

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

An M V Foundation – Stitching Charity Fund Rijsholt Partnership

Programme Report July – December 2017

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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 |

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PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

| ACTIVITY | PROGRESS ACHIEVED |
|--------------------------|--|
| ACCESS TO EDUCATION | |
| SOCIAL MOBILISATION | -- meetings with ---- participants -- Rallies with --- participants --- Essay writings on----- |
| TRAININGS AND ADVOCACY | --- training sessions with ---- participants on Gender, Child Marriage and Child Rights |
| ENGAGING WITH THE SYSTEM | 46 petitions on were filed; 35 petitions were sanctioned and 9 are still in progress. |
| CHILDLINE | 8 cases were identified through child line in Shankarpally mandal of Rangareddy district. 1 child marriage case, 3 corporal punishment cases and 4 dropout cases. 6 out of 8 cases were successfully solved. |
| CHILD MARRIAGES | 45 cases were identified and 44 of them were stopped |
| NEW COMMITTEES | |

Executive Summary

From the month of July to December 2017, a total of ***** meetings were held with different stakeholders such as- CRPF, SMC, ASHA workers, Gramasabhalu, Youth clubs, KBS, CPC, CMPC, SHGS. Topics like child rights, child marriage, gender equality, education, health and nutrition were covered in these meetings. A common observation among all the districts was, the increase in involvement of girls in meetings in regard to sharing their thoughts and experiences. A total of 37 rallies/campaigns/special occasions were conducted from July to December. These rallies included various agendas like: town motivation rally to identify child labour, gender equality, child abuse, child marriage, demanding free education until graduation, providing access to transport to go to schools and wall writings for child marriage. On special occasions like Independence Day, International Girl Child Day, Kishor Balika Divas, Childrens Day and Child abuse day, various public speaking and essay writing competitions were held to address issues related to girl child. The impact of all these social mobilization programs was seen prominently in more than a few instances. Villages witnessed girls come out at night to conduct rallies and speak about their rights for the first time ever. Girls became more vocal about their opinions on the current situation of girl child in the society. Some even voiced out solutions to curb girl child problems in the forms of essays and speeches.

Each of the community groups such as CRPF, SMC, Gram panchayat, Youth clubs VO's, Mahila Sanghalu and Aasha workers assembled regularly for the training sessions on gender equality, child Marriage, child rights and abuse . Training sessions were held at both village and mandal levels. The trainings have helped girls in shedding their inhibitions to a great extent and they are now more participative in village activities, academics and sports. The trainings on child rights have created a direct impact, where the youth are citing the Rights and Acts while filing petitions. The impact of training on gender has also brought along changes in

families, where they began sitting together and eating meals as a family to demonstrate gender equality.

A total of 46 petitions on were filed in the last six months, of which, 35 petitions were sanctioned and 9 are still in progress. The petitions were filed requesting for improvements in school infrastructure, transport facilities, against child labour and child marriage and special requests were made for providing basic amenities for girls during menstruation.

A total of 45 cases were identified and 44 of them were stopped. One child marriage could not be stopped in Shankarpally, as the families arranged the ceremony at 3:00 am in the morning and the SI who was newly transferred did not lend support to stop this marriage. For the rest of the cases there was strong support from the police department, MPDO, MRO and CRPF and are also continuing their education currently.

In Shankarpally, eight cases were identified through child line. One child marriage case, 3 corporal punishment cases and 4 dropout cases. Out of these, 2 dropout cases were not able to be solved. After every meeting at a school level, village level or mandal level, MVF volunteers make sure they convey information regarding child line. In Suryapet and Kurnool, the childline is not functional.

The significant challenges faced in the execution of the programme were- lack of initiative from the Government's end, inactive CPC/CMPC groups and Childline in some mandals, a rise in number of love marriages of minors, lack of resources and opportunities for the students who have failed 10th/Inter and the prevalent corporal punishment and teacher absenteeism in most schools.

1.0 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Table 1. Mandal-wise statistics of Open 10th, Open Intermediate and Dropouts

| MANDAL | SHANKAR PALLY | VIKARABAD | ATMAKUR | NUTHANKAL | HALAHA RAVI | HOLAGUNDA |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| APPEARED OPEN 10 th | | | | | | |
| PASSED OPEN 10 th | | | | | | |
| APPEARED OPEN INTER | | | | | | |
| PASSED OPEN INTER | | | | | | |
| TOTAL DROPOUTS | | | | | | |
| REJOINED DROPOUTS | | | | | | |

2.0 SOCIAL MOBILISATION

2.1 Meetings

From the month of July to December 2017, a total of ***** meetings were held with different stakeholders such as- CRPF, SMC, ASHA workers, Gramasabhalu, Youth clubs, KBS, CPC, CMPC, SHGS. The general issues discussed during these meetings were- Child rights, child marriage, gender equality, education, health and nutrition. All the groups are now ensuring that the issues related to children are included in the agenda of every meeting. In addition to these issues, the group review meetings also took into account the issues in schools such as- the extent to which school teachers are adhering to norms, availability of nutritious food, proper sanitation and infrastructure and irregularity of school children due to seasonal work. Irregular/long absentees were successfully identified, volunteers and SMC members visited each of their homes, motivated the child along with the parents and sent them back to school. A common observation among all the districts was, the increase in involvement of girls in meetings in regard to sharing their thoughts and experiences.

