

**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 2017**

M.V. Foundation
201, Narayan Apartments
West Marredpally, Secunderabad – 500 026
Phones: 91-40-2780 14 20, 2770 02 90, 2771 01 50
Fax: 91-40-2780 88 08, 2770 16 56
Email: mvfindia@gmail.com
www.mvfindia.in

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED	2
PROGRESS AT A GLANCE	3
SOCIAL MOBILISATION	4
Community Meetings	4
Motivation and Follow up of Child Labourers	6
School Enrolment	6
Exam Follow Up	7
Higher Education Follow Up	8
FORUM OF GIRLS FOR RIGHTS	9
CRPF	11
GRAM PANCHAYATS	13
INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES AND ALSO THE CMPC	14
PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF BOYS	16
ACCESS TO EDUCATION	16
STOPPING CHILD MARRIAGES	16
TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING	17
YOUTH CLUBS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL	18
MAPPING OUT RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES FOR USE OF COMPUTER	19
MODEL CENTRES	19
CHILDLINE	19
STUDY ON CHILD MARRIAGE	20
STORIES FROM THE FIELD	21

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
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
HS	High School
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
MEO	Mandal Education Officer
MMS	Mandala Mahila Samakhya
MPDO	Mandal Parishad Development Officer
MPP	Mandal Parishad President
MPTC	Member – Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences
PS	Primary School
RDO	Revenue Division Officer
RTE	Right to (Free and Compulsory) Education
RTI	Right to Information
SC	Scheduled Caste
SHG	Self-Help Group
SI	Sub-Inspector of Police
SMC	School Management Committee
SP	Superintendent of Police
ST	Scheduled Tribe
UPS	Upper Primary School
VO	Village Organisation

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

ACTIVITY HEAD	PROGRESS ACHIEVED
Social Mobilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 479 meetings held with 10503 participants • Activation of 21 and 31 Gender Committees at the VO level in Nutankal and Atmakur mandals respectively • Formation of a mandal level VO Gender Committee in Atmakur • Follow up of 2123 boys and 2231 girls for the annual exams • Followed up 12 boys and 14 girls from Class 10 to various residential institutions after they had cleared the Class 10 exams
Forum of Girls for Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of 16 new Forums with 229 members • Supported 378 Forums for Girls' Rights • Active VO members identified and groomed as <i>Support Persons</i> with the objective of strengthening the Forum for Girls' Rights
CRPF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 mandal level meetings with 155 members • 79 village level meetings with a turnout of 761 • 25 petitions submitted to district and mandal level officials including District Collectors on children's issues • Rs 2 crores sanctioned by the District Collector of Suryapet to develop hostels/KGBVs following a representation by the CRPF • Formed State CRPF in Andhra Pradesh & 5 District CRPFs in Telangana • Withdrawal of 330 children from work through the Police Department's Operation Muskan • Penalty of Rs one lakh imposed on owner of brick kiln through CRPF's intervention • WhatsApp group to report on/curb child marriage formed by Police Department in Yadadri district through CRPF's facilitation • Warden of Rajendranagar SC Hostel transferred on the basis of a visit report by the CRPF
Gram Panchayat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 meetings held with 549 members • Rs 25 lakhs raised for school building in Kondakal, Shankarpally through the Gram Panchayat
Involvement of government functionaries and also the CMPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 CPC/CMPC meetings with 540 participants • 3 cases of potential child marriage prevented through the RDO's involvement in Holagunda mandal
Participation and involvement of boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new Boys' Forums formed in Kurnool district with 78 members • Supported and strengthened 62 Combined Forums with 1161 members
Access to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 out of 54 children that gave the Open 10th exams cleared them • 20 out of 45 children that gave the Open Intermediate exams cleared them
Stopping Child Marriages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevented 43 out of 71 identified potential cases of child marriage
Training & Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training-of-Trainers session for core staff and refresher training on MVF's non-negotiable principles for working with adolescents • Conducted 21 orientation sessions at the mandal level on Gender issues, Child Marriage and Child Rights for adolescents and community groups including ASHAs
Youth Clubs at the village level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed a youth association in one village of Holagunda mandal with 28 members
Model Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Centres operational in 16 villages in order to give adolescent girls an opportunity of mutual interaction
Childline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 31 Childline Advisory Board meetings • Formed 18 Village CPCs • Handled 635 calls and resolved 609 of them • 288 boys and 439 girls reached and shelter provided to 74 children • Summary of Cases: Child Marriage – 178, Orphans and Semi-Orphans – 91, School Dropout – 79, Child Labour – 56
Study on Child Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commences study on impact of child marriage on girls' lives • Formed an Advisory Committee with subject experts • Interviewed 70 girls from 6 districts

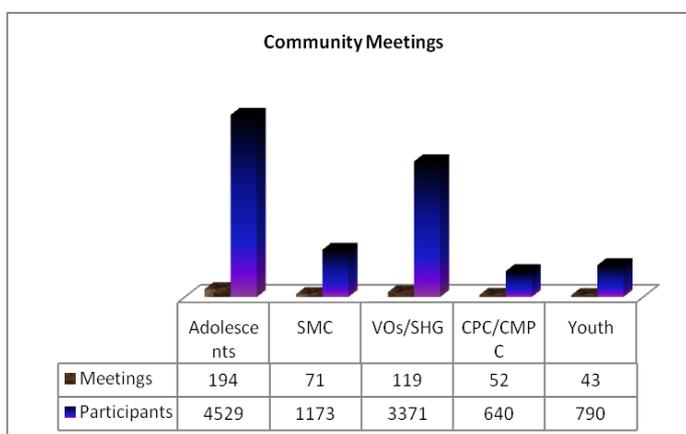
SOCIAL MOBILISATION

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meetings were held with different community stakeholders such as parents, youth, women, ASHAs, the MMS, SHGs and the SMC to discuss the issues of gender equity/gender based discrimination, girl child education, girls' dropout from school child marriage and school development. The volunteers emphasised the need for all girls to be educated and called upon their parents to send them regularly to school. Women's meetings in Suryapet district focused on children's employment in chilli and cotton farms. SMC meetings were largely devoted to discussions on the implementation of the RTE Act, problems faced in school, child dropout and school fund usage. Male youth were urged to treat girls as equals and to ensure their safety and security. They were counseled not to marry or abet the marriage of underage girls. Eve teasing was another issue that was discussed with them. They were asked to extend all possible support to girls. Parents were asked to continue the education of girls beyond the Class 10 level and to give them the education of their choice. They also ought to be given enough freedom to study during the exam season.

The details of meetings held during the reporting period are as below:

Group	Meetings	Participants
Adolescents	194	4529
SMC	71	1173
VOs/SHG	119	3371
CPC/CMPC	52	640
Youth	43	790
Total	479	10503



The volunteers also participated in monthly VO meetings and discussed child rights and girl child issues with them. Mandal officials were invited to attend VO meetings in Vikarabad. Only girls from the Reddy community in Gudupally had been attending college two kilometres away and parents of girls from other communities were hesitant to send their daughters because they felt the girls would tread the wrong path. Some of them cited cases in which girls had eloped. The volunteers told them that this was a misconception and that they had to trust their daughters. This kind of thing would happen only if they didn't bring them up properly. MMS members have been tracking children's attendance in school.

A mandal level SHG meeting held in Vikarabad on 10th March 2017 to mark International Women's Day was attended by 50 people including MPP Bhagyalakshmi and MPDO Sattaiah. The members were addressed on the issues of girl child education, gender equity and the importance of the occasion. They were urged to discuss the issue in their village level meetings and to own up the campaign for child rights. Members of 10 VOs from Vikarabad mandal are actively addressing girl child issues. Only one case of child marriage was recorded this year in Madgula Chittampally village of Vikarabad mandal as against 5 last year. Girls from the school in Madgula Chittampally of Vikarabad mandal were not being given play material and even boys rarely had the opportunity to play. The SMC chairperson took up the issue with the chairperson and he pressurised the Physical Education Teacher to permit the children to play.

SHG members from Holagunda resolved not to marry their daughters underage and offered to inform officials whenever they came across a case of child marriage. They joined hands to prevent the proposed marriage of Khaja Bi, a Class 8 girl from Suluwayi. Members from SC Colony, Yellaharthi have been following up dropouts to school and are supporting a couple of girls for their higher education. Youth from Nerniki Thanda organised a health camp for 16 children that had been affected

with diarrhoea. The school in Mudathamagi was cleaned and the migration of 11 children prevented in Nerniki Thanda through the involvement of youth groups. The issues of malnutrition and child labour were discussed during women's meetings in Halaharivi mandal. The parents of some working children asked for time to wean away their children from work because the harvest season was in progress. The volunteers replied that this would set a dangerous precedent, as they would get used to work and not to education. They had to immediately withdraw the children from work. The marriage of Sharada – a Class 9 student from Nitravatti was prevented through the women's intervention.

Youth from Thallasingaram, Nutankal mandal offered to support the staff in a special drive to follow up children for the Class 10 exams. They convinced two children that were unwilling to take their Hall Tickets because they felt they would fail to clear the exams, to appear for the exams. Youth from Pedanemila were involved in following up Gaddam Pranay Kumar – a dropout from Inter (I), to college. Youth from Maddirala village contacted two girls from Class 10 that had migrated with their parents and were employed in chilli farms in Khammam district and got their names included in the nominal rolls. They also followed them up for the exams. Parents from Mukundapuram, Nutankal mandal sponsored 2 volunteers to teach in the English medium and are paying them Rs 4000 each every month. The parents of 30 more children have expressed willingness to send their children to the local school. The teachers are happy with this development and have promised to improve the quality of teaching and guarantee better performance by children if they attend school regularly. Youth from the mandal also mobilised pens and pads through local donors for 418 children from 7 High Schools.

