

Kovelapalem Site Visit

Mr Sita Rama Raju and Smt Prabhavati came to my clinic at Visakhapatnam and we started together and reached Kovelapalem by 11AM on 9th February. During the journey I came to know more about the couple who are full time volunteers doing excellent social service in various areas of village development. Kovelapalem is situated in a remote place almost 35 kms away from Anakapalli railway station. This is the place where office of Grama Vikas Samiti is located. It was previously used as a school for tribal people and was funded by ASHA. Tribals mostly from Mannemdora community stay here in this village. Now this office became library and is housing all the books from three libraries of Sainagar, Gompa, and Setayya peta. All three libraries were closed because of lack of funds and damage due to hudhud. They were getting funds from New River valley chapter and Knoxville chapter of ASHA and was run by Mr E Srinu at Gompa, E Subhashini at Sainagar and Smt Satyavati at Seetayya peta. they were paid a salary of Rs 3000 per month. Rent was Rs 500 per month at each place.

There is Govt Library at Ravikamatam 14kms away from Kovelapalem. But they say it contains mostly newspapers and novels. Whereas these three libraries are housing wide range of books in Telugu which are very useful for school going children. After inspecting the registers of all the three libraries I understood that many children are using the libraries before they were closed. People who ran the libraries are not only educated but also very enthusiastic in trying so many creative experiments to infuse book reading interest in children. They have visited almost all the Govt Schools in surrounding villages and conducted various activities to inspire book reading activities and invited those children to one of their nearby libraries. I have taken video clippings of the registers and the register of activities they did with sign and stamps of the principals of those schools which I will upload.

- In Sainagar library there about 503 purchased books some material for educational games and some more books donated by others.
- In Seetayyapet library there 254 purchased books along with other donated books and gaming material.
- In Gompa there are 250 purchased books along with other donated books and gaming material. Now all these books and materials were kept at Kovelapalem office as it is own building located in own land donated by the villagers.
- Office in Kovelapalem was also damaged in recent Hudhud whose pictures I will be uploading.
- There are three Computers presently at the office.

My Opinion:

After my visit and acquaintance with Raju garu, Prabhavati garu, three librarians Srinu, Subhashini and Satyavati and V Eswaramma who is housekeeping staff at Kovelapalem office and Mr SV Ramana who coordinates the activities there I strongly felt that these are a motivated bunch of mavericks working selflessly with lot of difficulties for the upliftment of school children of so many villages and any help to them will be utilized to the maximum possible extent for society.

Salaries paid to the three librarians are very low but still they are very happy to work with that. Here is a list of my suggestions.

1. Funds should be released immediately to clear old payments and to start the libraries once again.
2. More and more books must be collected by various organizations and should be donated to these libraries as they are being utilized so nicely.
3. Office at Kovelapalem should be given some funds for repairs.
4. Number of ebooks can be collected so that the computers can be used to turn these into digital libraries.
5. My idea of addressing their concern that it will be impossible to control children if they were given access to read books on computer as they will all flock around the monitor to look at it was this. Some children who are good at reading will be allowed to read while others will be listening and by the end of the reading session there can be a quiz for the children on that topic. There can also be reading competitions. And my strong recommendation is to provide them one projector which they can use in four different places on different days and display books, science comics and educational videos. A fluent reader will be reading books while other children can concentrate upon the letters being read. By this we can cultivate English reading habits which they don't have presently. I am pretty confident that all three librarians are capable enough in using the computers and in training children in English reading. And this projector will become a huge attraction and will draw large number of children from many places to the libraries and will instill interest in them as we can enable them to read colorful animated books with lot of science and literature in it.
6. Mr Raju and Mrs Prabhavati are dreaming of running a mobile library which will cater to the remote villages and it will in turn attract children to the three libraries for its various activities. this mobile library can also carry the projector and will help in giving the children of remote areas a glimpse of how wonderfully they can read these books if they go regularly to the libraries. For running the libraries we need a second hand Omni which can be purchased for around 50000 Rs. (I have purchased one in good condition for 50000 Rs recently for conducting medical camps in villages). we should do an estimation of fuel cost and should find ways to fund itself like charging one rupee for delivering the book at home or whatever other way.
7. Volunteers of various organizations working in education should be invited to these libraries to conduct seminars in various interesting areas they are working in. For example Amma Social Welfare association conducts a nicely designed and well researched Career guidance programme for Children of Govt Schools enabling them to choose their next step after tenth class properly.

My salutations to volunteers of ASHA who did a wonderful job of initiating this noble service for village children and I request you to continue this amazing work. I also thank you people for asking me to visit this place. There are no words to describe the excellent work done by Sri Sita Rama Raju garu and Smt Prabhavati garu and their friends. As my contribution to this noble work I have donated around 60 charts we have prepared for our health awareness exhibition which contains charts describing ways to prevent various dreadful diseases like cancer diabetes hypertension obesity Back pain etc, charts describing Ayurveda rules and regulations to

be followed by pregnant ladies for healthy child and normal delivery, charts to promote awareness about smoking and alcohol consumption, and set of charts describing medicinal values of house hold herbs and spices and ways to use them for small problems like fever cold headache etc (which is called Grihavaidyam). This donation is from me and my wife Dr Kavita as that day 9th Feb was our marriage day. I have asked them to paste these charts on the walls of the library so that children will read these colorful charts full of pictures in both Telugu and English. Thank you







S.No	Line Item	Units	Total budget	11-Jul	11-Aug	11-Sep	11-Oct	11-Nov	11-Dec	12-Jan	12-Feb	12-Mar	12-Apr	12-May	12-Jun
a Infrastructure															
1	Book racks (for keep books and things)	2	4000	4000											
2	Books		10,000	10,000											
3	Game material		4,000	4,000											
4	Mats, table, chairs etc.		5,000	5,000											
5	Records and miscellaneous		2,000	2,000											
b Maintenance															
1	Accommodation rent	12 months	6,000	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
2	Electricity and maintenance	12	9,600	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800	800
3	News paper	12	4,800	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
4	communications	12	3,600	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
5	miscellaneous expenditure	12	2,400	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
6	new books purchases	12	3,600	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
c Staff honorariums															
1	Centre in charge salary	12	36000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
2	Travel	12	6000	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Total			97000	31000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
You have sent Rs.55000/- for 5 months (July 2011 to November 2011) in first year, there is 7 months due (Rs.42000/-)															

① Srinagar - July 11

<u>S/Ar. Co. A.</u>	<u>Cur. Ac.</u>	<u>By Ar.</u>	<u>Balance</u>
	July 11 - 55,000	Oct. 13 -	one year
	May 13 63,000		(118,000)
	<u>118,000</u>		80,000 ✓

② Gemra - July 12 -

Feb. 13	April 13 -	18 months
90,285 -		120,000 -

③ Seethampet - July 12 -

Nov. 12	June 13 -	16 months
1,21,911 -		1,05,500 -

