

**MOBILISATION, ADVOCACY, TRAINING MODULES
FOR DISSEMINATION & SUPPORT TO
ADOLESCENT GIRLS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

An M V Foundation – Stitching Charity Fund Rijsholt Partnership

**Programme Report
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

CI	Circle Inspector
CMPC	Child Marriage Prevention Committee
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CRPF	Child Rights Protection Force
CWSN	Children with Special Needs
DEO	District Education Officer
HS	High School
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
MEO	Mandal Education Officer
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MPDO	Mandal Parishad Development Officer
MPP	Mandal Parishad President
MPPS	Mandal Parishad Primary School
MPTC	Member – Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
PS	Primary School
RTE	Right to (Free & Compulsory) Education
SHG	Self-help groups
SI	Sub-Inspector
SMC	School Management Committee
SP	Superintendent of Police
TC	Transfer Certificate
UPS	Upper Primary School
VO	Village Organisation
ZPTC	Member – Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency

Executive Summary

The State government of Telangana undertook the formation of 21 new districts during October 2016. The entire project area in Nalgonda district now comes under the newly carved Suryapet district. The project area in erstwhile Ranga Reddy district similarly forms part of Vikarabad district. 8 Panchayat headquarters and 7 habitations from Nutankal mandal were shifted to Maddirala mandal. The organisers made a presentation on the project and its objectives to the mandal officials.

Significant headway was made during the reporting period in terms of addressing gender issues, with focus on federating adolescents and preparing adolescents and community stakeholders in this regard. The organisers formed 104 Forums for Girls' Rights with 2252 members and convened 151 meetings with 3790 participants. Combined training sessions were held for 2479 adolescent youth on gender equity, discrimination, safe vs unsafe touch, child marriage, education and child rights at the school, village and mandal levels. Mandal officials were invited to address the children in 3 mandals. Training sessions were held exclusively for 314 boys and 193 girls from 8 schools in Kurnool district on gender equity, gender discrimination, manifestation of gender discrimination and child rights. The objective of these sessions was to sensitise the participants to and prepare them to address gender issues. Similar workshops were held for 803 community stakeholders including school head teachers, SMC (vice) chairpersons, VO and SHG members and VO bookkeepers.

A training workshop held for 63 adolescent girls in Hyderabad during September helped them shed their inhibitions and come out in the open to share information on abuse and harassment against them. Girls in some villages of the project area have begun to assemble whenever they have the time and discuss issues of relevance to them. They have also been inviting the organisers to join them. A number of boys have pledged support to the cause of girls' empowerment and are willing to extend all necessary support to them. Brainstorming interactive discussions were held with 45 head teachers in Holagunda mandal during December 2016 on the role of the school in addressing gender discrimination. The participants acknowledged at the end of the session, albeit not wholeheartedly, that the school is a key actor in preparing the ground for gender equity. A three-day visit to the implementation site of Doosra Dashak – a Rajasthan based NGO working on adolescent issues, was arranged for a team of 25 staff members. They gained valuable inputs on strategising adolescents' interventions from a gender standpoint through the visit.

The organisers regularly convened meetings with community groups such as parents, youth, women, the SMC, the Gram Panchayat, the CPC, etc. to discuss child labour, child rights, child marriage, children's retention in school and gender discrimination. A total of 5161 members attended 323 village level meetings and 6 mandal level meetings had a combined participation of 225. The organisers contacted 439 irregular/long dropout children through group motivation drives with the help of the CRPF and youth and successfully followed up 191 of them. The CRPF, the SMC, women and adolescent girls submitted a total of 37 petitions to officials and elected representatives during the reporting period in the context of school infrastructure and entitlements. Children's Day was observed across the project area and various competitions held for adolescent youth with active involvement by and support from teachers. The organisers in Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts undertook an exercise to follow up the education status of children enrolled in school during academic 2015-16. They identified and tracked 1128 missing children from a cohort of 25840.

The CRPF and the Gram Panchayat have been supporting the intervention at their respective levels. Meetings were held at the village and mandal levels to involve them in the campaign. CRPF members have taken cognisance of complaints lodged by children, especially adolescents, and have been addressing them on a priority basis, involving officials where necessary. Sarpanchs of 8 Panchayats have been focusing on gender issues at different levels. One Sarpanch from Atmakur (S) mandal passed a resolution instructing ward members to identify and resolve girl child issues. CPCs were formed in 8 villages and 4 meetings held with the CPC. The organisers constantly engaged with officials of line departments and involved them in the campaign, supporting them when called upon to do so.

Child Rights Convention Week was observed in Vikarabad district (formerly Ranga Reddy district) under the banner of *Childline se Dosti* from 12th – 20th September 2016. Activities taken up included the release of POCSO Act posters, Press Meets, Round Table meets, signature campaigns, coordination meetings with line departments working on children's issues and rallies. More than 2700

officials and community stakeholders expressed solidarity with these events. A total of 484 calls were received by 1098, 393 of which were resolved successfully. Dropout, child marriage and need for shelter accounted for two-thirds of the calls received.

Campaigning against child marriage and encouraging adolescents to apply for the Class 10 and Intermediate exams through Open stream were among the other points on the organisers' agenda. They identified 26 potential cases of child marriage and prevented all but one of them. A total of 118 adolescent youth registered for exams through Open stream. The book release of a Child Labour Study entitled *Lost Childhood – Voices of Out-of-School Children; a Study of 15-18 year old boys and girls in Telangana* featured on 20th September 2016. Minister of State (Employment) Mr Bandaru Dattatreya released the book amidst a gathering of 200 members including Ms Linda of SCFR and Dr Shantha Sinha. MVF also recently commenced work on a Study on Child Marriage and has formed an Advisory Committee with experts from different backgrounds.

Social Mobilisation on Girls

Community Meetings

Ongoing meetings were held with parents, teachers, women's groups, youth and the SMC to discuss campaign issues and involve them in efforts to reach out to all children aged 6-14 years with special focus on girl children. Grama Sabhas were also organised in Kurnool as part of this effort. Points on the agenda of these meetings included gender discrimination, school dropout, migration, health & hygiene, child marriage, retention of girls in the education system, problems faced in schools, girls' issues, issuance of textbooks and uniforms, release of travel allowance, implementation of the midday meal scheme and the quality of education.

The details of meetings held and participants are as follows:

Marpally				
Group	Village	Members	Mandal	Members
SMC	16	323	1	35
SHG/VOs	3	115	3	115
CPC	4	29	1	18
School/college level	4	435	0	0
Total	27	902	5	168

Shankarpally		
Group	Village	Members
SMC	17	102
CPC	4	68
Total	21	170

Vikarabad				
Group	Village	Members	Mandal	Members
SMC	15	235	1	57
VOs/SHG	13	260	1	30
CPC	6	94	0	0
Youth	3	74	0	0
Parents	0	0	2	60
Total	37	663	4	147

Atmakur (S)		
Group	Village	Members
SMC	63	705
VOs/SHG	16	459
Youth	11	248
CPC	6	70
Total	96	1482

Halaharivi		
Group	Village	Members
SMC	8	123
Total	8	123

Hologunda		
Group	Village	Members
SMC	10	255
Youth	29	442
SHGs/VOs	4	56
Total	43	753

Nutankal				
Group	Village	Members	Mandal	Members
SMC	34	315	1	57
VOs/SHG	13	273	0	0
CMPC	6	46	0	0
Teachers	26	268	0	0
Youth	12	166	0	0
Total	91	1068	1	57

There have been notable changes as a result of the meetings. Discrimination between girls and boys has gone down in a number of cases. This is evidenced by parents' willingness to permit girls to

attend joint youth meetings far away from home even for 2-3 days. More girls have also begun to evince interest in such meetings at the district/State level. There is lesser inclination towards child marriage, as there is a realisation of the ill effects of child marriage. There is significant change in attitude towards the opposite gender. Girls are showing greater interest in education. Parents have also been informing officials whenever they come across out-of-school children.

