

SAHANIVASA
Brief Annual Report October 2020 – March 2021
On “Rural Poor Children’s Access to Education” supported by ASHA for
Education

SAHANIVASA has been conducting special classes for rural poor students in Chittoor & G.D. Nellore mandals continuously year by year with the support of ASHA for education. Due to the impact of COVID-19, all the schools have been closed down from end of March to September 2020. As the result, rural poor children could not think of schooling and education unlike urban students (9th & 10th classes), undergone online classes. The situation of primary school students is worst because of the village wise self-quarantine are enforced collectively by the villages. The children neither allow to play in the village nor unable to keep them inside the house due to lack of housing space for all in the families. The expanded families (2 to 3 families in a house) have forced to live the same roof of parents when their migrant children come back with families. The overcrowded families in the small houses is new experience of living for the poor families and in most of the cases, run into problems of living together

The parents choose is to take the children along with them when they go to work. This way, the children are dragged into the work. The simple logic they built around the child labour issue is that the children cannot ideal either in the home or at work. The parents borrowed lot of money when it was lockdown from end of March to September. In order to pay back the loans with high rate of interest, they have engaged the children for work. While this is the genuine reason we cannot appreciate the decision of engaging the children in work. It is in this context, SAHANIVASA again approached ASHA for support for six months. Thanks to the fast decision of ASHA and it has helped to provide the classes for six months starting from 2nd October, on the eve of Gandhiji birth day.

Media propaganda on COVID-19 has both positive & negative impact in the lives of rural poor:

The positive aspect is that the social media has today reach out every where cutting across the boundaries. Mobile usage become mere necessity even among the rural communities. So the media played vital rule in update the situation of COVID -19 in local and also wider level. Timely information helped them to take decisions about their respective villages to avoid

intrude of outsiders to their village. Village wise self managed lockdown become part of the life.

The negative elements are that the fear of COVID led to people to impose on themselves village wise quarantine by closed down approached roads of the village. They have cut down road side big trees and put across the roads and also dug trenches to stop the entry of others. As the result, those who go out of village for any emergency work were not allowed back. They have also strictly practiced to the patients gone for hospitals. When the migrants of the villages come back after walking hundreds of Kms were also not bared from difficulty. The children in the villages had to go for work along with parents – led to no time to learn/ follow up the education.

SAHANIVASA intervention:

To challenge the situation, SAHANIVASA conducted monthly virtual meetings (Zoom) with teachers and village level union leaders. The orientation helped them to understand the situation of the children without school.

Primary school education:

The teachers have collectively intervened to convince the parents to allow the primary school children to attend classes maintaining physical distance. The respective village level teachers conducted classes for primary school children in the forenoon from 10 AM to 12 PM, afternoon students are gathered for books reading in library (SAHANIVASA supported) & games and sports. All the planned 15 villages conducted classes until 3rd week of March 21, the day lockdown announced due to increase of cases as second wave. Altogether, 512 primary school students attended the classes.

The high school education (516 students)

The high school students from 10 schools are spread over 23 panchayats. All the 30 teachers being unemployed (they are regular teachers in private schools and our work is part time morning & evening before and after school hours) during the COVID time committed to spare time to conduct the classes for 10th class students visiting the villages in rotation by our teachers. Although government has talked about online classes for 10th class students, not all rural poor children has capacity to buy smart phone to undergone such online classes.

Therefore, they have regularly attended the classes conducted by the teachers in their respective villages. Therefore, the students of SAHANIVASA supported villages are able to overcome the problem of low performances as they had opportunity to attend the face to face meeting. Neither the teachers nor the students are exposed to COVID-19 as they maintain social distance between the students and teachers. The teachers visited the students as a group in a central village for every school closer to their residence. This year, we could be able to conduct classes for all the 516 students of 10th class.

Although government mentioned the dates of public exams for 10th students it has postponed for three times due to the intensity of 2nd wave. Finally, government of AP, declared all the 10th class students are promoted.

The 8th and 9th class students have participated two days in a week in the same place where the 10th class students had classes. That way, they were given home work to study in the home. Because there is no public exam for 8th & 9th, both the students and parents take it easily. Therefore, the attendance of students is only 680 out of total 1146 students.

The six months (October to March) face to face teachings and remaining period – after March during the COVID lockdown, the students have been in telephonic conversation with teachers for doubt and clarifications.

Conclusion:

The education of rural students (particularly poor family backgrounds) during the COVID-19 period (April 2020 onwards) is not at all good for the reason that they had to go for work along with parents to earn for the family basic needs and also work in support of the family agriculture. Since they could not afford to go for smart phones to attend the online classes conducted for 10th class students, they are out of studies. It is in that context, SAHANIVASA interventions helped them to come out of the fear of lagging behind in studies. As they are engaged to attend the classes, they had to drop out of the work that they engage in support of the family debts (borrowed with high rate of interest exclusively for want of basic needs during lockdown). This way the school education run by SAHANIVASA with the support

extended by ASHA is able to stop the child labour, protect the children from virus and also improved their education.

The government of Andhra Pradesh is declared that the schools will reopen on 16th August the next day of independence celebration. Let us hope for better and prevent the 3rd wave.

We thank ASHA for its support for the teacher's honorarium (Rs.1700/- for high schools and Rs.800/- per month for primary schools) helped the teachers in financial crisis (though it is small amount) as they did not have full time job to earn. Because of their free time they could able to take extra efforts to spent full day with the students without expecting more remunerations. So we thank them while thanking ASHA for its timely support.

SAHANIVASA

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE FUNDS OF SCHOOL EDUCATION PROJECT SUPPORTED BY ASHA FOR EDUCATION, USA			
S.No	Activity	Receipts	Expenditure
	Receipts		
	Grant received from ASHA 11-11-2020	500000	
1	High school teacher's salaries		306000
2	Primary school teacher's salaries		72000
3	Coordinator salary		60000
4	Coordinator travel		13650
5	Teachers monthly one day meetings		41200
6	Stationary and other Admin expenditures		7150
	Closing balance		0
	Total Rs.	500000	500000

Submitted by
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06-08-2021