



VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST®

**A Social Action Initiative of
Capuchins in Karnataka- India**



Director's Communication

"I raise my voice not so that I can shout,
but so that those without a voice can be heard"
- Malala Yousafzai

It gives me immense joy to share with you the activities of VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST® (VCT) Pothnal. VCT has been working with children in 65 interior villages of Manvi Taluka. For these children, their life is a struggle and they live for today at the cost of their future. Every child, as we know, is full of dreams but good many of them lack guidance and support from their family or the community to chase their dreams. They don't even have role models to look up to in their community or elsewhere. In this context, if at all our efforts could change the lives of a few such Children; we consider it a grand success!

Children in this Taluka are often made to work, asked to take care of their younger siblings, earn and take responsibility for the family are thus forced to play other roles than just be children or enjoy their childhood, learn, blossom and mature as educated and enlightened citizens of this country. VCT is working on mainstreaming as a strategy so as to motivate rightly the stakeholders and slog more on advocacy, lobbying and policy changes to see that children receive their rights to be and live as children. In this respect, we are really proud to put on record the major role played as usual by VCT through its staff and volunteers in Manvi Taluka for framing rules and implementing proper enforcement with regard to child-polices.

From the part of the sponsored children, it was exciting to see the overwhelming response either in conducting 'children parliaments' or children's clubs or in seeking help from their respective families and the community. As you would know, these programmes impact hundreds of lives as they try to deal with such things as education skills, skill-training, health initiatives, housing, women empowerment, etc. It was also heartening to see enthusiastic support from the generous benefactors, donors and well-wishers who have cooperated to ensure the success of the projects in tackling problems associated with the various aspects of development. I am obliged to say a big and heartfelt 'Thank you' to all of them.

Along with the report of the implementation of projects, we may as well inform you that VCT will continue to commit itself and seriously engage in advocacy and lobbying-work in order to promote further the rights of the individuals and bring about some systemic changes. We want children to enjoy their childhood and get meaningful education. We want to strive hard to see how education can be made more meaningful to the lives of children.

Before I end, let me emphatically express my sincere gratitude to the 75 member staff of VCT, who untiringly contribute their time, energy and resources and to all the well-wishers who have been unstinting in rendering their cooperation making our dream their own. Thanks to one and all.

Fr. Sathish Fernandes OFM, Cap
Director, Vimukti Charitable Trust®





Message From the president....

“Authentic freedom is the service of justice”, quotes an author. According to the prosperity theology (and according to one of the best Pharisaic opinions) Jesus should have come as a lord, a tycoon, a cult leader or someone of that sort. Some of his followers act even today much like Jesus presumably should have acted, building multi-million-dollar cathedrals. But Jesus came into this world as a poor man. Seeking justice for the poor, the deprived and discriminated against was his privileged space of action and consequently also of God's revelation.

The Church is naturally called to promote such apraxis through the just defense of human right activities (cf. Ecclesia in Asia, 34). Working for Justice is, therefore, part and parcel of preaching the Gospel to the poor. Because Jesus had lived the issue of poverty personally, if a church or a nation were to ignore its poor or place stumbling blocks on their way or have only money as the supreme goal, then they are indubitably very far from the spirit of God; On the other hand, the “Social workers who utilize their unique skills to help vulnerable groups in the society - children and families, represent most powerfully Jesus Christ, specifically by being the good Samaritans.

This bulletin presents various activities carried on for the needy and unfortunate section of the society through the strenuous efforts of Vimukti, a Good Samaritan that envisages a Change in the society. Vimukti Charitable Trust is the social work organization of the Capuchin Holy Trinity Province, striving to help good many poor and needy children and women, especially in Raichur District. In particular, it does the following:

- ◆ Place abused children in loving homes and find employment for the unemployed
- ◆ Help the helpless women and empower them with awareness programs
- ◆ Help children and families to make the best use of welfare systems. Help them, especially to tap the government welfare schemes.
- ◆ It is a voice of the voiceless, limb of the lame, eye of the blind in as much as it fights for their rights, well knowing that they are the weakest of the society.

In all these works, Vimukti and the staff under the able leadership of Br. Sathish Fernandes have been using a system and methodology that enable them to conduct programs for children and families. Justice, peace and truth are goals that need action. I hope the bulletin will open the eyes and hearts of people to express their solidarity with the poorest of the poor especially innocent children and women remembering the words of Jesus, the great social reformer: “whatsoever you do to the least of my people that you do unto me”.



Br. Joseph Dolphy Pais OFM.Cap.

President, Vimukti Charitable Trust®

Reporting From the Field...

VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST is the social action unit of the Capuchin Franciscans of Karnataka Province. It is registered under the Trust Act bearing number, Trust/718/10A/Vol-II/V-299/2000-2001 Dated 01.05.2000. VIMUKTI as popularly understood is integral liberation and that is what it undertakes and executes namely socio-economic empowerment activities among the disadvantage and the vulnerable sections of the society. 'Vimukti' came into existence in 1999, as the activities of the province became widespread and there was a need to co-ordinate, document, monitor, review and evaluate the social work intervention activities so as to ensure greater efficiency and increased accountability.

The social action apostolate of Karnataka Capuchin Province was initially a traditional ministry. Every house was involved in doing charity tagged as social work; but, as the trend of social work changed from charity to empowerment and issue based approaches, the need was felt to scrutinize the social work and also to reach out to wider areas and larger number of needy and poor people. Accordingly at present,

Our Vision

To build up an inclusive community based on rights, equality justice and peace.

Our Mission

To create a just Society, wherein all have equal opportunities for development and growth, all have an equal share in the resources of the earth and above all the worth and dignity of every individual human being is respected and protected.



More specifically speaking, the precise Objectives to be realized are:

- Main streaming school-dropouts through family counseling and combating child labor.
- Preventing children from being exposed to vulnerable and abusive conditions.
- Strengthening children's clubs through informative training.
- Forming and strengthening children's parliaments in certain targeted villages.
- Stopping human trafficking and preventing child-marriage.
- Skill development training for the unemployed youth.
- Initiating social action groups against exploitative structures of the society.
- Promoting awareness on education/ health and social issues.
- Promoting functional literacy of the targeted group.
- Creating opportunities for skill development training for adolescent girls
- Facilitating adolescent girls to enroll in distance education and thereby encouraging them to complete their unfinished studies.
- Reaching out to children in vulnerable conditions and alleviating their condition.
- Steering large scale awareness programmes totally to eradicate child-labor, child-marriages and child-dropouts.

