Rural Development Trust, Thiruporur

SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR TELUGU MIGRANT CHILDREN

Update from April 2013 to June 2013

1. Introduction:

Rural Development Trust with the support of ASHA for Education in its unique intervention with migrant children journeys with different activities which would enable and enhance the migrant children throughout the year. Working with migrant communities especially with the children gives satisfied inner feelings and derives happiness among the team to work with dedication. The growth of the children, regular attendance and the performance of cultural programs in the schools are the real witnesses and the evidences for the activities that are facilitated by the organization. Migrant children admit that they benefit a lot to excel in their education through special schools run by RDT. This report brings details of the summer vacation, computer course, assisting the government department to collect the data of the migrant children in Thiruporur block, reopening of the Schools, distribution of educational materials and appointment of teachers are the current events in this new academic year 2013 – 2014.

2. Distribution of note books for the summer camp:

As the Academic year 2012-2013 came to an end, children were motivated to enter into holiday mood. It was felt that all the children who would like to attend summer camp could be given new note books, pen, pencil, Eraser, Sketch pens, crayons and slate as a motivating factor. All these required materials were distributed to them well in advance. Totally 114 children came forward to receive them in lieu of attending the camp jubilantly. These materials were distributed to them on 4th April 2013. Mr.T.Elumali, Mrs.Celine, Mr.Rajendran, SSA supervisor, Mrs.Lakshmi, BRTE, Mr.Kannan, BRTE, Teachers of RDT and volunteers from Data Telesis, an IT company were there to grace the function. Children were encouraged to attend the camp enthusiastically. Children were advised to keep all these materials safe for the effectiveness and usages for the summer camp. Children promised that they would continuously come to the school and learn something through the summer camp apart from their regular curriculum.

3. Summer camp for the migrant children:

RDT conducts summer camp for the migrant children during summer vacation. This is being offered to these children since many of the children do not go anywhere since their parents work in the construction sites. RDT initiated this special program from 2005 onwards in order to utilize the time of the children during summer vacation. Children who are in the local areas visit their relatives in other districts. Some get engaged in picnic and tour to far off places outside of the state. Most of the children watch Television and play video games and remain idle. Some children even pay amount and attend music class, dance class and drawing classes and spend their time usefully.
Migrant children cannot afford to pay amount and take up any course outside during summer vacation. They may remain idle if no activity is being conducted to utilize their resources. This summer camp came into effect with due consultation with their parents. RDT adapts different kinds of strategies to attract the children during the summer camp every year. This year summer camp opened the door on 2nd May 2013 in all the centers run by RDT. Teachers were given orientation before handling the camp. Children were given holiday on Sundays and Saturdays of the week. All the other days children were asked to come at 9.00 A.M and they spent their valuable time in the venue till 3.00 P.M.

**Different exposures made in the camp:**

RDT conducts summer camp energetically with varieties of activities. So that children engaged in the camp activities may not drop the course in between. This year the main focus was drawn through group discussion, learning safety rules, reading dailies, pronunciation, handicrafts, calligraphy and drawing. The new mechanism adapted in the camp was to inculcate both hard and soft skills among migrant children. For that children were divided into small groups and a name was given to them to develop their team spirit. A leader was selected to guide the groups. This paved the way for developing leadership skills among the children. Through the group discussion held during the camp made the children develop inter personal skills among them.

Children were made to recite poems and space was given for solo singing. Narrating stories made them enthusiastic and zealous in taking part actively in the camp. C, D.player was used for learning songs. Children were taught to make greeting cards from waste materials and photo framing also became noticeable to develop their aesthetic sense. The photo framing made by the children during the camp have been displayed in every school. This became energy pill for the children to continue their search in learning new things and designing pictures.

On the final day closing ceremony was conducted in every school. Competitions were held before hand and wards were given prizes during the celebration. The board members of RDT participated in the program and gave felicitations. It was a great help at this time to conduct this camp with the kind support of the volunteers from Cognizant. Mr. Vino, Mr. Arvind, Miss. Nirmala, Miss. Preethi, Miss. Athira, Miss. RoseMary. Miss. Anusha, Mr. Gokul, Mr. Anand, MR. Ramesh, Mr. Pradeep, Mr. Rohan and Mr. Hari were the resource persons at this time for leading the summer camp with innovative activities. Their contribution was valuable and really professional. It is obvious that children could grasp a lot to develop their soft skills and hard skills from the resource persons too.

It is memorable to get the gist of safety rules from the migrant children is reminiscence of the summer camp. Though they learn all these skills in their class rooms, this camp provided a unique opportunity to apprehend the concepts differently to utilize them in their future life..

