

## **Aralu-PPC Site Visit Report (2013)**

Project Name: Aralu-Pre Primarycare Center (PPC)

Location: Yedlapur, Bidar District, Karnataka

Date: November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

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### **Executive summary**

Aralu-PPC is a NGO initiated primary care center in Yedlapur, where there is currently no Anganwadi as the village is too remote. The enrolled kids are mostly children of day labourers who are predominantly Dalits. There are currently about 30 kids in ages ranging from 1 – 5. The children looked happy and enthusiastic to be at the center. They come to the center at 9.30 AM and go back home at 1.30 PM and get a mid day meal. There is a teacher and a helper. They learn alphabet in Kannada and English and counting numbers. Some of the observed issues are a) a small room with about 30 kids crammed in with insufficient light and ventilation. There is a small verandah for overflow. The kids could use a few educational toys and materials that are not in a good condition.

### **Site visit report details**

Aralu is a NGO in Bidar that was started in 1993 by K.T. Meril, who is also the current local project director. The organization focuses on providing education to disadvantaged children as well as building awareness of children's rights to the inhabitants in the village. The children mainly come from the Dalit community where the parents typically work as farm labourers at minimum wage and children's education is typically not a priority. The village also does not have a government sponsored Anganwadi. Therefore Aralu-PPC fulfills a critical need in the village.

I met with Mr. K.T. Meril and Sunita who are the primary project managers. PPC is a one room school (~ 6 ft x 15 ft) housing upto 30 kids in ages ranging from 1 to 4. There is a small verandah to spread out and a yard next to the school to play. The kids looked happy and demonstrated knowledge of basic skills such as alphabets in Kannada and English as well as counting. I met Rathamma the teacher and Anjamma the helper. Typically the kids are broken up in to groups by age for teaching and the older kids also teach the younger kids. Slate and chalk, posters with picture and alphabet are the learning tools. Lunch is prepared by the helper Anjamma at her house and provided to the kids between 12 and 1 PM. The children generally come to the center at 9.00 AM, study, play, get a meal and go home in the afternoon at about 1.30 PM. A doctor from Bidar visits the centre every 3 months for health check and provides vaccinations as necessary.

100% of the kids in the center eventually go to the secondary school in the same village (Grades 1 to 8). The risk of the kids getting pulled out to work in the farm is constant. To mitigate the NGOs meet with the parents on a monthly basis to reinforce the importance of education and also inform them of their rights per the RTE act. Thus far school attendance and continuation to secondary school is encouraging.

## **Observations**

- This is a one room school with no windows and one light. The room was dark during the visit because power is available for only 4 h per day in the village. One can envision the temperatures during the summer months.
- The center is in critical need of respectable play and study materials for the children.
- Their primary source of information is posters with letters, picture words etc. The posters are decent.

## **Recommendations**

- Recommend renting an adjacent room to increase space.
- Purchase solar chargeable lamps that can be used in the event of power loss. Insufficient windows make the room dark even on sunny days.
- Better primary level reading materials and toys for the children. Asha Chicago is placing an order for Tulika books that are in Kannada and English.



Aralu-Pre Primary Care Center, Yedlapur



PPC Children



PPC Children



Education Posters



Play area for children