Table 2. Mandal-wise Meetings (Period from July to Dec 2017)

| Mandal | Name of the group | No of mtgs at Village level | | | | No of mtgs at mandal level | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| | | No of mtgs | No of Participants | | | No of mtgs | No of Participants | | |
| | | | B/M | G/F | T | | B | G | T |
| Vikarabad | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| Shankarpally | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents mtg | | | | | | | | |
| | grama sabha mtg | | | | | | | | |
| | youth clubs mtg | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| Halaharvi | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | Youth | | | | | | | | |
| Holagunda | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |
| Athmakur | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC/CMPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |
| Nuthankal | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |

2.2 Campaigns/Rallies

A total of 37 rallies/campaigns/special occasions were conducted from July to December.

- In September, with the purpose of town motivation, MVF volunteers along with SI, constables and CRPF went shop-to-shop in the town and identified child labour cases. Eight such children were joined back into schools.
- In December, a general awareness meeting was held on Gram Panchayat level on how girls should be careful and aware of fraudulent activities that take place in the society today. A lot of real life case studies were cited as examples in this meeting.
- A total of 5 rallies, with 352 participants (140 male and 212 female), were held from July to December, 2017. In Vikarabad, 4 of the rallies held in 4 different villages (Gottumukkala, Chittampalli, Pulusumamidi and Madanapalli) had around 80-90 participants in each location, who rallied for gender equality and education of the girl child through promotions of Beti bachao, Beti padhao programme. In December, 67 school children, teachers and villagers rallied in Dhyacharam against child marriage and gender discrimination. These rallies have had a significant effect on parents across all the villages, where it was noticed that parents are now willingly sending their daughters to participate in campaigns and meetings.
- July 15th-16th: Youth convention for girl's freedom was held in was held in Hyderabad, where prominent figures like Gaddar and Swarajyam attended the event along with MVF volunteers and founder of MVF. They discussed the present scenario of freedom of girls in the villages and the need for demanding free education, transport, books etc. upto degree from the Government.

- In July, pamphlets were distributed and posters were put up on Gender Discrimination and Abuse. DSP, CRPF, intermediate students, local SI and DGO together released the posters in **Atmakur**. This was followed by a discussion on the above stated topics. A campaign was also held to put up posters in the village on Yuva sammelana in **Nuthankal**.
- In August, all the girls of govt. school tied Rakhi to all the boys and male teachers in the school. This was done to symbolize that boys need to do their part in making the girls feel as comfortable as they do inside and outside the school in **Atmakur**.
- In November, with 1073 participants, village wise rallies were conducted in Tallasingaram, Nuthankal on the topic- protection, safety and freedom of the girl child. Two rallies were conducted in Maddirala, **Nuthankal** on Child marriage, with 150 participants in each rally with the CRPF, Anganwadi teachers and supervisors, Sarpanch, Headmaster, teachers and school children. One rally in Tallasingaram and one rally in Peddanemila on child marriage, with 150 participants in each rally with the CRPF, Anganwadi teachers and supervisors, Sarpanch, Headmaster, teachers and school children. A district level rally was held in November with CRPF, degree students, SI and the education department on child marriage. It had a turn-out of 700-800 participants.
- In December, Mandal level rally with 400 participants, asking for a degree college in the mandal as there are none in **Nuthankal**. A petition was also filed regarding this. In **Atmakur**, a rally was conducted with high school students to bring in free education for everyone until the student holds a degree. This was done on a mandal level. Principals, SI and Headmasters also took part in this rally.

- In July, A two-day meeting was held in Hyderabad on freedom of girl child and 16 members of KBS, Holagunda participated. Post meeting, a tour of the City was organised where the girls visited, Birla Mandir, Charminar, Golkonda and the Airport.
- In August, Essay writing competition was conducted with 5 high schools, KGBV and junior college in Holagunda on the topic Barriers to girls' freedom and 115 students participated.
- In September, 9 students participated in making wall posters and wall writings on child marriage and child rights and RTE. A total of 153 walls were painted. 11 students of DIET college gave speeches in Holagunda on- ways in which child rights are being violated in their village.
- In October, a rally at mandal headquarters with 575 participants including, students and teachers from high schools, ICDS, Police department and MVF volunteers was held at Holagunda. Essay writing competitions were held in October with 135 participants on the topic Obstacles to the growth of girl child in the society and what strategies can help change the scenario.
- In November, 8 rallies were held in 8 different villages of Holagunda on child rights with 2535 participants. 135 students in high schools participated in essay writing competition on issues faced by children under the age of 18 and the different problems faced by the uneducated. Male youth members rallied on 50 bikes holding placards with slogans on child rights.

