

VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST (R.)

POTHNAL



Editorial



“Jeevodaya” means ‘rising to a better life’. This booklet, accordingly, presents a rare collection of real life stories of the unfortunate men, women, youth, and children of Manvi Taluka, Raichur District, longing to rise to a better life.



Without exaggeration, these are some of the bitter stories of innocent men, women and children, who are traumatized because they are tortured physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually by selfish and self-centered adults of the society. The children, in particular, are exposed to the worst kind of treatment in the society. The forces around them have snatched away their hope of living a good life and have left them to live at the edge of the society. They belong, in fact, to the most vulnerable group of persons, having not the physical strength to fight out their cases nor to stand up to the injustice perpetrated against them and defend their rights. It is therefore, a reality that is literally vicious and sad.

“Jeevodaya”, however, reveals not merely the harsh reality of people who are suffering many a tragic incidence in their life and of children whose childhood has factually become a nightmare for them, it tells the story of a ray of hope that has dawned in the lives of such people. For the Vimukti Charitable Trust® (VCT) of the Capuchin Franciscans has been working in this area now for more than a dozen years to sensitize all sectors of the society to the sad plight of these oppressed and marginalized children and inviting one and all to work towards their best interest, especially to put a full stop to all sorts of right violations. VCT has not left a stone unturned to see that the various government bodies, social institutions and individuals who are responsible and can easily play a decisive role in protecting the life and rights of children, ensure their safety and joyful childhood in our society.

VCT has learnt and experimented upon the learning. It has taken challenges head on and even tried to climb the steps of legal courts for the defense and rescue of children. The straight narrations of true incidents may pain those who have victimized the children and snatched



away their tender voice, rendering them voiceless. But we feel that it is necessary to put on record the objective situation if only seek remedy to the unfortunate state of affairs to the extent possible.

The unbelievable experience of a few years has urged us to give some urgent attention to address the needs of these children so as to redress their inhuman situation and plight. The adults are just not aware of the harm they do to the lives of these delicate children in the process of development. Unless and until the entire society recognizes the grave need to attend to the grievances of the children, the society is not going to be the right place for children to live in. It is in this regard that Jeevodaya wishes to motivate the people to think and act so that the best interests of the children are served. The manual is understandably directed towards those who in reality love children and do not like to keep silent or turn a blind eye to their dismal predicament.

The narration here is only of a few chosen stories from each of the programmes we conducted to elucidate how the programs implemented made a difference in the lives of thousands of men-women, youth and children. Despite facing various challenges on the ground and limitations in our resources, we are happy to narrate the success stories and share the results in ameliorating the pain and suffering of people. We have succeeded in restoring health and harmony, peace and happiness to many a person living on the edge of life.

Finally, we must let everyone know that "Jeevodaya" would not have materialized but for the silent tears of children, unspoken words of the needy, uninterrupted input and support of individuals and unstinted service of the VCT staff. The latter especially have offered their precious time and selfless assistance. Their contribution and cooperation, we cannot adequately measure but we do fondly treasure. Let us all come together and be the agents of change for restoring faith, ensuring hope and building up societies of love.

—Br. Sathish Fernandes OFM Cap
Director, Vimukti Charitable Trust (R)

Message



According to the prosperity theology (and according to the best Pharisaical opinion) Jesus should have come as a lord, a tycoon, a cult leader. Some of his followers today act presumably like Jesus should have acted, building multi-million-dollar cathedrals. But Jesus came as a poor man.



There is a deeper meaning to that, but the least we can say is that Jesus takes the issue of poverty personally. A church or a nation that ignores its poor or places stumbling blocks in their way or whose supreme goal is Money, is very far from the spirit of God. Today, social workers very strongly represent Jesus Christ because they are good Samaritans. 'Jeevodhaya' means rise towards better life. Jesus Christ had said " I have come to give life, life in its fullness." Social workers utilize their unique skills to increasingly help two vulnerable groups - children and families

Jeevodhaya is a collection of sad but real life stories of the poor people of Raichur District. Vimukti Charitable Trust, the social work organization of the Holy Trinity Province, like good Samaritans help many needy, poor children and women of Raichur District:

- Place abused children in loving homes
- Find employment and housing for homeless families
- Help the helpless women and empower them through awareness programs
- Help children and families make best use of the welfare system. Help them to tap the government schemes .Etc.

