

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

An M V Foundation – Stitching Charity Fund Rijsholt Partnership

Programme Report January– June 2016

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
BC	Backward Caste
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CMPC	Child Marriage Prevention Committee
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CRPF	Child Rights Protection Forum
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DCPU	District Child Protection Unit
DEO	District Education Officer
FFIR	First Information Report
GP	Gram Panchayat
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
MPTC	Member – Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institutions
PS	Primary School
RDO	Revenue Division Officer
RTE	Right to (Free and Compulsory) Education
SC	Scheduled Caste
SHG	Self-Help Group
SI	Sub-Inspector of Police
SMC	School Management Committee
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UPS	Upper Primary School
VO	Village Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Activities taken up during the first half of 2016 could be divided under three broad heads – community interventions, social mobilisation on girls and new initiatives. Community mobilisation activity was also taken up in 135 villages that were not covered by the project in the past.

A survey was taken up in 135 new villages during the reporting period to gather secondary information from Anganwadi Centres and schools on child population in the age group of 0-18 years and the educational status of children aged 6-18 years. 42192 children were identified through this effort. 22941 children aged 6-14 were in school and 565 of them were out of school. 7113 children in the age group of 15-18 years were pursuing their educations as against 652 that had dropped out of the system. The campaign was introduced to community through the medium of meetings and door-to-door visits in these villages. The volunteers also validated the child database that they had generated in 111 villages during the summer of 2015. All campaign activities continue to be implemented in these villages.

The project was introduced to community members in the newly surveyed villages and the progress of activity was shared with community groups in the other villages, as part of community mobilisation. 278 community meetings reached out to 8371 members in all. Occasions such as International Women's Day, Republic Day and National Day of the Girl Child were also used as a platform to reach out to them on campaign issues. The volunteers supported the Education Department's school enrolment drive at the commencement of the new academic year in June and also followed up 2985 out of 3216 children that had given the Class 10 exams to the Intermediate level.

One of the key activities taken up as part of Social Mobilisation on Girls was the formation of Forums for Girls Rights to equip adolescent girls with a means of addressing their issues on their own. It is envisaged that the formation and strengthening of these groups would help them emerge as leaders in future. 5782 girls have been associated with 291 such Forums during the reporting period. 23 Boys' Forums were also formed in Kurnool district to involve boys in the process of upholding the dignity of girls and working towards gender equity. Efforts were made to involve the CRPF in addressing campaign issues with focus on girl child issues and ensuring streamlined implementation of the RTE Act. They participated in a number of meetings at the State, district and mandal levels as part of this effort. They have come forward in a big way to support the MVF team.

The volunteers joined hands with the mandal administration and the police, to intensify the campaign against child labour. A CMPC was formed at the mandal level in Vikarabad in addition to 65 at the village level across the project area to strengthen the campaign against child marriage and to involve PRI members more actively in this agenda. 550 members attended 50 review meetings of the CPC. 95 potential cases of child marriage were identified and 42 of them prevented with the help of officials, elected representatives and community groups. 98 orientation sessions were held for 1232 boys and 2656 girls on gender equity, child rights, the Child Marriage Act, health and education. A mandal level orientation session on management of the Forum was held for 106 girls in addition. 20 orientation sessions were also organised for 1527 community members and representatives of local institutions under the GP.

60 Combined Forums were formed jointly with a total of 2119 adolescent boys and girls at the village level as part of New Initiatives. 69 school level and 20 college level Forums that were formed on similar lines are also in place with 2417 members. Computer training facilities were provided to adolescent girls in 3 Mandal Learning Centres through the provision of 25 computer systems. A National Workshop on Perspective Building on Adolescent Girls' Education was held in Hyderabad on 5th and 6th April 2016 with the participation of 30 NGO representatives from across the nation. The primary objective of this event was to facilitate cross-learning through experience sharing in the context of interventions with adolescent girls.

A Study entitled *Justice for Out-of-School Children* was taken up in late 2015 to study the educational status, the working conditions and occupational profiles of 552 out-of-school children that were aged 15-18 years and had not cleared the Class 10 exams. Rural mandals with low literacy, industrial zones in urban areas and urban slums with high minority population were chosen for the Study. A Structured Questionnaire containing 103 questions and Focused Group Discussions were the primary

tools used for data collection. The Study covered children that were in employment during the period August 2014 – July 2015. The findings are being consolidated and will be available for dissemination soon.

MVF entered into an agreement with Child Line Foundation, India to coordinate the Toll Free Child Line No. 1098 (hereafter referred to as 1098) service in 18 mandals of Ranga Reddy district. 1098 is a 24X7 emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection. A team of 14 members led by a Coordinator is implementing this intervention. _____ cases of vulnerable children were identified and _____ of them successfully resolved.

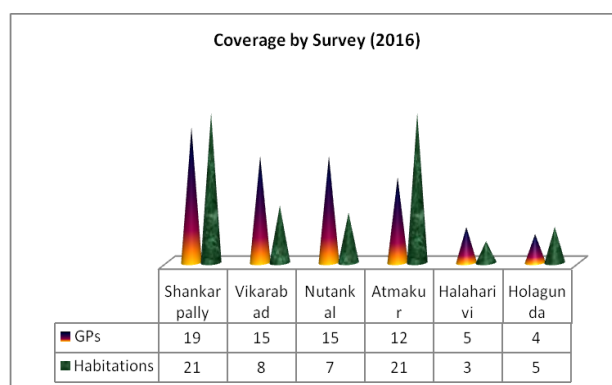
SURVEY

The volunteers undertook a resurvey of villages covered under the intervention in 2015-16 to validate data of children in and out of school. They took along lists of these children and compared them with records available with schools and Anganwadi Centres. The details of villages covered through this exercise are as below:

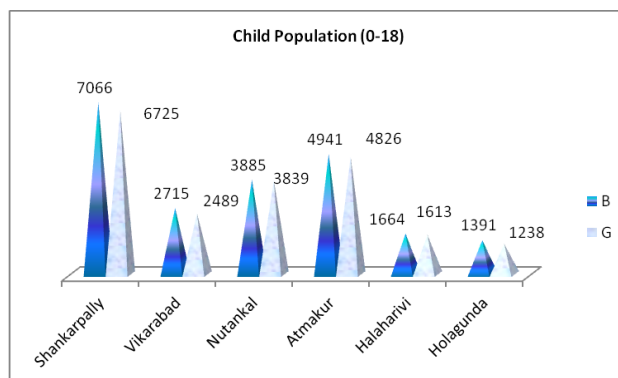
S.NO	Mandal	GPs	Habitations
1	Marpally	13	3
2	Shankarpally	6	5
3	Vikarabad	6	3
4	Atmakur	7	14
5	Nutankal	6	17
6	Halaharivi	10	6
7	Holagunda	13	2
	Total	61	50

A survey was also taken up in 136 hitherto uncovered villages of the project area during the reporting year to gather information on child population in the age group of 0-18 years and the educational status of children aged 6-18 years. Secondary data on children aged 0-5 and 15-18 were collected from Anganwadi Centres and information on children aged 6-14 was gathered from schools for the purpose. Separate lists of children aged 6-14 and 15-18 that were enrolled in educational institutions and that were out of the education system were compiled. The survey in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals, however, involved collection of primary data through door-to-door visits. The details of villages surveyed, child population and educational status of children aged 6-18 years are as below:

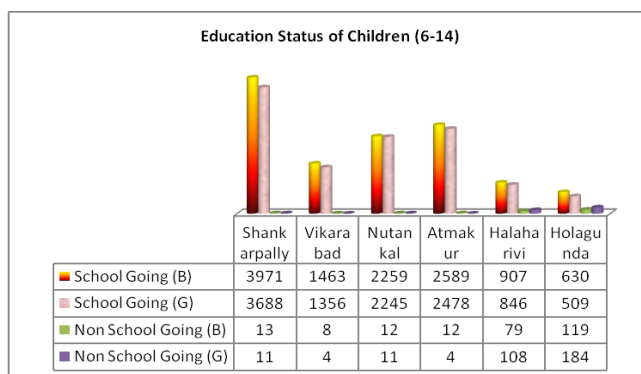
S.NO	Mandal	GPs surveyed in 2015-16	Habitations surveyed in 2015-16
1	Shankarpally	19	21
2	Vikarabad	15	8
3	Nutankal	15	7
4	Atmakur	12	21
5	Halaharivi	5	3
6	Holagunda	4	5
	Total	70	65



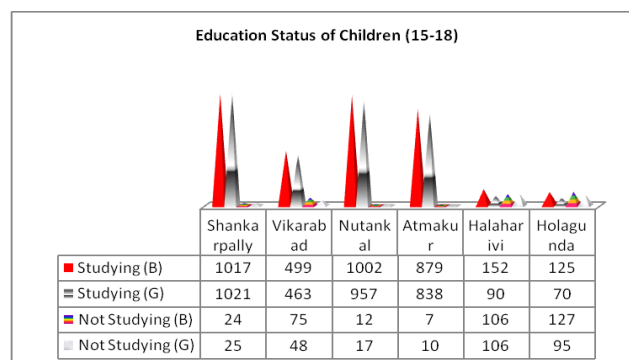
S. NO	Mandal	Child Population (0-18)		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Shankarpally	7066	6725	13791
2	Vikarabad	2715	2489	5204
3	Nutankal	3885	3839	7724
4	Atmakur	4941	4826	9567
5	Halaharivi	1664	1613	3277
6	Holagunda	1391	1238	2629
	Total	21662	20730	42192