2.3 Special Occasions

- **August 15 (Independence Day)** - Two girls from high school in **Shankarpally** who stood first in 10th board exams on a Mandal level, were honoured and congratulated in the presence of Sarpanch, Committee chairmen, CRPF, parents and other school children. In **Vikarabad**, 6 schools held a discussion and debate on gender equality and drop-outs with parents, teachers, members of Gram Panchayat, SMC and CRPF, a total of 343 participants.
- **November 9 (Kishor Balika Divas)** - On this occasion, meetings were held in all schools of **Atmakur** on gender discrimination. In the form of essays, drawings and speeches, the content was collected. Prize distribution was done on a mandal level.
- **November 14 (Children's Day)** – On this occasion, in **Atmakur**,Suryapet, a public speaking competition was held on the topic of society's role in contributing to a girl's freedom. Majority of the speeches stressed on the schools' and family's role in contributing to this freedom. In **Halaharavi**, a rally was conducted and an essay competition was held on the topic of child rights violations. Children were trained on the content of child rights a few days earlier. Eight ZPHS schools were a part of this program. In **Vikarabad**, special programme was conducted on educating the girl child in Pulusumamidi, Gottumukkala, Madanapalle. Girls voiced their opinions on gender equality.
- **November 19 (Child Abuse Day)** – A rally was conducted in **Atmakur** with 160 girls and the police department. And a rally was conducted in Nuthankal with high school teachers, students and MVF volunteers with 368 participants. An awareness program was held on types of abuse. How to identify abuse and how to report it was also

discussed. Girls were open to sharing these sensitive issues and there was less than expected inhibition.

- **October 11th (International Girl Child Day):**
- In **Halaharavi, Kurnool**, an essay writing competition and rally was conducted in 7 schools on a mandal level in. The topic of the essay was to discuss the problems girls usually face. 38 boys and 59 girls participated. The problems that came up in the essays were consolidated and put up on a chart which is read out every day in schools during assembly followed by a small discussion.
- In **Shankarpally** on the occasion of International Girl Child Day, an essay writing competition was held in KGBV for 9th and 10th graders (96 girls participated). The topics of the essay were: ‘The problems faced by girl children’, ‘What kind of support is needed to solve such problems’ and ‘Consequences of child marriage’. All the essays were evaluated and a meeting was held with the children and teachers to discuss all the major points that surfaced in the essays. The significant points that were observed were – the children identified the need for solving the problems at grass-root level itself. They believe, that to solve the issues pertaining to girl child, changes need to begin from their homes itself, gram panchayat meetings should address all such issues and more programs and awareness meetings need to be held. Girls also mentioned the need for regular health check-ups and health awareness programs for girls, especially adolescent as additional care needs to be taken at that age.
- In **Vikarabad** on the occasion of International Girl Child Day, 5 schools conducted an essay writing competition on the topics- Educating the girl child, and safety of girls. Dictionary and a book on English grammar were given as the first and second prize respectively.

- In **Atmakur** on the occasion of International Girl Child Day, an essay writing and public speaking competition was held. The topic was Hurdles for Girls Freedom. It was held with the students of 12 high schools, 3 junior colleges and 1 KGBV.
- ***Karthika maasam*** - around 406 boys and 200 girls In **Halaharavi**, and KBS members in Kogilathota and Yebbatam villages of **Holagunda**, came together to light *diyas* in the night and discussed child rights. This was the first time girls were seen outside the houses in the night confidently walking about and discussing their rights. This was considered a milestone. At the end, the diyas were arranged to form the word “Balala hakkulu’ in Telugu and they renamed the event- “Balalahakkulu deepotsavam’.

2.0 TRAININGS AND ADVOCACY

2.1 Trainings given to Stakeholders

Groups and committees such as VO's, Mahila Sanghalu, Aasha workers, ANMs, CRPF, SMC, Girl Youth Clubs (village and mandal levels), SHG and KBS were trained on the topics Gender Equality and Child Marriage and Child Rights, by MVF volunteers. Overall ***** training sessions were held with a total of ***** participants from July to December 2017.

Table 3. Mandal wise Training Programmes (Period from July to Dec 2017)

| Mandal | Name of the group | No of Trgs at Village level | | | | No of Trgs at mandal level | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------|------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|
| | | No of Trgs | No of Participants | | | No of Trgs | No of Participants | | |
| | | | B/M | G/F | T | | B | G | T |
| Vikarabad | Adolescents | 29 | 950 | 1058 | 2018 | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| Shankarpally | Adolescents | 35 | 42 | 1118 | 1160 | 6 | 212 | 285 | 406 |
| | SMC | 18 | 366 | 222 | 588 | 2 | 25 | 8 | 33 |
| | CRPF | 8 | 56 | 2 | 58 | 2 | 27 | 3 | 30 |
| | VOs/SHG | 13 | | 417 | 417 | | | | |
| | GP | 12 | 140 | 55 | 195 | | | | |
| | CPC | 8 | 76 | 38 | 114 | | | | |
| | Parents mtg | 14 | 258 | 144 | 402 | | | | |
| | grama sabha mtg | 8 | 185 | 81 | 266 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---|----|--|----|---|--|----|----|
| | youth clubs mtg | 5 | 58 | | 58 | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | 1 | | 20 | 20 |
| Halaharvi | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | Youth | | | | | | | | |
| Holagunda | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |
| Athmakur | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC/CMPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |
| Nuthankal | Adolescents | | | | | | | | |
| | SMC | | | | | | | | |
| | CRPF | | | | | | | | |
| | VOs/SHG | | | | | | | | |
| | GP | | | | | | | | |
| | CPC | | | | | | | | |
| | Asha workers | | | | | | | | |
| | youth | | | | | | | | |
| | Parents | | | | | | | | |

During these training sessions, MVF volunteers had to deal with a mix of participants - those who agreed to break the gender role stereotypes and those who believed in stereotyping. However, change in the second type of participants was observed during the end the training

up to a certain extent. Girls' health in particular was also addressed in these training sessions. Menstruation problems, nutrition, iron intake, weight issues and absenteeism during menstruation – these were the significant topics that were addressed to both parents and children.