I. Community Welfare Programmes

Imbalanced growth and inequality in development have forced the rural and urban poor people alike to be trapped in a cycle of unavoidable poverty. VCT identifies the crucial gaps in development amongst the most vulnerable and addresses them by connecting the communities with empowering solutions, To this end, the strategies of VCT include providing access to education and information, livelihood promotion, economic development and health care in areas that need them the most through skill trainings, adolescent trainings, awareness, leadership trainings, mobile clinic, health care education, health camps and free health check-ups, especially in the targeted villages of Manvi Taluka.

VCT has prioritized on empowering individuals and groups of people by providing them with skills and resources that they need to effect change within their community. Right-Based Approach has been used extensively in capacitating the community in various spheres like health livelihood, education and social development, specifically women and children in talking the issues of child labour, school dropouts and violence against women and children in many villages. Community health promotion project tried to develop health of the individual, group, community and improve health knowledge, attitudes and skills in order to build a healthier community.



1. Consciousness of the value in functioning through Grama Sabha & Panchayat:

Local leaders and villagers were sensitized and motivated on the importance of the *Grama Panchayat* and *Grama Saba*. People are now aware of the developmental work that is carried out by the Panchayat and the facilities made available through panchayat to the poor people. The panchayat members regularly attend *Gramasabhas* and also participate in the discussion as it is their right.

2. Education on right to Food:

Training imparted to animators, voluntaries, club children, SHG members, and village people on Food security Act familiarized the core team with all the schemes. The core team in turn relayed the information on to the people in the villages also. Initially, villagers had difficulty believing what the team had to tell them. Soon they started not only believing but liking the information.

Through regular home visits, awareness was generated among people on RTF, PDS, ICDS, APL/BPL, MDMS, AAY NFBS, and NOAPS etc. In different times training for animators and village leaders was organized and resource persons were called to give input sessions on various schemes. Nearly 9000 people have been educated on right to food act.

3. Education on infants Right to Food: Awareness on breast feeding:

Efforts have also been taken to build awareness on the importance of



“Exclusive Brest feeding” Exclusive breast feeding ensures the infant's right to food-unarguably an infant's entitlement. Awareness programmes were organized for pregnant women and neonatal mothers in the target area. The professionals in the health field were invited to generate awareness on the importance of mother's milk. Resource person exalted that existing facilities in the hospital should be made used; the main aim is to bring down maternal mortality rate. Under this scheme, women were counseled on the importance of nutrition, institutional delivery, and care during the pregnancy, breastfeeding, family planning; mother child protection issues were discussed. 18 types of different low cost nutritious food prepared and exhibited in the program.





II. Child Welfare Programmes

'Child right educational project' of VCT focuses on empowering children in playing a leading role in their own development. As their formative years are very crucial to individual and societal development, we target the welfare of children in Manvi taluka, especially those who are most at risk and whose fundamental rights are being violated on account of child labor, child marriage, school dropout, etc. We also include children affected or infected with HIV/AIDS, children in conflict with law and children living in remote rural villages with no access to opportunities like schooling.

By involving the children to attain their own integral development, not only their meaningful participation is ensured but also the rights based approach to their problem is aptly justified. Through our efforts and by motivating the children intensively, we have rescued 472 children from being child-dropouts or are at risk of suffering other disadvantages. The dropouts were re-enrolled in schools and supported with supplementary education in order to prevent repeated potential drop outs or be out of school altogether. The results of the project have enabled the children and stakeholders to articulate their own rights and capitalize on opportunities to participate in development processes. Thus they confidently assert their rights and voice their views on critical issues affecting them and their peers.

1. Training in health matters at adolescent stage

Keeping in mind the overall development of the adolescent girls, VCT organized training camp at eight places of Manvi Taluka with a few resource persons. The main topics covered under this programmes are: Personality development, Health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, contagious diseases, reproductive health, physical growth and mental changes, gender discrimination and Information on protection during sexual harassment. 602 adolescent girls actively participated and benefited from the camp. They also shared and discussed their adolescent problems with the resource persons and received satisfactory solutions.

2. Field Extension programme - 'Shale kade namma nade'

A week-long door to door campaign with the slogan, "shale kade namma nade" (our walk towards the school) have been conducted annually by Vimukti staff, to motivate the parents to admit their children to government schools. All the 46 villages of our project area were covered through this programme. Handbills were distributed to all the houses within the Panchayats. As a result, 328 children were enrolled in different schools.

3. Advocacy and lobbying by children's parliament-members

Children's parliament-members visited the panchayat and interacted with panchayat president, members and public development officer (PDO) so as to know about the panchayat facilities. They also called the president to participate in the 'Makkalla Gram Sabha' and club meetings, where the children asked several questions and presented their demands to him. They raised issues like midday meals, drop-out children, school playgrounds, teaching materials and infrastructure of various schools etc. They came to know how to inform panchayat about the child abuse and violation of children's rights and to seek possible solutions; in return president assured the children his continued support.

4. Personality Development Camp

In every summer a personality development camp is organized for the children to provide for them an opportunity to learn and mix with other children. They enjoyed various group dynamics, group play, group discussion and cultural activities. The training is given to teach them how they may prepare greeting cards, learn drawing, singing, drama, mimicry etc. It is also an opportunity to raise questions and get satisfactory answers from the resource persons.

5. Training to form children clubs

To give a prospect to improve the capacities of children, Children's clubs are organized and followed up in our project-area. Once in fifteen days these club children come together in their respective villages for the meeting. During these club meetings awareness is given regarding personality development, development of talents, communication skills, cleanliness, children's rights and other related issues through input sessions. The Children's committees promote leadership abilities. Children enjoy participation, acquire courage and gain self-confidence.



6. Instruction regarding Child Rights and Gramasabha

“A leader must have the vision, state the mission, and set the tone” says David Rockefeller. In order to bring out the leadership quality, to know their rights of the children, VCT organized awareness program at 4 schools to instruct and enlighten them about child rights and Gramasabha, SDMCs and to the school teachers together with almost 300 children participated in this programme and were enlightened about their rights and duties.