The below are the outcomes of these meetings:

- SMC members from 2 schools in Nutankal mandal followed up 9 children to school.
- Community members from Ghouse Thanda in Atmakur (S) mandal joined hands with the police constable to follow up 2 children to school.
- Community meetings helped reach out to 28 irregular children from Yepuru HS of Atmakur (S) mandal.
- Nearly 125 children from two villages of Atmakur (S) mandal were benefited by a bus service that was restored through a petition by community to the Depot Manager of the Road Transport Corporation.
- English medium books issued to Class 6 children through SMC's efforts and Telugu to Class 8 children in Atmakur (S) mandal.
- 2 teachers from the school in Yepuru, Atmakur (S) mandal have been interacting regularly with parents on their children's progress.
- The SMC of PS Thummala Penpahad, Atmakur (S) mandal submitted a petition to the District Collector, asking him to act on the issue of incomplete construction of a school building.
- Community members in 3 villages of Marpally mandal, 16 villages of Shankarpally mandal and 8 villages of Vikarabad mandal have owned up the agenda of following up children to school/college.
- Community members from Marpally, Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals respectively followed up 7, 14 and 12 long dropouts to school.
- Youth in 2 villages each of Marpally and Vikarabad mandals and 3 villages of Shankarpally mandal undertook monitoring visits to schools.
- Toilets were repaired in one school of Marpally mandal.
- Power supply was arranged in one school of Marpally mandal.
- Water for drinking and toilets was arranged in one school of Marpally mandal.
- Community members in Janwada Shankarpally mandal mobilised funds worth Rs 10 lakhs for school development.
- A local of Maharajpet, Shankarpally mandal adopted the local school and provided education kits to 300 children in addition to a mike set and games material. He has also been supporting the salary of a dance instructor and has also been sponsoring all events in the school.
- Community members from Shankarpally mandal spoke to the management of M/s Bayer and got the company to sponsor notebooks, uniform and shoes for 145 children from 2 villages in addition to water cans, sports material and repairs to roofs.
- Youth sponsored 150 plates for students of one PS in Shankarpally mandal.
- Community bore the cost of constructing a stage in one HS of Shankarpally mandal.
- SMCs in 4 schools each of Marpally and Vikarabad mandals and 7 schools of Shankarpally mandal are being involved in the utilisation of school funds.
- SMC meetings are being held regularly in 3 schools of Marpally mandal, 21 in Shankarpally mandal and 10 schools of Vikarabad mandal.
- Education kits consisting of pens, pencils and notebooks were sponsored for 200 children in Marpally mandal.
- Community members and leaders in Shankarpally mandal sponsored socks for more than 1500 children.
- A local sponsored musical drums for the KGBV in Shankarpally mandal.
- Community got toilets repaired in one school of Vikarabad mandal.
- Water facility was provided through community involvement in 3 villages of Vikarabad mandal.
- An ex-student of one school in Vikarabad mandal sponsored 4 water filters for the school and also got the compound wall repaired.
- The SMC from one school of Vikarabad mandal mobilised funds for the construction of a stage.

- The quality of the midday meal has improved in 2, 8 and schools of Marpally, Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals respectively.
- Plates and glasses were sponsored for 200 children from one school of Marpally mandal.
- The defunct toilet in ZPHS Chintakunta of Halaharivi mandal was demolished after a period of 3 years and reconstructed with the involvement of the MPP.
- Drinking water was supplied in 4 schools of Halaharivi mandal.
- Water connectivity was provided to toilets in 4 schools of Halaharivi mandal.
- Parents and community members pressurised the midday meal agency to arrange drinking water in Nerniki village of Holagunda mandal.
- Bus passes were issued to 16 boys and 12 girls from Halaharivi mandal.
- A total of 21 children from Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals applied for the Class 10 exams through Open stream.
- The midday meal that had been discontinued in UPS Lingampally of Holagunda mandal was resumed through the involvement of the MEO and the head teacher.
- Some local youth also spoke to the MLA and got a teacher deputed to UPS Lingampally in Holagunda mandal.
- Community members from Pedda Gonehal had been defiling the premises of the MPPS in the village through open defecation outside school hours. Some youth from the village got the playground cleaned and put up a fence around the school.
- Youth cleaned the school ground and cut down shrubs in MPPS Peddaheta, Holagunda mandal.

Sarita – a Class 5 student from Maharajpet in Shankarpally mandal was a bright student but lost a month due to typhoid and also broke her arm in a freak accident. Her teachers were unwilling to take her in after her return and she was forced to drop out. The SMC and the Anganwadi Worker followed her up to school but the teachers again discouraged her and provoked her fellow students to shun her. She again dropped out for two months. The SMC chairperson took the matter into his hands and spoke to the teachers. He guaranteed them that she would cope with the syllabus, following which they readmitted her. Sarita is regular to her classes. Her mother, who had been planning to take her along with her to the city, is a happy lot.

The parents of Sandhya – a Class 10 student from Yepuru, Atmakur (S) mandal had got her married without anyone's knowledge. Her husband deserted her after 6 months, following which they filed a case against him. The locals did not let the police act on the issue, as they were not united. The SI was also indifferent, as even political parties were of different opinions. The organiser involved the SP in the matter and he visited the Police Station. Taken aback, the SI counseled the girls' parents, after which the issue was settled out of court and compensation of Rs 2.5 lakhs paid to the girl.

The father of Pushpalatha – a Class 9 student of Settigudem, Atmakur (S) mandal withdrew her from hostel, as he was keen on getting her married off. He had lost his wife earlier and had remarried. His second wife left Pushpalatha in charge of her 3-year old son. The organisers identified the issue through a parents' meeting and gathered her relatives' details. They involved the Sarpanch and the MPTC in the issue and successfully motivated the girl's father to get her admitted in a hostel in Chintalapudi near Paloncha, where she is enrolled in Class 9.

Gundala Mahesh from Patharlapahad, Atmakur (S) mandal had dropped out of Class 8 after his father's death. The organisers tried to motivate him but he was not interested in studying. The issue was discussed during a community meeting, after which one of his classmates, an SMC member and the ward member went together to his home. They managed to convince him at great length to return to school but he wanted to enrol in Class 9. The teacher, however, was unready because he had not given the Class 8 exams. The SMC and the ward member negotiated with the teacher and got him to seat the boy in Class 9. Mahesh was asked to declare in writing that he would be regular to his classes every day. He has stuck to his promise.

Kummari Raju – the son of Venkanna, a migrant worker from Patharlapahad in Atmakur (S) mandal had been absent from school for 72 days during the year though he was in Class 10. The head teacher refused to take him in after he returned from migration in October 2016. The local youth association took up the matter with the DEO after their efforts to convince the MEO failed. They spoke

to the former twice, after which the official summoned the head teacher to his office and instructed him to include the boy's name in the nominal rolls. Raju has been regular to his classes since.

The mother of Malleshwari – a 17-year old girl from Chilpakuntla village in Nutankal mandal, proposed to get her daughter married. The girl was a bright student and had cleared the Intermediate exams. She was keen on studying further but her mother would have none of it. The girl brought up the issue during an adolescent girls' meeting in the village. The organisers went to her home along with a VO leader and the Anganwadi Worker. They were accompanied by 5 friends of Malleshwari. The VO leader counseled the girl's mother, who was also a member of the VO, and advised her against marrying her daughter off. Malleshwari's mother dropped her plans and got her admitted in an undergraduate course. The woman has had a change of heart and has begun to highlight the importance of girl child education, on which she speaks during every VO meeting.

Kuncham Sandhya – a student of Class 8 from Khammam district relocated with her family to Patharlapahad in Atmakur (S) mandal after her father was jailed for having killed his own brother. The SMC chairperson offered to get the girl admitted in the local school if she produced her daughter's TC and other credentials. The woman was unwilling to go to her village for fear of retaliation by her brother-in-law's family. The chairperson spoke to the head teacher and urged him to consider the girl's case. The head teacher spoke to the head teacher of the girl's earlier school and got her name struck off the school register there. The necessary changes were made in Sandhya's Aadhaar Card record and she was admitted in the local school, where she is enrolled in Class 9.

A teacher of the Model School in Atmakur (S) had downloaded some lewd pictures in his computer and had been showing them to his girl pupils unabashedly, which had discomfited them. The girls spoke to their parents, who referred the matter to the head teacher. He replied that he could not do much, as the teacher was very influential. A staff meeting was held to discuss the issue and 7 parents were invited to attend it along with the MPTC. The issue was not brought up directly – the participants rather raised the issue of problems being faced by the children. One of the members hinted at impropriety by some of the teachers, to which the others objected and retorted that the children had in fact been troubling them. The enraged member publicly named the guilty teacher, following which the head teacher intervened and assured them that this wouldn't be repeated. She also promised to convene parents' meetings regularly.