**4. Computer Training:**

Handling Computer was very far away for the migrant children till the previous year. This was introduced in December 2012 on a test run and this has been extended in different levels as per the suggestions made by the children after learning a little bit on the lap top. Computer course, which started in March 2013, still goes on with daily lessons by the tutors. There were only three
Computers and the organization could mobilize 7 computers from the volunteers. Now there are 10 computers which could be in use for the children who learn computer. Children were taught following lessons theoretically and practically by the professional tutors following a systematic syllabus.

**Demo in handling computer, Usage of its various parts, Working in MS Excel, Basics of operating computer, Creating power point presentation and Math formulae calculations in Excel were well covered by the professional tutors.**

**Feed back from the Tutors:**

1. Children are very enthusiastic in learning the computer
2. Children could be given some awareness camps regarding the course
3. Providing training materials will make them attend the course regularly
4. Children could be divided into groups based on their regular attendance.
5. Children could be encouraged to learn further courses too

**Evaluation of the computer course:**

It was felt that children need to be exposed to some kind of evaluation to know what they had learnt from the past months. The tutors proposed to conduct an examination for the children. 18 children appeared for the examination. This was conducted on 6th June 2013. All who appeared got through the examination and gave rays of hope to continue the course in coming days. The tutors were indeed happy to know the content that the children typed on the computer which were taught through the course. (For details, tutors’ report is furnished)

**Case study of the children who have learnt computer course in RDT:**

**Case study: 1**

I am Sandhya, 11 years old. I am from Koramu, Srikakulam District from Andhrapradesh. I have completed three years in Tamil Nadu along with my family members. We are living in a rented house in Tamil Nadu. Now I am studying class V in Egattur School. My parents are going for construction works in Hiranandani. I was studying in a matriculation School in Andhra before coming to Tamil Nadu. My sister is in class VI in the same school. This special school provides all the education materials at free of cost. My father advises me to attend the school regularly.

I informed my father of the computer course which was offered by RDT in the month of December 2012. He did not make any comments at that time. I too wonder why he did not say anything. After some days I told him that I type English alphabets on the laptop. He was astonished to know that I operate computer. He has promised that he would give education even after SSLC. My father told that he would admit me in a hostel in Andhra Pradesh to pursue my higher study. I have accepted it. He also proudly told that I should not suffer like them under the scorching heat for the low wages. Mrs.Sumathy, the Head of nearby government school told that I draw picture very well. Her appreciation makes me get more interesting in my study. I am very grateful to RDT for providing education to us.
Case study 2: 

I am Nagalakshmi, 9 years old. I am studying Class IV in Egattur School. My father drops me to the school. I have a sister and she is in second standard. We are living in the temporary shelter at CES construction site. My father is a mason and my mother is doing house keeping works.

I was given an opportunity to learn computer through the special school. I could draw shapes on the computer. Mr. Ramesh who was the tutor appreciated me as he saw my drawing. I informed of this to my mother. My mother was extremely happy to listen to it. She told that she had no chance to attend school in her childhood age. God has given an opportunity even in the midst of trials and tribulations. The special school is a real gift that we cannot deny the fact. My mother told my father to give good education to me. He has also told his owner of this. He has also encouraged me to study well. I am happy and contented here to get education and acquire knowledge. I will be always grateful to all who provide this opportunity to me.

5. Transfer certificate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Father’s Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Native Address</th>
<th>Centre Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>B.Govind Ramachandra</td>
<td>12 M VIII PASS</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Kasi Nagar Gajapathy Dt Orissa</td>
<td>RDT, School Egattur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>B.Nirosha Krishna moorthy</td>
<td>14 F &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Neelapuram Srikakulam Dt A.P</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>L.Chanti Ramu</td>
<td>13 M &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Vasudevapatham Srikakulam Dt A.P</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>K.Suresh Krishna</td>
<td>14 M &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>Keesara Srikakulam Dt A.P</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Poojitha Surya Narayana</td>
<td>9 F IV &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Mithravalasa (V) Vijyanagaram Dt A.P</td>
<td>RDT, School Chennai pattinam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Manikanta &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>12 M V &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Shireesha Sundhar rao</td>
<td>12 F V &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Gumada (V) Vijilayanagaram Dt A.P</td>
<td>RDT, School Egattur</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above table shows that the list of the children who were given transfer certificates this year. Children who had completed VII standard have been given transfer certificate to pursue their
education further. All these children received their certificates on 10th June from their respective schools. All the children promised that they would continue their education in their native places and contact the organization for further details of their whereabouts.