7. Child Marriage was prohibited at Hire Kotnekal

Vimukti animators with the collaboration of CWC officials prevented the child marriage arranged at Hire Kotnekal. The parents of the girl had planned to give in marriage their 15 year old daughter with the youth who also hailed from the same village. When the VCT staff learned about the matter, they without delay rushed to the family with the help of local police and the concerned authority. They collected a written bond from the parents of the girl that they would not marry their daughter until she completes 18 years, which is the actual age for marriage



8. Formation of child-rights clubs and awareness program:

Child-rights clubs have been formed in 31 Gram Panchayats of Manvi Taluka; with regular visits and organization of meetings once a month, the children are taught to know their right to education and to live a disciplined life, to gain their rights and to enjoy their childhood. At the same time, they are also made aware of the powers of a parliamentary democracy. They are taught to know the four basic rights:

1. Right to Life
2. Right to Protection
3. Right to Progress
4. Right to participate.

Children get trained to teach other children and thus to involve in social action and help vulnerable children to gain their right to education and health. So far 42 such clubs are formed and 855 children are benefiting from this program.

9. From child-labourers to the School:

With ceaseless effort VCT has succeeded in bringing 41 Dalit children back to school from their tragic situation of being forced to work for the debt they only did inherit. In the given situation of the society, freeing these children is indeed a herculean task. But once they are liberated, no one could fail to notice the sense of satisfaction and immense joy visible on the faces of these 41 children freed and admitted into different schools. The one difficulty faced by us, namely to keep 12 of these children in a hostel, because of their earlier history when they had escaped twice had to be delicately resolved. The reason for their escape was that they found it difficult to live in a different atmosphere. After a lot of persuasion and guidance, gradually they did come round to have some change in their perception and at the moment they are comfortable and living happily in a hostel.

10. Distribution of Educational Material to Support the Economically Deprived Students:

The main aim of the VCT has always been to cater to the needs of poor children by helping them to understand the importance of education in life and its tangible effects in the betterment of the society. It is at the beginning of every scholastic year, that VCT has to work tirelessly to make a survey of the children who are economically backward. This was undertaken to be done in Pothnal and in surrounding villages. After the survey, VCT went on to provide educational materials to nearly 210 children studying from 1st to 10th Std. Educational materials provided included school uniforms, footwear, school bags, notebooks, stationery, etc. This has been one of the standard practices every year.

11. Home based Survey on Mentally challenged children:

People often say that a physical illness is better than mental illness and it is true. For the latter experience a deficiency and for that reason a stark inferiority to others. Also, it is difficult for the family to accept and manage patients suffering from mental illnesses. These Special children, accordingly, need love and opportunity- not merely sympathy. It is right awareness regarding mental illnesses and the way to handle it that can reduce the problem to a great extent. In view of providing all these, a home based survey was conducted. Our staff visited the houses that had mentally ill children, especially to find out how severe the disability was. As per the statistics now available with VCT, there are nearly 186 children in the age group of 6 to 14 years with various grades of disabilities and steps are taken to see to their amelioration.





12. Awareness rally on 'Tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse':

An age-old saying is that "Unless we destroy the seed of evil, it will destroy us". Destroying the seed of evil, though, hard, we now know that it is not impossible. Bearing this in mind, VCT organized some awareness rallies to combat the evils of 'Tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse', especially among youth. The rallies included a FLASH MOB, performing creatively to gather a crowd and highlight the ill-effects of smoking, drinking and taking drugs. It does drive home the importance of working to bring about their elimination.

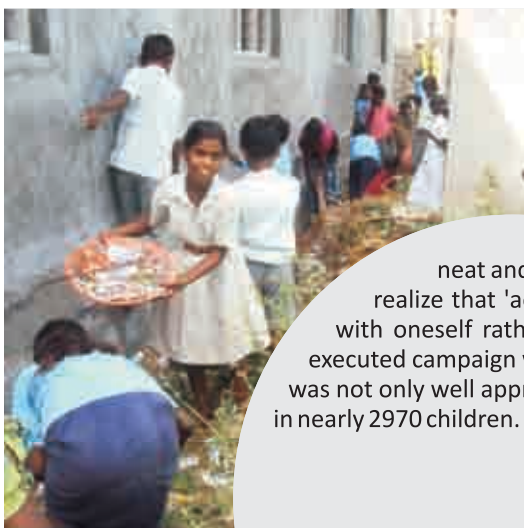
Additionally, VCT also saw to bring awareness by way of a new campaign of "Stickers". The students and other volunteers were invited to distribute Stickers with personalized Anti-Tobacco messages to shop keepers, four and two wheel owners, auto drivers and other people. All those who supported the cause, used the stickers on their vehicles, on the walls of shops and houses to underscore the key message: "put it out before it puts you out". Nearly 2950 students were involved in the campaign, while they themselves did also benefit from the programme.

child rights, plastic eradication, preparation for board examinations, health and hygiene, personal discipline, environment protection, religious harmony, time management etc; A number of competitions and matches among teams to help develop a spirit of team-work nearly 2890 children participants were held during these camps.



14. Children's Camp:

Holiday Camps for Children has a vital role in the development of their personalities. VCT was, therefore, very particular in organizing them in various villages of the project-area, with the collaboration of local people. A camp normally includes input sessions on leadership qualities, personality development, stage art, knowledge of



13. Swachh Abhiyan Campaign:

Cleanliness is next to Godliness, we all know. But we also know that a journey of thousand miles starts with a single step. Keeping this in mind, the children-parliament teams in collaboration with other school children conducted cleanliness campaign in 25 Schools insisting on maintaining the school environment clean, neat and tidy. The objective was to make the children themselves realize that 'action speaks louder than words' and it is good to begin with oneself rather than complain about others. The well planned and executed campaign with the co-operation and support of the school children was not only well appreciated but also helped create the necessary awareness in nearly 2970 children.

15. Health awareness programme:

The month of October after the monsoon is a time of holidays for schools and is the apt time to hold health awareness programmes, especially for the school children; accordingly, under the leadership of VCT, in all the villages, health awareness programmes were organized involving more than 2820 children and adults. The children themselves were guided to demonstrate through their skills and talents, speech, dramas and other activities the importance of health and hygiene.

III. Ongoing Programmes

1. Identifying self-worth:

The people in this area somehow entertain a low self-image due to various factors like caste, class differences, poverty etc. The use of 'being-with-approach' has a great success in this regard. Hence, sparing no efforts various capacity building training programmes and awareness meetings were organized by VCT with the help of 15 animators. They were all geared principally to help the participants to believe in their own self-worth. In addition, input in various subjects like problem assessment, child rights, child counseling, leadership, communication, HIV, tuberculosis, climate change, etc. plays a vital role in assisting people to have a respectable place for themselves in their society

2. Tuition:

"Education has to produce the perfect man, sound in character, active in mind and strong in body" says Plato. However, as is well known, good many of our schools fail to provide such an education. To make good all that is lacking in formal schools, every-day evening, except on Sundays, VCT organizes tuition for children who study in the neighboring schools. Their numbers 970 (1st to 10th standard) and seventeen Para- Teachers take care of the tuition centers in the project-area.

