraged children during the sports events.

### ***Computer classes for satellite school students***



Grade 5 Students from 7 satellite schools attended computer classes at REC campus regularly. Students are showing interest in learning computer skills. They enjoyed the learning process. The students were familiarized with basic computer components, typing skills, and educational games to help them feel ease in working with computers.

### ***New satellite school buildings***

Last year we were fortunate to get the generous donation from well-wishers for reconstructing the old school buildings. We could finish the construction of the building this year for 1 satellite school Vijayavanam.

## River Activities

### ***Content development***

Content development and refinement is an ongoing process at RiVER. RiVER's 'School in a Box' consists of a series of activity cards and 3D aids in language, English, mathematics, and EVS (environmental studies). RIVER MGML content is designed as per the National Curriculum Framework (NCF 2005).

RiVER-TIDE (RiVER – Technology Initiative in Development of Education) is an initiative that takes the multi-grade approach into the newly emerging classroom environment with its emphasis on e-Learning. Systematically arranged pedagogical materials, which are essential aspects of river's multi-grade classroom, are digitized and made available on tablets to teachers and students. RiVER-TIDE materials are currently being tried out in pilot projects in TWO satellite schools.

### ***Teacher Training Programs***

We offer a variety of programs for agencies that wish to learn about the Multigrade Multi-level pedagogy. The training is practical and its varying duration depends on the experience of the trainee. RIVER team works on curriculum development, teacher training workshops onsite and offshore workshops to enrich the MGML methodology and bring the quality in primary education in various part of India.



### ***Switzerland teams visit***



A team of five student teachers from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, visited REC and engaged in various activities including curriculum development work in English and mathematics as well as crafts work with 6th and 7th grade students at the Rural Education Centre.

The student teachers gained hands-on experience with MGML through using some of the materials they developed for mathematical concepts. They also had the opportunity to enrich their understanding of the model through observation of mathematics, Telugu language, ESL and preschool classes in RiVER satellite schools. Upon completion of their time with RIVER,

student teachers presented the materials they developed along with components of Swiss culture to the teaching staff of the satellite schools.

### ***German teams visit***

Student teachers from Wurzburg University visited RIVER satellite schools and worked on the mathematics and ESL curriculum. Professor Thomas Muller from Wurzburg University supported their work. Students started their visit with observations of MGML's Telugu language, preschool and mathematics classes. The student teachers were able to test out the materials with students in class one.

### ***Millennium Alliance Due - Diligence visit***

Mr. Ashish Kumar from Millennium Alliance visited RiVER satellite schools as part of Millennium Alliance Round 4 award due diligence process and had elaborated discussions with RIVER Directors and the management.

### ***Workshops***



With the objectives of to transform the Primary Education program in the State of Andhra Pradesh through an Effective and Long-Term

partnership between the State Government and RiVER and to create, assist and introduce Effective Learning in Classrooms through the RiVER-TIDE program, RiVERTIDE started working with the Andhra Pradesh (AP) State government to transform the Government Primary schools through its unique RiVER pedagogy. In this context, the RiVERTIDE conducted an intensive two-week training program for AP state core team, on the RiVER methodology and its adaptation for local use. During this program, there will be a training component in the use of the tabs and its features. Similarly, it conducted an intensive training program for master coaches and demo school teachers on the RiVER methodology and its essentials. In this program, the entire TLM will be digitized and categorized for integration. There will be interactive activities in key areas, e-learning content and continuous efforts to localize and create relevant contextual content. The entire TLM will be stored digitally and any

addition/change to the content can be updated in short time to all schools. Additional content can be created and loaded on a continuous basis as per the needs of the program and integration of audio, video and interactive content can be created as per the requirements. So far, this exercise has been done for RiVER satellite schools.