S. NO	Mandal	Education Status of children aged 6-14			
		School Going (B)	School Going (G)	Non School Going (B)	Non School Going (G)
1	Shankarpally	3971	3688	13	11
2	Vikarabad	1463	1356	8	4
3	Nutankal	2259	2245	12	11
4	Atmakur	2589	2478	12	4
5	Halaharivi	907	846	79	108
6	Holagunda	630	509	119	184
	Total	11819	11122	243	322



S.NO	Mandal	Education Status of children aged 15-18					
		Studying			Not Studying		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Shankarpally	1017	1021	2038	24	25	49
2	Vikarabad	499	463	962	75	48	123
3	Nutankal	1002	957	1959	12	17	29
4	Atmakur	879	838	1717	7	10	17
5	Halaharivi	152	90	242	106	106	212
6	Holagunda	125	70	195	127	95	222
	Total	3674	3439	7113	351	301	652



The broad observations made during the course of the survey were as follows:

- Parents of girls in many a case felt that it was better for their daughters to work instead of studying beyond Class 10.
- The incidence of dropout in Marpally and Shankarpally mandals was highest at the Intermediate level
- Significant dropout was recorded in Classes 8-10 in Vikarabad mandal
- Lack of bus facilities was a major cause for dropout. Children from Thummalapally, Narsapur and Narsapur Thanda in Marpally mandal could not afford auto rickshaws in the absence of public transport and had, therefore, dropped out.
- A number of children had dropped on account of their inability to afford private education at the Intermediate level. Most of them had opted for residential government colleges.
- Distance to High Schools and Junior Colleges and the unavailability of Science education facilities at the Intermediate level were the key causes of dropout after the Class 10 level in Vikarabad mandal.
- A number of children from Shankarpally and Vikarabad mandals had quit education after Class 10 because they had no English medium education at the Intermediate level. Both mandals had just one Government Junior College in addition.
- Many children from Shankarpally mandal had backlogs from their Intermediate First Year and dropped out in the Second Year, as they could not cope with the burden.
- Teacher shortage, inability to pay fees, transport problems, poor learning levels and backlogs at the Intermediate level were the key reasons for dropout in Kurnool district.
- A decrepit school building in one school of Halaharivi mandal had caused all children from the school to drop out.
- Only one teacher had been posted in UPS Lingampally of Holagunda mandal. A second teacher had been appointed there but she was on maternity leave. The teacher had issued Transfer Certificates to Class 5 pass outs, asking them to enroll wherever they wanted.
- The onset of puberty was a major cause for girls' dropout in schools of Kurnool district.
- No Intermediate level education in the Kannada medium was available in Holagunda, which had resulted in high dropout from Kannada medium schools in border villages.
- Halaharivi mandal had no Government Junior College and the nearest Junior College was located at a distance of more than 30 kilometres from the mandal headquarters.
- 10 villages in Halaharivi mandal have no transport connectivity to the mandal headquarters.
- Some parents had been withholding details of dropouts for no valid reason.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Panchayat level meetings were held to discuss issues of the girl child. One of the key points raised during the course of the discussions was that of girl child dropout at the High School and the Intermediate levels. A number of participants expressed insecurity about their daughters, who had to travel long distances to attend school/college. Some of them informed that cases of girls' elopement had taken place in their villages and that this was why they had discontinued their daughters' education so that they could be married off. They were assured that they would have no cause for

worry if they guided their daughters well. The volunteers replied that the girls ought to be guided properly and regularly tracked. Gender based discrimination was also discussed with VO and SHG members during their meetings and they were asked to treat girls on par with boys.

Meetings were held with adolescent girls to address issues of relevance to them such as higher education, child marriage, personal health and hygiene and gender equity. They were informed that adolescence was often accompanied by radical physical and psychological changes that they ought to control and cope with. They ought to share their experiences and feelings with their parents. They were also urged to focus on their higher education, as it would benefit them in the long run. It was noted during the meetings that children of single women couldn't afford transport and had been preferring residential courses. Sarpanchs and head teachers were invited to attend Panchayat level meetings so that the girls could be linked to them. 2 adolescent girls from Gulyam in Halaharivi mandal assisted the volunteers in convincing 17 children to appear for the Class 10 exams through Open stream. 10 girls were similarly followed up in Mudathamagi, Nerniki and Chinnaheta villages of Holagunda mandal.

SMC meetings focused on school development, supply of free textbooks, quality of education, closure of government schools for want of strength and utilisation of school funds. Panchayat members and the SMC recruited 12 trained volunteers in 7 villages of Nutankal mandal to assist teachers. The head teacher of Polumalla PS was in charge of teaching English and children from Telugu medium sections had no one to teach them. The issue was brainstormed with the villagers and they came forward to contribute Rs. 5000 a month towards salary for a trained volunteer.

The details of meetings held with different groups and participants are as under:

Mandal	VO	Members	SMC	Members	GP	Members	CPC	Members	Youth	Members	Adolescents	Members
Marpally	4	120	5	101	1	48	2	28	0	0	22	757
Shankarpally	9	285	2	77	2	50	1	18	0	0	24	817
Vikarabad	5	65	4	84	3	160	6	96	0	0	15	451
Atmakur	10	683	13	256	18	127	0	0	8	413	23	1108
Nutankal	6	139	14	139	5	48	0	0	13	145	17	1056
Halaharivi	3	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	121	8	310
Holagunda	1	14	0	0	3	64	0	0	13	228	11	321
Total	38	1338	38	657	32	497	9	142	41	907	120	4820

ENROLMENT AND RETENTION OF CHILDREN

List of all children aged 5 years and above were compiled and door-to-door visits undertaken to their homes with a view to enrolling them in school. Separate lists of children aged 5-8 and 9-14 were prepared. These lists were shared with officials of line departments on the occasion of Badi Baata and the volunteers also joined them in mobilisation drives. The Education Department held parents' meetings in all mandals to publicise English medium education in government schools. Rallies were held with the participation of community stakeholders in 5 schools of Marpally mandal. One Nandini from Thummalapally had been studying in Sadasivapet and had dropped out of Class 9 due to family disputes. Her parents were counseled after a rally in the village and she duly enrolled in Patlur HS. Four boys from Patlur that had dropped out of Classes 8 and 9 were followed up to school.

The team in Atmakur mandal focused on reaching out to irregular children and children employed in cotton and chilli farms. A number of children travel more than 80-100 kilometres away by auto rickshaws, tractors and mini-vans to work in these farms. Idle college-going youth were followed up in Nutankal. The volunteers motivated 8 vagrant youth from Singaram, who had dropped out of college and had got used to alcohol, to return to college. They involved a local youth association in the issue. The youth are regular to their classes. Secretaries from villages of the mandal issued the necessary certificates to 9 migrant children in order to facilitate their admission in KGBV. Children from 6 schools in the catchment area of HS Singaram of Nutankal mandal were formally *handed over* to the head teacher after being enrolled in the school.

Special drives were taken up in Atmakur mandal from 1st – 12th June 2016 with all community groups to reach out to irregular children. Lists of such children were taken from head teachers and meetings were held at the village level to publicise English medium education in government schools. Many parents questioned teachers about the quality of education and the teachers went on the defensive. They assured the parents that they would maintain quality in future. They observed that it would not be possible to strengthen government schools as long as private institutions were given priority. It was parents' responsibility to end their children to government schools. Teachers from Ramoji Thanda put in special efforts to bring 70 children that were studying in private schools in Suryapet back to the local school. The number of children attending private schools in Yepuru has gone down from 200 to 70-75. However, teacher shortage poses a challenge to children's retention in government schools.

The issue of quality was discussed during Badi Baata in villages of Nutankal mandal. A debate arose between parents and teachers in this regard. The teachers opined that quality could be maintained only if children attended school. They also informed that English medium education was being introduced in government schools. Panchayat members passed a resolution during a Grama Sabha facilitated by teachers in Singaram village of Nutankal mandal that no private school bus would be permitted to enter the village. 78 children have shifted to the government school. The Sarpanch raised an amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs to support the salaries of 5 trained volunteers.

A special drive was taken up in Nutankal mandal to reach out to High School dropouts and follow them up to school. 24 children including 2 that had migrated to Hyderabad and 1 that had gone to Nizamabad were brought back. They were issued Aadhaar Cards and enrolled in school with the help of the SMC, the CRPF and head teachers. The CRPF joined hands with VO leaders and parents to free 4 girls from work in brick kilns of Atmakur mandal and send them to school. The head teacher and teachers from the school in Yepuru village of the mandal used to while away their time engrossed in personal discussions over phones at the cost of the children's education. Some parents complained to the Dy. DEO, who took them to task after the issue was covered by local newspapers.