Teachers were invited as chief guests to a mandal level event organised in Atmakur on the occasion of International Women's Day with the participation of 150 women. Games competitions were held for the women and the teachers, who addressed the gathering on the importance of the occasion, gave away prizes to the winners and felicitated 16 women. Youth organised sports, elocution and essay writing competitions in 6 schools of the mandal and sponsored prizes. Less than 10 out of 70 children from HS Yepuru had cleared the Class 10 exams. Some local youth from the village assessed the children for their knowledge of Telugu, Maths and English and shared the results with the head teacher. The youth also arranged a health camp for 260 children and adults with support from Lions' Club. They involved the Sarpanch and the MPTC and volunteered their time. They publicised the conduct of the camp using an auto rickshaw. A total of 45 people including 7 children were given spectacles. Youth from 6 villages of the mandal wrote to the Tehsildar and the MPDO demanding supply of textbooks, provision of water and toilet facilities, construction of school buildings and better implementation of the midday meal scheme. They also staged a protest at the MPDO's office.

The building of a Model Library that was set up for the benefit of adolescent girls in Patharlapahad village of Atmakur mandal was decrepit. The local youth met the Sarpanch and asked him to get minor repairs done to the building. They noted that more male youth than girls had been visiting the Library. They encouraged girls to spend more time in the Library. Youth from Yepuru spoke to the Library Committee chairperson, Suryapet and got him to donate an almirah and a rack for the Library in their village. Youth from 5 villages spoke to auto rickshaw union members and asked them not to transport children to work. They also called upon teachers to monitor children's presence in school and to follow up and coordinate with parents.

Youth from Settigudem village of Atmakur mandal organised essay writing and *muggulu* competitions for girls and gave away prizes. They also demanded the setting up of a library in the village and followed up 78 dropouts and absentees to school with the volunteers' help. Youth from Kothagudem organised a health camp for children from 8 Panchayats. Youth from Yepuru spoke to local donors and arranged pads, pens and All-in-One guides from 514 children from 12 High Schools. A retired teacher from Yepuru donated Rs 50000 for purchase of school furniture.

VO members in Atmakur mandal have been regularly visiting High Schools to study the status of education, infrastructure and problems faced by children there. They have also been involved in counselling adolescent girls and their parents against early marriage. Women's meetings were held in all HS and the KGBV on 24th January 2017 to discuss low girl child retention. They were exhorted to lay special emphasis on girls' issues and to care for girls' health. The programme was also introduced to bookkeepers. SHG members from Thummala Penpahad petitioned to the District Collector asking for napkins to be distributed to adolescent girls.

Parents' meetings were held in 12 HS, the KGBV and the Model School in Atmakur mandal to discuss children's subject wise progress at the level of Classes 8-10. Teachers and parents sat together and identified children's weak areas. Responding to complaints that children were not being taught well, the teachers asked the parents to send their children to school regularly and to support them at home. They were asked to disconnect their satellite TV connections during the exam season so children were not distracted. They also offered to conduct study hours/remedial coaching. The MPP and the MEO were present in some of the meetings. Parents got some locals to sponsor snacks for children during the study hours. Teachers also contributed in some schools.

The government had formed 5 Social Committees at the VO level, including a Gender Committee. All Committees in Suryapet mandal were functional with the exception of the Gender Committee. Members of this Committee were not familiar with their responsibilities and some of them were unaware of the very existence of the Committee. In fact, very few of them were conversant with the concept of gender. Detailed discussions were held with the members during VO meetings and they were given detailed inputs on various aspects of gender and on their roles and responsibilities. The volunteers activated 21 and 31 Gender Committees in Nutankal and Atmakur mandals respectively with the involvement of key staff of the Indira Kranthi Patham. A mandal level Gender Committee has also been formed in Atmakur mandal with 7 members.

MOTIVATION AND FOLLOW OF CHILD LABOURERS

A motivation drive was taken up in Shankarpally town with the joint participation of the volunteers, the CRPF, the SI of police and constables. They went around from shop to shop and identified 7 cases. The employers were counselled by the police. The volunteers also spoke to the managements of private colleges and arranged fee subsidies for 3 girls. Youth groups from Mudathamagi and Nerniki Thanda in Holagunda mandal pasted campaign posters informing that the Child Labour (Prohibition) Act has been amended in 2016 and had prohibited the employment of children aged 15-18 years in hazardous industries. They also sent across a message that all children ought to be in school.

Special drives were taken up in Atmakur mandal to curb seasonal employment of children, who accompanied their parents to work. Youth, women, the CRPF and ICDS personnel were involved in this effort. Child-to-child motivation was also used as a means of reaching out to the children. Other participants included the MPP and other elected representatives, Cluster Resource Persons and teachers. They noted that girls had been working in cottonseed farms as far as 40-50 kms. away from home. The team spoke to the contractors and warned them against employing the children.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Volunteers from all mandals of the project area participated in the Education Department's school enrolment drive Badi Baata. Focus was placed on reaching out to dropouts and children aged 5 years and above. The CRPF, the SMC and elected representatives were involved in this effort in Shankarpally mandal. A Grama Sabha was held in Laxmareddyguda village of the mandal to discuss the reopening of the local school. A petition was submitted to the MEO, asking him to act on the issue because 30 children from the school had shifted to private schools. Rallies were held across villages of the mandal on 12th June 2017 to mark Global Day against Child Labour. Teachers, youth and other community groups participated in Vikarabad mandal. They urged parents to send their children to government school rather than to private school because the government had set up these schools for their children. They informed that government schools had also begun to offer education in the English medium.

Enrolment rallies featured in all mandals with the participation of ICDS staff, parents, village elders, youth, teachers, CRPF, adolescent girls and elected representatives. They sloganeered in favour of education and against child labour. The volunteers also took along the list of out-of-school children aged 6-14 years and 15-18 years that had been arrived at on the basis of the survey. Children aged 6-14 were motivated to enrol in school and out-of-school children aged 15-18 were motivated to give

the Class 10 and Inter exams through Open stream. Youth from Mudathamagi in Holagunda mandal got the school drain after the conduct of a rally in the village.

Volunteers in Holagunda chalked out a weeklong activity schedule in Kogilathota, where the incidence of child labour was quite high, beginning 12th June 2017. One activity was taken up each day. These activities included Fancy Dress, Games & Sports, a Grama Sabha, Parents' Meetings, Wall Writings and Wall Posters. 16 children participated in the Fancy Dress event and 80 children took part in Sports & Games. 80 Wall Posters were put up and Wall Writings featured in 31 locations. The village had 53 out-of-school children aged 6-14 and 42 out-of-school children aged 15-18 years. Discussions were held on the status of school functioning. The school had education facility up to the Class 8 level but only 3 teachers. They had refused to teach children in Classes 6-8 and had been asking them to go to the school in Holagunda instead. The volunteers took up the issue with the head teacher and told him this was not right. The matter was referred to the Panchayat members during the Grama Sabha. The Sarpanch told the teachers to distribute the workload between themselves until new teachers were appointed.

Sarpanchs, youth, members of the Forum for Girls' Rights and ICDS staff participated in rallies held in Halaharivi mandal. MPP Basappa released a campaign poster in Chintakunta and called upon all children to enrol in school, failing which they would lose out on their rights. The government had given them the right to free and compulsory education and that ought to avail themselves of this facility. Twenty campaign posters were pasted in each village. The volunteers also withdrew 15 children from private school and brought them back to government schools in Hardhageri with the help of the Sarpanch and local youth. They also spoke to the management of the private school. Slogans were written on walls at 48 locations in Chintakunta village.

Government schools from Atmakur mandal designed their own pamphlets and the teachers took up door-to-door motivation drives to bring all children to school. Volunteers involved teachers, women's groups and the CRPF in a school follow up exercise. There was very high demand for residential institutions, which made it difficult to reach out to all children. The volunteers spoke to Sarpanchs and Panchayat Secretaries and got letters from them in genuine cases such as those of migrant children and orphans/semi-orphans to facilitate their admission. Three dwarves from Bopparam that belonged to migrant families had been denied admission initially and the volunteers negotiated with the revenue and the hostel authorities to get them admitted.

EXAM FOLLOW UP

The volunteers compiled lists of children that were due to appear for the final exams, one month prior to the conduct of the exams and tracked their school-going status. Whenever they noted that a child was irregular, they identified the reasons involved and followed up the children for the exams with the help of elected representatives, teachers, youth and parents. They also took photocopies of nominal rolls from schools and crosschecked to see how many children had not taken their Hall Tickets. Staff meetings were held at the school level to share the details of such children with (head) teachers. In addition, the volunteers personally went to the exam Centres and saw how many children had turned up at the venue. Subsequent to the declaration of the results, they met the children that had failed to clear the exams and encouraged them to apply for the supplementary exams. (Head) teachers were spoken to and asked to conduct special classes for such children.