A minimum of one training session was given to each of the groups/committees mentioned above in **Shankarpally** mandal. The trainings given, especially to adolescent girls were highly effective. In **Atmakur**, these training sessions had a strong impact, especially on girls. The trainings helped break down inhibitions and now the girls share more than what they used to before and voice out their opinions.

In **Halaharavi**, the hurdle faced during training on sexual abuse was that, not all girls were comfortable hearing the word “sex” or listen to what is good and bad touch. This was conveyed to the teachers who in turn questioned the importance of talking about this subject. After many discussions and logically explaining why this needs to be done, girls are much more comfortable now and the desensitization has begun. The impact of training on gender has also brought along change in some families. Girls now have stressed upon sitting together and eating meals as a family by giving importance to both genders equally.

In **Holagunda** the most significant impact of the trainings that was noticed was that the groups who were trained upon several Acts and Rights are applying that knowledge in filing petitions, by mentioning RTE in the petition and demanding the basic facility that they have a right to. During the training sessions in schools and junior colleges, the students were asked to make charts on the topics discussed. This interactive method was more effective than merely disseminating information to the students, as it made the session more interesting for the students and their comprehension of the topics could be gauged by the volunteers. MVF volunteers received an overwhelming response in the DIET college training session on Right

to Education. The recipients of this training being future teachers, reported of having no knowledge of such Rights or Acts. They also added that this knowledge changed their perspective on teaching and that this training being extremely important, needs to be incorporated in the curriculum of their B.Ed and D.Ed courses. In the sessions on gender discrimination, the group members reflected upon their own scenario at workplace and way in which gender discrimination is in practice. In the training sessions with ASHA workers and Anganwadi teachers, the participants were made to contemplate how gender discrimination is manifesting in their respective professions. The absence of male workers and reasons for low wages were evidence of gender discrimination, and they decided to raise a question on this with their respective authorities and in union meetings.

3.1 Trainings received by MVF Volunteers

Shankarpally:

1. In December they were trained on the new modules on the topics- child marriage, gender role stereotyping and abuse. In the past six months (July and October), two more trainings were given exclusively on gender and childline.

Vikarabad:

1. Four day training on gender- difference between sex and gender, gender equality.
2. In December they were trained on the new modules on the topics- child marriage, gender role stereotyping and abuse.
3. In July, a general training on childline was given.

Suryapet:

1. In July, volunteers were trained on gender discrimination.
2. In September, volunteers were trained on gender equality, delivery of content in a systematic manner.

Kurnool:

1. Volunteers were trained on usage of Whatsapp on to create groups and share information more efficiently.

4.0 ENGAGING WITH THE SYSTEM

Table 4. Number of petitions filed, sanctioned and still in progress in each District.

| District | Petitions filed | Petitions sanctioned | Petitions in progress |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rangareddy | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Vikarabad | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Suryapet | 10 | 7 | 1 |
| Kurnool | 22 | 19 | 3 |

Figure 3. Number of petitions filed, sanctioned and still in progress in each District.

