

SOCIETY OF GRAMA VIKASA SARADI: KOVILAPALEM
Education Program (Asha Knoxville)
Quarterly (April to June 08) report on U.P.School at Kovilapalem

In the month of April all of our students are very busy with their annual examinations. Prabhavathi, Sanyasi rao and Sanyasi Naidu (team members) were assessing the children through examinations. Annual examinations were conducted from 18th to 24th April 08. The students felt very happy as they are successful in completion of their annual examinations and they are also very excitingly waiting for next session. School summer vacations started from 25th April to 10th June 08.

Students suffered a lot when raining, due to leakages of school roof. The school roof was damaged due to heavy rains and winds. School structure was repaired (tar sheets were covered over the roof, patch work was done to the flooring wherever necessary and white wash also done) during the month of May. When the school repair work is in progress the villagers of Kovilapalem and our school children were also part of it.

Volunteer

Giulia Albertini the Samata volunteer teacher from Italy (from a Waldorf School) have visited our GVS U P School on 9th April for two days. She taught action rhymes, drawing and farm drawing to our students. She was very much impressed by our school and villagers. She came back again to our school on 21st June 08 for one week. She taught Science to the higher classes (organs and systems of the human body). when she finished her theory classes she took the children for exposure visits to the fields and also making idols with clay (mud), action rhymes, painting, knitting, art, meditation work, suryanamaskhar were taught to all classes. She also taught good techniques, method in teaching to our teachers and team. This is very helpful for us. She gave us few useful things like pencils, paints and two boxes of crayons. Our school children, team of GVS and villagers of Kovilapalem sent her back with great pleasure to Italy on 26th June 08.

Training

Our teachers Balamani, Satyavathi and coordinator Prabhavathi attended a nine days teachers training program at Visakhapatnam conducted by Samata from 21st to 29th May 08. Lesson plans were done in this teachers training for lower classes and shared their experiences with Samata teachers. This training session was very useful to our teachers. After this training teachers and Prabhavathi made lesson plans for higher classes. Mr.Ravi Mondoli (Asha volunteer) met with our teachers and coordinator at this training session.

Strength

All children were promoted to the next classes. Last academic year on a daily basis we took fourteen children from Tattabanda main village by auto, because there is no school in Tattabanda. Now a convent and a Govt. school started at Tattabanda village, so these village children (fourteen children) enrolled in those schools. And two students (one from

class I and one from class II) were left with their parents. These parents migrated for livelihood. Totally 16 students left from our school.

Fourteen new children were enrolled in the school in various classes for this academic year. Now strength of our school is 40.

Class	Boys – Girls		Total
Class I	5	7	12
Class II	2	1	3
Class III	1	6	7
Class IV	--	--	---
Class V	3	3	6
Class VI	1	3	4
Class VII	3	5	8

Total	15	25	40

New School

GVS team received three more applications from **Gadabapalem** village for a school. This village is 8 km from our school. There are 20 families living in 15 huts, 24 children are there in this village. Out of these 24 children 4 are going to near by Government School (three km) and 6 are dropouts from class II. No single literate parent is there in this village. And there is no road access; a small kaccha road is building by the villagers with their own sramadhanam (contribution of manpower). GVS team has been there in the month of May 08 for survey. Our team supposes to start a single teacher school at this village with Asha permission. We asked your permission on May 08 for this step forward.

Gadabapalem villagers build a hut for school. Instead of Tattabanda fourteen children transport, GVS gave a teacher and material for this school. This school opened on 12th of June 08 with 20 children. The name of the teacher is Lakshmi.

Class	Boys -- Girls --		Total
Class I	7	7	14
Class II	2	4	6

Total	9	11	20

Now our two schools strength is

Kovilapalem	-- 40
Gadabapalem	-- 20

Total	60

Extra Curricular Activities

The School ensures the participation of each student in various extra-curricular activities, such as, maintaining garden in the school premises. To inculcate sporting spirit, each student is encouraged to participate in various sports. The school ensures provision of the required facilities for the sports activities. As a part of moral education, recitation of Slokas from the Bhagvad Gita, reading the teachings from the scriptures of all religions and the speeches of our great leaders, and singing of patriotic songs, form a part of the daily prayers. Drawing, painting, origami and knitting classes are taught once in a week to the children. On every Saturday, students are doing sramadhana program such as cleaning their classrooms, school premises and patch up work on near by paths and two small streams. Kolatam, the activity which is very important to the children for physical exercise and coordination of mind and body parts is doing by every day basis. All of our children are able to do kolatam with 12 songs.

Mr.Sanyasirao and Mr.Sanyasinaidu taught Yoga and meditation to the children and the teachers for week days in the month of June 08.

Exposure Visits and Trainings

In the part of Natural Studies, all of our class 4th to 7th children were taken out to Vanasamrakshana Samithi (the forest protecting by the Kovelapalem villagers) for exposure on nature. Later when they came back to their classes, they interacted with each other on their experiences and drew a picture and wrote a story on it.

Nutrition / Health

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

As a part of nutrition, we are giving eggs to the children at 11.00 am every five days a week.

We served eggs to the Kovilapalem School for 42 children until the end of last academic year. From June 08 onwards we are serving eggs to Gadabapalem School also for another 20 children. Parents of the children formed as committees for looking after this nutrition program. Per day each parent is boiling eggs and serving to the school children.

Meetings

GVS team is regularly conducting parents and School Committee meetings once in a month for discussing about progress and problems of the school and also conducting two meetings in a month with School staff for work review and lesson plan.

Adult Education: classes are being conducted by GVS teachers and educated village youth at Kovilapalem for illiterate people. 20 women and 4 men come every day for these classes.



Painting class



Origami class



She made cap herself in origami class



Repairs of the school structure



Children in clay work class



Gadabapalem children and parents

K.Prabhavathi