3. Hostel:

To help the poorest of the poor, VCT had no other way than to conduct a hostel having a capacity of looking after around 65 poor children per year. Any child that belongs to such a category, from 1st to 10th standard,

and studying in nearby schools finds a place in the hostel. Their presence, other than bringing joy and liveliness, proclaims the hope of a better future both to the families and the society. A warden and cook render their services in taking care of these children, under the guidance of Fr. Elvin Lopez, the Director.

4. Capacity Building training for the staff:


Training changes people and understandably Vimukti gives utmost importance to such a venture. Vimukti has been regular in organizing training for its staff once in four months. Training offered by Vimukti to the staff in different topics and issues has been successful in broadening the outlook of the staff invariably facing a lot of problems and difficulties while at work.

5. Raichur Network of NGOs:

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success" says Henry Ford so too, no network can function effectively without the wealth of the experience that comes from collaboration with other like-minded entities. These partnerships bring in different perspectives, innovative ideas and new friends to work collaboratively. Raichur Network of NGOs has always believed in this principle. Network is formed to represent the voice for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless people, vulnerable to hazards to influence global policy to strengthen their efforts to build a people society, where justice prevails.



Doorstep Medical Services



The statement that "health is wealth" is a very true to its meaning, as one cannot do anything if he or she does not have good health. So, it is very important that each person must know the causes, effects and remedy related to their individuals' health issues. One person's careless or ignorance of good health care can affect other person living with him or around him. For the past 3 years, Doorstep healthcare services has been provided by Vimukti Staff Nurse to the sponsored children families, physically disabled, Pregnant women and postnatal mothers and economically disadvantaged patients who live in the villages without discrimination of caste and religion.

Pregnant women and postnatal mothers and children were motivated to go for a regular check up during pregnancy, they were given awareness on nutrition, special care and nutrition for infants, cleanliness, exercises, sanitation, hygienic, health issues, immunization, Routine check-ups, and tests etc. VCT main aim is to educate them and provide them with knowledge to live more hygienically so that they too can lead a healthy life and prevent themselves and their families from any health issues. Apart from our regular action plan we also took initiatives for the welfare of the workers and community by conducting need based camps. We made them aware about how to prevent the spread of infectious diseases through conducting free health screening.

Training Skills for success

VCT- tailoring center had achieved a remarkable progress in training and placing many deserving girls/ women over the past years. The overarching goal of VCT is to reach out to the youngsters who are school dropouts and unemployed by imparting training that can ensure a sustainable livelihood opportunity. VCT with the motto of 'skills for success' has reached new heights of training youth with skills and competence that will help them find quality employment and cope with the work ethics and emerging challenges while on the job. Many deserving and marginalized youth are successfully placed in jobs and are earning decent income for them and their families. 78 benefited from this training.



Awareness - Campaigns

A campaign is a series of organized activities which create ripples of awareness, encourage change in attitudes, behavior & practices that in turn contribute to the common good. VIMUKTI children conduct campaigns on diverse topics related to civic sense, environment, celebrating eco-friendly festivals, the rights and responsibilities of a citizen, active citizenship, democracy, local government and so on. Class room sessions alone may not translate to change of attitude. Campaigns enable children to take what they have learnt in VIMUKTI sessions and create ripples of change in their immediate surrounding i.e. among their friends, family and their neighborhood.





1. Capuchin Spiritual Ambiance:

"Faith makes all things possible, love makes all things easy and hope makes all things work", says an author. The Capuchin spiritual presence at Pothnal in Raichur has been gradually bearing fruits and influencing especially in the spiritual growth of the people. It has been a hard endeavor so far to nurture their faith through various social even as spiritual and faith-oriented activities.

2. Family prayer:

Every weekend the brothers regularly give their valuable time to be with the families in the assigned villages in order to pray with them and catechize them. In this way people are drawn towards God and are helped to grow deeply in their faith. We are able to witness the devotional and spiritual atmosphere in the families.

3. Visit to the sick and spiritual support:

The Capuchin brothers visit the sick and do other spiritually sustaining activities, like reading and explaining the word of God, singing devotional hymns, conducting biblical quizzes and action songs etc. The old and the aged freely share their life's experiences of hardships and turmoil they face. It's heart-touching experience as they hear their cry in distress and in utter poverty. All the same, the people in the villages live a happier life than in other places. We try to do whatever is possible to assist the families that face economical, moral and spiritual set-back and problems.

4. Catechizing children and the youth:

Children are the future of the Church. It is important to love them as Christ loved. They are to be lead to Christ, the Divine master. Making this as our prime concern, children in the different villages are given ample attention so that they grow spiritually and academically through tuition classes on spoken English, school oriented programmes, etc. Apart from this they have weekend catechism classes and other co-curricular activities.



5. New milestone of Vimukti @ Pothnal: ORPHANAGE: a ray of hope to the Orphans:

Our Saint Teresa of Kolkata, the mother of the orphans lovingly says, "The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread." We may have bread to give but do we show sufficient love to the less fortunate, the destitute, the least and the lost? After a long awaited dream and aspiration of our Founder Francis who wished to serve the leper and feel one with the orphans the VCT directed by Fr. Sathish Fernandes along with his team has gone extra mile to study the poor situation of the orphan children from different places of Raichur and with the hope of giving them humanitarian care, love, support and usher the need of education to them has started Orphanage. Many Children have lost their parents; some are children of single parent. They were deprived of their childhood, their rights, their dreams and their freedom. For now, the 35 orphan children are enjoying going to school and the atmosphere at Vimukti premises.



