

# ANNUAL REPORT

2013 - 2014



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

## INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 2008 the social center has scaled new heights in the fields of academics and holistic development. The *Vimukti* campus is environment friendly and alive with various developmental activities for the poor and downtrodden. The children take part actively and take advantage of the many opportunities offered. They are groomed to develop into self-confident, responsible, ethical and compassionate human beings. By entering into a partnership with ‘*Ensemble Agissons*’ from France, the Trust has begun to realize a new dream and to foster a new vision in the life of children. The summary report is all about the initiatives undertaken through various activities by *Vimukti* Charitable Trust in the past one year. Though the report is brief; however the difference and the impact made by *Vimukti* Charitable Trust are actually more than the records could tell. (*Vimukti* Charitable Trust, herein after known as VCT)

## CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

### 1. Joyful notes of welcome

The 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 was a joyful day as the VCT Potnal, welcomed the president of *Ensemble Agissons*’ Mr. Deniel from France and his wife Mrs. Bernadette, along with the Governing Body Members Mrs. Veronique and Mrs. Lily.

### 2. Celebration of the Gift of Life

The 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2013 was indeed a great day of joy for VCT Potnal as Mr. Daniel Helbert, Mrs. Bernadette, Mrs. Veronique; Mrs. Jattiot Lily celebrated their birthdays with the children at *Vimukti*. The celebration was held at 3.00 p.m. The best moment was the cutting of the cake with the staff of *Vimukti* and 36 sponsored children along with their parents. The children received exciting gifts by the sponsors, brought from France. Sweets were distributed to all on this joyful occasion.

**3. The inauguration of *Vimukti* Children’s Parliament and the release of the book, “*Vimukti Children’s Voice*”** : On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013 the children of fourteen villages arrived at the *Vimukti* premises at 9.30 a.m. Different events and competitions were organized on this day. There also was the clay model exhibition on science which was held at the *Sneha Jyothi* School premises. A speech competition was also arranged for the children and many children took active part and gave inspiring and thought provoking speeches.

In the evening a short cultural program was organized. The *Anugraha* convent children invoked God's blessings through a prayer dance. Mr. Daniel Helbert, the President of *Ensemble Agissons*, France, released the book: "*Vimukti Makkala Dwani*," ("*Vimukti* Children's Voice"). This little book includes the articles, poems, short stories, jokes written by the children themselves. Mr. Daniel Helbert, then inaugurated the Children's Parliament movement, and Mr. S.H. Kopparada, Executive Officer of Manvi Taluk, was also present. All the *Vimukti* staff involved actively and worked for the success of this event.

#### **4. Assessment of Various Events**

On 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 *Vimukti* staff and the members of *Ensemble Agissions* gathered together for the evaluation. An extensive report of all activities undertaken during the year was presented to the members present. *Vimukti* director Fr. Sathish Fernandes, explained in detail different activities held during the year. Many issues with regard to the future plans were discussed. For the betterment of the project new directives were suggested to be implemented in the future. All accepted the new suggestions and assured to work hand in hand with the guidance and strong support from *Ensemble Agissons*, France.

#### **5. Legal Awareness Program by District Court Judge at *Vimukti* Centre**

A Legal awareness program was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at *Vimukti* Social Work Centre, Pothnal, Mr. S.H. Mittal Koda, the District Court Judge addressed the gathering of 255 women and children on various rights and the laws pertaining to them. The program was organized by the Women and Children Welfare Department along with the *Zilla Panchyath*, Raichur, in collaboration with the VCT at Pothnal. There were about 25 lawyers present for the program.

#### **6. Awareness to Local *Dais* (traditional birth attendant )in Six Units**

The number of home deliveries is reducing in Pothnal and the surrounding areas due to home visits and health education by the animators of VCT. According to the recent survey, around 40% of deliveries still take place at home by a traditional birth attendant (*Dais*). The purpose of the program was to motivate the women, the importance of motherhood and care of the new-born child. Few resource persons were invited to give input sessions in six units. Nearly 220 *Dais* benefited from this awareness program.

