TRUWDES School

Manjampatti village, Tamil Nadu

Mid year update 2017-18

TRUWDES School
Context

- Geography
  - Remote tribal hamlets in Western Ghats
    - Manchampatti, Moongilpallam , Muduvakudi and Thalunchi
    - Located in the midst of Indira Gandhi National Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu
    - Villages lack link roads, electricity (solar lamps installed recently), running water, medical facilities, schools or shops
- Demography
  - Community profile
    - Tribals
    - Dalits / SCs (migrant population from the mainland)
    - Denotified tribes (migrated from the mainland several generations ago)
    - Moongilpallam , Muduvakudi primarily tribal
    - Manjampatti – 50% DNTs, 30% Tribals, 20% SCs
  - Occupations : primarily subsistence-based
    - Farming, collection of forest produce

TRUWDES School

Problem

- Little or no awareness about education
- Prevalent problems in these communities
  - Child labor
    - children are sent into child labor in textiles, food industry to towns nearby and out-of-state
  - Child marriages
    - Girls are married off as early as 13 years of age. Still practiced as a tribal custom even though it is illegal.
    - Many girls get married between 14 and 16 years of age
    - Parents are not willing to send the girls to school after 13-14 years of age
  - Targets for smugglers
    - Sandalwood trees and 'green' crop used by drug smugglers.
  - Easy targets for exploitation by middlemen
  - Some villagers works as seasonal laborers in nearby areas, so children are unable to continue their education

TRUWDES School

Objectives/Vision

Problem:

- Rooted in lack of basic literacy and education.

Objectives:

(setting aside the broader question about whether any intervention will be disruptive to equilibrium of the tribal community etc)

Help bring about generational change

- Create first-generation of literate/educated in these communities
- Empower them with basic education to be less susceptible to exploitation and smuggling activities
- Create an awareness in community about education and prevalent practices - childhood marriages, bonded child labor
- Work towards government involvement in community, school.

TRUWDES School
Project Overview

Project Partner

- TRUWDES
  (**T**richirapalli **R**ural and **U**rban **W**elfare **D**evelopment **E**ducational **S**ociety)
- Local NGO based in Trichy
- Working in these villages since 1999
  - supports old-age home in Trichy in addition to running this school

Project

- School located in Manjampatti village
- Caters to children from Manjampatti and 3 nearby hamlets
- School started as NFE in 1999
- NGO has been running this as FE school since 2001
  - Had been operating on shoestring budget with significant problems
- Primary and middle school (till class 8)

TRUWDES School

Project Overview

Students

- The project supports nearly ~55 children
- Around 35 kids study in the school
- Around 25 kids reside in the school

Staff

- Two Teachers
- Supported by a cook and a helper

Learning

Primary Education in Tamil medium

- Classes I through VIII
- Education methods
  - Activity based learning methods for the younger children.
  - For the elder children, the textbooks are being used.

TRUWDES School
Project Overview

Infrastructure

- School is a one-room concrete, tin-roof structure
  - Doubles up as lodging & boarding facility for teachers, resident students
- Small mud roofed structure nearby serves as kitchen
- A second room further away built with the help of the government

Amenities

- Mid-day meals for all the children, during nights and weekends for boys in hostel
- Uniforms, every other year
- Bed sheets, pillows for the residential children.
- Textbooks, notebooks, pencils and other stationery
- Play materials
- Solar lantern for classrooms and kitchen

Pictures

TRUWDES School
AshaSV Involvement

- **2007-08**
  - Started engagement with TRUWDES school in 2007-08
  - School had been operating on shoestring budget with significant problems
    - Barebones school building
    - Lack of clean drinking water for children
    - Little or no govt. involvement
  - Was on the verge of being closed down

- **2009-2017**
  - School has stabilized and shown signs of improvement
  - AshaSV worked with TRUWDES address some of the issues
    - Improved school building
    - Water filtration (has been functional on and off)
    - Reduced teacher turnover
    - Sporadic signs of Government interest
    - Supported the school in getting some laptops

The School (2010)

Manjampatti tribal village-Jan 2012

2010

NOW

TRUWDES School
Updates

Visit by Government officials

- Annual visits by government officials
- DEO interacted with students, applauded the reading, writing skills of children.
- Visits such as this take the school closer to government involvement in the school. DEO submits reports about his visit to Education Dept.

