

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015



Vimukti Charitable Trust (R)
Jeenur Road Pothnal,
Manvi Taluk, Raichur Dist

“If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men”

-Maria Montessori. Educator, Philosopher,

Introduction

On behalf of the of the Vimukti Charitable Trust® (VCT), I am pleased to place before the members of the General Body of Vimukti Charitable Trust® (VCT), the annual report of various projects and activities undertaken by the Trust from **01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015**.

VCT through its supportive partnership with Ensemble Agissons - France and America House of Jesuit Community New York striving to check the problems associated with the various aspects of development with complex programs. Vimukti Charitable Trust makes an impacts on hundreds of lives with education skills, skill trainings, health initiatives, housing, women empowerment, etc. Besides implementing the project, VCT is committed to engage in advocacy lobbying work, thus promoting the rights of the individual and systemic changes. With this short introduction I would like to present the detailed activities of the Trust.

Specific Objectives:

- Mainstream: the dropout children from school through family counseling and to combat child labour.
- To prevent children from being exposed to vulnerable and abusive conditions.
- Strengthening children parliament and children clubs through trainings.
- Skill development training for the unemployed youth.
- Stop human trafficking, and prevent early marriage.
- Work with Panchyath Raj Institutions.
- Reach out to children in vulnerable conditions and alleviate their conditions.

Methodology of Implementation:

Capacity building programme was held in 16 villages, by VCT through various programmes such as workshops, trainings, campaigns, networking, lobbying, and advocacy. The strategy of creating awareness in the village social, political and religious leaders who could play a pivotal role in establishing normalcy in those villages was implemented adopting various methods of informal public education. Provision of health care services and its availability on people’s doorstep with the involvement of both private and public (government) medical professionals was the means adopted to realize the goal. The key involvement of beneficiaries of each village was yet another important factor that contributed to the success.

Strategies adopted:

In order to address educational issues and health problems, the following strategies were adopted to implement activities:

- Providing training to staff, women, local youth and children.
- Building of awareness at the community level.

- Creation of village-level leadership
- Organizing health camps.
- Awareness programme on different issues.
- Holding rallies and observing important days to generate awareness.

Community Welfare Programmes:

1. **Inauguration of Vimukti Youth Clubs & Youth Leadership training workshops:** “The youth are not only powerful but also vulnerable. The development of youth must be holistic in nature. VCT has made a survey of the youth in Pothnal and surrounding villages, and found that most of the youth were wasting their time in being redundant. VCT realized the need to identify, gather, motivate, empower, create interest, know their hidden potentialities, and bring out the best out of the youth and that is the motive behind starting these clubs. As a result VCT is taking the great step to form youth clubs in our working area, in order to strengthen, to make know their rights and to help them to stand on their feet. 305 participants benefited from these trainings.
2. **Trainings on Herbal Medicines in nine units:** VCT Pothnal organized free information camp on the use of Herbal medicine on 4th, 6th, 8th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 26th, and 29th March 2014. The sessions were held in Kannada by traditional practitioners. People suffering from diabetes, Asthma, Gastrocites, Paralysis, Obesity, Leprosy, Psoriasis, Old skin diseases, Knee or joint pain, Varicose vein, constipation, Jaundice, Depression, Weakness of nerves, Infertility, Menstrual Problems, Mental Disorder in children etc..., were addressed through this trainings. Nearly 678 women have benefitted from these trainings.
3. **The State level NGOs Meeting held at Vimukti Pothnal :** Several civil society groups, NGOs and VCT had organized a One day State Level stock taking meeting on RTE implementation in Pothnal at the VCT premises, on July 15th 2014. More than 20 representatives of various NGOs, Community Based organizations (CBOs), School Development and monitoring committees took part in the meeting. Glaring discrepancies in the implementation of Right to Education Act (RTE) across Karnataka were discussed. Each district representative prepared a brief note about the ground realities of the RTE and its implementation. 37 members participated and benefited from this meeting.
4. **French Youth for “Socio-Cultural Exposure Programme” at Vimukti Pothnal:** VCT was indeed glad to receive seven young, energetic enthusiastic youth namely Marielle Delhomme, Laure de Drouas, Diane de Malleray, Hermance Hostein, Graciane Dalsace, Victoire Prangé, and Ophélie de Boisdeffre, at Pothnal for socio-cultural exposure program. Under the direction, guidance and motivation of Rev. Fr. Alwyn Dias, Vicar Provincial, these young people willingly obliged to come to this exposure programme here in Pothnal. The French youth went to the villages and experienced the rich culture, tradition and daily struggles of the people.
5. **Blood Grouping Campaign:** Prevention is better than cure goes the saying. Knowing one’s own blood group would help an individual in sickness and any time of treatment, so, there was also a necessity to include in their registration for membership and issue of identity card. A campaign in this regard was held in four places with the support of VCT team. Nearly 410 women and youth have benefited from these programmes.
6. **Training on Availing Government Facilities:** The public awareness programs should reach the target group and make them avail the benefits of the government schemes; keeping this thought in mind VCT organized two days of training for all the youth of the project area. 423 youths from 31 Panchayaths