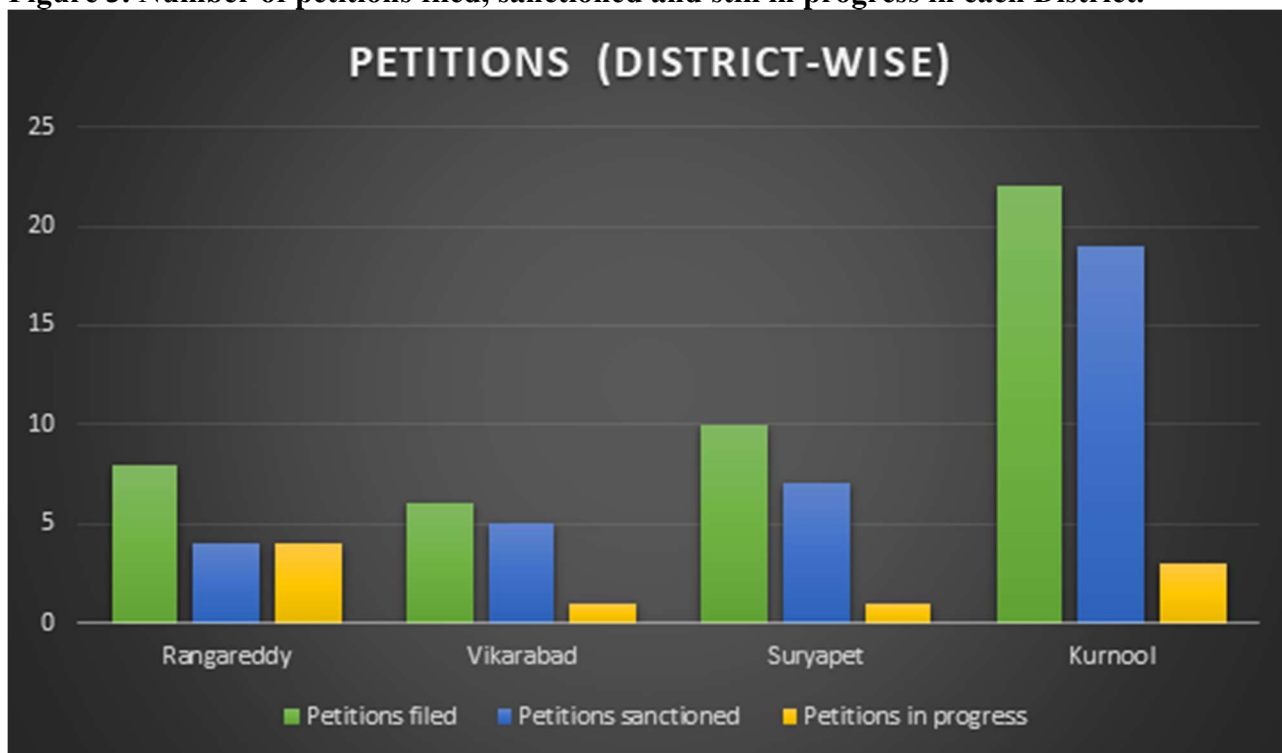


Table 5. Rangareddy – Shankarpally petitions

| S.No | Date | ISSUE | RECIPIENT | OUTCOME |
|-------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | 20 Sept | A 7 th class student Sharath Chandra was hit in a private school by his teacher – due to which there was bleeding on the forehead. A complaint was given in the police station. | Sub Inspector of Police, Shankarpally | A case was filed on the teacher of that private school |
| 2. | 11 Oct | A big hole was dug next to a school for a water tank. This was viewed as a danger to the school children. Petition was filed to begin the work as soon as possible. | MPDO | Work for water tank began 3 days after petition was filed |
| 3. | 16 Oct | Request for all government high schools to repair the computers and appoint a computer teacher for students benefit | Collector | |
| 4. | 16 Oct | Request for construction of basic amenities such as toilets/urinals for ZPHS girls school | Collector | |
| 5. | 6 Nov | 20 SC, BC boys Hostel students engaged in child labour by going to cotton field as the employer of the field promised money to them. Request for action to be taken against him | MRO | MRO visited the workplace and had a serious meeting with other employees and the employer |
| 6. | 4 Dec | Request to improve the urinals/bathrooms, drinking water and increase the number of soaps given in SC, BC boys' hostel and SC girls' hostel. Request for female workers in girls hostels instead of male workers | Collector | |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---------------------|--|
| 7. | 4 Dec | SC, BC boys and girls hostels are not following the meals menu, snacks are not given, number of soaps is very less. Request to solve these issues | Collector | |
| 8. | 4 Dec | Request to appoint permanent teachers in TSWRS and to bring back the teachers who have been sent on deputation. | Praveen Kumar gaaru | Recruitment of permanent teachers from 2018-2019 |

Table 6. Vikarabad petitions.

| | GIVEN BY | ISSUE | RECIPIENTS | OUTCOME |
|----|-------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 1. | MVF Volunteers and CRPF | Request to remove a tree that was leaning on to the school wall and causing cracks in the walls and ceiling, in Pulusumamidi | DEO | No action taken has been taken so far. |
| 2. | SMC | Request to build a new school in Chittanpally. | ZP chairman | An amount of Rs. 20 lakhs was sanctioned for the construction. |
| 3. | CRPF | Corporal punishment at ZPHS boys high school | DEO | The headmaster was suspended within 3 days. |
| 4. | | Overcrowding in boys residential school that has a capacity to accommodate 700 children but about 800-900 have been residing, resulting in insufficient food, toilets- forcing the children to defecate in the open. | Collector, DEO | Extras sent to different schools, Current strength: 680 |
| 5. | | Request for cleaning the school ground and constructing a compound wall in Jambapur. | DEO and the court | The thorns and weeds were removed from the ground, yet to build compound wall. |
| 6. | | The doors and windows were not fixed in the new school that was built in Inampur | DEO and the court | Work completed |

Table 6.1 Suryapet petitions- ATMAKUR (S)

| S.no | Date | ISSUE | RECIPIENT | OUTCOME |
|-------------|--------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | July 2017 | To arrange a bus to the school and issue bus passes to the students | Depot Manager | Sanctioned by August |
| 2 | January 2017 | Request for urinals to be constructed in government schools | - | Urinals constructed by August |
| 3 | January 2017 | Request to arrange sanitary napkins and drinking water in girls' hostels. | - | Sanctioned by August |
| 4 | - | To take strict action against child marriages | MRO and SI | |
| 5 | - | To appoint a cleaner/sweeper for toilets in schools | Principal | Sanctioned |
| 6 | - | To repair all the school computers and appoint a teacher to teach the usage to students | - | |