The head teacher of the Model School in Atmakur (S) mandal had been utilising school funds without involving any of the other teachers. Enraged at this, they informed their students that part of the school fund had been earmarked to meet the costs of an excursion for them and provoked the children to demand an excursion. A group of 80 children boycotted the first hour of school one day and went to the office of the MEO, where they proposed to speak to him. The MEO, for his part, was shocked at the manner in which the teachers had permitted so many children to leave the school premises during working hours en masse. The organisers convened a meeting in the school and also invited some media persons. The MEO was also present on the occasion. Upon being questioned by him, the teachers blamed him of being autocratic. The MEO replied that they were not capable of handling the children. The organiser intervened and told them to stop bickering and focus on their duties instead. They also told the teachers that it was not right on their part to cause loss to the children through their mutual difference. The situation has improved now.

More than 50 of the 88 children from Yepuru, Atmakur (S) mandal had failed to clear the Class 10 exams in 2015-16. Some of the children's parents closed the school gates to the teachers on School Reopening Day and did not let them in. The local newspapers carried the item the next day. The MEO spoke to the Dy DEO in this regard and the latter turned up at the school during the prayer hour the next day. He noted that some of the teachers had not reported. He held a meeting with the teachers and spoke to them sternly. He asked then if they had been adhering to the Lesson Plan. He also noted that they had not stuck to the prescribed timetable. Two of the teachers were very busy speaking over their mobile phones. The official ordered them to prepare their Lesson Plans on the spot and decreed that they ought to keep their phones in the office room until they left for the day.

An SMC-parents' meeting was held in Yepuru Model School, Atmakur (S) mandal to discuss the issue of poor academic performance by children. The school had 77 children enrolled in Class 10 but only 26 parents turned up for the meeting. When questioned, they informed that the teachers did not speak much to them and only advised them to switch off their television sets in the children's presence.

They also told the parents that they did not want to waste their time and took their signatures in the Minutes' Register. One of the members spoke sternly and asked the teachers to speak on their children's academic progress, which they never did. The organiser asked each of the members present to speak on their children's weak areas. The parents questioned the teachers why they had not been conducting any tests. One of the teachers spoke rudely but the other teachers calmed him. The Sarpanch and the SMC chairperson, who were also present, told the teachers that they would honour them in public if they neglected their duties. The teachers took the cue and promised to perform better.

A discussion on the issues of gender, child labour, 100% attendance, SMC meetings, quality education and Grama Sabhas on children's education was held in Holagunda on 6th December 2016 with the participation of 26 male and 19 female head teachers. Two of them were posted as observers and the others engaged in a debate and presentations. Another teacher was placed in charge of coordinating the event. Individual presentations on each of the 6 points were made by 3-4 members. Addressing them at the end of the sessions, Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy observed that gender discrimination starts right from the child's enrolment in school, where they are seated separately from as early as in Class 1. The teachers objected to this and some of them linked it to our culture, responding to which the speaker added that he had not meant to implicate them – rather, he meant that the school is the right platform to introduce gender equity. The meeting succeeded in driving home a strong message to the participants though not all of them were comfortable with the issue of gender.

The school in Marlamadigi, Holagunda had only two rooms and a police team that had been deputed to look into the issue of illegal sand mining had occupied one of the rooms. The head teacher discussed the matter with the SMC members during a meeting and they jointly referred the matter to the organisers. The organisers spoke to the police but they refused to vacate the premises as long as they didn't receive official orders. The organisers moved the SI and he promised to shift the team from there but did not act. He informed the organisers that no accommodation was available for them. The SMC members noted that a room adjoining the school was vacant and they got it cleaned, handing it over to the police team. The issue was resolved peacefully.

The residents of Gulyam, Halaharivi mandal pressurised the authorities to close down the Kannada medium MPPS in the village, as the children had no access to higher education facilities locally and their further growth would also be restricted. The only alternative was to study in Bellary nearby after Class 10, which involved a number of formalities. Some local youth discussed the case told during a meeting and came up with a list of demands during the Praja Darbar. These demands included the provision of library books, Kannada textbooks, hostel facilities, scholarships and bus passes. Subsequent to this, some of the school teachers protested at the youth association president's house. The local newspaper ignored the incident but some Kannada newspapers carried an item. The DEO of Bellary came to know of it and offered to solve all the issues in a year's time.

Some youth from Nerniki Thanda in Holagunda mandal demanded admission in the KGBV for 5 girls but the Special Officer refused to take the children in, claiming that admissions were closed. The youth filed a petition under the Right to Information Act and sought details of the number of vacancies available. The petitioners came to know that 10 seats were still vacant and they brought pressure on the Special Officer to admit the girls. They were accordingly enrolled in age appropriate classes.

Group Motivation

The organisers identified long absentees and school dropouts and personally counseled them to resume their education. Group motivation drives were taken up with the help of community groups such as the CRPF, youth, women and Anganwadi Workers wherever conciliatory methods failed and parents were unwilling to cooperate. Poor quality of education, seasonal migration and unavailability of basic facilities for girls in school were the key factors involved.

Children followed up in Vikarabad included 4 migrants that were sent to school. The Marpally team followed up 3 children to college. The teams in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals prevented the migration of 8 and 16 children respectively. Foster care facilities were available to these children, as their relatives took care of them in their parents' absence.

The details of children contacted and children followed up through group motivation drives are as under:

Mandal	Contacted	Followed up
Marpally	45	26
Shankarpally	15	15
Vikarabad	48	13
Atmakur (S)	197	54
Nutankal	86	43
Halaharivi	8	8
Holagunda	40	32
Total	439	191

Kanakam Mukesh – a Class 5 student of Pedanemila, Nutankal mandal was quite irregular to school, as his father wanted the boy to assist him in his work. The head teacher, who was quite proactive, went to the boy's home for 3 continuous days and followed him up to school. The boy's father did not send him on the fourth day. When asked the reason for this, the man answered that he wanted the head teacher to come and take him along. Irked at this, the head teacher stopped going to the boy's home. The organisers came to know of this during the drive in the village. They noted that the boy was very bright and tried to convince him but he was not ready to return to school. The organisers and some local youth counseled Mukesh's father and told him that it was not right to spoil his son's future, as he was a good student. He could not expect the head teacher to come to his home every day, as he had other important tasks to perform. The boy duly returned to school after a couple of days, escorted by either of his parents.

Annapurna and Swapna – students of Intermediate (I Year) from Nassimpeta, Atmakur (S) mandal had dropped out from their hostel after they failed to clear 4 papers. Upon being counseled by the organisers, their parents permitted to let them give the Supplementary exams. They unfortunately did not succeed even this time. Their parents decided to take them out of college. The organiser and some CRPF members went along with the girls to their college to get their TCs but the Principal asked the latter to pay their fees first. The CRPF members were adamant and stated that the children would not pay any fee. The Principal began to negotiate and demanded Rs 5000 but the members stuck to her stand and the Principal was forced to issue the TC after collecting Rs 300 from each of the girls. The girls have shifted to another college..

One Vennela from Atmakur (S) developed a close relationship with a local youth when she was in Class 9 and ended up being shifted to another school on grounds of misconduct. She later migrated with her parents to Mumbai for a year. She duly cleared the Class 10 exams and proposed to enrol in the Intermediate programme but the head teacher of her school was unwilling to issue her TC. He did not oblige even the organiser in this regard. The organiser spoke sternly and told him that this conduct was unbecoming of him. The head teacher yielded and issued the TC after Vennela formally applied for it. She is presently enrolled in a Junior College.

Adapa Renuka from Class 8 in Thummala Penpahad, Atmakur (S) mandal dropped out after being slapped by a teacher on the cheek during the prayer hour. She began to work in a cotton farm later on. Her fellow members of the Forum for Girls' Rights to which she belonged informed this to the organisers during the group motivation drive. The organiser took along some CRPF and local youth to the school and spoke to the teacher. The youth alleged that he had resorted to corporal punishment but he denied this. Renuka was summoned and she narrated the incident in the other children's presence. The CRPF warned the teacher and told him to be serious about his duties, failing which he would be transferred. He has turned over a new leaf now. He also apologised to the girl.

The issue of quality education was brought up for discussion during the drives in Nalgonda district. Some parents informed the team members that their children couldn't even write their names and that teachers didn't care for them. This was why they had not been sending them to school. A group of 12 children from Settigudem in Atmakur (S) mandal had shifted from the local school to a hostel in Chivvemla, as one of their teachers had been misbehaving with them. The team members spoke to their parents and got them re-enrolled in the school after the head teacher suspended the teacher. The children were also assured that no such incident would occur in future.