#### **7. Staff Capacity Building Training**

One day workshop was organized at *Vimukti* premises to motivate and guide the staff towards achievement of their goals and to boost their morale. There were 48 participants who benefited from one day workshop. It was facilitated by Mr. Anthony Mudoolu, CWC (Child Welfare Committee) a member and director of *Anthyodya* organization, Bagalkot. The workshop was a mixture of lecture-discussions, group work, brainstorming and visual power point presentations.

## **8. Distribution of Educational Material to Support the Economically Deprived Students**

The main aim of the VCT is to cater to the needs of the poor children by helping them to understand the importance of education in life and its effects in the betterment of the society. Therefore, VCT worked tirelessly, at the beginning of the scholastic year, to make a survey of the children who are economically backward in Pothnal and in surrounding villages. After the survey of the needy children, VCT provided educational materials to 155 children studying from 1<sup>st</sup> Std., to 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Educational materials such as school uniforms, footwear, school bags, notebooks, stationery, etc., were distributed to children.

## **9. Plant a Tree Campaign**

A campaign was organized at Government Lower Primary school, Sunkanoor on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Markamdinni village by VCT along with the Children's parliament members, to create awareness against cutting of the trees and of the need to preserve them. To mark this event, 960 saplings were distributed to various schools in Manvi Taluka.

## **10. *Vimukti* holds summit with the Journalists of Manvi Taluk**

On 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 the VCT invited the journalists from the Manvi Taluk for a summit. Input sessions were held to make them realize their role and responsibility in the society and their contribution in highlighting the realities of life in rural areas.

## **11. Survey of School Drop-outs**

Identifying the children of the migrant workers is a tedious job. Keeping this in mind BEO (Block Education officer) of Manvi requested *Vimukti* in conducting the survey of the dropout children under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA). It is a pilot survey of the school drop out children to identify and bring them back to the school. According to the survey conducted by VCT, out of 15,000 families, as many as 210 children were found to be either out of schools or those that have never been enrolled to

any schools in the whole of cluster. Nearly 85 children were convinced to get re-admitted to the schools.

## **12. Temporary Residential Special Training School**

Due to poverty and lack of motivation and the dismal conditions of local schools, 75-80% of the Dalit children, drop out of the schools and work as agricultural and bonded labourers. After the survey was conducted by VCT in Manvi Taluk, it was reported that there are nearly 30,000 drop-outs in Raichur District alone. A Survey report was submitted to District DDPI office (Deputy Director of Public Instruction), Raichur. VCT was negotiating with the government for the educational program for these dropouts. After a long struggle, Government harkened to the voice of VCT and came forward to offer Temporary Residential Special School. The main aim of this school is that those children who are not going to the school during the scholastic year 2013-14 and those drop-out children are to be mobilized, convincing their parents, and should given special training.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, VCT got the permission to the Residential Special Training School for 37 drop out children. The staff of VCT has mobilized the Dalit children, most of whom are girls. It aims at motivating them to go back to the schools. The school began functioning fully on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2013. The local government officials too visited the school and inspected the different activities that are conducted to these children. The Temporary Residential Special School is a government program to 'irradiate' child labour.

## **13. Health Check-up Camp**

A free health checkup camp was conducted by the VCT on 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2013. Sr. Nirmala Rani UFS inaugurated the camp. She said in her address that the medical service is a noble one and the medical fraternity is engaged in curing the illnesses of the suffering humanity. As many as 158 children having health related problems were checked and given medical advice by the eminent Dr. Chandra Shekar from Pothnal.

## **14. Health Workshop on Communicable Diseases**

Training program was conducted to the women and peer educators about the communicable diseases like H1NI, RTI/STI Malaria, Tuberculosis HIV/AIDS and other contingent diseases. 185 members benefited from the program.