Table 6.2 Suryapet petitions- NUTHANKAL

| S.No | ISSUE | RECIPIENTS | OUTCOME |
|-------------|--|-------------------|--|
| 1. | Request for free sanitary napkins in schools three months ago | Collector | No response |
| 2. | Request to arrange buses in timing that's convenient for school going children | TRC depot manager | Bus timings have been changed |
| 3. | Request to provide English medium textbooks | DEO, Collector | Few were given, some are yet to be received. |

| | | | |
|----|--|--------------|---|
| | that weren't received by some students, | | |
| 4. | Request to issue notices to cotton farmers and land owners, asking them not to employ under aged children for work | MRO, MEO, SI | MRO responded immediately and held a meeting with VRO. It was informed in all the villages through dandora that people will be fined and punished legally for engaging in child labour. |

Table 7.1 Kurnool petitions- HALAHARAVI

| S.no | ISSUE | RECIPIENT | OUTCOME |
|------|--|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | A drainage canal stops right in front of a school. Request to close this or extend to a barren area. | MDO | Work in progress |
| 2 | Request to arrange buses from village to school in two locations | Bus depot manager | Autos were arranged for one location. Buses were arranged half way for the other |
| 3 | Request to recruit permanent teachers in a MPP school where there are only temp. teachers since 7 years | - | One permanent teacher appointed |
| 4 | Request to fix the bore for drinking water in school. | S.O | New pipeline fixed for drinking water |
| 5 | Request to construct toilets in high schools | - | Work in progress |
| 6 | 108 ambulance does not come to a village in Halaharvi. Request for 108 to lend their services during emergencies | Hospital administration | Sanctioned |

Table 7.2 Kurnool petitions- HOLAGUNDA

| | | ISSUE | RECIPIENTS | OUTCOME |
|--|--|-------|------------|---------|
|--|--|-------|------------|---------|

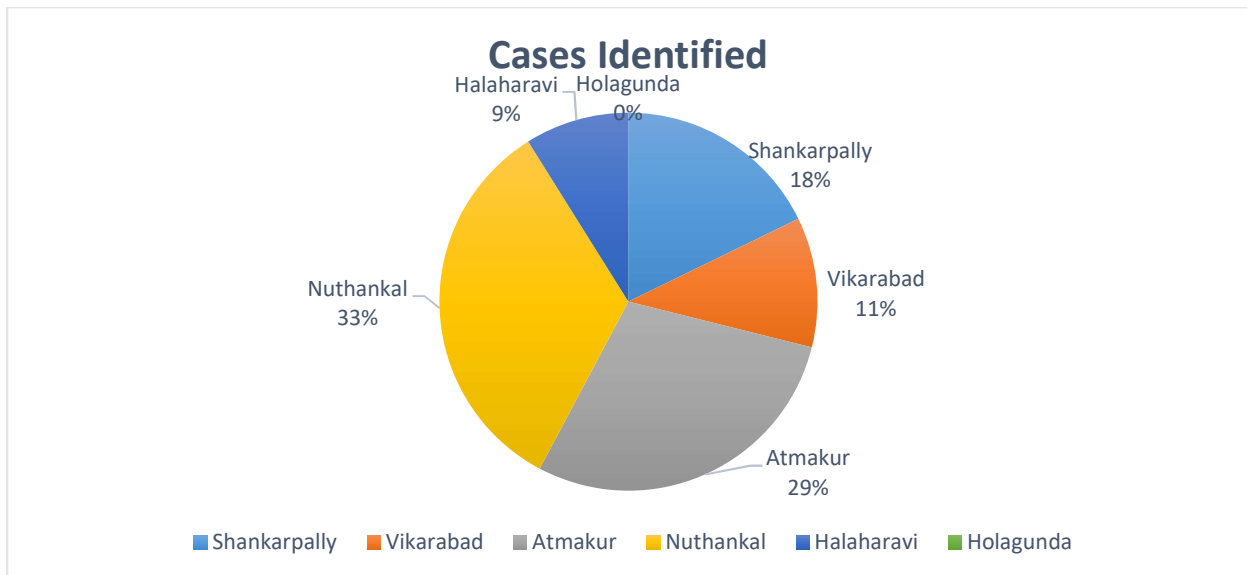
| | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Male Youth (Kogilathota) | Installing street lights and a drainage system. | MPDO, Sarpanch and Secretary | |
| 2. | Male Youth and KBS | Request for a bus from Alur via Suluvoy for school going children. | MEO, PO, DEO, Collector | A bus now runs via the requested route. |
| 3. | Male Youth | Request for a water tank in Muddatamagi. | MPDO, Secretary, Sarpanch | |
| 4. | | No drinking water in the Junior college; bore isn't functional. | MPDO, Secretary, Sarpanch | Gram Panchayat funds were used to fix the bore, and the college now has drinking water. |
| 5. | | No hostel for girls in Holagunda and Halaharivi has no junior colleges | YSRCP Leader- Y.S.JaganMohan Reddy | - |
| 6. | | Request to run buses in the evening at school dismissal time in Muddutamagi | MEO, PO, DEO, Collector | Buses will be active in that time from June 2018 |
| 7. | | Travel allowance for 6-14 year old school going children (total=75 children) | DEO,MEO,PO and Collector | Proposal needs to be forwarded to DISO committee. |
| 8. | NavaBharatha Yuvajana Sangham | School in Velthota has a Pupil-Teacher ratio of 288:3 while RTE's prescribed PTR is 30:1 | DEO | Recommended PTR will be implemented from the coming academic year. |