In all these areas, Vimukti and its social workers under the able leadership of Br. Satish Fernandes use a system and method and conduct family-oriented programs to help families and children.

I hope the magazine "Jeevodhaya" will open the eyes and hearts of people to express their solidarity with the poorest of the poor especially innocent children and women by extending concrete actions. Let us remember the words of Jesus the great social reformer: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people that you have done unto me".

—Br. Joseph Dolphy Pais OFM. Cap.
President, Vimukti Charitable Trust (R)

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND



MANDATE: VIMUKTI CHARITABLE TRUST is a social action unit of the Capuchin Franciscan of Karnataka Province, Registered under the Trust Act bearing number, Trust/718/10A/Vol-II/V-299/2000-2001 Dated 01.05.2000. VIMUKTI is integral liberation as understood popularly and it undertakes and executes socio-economic empowerment activities among the deprived and vulnerable sections of the society. As the activities in the province became widespread, 'Vimukti' came into existence in 1999 to co-ordinate, document, monitor, review and evaluate the social work intervention activities to ensure greater efficiency and increased accountability towards the same.

The social action apostolate of the Karnataka Capuchin Province is a traditional ministry. Every house is involved in charity based on social work, and the social work trend gradually changed from charity to empowerment and an issue based approach. The need was felt to scrutinize our social work and also to reach to wider areas and larger number of needy and poor people.

VISION OF THE ORGANIZATION is oneness of humanity based on UNIVERSAL LOVE, irrespective of caste, creed, color, culture, ethnicity, gender, age and ability; it respects all diversities. This LOVE, is to be a force of transformation, is to be translated into socio-economic justice, equality, equity and equal opportunities for all to grow and to have control over all and access to appreciate resources. It is the denial of this truth and the disparities inbuilt in the structure and the process of development that have resulted in the marginalization of the Tribals, Dalits, Women, Children, mentally/physically challenged, the destruction of cosmos and devastation of harmonious relationships. It is everyone's sacred duty to work towards a Humanity based on UNIVERSAL LOVE and comprehensive Justice.

Vimukti concentrates on every sphere of life in the rural society. Today, Vimukti serves in six districts of Karnataka bringing smiles on the faces of the poor, deprived and marginalized people. The Units are spread in Ujire of Dakshina Kannada, Banakal of Chickmagalur, Badravathi of Shimoga, Chikodi of Belgaum, Pothnal of Raichur and Halburga of Bidar District. The major activities are Women Empowerment and Economic sustainability through Self Help Groups, Microfinance activities, Micro entrepreneurship, livelihood options, sustainable activities and upholding the dignity of life through training awareness. It also focuses on children, their overall development in



health, education, their rights and personality in order to provide them a better future. Vimukti promotes agriculture initiatives, vocational courses, job oriented training and career guidance for rural youth. It has a unit of de-addiction and a Rehabilitation center, to set people free from alcoholic and substance abuse. Some of the programs are done in collaboration with the Government, banks and like-minded NGOs.

Mission: To create a just society where all receive equal opportunities for development and growth, where all have an equal share in the resources of the earth and where everyone's human dignity is respected and recognized as brother hood/ sisterhood.

ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- To enhance the standard of living of Dalits, women and children through awareness, education and income generation activities and promote hygienic living conditions.
- To undertake integral human development by way of education, training and creating awareness, capacity building and sensitizing people on human rights.
- To build and strengthen community based organizations, people's organizations (PO) and thus facilitate local leadership, participatory development and people's control over resources.
- To organize and empower the marginalized, the Tribals, Dalits, Women, Children, mentally/physically challenged so as to enable them to live a fuller life of human dignity.
- To evolve and undertake ventures in education and child rights, so as to empower those children who are deprived of the mainstream education and basic rights, and thus to make education a tool for the deprived.