## **15. Children's Camp**

A two day's residential camp was conducted at *Vimukti* on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The VCT invited qualified resource persons to interact with the children. Around 325 children between 9 to 15 years of age participated in the camp. In order to attract the large number of children and get the best results out of the camp, many extra-curricular activities like dance, music, singing, yoga, drawing and value education classes were conducted.

#### **16. VCT Students at State-level Children's Parliament Contest**

Children's Parliament provides a rare opportunity to the children to raise their voice regarding problems they face in the school, and their rights. It also serves as a platform for the children to develop the leadership skills, confidence, team spirit, analytical skills and maturity. VCT aims at making the children aware of the powers of a parliamentary democracy. Based on this a District level children's parliament training was held at Raichur on 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2013. There were 90 children representatives from various NGOs, Schools and institutes to discuss the issues on children's rights. Children raised the issues such as deficiency of nutrients in children, lack of safety in school buildings, transport-related problems, and rehabilitation of children in the context of the Act to prevent Child Labour, Child Marriage, school drop outs, etc. Children were given the opportunity to discuss in groups and after which a report was presented to the District officials. Children came up with interesting questions which were eye openers to the officials to work more vigilantly. VCT children also took active part and made the session more effective and vibrant. As a result two students from VCT were selected for the State-level children's parliament to be held at State level Legislature in Bangalore.

#### **17. Two Days Work-out for the Members of Children's Parliament**

Members were trained in implementation of child rights, child labor and other child related issues. They were very much instrumental in creating child friendly environment. Nearly 220 children participants benefited from this training.

#### **18. *Vimukti* Children's Parliament Voices their Demands Loud and Clear to MLAs and MLCs at State Level**

It is not every day that one gets to see Karnataka MLAs and MLCs Ministers answering a series of questions posed by children. However, this happened on November 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday 2013, at the Conference Hall No. 333, *Vidhana Soudha* in Bangalore, when Mr. Kimmane Rathnakara, Primary education Minister-Karnataka, Mrs. Umashree, the Women and Child Development and along with other Ministers were grilled by 60-odd-children from different parts of Karnataka, on issues pertaining to

child rights. Along with several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) participated in the discussion, in which the children representatives took the centre stage. The Ministers, after listening to the children patiently, assured them that their issues would be addressed immediately. Ministers also asked the children to write to the concerned Ministers directly whenever they face any kind of discrimination or violations of their rights.

### **19. Sponsored children**

Fr. Jossy Fernandes OFM Cap is sponsoring the education of 50 poor children of St. Clare's Church-Pothenal. *Vimukti* director interacted with the sponsored children and their parents exhorted them to make use of the facilities made available to them and to become good students. *Vimukti* is grateful to Fr. Jossy Fernandes for his generosity.

### **20. Children's Day Celebration at Utakanur High School**

Due to some inconvenience and other important tasks, the VCT could not organize the celebration of Children's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Hence, this event was postponed to 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2013. The presence of Government officials and All the Government school teachers brought immense delight to the children and the people. Nearly 350 children were present for the celebration of Children' Day.

### **21. HIV/ AIDS Awareness Program (Street Play)**

On 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 VCT Organized HIV/ AIDS Awareness Program in Utakanoor High school premises. The Staff put up a tableau and a skit on HIV/AIDS. The Group songs, speeches and poster displays were the means used to communicate the message of the days' program. Mr. Mallaya the SDMC President of *Gram Panchayat*, Uatakanoor flagged off the rally from Mahalingeshwara temple to Village circle. During the rally vigilant songs and Anti-AIDS slogans were used to further communicate the message effectively. There were nearly 740 beneficiaries who profited from these program.

### **22. NRHM Training Held at CHAI Bangalore**

The Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) conducted a training program in Bangalore for all the likeminded NGOs in India. There were 720 participants benefited from this training on issues such as the National rural health mission and role of Catholic health facilities, working with NRHM to improve service delivery in the facilities and communities, Integration of AYUSH in the voluntary hospitals and health centers, the community Mental health approach of basic needs, the Role of the

voluntary sector in accidents and disaster relief, etc. The Director of VCT participated in the training and found it to be very useful.