5.0 CHILD MARRIAGE

A total of 45 cases were identified and 44 of them were stopped. One child marriage could not be stopped in **Shankarpally**, as the families arranged the ceremony at 3:00 am in the morning and the SI who was newly transferred did not lend support to stop this marriage. For the rest of the cases there was strong support from the police department, MPDO, MRO and CRPF. In **Halaharavi**, three of these girls were sent to Yashoda Foundation in Hyderabad to continue their education away from the threat of marriage. Anganwadi workers and CRPF lent their support in stopping these marriages. 6 villages in particular were given more awareness programs about child marriage as it is more rampant in those areas. In conclusion, all the girls whose child marriages were stopped are currently continuing their education.

Table 8 & Figure 4. **Mandal wise statistics of number of child marriage cases identified and the number of cases stopped.**

| MANDAL | CASES IDENTIFIED | CASES STOPPED |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| SHANKARPALLY | 8 | 7 |
| VIKARABAD | 5 | 5 |
| ATMAKUR | 13 | 13 |
| NUTHANKAL | 15 | 15 |
| HALAHARAVI | 4 | 4 |
| HOLAGUNDA | 0 | 0 |



6.0 CHILDLINE

In **Shankarpally**, eight cases were identified through child line. One child marriage case, 3 corporal punishment cases and 4 dropout cases. Out of these, 2 dropout cases were not able to be solved.

After every meeting at a school level, village level or mandal level, MVF volunteers make sure they convey information regarding child line. In Suryapet and Kurnool, the childline is not functional.

7.0 CASE STUDIES

- A 9th grade school girl was spotted by a CRPF volunteer late in the night with a packed bag in Shankarpally. Upon asking about her presence, she confessed that she was about to go away with a boy from her village who is studying Intermediate who was supposed to meet her at that spot. Immediately, CRPF volunteer dropped her back safely in her house and MVF staff was contacted to counsel the girl the next day morning. After days of discussions, the girl obliged to go back to school to continue her education and the boy was also counselled separately. Currently, they both are continuing their education.
- A girl from 2nd year Intermediate Hindu girl fell in love with a welding shop boy who is a Muslim in Shankarpally. The parents of the girl eventually found out and refused her to go to college. This came to the attention of MVF volunteers. The parents were not ready to send her back to college no matter what. The girl refused to consider marriage with anyone else except him. Both of them were counselled separately and it was brought to light that the boy never intended to marry this girl. After learning this,

the girl chose to let go of this relationship. Currently, the parents allow her to go to college only to write exams as the portion is completed.

- A girl studying in Intermediate 1st year fell in love with her neighbour who is a software employee in Shankarpally. She stopped going to college as she wanted to get married to him. Though his intentions were to marry her at some point in the future, he did not encourage the concept of running away from home. MVF volunteers engaged in intense counselling and discussions with her and only after the parents assured her that they will get her married to that boy when the time is right, she resumed going back to college.
- In Vikarabad, a 17 year old girl studying intermediate, wanted to get married to her loved one before she attained 18 years of age. 70- 80 of the villagers assembled and discussed the issue. The villagers themselves suggested her to wait until she turns 18 and get married to whomever she likes. The marriage was postponed and she continued to attend college.
- 13 children from Bihar were found in Atmakur. They were brought here by a man who claims that he got the children to Suryapet to join them in schools and give them shelter. He was questioned by the police, CRPF and MVF volunteers for a duration of one month. The reasons stated by the man did not seem genuine. After much quarrelling and discussion, a lot of efforts were put and the children were safely reunited with their parents.
- Eve teasing was reported by several girls in village level girl youth meetings. Volunteers enquired everyone and identified 4 boys who were responsible for this. The issue had to be brought to everyone's notice and since talking to 4 of them alone would make them feel targeted, this issue was announced in the male youth meetings without naming anyone. The POCSO Act was discussed. The male youth members took it up seriously, discussed among themselves and identified the 4 boys. They collectively warned the boys not to repeat such actions in the future and rest of the group had pledged the same
- During a Balika Sangham meeting in Yeravalli village, Vikarabad it came to their notice that a proposal for marriage of a 17 year old is being discussed at one of the houses. The entire team put the meeting on hold and rushed to the girl's house. They discussed with her family and the relatives and cancelled the proposal. The girl told her family that she will continue going to college and will get married when she's ready.
- Shailaja, a 10th grader from Vikarabad was raped and impregnated. The villagers wanted to abort the baby without informing the Panchayat and were discussing on how to arrange money for this. MVF volunteers with CRPF and the Sarpanch filed a case against the accused. The villagers were warned that whoever attempts to force her for abortion would also be penalised. The girl was sent to a care home initially but she was brought back home by the parents. She is being given immunisation and required health care from Anganwadi.
- In Holagunda, 20 children from Karnataka were working in cotton farms of Muddatamagi. MVF volunteers spoke to the farmers and the children and within 3 days,

