

**BALAMITRA SCHOOLS AND RESOURCE CENTRE
REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY,2008**

1) Balamitra Model School

The class of II and III, with student strength of 18 and class of IV with 8 Students had their syllabus completed as per the prepared lesson plan, for the month of February 2008.

Syllabus for class II

Maths

Main subject for the month was Maths, which was taken up from 4th to 23rd.

Counting from 1 to 400, exercises on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, introduction of counting up to 500, exercises with numbers up to 500, forward and backward repetition of multiplication tables of 2,3 and 4. Introduced multiplication table of 5

Science (Zoology)

This subject is taken up from 25th to end of the month. Identification and recapitulation of animals, their environment, habits and habitat about which they have already learnt, introduction on animals like snakes, lizards, water snakes, fish etc and their habitats were given focus this month.

Q) What do fish eat? (Algae)...where do they (algae) live? (In the sea)

Syllabus for class III

Farming

For class III children this month's main focus was on farming. This was taken up from 4th to 24th. They recapitulated the previous lessons on farming and traditional occupations. Julia and Varalakshmi took the children on a field trip to Jalaripetta, the fisherman's village to get them acquainted with the fishermen and the occupation. Children, enthusiastically interacted with the fishermen, gained an insight into the traditional ways of fishing and returned home more knowledgeable on the subject

House Building

The next segment from 25th started with house building activities. Children learnt to make bricks out of mud. This activity would continue till 16th March

Maths

Geeta took up lessons on measurements twice a week. The children recapitulated the previous lessons and exercises on the same were done.

Syllabus for Class IV

The children of Class IV are getting ready to join the mainstream education in the coming academic session. Hence the syllabus followed is based on class IV books prescribed for govt schools. But Waldorf system is adhered to in the teaching process.

Maths

Word problems on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division based on Measurements up to a denomination of lakhs were dealt upon.

Science

This month's lessons were on water and air. The various aspects dealing with water were discussed. The importance of pure drinking water, methods of water purification and causes and prevention of water pollution were clarified. The lesson on Air dealt with the importance of air, the differences between fresh and polluted air, air pressure, and ventilators.

Social studies

Indian heritage and culture were the main topics taught this month. Harappan culture, Veda culture and Madhyayuga culture were explained to the children.

Telugu

A lesson on teachers' day was taught as per the syllabus for the month. Conjunction and its usage were explained. The children were given a lesson on diary writing.

English

Reading skills, writing practice, proper formation of sentences and introduction of new vocabulary were done by Julia.

Spoken English and writing were given more focus. Fabian was in charge of English for class II. Music lessons for all classes and form drawing for class II and III were also taken up by Fabian. Claywork, painting, handwork, art, drama and English language were activities concentrated by the German volunteers. Every Saturday, the tribal languages Kuyi, Konda and Oriya languages were taught by teachers proficient in those languages. The staff meeting to review the week's activities, progress and the next week's lesson plan was conducted every Friday.

2) Resource Centre

The resource center became richer by more than 30 books with the addition of storybooks for children, reference books for teachers and general knowledge books. Julia was responsible for the purchase of these books. Around eight hundred slates and other stationery items were bought for the 40 field schools and libraries.

Fabian and Peter collected about 30 tribal songs and tribal stories for the resource centre from Polabandha in Adivasimitra field area with the help of Rajulamma.

Mr. Subramanyam Naidu and Mr. Appala Naidu of the GMR Varalakshmi Foundation paid a visit to our resource centre and some of our field schools in Odiyavalasa, Devuduvalasa, Karakavalasa and Anjoda to have an idea about the activities of the schools. They were impressed by the Waldorf method of teaching in our schools, the classroom atmosphere and the teaching aids, which was an inspiration for their education programmes they are conducting in their respective field areas.

3) The village community schools and trainings

We visited 24 out of 40 schools, gave suggestions, conducted orientation classes for teachers and had parents' meeting during this month. A CBO level teachers' meeting is conducted every month to review and decide on further action plan for improvement. Sitaramaraju conducted a teachers' meet with 13 field teachers at Adivasimitra on the 11th of this month. Radha took up the responsibility of conducting teachers' meeting at Killoguda in Sanjeevani area for 11 teachers.