Vocational Training

- Young girls from the village and the students of 7th and 8th class are given computer education. The girls (around ~10 of them) are also taught tailoring. This has increased the awareness of education in the village

TRUWDES School
Updates

Beyond Schooling in Manjampatti

- ~25 school students who completed class VIII are studying in Trichy and nearby town. Some of them completed 9th/10th with good marks and are now enrolled in higher classes. They wanted to pursue 11th/12th in Kodaikanal/Palani. Steps are being taken to get them enrolled and support them in any possible way to complete schooling.
- First batch of kids joined college
- School has basic vocational training in tailoring for these girls
- Projector - got a new one and is working

Site Visits

- Chakri & Deepa (Asha SV volunteers) visited the school in Feb 2013
- Venki & Vikram visited in 2015
- Vidhya & Sankar visited the place in Feb 2017
- Provided detailed report with recommendations
- Feedback from site visits mostly positive.

TRUWDES School
Updates

Community

- More community support - local panchayat has even helped in commuting teachers/volunteers to the main road in Chinnar
- Better awareness among community to get kids away from smuggling and send them to school
- Alex helps migrant children by getting them enrolled in their local schools.
- Alex provides help to the community occasionally
  - interfacing with Govt. departments
  - helping them file complaints about issues etc
  - helping education of migrant children
- Issues
  - getting girls married early is still a common practice among Muduvar tribals

TRUWDES School
Goals

- **Short term**
  - **Continuity – Class 8 and beyond**
    - Continue sponsoring kids graduating from class 8 into class 9 and 10 in nearby town schools or to pursue courses similar to ITI for other interested kids.
    - Plan is to house class IX students in Trichy and have them attend Govt. school
  - **Improve Teaching Methods**
    - Continue annual teacher trainings
    - Show educational videos to kids
    - Assess learning levels through ASER tests
    - Explore introduction of vocational, agricultural initiatives

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR THE YEAR **2017-18**

S No	Items of expenditure and activities proposed	Expenditure per month	Units/ personnel	Expenditure per annum
A	**Personnel**			
01	Honorararium to teachers	Rs.5000/- p.m	2 persons	120000
02	Honorararium to cook	Rs.2800/-p.m	1 person	33600
03	Honorarium to Helper	Rs.1800/-p.m	1 person	21600
04	year- end incentive Teacher	Rs. 600.00	2 persons	14400
05	year- end incentive Cook	Rs. 250.00	1 person	3000
06	year- end incentive Helper	Rs. 200.00	2 persons	2400
07	Honorararium to Project co coordinator	Rs.10000.00	1 person	120000
	Sub Total			**315000**
B	**Children needs**			
08	Nutrition. Health care expenditures for children @ Rs.40/-per day x 30 days (per child)	Rs.1200/- p.m	25 children	330000
09	Note books, books, stationeries	600	50	30000
10	Contingencies expenditure	1000	11 months	11000
11	Contingencies expenditure for tailoring training (thread, bobbin case, kada clothe, Needle etc.)	10 students * Rs. 200	10 months	20000
12	First aid medicines	600	11	6600
13	Uniforms	450	50	22500
14	Shoes with shocks, tie , etc.,,	600	50	30000
15	Sports materials			20000
16	Other expenditure(School bag, Travelling Expenditure and unforeseen expenditure etc.,)	3000	12	36000
17	Support for children to govt., school			25000
	Sub total	-	-	**531100**
C	**Nonrecurring items**	-	-	-
18	**Projector**	1		**55000.00**
	Total costs of the project A+B	-	-	**901100**