The team in Patlur, Marpally mandal convinced the parents of 5 girls from the Muslim community that had dropped out after Class 10 to get the girls admitted in Junior College. The organisers personally accompanied them. A Class 8 girl from HS Thummalapally in Marpally mandal dropped out for 6 months and was hesitant to return to school. Her parents also felt she could not cope with the syllabus. The organisers assured them that the girl would pick up and convinced the girl to rejoin school. She is regular to her classes.

The only daughter of a single mother from Janwada in Shankarpally mandal had dropped out from school to support her mother because her elder sister was due to get married shortly. The organisers' efforts to motivate the mother failed, after which they involved some parents, the CRPF and the Anganwadi Worker. The woman was unready to educate the girl. The matter was referred to the Dy Sarpanch, who spoke to her. She sent the girl back to school. In another incident, a girl from Maharajpet village of the same mandal had been frequently absenting herself from school whenever there was an issue at her home – her parents were always bickering and quarrelling with each other. She lost two months in the process and dropped out. The organisers followed her up with the help of a local SHG member.

An orphaned girl from Parveda, Shankarpally mandal began living with her grandparents after her uncle fell ill. She subsequently began working in the fields. Every child of school-going age from the village was in school with her exception. Some of her friends were involved in the issue and they invited her to attend meetings of the Forum for Girls' Rights. They counselled the girl and the organisers also warned her uncle that legal action would be initiated against him if he continued to send her to work. She returned to college after the organisation agreed to sponsor a Bus Pass for one month. She was also admitted in college free of cost. Her family is now bearing the cost of her travel.

The team from Narayanpur in Vikarabad mandal spoke to the members of immigrant families from Mahabubnagar mandal and to their employers and arranged the admission of 4 boys from the families in school. The organiser from Kotalaguda, Vikarabad mandal spoke to the management of a Junior College and convinced the lecturers to sponsor the entire education of a motherless girl from the village.

Cohort Analysis

The database of children that had been generated through a survey in 2015 was taken as a reference point and the presence of school-going children tracked in 14 and 13 villages of Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals respectively. An exercise was taken up in Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda districts to track the educational status of children that had been enrolled in school during academic 2015-16, in 2016-17.

The outcomes of this exercise are as follows:

Mandal	Schools	2015-16		Missing	
		B	G	B	G
Marpally	20	1337	1376	39	36
Shankarpally	52	2529	2974	102	112
Vikarabad	30	1720	1965	44	27
Atmakur (S)	14	1261	1230	46	57
Nutankal	12	2619	2674	49	52
Halaharivi	18	1267	1067	41	54
Holagunda	19	2127	1694	231	238
Total	165	12860	12980	552	576

Mandal	Follow up		Dropout		Migrant		Same class		Other schools		Married		Died		CWSN	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Marpally	33	30	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Shankarpally	60	50	15	9	23	42	3	10	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Vikarabad	38	20	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Atmakur (S)	18	28	0	0	0	5	0	0	28	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutankal	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	38	0	0	0	0	1	0
Halaharivi	0	0	28	43	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Holagunda	0	0	191	188	32	26	0	0	0	0	6	19	0	2	2	3
Total	161	142	242	243	69	85	3	10	64	62	6	27	3	4	4	3

Special Occasions

Organisers and organisers from all mandals of the project area participated in the Children's Day celebrations organised by the Education Department. They were involved by the mandal officials in planning the event. Essay writing competitions featured at the HS level in 14 schools of Atmakur (S) mandal. Quiz, drawing and singing competitions were also organised in 59 schools in addition to cultural activities. Mandal level competitions were held on 15th November 2016. Earlier, head teachers and teachers were not very keen on these issues but have now begun to encourage children. Elocution competitions were held in 12 HS, one KGBV and 2 colleges of Nutankal mandal. The mandal level competitions featured on 21st November 2016.

Nearly 250 children from HS participated in Kabaddi, running, volleyball, shot put and running competitions in Zilla Parishad HS Chintakunta, Halaharivi mandal on the occasion of Children's Day. Participants included the MLA of Alur Mr Gumnur Jairam, MPP Mr Basappa and MVF Coordinator Mr Bhaskar. The MPP sponsored the stage, food and prizes, all of which were valued at Rs 25000. A planning meet was held with Physical Education Teachers in Holagunda mandal. The organisers proposed volleyball and Kabaddi competitions exclusively for girls. The event was presided over by ZPTC Ms Gangamma and 120 girls took part. MPDO Mr Nageswara Rao, SI Mr Maruti, MEO Mr Mahub Jaan and MVF Coordinator Mt Harihara Reddy were also present. Prizes were given away to two best performers in each event.

Organisers from all 3 mandals of Ranga Reddy district participated in the Children's Day celebrations in one school each and addressed children on the importance of the occasion. They also coordinated the conduct of elocution and essay writing competitions. One girl trained by the organisers won the first prize in an inter-college essay writing competition. She had earlier dropped out of college on health grounds and the organisers had convinced the management to re-enrol her. Self-government Day was observed in 2 schools of Marpally mandal. Self-government Day was observed in 2 schools of Marpally mandal on Teachers' Day. The organisers also felicitated 15 teachers. Organisers from Shankarpally mandal honoured 13 teachers and 5 Anganwadi Workers from Maharajpet.

Petitions

The table below brings out details of petitions submitted by different groups and their outcomes:

Mandal	Petitions	Petitioner	Recipient (s)	Issues	Outcome
Marpally	8	SMC, CRPF	Mandal administration (during Praja Darbar)	Midday meal, repairs to windows, flooring, water, shortage of teachers	
Shankarpally	1	SMC, CRPF	District Collector	Compound wall, minor repairs, increase in and timely release of allowance	Collector held meeting the next day to review problems in KGBVs CCTV camera put up Permission for repairs
Vikarabad	5	SMC, CRPF	Collector, Sub-Collector, DEO	Delay in issue of uniform Teacher timings Regularity of health check up in schools Private schools and government schools to have same timetable Toilets to be brought into use in schools	
Atmakur (S)	6	CRPF, SMC, women, Forum for Girls' Rights	Collector, Tehsildar, SI, MPDO	Textbooks, toilets, uniform, bus transport, midday meal, child marriage, girl child abuse	
Nutankal	4	CRPF, Forum for Girls' Rights	Collector, Sarpanch	Textbooks and uniform Napkins, toilets	
Halaharivi	6	Youth, Parents girls' forums, women, SMC MVF	Dy Chief Minister, Dy. DEO, MEO	Teachers in 2 schools Uniforms Travel Allowance Water in toilets Need for a Junior College	Teacher on deputation in one school Water supplied in one school
Holagunda	7	Youth, SMC, MVF	Member of Legislative Council, DEO,	Migration Child Marriage Bus facilities	Bus facility provided from Holagunda to Alur via Yellaharthy

			Tehsildar, MPDO, MEO, Road Transport Corporation Depot Manager	Travel Allowance School cleaning Hostel problems Water facility in schools	One child marriage stopped
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Forum of Girls for Rights

Meetings were held with members of the Forums once a month to discuss issues such as school dropout, child marriage, higher education, gender discrimination/equity, health & hygiene and follow up of absentees and dropouts. Forum members were also involved in group motivation exercises where required. ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) counseled the girls on health & hygiene and nutrition. Older girls were encouraged to apply for the Class 10 exams through Open stream. New Forums were formed in

The details of new Forums formed and meetings held with (all) Forum members are as under:

Mandal	New Forums	Members	Meetings	Members
Marpally	0	0	30	705
Shankarpally	15	342	48	702
Vikarabad	10	155	1	45
Atmakur (S)	22	660	72	2338
Nutankal	10	219	0	0
Halaharivi	28	528	0	0
Holagunda	19	348	0	0
Total	104	2252	151	3790

Meetings were convened with Anganwadi Workers to introduce the concept of the Forums and they were involved in a survey of adolescent girls. They were urged to convene fortnightly meetings but responded that they could only spare one Sunday a month for the purpose. There was also initial hesitation from most girls, as they were unsure of being able to give time. Mothers' Committees were involved in the issue and they took up the responsibility of reaching out to the girls and the Workers. The girls informed during the meetings that they had been facing numerous problems in college. Most colleges lacked computer operators and toilets were unavailable in some colleges. Some girls were being harassed by youth and teachers.