IV. Projects implemented and their impact

- Formation of 34 Children's Clubs in 65 villages to promote talents and personality development. Over 5200 have benefited from this program.
- Child right clubs and *Balika Sanghas* formed at school and village level comprising an average of 25 members in each club and three or four clubs in 30 Panchayats to build leadership, get involved in local governing, voicing out their problems etc. Around 3,000 children benefitted



- Staff nurse worker was trained and equipped with skill and knowledge to provide better health care services for the rural poor.
- About 3500 people were educated on positive health and hygienic practices
- Fortnightly visits by the staff nurse to each village benefitted 608 people (178males'389 women and 41 children) with primary health care services, health education, free medicines and referral support for advanced treatment, etc. Importance was given to identify communicable diseases like, TB, leprosy, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, mother health and care.
- Sponsored children and their parents for health check-u camp conducted by doctors for blood-cell counts, B.P, sugar, blood groups, etc., before referring them to various hospitals; medicines were freely supplied, and children's height and weight were recorded to be kept in individual children's file. 155 adults and 307 children benefited from this camp.(Of 307 children examined, results were the following: 7 with iron deficit, 100 for de-worming, 4 optical problem, 3 skin problem, fever 2, cardiac 1, sputum 1, one malaria, 5 Ophthalmological problem, 1 gynecological problem, HB low for 8, ENT for 2 and dental for 3 and 165 children were found in normal condition).
- Continuous education regarding personal hygiene and child care included for promoting hygienic practices and dietary habits through locally available nutrition.
- 29 school health programs to meet and make over 2800 students health conscious and live a healthy life style.
- Awareness rallies with regard to Dengue, HIV / AIDS, cleanliness, open defecation, Tobacco and Alcohol, Children's Rights, Child Marriage, Child Abuse, Child labor and communicable diseases etc. 2,300 benefited from this awareness.
- 70 economically poor children were sponsored and 7 sponsored children's houses were renovated for better living.
- 3320 children are reached through campaign and awareness on child right issues.
- Supplementary education (evening tuition classes) in 16 villages attended by 952 children; this education intervention has reduced school dropouts and child labor significantly.
- Reduced the incidence of child-labour, child dropout in the project area, 472 dropout children were identified and 430brought back to regular schools.
- Community was empowered to tackle issues of child-labour, school dropouts, malnutrition and health.
- Formed and strengthened 34 Child rights clubs and children parliaments reaching out to some 1250 children.
- Educational materials were supplied for the 710 children in the project area (books, bags, pens, pencils, uniform, study table, chairs).

- Imparted training for 80 village leaders regarding health, RTF, WASH, SCSP//STSP Govt. schemes etc.
- Organized public awareness through door to door campaigns, seminars, workshops, public announcement through decorated vehicle, street plays, and rallies and distributed of leaflets in public events.
- Network with like-minded NGOs, Government Health and Education Departments, local Panchayats etc. to avail and facilitate the programs reaching out to the people.
- Involved in advocating and lobbying with the Government to implement the schemes and benefits at the local level, particularly those concerning children.
- Demanding government concerned authority to start seasonal hostel facility to stop children from migrating.
- Conducted awareness programs in order to eradicate child labor, child marriage and child dropouts.
- Conducted fees distribution to the most likely to be dropped out poor students both of school and college to continuing their education. Encouragement of the same to open up and realize their full potential through various co-curricular activities like songs, dance, recitation, skits, art and meetings
- With the help of District child protection unit, the awareness was created in various schools and villages about the importance of girl child education and the issues of early marriage. Many school children and villagers participated in the program and benefitted from this campaign.
- Identified in the 21 surrounding village of Manvi taluka 710 poor and semi orphan deserving children and encouraged them not to dropout from the school; to them were distributed free note books, pencils, pen and other materials.
- Sponsored children's parents were given motivational training to encourage their children in different life-activities whereby awareness was given on the gender discrimination, importance of education and professional courses. 58 parents actively participated in the program and expressed their gratitude towards Vimukti for organizing an informative program for them.
- Awareness on government schemes: in 65 villages Vimukti Staff gave door to door awareness by distributing hand bills on various schemes like RTF, free gas cylinder, ration card, Aadhar card, senior citizen card, widow pension scheme, disabled facilities etc; As a result 9000 families benefitted from this programme.





CASE STUDIES

We shall now narrate a few of the concrete cases, where VCT has been at the forefront in rushing aid to the helpless and troubled victims in the area. The cases that could be recounted are indeed numberless; however, the few cases made mention of, highlight very well the plight of the people needing often prompt and helpful service.

Personal Guidance

Guidance to enhance and boost the shattered or the weak self is in certain cases an imperative. Personal guidance is an effective means where one can benefit maximum in the journey of life. Timely guidance can heal one's deepest problems and add value to human life. Recently in a nearby village a minor girl was raped. She had a traumatic experience and was emotionally disturbed. It was taking a long time for her to come out of this traumatic experience which was bothering her so much. This type of violence especially against the minors is one of the classic examples of the degradation of human life and its value.

Fr. Sathish Fernandes OFM Cap took time to give personal and spiritual counseling and help the traumatized victim. The main objective was to identify and help her to get rid of her deepest negative emotions and fears caused by the rapist. Along with her many others were also motivated to overcome anxiety, stress, depression, sadness in the affected village and to regain self-esteem and self-confidence to live in peaceful co-existence.

Personal counseling has helped her to grow spiritually. She was able to identify the values in her and thus move forward to live a better life. Throughout the sessions, she was persuaded to muster self-confidence and thus regain her strength through analysis and by filling her with lots of positive aspects of life. The sharing and interaction helped her to cultivate self-esteem, awareness, understanding, clarity and spiritual wellbeing.

Meanwhile the girl was also produced before Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Raichur for a medical checkup. VCT demanded CWC that she be given complete protection and support so as to totally recover from the trauma and also the requisite medical assistance. Meanwhile VCT offered her some requisite clothes and other necessary material for daily use. VCT has thus made every effort to bring some consolation through various strategies. One finds a ray of hope in her to face and live her future life to the best of her abilities.



DIVINE PROVIDENCE THROUGH HUMAN HANDS THE SPONSORED-CHILD IS GREATLY SURPRISED TO SEE GOD'S PROVIDENCE REACHING THROUGH HUMAN HANDS OF FRENCH BENEFactor MR. CHRISTIAN BENSNIER.

Praveen hailing from Belwata village, in the family the second son, whose father is no more and mother Mrs. Reginamma is the only bread winner. She is suffering from a dangerous and incurable disease, which has put her into feeble and vulnerable condition. After the death of the father, they were abandoned and left on the streets by his brothers and relatives. Being lonely and distressed they knocked at the door of the grandmother for shelter and refuge. Though welcomed and comforted initially, later she too could not afford. In order to work and support the family, Praveen had to discontinue studies and work in the fields of a land lord who assured minimum wages and a hut to live in temporarily.