all of them were sent back to Karnataka. This was followed by a meeting with supervisors and landlords, warning them about the consequences of child labour.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- In **Shankarpally**, survey of old schools was conducted. Gram Panchayat conducted a survey of schools that have a history of 30-40 years. The development of academics and administration since then was chalked out. The role of MVF in contributing to the development of school was acknowledged and spoken about. In September, students' academic levels were checked to see if their academic levels matched the grade they were in. It was observed that even a 7th class child is unable to solve 5th class level problems. It was concluded that even 50% of the students are not at the basic level of their corresponding class.
- In **Vikarabad**, the 3 model centres in Gottumukkala, Madanapalli and Siddalur are engaging the students in different extracurricular activities every week to promote learning and also relieve them from academic stress. Each week both boys and girls take part in a different activity that is chosen for that particular week, such as debate, art, sports, project work etc., Although earlier, girls participating in certain sports like Kabaddi was shunned upon, parents are now encouraging them to participate in all kinds of sports. In some instances, parents wished boys learned from girls, and took active part in extracurricular activities, academics as well as household work.
- In **Atmakur**, there was a special door-to-door visit held in Atmakur wherein 405 children were identified and rejoined back into schools. Also, two semi-orphans were identified and were joined in school.

- In **Nuthankal**, a case of harassment was filed by a girl in Nuthankal but it came into light that the Police sided with the accused boy.

- In **Halaharavi**, water filter tank was installed with the help of sponsors. While some part of the money was sponsored, MVF volunteers advised the village heads whom to ask for sponsorship of the rest of the money. Health camp was also conducted in Virpapuram. 85 girls were checked for haemoglobin levels in their body. Sadly, not a single girl has their levels even close to normal. MVF along with ANMs held a meeting on balanced diet and sources of iron in everyday food to both parents and children. GP, MPTC and MVF volunteers together counselled a few college going boys who displayed undesirable behavior in front of girls school and engaged in eve teasing.

- In **Holagunda**, 20 children from Karnataka were working in cotton farms of Muddatamagi. MVF volunteers spoke to the farmers and the children and within 3 days, all of them were sent back to Karnataka. This was followed by a meeting with supervisors and landlords, warning them about the consequences of child labour. Health camp was organised in September after a death due to dengue. A total of 120 individuals got themselves checked. Along with check ups, awareness was created about breeding mosquitoes in the drains and the precautions to be taken. In Yenthanda, male youth club organized door-to door distribution of medicines for fever. In Kogilathota, Male youth member gave an application requesting for pension for those who haven't been receiving it, but there was no response from the officials. SMC has identified the need for hiring sweepers separately for the schools for which 4 sweepers were hired for 4 villages and are being paid a separate salary. In Yebbatam, a trainer was appointed to

teach 435 highschool students the basics of computer (Paint, MS Office, Internet). Two periods were allotted for this class.

8.0 CHALLENGES

In **Shankarpally**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

1. What else can be done about students who fail even the 2nd supplement board exam?
Can there be skill training/vocational training given to such students?
2. Boy Youth Clubs are the least receptive. Not only do they not attend the meetings, but are also leave early when they do. There is no pressure from the parents' side as well for the boys to attend meetings.
3. Private school teachers are unaware of corporal punishment laws. Principals and teachers need to be made aware of these rules.
4. Mandal level meetings with all officials from all committees need to be more regularized. No other committees take initiatives to conduct monthly meetings.
5. A lot of teacher absenteeism is observed in government schools which need to be dealt with.

In **Vikarabad**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

1. Increased cases of minor love marriages
2. In the male youth clubs, boys are still shy and hesitate to mingle with girls and sit with them in the meetings.
3. It has come to the notice of volunteers that 15 year old boys are consuming alcohol especially 10th/Inter dropouts and something needs to be done about it.

In **Atmakur**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

1. The 10th fail students face a lot of embarrassment to sit with the juniors for the repeating year. The students who fail even the supplementary exams, feel inferior to everyone else. What can be done about this?
2. Government needs to push its departments to take initiative and conduct programs. Most committees wait for MVF to make the first move and are not pro-active.
3. More training needs to be given to the entire community on child marriage and there needs to be a wider outreach
4. MVF volunteers are looking forward to learning new ways of conveying information regarding adolescent wellbeing and gender discrimination.
5. Girls and boys combined youth clubs need to be more common. Girls are still not completely accepted in all types of youth clubs.

In **Nuthankal**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

1. Childline is inactive.
2. MVF Volunteers and Groups are finding it challenging to deal with students who have failed in 10th and Inter, as there are no institutes accepting this group of students for the training courses. The eligibility criteria is either 10th pass/ above 8 years of age, and this group is left out resulting in them engaging in child labour or other unproductive activities.
3. Government departments are less involved- especially the Revenue department. Needs to take initiative and be proactive. Community is very active and supportive of programmes and activities but the Government isn't.
4. CMPC is inactive with no meetings in the last six months. Petition was given in January to Collector for formation of new CPC.

In **Halaharavi**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

1. SMCs are not functional in Halaharvi. These committees need to be mobilized and are should meet regularly as parents and teachers both are very significant parts of a child's life.
2. Parents also need to be given training the same way children are given and on the same topics.

In **Holagunda**, the following challenges were faced by the volunteers.

The primary challenge in this particular region is the Government. Volunteers reported that the Government officials are negligent towards the issues related to children, and are slow in responding to the same.