Review meetings were held once or twice a month at the Centre level in Ranga Reddy district and bimonthly at the village level. Games material was provided for use by the Forums in 3 villages of Marpally mandal and 6 villages each in Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals. The girls are being invited to village level community meetings so that they can share their experiences and are exposed to the organisation's broader agenda. M/s. CARE Hospitals organised health check up camps for all girls from the project area in Marpally and Shankarpally mandals in coordination with Primary Health Centres.

Members of 2, 3 and 4 Forums respectively from Marpally, Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals are convening meetings on their own and are inviting the volunteers. Members of the Forum followed up 4 children for the Class 10 exams and 6 children for the Intermediate exams through Open stream in Ranga Reddy district. Five children were followed up to school in Shankarpally mandal, in addition. Members of the Forum have been instrumental in reactivating 1, 7 and 4 Anganwadi Workers in Marpally, Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals respectively.

Organisers from Ranga Reddy district interacted with Anganwadi Workers and parents and spoke them to on the importance of the Sangha and its role in addressing girls' issues. They would have a forum of their own and could use it as a platform to discuss and highlight social issues such as gender equity, child marriage and education. They could assemble in the evenings at central locations of their villages.

Venkatamma – a 16-year old member of the Forum for Girls' Rights in Madgula Chittampally village of Vikarabad mandal informed that her father had deserted her and had remarried/ Her mother had taken her and her siblings along to her bothers' home, where she had entrusted the children to the care of their uncles and had remarried. Venkatamma's uncles had not educated her and had put her to work as a wage labourer instead. She had studied up to Class 10 earlier. Her fellow members

informed this to the organiser, who spoke to her uncles and persuaded them to let her continue her education through Open stream. They had no objection to this but did not agree to pay her fees. The organisers made the necessary arrangements and she is preparing for the exams.

Members of the 3 Girl Child Committees in Polumalla, Nutankal mandal assemble in the local school on every Sunday to discuss their issues. Earlier, they had been meeting not more than once a month and never spoke on any major issues. Some of them had been invited to a mandal level workshop, during which they had been addressed on gender issues. They opened up gradually and one girl informed that one of their teachers had been abusing them. The issue was taken up with the CRPF and the SMC, who questioned him. He retorted that he was being abused in the name of his caste. The SMC spoke to him strongly and warned him of a fact finding committee. He has mended his ways since.

The Sarpanch of Nemmikal village in Nutankal mandal was very egoistic and did not give the organisers any time. They persisted in their efforts and convinced him to get the toilet in the local school repaired. He has also been sponsoring drinking water for the school. Other issues discussed included transport facility for children and availability of sanitary napkins for girls. Members of 4 Forums from Atmakur (S) mandal petitioned to the Sarpanch for sanitary napkins and water/toilet facilities in school. The Sarpanch of Dacharam provided motor facility in the local school

Uma – the president of Mother Teresa Forum from Thallasingaram, Nutankal mandal dropped out of the First Year of the Intermediate programme, as she had failed to clear her exams. She was motivated to appear for the First and the Second Year exams together but she could clear only two of the papers. The Sarpanch counseled her and convinced her to give the exams a third time but she did not succeed even in this attempt. She dropped out and began working as an agricultural farmhand during the season. Her issue was discussed during a meeting of the Forum and she was later linked to Yashoda Foundation for a 45-day job oriented training programme. She has been absorbed by Yashoda Hospitals.

One girl from Nutankal mandal and 5 from Atmakur (S) mandal have been linked for job oriented training to Yashoda Foundation. One girl from Nutankal that had attended a training programme in the past has been successfully placed. Mounika – a native of Nemmikal village in Atmakur (S) mandal won 3 prizes in a competitive event and was also instrumental in preventing one case of child marriage.

Quite a few girls from Kurnool district have opposed their parents' decisions to marry them off underage and have been embracing education. They have also realised the importance of unity and are benefiting from their mutual interactions. Some of them have been demanding regular review meetings every month. Two and three Forums of Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals respectively have been conducting review meetings independently.

A seminar on gender discrimination was held 15th September 2016 in Junior College, Holagunda with the participation of 320 girls. An elocution competition was held with 8 boys and 9 girls taking part. They spoke on the different manifestations of discrimination. One girl, who stated that woman is not merely a sex object, won the second prize. The lecturers acted as the judges and gave away three prizes.

Child Rights Protection Forums

Mandal and village level meetings were taken up across the project area to discuss the status of school functioning with focus on availability of infrastructure, barriers to children's education, regularity of children and teachers and implementation of the midday meal scheme, gender discrimination and child marriage. The members were involved in all campaign activities undertaken by the organisers.

Information on girl child issues is being passed on to the organisers much faster through the medium of the CRPF and there is also marked attitudinal change among officials and duty bearers in this regard. The MEO of Marpally mandal convened a mandal level SMC meeting in response to pressure by the CRPF. He had not held any meetings in the last 3-4 months. The midday meal has improved in 3, 5 and 2 schools of Marpally, Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals respectively. Teachers in most

schools of the project area in Ranga Reddy district have quit using phones during school hours as a result of the CRPF's intervention.

The details of CRPF meetings held and participants are as follows:

Mandal	Village Meetings	Members	Mandal Meetings	Members
Marpally	5	106	2	47
Shankarpally	7	156	0	0
Vikarabad	2	38	4	53
Atmakur (S)	26	340	3	45
Nutankal	49	452	5	84
Halaharivi	6	85	0	0
Holagunda	7	128	0	0
Total	102	945	14	229

CRPF members from Narayanpur village in Vikarabad mandal noted that a local girl had been flirting with a youth from Kothagadi village of the same mandal and that they had eloped. They took the matter to the notice of the Childline team, who shared this information to the police. The boy was identified and he has been placed under arrest. The girl was counselled and she is presently enrolled in a college in Vikarabad.

The night watchman of KGBV Shankarpally had engaged in inappropriate behaviour with the girls on a number of occasions. Some of the teachers also forced them to perform menial tasks. On one occasion, a teacher had got one of the girls to crawl on their knees for having missed out on two days of school after the festival. The watchman had also been switching off the lights by 8 p.m. The girls informed this to their parents, who spoke to the CRPF. The members paid a visit to the KGBV and gave the teachers a piece of their mind. They told them in no uncertain terms that such acts would not be tolerated in future. The teachers' behaviour has improved.

The midday meal agency in Siddalur, Vikarabad mandal had been careless while bleaching the water in the school's water tank and some worms found their way in the midday meal one day through the water used to cook the meal. The children threw away the food and took the matter to the notice of their parents. The latter involved the SMC chairperson in the matter and he spoke rudely to the workers. They quit cooking for two days, which inconvenienced the children. The CRPF intervened and negotiated peace between the two parties. The workers have promised to be careful in future.

Gram Panchayats

The organisers maintained regular contacts with Sarpanchs and ward members and highlighted their role in addressing issues of the girl child such as their education, basic school infrastructure and child marriage. They were urged to do all that was possible within their capacities to uphold the rights of girl children. The Sarpanch joined hands with the head teacher and the SMC chairperson to provide a pipeline in the schools in Isthalapuram and Patharlapahad villages of Atmakur (S) mandal. Sarpanchs from Atmakur (S) mandal arranged for garbage to be removed in 2 schools of the mandal. The Gram Panchayat in Patharlapahad passed a resolution, making it obligatory for ward members to identify and resolve girl child issues within their wards.

Two quarterly Panchayat review meetings in Thallasingaram, Nutankal mandal were devoted to girl child issues and doing away with discrimination. The issue of girl child protection also featured during the discussions. A resolution was passed, recognising girls as equal to boys. The role of boys in protecting girl child rights was also discussed. A proposal to form joint clubs with both boys and girls was mooted. The Panchayat members undertook 2 school visits to have a firsthand idea of the problems being faced there. The MPTC later sponsored cleaning works and new taps worth Rs 10000. The Sarpanch invited some girls from the village to speak during the Independence Day celebrations in the school.

Water and toilet issues were set right in 10 and 3 schools of Atmakur (S) and Nutankal mandals respectively through the Panchayat's involvement. Marriage registration is taking place in 19 Panchayats of Atmakur (S) mandal and 21 Panchayats of Nutankal mandal. Five Sarpanchs from Halaharivi mandal are discussing gender issues during their internal meetings. Three Sarpanchs and

one MPTC from Holagunda mandal have been making presentations on gender issues during General Body meetings and their own review meetings.