Meanwhile the illness of the mother became worse and in this hopeless and painful situation, VCT, went to their rescue and provided food, clothing and shelter. "Ensemble Agissons" France also, came to the aid and supported enormously. Since we were sheltered under a land lord's house, without having any claim of land or house of our own, VCT built a mobile house for them to live in and made it easy to shift from one place to the other, perhaps we may be asked anytime by the land lord to vacate his territory. Words fail to thank the sponsor Mr. Christian Bensnier and "Ensemble Agissons", President Mr. Daniel and other members for their kindness and generosity. "Ensemble Agissons" has also supported 6 more poor families and hopes to extend the project to reach out to more families in need.

A ray of hope visualized amidst social evil structure

Sunanda was from an economically backward family in Markamdinni village of Manvi Taluka in Raichur District. The economic condition compelled her to migrate to neighboring town to earn a living as a domestic worker, though she was very much interested in going to school. In spite pleading her parents to allow her to continue her primary studies, her parents didn't heed her request. Just when Sunanda was 11 years old, they gave her in marriage against her own wish to Santhosh her cousin brother who was 17 years of age. She thus became a victim of child marriage. She underwent all sorts of problems by being married at a tender age.

Early marriage, led to early pregnancy, resulting in serious health issues. The first child's delivery had troubled her greatly. Since she was very weak physically she was neither able to breastfeed her little baby nor take care of the child properly. The husband's family too did not attend to her health. When she was living in a situation of turmoil situation, she was helped by Vimukti. She was assigned as a para- teacher in her village and to everyone's surprise, she did her job very efficiently. When the child marriage awareness program was conducted in her village, Sunanda actively involved herself in the survey and sensitized adolescent girls as well as adults of her community about the physical and psychological problems faced as a result of child marriage. She could substantiate her talk with her own example. Sunanda is one of the most resourceful person in her community to make people aware of children's right issues.



Right is our Strength

The Children parliament members of Malkapura School presented the water issue that they faced to the Panchayat P.D.O on 21.08.2016. It has been since several months; they were suffering from consuming unclean water. Several times they brought this matter to the notice of the school head master and concerned local authority, but there was poor response. One fine evening with the help of Vimukti staff, they visited Gram Panchayth P.D.O and met Mr. Suresh and gave a memorandum with facts and figures of the children who were the victims of various diseases and of children dropouts after drinking the unclean water. They cautioned that if he does not take action at the earliest, they will go to higher officers to present this issue. The P.D.O took this matter very seriously and worked out to solve the issue and within one week we received filtered water to drink.

They now sincerely acknowledge the kind assistance of VCT and for motivating them to live a dignified life in the society by fighting for rights.



Tuition centre, a boost for Education

Mariswamy, the eldest son of Mr. Monesh and Mrs. Gangamma residing at Kalangeera Village, Manvi taluka of Raichur district was fortunate to attend school because all his three younger brothers were taken along by the parents for earning daily wages. However, when he was studying in 7th standard, after the class he had to go for collecting firewood, water, cooking food etc. and had no time for study. Only during some free time, he could visit tuition centre in our village, where he could also developed friendship with few children who were also coming to the tuition centre. They used to visit his house and plead his parents to afford him more time for study, but the parents did not heed to their appeal.

When he had completed 7th standard his parents did not have further plans for his studies. Meanwhile Vimukti came to know about it and one of the Vimukti animator visited the family to persuade the parents. In the beginning they didn't listen but gradually after the long discussion they agreed to send him to school. VCT placed him in a hostel in Pothnal and got him admission for higher primary school. He wishes to persevere in studies and do further education.



From pitiable state to comfortable life

Ms. Rathnamma, aged 13 and, from Dotharabandi, Manvi Taluk, Raichur district was the daughter of Ningappa by a second wife. She was physically challenged and found difficult to do her personal duties. When she was just 2 year old, the step mother abandoned her and her father and went to live with another man. Her father, now aged was not sound in hearing. She herself therefore never stepped into a school but do only all the household chores.

Her father's first wife, though lived with them, was busy with her own duties and caring for only her own children. She even tortured and ill-treated Rathnamma. Her own father was helpless. She had therefore no interest to live as there was no meaning in life. In this situation Vimukti gave her a three-wheeler cycle, on account of which she is now able to move around more easily and carry out the needs of the house. It changed her hopeless state into a comfortable and joyful one.