6. Parents teachers meeting:

Parents teachers meeting was conducted in May and June 2013. All the parents were informed of summer camp and the importance of camp was shared with them. The organization requested the parents to send their children for the camp and advised not to make them while away their time being in their sheds. Some parents thanked the organization for enlightening their children through education. The meeting which was held in June was also brought changes in the minds of the parents. All of them were told that the school would reopen on 10th June 2013. Parents were asked to send their children as usual. They were also asked to suggest any step for further improvement. They thanked the organization and ASHA for being helpful to their children.

7. RDT Supporting the Data collection team of government department:

The seminar which was conducted on 28th January 2013 brought many changes in the life of migrant communities. Government servants used to collect the data of the migrant children without visiting them on the spot. They used to give a report that less number of children was found and they would not start any special school. The seminar has given a positive impact. The district collected passed an order to include RDT team to collect the data of the migrant children in Thiruporur block. It is also note worthy to see that RDT team is given an invitation to participate in the meetings which would take place in the collect orate for the welfare of migrant children. RDT team members accompanied the team and assisted them to collect data making spot visits. The data was collected genuinely and the hard copy of it is available in the office. This indicates the success of our intervention since 2005 onwards. The organization still takes measures for the welfare of migrant communities through press release too.

8. Press release:

RDT conducted a Seminar on 28th of January 2013 for the welfare of migrant communities in Tamil Nadu. Follow up actions were moved by the respective departments in the government. The actions are still at the back without any speedy actions. It was determined to release the news in one of the dailies for the follow up activity. The matter was published in Deccan chronicle dated on 12th June 2013. This was published on the page number 2 on the topic of Rehab plan for child migrants still on paper. Action plan for the migrant children was planned three years before and still they are not materialized in the state. The draft action plan was focused on registration of migrant families in the labor department. If they are registered, they can avail all the schemes from the government. Mr. T.K. Elumalai, the managing trustee of RDT and Mrs. Geetha, Advisor to the unorganized workers federation were interviewed.
Their words have been brought out as they pronounced. This is one of the ways to make the government heed to their demands which would help the migrant communities in Tamil Nadu

9. Activities in the special school for migrant Children:

9.1. Cleaning of the school:

Cleaning the School is one of the main events in every academic year. This indicates the freshness in the minds of the migrant children and motivates to step another milestone in their life journey. This is done by the laborers in a big way. They remove the cobwebs and clean the surroundings of schools. All the toilets were white washed and cleaned properly. This creates a new atmosphere to the migrant children to start the new academic year with new spirit. All the black boards were painted again. Repairing work has been done in the piped line water. Arrangement is being made to supply canned water wherever piped line water is inaccessible. The whole school campuses as well as class rooms were clean and the migrant children could feel afresh to continue their education.

9.2. Reopening of migrant schools:

The new academic year for the migrant children commenced on 10th June 2013 as per the government order issued by the state government of Tamilnadu. Parents brought their wards for new admission. Names of the children were enrolled for the new academic year. Teachers could feel that children in the special school have rays of hope in pursuing the next chapter in their life journey. Children were asked to give a brief note of their summer vacation in view of putting them on the track. Their narrations made the children happy and they got the spirit to learn new things from the school.

There are 15 schools for Telugu migrant children in the current academic year with 550 children.

9.3. Educational Activities:

RDT runs special schools for migrant children and introduce various systems to deliver the services qualitatively. All the children were given pen, pencil, eraser, sharpener, note books, slate, sketch pens and table book. All these materials were given to continue their education in a smooth way. Food in the after noon is served in a hygienic manner. Bread is given to the schools which have less number of children. All the other schools provide good food for the children. Local support is mobilized in Chennai Pattinam and Hiranandani. The organization has planned to establish a lab exclusively for maintaining all the kits which would be made available for all the children. It would be materialized after some time. It is also noteworthy to say that three parents drop their children from far off places. This indicates the importance of school even though their parents work any where. All the activities in the school are monitored by the RDT team, government officials, SSA team, and professors. The support f the volunteers is a source of strength and the organization could achieve its targets with the support of them.
Case study of a child from Egattur:

I am Ganesh from Gajapathy district from Orissa. I am 12 years old and in class VI. We are living in a rented house in Egattur. I was studying 4th standard in my native village and am able to continue my study without any interruption. I used to walk a bit as I was going to school in Orissa. I could easily attend school within a short distance. I am getting good food, uniform, and all the study materials. I used to get free books only in my native place. I used to learn only the subjects in Orissa. Here I am exposed to different activities that would enhance my personality. We were living hands to mouth in Orissa. I was not learning English in Orissa. Here I am able to write and read. I too learn all the subjects in my mother tongue which makes me understand all the subjects easily. I will study even after intermediate. I will hold degree in future. I received this eagerness and thirst for learning from RDT school. I am grateful to RDT.