Four CPCs each were formed in Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals during the reporting quarter. The functioning of all local institutions was reviewed during the formative meeting. The members were asked to work in close cooperation with the SMC. Girl youth have also been included in the CPC. The Panchayat sponsored a building for use by to girls in Thummalapally, Marpally mandal in line with the CPC's suggestion.

The details of Gram Panchayat meetings are as below:

Mandal	Meetings	Members
Vikarabad	10	452
Atmakur (S)	14	127
Nutankal	11	103
Halaharivi	1	21
Holagunda	2	47
Total	38	750

Involvement of Government functionaries and also Child Marriage Prohibition Committees

CMPCs have not been highly active as a group but the members are individually being involved in the campaign against child marriage and they are also counselling girls against child marriage. The organisers have also been involving and are being involved by line departments in different areas of activity, as illustrated under:

Department	Areas of Collaboration
Police	Child marriage, child labour, participation in campaign rallies and special drives, collaborating in cases of girl child abuse/harassment
Revenue	Child marriage, child labour, issuing Certificates to children
Education	Midday meal scheme, monitoring visits to school
Medical & Health	Health check up, counselling of girls, campaign against child marriage
Woman & Child Development	Counselling of adolescent girls on nutrition

There has been notable improvement in the role that these departments have been playing in the campaign. Police officials had been indifferent earlier but are now filing cases where required. The referral mechanism is also better. Head teachers have become more considerate of children now and are sending someone or the other from their side along with whenever they go to the Revenue Office to collect Certificates. Anganwadi Workers and Health Department personnel have also begun to cooperate with the MVF team.

Participation and Involvement of boys

Meetings were held with adolescent boys on child marriage, support to girls, gender discrimination/ equity, continuity in girls' education, stereotyping and the patriarchal system. The participants initially believed in role division between males and females and some of them felt that the organisers had been siding with girls. They expressed that they would be ridiculed if they took up tasks that were traditionally assigned to girls. Yet others opined that girls were weak and that they had their own drawbacks. In simple words, the male held all the aces. They changed their opinion after participating in the meetings. They now believe that girls too have the right to leisure and they have begun to encourage their own sisters' participation in games.

Youth from 3 villages in Halaharivi mandal and 2 villages in Holagunda mandal have been training girls in Volleyball and Kabaddi. A number of boys have also been guiding girls in the choice of colleges. There is a distinct trend against child marriage. Participation in meetings on the issue of gender has gone up and some boys have begun to come as far as Hyderabad to attend meetings.

A meeting was held with adolescent boys in Thummalapally, Marpally mandal. The participants planned a library in the village and mobilised nearly 1200 books from different sources. They also raised donations for the purpose. The Panchayat functionaries sponsored a building. The CRPF President inaugurated the library, which has been entitled Pustaka Vignana Kendram. It is fully functional with an average daily turnout of 35-40.

The issue of child marriage was discussed with adolescent boys in Yepuru, Atmakur (S) mandal and they were exhorted to denounce child marriage. They were also asked to prevent incidents involving elopement by young girls and boys. They were reminded that change began from home and that they ought to set a positive example for their peers. Some youth from the village identified a room for the library. Two meetings were held in the village to discuss child marriage. The youth offered to support girls in all possible ways and pledged to ensure that all girls from their families/their neighbourhood were well educated.

Access to Education

Older children that could not be linked to formal school or college were motivated to apply for the Class 10 and Intermediate exams through Open stream. The team from Atmakur (S) collected some pamphlets from the office of the Open School Society and publicised the conduct of the exams. The organisers sponsored the fees of 11 children through MVF, the SMC and the CRPF. Contact classes are scheduled to commence from the second week of January 2017. The details of children that registered for the exams during the reporting period are as follows:

Mandal	Class 10		Intermediate	
	B	G	B	G
Marpally	1	1	1	1
Shankarpally	1	0	1	4
Vikarabad	3	2	3	3
Atmakur (S)	10	15	0	0
Halaharivi	0	2	11	14
Holagunda	24	12	8	1
Total	39	32	24	23

Stopping Child Marriages

The organisers kept constant vigil on the occurrence of child marriage and identified potential cases with the help of Forums of Girls for Rights, parents, children, teachers and the CMPC and counseled the parents and children. They referred the matter to line department officials and involved them in the issue when required. Organisers from Shankarpally mandal petitioned to the Tehsildar, urging him to convene a mandal level meeting with priests and owners of function halls. They also counselled erring parents and took written declarations from them in the Tehsildar's presence to the effect that they would not marry their children underage. Seminars on the issue of child marriage were organised for 380, 256, 178 and 55 girls respectively in the Model School, the Government Girls' College, the KGBV and Sahiti College in Marpally mandal. The Tehsildar, the SI and the MEO were the special invitees. The details of proposed child marriages that were identified during the quarter are as below:

Mandal	Cases Identified
Marpally	2
Shankarpally	4
Vikarabad	4
Atmakur (S)	11
Nutankal	4
Holagunda	1
Total	26

All the cases with the exception of one from Marpally were prevented.

As many as 26 child marriages were recorded in Angadi Chittampally village of Vikarabad mandal in the previous year but not even one case has been recorded this year. A meeting was held in the village on 9th November 2016 to draw an action plan for gender mainstreaming. Four local youth, the CRPF and ward members were involved in this exercise. A group of 100 community members later took part in a rally, at the end of which the youth were administered a pledge to campaign against child marriage. The Circle Inspector of Police and the CPDO were also present.

Manasa – a Class 8 student from Janwada lost a small bet to a schoolmate and ended up parting with Rs 1000. Their chance acquaintance grew into a close relation and the villagers began suspecting their behaviour though there was nothing beyond camaraderie between them. Even her classmates had a wrong impression of her. In the course of days to come, Manasa's relatives humiliated and

tonsured the boy. He was shifted to another school and the girl was also taken out of school for 3 months. Her parents began planning her marriage. This issue came to the notice of the SMC chairperson, who took the Sarpanch along with him and spoke to her parents. They convinced the couple that it was against the law to marry off the girl underage. They also pointed out to the girl's mother that the boy had not been bothering their daughter any longer. This convinced Manasa's parents and they dropped the idea.

Sirisha, a student of Class 10 from Atmakur (S) and a leader of the Forum for Girls' Rights informed that her father proposed to get her married to her cousin and that he had agreed for the payment of Rs 10 lakhs towards dowry. She requested her fellow members to act on the issue. Her mother was not in favour of the marriage but her father, who was a short-tempered man, was keen on it. When spoken to, he denied having made any plans. Some of his relatives turned up at his home in the meantime. The organisers and the members of the Forum realised that they belonged to the groom's family and got the Sarpanch to speak to them. The marriage was duly postponed.

Shantamma – a Class 10 pass out from Yellaharthy in Holagunda mandal had been withdrawn from the First Year of the Intermediate programme by her parents, who later migrated to Bengaluru for 6-7 months. Upon their return, they fixed her marriage. One of their neighbours Rajyalakshmi informed this to the Anganwadi Worker. The Worker was hesitant to get involved in the matter, as she feared the girl's parents would file a case against her under the Scheduled Castes Atrocities Act. The girls called up 1098, following which the CDPO (Child Development Project Officer) instructed the Supervisor to look into the matter. A counselling session was held for the girl's parents and the marriage was duly withheld. Shantamma is still in Bengaluru but she is still unmarried.