**Details:**

Month	Station	Program details
May 2016	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIVER team was invited by German-Nepalese Help Association (GNHA), Nepal to conduct the workshop on MGML TLM revision in Kathmandu, Nepal.</li> <li>RIVER director Mr. Padmanabha Rao was invited to participate in the UNICEF regional education meetings hosted by the UNICEF, Colombo, Sri Lanka.</li> <li>A team from RIVER went to DEO office, Chittoor to brief on RIVER pedagogy to District Educational Officer and government teachers</li> </ul>
June 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from I Saksham, an organization working in Bihar visited RIVER schools.</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIVER director Mr. Padmanabha Rao was invited to participate in the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin, People's Republic of China.</li> </ul>
July 2016	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RIVER team was invited by SCERT, Bihar, and Unicef to participate workshop on 'Development of Learning Indicators' at Patna, Bihar.</li> </ul>
August 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mrs. Sandhya Rani Kanneganti, IPoS, Commissioner, School Education, Andhra Pradesh and SCERT team visited RIVER schools.</li> <li>Mr. Srinivas, SPD, Andhra Pradesh and team visited RIVER schools.</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from RIVER went to Kuppam to attend Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh program on the occasion of Inaugurating the RIVER Pilot Program in Chittoor District by CM.</li> </ul>
September 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from SCERT and DIETs visited RIVER to work on future interactions.</li> </ul>

October 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven college students from Nitya Bal Vikas Deutschland e. V. in Berlin, visited RiVER program. Nitya Bal Vikas Deutschland e. V is a charitable association according to German law (comparable to an Indian Society, Trust or Non-Profit Company)</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from RiVER conducted the model school setup program in Govt. primary schools, Thamballapalli constituency</li> </ul>
November 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core team from Thamballapalle constituency attended the training program on 'Understanding MGML pedagogy'.</li> </ul>
December 2016	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RiVER team organized a workshop on 'MGML content development, vetting and content localization for all subjects of class 1&amp;2 (Textbook Integration)</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from RiVER went to Vijayawada to meet Mrs. Sandhya Rani Kanneganti, IPoS, Commissioner, School Education and SPD regarding future interactions.</li> </ul>
January 2017	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team of five student teachers from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, visited REC and engaged in various activities including curriculum development work in English and mathematics as well as crafts work with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Rural Education Centre.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RiVER Director was invited by Deputy Director External Affairs, India to participate in 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2017' held in Bengaluru.</li> </ul>
February 2017	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A team from the Wurzburg University, Germany, visited REC and engaged in various activities including curriculum development work in English and mathematics as well as crafts work with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Rural Education Centre</li> <li>Teachers from Thamballapalle constituency attended the training program on 'Understanding MGML'</li> <li>Project Officers and Academic Monitoring Officers visited RIVER satellite schools.</li> </ul>

March 2017	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core teams from APSCERT, Vijayawada, attended the training program on ‘RiVERTIDE Training, development and support induction’ in 2 batches</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RiVER directors visited United States on behalf of Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship to attend Leadership for System Change: Delivering Social Impact at Scale program.</li> </ul>
April 2017	In-house training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Master coach teams from Andhra Pradesh attended the training program on ‘RiVERTIDE Training, development and support induction’ in 2 batches</li> <li>Video shoot was taken place in REC. These videos will be used in Tablet to be used in the school in near future.</li> </ul>
	Outstation training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RiVER directors visited the South Africa to participate in ‘The Solutions Summit 2017: Scaling What Works and World Economic Forum on Africa 2017’ at Durban, South Africa</li> </ul>

**Rishi Valley Rural Education Center**

**Rishi Valley Education Centre**

**Krishnamurti Foundation India**

**Rishi Valley-517352**

**Madanapalle, Chittoor Dist., Andhra Pradesh, INDIA**

**Phone: +91-8571-280622/280582/280044**

**Mobile: +91-949354 7822/949354 7322/78936 44497/78936 44717**

**E-mail: [office@rishivalley.org](mailto:office@rishivalley.org)**