benefited from this training. Participants got information on different type of Government facilities such as SC/ST benefits, Ashraya Yojane, Krishi Yojane, Basava Vasathi Yojane, MGNREGA legal rights, superstitions, etc., were dealt with. Experts, in each field, were the resource persons. It was the best attempt to bring back the youth in the villages of our working area.

7. **Awareness trainings in five units:** Awareness was given to the mothers of preschool children regarding child care and development at five clusters. Importance of breast feeding, weaning practice, low cost nutritious food preparation, immunization etc., were taught during the training. 416 mothers benefited from the training. During the house visits animators remind and educate them about the child care and development. Mothers too are informed of the compulsory birth registration and to avail Government facilities like *madilu kit, Bhaygayalxmi yojane etc.*
8. **Nutritious Food Preparation Program:** The Project with the collaboration of Grama Panchayat, Women and Child Welfare Project, Shri-shakthi and Self Help Groups organized nutritious food preparation program. 18 types of different low cost nutritious food preparation was shown and exhibited in the program. 372 beneficiaries were benefited from the program.
9. **Survey on Home based education for children with severe disability:** Vimukti which takes keen interest in “Home based education” programme for the specially-abled children in our project area is all set to be strengthened with new features during this year. VCT made a survey in order to impart basic life skills and government facilities, to children with severe disability. The aim of this survey was to bring these children into mainstreams and to get the basic facilities from the government. Ten categories of health problems including low vision, total blindness and mental retardation are considered under this programme. According to statistics available with VCT there are nearly 80 children in the age group of 6 to 14 years with different types of disabilities.
10. **Senior Citizen Card Training:** Very often sick and old people feel neglected, uncared for and not loved by their own. In order to counter this feeling and to assure them that they are cared for Senior citizen’s training was organized. All those who were above 60 years of age were invited. There were 360 who responded and benefited from this training.
11. **Training on First Aid:** “Health is Wealth” is the common saying. In order to maintain good health VCT organized the training on First Aid conducted by Sr. Nrimala. “Observe the patient act upon” is the key message of her training. 175 children 80 women attended the programme. School children and women were given training to provide first aid to diseases like headache, snake bite, diarrhea, fever, sunstroke, injury, burning, stomach-ache drowning in water etc.
12. **Career Guidance Training:** Career guidance training to the youths was organized to motivate and guide them to select proper courses for their higher studies. 45 students, who have passed SSLC and PUC gained knowledge to choose the apt courses.
13. **Assistance for Motor Driving:** VCT took keen interest in helping 9 youths to acquire driving license in order to earn their livelihood.
14. **Support to higher education:** The Organization conducted fees distribution to the drop out college students coming from weak financial background. 11 students were supported and are continuing their education.

15. **Women's Day celebrated at Vimukti:** Vimukti at Pothnal joined the rest of the world in commemorating international Women's Day at VCT premises on March 8th 2015. Ten surrounding villages and women representatives joined in the celebration. Nearly 560 women benefited from this program.