Training and Capacity Building

Exposure Visit for staff

A team of 25 staff from the project area were taken on an exposure visit to the implementation site of Doosra Dashak, an NGO that works with adolescent youth in Bali block of Rajasthan, from 28th – 30th July 2016. They visited villages under the project, Village Learning Centres, Residential Camps and IKKVELO – an integrated learning centre. The organisation has an interesting internship programme, wherein adolescents are trained in 13 different issues over a period of 6 months in the Camps are linked to local communities for addressing social issues. Their progress is reviewed after a certain period of time and the meritorious among them are recruited as *Sahabhags*. They are also encouraged to participate in political activity and in other spheres of activity. Doosra Dashak has also been training tribal women on gender. Greater awareness on training techniques – new perspective of working with adolescents, gender issues and gender mainstreaming

Orientation of children

The details of training sessions held for children's committees and Youth Clubs during the reporting period are as under:

Mandal	Particulars	Group	Members	Agenda	Resource Persons
Marpally	Village level training – 6	Child Committees	98 boys 220 girls	Gender equity, discrimination, child marriage, education	Organisers
	School level training – 5	Child Committees	75 boys 180 girls		
Shankarpally	Village level training – 6	Child Committees	117 boys 197 girls	Gender equity, discrimination, child marriage, education	Organisers
	School level training – 5	Child Committees	184 boys 191 girls		
	Mandal level training – 2	Child Committees	60 boys 60 girls		
Vikarabad	Village level training – 4	Child Committees	62 boys 98 girls	Gender equity, discrimination, child marriage, education	Organisers
	School level training – 5	Child Committees	97 boys 180 girls		

	Mandal level training – 3	Child Committees	15 boys 45 girls		Coordinators Mr Bhaskar and Mr Narasimha, Organisers
Atmakur (S)	Mandal level training on 4 & 5 Oct. in the Model School	Forum for Girls' Rights	29	Importance of Unity, gender equity, Safe vs Unsafe Touch, violence, leadership skills, mapping girls' issues at school and village levels	MEO Coordinator Mr Bhaskar
	School/college level training – 18 institutions in two phases	Youth Clubs	834	Gender, child marriage	Organisers
Nutankal	Mandal level Training on 1-2 Oct. in ZPHS Nutankal	Forum for Girls' Rights	36	Importance of Unity, gender equity, Safe vs Unsafe Touch, violence, leadership skills, mapping girls' issues at school and village levels	Coordinator Mr Bhaskar
	School/college level training – 8 institutions in two phases	Youth Clubs	540	Gender, child marriage	Organisers

MPDO Mr Sattaiah was present during the mandal training in Vikarabad. Participants in Shankarpally included MPP Mr Ch. Narsimhulu, Tehsildar Ms Sarita, MPDO Ms Radha and MEO Mr Akbar. Audiovisual presentations on Good vs Bad Touch featured in the village sessions and the sessions in 2 and 8 schools respectively of Marpally and Shankarpally mandals.

The mandal level sessions were aimed as preparing the participants to take up the role of resource persons. They were informed that they were all first level leaders and that they needed greater exposure to gender issues. They were involved in a wide range of activities. It was a new experience for the children and they opened up. Relations between the children and the staff have improved to a great extent.

Girls from two schools informed of inappropriate behaviour by male teachers, during the course of the training sessions. These incidents were taken to the notice of the MEO and in-charge MEO of Nutankal mandal. They warned the teachers involved. Girls from Polumalla village of the mandal are convening meetings by themselves and are inviting the organisers to attend them. Unavailability of toilet and water facilities in the schools in Nemmikal and Yepuru were highlighted during the sessions.

A training workshop was held in Jeevan Jyoti, Hyderabad on 10th and 11th September 2016 for 63 adolescent girls from 19 villages of the project area with resource support from Voice for Girls. The girls were given detailed inputs in the areas of gender equity, gender mainstreaming, violence and education. The training methodology was largely activity based and games were used to send across vita messages to the girls in the context of these issues. These tools helped in driving home the message strongly and it was also a new experience for the girls. Upon their return home, the girls had a newfound sense of purpose and shared their experiences with their peers. They also opened themselves up and brought into the light incidents involving their abuse and harassment by teachers and fellow students. They are now conscious of oral violence and have also begun to identify discrimination and violence issues at the neighbourhood and school level. In addition, their turnout at mandal level gatherings has gone up notably.

Orientation of community groups

The details of training sessions held for other community stakeholders are as follows:

Mandal	Particulars	Group	Members	Agenda	Resource Persons
Atmakur (S)	Mandal level Training on 22 Sept. in MPDO's office Village level Training of 15 VOs	SMC	45 male 12 female 468	Role of SMC, Aims and objectives of the project, RTE Act, Child marriage, Marriage registration, Child labour, School development, Girl child education Programme review, Need to focus on children's and social issues	Tehsildar MPDO MEO Asst. SI Coordinator Mr Bhaskar Coordinator Mr Bhaskar
Nutankal	Mandal level Training on 25 Sept. in ZPHS Nutankal Mandal level Training on 31 st Dec.	SMC Bookkeepers	44 male 13 female 6 male 34 female	Role of SMC, Aims and objectives of the project, RTE Act, Child marriage, Marriage Registration, Child labour, School development, Girl child education Gender equality, perspective on gender issues, philosophy as SHG, change begin at home, Formation and strengthening of Gender Committees	ZPTC Asst. SI Coordinator Mr Bhaskar Asst. Programme Manager – Indira Kranthi Patham Area Coordinator – Institution Building Coordinator Mr Bhaskar
Halaharivi	Mandal level training on 8 Sept.	School head teachers, SMC chairpersons and vice chairpersons	72	Roles, responsibilities and powers of SMC members, School funding, RTE Act	MPP Tehsildar MPDO MEO Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy
Hologunda	Mandal level training on 22 August	School head teachers, SMC chairpersons and vice chairpersons	115	Roles, responsibilities and powers of SMC members, School funding, RTE Act	MPDO MEO Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy

Mr Bhaskar reminded participants of the Bookkeepers' training session that change began at home and that they had to take steps to ensure the brightness of their own daughters' future. The women opined that gender bias was a deep-rooted social issue that was difficult to address and shared their personal experiences. Some of the participants, however, differed and spoke on the manner in which they had defied community norms – one of the women had lit a funeral pyre. The members promised to form Gender Committees and strengthen them. They sought the organisers' support in this regard and also fixed a schedule. Village level planning was earlier taken up with 273 members of 11 VOs.

SMC members are regularly holding review meetings in 4 and 6 villages of Halaharivi and Hologunda mandals respectively and are inviting the organisers to attend them. Members of 4 and 6 schools from these mandals are discussing receipts and usage of school funds.

One woman from Medhehal, Hologunda mandal had settled herself with her family in the vicinity of a hand pump near the school. She would bathe in the open every day and perform some religious rituals, which the locals suspected to be associated with witchcraft. This resulted in the irregularity of more than half a dozen children. Some members of the SMC that had attended the mandal level training session passed a resolution to address the issue. They met the woman along with the Sarpanch and the head teacher and warned her of social boycott if she continued to create a nuisance. The matter has been resolved.

In another instance in Marlamadigi village of Hologunda mandal, SMC member Ningappa had enrolled his son in the local UPS but the boy had been attending private school. His fellow members moved a no-confidence motion and told him that he could not continue as member as long as his son did not return to the school. He had been contesting for the post of chairperson and had also spent Rs 12000 from his own pocket to lay a pipeline in the school. He reconsidered his stand and withdrew the boy from the private school. Ningappa has now been elected chairperson.

Youth Clubs

Monthly meetings were held with members of the Clubs to discuss the issue of gender equity, the status of discrimination and areas of mutual cooperation between boys and girls. They were asked to

monitor children's attendance in school and focus on health issues. They were called upon to inform their teachers of any developments with regard to these issues and to assist slow learners. Though not much progress has been made in terms of gender mainstreaming, the children have been active on other issues.

A meeting was held on 18th December 2016 in Somla Thanda, Nutankal mandal for adolescent youth studying at the High School and Intermediate levels. The 82 members that participated included 35 boys. They were addressed on the various manifestations of gender equity. Discussions were later held on strategising gender interventions and on the possibility of forming youth clubs. Some of the boys came up with a demand for joint forums. This would help them to appreciate the problems faced by girls. They offered to be second leaders wherever girls had been nominated for the post of first leader. Interestingly, a group of 9 girls had mobilised them for the meeting.

Kommu Sravani from Settigudem, Atmakur (S) mandal had been studying in the school in Kotapahad five kilometres away. A youth belonging to Kotapahad began to follow and pester her, following which she dropped out for 10 days. The organiser came to know of this and asked her why she had not been attending school. She shared the details of her problem with the organiser, who convened a School Advisory Committee meeting. The members of the Committee took the youth to task. In the meantime, Sravani's parents took her with them to Hyderabad where they had gone in quest of work. They were motivated and they consented to continue her schooling. They also bought her a cycle. She is regular to her classes now.

Five Committees, viz. Health & Cleanliness, Library, Games, News and Dropout have been formed in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals with members of school level forums. The head teacher is in charge of the Committees. The members have been given independent responsibilities. It is proposed to introduce gender issues to them in the next reporting period.