10. Teachers in the RDT schools:

RDT recruits qualified teachers to handle classes in all the schools. Teachers who have completed their DTEd, BEd are inducted in the organization to deliver services for the children. All these teachers are eligible to handle classes from Class I to Class VIII. Teachers who have done their higher secondary course would take care of the day care center. Teachers are invited to attend weekly meetings and trainings organized by government and non government sectors. Teachers are given personality training, soft skill training in view of guiding the children effectively. The organization has formulated guidelines for the teachers which comprises of rules and regulations which would help the stakeholders. The lists of the teachers are drawn as below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Teachers Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Native Place</th>
<th>Place of the School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>M.Sangeethavani</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>B.A</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Egattur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M.Angaleeswari</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Ammapettai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>P.Purusotham</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>B.A.B.Ed</td>
<td>Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Egattur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A.Saravana</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Bsc</td>
<td>Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Puthupakkam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>S.Rajeswari</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Kalahasti,Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Hiranandani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>V.Sabitadas</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>Kelambakkam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Munirathnam</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>B.A.B.Ed</td>
<td>Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Akkarai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>T.Nagendrababu</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>D.T.Ed</td>
<td>Gummidipoondi</td>
<td>Chemmencherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>P.Sujatha</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>D.T.Ed</td>
<td>Gummidipoondi</td>
<td>kalavakkam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>M.Vasanthakumari</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>Tamilnad</td>
<td>Egattur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Visit made by Research Scholar:

RDT becomes a center for learning for the past few years. Field work by the social work trainees from Hindustan, Loyola and Madras Christian College come and learn the program activities of the organization. Research scholars who pursue M.Phil and PhD come for the data collection with the support of the organization. Recently Prof.Mrs.Kalpakam from Govind Ballabh Pant Social science Institute from Jhusi, Allahabad came to RDT on 12th June 2013. She went to Ammapettai School and visited the construction site. She interviewed children as well as laborers. She appreciated the school activities and told that she would release a book on migrant women and children. This book is being written in view of supporting the students who take up labor studies. She also promised that she would send a book as it is being published.

12. A way towards progress:

RDT has been on the track to empower the migrant children through education, health and welfare benefits. The current academic year is going to be another milestone in delivering goods to the migrant communities. RDT meets all the challenges related to migrant laborers and takes minute steps to mitigate the issues which are in the current scenario. The best practices of the organization will be rejuvenated and all the stake holders of the organization are in one mind to achieve the goals which have been set for the welfare of the migrant communities in Tamil Nadu.
Juvenile aid cops on toes, rescue 450 kids

Call to boycott products involving child labourers

WHEN WILL THIS END?

JACKSON JOSE | DC

Three children are rescued every day in the city by the juvenile aid centre of the city police. About 700 children, who are rescued, are being cared for in various places like the VRI, Weligama, and other juvenile aid centres.

The children are rescued in different ways. Some are rescued by the police, while others are rescued by the juvenile aid centres. The children are then taken to the VRI, where they are given proper care and education.

On Monday, two children aged 12 and 15 were rescued by the JAP from a bus station in the city. The children were rescued by the police and taken to the VRI, where they are being given proper care.

The VRI has a mission to provide a home for children who have been rescued. The children are given proper education and are taken care of by the VRI.

LIVING ON MARGINS OF SOCIETY

EXPLOITED TO THE CORE

While police are on the lookout for psychoactive substance users, one in five children are found to be working in child labour. Many of these children are in the care of relatives and are put to work to earn a living.

A recent study by the Child Welfare Department shows that about 90% of children working in child labour are living in poverty. The study also shows that many children are forced to work due to poverty and lack of proper education.

A working-class family in the city is struggling to make ends meet. The parents, who are daily wage labourers, are unable to provide proper education to their children. The children are forced to work to earn a living.

The children are also forced to work due to lack of proper education and lack of proper facilities. The children are forced to work in factories, on the streets, and in other places to earn a living.

The children are also forced to work due to lack of proper education and lack of proper facilities. The children are forced to work in factories, on the streets, and in other places to earn a living.

A working-class family in the city is struggling to make ends meet. The parents, who are daily wage labourers, are unable to provide proper education to their children. The children are forced to work to earn a living.

The children are also forced to work due to poverty and lack of proper education. The study by the Child Welfare Department shows that about 90% of children working in child labour are living in poverty. The study also shows that many children are forced to work due to poverty and lack of proper education.