

## **Manigal Kottur – Project proposal for 2017-2018**

The gypsy colony located in Kottur has about 150 families living in hutments/ semi pucca houses. Though the primary and middle and High school of the Chennai corporation remained very close to the gypsy colony, for several years the gypsy children remained outside the mainstream education system. Project Manigal has gained some experience and understanding in dealing with the complex issues that come in the way of gypsy children's education and has successfully educated some children. Project Manigal, Kottur, was started in the year 2015 to respond to the special needs of the children of this Narikuravar community.

In 2015, a survey of the 150 Narikuravar families in Kottur indicated that many children in this community go along with their parents for garbage picking work rather than to school. Others loiter in the colony. Several children do get enrolled in the primary school at the beginning of the academic year, but soon discontinue their education. Because of the differences in their life style, upbringing and language, they find the school environment alien and unfamiliar. Compared to the choices and freedom they have in the colony, they find the school regimen uninteresting and eventually refuse to come to school.

Some gypsy children do manage to hang on in school till 5<sup>th</sup>, but remain without attaining the necessary learning levels or even basic literacy. This makes them unfit to pursue learning in the higher classes. Once in middle school they find it difficult to cope. Eventually they too drop out and join the work of garbage picking in the community. Very few manage to stay and complete the school.

Manigal project was started in 2015 with the following objectives.

### **Objectives of the project**

- o to bring the gypsy children into mainstream schooling system and retain them in school.
- o to create interest in learning by giving special attention and having diverse activities
- o to improve their learning levels, gradually integrate them in the school system and help them complete the school cycle.

- o to address their learning needs in an environment that is tolerant and sensitive to their special needs.
- o to serve as a link between school, parents and children.

The initiatives taken by the Manigal project in the past two years is helping in bringing back the drop out gypsy children back to school. The project posts two teachers in the Kotturpuram Corporation School to give additional learning inputs to the gypsy children. The following process are employed in the classroom -

- o Several interesting choices and hands on activities are given to children to feel interested in school.
- o Being valued, feeling safe and secure amidst their peers, they start settling down in school.
- o The project is following a bridge course approach that brushes up basic literacy and math skills to hasten the learning process. Concepts given in the textbooks are introduced along-side gradually.
- o Through the usage of a laptop and internet too they are exposed to a variety of audio visual learning material.
- o There is constant follow up in the colony to track down absentees as well as interaction with parents.

Assessments conducted at regular intervals both by the project and by outside evaluators indicated that the gypsy children have made considerable progress. For the first time four gypsy children two boys and two girls have cleared class 10 board exams this year with inputs by the school and follow up by the project.

The present proposal is for continuation and strengthening of the initiatives undertaken in the last two years to sustain the gypsy children in the mainstream schooling process and help them complete the school cycle.

**Manigal Kottur Budget (2017-2018)  
For 2 schools –Primary and middle and Highschool)**

1. Honorarium		
a. Primary -2 full time teachers	3,06,000	
b. Middle and High school 2 teachers,	2,01,000	
Sub total Honorarium		5,07,000
2. Stationery and other supplies for children (Primary ,middle and High children ) geometry boxes, pencil box, pens, pencils, long note books, drawing books, Baskets,water bottle, napkins )		10,000
3. TLM- Teaching aids/charts/ worksheets/library books (primary, middle, high school and colony)		27,500
Stationery/art supplies	- 10,000	
Library books/ teaching aids	- 10,000	
Work sheets and other learning material	- 7,500	
4. Uniform/inner clothes, slippers, fees/ bags/ books, guides etc		35,000
5. Mats/ fan/ Almirah for middle school		15,000
6. Gifts/prizes/ Snacks for children for one year		10,000
7. Tution (primary/ higher classes )		10,000
8. Two Data cards etc ( Primary and high school)		12,000
9. Art/craft classes to school 3500 x10		35,000
10.Laptop for middle school		30,000
11.Administration (conveyance etc)		15,000
12. Misc		15,000
Total		7,21,500