PROFILE OF THE CAPUCHIN SOCIETY

Franciscan Capuchin Friars' society is in India since 400 years. Now the members, numbering around 2200 are spread in most of the states, and the administration is decentralized dividing themselves into different zones, called the 'Provinces'. The society belongs to the spirit of the great humanist and environmentalist, St. Francis of Assisi, whom the United Nations has declared as the Patron of Ecology. The members of this Capuchin order are committed workers and are engaged in social

ministry of different kinds all over India. They are specially engaged in activities of inter-religious dialogue to bring about harmony, justice and peace.



The present request for collaboration comes from the Karnataka Province, who have already had interventions in the areas of, Women empowerment, Child Development, Alcoholic De-Addiction, among the poor, and the marginal farmers in Mangalore and community organization activities are undertaken in Belgaum, Raichur, Mangalore and other parts of Karnataka.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- God experience
- Mainstream the dropout children to school through family counseling and combat child labor.
- Prevent children from being exposed to vulnerable and abusive conditions.
- Strengthening the children's parliament and children clubs through training.
- 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.
- Conducting awareness programs in order to eradicate child labor, child marriage and child dropouts
- Creating opportunities for skill development training for adolescent girls.
- Demanding from the concerned authority in the government to start seasonal hostel facility to stop children from migrating.
- Facilitating adolescent girls to enroll in the distance education system and thus encourage girls to complete their studies.

METHODOLOGY OF IMPLEMENTATION:

Capacity building program was held in 21 villages, by VCT through the various programs, workshops, training, 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. VCT has been working in close collaboration with various organisations and networking civil society organizations to strengthen and advance advocacy efforts in different sectors like rights, health and training etc. In this context our animators actively participated in the various events and programs organized by other like- minded organizations and networking. The key involvement of beneficiaries of each village was yet another key factor that contributed to the success.

STRATEGIES ADOPTED:

In order to address educational issues, rights 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 program on different issues.
- Holding rallies and observing important days to generate awareness.

They spoke thus...



"TIMELY HOSPITALIZATION SAVES THE BABY"

21st March 2013, the VCT staff went to the Belwata village to do supportive supervision of Anganwadi and Asha, in Raichur Dist. After checking their forms for appropriate organization and formats, the staff went for assessment of a one month-and-twelve-day-old baby. When we reached the house, we found that



the baby weighed only 2 kilograms. The child was also very cold, and was wearing just a small shirt and no warm clothes. Then, the grandmother who was upset with the mother came to us claiming that she was neglecting the baby and not attending to the baby's poor health. We also learnt that instead of milk, the mother was feeding the baby with tea and local drinks. As a result the baby had continuous diarrhoea.

The Staff identified that the baby was suffering from hypothermia and low birth weight, and along with ASHA suggested that the family take the baby to the hospital as soon as possible. However, the mother was reluctant to go. She explained that her husband had been too preoccupied with work and did not give sufficient attention and care to the child. We had to give the family extensive counseling until they understood how critical the situation was. The staff advised the mother with important instructions in order to care for the baby at home in her delicate condition and advised the mother to maintain the cleanliness in and around the house and to feed the baby with healthy food. The staff ensured that the mother would be available for support if any complications arose, and would be back for check up regularly.

On the staff's second visit, she found that the child displayed symptoms of a severe bacterial infection. The older members of the family, however did not agree, and claimed the symptoms to be normal. Taking an understanding approach, the staff educated them about similar cases in which the baby's condition became worse and hence died without proper treatment. Realizing the seriousness of the matter, they agreed to go for the treatment at once. Finally, they went to the district hospital for better treatment. During the counseling, the VCT

"He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help."

- Abraham Lincoln

staff taught the mother the KMC (Kangaroo Mother Care) techniques to increase the baby's body temperature. We explained the importance of always dressing the baby in warm clothes to protect it from cold weather. After the parents took the child to the hospital, it became healthy and is now a happy and normal baby. The mother was thankful to the VCT staff for their efforts, and gratefully acknowledged the staff "Our ignorance about taking care of our child could have cost us its life" they said.