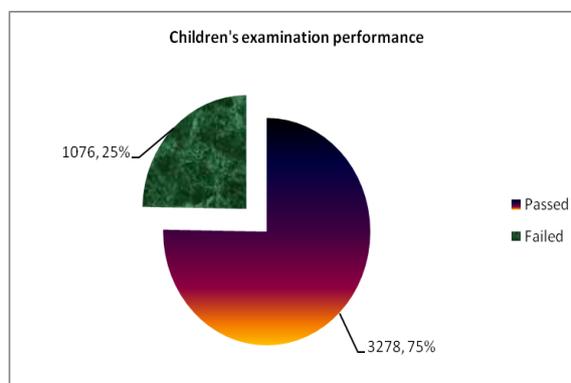
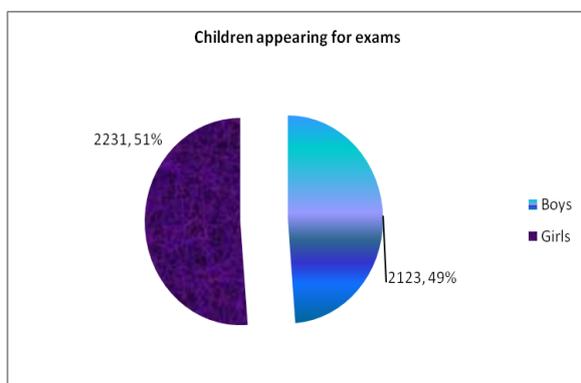
Volunteers in Nutankal mandal noted that more than 50 children had migrated and had not taken their Hall Tickets for the Class 10 exams. They took the children's contact details and followed them up over phone, involving the CRPF and the SMC to counsel the children and their children whenever they returned. Some of the children that had not taken their Hall Tickets had got married underage. They were met and motivated to collect their Hall Tickets. Two children Chandu and Sandeep from Ramannagudem in Atmakur mandal had not paid their fees and were engaged in grazing goats. The Sarpanch, MPTC and teachers tried to follow them up but they did not come to the venue after 2 days. The teachers met their parents and spoke to them. They also personally escorted the children to the Centre. The Special Officer and teachers of the KGBV followed up one irregular girl that had

dropped out after the pre-final exams. Volunteers from the mandal followed up 22 migrant children. A number of children from the mandal, who had been pursuing Intermediate level education, from hostel did not attend college regularly, as they felt they could not clear the exams. The quality of food in the hostels was also substandard. The children were personally met and convinced to appear for the exams.

The details of children that appeared for the exams and their performance are as follows:

Mandal	Schools	Children attending exams		
		B	G	T
Shankarpally (govt)	12	193	267	460
Shankarpally (pvt)	6	106	79	185
Vikarabad (govt)	22	377	526	903
Vikarabad (pvt)	17	442	398	840
Atmakur	14	273	241	514
Nutankal	13	282	286	568
Halaharivi	5	181	209	390
Holagunda	4	269	225	494
Total	93	2123	2231	4354

Mandal	Passed			Failed		
	B	G	T	B	G	T
Shankarpally (govt)	116	177	293	77	90	167
Shankarpally (pvt)	98	77	175	8	2	10
Vikarabad (govt)	247	373	620	130	153	283
Vikarabad (pvt)	397	379	776	45	19	64
Atmakur	170	123	293	103	118	221
Nutankal	118	126	244	164	160	324
Halaharivi	180	206	386	1	3	4
Holagunda	266	225	491	3	0	3
Total	1592	1686	3278	531	545	1076



HIGHER EDUCATION FOLLOW UP

Special efforts were made in Kurnool district to follow up the education of children aged 15-18 years, as they had issues with access to Intermediate level education. Halaharivi mandal had no Junior College and transport connectivity to Holagunda was poor though it had a Junior College. children that had cleared the Class 10 exams were encouraged to apply for eligibility tests to secure admission in premier institutions. The details of children that appeared for such tests are as under:

Mandal	AP Residential Junior College	Social Welfare Residential Institutions	Padmavathi University	RDT Residential Schools
Halaharivi	19 b + 21 g	15 b + 11 g	6 b + 2 g	10 b + 11 g
Holagunda	2 b + 16 g	1 b + 19 g	0 b + 5 g	1 b + 5 g
Total	21 b + 37 g	16 b + 30 g	6 b + 7 g	11 b + 16 g

10 boys and 11 girls in all from Halaharivi secured admission in these institutions while the corresponding numbers for Holagunda mandal were 2 boys and 3 girls.

FORUM OF GIRLS FOR RIGHTS

Forums for Girls' Rights were formed newly in 16 villages with 229 members. These were in addition to the 372 Forums that were already operational. Members of the new Forums were oriented on the concept of the Forum, its objectives and operational philosophy, child rights, administration of the Forum and their roles and responsibilities as members of the Forum. Members of all Forums assembled once or twice a month to review the progress of their activity and to plan for the future. Issues discussed included child marriage, school infrastructure, personal health & hygiene, higher education and child labour. The members unfurled the National Flag in school on national festivals. Working with the Forums has been very helpful for the girls, who have opened up, are more aware and are communicating their concerns to officials. The incidence of child marriage has also gone down in general and forum members are involved in counselling girls. Some of the girls have even been sharing information with the police on potential child marriages. Last but not the least, their public speaking and presentation skills have improved.

B.G. Halli village of Holagunda mandal had no toilets and this was a key area of concern for girls. Some of them had actually been molested outdoors. Members of the Forum took up the issue for discussion during one of their meetings and they petitioned to the Tehsildar and the MPDO for toilets in the village. Some local leaders submitted applications for the construction of 84 toilets, following which a survey was initiated by the Field Assistant. Members of Sri Siva Sangham from Nerniki village spoke to the parents of a minor girl that was due to be married and convinced them to lay off the marriage. In another incident, members of four Forums from Chinnaheta prevented the proposed child marriage of Muthamma, a Junior College student. Her parents had even distributed the Wedding Cards.

Geeta, a member of the Forum from Chinnaheta village of Holagunda mandal informed that her brothers were marrying minor girls and joined hands with her fellow members to get the marriages cancelled. A 17-year old girl from Kogilathota village of the mandal had been freed from work in a cottonseed farm, after which her grandfather proposed to get her married. Members of Kasturba Balika Sangham referred the matter to the local volunteer and they counseled the old man against doing so. They asked him to wait for just one year so that his granddaughter would not only be of legal age but would also be mentally prepared to bear the burden of marital responsibilities. He changed his mind and agreed to postpone the affair.

The owner of an agricultural farm adjacent to Mandal Parishad UPS Medhehal, Halaharivi mandal put up some farm bunds on his land. Some snakes began entering the school premises through his field. Members of the local Forum for Girls' Rights discussed the issue during one of their meetings and referred the matter to some local youth. They involved the SMC chairperson in the issue and he convinced the farmer to get the bunds removed. Not even one case of child marriage was reported in Chintakunta village during the current year as against 8 last year thanks to the efforts of the Forum members to engage with parents on an ongoing basis. Another girl from Nitravatti had dropped out of Class 9 and had migrated. She was denied admission after her return. Members of the Forum shared this information with the local volunteer and they went together to the school, where they noticed that the girl's name had not been removed from the registers. Upon inquiring, they came to know that the girl's parents had not approached the head teacher at all in the first place. She was eventually admitted in Class 10.

Members of the Forum also followed up Preethi – a migrant girl from Sirigapuram village of Halaharivi mandal that had accompanied her parents to Hyderabad and had subsequently dropped out, to enrol in KGBV. A boy from Class 4 in Virupapuram had dropped out while in Class 4 three years ago and migrated along with his family. He was hesitant to request the head teacher for a Transfer Certificate. His mother raised the issue during a meeting of the Forum for Girls' Rights upon invitation. She shared the details of her son's predicament. Some of the members spoke to the head teacher and got a Transfer Certificate issued in the boy's name. He was enrolled in Zilla Parishad HS Virupapuram. As many as 45 girls from Bologota, including 20 that had never enrolled in school, were

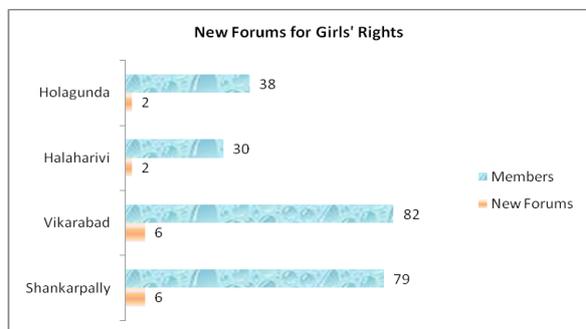
out of the education system. The process of motivating them is underway. Basic literacy skills are being imparted to them and they were given notebooks. The never-enrolled girls can now write their names as well as those of their parents. Eight of these girls are ready to give the Class 10 exams through Open stream.

Inspirational feature film Dangal was screened in villages of Shankarpally mandal in order to motivate adolescent girls and to encourage them to be assertive. Meetings were held with members of the Forum in the KGBV and the Model School to identify the problems being faced by children. The outcomes were shared with the Sarpanchs of the two villages. The Sarpanch of Janwada, who was a woman, took some male youth to task upon being informed that they had engaged in eve teasing.

National Girl Child Day was observed in Atmakur on 24th January 2017. Meetings and games were organised in the KGBV and Certificates of Participation given to all participants. Prizes worth Rs 10000 were sponsored by a teacher from one PS. The government doctor, the Health Supervisor and other personnel of the health department were also present. Ten cases of eve teasing were solved through the involvement of SHGs and the CRPF in the mandal. Most of these cases related to girls aged 14-16 years. Four cases of abuse perpetrated by male youth aged 18 and above were reported under the POCSO and the Nirbhaya Acts and 5 cases were filed in all.

The details of Forums formed newly and of the number of operational Forums are as below:

Mandal	Forums for Girls' Rights			
	New	Members	Forums	Members
Shankarpally	6	79	72	1449
Vikarabad	6	82	45	851
Atmakur	0	0	57	1219
Nutankal	0	0	62	1460
Halaharivi	2	30	86	1561
Holagunda	2	38	66	1028
Total	16	229	388	7568



Active and socially conscious VO members aged 25-30 years that had through understanding of girls' issues, had time to spare and were capable of counselling girls were identified and prepared to play the part of Support Persons. They would share their knowledge with the girls and guide them as and when required, They were oriented on girl child schemes, the importance of girl child education and gender equity. It is expected that they would identify issues of concern to girls' issues and address them on a priority basis. Bringing all girls of school-going age to school is one of their main objectives. They are being involved in community meetings held under the project at various levels.