CHALLENGES FACED

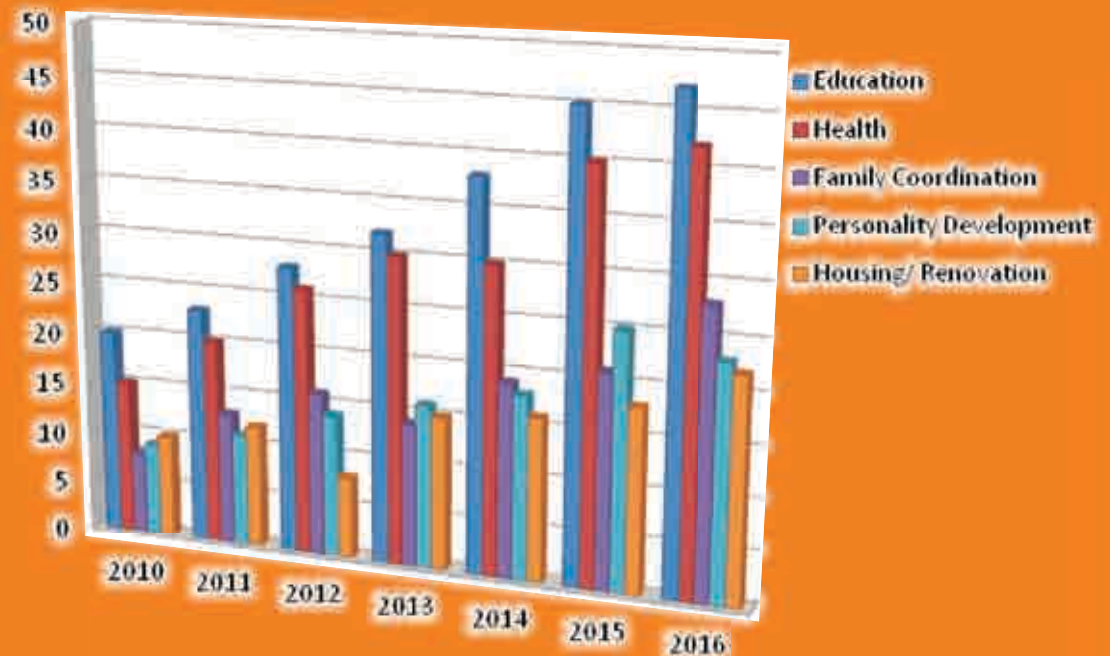
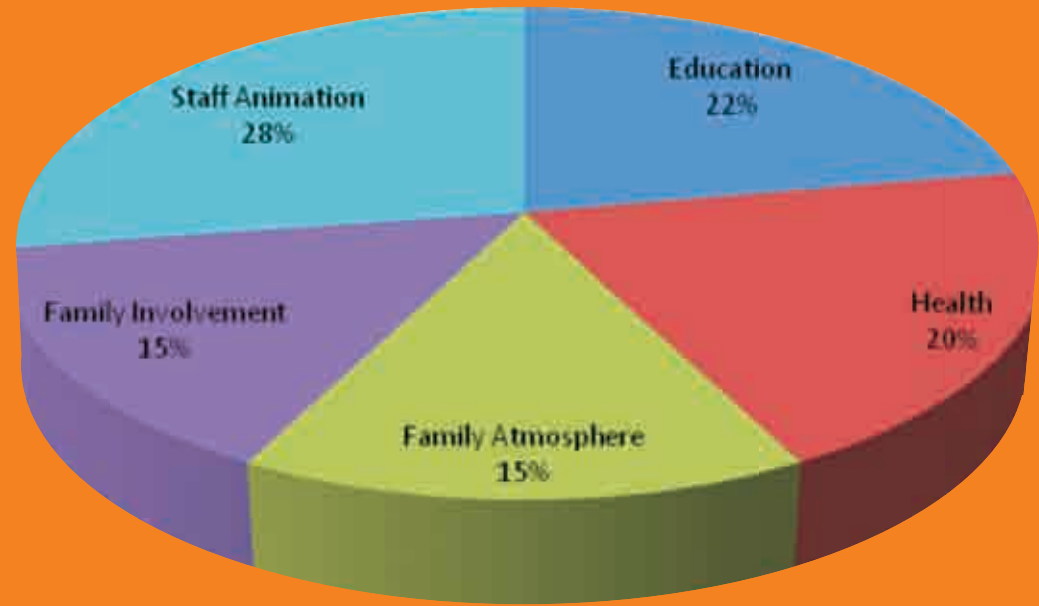
- ♦ As we are trying to work on right-based approach, it really offers a serious challenge, since not all are aware of the rights.
- ♦ Caste system too, as usual, plays a major role among the animators and it renders field and family visits often challenging.
- ♦ Dependency people expect overnight and quick-fix solutions to their problems and also want others to solve them for them.
- ♦ Very often a few sponsor families were found stubborn and demanding, and as a result staff has lost interest, nothing to say of their respect.
- ♦ Inefficiency and frequent transfers on the part of govt. officials and lethargic way of responding to government schemes etc.
- ♦ Lack of initiatives in receiving as well as participating in Vimukti training as well as programmes by our sponsored-children.
- ♦ Health care in Manvi Taluka is in doldrums. Govt. Doctors themselves are reportedly said to be selling medicines in the primary health centers. Medicines are becoming costly; sicknesses are increasing due to poor conditions of life.
- ♦ Private hospitals cater to the sophisticated sicknesses of the richer class. The masses in the villages, where the 80% live, have no proper access to their health care.
- ♦ Co-existence of social evils and unhealthy practices such as intake of tobacco, consumption of alcohol with traditional arguments of validation.

Bird's-eye view of Child Sponsorship

*One child, one teacher one book and
one pen can change the world.*

- Malala

With the collaboration of generous benefactors & well wishers Vimukti Charitable Trust Pothnal has initiated the Child Sponsorship Programme. Gradually it is bearing fruit while focusing the beneficiaries and brightening their future by giving them assistance academically, socially, economically, spiritually.



Our Beneficiaries

Sl. No	Achievements	Total	Survey / Processing	Beneficiaries	
				Male	Female
1.	Sponsored Children	70	1	22	47
2.	School Drop Out and Re-admitted	472		17	26
3.	Caste Income Certificate	298	73	51	174
4.	LPG Gas Provided from Forest Department	47	12		35
5.	Disabled Survey /Pension/Bus Pass	115	67	14	34
6.	Adhar Card/Ration Card/Senior Citizen Card/ Identify Card/Job Cards / Yashaswhini Card	128	17	44	67
7.	Madilu Yojane /Baghyalakshmi Yojane/ Janani Suraksha Yojana/ Thaiy Card	83	19	-	64
8.	Widow Pension/ Old age Pension	81	20	27	34
9.	Scholarship for students				
10.	Toilet Construction through government	59	-	-	39
11.	Agriculture instruments schemes	43		43	-
12.	Self Employment Scheme / Under Dr. B. R Ambedkar Nigam Yojane	85			
13.	New Bank Accounts (SB)	136	-	17	19
14.	House Scheme/ Under Leather Instrumental Development Scheme	10	10	-	-

Join your hands with Capuchins...

'In social action and 'contribute to create change'

1. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	: VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST (R) Saccidananda Capuchin Provincialate P.B. No. 1060, Rajajinagar 1 st Block, BANGALORE 560 010, KARNATAKA STATE - INDIA.	10. Email	: vctpothnal@gmail.com satcapuchin@gmail.com
2. REGISTER NO. OF SOCIETY	: Registration of Trust Act, Trust/718/10A/vol-II/V-299/2000-2001 Dated 01-05-2000	11. UNIQUE ID (NITI Aayog)	: KA/2017/0118334
3. PROJECT HOLDER	: Fr. Sathish Fernandes Vimukti Charitable Trust Clara Vihar, Pothnal 584 123 Manvi Taluka, Raichur District. KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA.	12. Phone	: 08538- 281326 09448335778
4. LEGAL HOLDER OF THE SOCIETY	: Rev. Joseph Dolphy Pais, OFM Cap. The President, Saccidananda, P.B. No. 1060, Rajajinagar 1st Block. Bangalore 560010. India.	13. 12A	: Available
5. F. C. NO.	: F.C. Reg.no.094610030 Under FCRA (2010).Renewal(01/11/2016)	14. 80G	: Available
6. BANK AND THE A/C. NO. Account Title/Head	: 18032200025580 : Cheque drawn in favor of THE DIRECTOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Syndicate Bank, Jawalgera Branch Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur Dist.	15. PAN NO. OF INCOME TAX	: AAATV2670H(01-05-2000)
7. Bank Swift Code	: SYNBINBB118	16. FUNDS TO BE REMITTED IN FAVOUR OF	: The Secretary, Vimukti Charitable Trust Saccidananda, P.B. No. 1060, Dr.Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 1st Block, Bangalore 560010
8. IFSC / NEFT Code	: SYNB0001803	(If you wish to contribute through Indian banker cheques, then do follow the following bank information's:	
9. Web Site	: www.capuchinvimukti.com	BANK TITLE	: VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST
		NAME OF THE BANK	: SYNDICATE BANK
		A/C No	: 18032200022228 (Vimukti Charitable Trust)
		IFSC/ NEFT Code	: SYNB0001803
		Address:	Syndicate Bank, Jawalgera Branch Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur Dist. Karnataka, India