"ANGANWADI CHILDREN ARE HAPPY AND GRATEFUL"

Sunkanuru is a village which comes under the panchayat of Utkanur in Manvi taluka. It is a small village which has 210 families. This village consists of a government school with classes from 1st to 7th standard and one anganwadi centre.



In the anganwadi there are 62 children who are below the age of 3 years. 42 children in the village are of the age of 3 to 6 years but only two children are studying in grade 2. There are 35 Pregnant Women, 22 Post natal mothers and 9 adolescent girls who are beneficiaries' of this anganwadi center.

All the 145 people of the village have a system of getting food related products from the government scheme. But for 2 months the supply of the food products was gradually stopped and the people were voiceless. Here we have a first-hand report from one of the women.

"I, Parvati, one of the members of the anganwadi centre in our village had made known about this inconvenience faced by the people to the government officials but there was no response from them at all. But still we pursued hard to get the scheme of giving milk to the children.

A few days ago one of the VCT staff, Mr. Charlie visited the anganwadi center and at that time I shared with him the issue of the food supply. Soon after this, he went to the government officials and enquired about it. But still they were indifferent. Then the VCT staff decided to



publish this in the newspaper. As a result, within 2-3 days the officials awoke from their slumber and supplied food products to the anganwadi centre. Appreciating the outcome, the people of the village and the members of the centre were very happy. The village people admired the unstinted support extended by the VCT staff.

"I am very grateful to the VCT staff, Mr. Charlie for his timely advice and whole hearted support. The centre is like a light that shows the way. On behalf of all the villagers, I wish the VCT centre the very best of luck in their honorable activities and offer our support towards their future activities to brighten the future of children as well as the women in society."

"I AM CURED AND HAVE NO TENSION AND ANXIETY"

"My Name is Parashuram. I am 15 years old. I belong to Jeenor village of Pothnal Gram panchayat of Manvi taluka, Raichur Dist. I was suffering from chronic cardiac problems from birth. I was getting weaker with the passage of time. I visited many hospitals for proper checkups but no doctor could diagnose my disease properly. My parents were passing through mental turmoil as my health condition was declining day by day.

With each passing day the family burden was increasing on my parents with the added responsibility of my two sisters. Meanwhile the VCT staff, Pothnal visited my family. She suggested that in the very next week there would be two eminent heart surgeons visiting from the Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. They were coming to the VCT, Pothnal and they would be giving free heart checkups. She advised us to avail the opportunity without fail. I agreed to the test at the VCT, and I was diagnosed with heart murmurs which was an evidence of congenital heart disease and congestive failure of carditis digitalis. After observing my condition the doctor



"Helping others is the secret sauce to a happy life."

- Todd Stocker

suggested to have the heart surgery immediately without delay. The VCT did their best to attend to my health without putting me to any great inconvenience.



I was sent to the Manipal Hospital, Bangalore for my heart surgery which costs nearly Rs. 2,00,000/-. Yet, my surgery was carried out free. After staying for 16 days in the hospital, I was back to Pothnal and continued my medication. Now, for the last four months, I am recovering and my parents are relieved of their tension and anxiety. I am grateful to the VCT for what I am today. I never thought I would have regained my health after what I have gone through in life. I would like to thank all the VCT staff members and specially, Fr. Director for giving me a new lease of life and encouraging me all along.."

CHILDREN BECAME THE AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY

Devipura, in Raichur District of Karnataka is one the villages where the VCT undertakes investigations on Malaria, Dengue, diarrhoea, TB etc. This village had no proper drainage system and cleanliness was not maintained. As a result, people were attacked by dreadful diseases. We came across, within a month, 68% of the total population suffering by Malaria, Dengue, diarrhoea, TB etc. All families were given medication and advised the use of mosquito nets and to keep the surroundings clean. But very few families were able to use mosquito nets. This was the time when the children's parliament members got together and devised a plan to tackle the problem. They submitted a memorandum to the Grama Panchyath president Mr. Sharanappa. Meanwhile, they performed small street plays in their village on the various issues to prevent Malaria and Dengue



"Give people the chance to change."