Child Welfare Programme

16. **Field Extension programme- Education:** A Week end long "Door to Door, school Admission campaign" was conducted from 29th May 2014 to 5th June 2014 by VCT staff to motivate parents to admit their children to government schools. All 21 villages of the project area were covered through the programme. Handbills were distributed in all the habitations within the Panchyats. 328 children were enrolled in different schools and benefitted from this programme.
17. **Education - a tool to eradicate Poverty:** VCT extended its large hands to 283 poor children by way of providing them uniform, shoes, bags, books and other essential stationery items. The Children were reminded of the importance of education and were encouraged to become worthy citizens of the society.
18. **Day of Hope: Creating Space for Children:** Sports and games are important for every child to grow physically as well as psychologically. With the aim of bringing justice to children of VCT, "*A day of hope: creating space for the children*" was organized in places of project area. On this day, various games were conducted in which 750 children took part and won lovely prizes.
19. **Training on Children Parliaments in Four Units:** Children parliaments were formed in 16 villages, having regular visits and organizing the meetings once in a month and to mold those to have right education in living disciplined life and to gain their rights and enjoy their childhood life. More than 1210 students participated in a Children's Parliament training at various places of project area. The major four basic rights were explained (1.Right to Live 2. Right to Protect 3. Right to Progress and 4. Right to participate). Children are trained to teach other children to involve in social action and help vulnerable children to gain their right education and health.
20. **Regional Children Parliament Members Training:** Regional children parliament members committee is for the protection of children and their rights. Committee Members are trained in the implementation of child rights and eradication of child labour and solving other child related issues. They are very much instrumental in creating child friendly environment and taking up child related issues and also finding suitable solutions. Nearly 197 members participated and benefited from this training.
21. **A Time of Environmental Protection:** As we were supposed to celebrate the world environment day in the month of June, due to unavoidable situations we postponed it and we celebrated on 10th of September 2014. It was the great day to make the children understand the need of planting trees and keeping the environment clean and green. To mark this event, nearly 660 saplings were distributed to various schools in Manvi Taluka free of costs.
22. **Training on child rights:** In all the Government schools children and parents are made aware about the child rights. Many group dynamics pertaining to child rights were organized to conscientize the rural vulnerable children. They are taught the best ways and means to protect against the child right of violation. 650 children trained under this programme. Demonstration and information was given on child helpline 1098.
23. **Sex Education in Four Units:** The success of health-care and hygiene awareness program in villages, created a wave in the local schools, which in fact, helped to organize seminars and talks on health and

hygiene, and sex education. Knowing the right understanding of the sex education, VCT accepted the invitation given by the local school administrative board, and delivered the talks and seminar on sex education. 720 students have benefited from the programme.

24. **Moral Day Camps:** VCT initiated a Moral Day Camps for the students of different schools at Manvi Taluka. The children were enlightened about the issues pertaining to their life and of their fight against social evils like child labour, child dropouts, child marriage and gender discrimination etc. 687 children participated and benefited from this training.
25. **Camp for the Teenage Girls:** It was another set of camps, which deserves appreciation and recognition, for quite a number of teenage girls, illiterate and educated, benefited from these camps. The caste systems and peculiar customs of the each village have affected the health and hygiene of the young girls. The camps were well organized in 15 villages, by arranging noted speakers and professionals. Lots of misunderstanding and wrong practices was brought to their awareness regarding health and hygiene. 210 teenage girls have benefited from these trainings.
26. **7 Child Marriages Averted During 2014-15:** VCT along with the department of women and child development has prevented 7 child marriages in 2014. Vimukti has organized awareness programmes at different places across the project area to educate people about the ill-effects of child marriage. There are 7 animators working in different villages and nearly 21 villages have benefited from this program.
27. **Demand to end Child Marriage Practice:** VCT Pothnal, staged a protest by giving memorandum to deputy commissioner office at Raichur on 26th September 2014, and demanded that the authorities should take immediate steps to put an end to the evil called child marriage in the whole Taluka. The VCT staff alleged that though the villages are just few kilometers away from the Taluka head quarters, the inhuman practice of child marriages is still being practiced. Innocent girl children belonging to Dalit and backward class are forced into early marriage in the villages.
28. **Child Labour & Child Drop-Out Issues:** Along with the children clubs and parliaments, the liberation of child laborers and Child dropout is being attended too. Both these issues are widespread in our working area. In every village a systematic survey of child laborers and child dropout was undertaken. Vimukti was very strong in raising the issue of child labour and child dropout to the concerned Government Departments to work efficiently.
29. **Health Camp:** A health checkup camp was organized for children below 5 years suffering from malnutrition at Public Health Centre at Pothnal. The staff had surveyed 15 villages of Manvi taluka and found 35 children below 5 years suffering from malnutrition.
30. **Children brought back to school:** As many as eight children who were on their way to work in the agricultural fields near Devipura village near Pothnal, were motivated by the VCT staff and brought back to attend the school. Later, at a meeting held in this regard in the Gram Panchaytha office, the officials made the parents of these children submit an understanding of not to send their children to work in the fields. Panchayath President warned the parents that if they send their children to work even after awareness being created in this regard, they would have to face legal consequences. He further stated that the owners/operators of the vehicles in which the children are taken to work would also have to face action.
31. **Karabddini Children Parliament Members protested and Demanded For Making School Premises as Open Defecation Place:** On 15th November 2014, children parliament members and club members got together and questioned the village leaders and concerned officers for making the school premises as

an open place for defecation. Since school is near the main road, villagers use this place for open defecation. As a result it is stinking and children are not able to study and have a healthily atmosphere. Though the problem was brought to the notice of the concerned authority, no change was brought in so far. Children presented a memorandum to the village leaders and demanded to clean the school premises immediately and avoid the possible danger of contagious diseases among children.