Peace Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi



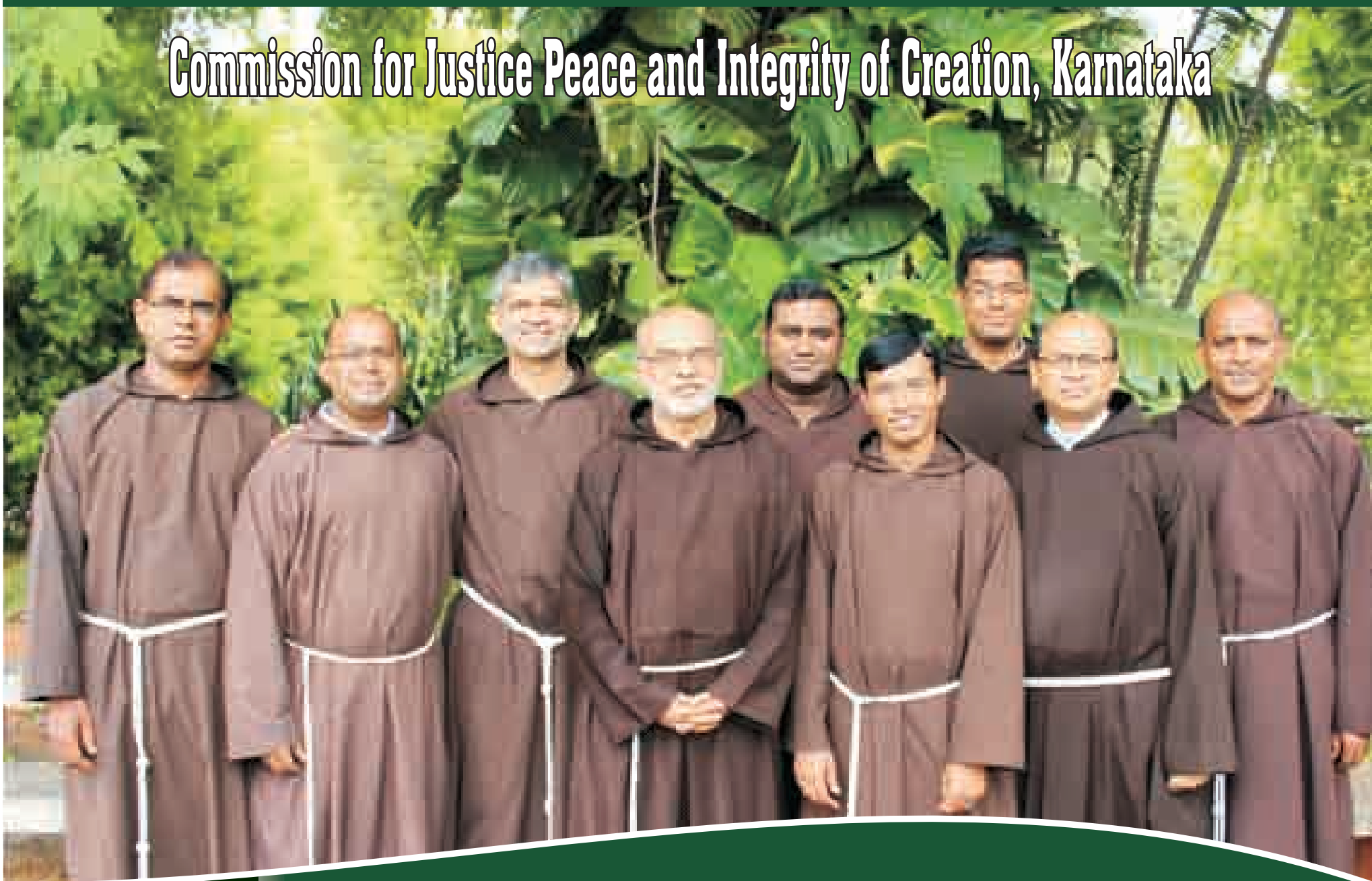


A Word of Heartfelt Gratitude

*“While it is faith that makes all things possible,
it is love that makes all things easy”.*

It is the generous helping hands of friends and benefactors that has made it all possible to achieve what we have accomplished. VCT is therefore very grateful to its president and members for their continuous support and timely interventions and to all the generous friends and well-wishers for their continued support, visits and encouragement. It goes without saying that without the selfless sacrifice of each and every one, it would not have been possible to make the lives of so many poor people a little better, happier and healthier. The Trust will always remain indebted to all the donors, local benefactors, and well-wishers for the generous contribution to carry out the activities and to reach out to the most vulnerable segments of the society.

Commission for Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation, Karnataka



VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST®

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Future Plans

- ◆ Insisting on 100% compulsory education in the project area.
- ◆ In 65 villages every child in the age group 3-18 year will access to compulsory education, meaning it knows how to read, write, and has access to books.
- ◆ Creating deeper awareness on child rights issues in our children of parliament and clubs and in more effective way.
- ◆ Build strong network with local and district NGOs for better results.
- ◆ Tapping govt. housing scheme to the weaker sections in the project area.
- ◆ Helping children in targeted villages to get scholarship from the government.
- ◆ Making 65 villages 100% free from child labour, child dropout, child marriage and admitting children in district hostels and schools.
- ◆ 100% involvement of village leaders, SDMCs members, school teachers, AWC teachers, ASHA workers and ANM in our programs and meetings.
- ◆ Reaching out to children in vulnerable conditions and mainstreaming them into school.
- ◆ Fostering capacity in Government and private school teachers and staffs for early childhood education and care.
- ◆ Helping malnourished children to get healthy food from concerned departments.
- ◆ Creating awareness about all forms of violence against women and Girl-child.
- ◆ Training unemployed and under employed youths with employable skills and help them to begin their own business.