- Lailah Gifty Akita,



with the demonstration of the proper use of clean water and mosquito nets. Using their tact, the children subtly emphasized the significance of using nets. The children initiated group visits to the households, every evening, to check the usage of nets and clean water and convince the families to use them. Within a short time, they were able to bring about a considerable change in the situation and make the adults understand the need for compliance. Eventually all households in the village began to use the nets and clean water.

At present the children, along with the staff, meet once in fifteen days to clean off the water logging areas around bore wells and gutters. The children also had a rally to reinforce malaria prevention issues related to personal protection measures and early diagnosis and treatment.

In a significant development, Malaria has minimized to a great extent in Devipura village and some of the achievement must certainly be attributed to the relentless efforts of the children.

"VIMUKTI TRANSFORMED MY LIFE"



"I am Mallaya, the son of Mr. Eranna and Mrs. Huchamma from the village Markamdeni of Manvi taluka. I was a student of the fifth std. Eight years ago. I was forced to leave school because my younger brother was suffering from

a mental disorder and hence there was no one to look after him. However, I yearned a lot to attend school but I could not due to poverty and lack of people to help at home. But now though I am not a regular student at school, I feel satisfied that my quest for education is being met by the VCT which renders free coaching classes every evening from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. I am able to



"Little things done with love are much better than big things without love." ? Lailah Gifty Akita

read and write again. When I look at the society today, there are many children like me who are deprived of basic education. I appeal to the government agencies and the NGO's to come forward to help them and brighten their lives.



I am deeply indebted to Vimukti, Mr. Charles , teacher Gowramma and the staff who supported and motivated me. I am thrilled to say that even though I am a 5th std school dropout, and had forgotten the alphabet, once again I have learnt how to read and write. I am proud of myself and my aspiration is to take care of my beloved parents and to live a good life.”

BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER ONE YEAR



9 year old Shivraj son of Husenappa and Amaramma hailing from Baniganoor Raichur District, Manvi Taluka shares his experience of how he came across VIMUKTI and found an aim in life.

“When I was doing my 9th Std, my mother was sick with typhoid. There was no one to take care of me and send me to the school. This made me lose interest in school and instead I began to roam with friends. Though my sickly mother used to scream at me and force me to go to school, I took taking my lunch box daily and spent time with friends and by evening, as usual I returned home. I also watched movies at night in bad company. When my mother came to know this she started to scold me and I decided to run away from home and work in a hotel. For nearly one year, I worked in a hotel. Meanwhile, one fine evening, as I was supplying food to the customers, I met a VCT staff who asked me 'What are you doing here?' 'What is your name?' 'And aren't you going to school?' But I did not dare give proper answers to his questions. He went to the hotel owner and requested him not to keep me but rather send me to school. The very next day I returned home and my mother admitted me back to school. Now I am pursuing my studies and am extremely happy to continue my education. My aim is to study well and have a bright future. I am very grateful to the staff, Mr. Charlie who motivated me and made me fulfill my thirst for education.

VIMUKTI STAFF INTERVENED TO COMPLETE THE SCHOOL BUILDING



Utakanur village is one of the religious centres in Manvi Taluka. Here there are around 450 families living with a population of 4000 people. There is a school conducting classes from the 1st to the 10th standard. There are sufficient teachers and SDMC committee is also playing a vital role. The school is situated in an interior part of the village and lacks sufficient space. Due to this a constant shifting has taken place. New buildings were planned for this purpose. However, one of the buildings remained incomplete mainly due to the negligence and mishandling of the finances by the leaders of SDMC which resulted in corruption. Initially I was not aware of the crisis.

The whole matter came to light when interacting with the parents and teachers and I was made aware of the illegal activities of the leaders. The resources were unethically used by the authorities.

When I personally met the Head Master of the school and discussed the issue he was frank enough to tell me that some leaders have misappropriated the money and were part of the corruption. The leaders were asked to complete the construction work but they had taken it lightly and never adhered to my advice. Even I received death threats. This led me to approach the Educational Board and I shared all the information, which I had collected.