99% of children from Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals had cleared the Class 10 exams. Their lists were taken and shared with teachers, youth and adolescents during village level meetings. Children that were not ready to continue studying were identified and personally counseled at their homes. They were given comprehensive information on higher education opportunities available to them. Hindering factors included the children's inability to pay their fees, child marriage, inaccessibility to public transport, distance and medium of education. Volunteers from Halaharivi coordinated in the conduct of *Mana Ooru Mana Badi* – the State government's school enrolment drive, from 25th April – 5th May 2016. They shared the MVF child labour database with them and took along head teachers to the children's homes to motivate them. They also mobilised community members for participation in Grama Sabhas held in Nerniki, Holagunda mandal and Samathagiri, Halaharivi mandal.

4 children that had quit after having studied in the Kannada medium were followed up to hostels and 2 others are studying from home. Makeshift arrangements were made for payment of fees on behalf of some children. One girl from Yellaharthy was motivated to apply for a Certificate course in Garment Making. Muslim youth from Holagunda came forward to conduct classes for 12 girls at the office of their youth association, as they were keen on continuing their studies but had no higher education facilities. Their examination applications would be forwarded through the local college.

Rallies were held on 12th June 2016 in 3 villages of Halaharivi and at the mandal level in Holagunda with 70 youth and 68 youth respectively. They sloganeered against child labour and called upon parents to send all children to school. Meetings were held with parents at the village level towards this end in Halaharivi mandal and with ICDS staff in Holagunda mandal.

The local school in Pendlimadugu of Vikarabad mandal had been closed down 3 years ago due to shortage of students. Many parents had been showing interest in private schools. School level meetings were held to discuss the issue. Most of the parents informed that they were not able to pay their children's fees. The MEO, who had been invited to the school, told them that this was why the government had set up schools for them. They had, however, been neglecting these schools. The parents of 40 children from the village shifted their wards to the school on 16th June 2016. Two Cluster Resource Persons and an education volunteer were enrolled there in response to a petition to the MEO. He promised to depute/post regular teachers in the school at the earliest.

The teacher that had been posted in Irukunta Thanda, Shankarpally mandal was on leave most of the time and had also appointed a volunteer to undertake her responsibilities by proxy. The children's academic standards had been affected as a result and their parents shifted them to the school in Dontanpally. The school in the Thanda was closed down. The villagers came up with a demand for the school to be reopened and the teachers replaced, during a meeting held by line department officials and the volunteer in the village as part of the enrolment drive. The officials promised to do so and also followed up on this. 22 children returned to the school after a trained volunteer was recruited there.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

A mandal level meeting with 62 women was held Holagunda on 8th March 2016. They were oriented on child rights and child marriage. Resource support was provided by the MPDO and the MVF District Coordinator. Participants included Sarpanchs, ward members, VO members and SHG members. The participants were involved in an interactive discussion on the ill effects of child marriage. They shared their personal experiences and problems. The MPDO took note of their problems and promised to solve them. He addressed them briefly on government institutions and legislations and their roles in the process of upholding the rights of women and girls. Some of the participants had dropped out of school. He encouraged them to overcome obstacles and resume their education.

80 members including the Sarpanch, the MPTC and the ICDS Supervisor were present at the International Women's Day celebrations in Patlur, Marpally mandal. They addressed the participants on child rights and child marriage. They urged VO members not to extend loans to members that had been planning to get their daughters married underage. Older girls were informed that they could get certified at the Class 10, Intermediate and undergraduate levels through Open stream. They were encouraged to make use of this opportunity.

The volunteers mobilised more than 200 people for the Women's Day celebrations arranged by the MPP in Atmakur. They felicitated active women in public and called upon women to realise their true potential. A presentation was made on MVF's adolescent girls' initiative. The speakers addressed the gathering on the background of International Women's Day.

70 adolescent girls and women attended the International Women's Day celebrations held in Janwada of Shankarpally. Participants included with Sarpanch, the Anganwadi Worker, the ASHA, teachers and an Ayurveda doctor. The girls were addressed on their rights and on their social responsibilities.

Games competitions and essay writing competitions on child marriage featured in 3 HS of Marpally mandal on Republic Day – 26th January 2016. Prizes were given away to winners. Girls from Janwada participated in traditional *muggulu* competitions. Local youth associations sponsored prizes and shields for all participants and offered all necessary support to the girls. The volunteer addressed the girls and exhorted them to demonstrate courage and initiative in all spheres of life. Sport competitions were also held in 2 schools of Vikarabad mandal.

A rally was held with more than 200 members including KGBV students, the ICDS Supervisor, a Head Constable, head teachers, teachers and Anganwadi Workers in Holagunda on 24th January 2016 to mark National Day of the Girl Child. The head teacher addressed the girls and advised them to plan their future well and to put in the necessary efforts so they could succeed. They were also urged to continue their education. The Head Constable informed them that they could call up Toll Free Numbers 1098 or 100 in time of need.

EXAMINATION FOLLOW UP

The volunteers personally met all children that were giving the Class 10 exams at the end of the academic year to ensure that every one of them appeared for the exams without fail. They also identified the reasons for children's dropout from school/discontinuity in their education after the Class 10 level. Key influencing factors were migration, high costs of education, insecurity and the distance factor. Lists of children that had cleared the exams and of those that had failed them were prepared after the results were declared. Their parents were met at their homes and they were asked to get their children to apply for the Advanced Supplementary exams to be held in June-July 2015.

The details of children that appeared for the Class 10 and their follow up are as follows:

Class 10 Exams (Regular) follow up (academic 2015-2016)										
Mandal	Appeared		Supplementary		Passed (Total)		Enrolled in Intermediate		Discontinued	
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Atmakur	285	286	51	52	276	283	276	283	9	3
Nutankal	333	300	21	3	333	298	333	298	0	2
Shankarpally	225	237	88	98	181	182	133	125	3	2
Vikarabad	266	409	111	139	206	335	138	244	9	25
Marpally	258	277	17	14	247	268	238	229	9	39
Halaharivi	172	174	1	0	171	156	170	156	2	15
Holagunda	243	161	2	0	237	125	237	125	6	36
Total	1782	1844	291	306	1610	1606	1525	1460	38	122

Only 35 out of 88 children from Class 10 in HS Yepuru of Atmakur mandal had passed the Class 10 exams. The children's parents and the CRPF questioned the head teacher strongly in this regard. The head teacher set up a tuition centre for 53 children from 10 villages. The centre was manned by 4 teachers. The MVF team ensured that classes were held as per schedule and the children were regular to their classes. The children stayed there from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. A meal was arranged for them. 14 children attended a tuition centre in Patharlapahad. The head teacher paid the fees of 13 children that could not afford to pay them. 10 children had not taken along their hall tickets to the supplementary exam centre from the village. The volunteers brought their Hall Tickets from their homes and made sure that they gave the exams.

COHORT ANALYSIS

A cohort analysis was taken up in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals to track the school-going status of children enrolled in school during academic 2015-16. 564 children were found to have missing from the education system and they are being followed up.

The table below provides details of the outcomes of the cohort exercise.

Cohort Analysis June 2016 (Abstract)		
Mandal	Halaharivi	Holagunda
Boys	1267	2126
Girls	1067	1696
Missing (B)	41	231
Missing (G)	54	238

SOCIAL MOBILISATION ON GIRLS

FORUM OF GIRLS FOR RIGHTS

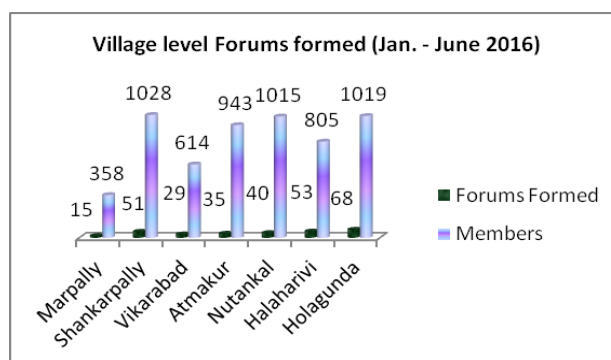
New Forums were formed in villages/schools of the project area that had been left out during 2015. The volunteers met key groups in the village and introduced the concept of the Forum to them. They were informed that this intervention focused on adolescent girls and on girl child issues and that it aimed at giving girls a space not only to express themselves but also to reach out to officialdom. This would also help strengthen the girl child rights campaign at the ground level and ease the process of tracking children.

The volunteers also participated in review meetings of existing Forums and discussed issues such as higher education, child marriage, Menstrual Health & Hygiene, nutrition and Class 10/Intermediate

exams through Open stream with the members. They also gave the girls their personal phone numbers and asked them to contact either those numbers or 1098 in cases of emergency. They were linked to ANMs and Anganwadi Workers for health and nutrition follow up. The members were motivated to place demands for new Anganwadi Centres with the CDPO – ICDS and the ICDS Supervisor. The activities of the Forum were shared with ANMs, ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers during village level meetings and they were asked to support the Forum members.

The details of Forums of Girls for Rights formed during the reporting period and their members are as below:

Forum of Girls for Rights (Jan - June 2016)		
Mandal	Village Forums Formed	Members
Marpally	15	358
Shankarpally	51	1028
Vikarabad	29	614
Atmakur	35	943
Nutankal	40	1015
Halaharivi	53	805
Holagunda	68	1019
Total	291	5782



The management of Sai Dental College, Vikarabad organised a general health camp for more than 100 members of the Forum at the behest of the Sarpanch of Gottimukkula village. Indo American Cancer Hospital conducted a general health check up cum cancer screening camp for nearly 200 adolescent girls in Poddatur, Shankarpally mandal. 5 of them were diagnosed with tumours/cancer at various stages. The doctors also gave the girls tips and advice on Menstrual Health & Hygiene.