32. **Career Guidance Training:** Career guidance training to the youth was organized to motivate and guide them to select proper courses for their higher studies. 45 students who have passed SSLC and PUC gained knowledge to choose the apt courses.
33. **“Safe childhood” Rally in Pothnal:** An awareness rally being taken out by ‘anti-child labour andolan karnataka’, coming together of various likeminded NGOs fighting against child labour practices arrived in Pothnal on 8th of December 2014. The rally, which started from Bidar organized to create awareness against child labour among the people of Karnataka. The rally crossed through 19 District of the state concluded in Bangalore on 4th of December. The main aim of the rally was to celebrate the 25 years Silver Jubilee of the United Nations child rights agreement. A street play was enacted at the public places in every district of the state. The main objective was to encourage all the children below 18 years to get education, spreading awareness about the Pocso Act to control the sexual atrocities against children stronger implementation of anti-child marriage act, etc, Vimukti played vital role in this rally.
34. **5th year of annual day celebration at Vimukti and giving help to physically challenged children:** “To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream; not only plan but also believe;” 11th January 2015 was a significant day in the history of VCT as it organized 5th year of annual day where thousands witnessed, and especially the physically challenged children with their families received 54,400/- worth material help on this day. All our VCT club and parliament children participated in the events and tried their best to excel themselves. For about 1200 children, parents and the well wishers took part in this well organized event.
35. **Makkal Gram Sabha was organized by Vimukti at Pothnal Gram Panchyat:** VCT Pothnal; Over 187 children from the eight villages that come under the Pothnal Gram Panchayat limits participated in the “Makkala Grama Sabha” (children’s gram sabha) at Government Primary school ground Pothnal and demanded immediate intervention of officials concerned in redressing their grievances. By successfully listing out problems faced by children, especially those living in rural areas, these children became a role model for their counterpart in other Taluka. Children raised their issues on child labour, child marriage, dropouts, drinking water, playground, lack of teacher’s, electricity, toilets, cleanliness, library, dilapidated class rooms and other related issues. The authorities gave an oral assurance that in the next action plan of the Gram Panchyath, some percentage of the funds would be utilized for children’s welfare programs. Children were not satisfied with oral assurances; the children sought an acknowledgement from the authorities for having received their complaints and wanted them to fix a deadline to solve the problems. The authorities told the children that they would come back to them after presenting the issues before the departments concerned.
36. **Mr. Patrice Fabart Donates Omni vehicle to Vimukti Pothnal:** God loves the cheerful giver. There are people who are very generous, kind and simple hearted. Mr. Patrice Fabart, member of *Ensemble Agissons France* is one of such unique personalit. He in his recent visit to Pothnal admired the hard work done by this social center and highly appreciated the progress and its achievements. As a token of love and gratitude he volunteered personally to sponsor a four wheeler which could become handy in the field of social work and ministry.

37. **UNICEF personnel pay visit to the Vimukti center:** On 11th March 2015 UNICEF program coordinators from koppal Mr. Harish, Sr. Dulcine and Ragvendra Bhat visited the Vimukti center to give necessary information on the new project “Convergent action to strengthen the community based Child Protection” at Manvi Taluka. Sr. Dulcine from Mangalore, as a resource person enlightened the staff about the project in detail on child right issues and how to get into close link with government authorities in implementing the project in an efficient manner. I am very grateful to Fr. Arun lobo for his great support and guidance in realizing this project at Pothnal.
38. **Training on ‘POCSO and Child Rights’, held at Manvi Taluka:**The District Child Welfare committee (DCWC) and VCT jointly organized a day’s training on POCSO and Child Rights, for all the School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) presidents and members of the Manvi taluka. Mr. Ragavendra Bhat, Unicef, was the resource person for the training. He highlighted the role of the SDMC members in developing the schools in education, and creating awareness of child labour, child dropouts, and child marriage. Further he emphasized and elaborated the POCSO Act 2012 and its effects in detail. 43 members attended the training and benefited.
39. **VISION OF NEW GUEST HOUSE BECOMES REALITY:** The long awaited dream is finally becoming reality and brings great joy and gladness for Vimukti organization. VCT is very grateful to Mr. Patrice Fabart *Ensemble Aggissons* France for his whole hearted support and generosity. He has personally shown tremendous interest towards this unique project by giving a large sum of money (17, 24,204/-). Words would fall short to describe his generosity. The construction work is in a speedy progression, with the support and timely guidance of Fr. Alwyn Dias Vicar Provincial, and Fr. Victor Robin D’souza, Province Administrator. Major works of construction has been completed in the past few days. The plumbing, wiring, cementing, wash room construction works are yet to be completed. As the work is progress,there is an assurance that the entire construction of guest house will be completed by December 2015.