Training of Boys on Gender

School level training sessions on gender related issues were organised exclusively for boys in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals. These sessions were held in 3 schools of Halaharivi mandal, benefiting 143 boys and 111 girls and in 5 schools of Holagunda mandal, reaching out to 171 boys and 82 girls. They were given inputs on the concept of gender, gender equity, forms of discrimination and child rights. Coordinator Mr Harihara Reddy and the organisers provided resource support.

Mapping out all resources and supplies for use of computer and internet and ICT

Children that have benefited from the ICT intervention in Janwada have earned gainful employment and are taking time out to assist other children from the village. The government has not provided computer instructors in any school. A computer instructor has been posted in HS Hebbatam in Holagunda mandal, where he teaches children from Classes 6-10 for one hour a day. He also teaches the children whenever a teacher is unavailable. The children have developed the ability to make presentations independently. The head teacher has been inspired by their progress and has been conducting extra classes for slow learners before and after school hours. Mapping of available infrastructure has been done in all HS of Atmakur (S) and Nutankal and a representation has been made to the District Collector, requesting him to take steps to ensure that computer training facilities are facilitated to children in these schools.

Labour Study Publication and Dissemination

MVF undertook a study on child labour entitled *Lost Childhood – Voices of Out-of-School Children; a Study of 15-18 year old boys and girls in Telangana*. The primary objectives of this Study were to understand the predicament of children in this age group that had discontinued their education to work and to study their work conditions in relation to their gender, occupation and education profile. A dissemination meeting was held on 20th December 2016 in Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad to share the findings of the Study. Chief guest Minister of State (Employment) Mr Bandaru Dattatreya released the book in the presence of more than 200 people from all walks of life including Ms Linda of SCFR, Founder Trustee of MVF Dr Shantha Sinha, National Convenor of MVF Mr R Venkat Reddy and MVF Chief Coordinator Mr Y Rajendra Prasad. Mr Rajendra Prasad addressed the gathering in brief on the Study and its outcomes

Study on Child Marriage

MVF proposes to undertake a Study on child marriage in Telangana State with the primary objective of analysing the impact of child marriage on girls' lives. The Study will involve Focused Group Discussions with married boys aged < 21 and married girls aged < 18. It will enlist the voices of 30 girls that have defied child marriage and are pursuing education. It will also analyse trends in the situation of child marriage in India and compare them with the status in Telangana based on Census 2001 and 2011. In addition, it will focus on lacunae in the institutional framework that flow from the gaps in the law on Child Marriage in India. An Advisory Committee comprising activists, academics, subject experts and law enforcement officials has been formed. Two rounds of internal planning and discussion have been held so far and formats developed for the conduct of the Study.

Childline

A wide range of activities was taken up under the *Childline se Dosti* (CSD) initiative during the Child Rights Convention Week from 12th – 20th November 2016. The table below provides the details:

Date	Programme	Participants	Agenda
12/11/16	POCSO Act Poster release by Inspector General (IG) – Criminal Investigation Dept. (CID) at the Director General of Police's office	15 – incl. IG – CID Ms Sowmya Mishra IPS, SP – CID, Ms Anusuja, Addl. SP – CID Mr Nawab Jaan, MVF Coordinator Mr Y. Rajendra Prasad, Directors of Don Bosco and SPANDANA, Childline team	Release of Poster Issue of Circular on POCSO Act to police and railway police personnel Experience sharing Address on POCSO Act
13/11/16	Press Meets at Childline offices in Vikarabad and Tandur	30 – incl. Press Reporters from around 10 newspapers and the Childline team	Sharing information on project achievements Presentation on CSD Discussion on prevention of child marriage and children's vulnerability Role of Media according to the Juvenile Justice and POCSO Acts
14/11/16	CSD Poster release by Railway Police Force at Vikarabad and Tandur Railway Stations	33 – incl. Circle Inspector and Sis of Police, Railway Police personnel, Station Masters and vendors	Display of CSD Poster Address on concept of CSD
15/11/16	Release of Protectors' Poster by the District Collector in his chambers Signature campaign at public places in Tandur	8 – incl. the District Collector, the Dist. Welfare Officer, the DEO and the Dist. Child Protection Officer 250 - incl. the Municipal Commissioner, the Tehsildar, Depot Manager of the Road Transport Corporation and the Railway Police team	Presentation on CSD Submission of Childline activity report Discuss formation of Child Advisory Board Highlighted the Childline intervention Publicised the role of different stakeholders in child right protection
16/11/16	Signature campaign at public places in Vikarabad	250 – incl. the Municipal Commissioner, the Tehsildar, Depot Manager of the Road Transport Corporation and the Railway Police team	Highlighted the Childline intervention Publicised the role of different stakeholders in child right protection
17/11/16	Round Table meeting with officials and civil society at MPDO's office in Parigi Screening of <i>Komal</i> video in KGBV Peddemul	15 - incl. the Tehsildar, the MPDO and civil society/community leaders 140 – incl. students and teachers	Presentation on POCSO Act Discussion on child sexual abuse and role of community in preventing it Safe vs Unsafe Touch
18/11/16	Coordination meet with Woman & Child Welfare Dept. and Child Protection Unit at the District Collector's office Orientation on the rights of CWSN at the Model Schools in Chevella and Tandur	40 – incl. the District Collector, the Sub Collector, district level Child Protection Officers and Childline team 350 + 170 – incl. the Special Dy. Collector and the Programme Manager of local NGO Commitment	Preventing child marriages. Maintaining Register Tracking adolescent girl at the Anganwadi level Formation of Village CPCs Presentation and discussion on the rights of CWSN
19/11/16	Release of poster on POCSO Act by the SP at his	500 – including the SP, Addl. SP, the Tehsildar, CIs of Police – Vikarabad	Child sexual abuse cases POCSO Act

	office Rally with students of SAP College and HS from the SP's office to the District Collector's office	Urban &, Rural, and NGO activists 450 – including the SP, Addl. SP, the Tehsildar, CIs of Vikarabad Urban &, Rural, and NGO activists	Preventing child marriage Sloganeering against child marriage, child abuse and child labour
20/11/16	Distribution of prizes to winners of competitions from KGBVs in Chevella, Vikarabad and Yalal by SI – Chevella, SI – Yalal, MPDO – Vikarabad and MEO - Yalal Display of POCSO Act at 25 Police Stations on Notice Boards by Police personnel and Childline team	460	Distribution of prizes Address on child sexual abuse, POCSO Act, Safe vs Unsafe Touch and prevention of child marriage

The Childline team received 484 calls during the reporting period, including 251 from girls, 214 from boys and 19 from others. They successfully followed up 393 (81.2%) of these cases. One in three calls that were received was related to school dropout, followed by child marriage and need for shelter that jointly accounted for 31%. The details of these calls are as under:

Abstract of Calls from July – Dec. 2016 - Ranga Reddy (WEST)					
Total Callers: 484 Girls: 251 Boys: 214 Others: 19					
Age Group> 0-2: 10 3-5: 17 6-14: 316 15-18: 122					
Cases Resolved	393		Cases to be Followed up	91	
Profile of Caller	No of Calls	%	Nature of the Case	No of Cases	%
Anganwadi Worker/ICDS	32	6.6	Abandoned	2	0.4
Child	19	3.9	Abuse and Violence	13	2.7
Concerned adult	39	8.1	Bonded Labour	9	1.9
CRPF/Volunteer	15	3.1	Begging	12	2.5
Elected Representative	3	0.6	Service related	33	6.8
Relative	57	11.8	Corporal punishment	6	1.2
Friend	4	0.8	Children in conflict with law	1	0.2
Hospital/ANM	3	0.6	Child Labour	23	4.8
Neighbour	73	15.1	Child Marriage	75	15.5
NGO Personnel	11	2.3	Domestic Child Labour	2	0.4
Parent	39	8.1	Dropout	161	33.3
Police	12	2.5	Eve teasing	2	0.4
Press	4	0.8	Medical Support	2	0.4
Railway Police	12	2.5	Education Support	4	0.8
Teacher	32	6.6	CWSN	10	2.1
Outreach	57	11.8	Missing (Child Found)	29	6.0
Youth	42	8.7	Missing (Parents asked for help)	12	2.5
Other CHILD LINE staff	2	0.4	Street children	5	1.0
Shelter Home	1	0.2	Sexual Harassment	5	1.0
SHGs	1	0.2	Shelter	75	15.5
SMCs	6	1.2	Illegal adoption	1	0.2
DCPU	1	0.2	Death	2	0.4
Others	19	3.9			
TOTAL	484	100	TOTAL	484	100.0