Members of the Forum from 3 villages of Marpally mandal participated in an elocution competition and cultural events on 14th April 2016 to mark Ambedkar Jayanti. One girl from Kothapally in Shankarpally mandal had been given a free seat in Vivekananda College of Chevella last year but she had not joined there due to health issues. She sought admission during academic 2016-17 but the Principal asked her to pay the fees applicable. Her fellow members in the Forum spoke to the Principal and arranged the girl's admission free of cost.

Ravulapally Sujatha from Janwada, Shankarpally mandal lost her mother and brother in successive years, following which her father abandoned her. She relocated to her maternal grandmother's place and quit schooling. Upon coming to know of this, the members of the school level Forum motivated her to appear for the Class 10 exams. In another instance, 15-year old Pullur Divya from Nadigudem in Atmakur mandal eloped with a youth from Hyderabad and got married to him. Members of the Forum motivated her and her husband during her visit to her parents' place and got her enrolled in the Social Welfare Junior College in the mandal with her husband's consent.

Two girls from Bologota, Halaharivi mandal came forward to apply for the Class 10 exams through Open stream after they participated in a meeting organised by the volunteer. Some girls have been walking for more than 5 kilometres each way to attend contact classes. 7 out-of-school girls from Holagunda mandal were readmitted in school as a follow up of the Forum meetings.

4 girls from Nagarkanvi, Holagunda mandal had dropped out of KGBV in academic 2015-16 because water was not available. Some of them had also been feeling insecure for no valid reason. The issue was taken up for discussion during a meeting of the Forum in April 2016. The members of a Forum that had been newly formed in a neighbouring village counseled them and asked the girls if they had any problems, to which they replied in the negative. They were motivated on the benefits of education, following which they resumed their education. The District Coordinator spoke to the Principal and arranged their readmission. They are regular to their classes.

CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION FORUM

A State level CRPF meeting was held on 9th January 2016 in Hyderabad with the participation of 60 district level functionaries. Points on the agenda included district wise review of activities taken up, planning the formation of mandal level CRPFs and planning monitoring visits to schools and hostels. It was decided at the end of the meeting that a school survey would be taken up to study the status of implementation of the RTE Act in Telangana State. 42, 30, 19 and 12 schools respectively were visited in Nalgonda, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Mahabubnagar districts to look into the availability of teachers and basic infrastructure. The outcomes were shared with District Collectors, DEOs, Dy. DEOs and Project Officers of the Rajiv Vidya Mission and memoranda submitted, seeking immediate action. The officials responded positively and recruited Vidya Volunteers wherever required, Toilets were constructed in one school of Mahabubnagar district and toilets repaired in 5 schools of Hyderabad district. Drinking water was also provided to two schools of Hyderabad. Uniforms were given away to children in 15 schools of Nalgonda district and fees that had been collected in contravention of the RTE Act were returned to children in 7 schools of the district.

52 members attended a State level meet of the CRPF held in Hyderabad on 16th – 17th April 2016. They reviewed the activities that they had taken up in their respective districts. The issue of regulating fees collected by private schools was discussed at length and an action plan chalked out in this regard. They subsequently met the DSE and demanded the formation of a State level Committee to regulate private school fees. He was also urged to rationalise teachers' posting by shifting them from overstaffed schools to understaffed ones. They also collected lists of government schools with zero enrolment and visited some of them. They noted that teacher irregularity and the poor quality of education were responsible for this state of affairs. They shared these findings with the DSE and told him that would be possible to improve the situation only by addressing these issues.

A district level protest was staged by 150 members at the District Collector's office in Mahabubnagar on 29th June 2016. They rallied from the DEO's office to the Collector's office earlier and submitted a memorandum to the Joint Collector. 35 students and 26 parents were involved in a protest in Thummalapally, Marpally mandal on 27th June 2016 to demand the recruitment of volunteers in the local school, which had 92 students but no teacher. The State government had coincidentally announced the recruitment of Vidya Volunteers around the same time. 6 volunteers were duly posted in the school.

Two district level Round Table meetings were held in Kurnool. The District CRPF was reconstituted and the status of implementation of the RTE Act reviewed during the meetings. Issues discussed included teacher shortage, problems faced in single teacher schools and inaccessibility to basic facilities such as toilets and water. The outcomes of the survey commissioned by MVF were also shared with the MEO of Holagunda and petitions submitted to him, requesting him to act on problem issues. CRPF members were urged to link likeminded groups with the movement and ensure that they included child rights in their agenda.

The district CRPF in Ranga Reddy district petitioned to the District Collector and the DEO in the context of fees charged by private schools and also called upon 12 MEOs from the district to hold meetings with private school managements in this regard. Petitions were also submitted to the District Collector and the DEO in Nalgonda. Members of the district CRPF in Hyderabad, Adilabad, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy and Khammam districts held detailed discussions on problems being faced in schools and hostels with specific focus on quality of education and availability of infrastructure.

2 mandal level meetings were held in Shankarpally mandal to discuss school monitoring, the quality of school education, status of dropout and teacher regularity. The members had visited the schools in Kondakal and Janwada earlier and had interacted with the teachers there. They had also noted during

the course of their village visits that CMPCs had not been formed in all villages of the mandal. They planned petitions to the Tehsildar in this regard. 24 children from Parveda had failed to clear the Class 10 Mathematics exams last year even though 2 subject teachers were in place. Their parents had withdrawn them from school. A joint mandal level meeting of the SMC and the CRPF was held with these parents.

The mandal level meetings were followed up with village level meetings in Parveda and Kondakal. 15 CRPF members from Janwada petitioned to the MEO in the context of private school fees. Monthly CRPF-teacher meetings were planned with the objective of addressing the quality of education. Parents from Kondakal offered to pay Rs. 50-60 per head to buy a computer system for the local school. The mandal team in Shankarpally visited the KGBV during January 2016. The girls there informed that they had been facing shortage of water. The Sarpanch, who had accompanied the team, offered to sponsor a tanker and a motor. He has also begun to visit the KGBV at least once in 2 days.

The Mandal CRPF and the Town CRPF were reconstituted in Vikarabad. Members of the newly formed Mandal CRPF visited UMS Kothagadi, where they noted that the school had only one teacher for 100 children and that water was not being supplied. They raised this issue with the MEO. The members also visited 12 villages of the mandal that had high incidence of child marriage, along with line department officials. Members of the CRPF from Vikarabad and Marpally mandals petitioned to their respective MEOs against high fees in private schools. CRPF members from Marpally mandal noted during a visit to HS Patlur that relations between the head teacher and the agency were poor, as a result of which nearly 50 older children had not been partaking of the meal. Special classes were not being held for children from Class 10 in line with the Education Department's instructions. The members discussed these issues with the teachers and asked them to take their duties seriously.

Two new CRPFs were formed at the village level in Marpally. 2 mandal level meetings were held to discuss the academic performance of children in HS. It was noted that they were weak in Science and Mathematics. A demand was later placed with teachers for special coaching in these subjects. They were also asked to follow them up properly and ensure that their learning gaps were plugged. Hostel visits were planned, during which discussions were held with Special Officers on the status of the midday meal scheme, disbursement of cosmetics allowance and health referral facilities. The CRPF from Marpally mandal and girls enrolled in KGBV wrote 60 postcards to the Chief Minister, demanding provision of Intermediate level education in KGBV. 300 cards were posted from Shankarpally mandal.

CRPF Advisor Varsha Bhargavi attended a CRPF meeting held in Thummalapally, Marpally mandal and reviewed the status of school functioning. The school had no full-time teacher. The members had called up 1098 but there was no response from the Education Department. A complaint was lodged with the DEO and the Sarpanch also spoke to the officials but to no avail. 40 children and 30 adults staged a protest at the school on 27th June 2016. They also sat in front of the mandal office and later gave a memorandum to the MLA during the Praja Durbar. The MLC (Member of Legislative Council) spoke to the officials and they promised to act at the earliest.

A mandal level meeting was held in Atmakur to discuss the status of child marriage, formation of CMPCs, school dropout and water shortage in schools. 4 petitions were submitted to mandal officials on these issues. School monitoring visits followed the conduct of village level meetings. Irregularity of teachers, child absenteeism and unavailability of water were the key issues of concern. The need for a new school building in Yepuru was represented to Minister Jagadishwar Reddy, who sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3.5 lakhs. He also got lighting facility provided in the Model School Hostel. The mandal team in Nutankal mandal noted that 2 private schools had been selling textbooks and notebooks at a premium price in the school premises. They told the managements that they were not permitted under the RTE Act to sell books in their precincts. The issue was taken to the MEO's notice and he passed orders enabling children to buy books from bookshops.

The mandal team in Atmakur noted during a visit to the newly set up Model School that children had no access to power supply and water. The road leading to the School was also in a very poor condition. The issue was referred to line department officials, who acted promptly and got a CC (Cement Concrete) road put up. The SC (Boys) Hostel in the mandal was also located at a far off distance and only 35 children from the community had got enrolled there. The warden had, however,

been claiming enrolment of 100 children. The CRPF wrote a letter to Minister, asking him to permit the admission of children from the Backward Caste community in the Hostel.