From December 2007, 22 out of 40 schools are availing the midday meal scheme run by the government. Vidhya committee, a local self-help group takes care of the cooking and serving of meals to the school inmates. The rest of the schools are yet to get the benefit of the midday meal scheme.

4) Field School Visits

Our 40 schools are regularly monitored by our team of field staff, Radha, Varalakshmi and Sitaramaraju and CBO coordinators Rekha, Seethamma, Sanamma and Yerrayamma.

Midday meal scheme is on in these schools except at Boddaputtu. The following changes were noticed after our teachers' training. Walls and storeroom construction is in progress at T.Duggam, a new structure is under construction at Boddaputtu. Classroom aids were on display at Nimmalgondhi and Ambavada schools.

The attendance was low as it was Sankranthi.

Field schools visit report Adivasimitra, kamavapeta area ,Sitaramaraju

S.I.N o	Village	Mand al	Teac her	Children			Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure , classroom Aids & comments	
				M	F	T					
1	T.Duggam			4	1	18	9	4,5-2-08	No	Yes	Good school building, but lacks a store; garden or season table,benches, blackboard and trunk boxes are kept in the village where the teacher stays. She is yet to shift to this place. Students cannot read or write well. It is advisable to replace the present teacher with a new one. Villagers have shown their intent to construct walls and a room.
2	Abhavada			13	7	20	10	5-2-08	No	Yes	The school location is good but small. Attendance was about two-thirds; the children were neat and appeared sharp. Classroom aids were displayed. They had been taught good songs. The teacher was not staying in this area and was found to be very irregular. The school lacked a store, garden and even a fence. Here too blackboard, trunk and benches were kept in the village. The blackboard requires a coat of paint. Records were not up-to-date. This school fares better than the earlier mentioned one.
3	Boddaputtu			11	7	18	12	5-2-08	No	No	This is a new school and has a new teacher. The school building was completed only two days before and needs an extension of about two metres. The villagers are very cooperative and have shown their willingness to complete the construction work.
4	Nimmalago dhni			5	1	19	11	5-2-08	No	Yes	The school is run from a private house since there's no school building. The teacher is quite experienced but staying in another village. The children except for Nagesh and Pavani who are in class2 are not able to read or write well. Charts and aids were displayed just before the inspection team arrived.

Field schools visit report Adivasimitra, Poolanada area, Sitaramaraju

Sl. No	Village	Man dal	Teach er	Children	Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure, classroom Aids & comments
		M	F	T	P			
1	Buradapadu			10 8	18 7	18-2-08	No	Has a proper and spacious school building with a storeroom. Flooring is done. The school is located between Toorumamidi and Burapadu. 13 students come from Toorumamidi. The villagers are very keen on their children's education but the teacher doesn't show any interest in teaching. Children are unable to even recite the prayer.
2	Bodichattu			7 8	15 5	18-2-08	No	This school is in a good location and it is spacious and has a cupboard. Children are neat and sharp; there are three students in class III. Classroom aids are displayed. Songs taught are very good. Teacher stays in the school premises. Our school is gathering point for the villagers. The school has a committed teacher. The villagers are very supportive. This school is simply superb. Introduction by the children was very impressive.
3	Cheedimetta					19-2-08	No	Balamitra school in this area had closed down due to dropouts. Today our team had a meeting with the villagers and they assured that they would repair the school structure within 15 days. More than 18 students are there from this area.
4	Junjuruvada			10 1 2	22 8 2	19-2-08	No	This school also has a good structure with storeroom with door. 8 children were present today due to shanty day. All of our teaching aids were displayed on the walls. Children are very sharp. A Dollhouse is seen only in this school, which is pretty good. Flooring required.
5	Poduguputta			9 5	14 9	19-2-08	No	The school structure is good but there is no storeroom. A storeroom is essential. They had displayed teaching aids. We conducted a parents' meeting. Children are very sharp.