CRPF

Meetings were held at the village and mandal levels with the CRPF to discuss girl child education, the status of child marriage, gender equity, school infrastructure and problems faced by children in school. They were asked to take the lead in addressing gender issues, promote girl child education and curb child marriage. They have been coordinating closely with ICDS personnel and have also been making use of the Childline (1098) whenever necessary. 6 mandal level meetings of the CRPF were held with 155 members in addition to 79 village level meetings with a turnout of 761.

Two mandal meetings of the CRPF held in Holagunda focused on the issue of following up children that were due to give the Class 10 exams. They noted during the course of this exercise that most of the 55 children that had not taken their Hall Tickets from school had dropped out in the previous year and that 3 of them had been already married. They drafted petitions to the DEO and the MEO and urged them to involve teachers in identifying dropouts and following them up for the exams.

A mandal level CRPF was formed in Halaharivi with 21 members and an Executive Committee of 3 members, namely the Convenor, the Co-Convenor and the Treasurer. These members were drawn from existing village level CRPFs. The first review meeting focused on follow up of children that were due to appear for the Class 10 exams. The volunteers had compiled a list of 212 boys and 240 girls and had collected details of their attendance from their respective schools. They had noted that 66 children had not collected their Hall Tickets. They shared the list with the CRPF members and went from village to village along with them. Most of the children had dropped out at the Class 9 level but their names had been continuing in the school registers. Ten girls had got married in addition. A plan of action was chalked out and petitions were submitted to the District Collector and the DEO in this regard. They duly instructed the MEO to look into the issue but he did not act for one week. The mandal team spoke to him over phone and are pursuing the issue.

Water in the drain adjoining a school in Halaharivi had nearly stagnated and some swine had also been wallowing in the water, posing a health risk to the children. Some girls from the school took the matter to the notice of the teachers, who spoke to the CRPF in this regard. They met the MPDO and updated him on the situation but he did not respond. They approached the Sarpanch, who took steps to get the drain cleaned. Members from the SC Colony in Nerniki, Holagunda mandal prevented the migration of 5 girls and got them enrolled in KGBV. Members from Nerniki Thanda spoke to the MPDO and arranged for water supply in the school through a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Plant in the village. Two cans of water are being supplied to the school every day. CRPF members from Kogilathota spoke to the MPDO and arranged midday meals for children during the summer.

CRPF members from Shankarpally mandal submitted an RTI petition to the MEO on fees being charged by private schools and on the status of child marriage to the Tehsildar. They also sought information under the RTI Act on the status of implementation of the Kalyani Lakshmi scheme, child marriages stopped and marriage registration. A petition was also submitted to the District Collector on the need to gat government school buildings painted, compound walls erected around the Model School, effect repairs to computers in HS and recruit volunteers in schools. The officials replied in the context of implementation of the Kalyani Lakshmi scheme. Nearly a hundred children from Odisha had been staying with their migrant parents in brick kilns near Miyakhangadda. The CRPF members spoke to the owner and asked him to set up an education centre for them or arrange auto rickshaw transport for them to the nearest school. They also petitioned to the District Collector. He instructed the Joint Collector, who told the DEO to look into the matter.

The Mandal CRPF was reorganised in Atmakur mandal. Meetings held in the mandal focused on the need for parents to treat girls and boys equally. Youth were reminded of the saying that Change Begins with Home, and were urged to set a positive example for others to follow. They were asked to review the status of gender equity in their families and they were taken aback to learn that discrimination between boys and girls was being practiced openly. They promised to address this issue on a priority basis. They are actively involved in the campaign against child marriage.

The CRPF submitted 26 petitions to mandal and district level government officials on various issues during the reporting period. The outcomes of these petitions are as follows:

Mandal	Petitions	Recipient(s)	Issue	Outcome/Status
Halaharivi	2	DEO, MEO	Follow up of dropouts by teachers	-
Holagunda	2	District Collector, DEO	Follow up of dropouts	MEO instructed to look into the issue, CRPF coordinating with him
Shankarpally	3	District Collector, Tehsildar, MEO	Education/transport facilities for migrant children in catchment areas of brick kilns, RTI petition on private school fees, RTI information on Kalyani Lakshmi, child marriage stopped and marriage registration	Joint Collector and DEO instructed to look into the issue of education/transport facilities
Vikarabad	10	District Collector, DEO	Fees charged towards issuance of Hall Tickets Inclusion of Science course in Govt. Junior College Introduction of English medium education Corporal punishment in private school Painting school buildings Posting of Computer faculty in government schools Free power supply for government schools Phone facility in girls' hostel Relocation of school	Teacher from Vikarabad Boys' HS suspended for demanding Rs 100 towards Hall Tickets Orders issued by District Collector for painting of government school buildings Order to relocate Sangem Laxmi Bai School from beside Bus Depot revoked
Atmakur	6	Minister, District Collector, SP, RDO, DEO, Tehsildar, MPDO, MEO	Proper implementation of midday meal scheme Issuance of free books and uniform School infrastructure development Prevention of child marriage Napkins for adolescent school-going girls Reopening of school in Asla Thanda of Settigudem	
Nutankal	3	District Collector, SP, DEO, Medical & Health Dept.,	Timely issue of free books Supply of napkins to girls in HS Relaxation in children's reporting time	

The district CRPF visited the KGBVs in Mothey and in Nutankal to review the status of their functioning. They noted that there were gaps in implementation of the midday meal scheme in Mothey and the drain was blocked. Stray animals had been trespassing into the premises, in addition. They submitted their reports to the District Welfare Officer, the District Social Welfare Officer and the Asst. Social Welfare Officer, who in turn shared the outcomes with the District Collector. The Collector instructed one of the KGBV Special Officers to spend one night each in both the KGBVs and report to him. He also spent a night in one of the hostels. He held a meeting later to review the situation in residential education institutions and promised to solve the issues at the earliest. He also sanctioned a fund of Rs 2 crores for priority needs.

Two meetings of the district CRPF were held in Suryapet. Points on the agenda included implementation of the RTE Act, delay in supply of textbooks to school children and non-supply of sanitary napkins to girls. Usha and Lavanya from Rayunigudem village of Nutankal mandal had been studying in Class 9 in Girls' HS Suryapet and had been studying in a hostel in Kudakuda. Two men

from the village took them to an unknown location and molested them. The girls returned only after two days. The CRPF district committee investigated the matter and also spoke to the SI of Police. The issue was also discussed with the DEO and the head teacher, following which cases were filed against the perpetrators of the crime under the POCSO and Nirbhaya Acts. They have been sent to jail. The girls have resumed their education.

Initiatives of the CRPF outside the project area

A State level CRPF meeting was held in Governorpet, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh State to review the activities of the CRPF across the State and to identify issues pertaining to violation of the RTE Act and child rights. Girl child issues were also taken up for discussion. A new State CRPF Committee was formed at the end of the meeting.

New District CRPFs were formed in Yadadri, Mahabubabad, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool and Jangaon during the reporting period.

Members of the Nalgonda District CRPF participated in Operation Muskan and freed 300 child labourers from work in Choutupally and Bommalaramaram mandals. The CWC is hearing their cases. Thirty children from Ranga Reddy district were also weaned away from work through Operation Muskan. The Nalgonda District CRPF team held meetings at the village, mandal and district teams jointly with the SMC. The team also followed up the case of a hostel girl who had become pregnant and brought the culprit to book through the involvement of the District Collector. The mandal CRPF visited 4 brick kilns in Parigi mandal and noted that no education facilities were available for children. They communicated this to the RDO and the Tehsildar, who referred the matter to the District Collector. A penalty of Rs one lakh was imposed upon the owner of one kiln.

A district level CRPF meeting held in Yadadri district resulted in the creation, by the Police Department, of a WhatsApp group to report and prevent child marriage. One marriage was also prevented in Gundlapally village. A school-going boy from Kattangur in Suryapet had an accidental death in school and the CRPF undertook a fact finding mission. They also spoke to the Education Department officials and got him a job in the school. The Hyderabad District CRPF team organised a gender orientation workshop in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad during March with 40 CRPF members. The Hyderabad District CRPF submitted a report on findings of a visit to the SC Hostel in Rajendranagar. A number of irregularities were noticed and the details shared with the District Collector and media persons. The District Collector got the warden transferred. The Vikarabad District CRPF conducted a Student Assessment in Maths, Telugu and English and shared the outcomes with the District Collector. She responded positively and decided to extend this exercise across the district with the question papers modelled on syllabus prescribed by the Stet Council for Educational Research and Training.

Mandal CRPF teams across the State undertook/participated in rallies on 12th June 2017 to mark World Day against Child Labour. Members of mandal CRPFs from Hyderabad district submitted petitions to the Education Department under the RTI Act seeking information on fees being charged by private/corporate schools in the previous year and in the current year.

GRAM PANCHAYATS

The volunteers convened 51 Gram Panchayat meetings with a total of 549 participants during the reporting period to discuss problems faced in school, the quality of school education, Class 10 results, school infrastructure development, gender based discrimination and the role of the Gram Panchayat in promoting the rights of the girl child. Bias against the girl child has gone down significantly through the involvement of the Gram Panchayat.

Sarpanchs in 7 villages of Shankarpally convened meetings with school teachers to review the Class 10 results of the previous academic year. It was noted that the children had been having problems right from the Class 5 level. The Sarpanchs emphasised the need for a strong foundation at the Primary School level so that children don't have to contend with problems later on. They also suggested that the children ought to be given home based assignments on a regular basis. They asked the teachers to improve their performance, offering all the required help from their side. They

noted during the course of their visits that many teachers had been neglecting their classes and were engaged with their mobile phones. They took this issue to the notice of the MEO and he instructed the teachers to deposit their phones with the head teacher the moment they entered school.