A number of children from schools of Vikarabad mandal had been spending 2-3 hours a day at Internet Centres to work on *Project Works* that they had been assigned in schools. This was quite cumbersome and they could not concentrate on their regular studies. The mandal CRPF held a Press Meet with the participation of the head teachers of these schools, to discuss the issue. The MEO instructed them not to overburden the children and to give them simpler tasks that did not necessitate the use of the Internet. The situation has been set right. The mandal CRPF in Tandur noted that more than 30 children were employed in 7 children poultry farms located in Gandeed mandal and informed this to the Tehsildar and the SI. They jointly undertook a visit to the poultry farms and arranged the release and repatriation of 9 immigrant children. 25 local children were linked to school and provided transport facilities. A student of Parigi Residential School was removed because he had failed to clear all five papers of the Intermediate (First Year) exams. He began working in the absence of an alternative. The mandal CRPF took up his case and lodged a complaint with the local police, who got him freed from work. He was admitted in a Junior College in Shankarpally.

Meetings were held with trade unions, student unions and caste based associations in Maddikera, Dornipadu, Midthur and Bandi Atmakur mandals of Kurnool district. The status of child rights was shared with them and their feedback was sought on the status of implementation of the RTE Act. They informed that there were many gaps. They were told that it would be possible to set right this state of affairs if they included children's issues in their own agenda. A meeting was held in Halaharivi exclusively to discuss issues faced by youth aged 15-18 years. Halaharivi had no Government Junior College and this had resulted in significant dropout after Class 10. It was decided that pressure would be built jointly by all community stakeholders on officials to sanction a College. Similarly, Holagunda mandal had no girls' hostel and transport facilities were very poor. The capacity of the KGBV needed to be enhanced. A petition was submitted to the Joint Collector during Praja Durbar, requesting him to sanction a hostel. To which he responded positively. Efforts are being made to contact MLAs. Representatives of the *Telugu Mahanadu* have included the issues highlighted by the CRPF in their own official agenda and are discussing them internally.



61 village meetings of the CRPF were held with 777 participants in addition, the details of which are as follows:

Mandal	Meetings	Members
Marpally	2	46
Shankarpally	2	29
Vikarabad	0	0
Atmakur	22	310
Nutankal	31	342
Halaharivi	2	19
Holagunda	2	31
Total	61	777

Padmaja¹ - a student of Class 10 from Atmakur had an affair with a youth from a nearby village. She had given her last exam paper and had been returning home from the Centre when the youth's father caught up with her and took her in an auto rickshaw. She went missing for 15 days, after which the police succeeded in tracking her. Her parents had earlier filed a case with the police. Both the police and her parents questioned her but she was not ready to divulge any details. She, on the other hand, declared to the police that she was 18 years old. The police told her parents that he could do nothing, as she was a major. A DNA test was performed at the behest of the CRPF and it was revealed that she was not 18 years old. The police tried to wash their hands off the issue but the CRPF staged a protest and demanded action, involving some media persons in the matter. They jointly drafted a petition to the police. The SI tried to coax the MVF team and the family members into a settlement but they were unwilling. In the melee that ensued, the girl stated that she wanted to marry the boy. In the meantime, the SI enlisted the support of a local leader. As for the girl, he did not free her from his custody even until the evening. The CRPF and the girl's parents brought pressure on him, following which he sent her to Kodad for 3 consecutive days in the name of counseling. She is presently put up at a Home in Kodad. It was later revealed that the youth was already married and had children.

*

Lakshmi², a 16-year old fatherless girl from Chilpakuntla in Nutankal mandal was lured by a youth, who had a longstanding affair with her that resulted in her pregnancy. She asked him to marry her but he refused. The girl's mother involved the Sarpanch in the issue but he advised her to take an amount of Rs. 50000 that the boy was willing to part with as settlement. He added that she could abort the foetus. Lakshmi approached the Asst. Programme Manager of the IKP (Indira Kranthi Patham) and he put Jayamma from the Gender wing in charge of the case. The CRPF put up a case against the Sarpanch. At the other end, the girl was keen on marrying the youth. She was told that this was illegal and that she could do so only after she crossed the age of 18 years. The SI also filed an FIR and put the youth behind bars. Lakshmi went missing in the meantime. Upon inquiring, the volunteer came to know that the villagers had ridiculed her and she had left the village. They launched a hunt for her and finally located her whereabouts. She was living with a cousin in Dirsinapally.

*

150 children that had been enrolled in the SC (Boys), BC (Boys) and ST (Girls) hostels in Mominpet mandal of Ranga Reddy district dropped out due to unavailability of water. A team of 6 members of the district CRPF referred the matter to the Dy. Director (Hostels), who instructed one of his officials to look into the matter. The official visited the institutions within a week's time. The local Sarpanch spoke to him strongly. The official promised to do the needed and got bore wells dug in all 3 hostels. Water supply has been provided to all of them and the children have resumed their education. In another incident, children studying in the SC (Boys) Residential School demanded to be issued Transfer Certificates because power supply was unavailable. Their parents and the CRPF approached the Asst. Engineer (Electrical), who told them that an amount of nearly One Lakh would be required for the purpose and that he had to seek the necessary permissions from his higher-ups. The CRPF issued a Press Statement the very next day, two days following which an amount of Rs. 80000 was released and the necessary works completed.

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¹ Name changed for reasons of confidentiality

² Name changed for reasons of confidentiality

A 14-year old girl from Patha Suryapet in Atmakur mandal had migrated to Hyderabad along with her family and began working for a family from the Reddy community. She went missing one day and a family of the SC community from her village identified her. They took her home with the intention of selling her off. In the meantime, a 19-year old member of the family that she worked for came looking for her because he intended to marry her. Conflict arose between the two families. The CRPF intervened in the issue and referred the case to the MVF team, who arranged the girl's repatriation. She is united with her parents now. A complaint was lodged against the family from Patha Suryapet.

*

Saidulu, a teacher from PS Nutankal in Nutankal mandal was quite immoral in his behaviour and tried to make use of every possible opportunity to get in physical contact with his girl students. Some of the girls complained to the head teacher, who tried to conceal the case. The CRPF came to know of this and visited the school. They interacted with the children and moved the MPP, the Tehsildar, the MPDO and the MEO in this regard. They undertook a fact-finding mission, after which an FIR was filed and the DEO suspended the teacher. The teacher had tried to involve some local politicians and instigate them against the CRPF members but they did not budge.

GRAM PANCHAYATS

Meetings were held with the Gram Panchayat during May 2016 to discuss the Class 10 results of schools, wherever they were nit up to the mark. 29 out of 53 children had failed to clear the exams from Mahalingapuram, Shankarpally mandal. When questioned during a Panchayat meeting, the teachers attributed it to child absenteeism and to the lack of command over basic concepts among them. The Panchayat members replied that this argument was baseless because they had cleared all subjects but Mathematics and Science. The teachers acknowledged their mistake and promised to conduct special classes for the children. They were also asked to hold monthly reviews of the children's academic status with their parents. Similar results had been recorded in Kondakal and Janwada. Gram Panchayat members from Janwada called upon parents to get their satellite television connections to be removed so that children's attention was not diverted. They were also advised to wake up their children early in the morning.

The issue of high dropout at the Class 10 level was discussed in Gottimukkula, Vikarabad mandal during a Panchayat meeting. The widowed mother of two dropouts named Mahendar and Renuka from the local HS were among the participants. The head teacher was also present. The head teacher informed the volunteers that the boy was irregular to school and missed his classes often. Their mother informed that the children had begun working to support her. She promised to send them to school. No water was being supplied to the school. Upon coming to know of this, the Sarpanch got a water connection provided to the school. He also ensured that 32 children from the village enrolled in the local school at the beginning of academic 2016-17.

Ward members from Pulumaddi village of Vikarabad mandal personally went around the village before the Class 10 exams and gathered feedback from children on subjects in which they were weak and shared this information with teachers, asking them to give the children additional inputs in these areas. They also held parents' meetings to discuss children's regularity in school. Ward members from Madanpally village of Vikarabad mandal followed up children appearing for the Class 10 and Intermediate exams.

Subsequent to the conduct of a review meeting in Patlur Panchayat of Marpally mandal, the Gram Panchayat arranged water supply for the local HS. All schools in the Panchayat were also coloured and display boards put up. Panchayat members also called upon children appearing for the Class 10 exams to continue their education at any cost. The MPTC and ward members offered to provide transport facilities. Volunteers from PS Ghanapur that had not been working properly were replaced by the Panchayat. Panchayat members also resolved to prevent child marriage place in the village and publicised the issue through a *Dandora*. The woman Sarpanch of Thummalapally Panchayat identified a case of child marriage and counseled the family to successfully prevent it from happening.

Sarpanchs of 7 and 6 Panchayats in Atmakur and Nutankal mandals respectively have been actively addressing girl children's issues. Sarpanchs and ward members from Holagunda mandal demanded

during Mandal General Body meetings that a separate emergency meeting must be held every year to discuss the status of child rights. The Sarpanch of Nerniki got down from his chair during one of the meetings and seated himself on the floor, demanding the posting of teachers in PS Nerniki.