Field schools visit report RKSS area, Varalakshmi

Sl.N o	Village	Mandal	Teacher	Children	Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure , classroom Aids & comments
1	Asanagiri			9 M 4 F	1 23 3	1 5-2-08	Yes	School is running in the teacher's house. She didn't attend our teachers' training. Her husband is the substitute schoolteacher. They both teach together. Children are studying well.
2	K.Dodugula	Natavararam	Padmavathi	11 1 0	21	5-2-08	Yes	This school also functions from the teacher's house. Teacher was absent that day. Both the substitute schoolteacher and our teacher are teaching in the same school.
3	Torada	Natavararam	T.Chimnathli	10 5 15	15	6-2-08	Yes	This teacher here is a substitute schoolteacher. Alternative school is running in our school hut.
4	B.M.Lodhi	Natavararam	V.Chimnabai	8 1 0	18 0	1 6-2-08	No	This school structure is very good. It requires a storeroom with doors. There are no walls or storeroom, neither a garden. Students are good in singing. It requires material- beanbags, balls, and season table.
5	Siripuram	Natavararam	S.Paprao	8 1 0	18 4	1 6-2-08	Yes	This school has a new teacher. He attended only the last training program. There is no school structure. No equipments. Teacher does not follow Waldorf system.
6	M.M.Lodhi	Natavararam	J.Krishnababu	8 1 1	19 1	1 6-2-08	No	Teacher's wife was substituting for the regular teacher. Children are good. It requires storeroom and walls, beanbags, balls.

RKSS area schools require local CBO support.
A capable supervisor needs to be appointed.

Field schools visit report Adivasismitra, kamayapeta area ,Radha

Sl.N o	Village	Mand al	Teac her	Children	Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure , classroom Aids & comments
1	T.Dugga m			M 4 F 1 T 4 P 18 08	21-1- 08	No	No	Teacher was absent that day. The school structure requires walls, and storeroom with doors. Teacher is irregular.
2	Abhavad a			13 7 20 9	22-1- 08	No	No	The school wall is under construction. There is no display of classroom aids. Students are good. This school is up to class III.
3	Boddapu ttu	Hukumpet a	V.Kanttha	P.Laksmi	11 7 18 1	22-1- 08	No	We met the teacher at her home. This school is under construction. New teacher.
4	Nimmal agodnhi	Hukumpet a	A.Kanthamma	mama	5 1 19 9	22-1- 08	No	There is no school hut. School is functioning from a private house; it is a very disturbing place. Teacher is very experienced, but children not able to read and write.

Field schools visit report Sanjeevini area: Radha

Sl. No	Village	Man dal	Teach her	Children	Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure , classroom Aids & comments
M	F	T	P					
1	Killoguda				11-2-08			Participated in monthly teachers' meeting. Discussed about lesson plans, preparation of teaching material etc.,
2	Amalaguda			18 1 2	12-2-08	No	No	This is a new school. School building is very small. Villagers could extend this structure. Children are good. School records are maintained.
3	Demuduvulasa			16 1 0	12-2-08	No	Yes	Children are very good in Telugu alphabets and words. Songs very good. They are able to do additions, subtractions in maths. Had displayed teaching aids. Flooring needs to be done in this school.
4	Malingavalasa			0	13-2-08	No	Yes	There is no fence. Right now children are learning Telugu alphabets. This school is not good. It requires beanbags and gum bottle.
5	Karakavalasa			12 1 4	13-2-08	No	Yes	The school structure is very good with storeroom and fence. Had displayed teaching aids. Children are good at singing. Class II children are learning words in Telugu, four is progressing in maths. Pencils and drawing books required.
6	Odiyavalasa			8 1 3	14-2-08	No	Yes	Class II children are learning Telugu alphabets and are able to count up to 12 numbers, additions and subtractions. This has a good structure with storeroom. Children are very sharp. Midday meal program is implemented very neatly.

7	Chinakaguvvalasa	6	1	20	9	15-2-08	No	No	This is a new school. There is no proper school structure. We conducted a meeting with the villagers. Villagers are willing to construct a new school building. Villagers showed interest in the upkeep of the school. It requires teaching aids.
8	Ajoda	30	2	16-2-08	No	No			This is our new school. The school strength is good. We prepared charts. All the children are below 7 years. Now they are learning Telugu alphabets.