The officers of the Education department of Manvi Taluk visited the place and took immediate action against the leaders and the work was brought to completion. This has been beneficial to a large number of children who now can study in proper and better conditions.





I am proud of myself that despite being a woman I could accomplish something even at the risk of my life. I am happy to see the smile on the faces of the children and the parents who are enjoying the fruit of my labor. I am indebted to the VCT that I am working for. The VCT staff members are always there to guide and support me. I fought as a social activist and volunteered to stand against injustice. The villagers have been appreciative of what I did and are ever grateful to me.

THE LEGALIZATION OF THE SCHOOL



24 year old Mallamma, the daughter of Mr. Sanna Liganppa and Mrs. Yamunama hailing from Utakanur Raichur District, Manvi Taluka, being a VCT staff member shares her experience of how she struggled to legalize the school without a proper qualification.

Shri Siddaruda School is one of the schools in the Utakanur village. This school belongs to the Shri Adavi Siddeshwara Temple, which is 10 km away from Pothnal city. Since many of the government and private schools are located far away, the children of Utakanur, Belvata, Dotharbandi and many other villages come to this school for their education.

This school has its own background. According to the parents' view it is run on a contract basis. It was first handed over to Mr. Mahesh who later handed on his responsibilities to Mr. Basavaraj who accepted the offer given by Mr. Mahesh without looking at the required official documents that the school required to run the school.

Mr. Mahesh had no M.A. degree qualification or even an appointment as the headmaster of the school but he was managing the administration of the school. This was not known to the educational department.

There were about 105 children studying in classes 1st to 5th. When I was enlightened of all the developments, I noticed the corrupt practices, which were becoming rampant in the school. It was found that the documents were false. The education department conducted an investigation and made sufficient enquiries. The contract was taken

away from Mr. Mahesh and given to others with the registration of the school on contract basis.



I am a volunteer for the cause of service of the poor children. The little that I did brought satisfaction not only to me but also to many others as well. This is a great achievement I accomplished. The present school management is doing the job well and have greatly appreciated my role in assisting their cause.

WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY Kaveri Shg Group Shines At The Village



Dumti is a small village situated in Sindhanur taluk of Raichur District. 10 years ago, this village had hardly any facilities. The village had a lot of uneducated men and women. Almost 90% of the people depended on their daily earnings. After a day's work, they were paid about 100 to 150 rupees. The people mainly depended on

the rains for their cultivation. Due to the unpredictable weather, the income was very meager compared to other villages. Some had pump sets at the edges of river for their cultivation. Farming was the main occupation of the common person of the village.

At this very juncture, VCT staff Mr. Arogyappa studying the situation, rendered his support by forming Kaveri self-help group of 16 women. Among the 16 members, two were educated marginally and others gradually developed their learning skills in and through the evening school. As daily wage earners, they saved Rs.100 a month, learnt banking, collected information pertaining to various subjects, participated in the training and became more and more efficient. They exposed themselves to the world outside through their initiative and will.

Presently they are capable of operating the entire group without much help and support. The people around the village also recognize that they have initiated development of the village. Now, there is a water facility, electricity, transport facility, qualified teachers to teach in the school, and a lot of other developments are visible in the village.

**"We must find time to stop and thank the people
who make a difference in our lives." - John F. Kennedy**



VCT had initiated the whole process by forming a group of willing members. This has brought lots of change in the village. The group has done lot of other good work as well. They have identified 10 poor deserving families and helped them to get shelters at a suitable place. The group kept perceiving things and they informed the people of the village. The members of this group are dynamic, hard working and dedicated and are always at the service of the people.

There are no shortcuts for success. There are good times and bad times. The society is a mixture of good people and bad people. The bad people take time to mend their ways and the change is a long process. Individual efforts must always be there for anything to work efficiently. The efforts of the Kaveri SHG group members have to be admired. VCT has been the backbone for these selfless members. The whole Kaveri group is indebted to VCT staff Mr. Arogyappa for motivating the group members.