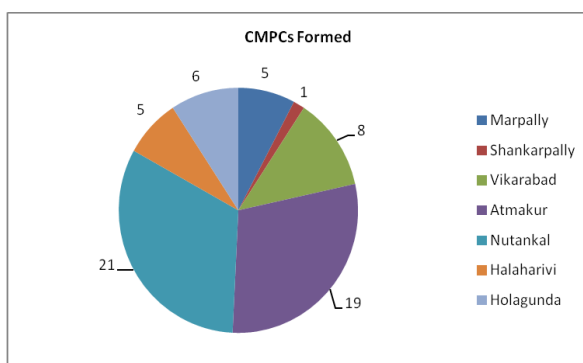
INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES AND ALSO CMPCs

Formation of CMPCs

65 CMPCs were formed at the Panchayat level during the reporting period. A Mandal level Committee was formed in Vikarabad in addition with 12 members. The MVF team met the Tehsildars of all mandals and discussed the need for forming CMPCs with them. They made presentations on the roles and responsibilities of the members and shared information on the status of child marriage in the villages. Mandal level meetings were later held with Panchayat members with the Tehsildar presiding over them. Sarpanchs, Panchayat and Revenue Secretaries, ICDS staff and PRI members were present at the meetings. They were oriented on their roles and responsibilities in the specific context of preventing child marriage. These meetings were followed by village level meetings on similar lines. The Sarpanch and the local Anganwadi Worker were appointed Convener of the CMPC at the Panchayat and the village level respectively.

Anganwadi Workers were quite indifferent to girl child issues prior to the conduct of the Mandal meetings but have changed their attitude now. A number of parents felt that it would not be possible to control children of that age group, citing some cases of elopement to justify their stand. The MVF team replied that everything depended on their attitude and their relation with their children. They began to cooperate with the team members. There was initial opposition from local politicians in Halaharivi and Holagunda to the formation of the CMPC but they have changed their attitude now.

The details of CMPCs formed during the project area are as under:



Mandal	CMPCs Formed
Marpally	5
Shankarpally	1
Vikarabad	8
Atmakur	19
Nutankal	21
Halaharivi	5
Holagunda	6
Total	65

50 meetings were held with the participation of 550 members.

Mandal	Meetings	Members
Atmakur	19	228
Nutankal	21	193
Halaharivi	1	11
Holagunda	9	118
Total	50	550

The RDO fixed a Mandal level meeting on 25th April 2016 in Atmakur with nearly 150 people including religious leaders. He highlighted their role in preventing child marriage. He then asked to ascertain the age of both the bride and the groom before fixing any marriage. He made it clear that it was illegal to perform/abet child marriage and that they would be party to such an act even if they were unaware that either of them was a minor. The parents of a girl aged 15 years proposed to get his daughter married and managed to get a certificate that she was 18 years old but the priest, who knew them personally, refused to perform the wedding and shared this information with the MVF team.

Relations between the Tehsildar and MPDO in Nutankal were not very good prior to the formation of the CMPC. The volunteers took note of this and referred the matter to the MPP, informing him that it would not be possible to form CMPCs without their involvement. He invited the both of them to a mandal level Sarpanchs' meeting that he convened to discuss the CMPC agenda and resolved their disputes. Village Revenue Assistants from the mandal have played a particularly active role in the campaign against child marriage and have been personally involved in preventing 6 cases of proposed child marriage by motivating their parents.

The Tehsildars of Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals responded positively and sent circulars to all line departments instructing the officials in charge to attend the formative meetings. Dates for mandal level meetings were fixed in accordance with the officials' availability. PRI members were also proactive and asked the volunteers to explain their role in the process. The volunteers shared information on the status of child marriage in their villages and told them that they had a crucial role to play in curbing child marriage. They were told that child marriage is a violation of girl child rights. They were urged to form CMPCs. A debate has been initiated on the issue of child marriage due to the formation of the CMPC and no case of child marriage has been recorded so far.

Mandal Administration

Mandal level General Body meetings are held once in a quarter. The officials invite the MVF team and the CRPF to make presentations on issues relating to the campaign issues. The officials have also been assisting the team in all campaign activities. Children's issues and the functioning of Anganwadi Centres are being discussed officially in Atmakur. The Gram Panchayat of Kotapahad in Atmakur mandal identified some land for setting up an Anganwadi Centre and successfully moved the mandal officials to get a building constructed there. The Anganwadi Centre in Nassimpeta village of the same mandal was relocated to the premises of the local school after some youth informed that it was located in a remote corner of the village.

The Tehsildar of Atmakur shared a list of vulnerable girls with VROs and instructed them to review and follow up the status of child marriage on a regular basis. The Tehsildar, the Revenue Inspector, the Deputy Tehsildar, the SI of Police, the MPDO, the CDPO – ICDS and Panchayat Secretaries joined hands with Child Line to undertake a special drive against child labour in 6 villages of the mandal during May 2016. They identified 34 children and counseled the parents of 10 children.

Involvement by the police

Police officials conducted cultural campaigns against child marriage and child trafficking in Ghanapur, Thummalapally, Marpally and Patlur villages of Marpally mandal. Key villagers were invited to the events and feedback was sought from children on their problems. The girls listed ragging and eve teasing as their major problems. Promising all help from their side, the officials advised the girls to be careful and to report unknown calls. They noted that child marriage is undesirable on various counts. Members of the SHE Team shared their contact numbers. 900 people attended these events in all. Nearly 300 people attended a meeting held by the SHE Team in Girls' HS Shankarpally to gather information on girl child problems. 120 people turned up at a similar event in Chittampally, Vikarabad - mandal.

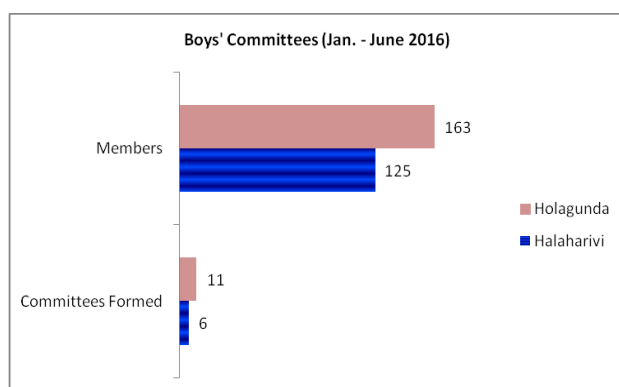
Health Camp

A Health Camp was organised in Virupapuram, Halaharivi mandal for 69 members from Bologota and Kurlehalli on 25th May 2016. ANMs and Anganwadi Workers measured their heights, weights and haemoglobin levels and prescribed Iron Folic Acid tablets. They also counseled them on indigenous iron rich foods and various aspects of personal hygiene. 7 people were diagnosed as anaemic.

PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF BOYS

Members of the existing committee in Shankarpally have been assembling once in a month to discuss problems faced by them. They have been extending the necessary support to girl youth. 6 and 11 Committees were newly formed in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals respectively with a total of 288 members. They were oriented on their role in protecting children's rights with focus on the girl child.

The table below provides details of Boys' Committees formed:



<i>Boys' Committees (Jan. – June 2016)</i>		
<i>Mandal</i>	<i>Committees Formed</i>	<i>Members</i>
Halaharivi	6	125
Holagunda	11	163
Total	23	288

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The volunteers compiled information on the academic performance of children that had registered for the Class 10 exams through Open stream, after the results of the exams were declared. The MVF team also visited the Centres along with Panchayat members, the CRPF and the SMC regularly. Not many contact classes had been held by the Open School Society last academic year. Volunteers from Halaharivi and Holagunda continuously monitored the process and saw to it that classes were held regularly. They also followed up children to the Centres personally. An interface meeting was held in Halaharivi with pupils and tutors in order to bridge the gap between them. It was decided to hold the classes on Saturdays and Sundays. Local schools would provide the midday meal. Steps were also taken to ensure timely supply of study material.

The details of children that appeared for the Class 10 and Intermediate exams through Open stream and that passed them are as below:

<i>Mandal</i>	<i>Appeared - Class 10 (Open)</i>		<i>Passed</i>		<i>Appeared - Inter (Open)</i>		<i>Passed</i>		<i>Passed (Total)</i>	
	<i>B</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>G</i>
Marpally	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Shankarpally	0	2	0	0	0	9	0	1	0	1
Vikarabad	0	3	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	1
Atmakur	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Halaharivi	13	3	1	0	3	21	2	11	3	11
Holagunda	6	2	2	0	17	10	0	1	2	1
Total	20	18	4	1	21	47	3	14	7	15

STOPPING CHILD MARRIAGES

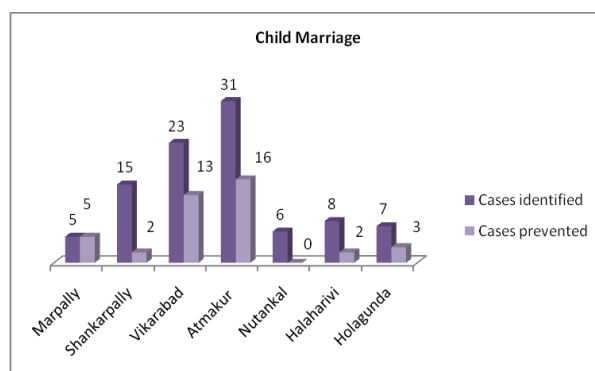
Meetings were held with the CMPC at bimonthly frequency to involve them in the campaign against child marriage. The volunteers also lobbied with Village and Panchayat Secretaries for registration of marriages. The ill effects of child marriage were publicised through the *Dappu* and discussed during VO meetings, SHG meetings and the Grama Sabhas. Parents were informed that the Telangana government's *Kalyani Lakshmi* scheme could be availed of only if the bride was aged above 18 years. The use of Forums for Girls' Rights and the CRPF was made to reach out to community in this regard. Campaign pamphlets were distributed and linkages established with Child Line where necessary. Written declarations were taken from erring parents in the presence of the Tehsildar and the SI.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti was used as a platform to send across a strong message against child marriage to 200 people on 14th April 2016 in Narayanpur Dalitwada of Vikarabad mandal. The Tehsildar and the MPDO cautioned them that child marriage was illegal and punishable by law. Youth from 9 villages of Atmakur mandal and 8 villages of Nutankal mandal participated in rallies against child marriage during January – February 2016. Participants also included the MPPs of both mandals, line department officials, Panchayat members, women's groups and Forum for Girls' Rights members.