Panchayat members from Mahalingapuram village of the mandal replaced the midday meal agency after they noted that the quality of food was not up to the mark. Panchayat members from Parveda and Janwada villages got stages constructed for the local schools. The Sarpanch of Janwada mobilised Rs 2 lakhs from Rotary Club for a school building. An amount of Rs 25 lakhs was raised for a school building in Kondakal through Indus International School.

Women Sarpanchs in four Panchayats of Vikarabad have been addressing girl child and gender issues on a priority basis. Panchayat members from Dacharam mobilised 10 benches for the local school from the Life Insurance Corporation of India. More than 40 children from Gottimukkula village that were enrolled in colleges in the mandal headquarters were being inconvenienced, as the bus was always full. They took the issue to the matter of the Sarpanch and she spoke to the Depot Manager of the Road Transport Corporation. The official made arrangements for one trip every day from the village to Vikarabad.

Sarpanchs from Atmakur mandal have taken a stand against child marriage and are according priority to the issue. They have also developed rapport with CMPCs. Panchayat members from the mandal supplied drinking water to school-going children even during the summer. The Sarpanch of Yepuru wrote to a Minister that 30 bore wells from the village had failed. The Minister got a well dug at an expense of Rs 20 lakhs and the Sarpanch provided free drinking water to the school. The head teacher of the school in Nimmikal had appointed 2 women to the post of scavenger where only one post had been sanctioned. A provision of Rs 3500 had been made for them but he paid them only Rs 1000 each per month. The Sarpanch noted this and wrote to the MEO, –who held a meeting and asked the head teacher to cough up the money that he had retained.

Three cases of child marriage had been identified in Polumalla Panchayat. The volunteers involved the Sarpanch and ward members in the issue. Some of them were supportive of the agenda but changed their minds after the issue was brainstormed with them. The Secretary issued a notice to local institutions instructing them to take the lead in preventing child marriage. The volunteers informed that both the CPC and the CMPC came under the jurisdiction of the Panchayat and that they were to be involved in this effort. The Sarpanch rang up the RDO, the Tehsildar, the MPDO and the CDPO and the entire team came to the village the next day to prevent all three marriages through a special drive. The parents of all three brides and grooms were asked to declare in writing that they would not marry their children off underage.

Children from the PS and the HS in Thallasingaram village of Nutankal mandal petitioned to the Panchayat members saying that the water supply that they were receiving was insufficient. The Sarpanch and the MPTC wrote to the District Collector, who got a bore well sanctioned in the village. An amount of Rs 56000 was mobilised from an NRI for providing a motor. Gram Panchayat members from Polumalla identified the case of one Santosha, whose father had married her off without informing anyone in the neighbourhood. Upon coming to know of this, the Sarpanch inquired into the man's background and it was revealed that he had already been married in the past. The issue was discussed during a Panchayat review meeting in her parents' presence and a complaint was filed with the police. A case was put up in the court and the both of them were formally divorced. Santosha is currently pursuing her Intermediate (I Year) education.

INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES AND ALSO CMPC

An enforcement drive was taken up in Vikarabad on 12th June 2017 with the joint participation of the Police Department, Childline and the MVF team. Letters were given to shop owners in the presence of the SP and the Deputy SP, informing them that the Child Labour Act had been amended in 2016 and that employment in certain sectors was prohibited up to the age of 18. Girls, especially, were at risk. Managements ought to respect the law. The SP urged them to put up Closed Circuit Cameras and highlighted the need to reach to invisible child labourers. He also gave the MVF team the list of personnel deputed as village policemen. The employers were also asked to have copies of their employees' Bonafide Certificates and not Aadhaar Cards for proof of age. Interestingly, MVF has

been included in a Task Force Committee against sex determination tests. The MVF team also made a presentation on the project during a meeting with the Village Police in the SP's office.

Meetings held with the CPC in Vikarabad focused on child marriage. Parents were told that the best way of preventing child marriage was to counsel girls on education/career opportunities available to them after they had passed their exams. Noting that the incidence of dropout among girls is highest after the Primary level, the volunteers advised CPC members to identify the reasons for their dropout and follow them up. They were also urged to conduct special classes for children in Class 10. The outcomes of a child assessment exercise held in Madgula Chittampally and Chittampally villages and in Parigi mandal were shared with the District Collector and he was told that many children had come under Grade C, which was an alarming situation. He subsequently held a meeting with 170 head teachers and asked them to focus on children with learning deficiencies. Two new CPCs were formed in Shankarpally mandal with 24 members. CPC meetings focussed on child marriage, marriage registration, follow up of child labour by members in their respective constituencies and regular health checkups by Anganwadi Teachers.

Meetings were held with the CMPC in villages of Atmakur mandal and they were involved in the process of curbing child marriage. Udayasri – a Class 6 student from Kummarapally village was engaged to be married to her cross cousin. She addressed a letter to the CMPC, responding to which the entire team of 20 members went to her home and counseled her parents. They dropped her plans and she quit working to resume her education. ANM and ASHAs are more serious about their responsibilities now.

In all, 52 CPC/CMPC meetings were held during the reporting period with 540 participants.

A mass marriage event was due to take place in Gajjehalli, Holagunda mandal during the summer of 2017. The volunteers identified the issue and got a petition drafted by the CRPF and addressed it to the RDO and the Tehsildar, informing them that child marriages were likely to be performed during the event and they were asked to look into the issue. They also pointed out that 21 marriages had been registered but that they had been provided a list of just 15 names. The Tehsildar personally looked into the issue and noted that 3 of the proposed marriages were of underage children. The representative of the Temple Committee rang up the families of the children and refused to perform the marriages. The mandal officials sat through the ceremony to ensure that no child was married. In a similar incident, the team from Halaharivi informed officials of the conduct of mass marriages in Basaveshwara Temple – Bologota. The RDO, the SI and the CDPO inquired into the issue and noted that 6 out of 41 marriages that were proposed to be performed involved children.

Three cases of child marriage were identified in Machanpally village of Nutankal mandal. Two of the girls were in Class 10 and the third was in Class 8. The volunteers informed the SP, the Tehsildar and the VRO. The girl also shared her predicament with the District Collector through WhatsApp. The district administration held a counselling session for her parents as well as the parents of the groom. They also took declarations from them to the effect that they would not marry the children, failing which they would be ready to face legal action. However, they resumed their attempts. The CMPC members came to know of this and alerted the SI of Police. He warned them of legal action if they did not mend their ways. The matter was laid to rest.

The following are the areas in which the volunteers coordinated with line departments for various child related services:

ICDS	Formation and Strengthening of Forum for Girls' Rights
Education Department	Enrolment and Retention of children in school, Preventing Child Marriage
Revenue Department	Preventing Child Marriage and Child Labour
Medical Department	Health Camps and Health Checkups

PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF BOYS

Joint Committees are operational in Shankarpally at the HS level with – 5 boys and 15 girls each. They have been assigned class wise responsibilities for cleanliness, quality education, peer teaching and follow up of child marriage. Meetings were held separately with children from Classes 9 and 10. They were counseled on educational and other opportunities after Class 10. Parents were called upon to inform the staff of the problems being faced by them. The boys were asked to share information on potential child marriages to either the MVF team or to their teachers. An assessment test based on Class 4 standards was administered to 60 children from Class 10 in 3 HS and it was noted that more than 50% of them lacked the academic competencies required at their level. These outcomes were shared with the heads of these institutions. Members of the Committees gave away prizes to winners of competitions held on the occasion of Republic Day.

The details of Joint Committees that are operational as on date are as follows:

Mandal	Joint Committees			
	Committees	Boys	Girls	Total
Shankarpally	11	64	165	229
Vikarabad	11	64	166	230
Atmakur	16	160	240	400
Nutankal	14	142	160	302
Total	52	430	731	1161

One and four new Boys' Committees were formed in Holagunda and Halaharivi mandals respectively with 18 and 60 boys. These included school-going children and youth that were out of the education system. They were urged to meet once a month and to engage in educational pursuits and motivate out-of-school children to school.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The details of children that appeared for the Class 10 and Intermediate exams through Open stream and their performance are as under:

Mandal	Open 10th (appeared)		Open 10th (passed)		Open 10th (Failed)	
	B	G	B	G	B	G
Halaharivi	7	3	2	0	5	3
Holagunda	12	18	12	11	0	7
Atmakur	14	0	14	0	0	0
Total	33	21	28	11	5	10

Mandal	Open Inter (appeared)		Open Inter (passed)		Open Inter (Failed)	
	B	G	B	G	B	G
Halaharivi	15	15	10	6	5	8
Holagunda	11	4	2	2	9	2
Total	26	19	12	8	14	10

STOPPING CHILD MARRIAGES

An innovative strategy was adopted in Kurnool district to address the of child marriage. The volunteers were placed in charge of identifying potential child marriages in two Panchayats each and they would strive to ensure that no child marriage was recorded in these Panchayats. Candle rallies were held in both mandals during the season to denounce child marriage. Participants included elected representatives, ICDS personnel, adolescent girls and youth. The volunteers held 52 and 13 rallies in Halaharivi and Holagunda mandals with 2612 and 447 people respectively. Similar rallies in 19 Panchayats of Nutankal witnessed the presence of more than 100 people each.

