

SOCIETY OF GRAMA VIKASA SARADI: TATTABANDA

Quarterly Report (October to December 10) on Education Programme

Location: Upper Primary School at Kovilapalem village and Primary School at Gadabapalem village in Visakhapatnam District, AP

Supporting by: Asha Knoxville and New River Valley Chapters, USA

The purpose of education can be to develop every individual to their full potential. People in more remote or agrarian areas are sometimes unaware of the importance of education. India is processing the implementation of its historic Right to Education Act, which came into force on 1 April. The new law establishes the right to education of every child aged 6 to 14, and addresses India's need to provide more schools and teachers, and further develop training and curriculums. There is no idea and awareness on facts and information which is in the Right to Education Act.



So, we planned to have a campaign in and around Tattabanda Panchayat (11 villages) with the students who are in the Government schools and our schools (Kovilapalem and Gadabapalem). We had meetings with the Government school teachers and community on the campaign and we had the campaign on 19th November 2010. More than 450 students, 200 public and 30 Government officials attended for the meeting in the Tattabanda center after the campaign.

Student particulars

After new admissions in the both the schools we have 41 students present at schools. Present students' information is as follows:

Kovilapalem UP School

Gender	Class I	II	III	IV	V
Boys	2	3	1	2	3
Girls	7	1	0	1	4
Total	9	4	1	3	7
Gadabapalem school					

Boys	6	1		2	
Girls	3	2	1	2	
Total	9	3	1	4	

Advocacy

As a part of our advocacy activity we approached to concern Government officials in the Education Department for establishing schools under Right to Education Act in the place of our schools Kovilapalem and Gadabapalem villages. Hope they will be accepting our request, if they accept the request, the Government Schools will start from the next academic year (June 2011) and the government will look after and support the material requirements for the school and students, and also the teacher salary. We assure the Government that the school building will be made available by GVS.

We thank Asha Knoxivilli and New River Valley chapters for helping these two tribal villages in the education part from the last three years. Before we began our schools in these two villages (Kovilapalem and Gadabapalem) there was 100% illiteracy, now we can hopefully say that all the younger generations are enrolled in the schools. This is a great achievement in the education program of GVS and it was made possible only with your help.

Syllabus

The teachers have put up new ways of teaching the students without giving them any pressure from the lessons in the text book. They took up some activities during the lessons in a way not to make the students by heart but learn something useful from the text books. The following syllabus was covered in the 2 schools:

class	Telugu	Maths	Science	Social	English
Class I	Varnamal and related simple words and introduced tough words	Numbers up to 50 with activities and addition and subtraction	Identification and names of the seeds, vegetables and fruits....	Introduction of Seasons	Alphabet, simple words, rhymes
Class II	Sentences reading and writing	Numbers up to 1000 with activities. four process, odd and even numbers identification	Identification and names of the seeds, vegetables and fruits with drawing and activities	Seasons – description	Introduction of new words, reading and writing
Class III	3 poems and 5 lessons,	Numbers 10000, four process, odd	Sanitation and personal hygiene	Continents and Oceans	New vocabulary,

	reading and writing skills	and even numbers, tables with activities			reading and writing
Class IV	Three lessons – Thodelu garvam (poem), Chetlu penchudham, Burgula Krishna rao	Numbers up to lakhs, four process, odd and even numbers, word problems, tables and measurements, fractions	Our food – variety of food and its nutrition values	Indian History – civilizations	New vocabulary, meanings, reading and writing of sentences
Class V	4 lessons and songs	Numbers up to lakhs, tables with activities, Fractions, measurements	Plants, Animals, what we are getting from the plants and animals. Our food – farmers - Variety of soils	Our Government - constitution – fundamental rights and our duties	3 lessons, New vocabulary, meanings, reading and writing

Teachers training and meetings

The teachers are given a regular training, once in a month so as to get them closer and more attached to their profession. Two days in a month they are trained on subject enhancement and lesson plans. The teachers on learning new things at the training program get interested in their profession of teaching and try to bring out the best in them. The teachers feel that these training programs not only help in their professional life but also in their personal life.

The GVS team has a weekly review meeting on the basis of discussing the enhancement of students in the week, what the teachers have taken up the whole week in educating the students. The team also shares their experiences of the entire week on what all they succeeded to do in that week. These meetings are also helpful for the other SGVS teams who are involved in the other activities like monitoring the government schools in the other 11 villages. This is a regular process.

Two students from TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), Mumbai came to visit us for 10 days as part of their studies. Our teachers interacted with them and learned few techniques of teaching and effective communication skills from them.

Assessment of the students:

As part of students' assessment on their academic levels, teachers conducted a unit test in the month of November and half early exams in December. As per the assessment all the students

are very well in their subjects. Also we assessed the students in communication skills, interests, reading and writing skills, and spoken skill.

Our team has to pay more attention on extracurricular activities and other skills, because the children are not much able in above skills which were assessed by the teachers.

Celebrations:

a) Gandhi Jayanthi (Oct 2nd): the GVS team along with the villagers and the students paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi that day. Teachers and two elderly people from the village shared their view on Mahatma Gandhi's life and his influential works and also how he became the father of our nation. The students were given chocolates and sweets.

b) Children's Day (Nov 14th): Birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India has been celebrated as Children's Day. The Whole day was dedicated to the children, and teachers and GVS team spoke a few lines describing the life of Nehru. Children presented a role play along with teachers regarding the role of Nehru in Indian freedom struggle. The children had an entertaining and a fun filled day.

c) Christmas and New Year Eve: these two occasions were celebrated along with Kovilapalem and Gadabapalem villagers. Late evenings of those two days children and villagers had plays and fun filled games in the school premises.

We are trying to teach the importance of some special days through celebrations in the school to the students.

Orphanage

The 10 children of our orphanage are very much interactive with the students who are coming from the Kovilapalem village. Villagers are also treating these children as their kids. The children are presently engrossed in a homely feeling at this place with all the other children and villagers. These children have become very active in the school; they are looking after the school premises clean and neat, and growing a kitchen garden around the school.



Kitchen garden

Kitchen garden is grown around the school premises with a variety of vegetables and flower plants, a piece of land is allotted for each child for the garden before the commencement of rainy season, and the students keep choosing their plants which they wanted to plant in their allotted piece of land. The students are taking good care of their plots and growing them up in a good manner. Pumpkin, Brinjal, Bendi, bottlegard, leafy vegetables and Banana, Papaya are grown in the garden. Teachers and staff who are living around school premises help the students in the garden work.

The kitchen garden has become a part of their lesson in order not to make them forget the age old agricultural practices. This has also been helping the students have a sort of physical exercise. Through the kitchen garden they are now able to get fresh organic vegetables which are a way too healthier than the others sold in the markets. The kitchen garden has also fulfilled the need of greenery around the school premises. The students also feel proud about the work they have done in their plots. It is a pride for the students to exhibit their plots to the visitors.

Health

Health has always been given importance at the school. The children are given the vegetables from the kitchen garden so as to keep them a step far from the diseases. The children by themselves get involved in yoga every morning due to which they stay fit all the time. It has been a regular practice for the students on an everyday basis. The Government services like the 104 and 108 are well utilized for the treatment of some seasonal diseases. There is regular vaccination program going on. The students are vaccinated according to their needs. Last three months most of the students were having flu, fever and scabies due to weather changes. For the treatment to the students' local PHC team visited us several times.

By

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