35 girl youth from Kotalaguda village of Vikarabad mandal took part in a rally against child marriage subsequent to their participation in a training session. Members of the Forum of Girls for Rights and local youth participated in the event, which was flagged off by the Deputy Sarpanch. A child marriage had taken place in the village a couple of years ago and the girl had recently died. The rally was used as a platform to highlight the ill effects of child marriage. A CMPC meeting was also held with the participation of some victims of child marriage. The Sarpanch promised to take all possible steps to prevent child marriage and offered to publicise the issue through Grama Sabhas and meetings in schools. The girl's younger sister spoke at the end of the rally and implored the participants to accord priority to prevention of child marriage. The Zilla Parishad chairperson, who chaired the meeting, appreciated her and reiterated her message.

The details of child marriage cases identified and prevented are as under:

Mandal	Cases identified	Cases prevented
Marpally	5	5
Shankarpally	15	2
Vikarabad	23	13
Atmakur	31	16
Nutankal	6	0
Halaharivi	8	2
Holagunda	7	3
Total	95	42



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Two project level training workshops were held in Hyderabad with the participation of MVF's senior coordinators and the entire SCFR team. The agenda included identification of the participants' training needs and a review of issues identified at the ground level with specific focus on the situation of adolescents and their rights and problems being faced by them particularly with regard to accessing higher education facilities. The participants informed that there was great demand from adolescents for intensive life skill training. They also highlighted the need for preparing local bodies and line departments to own up adolescents' issues. Content was also generated for modules on Child Marriage, Gender and Health & Hygiene based on MVF's past experiences.

Training sessions were held for adolescent boys and girls, CMPC members, youth and leaders of the Forum for Girls' Rights at the cluster and mandal levels across the project area. These sessions were interactive in nature and the participants were involved in group work and presentations.

The participants were asked to define the concept of boy/girl and their feedback was sought on the status of child marriage in their villages and the present status of victims of child marriage. They were asked who made decisions in the context of marriage at the domestic level and if anyone benefited from early marriage. The District Coordinator later oriented them formally on the definition of child marriage, the losses associated with child marriage, its legal implications, mechanisms to redress child marriage, the CMPC, officials in charge of preventing child marriage, legislation against child marriage and the role of different actors, including adolescents, in preventing it.

The participants came up with the following queries during the course of the feedback session:

- Is child marriage valid?
- Is it possible to nullify child marriage?
- Can someone file a case in a court of law in the event of child marriage?

The details of training sessions held for adolescents on various issues are as below:

Agenda	Sessions	B	G	T
Child Marriage Act	49	416	1341	2867
Gender Issues	28	365	862	1424
Health	3	36	57	270
Higher Education	18	415	396	1052
Sangha Management	1		106	106
Total	99	1232	2762	5719

Muthamma, the daughter of the MPTC from Chinnaheta village of Holagunda mandal, was engaged to be married as soon as she had cleared her Class 10 exams. She shared this information with her fellow Forum members during a training session. The volunteers petitioned to the Tehsildar from their side. He summoned all the parties involved and counseled them separately. In the meanwhile, the MPTC began to build pressure on the Tehsildar, asking him to declare the name of the complainant. The official obliged him and informed him that the MVF Mandal Coordinator had raised the issue. The MPTC met the Coordinator and demanded a sum of Rs. 50000 from him if he had to lay off the wedding. The Coordinator replied that he would pay nothing and maintained that it was illegal to get a minor girl married. A group of 6 Forum members from the village spoke to the MPTC and he finally postponed the affair. Muthamma cleared the Class 10 exams and is in college now. Her father has acknowledged his mistake and is happy now.

20 orientation programmes were held at the cluster/mandal level for other stakeholder groups as follows:

Group		Marpally	Vikarabad	Atmakur	Nutankal	Halaharivi	Holagunda
Youth	Sessions	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Members	0	0	0	0	57	65
CMPC	Sessions	0	0	3	1	1	1
	Members	0	0	306	81	93	108
VO/SHG	Sessions	2	1	1	1	0	1
	Members	85	50	206	33	0	60
Anganwadi Workers	Sessions	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Members	0	27	0	0	0	0
College level	Sessions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Members	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPC	Sessions	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Members	25	73	0	0	0	0
GP	Sessions	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Members	0	0	78	0	0	0
School level	Sessions	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Members	0	180	0	0	0	0
Total	Sessions	3	5	5	2	2	3
	Members	110	330	590	114	150	233

Youth participants in Halaharivi and Holagunda were given detailed information on child rights and their four sub-divisions, institutions in charge of implementing and protecting these rights, the role of school functionaries and parents, school grants, budgets, norms of the midday meal scheme, the role of the Panchayat in strengthening schools, child protection laws including the PNDA Act and the Nirbhaya Act. They later participated in group work and a discussion on the consequences of not monitoring the functioning of government schools.

Subsequent to their participation in these sessions, these groups have begun to realise their part in preventing child marriages and strengthening schools. 185 girls of the Junior College in Holagunda skipped a day's session at college and organised a rally against child marriage. They invited the Tehsildar, the SI, the MPDO and the MEO to the event on 2nd January 2016. They walked for nearly two kilometres, sloganeering and holding placards that they themselves had designed.



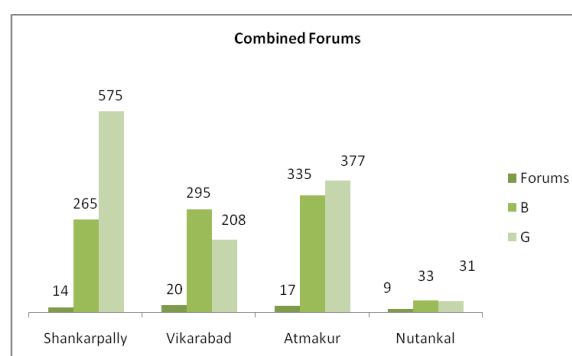
NEW INITIATIVES

YOUTH CLUBS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL

60 Combined Forums were formed at the school and the village levels jointly with adolescent girls and boys with the objective of promoting gender equity. The members were given inputs on gender equity and male youth were urged to show friendly behaviour towards female youth. Interactive discussions were held on gender roles in society, at the end of which it was concluded that individual, social and national development were possible only when male and female youth supported each other mutually. They were informed that joint committees would give them an opportunity to open up themselves and understand each others' problems. This would lead to behavioural change over time.

The details of Forums formed are as below:

Combined Forums (Jan. – June 2016)			
Mandal	Forums	B	G
Shankarpally	14	265	575
Vikarabad	20	295	208
Atmakur	17	335	377
Nutankal	9	33	31
Total	60	928	1191

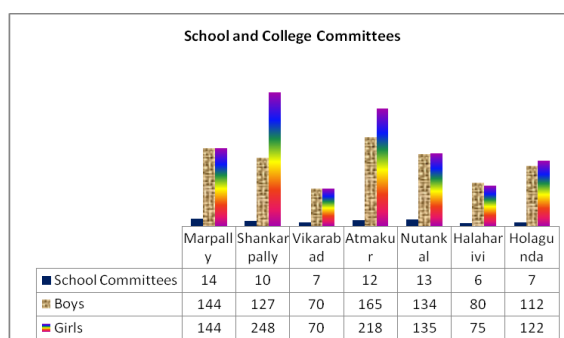


Most of the girls were initially inhibitive, as they felt the boys would take them lightly. At the other end, the boys felt embarrassed at being teamed with girls. The volunteers clarified that they each had their own problems that could be solved only through joint action. There was also opposition from a number of parents to this, following which SMC chairpersons, Anganwadi Workers and opinion leaders were involved in the issue. There was gradual acceptance of the concept. Stories of positive changes that had been brought about by existing Forums were highlighted. Parents were invited to the formative meetings and the aims and objectives of the Forum were explained to them. The volunteers identified youth that had a record of eve teasing and harassment and included them in the Forums so that they learnt to be responsible.

It had not been possible to form Combined Forums at the community level in Halaharivi and Holagunda on account of highly restrictive social environment in which girls do not have much scope to express their thoughts. Efforts are underway to address this issue. Sufficient progress has been made at the school/college level, where forums have been formed jointly with both girls and boys.