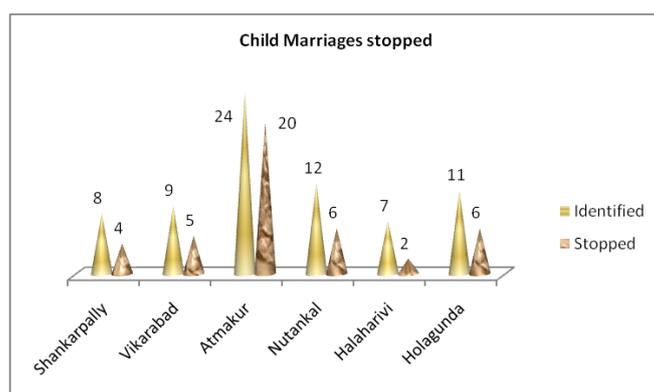
A mandal level bike rally featured on National Girl Child Day in Halaharivi with the participation of 60 people including MPDO Lokeshwar Rao and Asst. SI of Police Gopal. Youth were also present. A public meeting was held in Gulyam with the head teacher, the SMC chairperson and community

leaders. Project Coordinator Harihara Reddy highlighted the urgency of addressing the issue of child marriage. A mandal level rally with 150 girls was held in Holagunda on 24th January 2017 to mark National Girl Child Day. Participants also included ICDS Supervisor Padma and Anganwadi Workers. The MVF team highlighted the importance of education for both boys and girls and also addressed the gathering briefly on the issue of gender equity.

The Tehsildar and other mandal officials were involved in the campaign against child marriage in Shankarpally. They jointly counseled the children's parents and family members and warned them of legal action in case they married children underage. The Tehsildar addressed letters to function hall owners, tent house owners, photographers, faith based associations and priests, asking them to discourage child marriage. She also held a meeting with them in this regard and made it clear that government schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi would not apply in the event of child marriage.

The details of potential child marriages identified and marriages are as under:

Mandal	identified			Stopped		
	B	G	T	B	G	T
Shankarpally	0	8	8	0	4	4
Vikarabad	0	9	9	0	5	5
Atmakur	4	20	24	4	16	20
Nutankal	0	12	12	0	6	6
Halaharivi	0	7	7	0	2	2
Holagunda	0	11	11	0	6	6
Total	4	67	71	4	39	43



TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

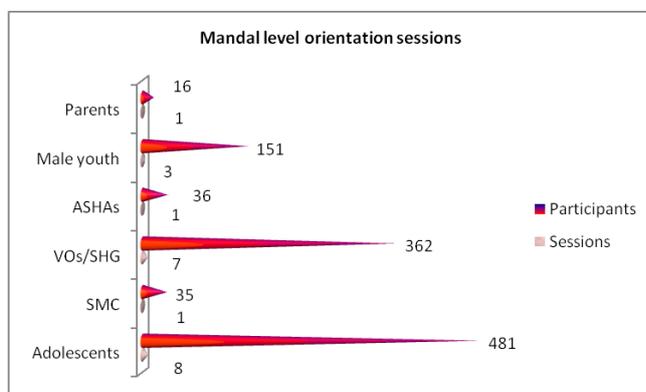
A Training-of-Trainers programme on Gender Equality was conducted in Hyderabad by Mr. Harish Sadani - a consultant from Mumbai based MAVA (Men Against Violence & Abuse), for 30 senior staff members of MVF on 16th and 17th April, 2017. They also participated in a day-long workshop on 18th April 2017 on MVF's non-negotiable principles to be followed while working with adolescents.

The MVF team designed 12 different Slides to illustrate the concept of Gender based Discrimination and made use of them to orient adolescent youth and other community groups on natural differences between the male and the female and socially sanctioned discriminatory practices. The participants were shown these Slides and asked to categorise them as either natural or social in origin. They later engaged in a discussion on whether such differences could be done away with. It was concluded at the end of the discussions that natural differences could not be done away with but this was possible in the long run so far as manmade differences were concerned. The participants were also informed that the term Sex has a biological context to it while the term Gender was used in the social context.

Training sessions were also held on child marriage for adolescents and VO leaders on child marriage. The content of these sessions included the definition of child marriage according to the law of the land, the losses associated with child marriage, the structure of the CMPC, responsibilities of CMPOs and the legality of child marriage. They were also given information on who could be contacted in the

event of identification of a potential child marriage and rehabilitation of children married underage. Youth were also oriented on child rights. They were given inputs on the concept of child rights, the four categories of child rights, child rights legislation and services offered by village level institutions that worked with children, i.e., the Gram Panchayat, the Anganwadi Centre, the school and health centres.

The details of mandal level training sessions held during the reporting period are as under:



Group	Sessions	Participants
Adolescents	8	481
SMC	1	35
VOs/SHG	7	362
ASHAs	1	36
Male youth	3	151
Parents	1	16
Total	21	1081

YOUTH CLUBS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL

A youth association was formed with 28 youth in Mudathamagi, Holagunda mandal under the banner of Vinayaka Yuvajana Sangham. Members of the association had been actively addressing social issues for long. They had informed the volunteers during the course of a meeting that they had been implementing a wide range of activities but had a sense of vacuum, the reason for which they could not understand. The volunteers asked them if they had ever worked with children, to which they replied in the negative. They were urged to form a committee and focus on children's issues. An Ad-Hoc committee was formed and they agreed to work with the school because it was the only place where they would not have any distraction. Associating with children would also give them a feeling of self-satisfaction, as they believed that the future of the world was in the hands of children. The first activity that they took up as a group was to get the school ground cleaned and to take steps to prevent drain/sewer water from seeping into the school premises.

Youth members of Jana Seva – a registered association operating from Pedda Gonehal in Holagunda mandal were impressed with what they had learnt during a training session on gender issues and sought suggestions from the volunteers on any innovative activities that they could take up. They were told that working with children was the best form of service and that it was not controversial in any way. They promised to do accordingly and visited the local school, where they noted that water from the drain had stagnated. They spoke to the owners of 15 tractors in the village and took steps to get some earth filled wherever the drain water had spilled over. They also arranged an Excavator through a local. The estimated value of works undertaken in the process was Rs 50000. Members of Yuva Sena youth association from Maddilingadahalli village of the same mandal involved children from the local school in a rally to reach to out-of-school children and also gave away slates to 30 children that had been mainstreamed from work to school.

The 32 members of Adarsha Yuvajana Sangham based in Chintakunta, Halaharivi mandal planted 80 saplings in the local Mandal Parishad PS. Youth and the Forum for Girls' Rights from Halaharivi jointly petitioned to MLA Gumnur Jairam for water supply in the ZPHS, to which he responded immediately and made necessary arrangements. Youth from Mallikarjunapally wrote to the District Collector, the DEO, the Deputy DEO and the MEO, asking for an additional classroom in the local UPS that had only one room for 63 children. Members of Prof Jayashankar Yuvajana Sangham, Shankarpally displayed the details of career and education opportunities available subject wise for youth with different levels of education.

MAPPING OUT RESOURCES AND SUPPLIES FOR USE OF COMPUTER

Computer classes were conducted at the HS level in Holagunda mandal until April 2011. In all, 250 children from Classes 7-9 mastered the basics of computers. They spent nearly 3 hours a day. Children have access to 7 Desktop Computers with Internet facility in HS Hebbatam.

MODEL CENTRES

MVF came up with the concept of Model Centres, wherein members of the Forum for Girls' Rights would assemble at a central location of the village and take some time out for themselves. This could be either the local school or the Anganwadi Centre. They would meet with each other at a pre-appointed time and spend time in each other's company. This would not only help unburden their minds but would also serve as a platform to unite them emotionally, leading ultimately to enrichment of their lives.

More than 20 members of 4 Forums from Virupapuram in Halaharivi spend 45 minutes – 1 hour every day in the school premises after school hours. They borrow skipping ropes, ring balls and chess sets from the Anganwadi Centre. The Sarpanch and the MPTC are a constant source of encouragement to them. Nearly 25 girls from 6 Forums in Chinnaheta of Holagunda mandal spend nearly one hour a day playing ring ball, skip-the-rope, chess and snake & ladder. They enjoy the active support of the Sarpanch, teachers and SHG leaders.

Model Centres are operational in 5 villages of Shankarpally mandal. Nearly 20 members of 5 Forums from Class 10 in Meerjhaguda and Janwada come together on Sundays and spend 2 hours playing games, reading story books and Saakshara Bharati books. More than 15 children from Ervaguda play games and read books available in the Anganwadi Centre for 2-2.5 hours every Sunday. The average turnout of girls in the Anganwadi Centres in Ravulapally and Mahalingapuram is 20. Girls from Vikarabad mandal have access to Anganwadi Centres in Madanpally, Burgupally and Siddulur. The Anganwadi Teacher of the Centre in Siddulur is very cooperative and takes some time out with them whenever possible.

Model Centres have been functioning in Patharlapahad, Yepuru and Thummala Penpahad villages of Atmakur mandal. Unavailability of physical space is a major constraint in all three villages and there is also no provision for rent. Meetings were held with the CRPF and youth associations in this regard and a paper statement issued. The Panchayat responded and contacted a donor, who sponsored an almirah and a rack. The problem of physical space has, however, not been resolved as on date. Members of the Forum have been gathering in the High Schools. Schools in Thallasingaram, Pedanemila and Mukundapuram villages of Nutankal mandal are being used by the girls every Sunday. They spend two hours a day there. The MPP sponsored shuttle and volleyball nets for use by girls in Pedanemila.

CHILDLINE

Two meetings each were held with mandal level Childline Advisory Boards in Bantaram, Kotpally, Mominpet, Pudur, Nawabpet, Vikarabad, Dharur, Parigi, Kulkacherla, Doma, Tandur, Peddemul, Yalal and Basheerabad. One round of meetings each was held in Daultabad, Kodangal and Bomraspet mandals that were newly added to the project area. Discussions were held on the number of calls received, official response, elimination of child marriage, girl child education, (steps to curb) abuse of children and effective convergence between line departments.

Village CPCs were formed with the Sarpanch and village level authorities with the objective of upholding children's rights. This exercise was taken up in Mekavanampally, Pulmaddi, Kothlapur, Bejjur, Madgula Chittampally, Gottimukkula, Godhumaguda, Reddighanapur, Kothrepally, Sultanpur, Aknapur, Anantagiri, Chinchalpet, Polkampally, Saipur, Kalkoda, Ebbanur and Jinnaram.