### **23. Training On Documentation**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2013, the staff of VCT had one day intensive training on documentations at *Vimukti* Office itself. Mr. Kotresha from Raichur animated the sessions on case report writing, field trip report, minutes of the meeting and related formats of the association.

### **24. Physically Challenged Children Participate in the Awareness Program at Vimukti on World Disability Day**

VCT organized on World Disability Day, an awareness program to the otherwise able children. There were about 60 disabled and differently able people participated in the awareness program. There was a long discussion on problems faced by disabled and differently able people. Mr. Desai gave some guidelines on how to deal with their real life situations. He also helped to form groups of such children in and around Pothnal according to their abilities.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

### **25. Animators Visit**

The VCT animators regularly visit the assigned villages to promote health work undertaken by VCT. The Animators go to government schools every week and teach the children hygiene, home remedies, safe drinking water, Instruction on the deceases such as *Malaria, dengue* is given, and they are encouraged to plant trees to safeguard the environment.

### **26. Co-Curricular Activities in the Clubs**

Along with the tuitions, VCT gives importance to the co-curricular activities. The students participated in various competitions like vocabulary, drawing, greeting cards making, general quiz, quiz on history, dictation, storytelling competition, speech competition, creative writing, facial expression, hand writing, rhymes etc. The winners are honored with prizes.

### **27. Library at *Vimukti***



*Vimukti* has several aspiring students who are deprived to have access to good books. The *Vimukti* center has upgraded its library with a good collection of new books. There are 545 children who are benefiting from this child resource center, reading books, learning computer basics, English grammar, etc.

### **28. Capacity Building Training for the Staff**

Training changes people. Hence, *Vimukti* gives utmost importance to it. *Vimukti* organizes training for its staff once in four months. Training offered by *Vimukti* in different topics and issues, has broadened their outlook to problems and difficulties the staff members face at work or in their day-to-day affairs.

### **29. Networking with Other Organizations**

Just as the famous saying goes 'no man is an island' so too, no network can function effectively without the wealth of experience that comes from collaboration with other like-minded entities. These partnerships bring in different perspectives, innovative ideas and new friends. VCT has always believed in this principle. Therefore, the network has reached out to people by initiating visits to other organizations, learning more about their work, finding new avenues for collaboration and opening up new opportunities for network members to learn, share and participate in these partnerships.

### **30. Formation and Strengthening of Children's Clubs**

Children clubs are functioning at the project area. Children are actively participating in the club activities. Through different activities children are motivated to unearth their talents and develop them. In all our 17 villages we have the children's clubs functioning fortnightly. Altogether 1700 children are participating and benefiting from this program.

**31. Para Teachers** 17 Para teachers who are working in the villages and these teachers are involved in the overall development of the children. These teachers also helped the children in their studies as well as extracurricular activities. 765 children are benefiting from this program. Every month teachers meeting and monthly evaluation of these teachers are held.

### **Future challenges**

- Children's Development along with their education

- Family up-liftment by strengthening the comprehensive development in their living conditions in and around their house.
- Strive to eradicate poverty in the families and in the villages.
- Forming of Six more children's parliament by the end of 2014 in our working area.
- Follow up trainings to already formed Children Parliaments
- The development of villages through Children Parliaments.
- More involvement of the children at the state level Children Parliament.
- Advocacy lobbying work at the local, panchyath, taluka and district level by way of memorandum.
- Change of focus from school level to village level.

**Conclusion:**

With these words and sentiments of gratitude VCT is here to submit the annual report of 2013-14. With the seven staff along with the 15 Para-teachers working in 16 villages VCT is spreading its identity through the works of development. We sincerely thank the President, Fr. Provincial, and all the Trustees without whose support and encouragement we would not have achieved much. VCT is blessed with good donors and well-wishers, whose financial support and timely guidance have helped us to reach our goal, and for this we remain ever grateful to all of them.

Fr. Victor D'souza

Place: Saccidananda, B'lore-10

Secretary