69 School and 20 College Committees were formed on similar lines as the Combined Forums, the details of which are as under:

College and School Committees Formed with Adolescent Children							
S. NO	Mandal	School Committees	Boys	Girls	College Committees	Boys	Girls
1	Marpally	14	144	144	3	36	36
2	Shankarpally	10	127	248	0	0	0
3	Vikarabad	7	70	70	10	136	64
4	Atmakur	12	165	218	4	66	80
5	Nutankal	13	134	135	2	30	31
6	Halaharivi	6	80	75	0	0	0
7	Holagunda	7	112	122	1	22	22
	Total	69	832	1012	20	290	233



Plans are in the offing to federate these forums at the cluster and mandal levels after the members have developed sufficient clarity on various aspects of their rights and gender related issues. This activity would be taken up over the course of the next 6 months.

Male youth are being involved in training sessions organised jointly for male and female youth on various issues such as gender equity, child rights, children's and women's legislations, the ill effects of child marriage, the RTE Act and the role of youth in upholding girl children's dignity and social image.

Campaign issues are regularly being discussed with the CRPF during their meetings. 4 formal orientation sessions were held for 134 members specifically on gender issues and their role in working towards gender equity with focus on adolescents.

The details of training sessions held for the CRPF are as follows:

Mandal	Sessions	Members
Marpally	1	38
Vikarabad	1	75
Nutankal	2	21
Total	4	134

MAPPING OUT RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES FOR USE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET IN SCHOOLS

Mandal Learning Centres are operational in Narsapur village of Marpally mandal and Ervaguda, Meerjhaguda and Janwada villages of Shankarpally mandal. The Sarpanch was instrumental in setting up the Centre in Meerjhaguda. Games material has been made available in all Centres. Members of the Forum for Girls have been assembling there on Sundays to discuss issues of common interest. Tie-ups are proposed with Physical Education Teachers. Plans are in the offing to provide additional games material to the Centres. Girls attending the Centre in Janwada were very keen on learning to operate computers but the school had only one computer system. They were encouraged to approach the Sarpanch, who arranged 5 systems for the school and got 30 girls trained through another NGO.

HS Gulyam in Halaharivi mandal has 11 computer systems but no instructor has been appointed there. The systems also need minor repairs. The head teacher promised to get them repaired if the MVF team is willing to identify a tutor. Computer instruction has commenced for Classes 9 and 10 and more than 150 children are presently benefiting from them. 9 computer systems at the school in Hebbatam, Holagunda mandal have also been brought into use and are likely to be used from July-August 2016 onwards.

There have been some challenges in mobilising girls for the Centres. Most girls prefer to spend their leisure time at homes and their parents are unready to comprehend the concept of the Centre. Some Centres require more games material. Anganwadi Workers, under whose guidance the Centres are being run as of now, are sometimes unavailable on Sundays. A pro-girl child social atmosphere is yet to be created in some villages.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INITIATIVES FOR ADOLESCENT CHILDREN

A National Workshop on Perspective Building on Adolescent Girls' Education was held in Hyderabad on 5th and 6th April 2016 with the participation of 30 NGO representatives from across the nation. The primary objective of this event was to facilitate cross-learning through experience sharing in the context of interventions with adolescent girls. Issues discussed include the scale and magnitude of adolescents' problems, the role of State and non-State actors, review of legislations, barriers to girls' education, gender equity, inclusive strategies to reach out to boys, incorporating the concept of gender in education and generating public debate on gender issues. The participants shared their respective organisations' experiences with adolescent girls. A set of 8 non-negotiable principles to work for empowerment of the girl child was proposed by MVF and ratified by the other NGOs.

LABOUR STUDY PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

A Study entitled *Justice for Out-of-School Children* was taken up in late 2015 to study the educational status of 15-18 year olds and the working conditions and occupational profiles of working children in this age group. 552 out-of-school children that had not cleared the Class 10 exams were included in

the sample. Rural mandals with low literacy, industrial zones in urban areas and urban slums with high minority population were chosen for the Study. A Structured Questionnaire containing 103 questions and Focused Group Discussions were the primary tools used for data collection. The Study covered children that were in employment during the period August 2014 – July 2015. Data were gathered on the duration of their work, the nature of their work, the conditions of their employment and the use of their leisure time. The data were also analysed from the gender and caste perspectives.

The primary finding of the exercise has been that the State has failed these children at all stages of their education and has tolerated and ignored the reality of them being out-of-school. The burden of the state's inability to provide social protection, food security, employment, access to credit and livelihood support for their parents, ensuring just labour laws, safety at workplace and universal health care falls on adolescents. Such inaction results in the marginalisation and exclusion of whole generations of adolescents from their rightful share of State resources and action. They subsequently become part of the work force that is stagnant with little scope for bettering their lives. Having missed out on education and benefits thereof, their fate is sealed. Each year there is a new cohort that gets added to a similar fate.

The other findings of the study are as below:

- The performance of Telangana State in facilitating access to education for adolescents in the 15-18 year age group is better than the national average.
- Agricultural labour was the primary occupation in rural areas.
- Child labourers in urban areas were engaged in menial tasks or low-skill jobs in electrical/ automobile workshops, construction activity, biscuit making, etc.
- A significant number of children belonged to migrant families and were employed against monetary advances paid to their families.
- Most children from urban areas had studied in private schools and nearly all children from rural areas had dropped out from government schools prior to their employment.
- Most of the girls were restricted to their homes outside working hours.

A set of recommendations was also made with reference to the legal and policy framework to the basis of the study.

The detailed report will be shared once the document is ready for dissemination.

CHILDLINE

MVF entered into an agreement with Child Line Foundation, India to coordinate the Toll Free Child Line No. 1098 (hereafter referred to as 1098) service in 18 mandals of Ranga Reddy district. 1098 is a 24X7 emergency phone outreach service for children in need of care and protection. A team of 14 members led by a Coordinator is implementing this intervention. The below is a summary of key activities taken up under the project during the period January – June 2016:

- **Formation of Child Line Advisory Boards** - 2 Division level and 18 Mandal level Boards have been formed with line department officials. One meeting has been held with each of them so far.
- **Operation Muskaan** – The team coordinated with the Police Department in the conduct of a state wide special drive to identify missing children, runaway children and child labourers during January 2016. They personally followed up 28 children by counselling them and producing them in the CWC Court. They also took up correspondence with the children's families and arranged their repatriation.
- **Coordination Meetings with DCPU** - Coordination meetings were held with officials of the DCPU in January 2016 and March 2016 to review their field activities and to discuss budgetary allocations. Role division in the context of forming CPCs was done and it was decided that the Child Line would mobilise members, form CPCs and train the members.

- *Formation of CPCs* - The members of the Child Line team adopted 14 villages for the formation of Model CPCs. They facilitated the regular conduct of review meetings and ensured proper follow up of cases by these CPCs. They also oriented the members on their roles and responsibilities. Two meetings have been held in each of these villages so far.
- *Convergence Meetings with Juvenile Justice system* - The Child Line team was invited to make a presentation of activities implemented under the project, during a State level meeting of district officials of departments involved in implementing the Juvenile Justice Act. The members highlighted gaps in the delivery system and made some suggestions in this regard.
- *District Officials' Meetings* – A review meeting of the Child Line project activities and achievements was held by the Joint Collector of Ranga Reddy on 29th June 2016 with the participation of 5 Child Line Directors and Coordinators each. The MVF Child Line team listed out problems being faced in rehabilitation of rescued children and came up with 17 recommendations to strengthen child protection mechanisms.
- *Convergence Meetings with Special Juvenile Police Unit* – Two meetings were held with members of the Special Juvenile Police Unit. The team introduced the project and listed out areas of collaboration between Child Line and the police and identified some gaps to be addressed on a priority basis.
- *Enforcement Drives* – Special drives were taken up with the help of division and mandal level officials in Vikarabad and Tandur on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour. The team took declarations from 300 shop owners that they would not employ children in future. More than 1500 stickers were stuck on the doors/shutters of these shops.
- *Campaign against Human Trafficking* – The team mobilised 1000 people for participation in awareness drives organised by Prajwala against trafficking. They also assisted in forming 15-member anti-trafficking committees in 3 villages.
- *Follow up of Children* – The Child Line team tracked the education status (in academic 2016-17) of girls that been enrolled in KGBVs of Ranga Reddy district in academic 2015-16. 3129 out of 3283 girls had continued their education in 2016-17 and 154 children were found missing. 116 rescued children of school-going age were admitted in KGBVs (girls) and hostels (boys) run by the government after they were freed.

The details of cases identified and handled under the intervention are as under:

Area of Intervention	Calls Received	Cases Resolved
Medical		
Shelter		
Repatriation		
Rescue		
Child in conflict with Law		
Sponsorship		
Others		
Child Lost (Found)		
Parents seeking Help		
Total		



Mandal Advisory Board Meeting in progress



Special drive against child labour in progress



Participants at a Mandal Advisory Board meeting



The Asst. Labour Officer participates in the special drive



Sharing some case details with the police



Mandal officials/elected representatives at a meeting



Meeting with the Joint Collector in progress



Letters of undertaking handed over to Sub-Collector