Ongoing Programmes

40. **Animators:** We have seven animators to take care of the children clubs and parliaments in the villages. The animators are trained in “communication skills” “mental Health and Retardation-problem of the family”, “children rights and issues of empowerment”. They are also sent for training to different agencies to learn and to work more efficiently.
41. **Tuition:** “Education has to produce the perfect man, sound in character, active in mind and strong in body” says Plato. Every-day, evening except on Sundays, there is tuition for the children who study in the neighboring schools. There are 970 children (1st to 10th standard) who come for the tuitions. Seventeen Para- Teachers take care of the tuition centers in our project area.
42. **Vocational training centers:** In order to provide alternative income for the young girls 6 months training in cutting and stitching is organized in the villages. This year 118 girls are being trained. Few girls who are trained have purchased tailoring machine and are self employed.
43. **Computer Illiteracy program:** Illiteracy is the major evil in this region. However today we see few families interested in sending their children to schools and colleges. While the affordable and accessible could have Computer education from the nearby towns, the poor are deprived of this facility. So VCT

thought of giving an opportunity to the youth and the children by organizing basic computer courses in the villages. Nearly 131 Children were benefitted from this program.

44. **Hostel:** VCT is taking care of the hostel. We have 35 poor children for the year 2014-2015. The children from 1st std to 9th standard study in 3 different schools. Their presence in our campus brings joy and liveliness. The parents visit their children on every second Saturday and Sunday. A warden and a cook render their service to take care of these children. We thank Post-Novitiate brothers from Clara Vihar, for taking tuitions in the evenings and helping the children in their studies.

45. **Personality Development Training for the Staff:** Personality development training for the staff was organized on 14th September 2014 at VCT. Around 20 members from different organization participated in the training programme. Mr. Krishnamurthy, MSW Facilitated the training programme. The objective of the training programme was to bring about personality development with regard to the different behavioral dimensions that have far reaching significance in the direction of organizational effectiveness.

Activities / Achievements:

- Child education and protection in 14 villages
- Child parliament in 15 villages for the rights of children.
- Conducted home visits to motivate parents to send their children to school regularly
- Home survey helped to identify, screen and admit dropout children in to main stream
- Encouraged children to open –up and realize their full potential through various co-curricular activities like songs, dance, recitation, skits, art and meetings
- Meeting organized with parents and teachers to give feedback on child progress and help developed a healthy child environment.
- Exposure visits conducted to widen the knowledge of these children.
- Evening tuitions in 16 villages with a reach out of 970 children.
- Formed and Strengthened children club and parliaments in 16 villages
- Once in 3 months camps are organized in 16 villages for personality development and boost the self esteem.
- One residential camp organized for 200 leaders of children clubs to enhance their leadership skills.
- Re- admitted 120 school dropouts in formal schooling.
- 11 Children were inducted to the child labour residential bridge school.

Future Challenges

- Strengthening and sustaining the present ongoing programmes
- Child education and protection in entire Manvi Taluka.
- Child right clubs in 36 Grama Panchyath for the rights of children.
- Adolescents and youth Sexual health & HIV/AIDS Education.
- Strengthening Human Resource Development.
- Promotion of Clean Hygienic environment.

- Formed children parliaments will be given follow up trainings.
- The development of villages through children parliaments.
- Advocacy lobbying work at the local, panchyath, taluka and district level by way of memorandum.
- Change of focus from village level to family level.
- Rehabilitation of Physically challenged people.
- Setting up of Vimukti training center for imparting trainings for implementing development activities.

Conclusion

“Nothing tires a human more than to be grateful all the time”- E.K. Howe

The VCT is grateful to its Chief Trustee and members for their continuous support, timely interventions and visits by the funding agency, well-wishers for their continued support and encouragement without whose selfless sacrifice, the beneficiaries would not have been able to raise their economic standard and to live a happy and healthy family life. The Trust always remains indebted to *Ensemble Agissons* France, American House Jesuit community - New York and all the local benefactors, well wishers for their generous contribution to carry out the activities at various levels to reach out to the most vulnerable segments of the society.

Secretary
Fr. Robin Victor D'souza
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