Meetings with beggars at the community level and special drives with the help of the Railway Police and the Police department featured as part of efforts to reach out to children engaged in begging. Special drives were also taken up with the help of the Police Department to reach to child labourers. World Day against Child Labour was observed on 12th June across the project area. The volunteers also convened meetings with NREGS Job Card holders and urged them not to send children to work.

Field Assistants were asked to ascertain age before issuing these Cards. Members of the Childline team also extended resource support during training programmes held for SMC members and for Village Police Officers.

Meetings were held with religious leaders and faith based associations to highlight the issue of child marriage. Group motivation exercises were taken up with support from local community whenever a case of potential child marriage was identified. Girls from Class 10 were also assembled and addressed at the school level. Video documentaries were screened and rallies and mass awareness drives held towards this end. In addition, girls were taught to differentiate between safe and unsafe touch and were given extensive inputs on the POCSO Act.

The abstract of calls/cases during the reporting period are as under:

Received	Handled	Resolved
751	635	609

Breakup of Cases age wise

Age Group	0-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-14 yrs	15-18 yrs	> 18 yrs	Multiple
Children	4	41	427	259	7	18

Note: Multiple indicates a group of children from different age groups was involved

Breakup of Cases sex wise

Boys	Girls
288	439

Breakup of children category wise

Category	Children	Category	Children	Category	Children
Group	8	Orphans	49	Semi-orphans	42
Abandoned	16	HIV affected	3	HIV impacted	1
School dropout	79	Begging	15	Child Labour	56
In conflict with law	1	Child Marriage	178	Corporal Punishment	17
Illegal Adoption	1	Eve teasing	4	Sexual Abuse	10
CWSN	11				

In all, 74 children were provided shelter in Homes.

STUDY ON CHILD MARRIAGE

MVF commenced work on a Study on Child Marriage and has formed an Advisory Committee with experts from different backgrounds, during the reporting period. Members include Commissioner of Police - Rachakonda Commissionerate Mr Mahesh M Bhagwat IPS, State Program Manager (CP Unit) of UNICEF Mr David Peram, Asst. Prof. from TISS Ms M Sita, and Ms Kameshwari Jandhyala of Education Resource Unit, The Committee is functioning under her guidance of Dr Shantha Sinha. 20 enumerators were trained in the conduct of a survey. Secondary data from Census 2011 on the status of child marriage in Telangana have been compiled.

50 qualitative interviews with victims of child marriage and 20 interviews with girls who defied child marriage have been documented and transcribed. Quantitative data has also been enlisted from them. These girls belong to Vikarabad, Suryapet, Gadwal, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Nagarkurnool districts. Contacts with the WCD Department have been established for focused group discussions with local functionaries. A review of laws and policies on child marriage has been made with a presentation from legal experts.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Community Meetings

Two auto rickshaw drivers from Madanpally, Vikarabad mandal had eloped with two girls from the village. The issue was discussed during a youth meeting in the village. The information was shared with their fellow drivers, who informed the gathering of their whereabouts. A case was filed with the police the next day and the guilty drivers were brought to book. They were sent to jail for 2 months on charges of rape. In another incident, 17-year old Pavani from Narayanpur had been lured by a cable operator, who had taken her along with him for 10 days. A kidnap case was lodged against him and he was sent to jail but persisted in his attempts to woo the girl. A second case was filed against him and he was given a strict warning, following which he quit.

*

Vadde Swathi, a Class 2 girl from Kotalaguda, Vikarabad mandal was playing with her sister upstairs one day when a 17-year old youth from the neighbourhood that was studying in the Intermediate (II Year) took her under the bed and raped her. She did not share the incident with anyone but developed high fever a couple of days later and her stomach got swollen. She also experienced some bleeding. The girls' grandmother, with whom they had been living, asked them what the matter was and the elder girl narrated the episode. The case was referred to the police and the girl was examined. She was kept in hospital for 3 days. The youth was absconding and his parents were sent to jail for 2 days through the intervention of teacher Narender, who had worked with MVF in the past. The girl returned to school after 10 days and is regular to her classes. She has got over the trauma.

*

Pooja, a Class 10 girl from Madgula Chittampally village of Vikarabad mandal was abused by father, who was drunk for most of the time. He would also ill treat her sister, mother and two brothers and beat them often. Unable to bear this, his wife committed suicide. Pooja's father beat her up badly on one occasion in an inebriated state without any provocation. This issue was discussed during a women's meeting, after which one of her neighbours rang up Childline 1098. The Childline team referred the matter to the MVF team. The volunteers referred her to the health sub-centre and later got her admitted in KGBV Ibrahimpatnam. They also warned the father of a case if he ill treated his younger daughter.

*

Children that had studied in Kannada medium school in the border villages of Balluru, Bapuram and Siddhapuram, Halaharivi mandal had been facing problems in their higher education. They had no access to Kannada schools at the UPS level and had to study in Karur Taluka of Bellary district. This, however, required the permission of the BEO, Bellary. The Taluka level education official had asked them to produce a certificate signed by him to the effect that he had no objection to their admission. The parents did not know how to handle the situation and could also not negotiate with the officials there. This issue was taken up for discussion during parents' meetings in these villages. The MVF team undertook the responsibility of getting the children admitted.

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Janaki Ramudu and Shailaja, studying in Classes 7 and 6 respectively in Polumalla, Nutankal mandal were regularly irregular to their classes and had also dropped out for 6 months. Their parents had been sending them to work as wage labourers and they were being paid Rs 150-200 a day. The local teacher met the children and tried to convince them to return to school but they were unready. They came up with a number of reasons, none of which was convincing. The teacher finally involved the MVF volunteer, the ward member and some youth, after which it was revealed that their parents had been forcing them to work. The youth and the ward member warned the children's parents that they would be ineligible for welfare schemes if they continued to send their children to work. They agreed to withdraw the children from work and sent them back to school.

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More than 70 children enrolled in Class 10 in Model School, Atmakur approached the Principal and asked to be taken on an excursion but he refused. They went together in a large group one day to the offices of the Tehsildar and the MEO, who told them that the Principal was in a position to decide and that they could not do anything. The Principal was issued a Memo and the MEO took a written explanation from teachers asking them about how so many children had gone outside the school without their permission.

Motivation and Follow Up of Child Labourers

14-year old Yadamma from Mambapur, Peddemul mandal had migrated along with her elder brother to Shankarpally, where she had been working as a domestic hand. Her elder sister, who came to know of this, rang up Childline (Toll Free No 1098). The Childline team shared the information with the volunteers. They met the girl and spoke to her. She promised to quit working but went away to her native village without informing anyone. They rang up her uncle, who informed that she had gone to her grandmother's place. The volunteer came to know, upon going to her grandmother's village, that she had been working for a government college lecturer. The lecturer and his wife refused to accept that she was working. The MVF team finally managed to speak to the girl, who told them that she was being forced to work. They referred the matter to the police, who tried to locate her. The lecturer had, in the meantime, placed her under the care of a Muslim family. An enforcement team went to the house and the Tehsildar finally succeeded in taking custody of her. The team counseled her to study but she was unwilling because her sister had been sent to a hostel and she had not been heard of since. She was taken to KGBV Shankarpally, where she liked the atmosphere and agreed to get admitted in Class 9. The volunteers got her a dress through a local donor.

*

Volunteers from the project area in Kurnool district noted that hundreds of children had been going by tractors and auto rickshaws to work during the chilli picking season. Nearly 20 vehicles had been transporting them. The staff photographed them and spoke to the tractor owners, who claimed that the children had two days of leave and that this was why they had been going to work. The volunteers told them that this was a risky thing, as the children would get used to it and would eventually drop out of school. In all, 218 and 180 children from Halaharivi and Holagunda respectively were identified in this manner. The photos were shared with the police officials of both mandals. A police team came to the site in Virupapuram and warned the children's parents. The SI of Holagunda similarly visited Mudathamagi and cautioned auto rickshaw drivers that legal action would be initiated against them if they continued to transport children to work.

*

Bheemamma – a Class 9 student from Shankarpally eloped with a local youth for a fortnight. Her parents complained to the police. They followed up the issue and located the girl's whereabouts. She had been taken to Srikakulam more than 700 kilometres away from Hyderabad. The issue was referred to the MVF team and a youth meeting was held to discuss the issue. The boy's employer suggested an out-of-court settlement but some youth wanted a case to be filed at any cost. It was finally decided to lodge a case on grounds of rape and kidnap. The volunteers wanted her to continue her schooling but the head teacher of the school was unsupportive and refused to let her resume her studies. The case is being followed up.

*

Four children from the Nimmikal ST Hostel in Atmakur mandal went out one day without informing the warden. She took them to task after they returned late in the evening and abused them, alleging that they were of improper character. She also wrote to the head teacher of their school formally, asking her to summon their parents. Upon coming to know of this, the volunteers spoke to the warden along with two CRPF members and told her not to blow a small issue out of proportion. She had earlier been forcing the girls to declare in writing that they had opted to drop out of school voluntarily. She was told that it was her responsibility to summon the children's parents and that the teachers had nothing to do with this. She had also instigated the head teacher of the school and had told her not to let the children give their exams. The volunteers spoke to her and convinced her to permit the children to appear for the exams.

Forum of Girls for Rights

One youth from Yepuru, Atmakur mandal had been regularly following Shweta – a student of Class 9, and her younger sister. The girl raised a ruckus and also informed her grandmother. She spoke to the girl's parents and the village elders, who summoned the youth and warned them. He felt insulted and threw some stones on the girl's home. The old woman referred the matter to the police and the MVF team. The police took cognisance of the youth's misbehaviour after Shweta's younger sister testified to his act of misbehaviour. However, the Sarpanch and the MPTC requested the officials not to initiate any action because he was due to be interviewed for the post of constable and any legal action would hamper the chances of his selection. He was let off with a warning after he apologized and promised not to repeat such behaviour in future.