Field schools visit report (Sanjeevini area Sitaramariju)
7th to 10th of March 08

Sl No	Village	Mandal	Teacher	Children	Visit date	Alt. Sch. Avil.	Mid day meal	School structure , classroom Aids & comments
		M	F	T	P			
1	Anjoda				26 18	7-3-08	No	Yes
								Classroom is very nice with different colors and displays. All the children are below 6 years. Now they are learning Telugu alphabets. Regular attendance is 15 to 18. Recently Ria and Jina stayed in this school for 8 days, and they gave material like wool and crayons for this school. Midday meal is provided by Smt.Jayashree.
2	Chinakagu valasa				6 14 20	15 8-3-08	No	No
								This is a new school. This school is for two villages, chinakaguvalasa and kiridivalasa. There is no proper school structure. All the children are very neat and sharp. The teacher does not mingle with the children and villagers. Children speak only oriya and kodu languages. Only two children can speak Telugu. There is no proper school structure. They have formed a Vidhya committee with 6 members.
3	Devuduvalasa				10 16 26	18 8-3-08	No	Yes
								The school floor needs to be repaired. Mr.Devullu gave two cement bags for repair. Teacher and children are very good. They had presented a good display. They showed good talent in singing and activities.
4	Amalaguda				12 6	18 11	8-3-08	No
								No
								There is no school structure. School is functioning from a private house and it is a very disturbing place. We conducted a meeting in this village to talk about the school construction. They would finish construction of the school before 20 th March. The teacher here follows our training methods. We collected some songs from this village.
5	Kolaput				16 14	30 9-3-08	No	No
								No school building. That day was a holiday due to monthly teachers' meeting at killogoda. I went there to bring this teacher for the meeting.

- Anjoda schoolteacher has to conduct parents' meetings for dropouts and has to pay more attention to activities.
- We conducted parents' meeting in Chinakaguvalasa village for discussing about the school building and dropouts. School building should be constructed before 15th of March. The vidhya committee of this place contains 6 members from both the villages. We celebrated International Women's Day with these two villagers. Collected eight tribal songs.
- Amalaguda villagers are very cooperative. Nearly 30 people attended our meeting.
- 9th of March, one of our volunteers joined me.
- 9th and 10th of March 08 we participated in monthly teachers' meeting at Killoguda, which was conducted by Sanjeevini for their teachers. 11 teachers and five of Sanjeevini staff participated and we discussed the following points in this meeting.
 - Review of last month's work
 - Lesson plans
 - Annual day celebration at Visakhapatnam school.
 - Sanjeevini area schools' annual day celebration on 22nd of April 08
 - Teachers' training at Visakhapatnam in this month
 - Midday meal program (menu chart)
 - Sand pits
 - Unnecessary usage of stationery (drawing books)
 - Homoeo medicine

An orientation class was conducted by Julia on nutrition, food, on how to mingle with students and villagers and preparation of teaching aids and crafts etc.

5. Volunteers: Ria who was with us last year and Jina who is a new volunteer arrived from Germany for four weeks. Ria and Jina went to our one month old field school at Anjoda for eight days. Their intention was to turn the new school into an agreeable place for the pupils. Another purpose for the visit was to have a look at the teachers' methodology of teaching at the site. They gave valuable inputs to transform the school into a nice and cozy place.

All the volunteers are actively and sincerely involved in the teaching programmes as well as the school annual day preparation. They are assisting the children with craft items for the Bazaar on that day.

6. Balamitra Newsletter: Maria, one of the German volunteers took care of the February 08 Balamitra newsletter. It sketched the activities of all the forty field schools and Balamitra Model School at Sagarnagar, Visakhapatnam. It gave a detailed report of the projects and festivities that they joyously completed.

The Balamitra newsletter, launched last year to highlight the tribal education programmes is a bimonthly publication which gives the various activities conducted by the field schools at four CBOs and by the Balamitra Model School, Sagarnagar, Visakhapatnam.

7. Health: Health is of topmost priority at our schools as ever. The students are closely monitored for deficiencies and adequate steps are taken on a regular basis to ascertain the well being of the children. Details of vaccination and statistical records are maintained periodically.

Rajulamma looks after this program diligently. She went to Killoguda, Hukumpeta and Minumuluru Public Health Centers and discussed with concerned doctors about the field schools children's health and immunization camps to be conducted during the month of February 08.

K.V.Sitaramaraju