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Sravani – a Class 8 student of Model School, Atmakur and a member of the Forum for Girls' Rights, was lured by a local youth. He took her with him for lunch one day and they eloped. Upon coming to know of this, her parents informed the MVF team and some local political leaders. They also lodged a case with the police. The village elders proposed an amicable settlement. Some of them suggested that they were married. The police had caught up with the girl and the youth after two days. There was all round pressure on the father from caste elders to get the girl married. They came to the police station and expressed their opinion. The girl's parents, at the other end, were opposed to this and the girl was also keen on studying. Her parents did not budge and turned down an offer to pay compensation. They pressurised the police to file a case under the POCSO Act. Sravani finally returned to school.

*

Charagundla Mamatha – a 16-year old girl from Yepuru, Atmakur mandal had an affair with 17-year old Praveen from Nassimpeta and they left their respective homes without anyone's knowledge. Mamatha was the daughter of an SMC member and his wife, both of who were migrants and were not around when the incident occurred. Upon their return, her father informed the CRPF and the local leaders. The MVF team came to know of the issue through the Forum for Girls' Rights. The girl's parents proposed to file a case and called for a public meeting in the village. Both the girl and the boy were asked to give a written declaration that they would not meet each other for the next two years, failing which action would be taken against their parents. The situation has been resolved and Mamatha has resumed her schooling.

*

16-year old Praveen from Atmakur had been living with his elder brother, who worked as a cleaner, after they lost their mother. The aunt of 16-year old Maheshwari came in contact with him and he developed close relations with the girl. He got her to his home one night and this issue came to the notice of the caste elders, who had warned the both of them to stay within their limits. The same incident was repeated after two months, following which the girl's relatives came to his house in three auto rickshaws and forced him to marry her. His parents demanded Rs 1 lakh towards dowry and they agreed to it. The MVF team from Vikarabad mandal informed the local staff, who involved the Sarpanch. He warned the youth and the latter left the village, posing no further problems.

*

Mounika – a Class 8 student from Chandupatla in Nutankal mandal was to be married to her 30-year old cousin. She informed her fellow members of the Forum for Girls' Rights and they had suggested that she could contact any of the government officials, whose numbers the MVF team had given them. She promptly rang up the SI and he counseled the entire family in the Police Station. Her father had paid an amount of Rs 1 lakh to the groom's family towards dowry and wanted to proceed with his plan. The SI rang up the groom's family and ensured that the money was returned. Mounika is currently pursuing her education from a government residential school.

CRPF

CRPF member Kumar from Janwada in Shankarpally mandal received information that Divya – a Class 9 girl from the local HS had developed an affair with a local youth and they had proposed to leave home together. He fixed a date for the purpose and asked her to come to his house. She went to his house on the date accordingly but he did not turn up. Kumar, who was just passing by, saw the girl and asked her what the matter was. When she informed him about the proposal, Kumar told her that it was unwise of her to have acted in this fashion. He took her to her home and also warned the youth of legal action if he attempted to lure her again in future.

*

Two Class 10 children from Model School, Atmakur were engaged in a fight for petty reasons but it took the form of an ego clash and one of them punched the other on the heart. The CRPF came to know of the issue and summoned an ambulance. The boy was initially sent to the Area Hospital, from where he was referred to a private hospital. The head teacher had concealed the incident from public view earlier. The mandal CRPF members held a meeting in the School and called upon the parents of both children to attend it. The teachers tried to sideline the incident but the members told them in no uncertain terms that such incidents would bring disrepute to their school. Alleging that the teacher in charge of the class at that time was responsible for this state of affairs, they asked her to bear the cost of the boy's treatment. The boy's health has improved and he is regular to his classes.

*

A Class 9 girl from Model School, Atmakur complained to the Tehsildar in writing that the quality of teaching was not up to the mark and actually threatened to commit suicide if the Science teacher did not teach well. She also informed that the toilets in the school were defunct and the quality of the midday meal was also substandard. She sent the letter through her uncle. The Tehsildar and the Revenue Inspector responded promptly and came to the school. The CRPF also involved the MEO, who convened a staff meeting in the school. The officials refused to buy her argument and asked her to give them another sample of her writing so that they could verify if it was she that had written the complaint. She broke down and started crying inconsolably. The CRPF members told the teachers that it was not right to treat her in this manner. Some local news reporters carried the item in their newspapers, following which water supply was facilitated in the school and the quality of the midday improved.

Involvement of Government Functionaries

Hundreds of girls – including school-going children, from Nutankal mandal, were found to be working in chilli and cotton farms, where they were being paid Rs 12 per kg to pick chilli/cotton. Their income ranged from Rs 400-500 depending upon their skill and experience. They had been travelling by auto rickshaw to destinations in Miriyala and the borders of the district with Warangal as far as 20-25 kilometres away. The police department was involved in the issue. They sternly warned auto rickshaw drivers against transporting the children and told them that they would be stripped of their licences. In all, 681 children from 9 Panchayats were followed up in this manner. SHGs were also involved in the process of counselling these girls.

Stopping Child Marriages

Bhukya Divya – a tribal girl from No 2 School in Suryapet was due to be married at the young age of 13. Her parents had made all arrangements and had even distributed the cards. Her maternal uncles came to her home 5 days before the marriage and she told them that she was disinterested in the marriage. Her parents had concealed her from public view. The groom's family members came to know of this and raised a ruckus after arriving there. Bhukya Divya's parents owned 5 guntas of land that they had been proposing to sell off in order to meet the costs of getting the girl married. The groom's family had offered to keep the land and pay her an amount of Rs 3 lakhs in settlement. They feared retaliation from the police and sought damages of Rs 20000 from the woman. In the meantime, the girl had send a copy of her invitation via WhatsApp to the DSP. He deputed the SI of Police and the official came to the girl's house along with the MVF team. However, some ICDS officials had come to the girl's house and had taken a declaration from the parents that they would not get their daughter married. The MVF team asked how they had taken the declaration in the girl's absence. They later spoke to the groom's family and told them that they could not expect anything from the girl's family. The DSP summoned the families of both Divya and the youth and counseled them at length. It was decided, at the end of a long debate and discussion, to resume the girl's education. No seat was, however, available in the local KGBV. The DSP spoke to the Special Officer of KGBV Atmakur and arranged Divya's admission there. Her mother was unwilling to spend anything for the girl initially. The SI rang her up and told her that education was in her best interests and that he future would be secure with education. The mother changed her mind and came to the KGBV, where she implored her daughter to return home. The Special Officer shared the details of her visit with the MVF team. They met the woman and told her that she did not have to fear about her daughter's safety, security or wellbeing and that she would be cared for well. She was finally convinced.

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13-year old Mahankali from Pedda Gonehal in Holagunda mandal had been studying in Class 9 when her parents planned to get her married and withdrew her from the KGBV, where she had been enrolled. She informed some of her close friends before leaving. They shared this with the Special Officer and sought her permission to attend the event. She communicated this to the MVF team and gave them the girl's complete details. They went to her home to inquire but she had gone to her uncle's place. They later took the prospective groom's details. He was her maternal uncle and he belonged to Devarakonda. When spoken to, he claimed that he would educate her after their marriage but the team would have none of it. They asked the Special Officer to officially submit a petition to the Tehsildar, the SI and the MPDO. They conducted an enforcement raid and rang up the Coordinator, asking him to come to the girl's home. The VRO, a constable and the CRP counseled the girl for half an hour, along with the Coordinator. They also summoned the girl's parents and her uncle to the Police Station and took declarations in writing from them that they would not pursue the matter further. The issue has been laid to rest.

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Members of the Forum for Girls' Rights in Guguloth Thanda, Nutankal mandal informed the volunteers that a 16-year old girl named Guguloth Swathi was to be married shortly. The team members rang up 1098 and shared the details of the case. The ICDS Supervisor and the local Anganwadi Teacher came to the girl's house and counseled her parents. The VRA, who was a blood relation, assured the girl's parents that they had no cause for worry and offered to manage the show. The MVF team members came to know of this and informed the Tehsildar, who warned her. The girl's father was an alcoholic and had sent his wife away to her parents' home. One of the villagers had suggested to him that it would be possible to marry off the girl if the Sarpanch permitted it in writing. He approached the Sarpanch, who bluntly refused to entertain his request and rang up the MVF team. They, in their turn, referred the matter to the SI and he counseled the father. The wedding was laid off.

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A. Mamatha – one of 4 sisters from a family in Yepuru village of Atmakur mandal, was due to be married. She had been withdrawn from Class 5 in KGBV. The MVF team had followed up all 4 of them to school in the past.

Her parents fixed her wedding during the summer without as much as informing her. When she came to know of it, she rang up the MVF team and the Anganwadi Teacher. The groom's family had paid a sum of Rs 5000 to her family and had fixed the wedding. The MVF team counseled her parents jointly with the ICDS personnel. The girl's father, who had stabbed his wife in a fit of rage a few days ago, was adamant. A complaint was lodged with the SI of Police and the Village Police took him to the Police Station, where they counseled him. Mamatha is currently enrolled in Class 9 in the KGBV.

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Guddi Eeranna and Uligamma from Halaharivi fixed the wedding of their daughter Geeta as soon as she had given her Class 10 exams. Her friends informed this to the MVF team during the course of the campaign. They identified two more potential child marriages in the village in due course of time. They petitioned to the CDPO and also met the girls' homes and counseled them personally along with the girls' friends. Geeta's parents spoke rudely to them and told them that their daughter's marriage was their family affair and that they had no right to interfere. In the meantime, the CDPO took the Supervisor to task and asked how the issue had not come to her notice. The Supervisor called up the Mandal Coordinator and asked him why he had spoken to the CDPO instead of intimating her. The marriages were nevertheless postponed.