INDIAN LIFE INSURANCE POLICY RESTORES HOPE TO MY FAMILY

"My name is Mrs. Nirmala. I lives in a small village called Gavigattu which comes under Manvi Taluk of Raichur District. I have a small family. My son is (late) Prashanth and daughter Chitra. My husband (late) Mr. Mallappa worked as a bill collector at the Gram Panchayat office. All that he earned was used for our livelihood.

When my son Prashanth was studying in the second standard, he fell ill which prolonged for a long time. Later we discovered that he was suffering from Dengue fever. Doctors had given up hope of the recovery of our son. Prashanth battled for life for a long time and breathed his last at the hospital. In utter



depression of losing our son, my husband started drinking. He continued it for a long time. One day, when my husband was drunk and was riding the bike, he lost control of himself and met with a serious accident. He had seriously succumbed to injuries as iron rods had pierced his body. He died few days after being treated in the hospital. This tragedy of losing both my husband and son was impossible to digest. I had lost hope and I was completely shattered by these two incidents.



When my husband was working, he had taken a life insurance policy. But I was totally ignorant of how to get the insurance to benefit me. It was at this time of need, VCT staff Mr. Arogyappa guided me and worked hard to get the life insurance benefit from the Manvi taluk LIC branch. I received a total sum of Rs.1, 50,000 as insurance. With the money received, I paid the hospital debts of my husband and son. The remaining money I am using for my daughter's education and for self -employment. Without the insurance, I would have lived my life in debt.

VCT members have contributed a great deal in my life. Their timely support, encouragement, and selfless service are something which I cannot forget. They have filled my life with hope when I was struggling. Now I have the courage and confidence to continue life with my daughter. I have the responsibility of securing for her a bright future. I really appreciate the hard work of VCT director and staff and remain ever indebted to this institute. All that I have are words of immense gratitude and I thank them wholeheartedly".

I AM PROUD TO BE A PART OF TUITION CENTER



I am Suresh studying in the 4th standard in a Government primary School Muddammguddi. I am very happy that with the VCT tuitions we are getting educated and also learning music. I am enjoy studying and have improved a lot in Maths

and Hindi. Before coming to this tuition I was very poor and a dull student. Now I feel more confident with the teachers and the training. Thanks to VCT for starting a tuition center in Muddammaguddi, Thank you again.



VIMUKTI AIDS ME TO GET FURTHER EDUCATION

"I am Basavaling from Udbal village, I lost my parents when I was

small and was brought up by my grandmother Mrs. Ellamma. She earned her daily wages through cleaning and washing clothes in different houses. She has been doing this for the past many years in spite of her old age. All that we experience is poverty due to which we find it so difficult to live a decent life.



This prompted me to give up my studies when I reached the 7th standard. I did not appear for the final examination. When I had decided to give up my studies the VCT came to my rescue. Mr. Amaresh the VCT staff visited my family and learnt about our actual situation and the struggle that were going through. He also visited the Udbal primary school where I was studying to enquire about me. In consultation with the school authorities and the teachers, I was readmitted to the school and passed the final examination with good results. Now I have been admitted to the 8th standard in a higher primary school of Utakanur village. My heart is filled with gratitude to VCT who supported me in my dire need. They have helped me to have a bright future for which I will remain ever grateful".

VIMUKTI LIGHTENS THE BURDEN OF MY FAMILY

"I am Mrs. Mookamma the daughter of Mr. Basappa. We live in Dumti village of Sindhanur taluk. We belong to the Schedule caste. I am a Devedasi and have a son and daughter. They are both married and settled down. My son Dyavanna had three daughters and my daughter Basamma had three sons. The two sons of my daughter were bitten by a snake while they were playing in an open field and died. My son Dyavanna within two years of his marriage met with a fatal road accident and passed away too. Basamma lives in her husband's house.



When I lost my dear son the whole responsibility of the family fell on me. I have a small piece of land but I cannot work or till the land by myself. I earn daily wages and run the family. With the help of BDDS society I built a small house in my own land and live with my daughter- in law. We both earn to



bring up my grandchildren and to educate them. What we earned was not sufficient to have a decent life . The only government facility that we have is the ration card through which we get rice and some grains. Often I had to beg with my neighbors for money and other help and remain in debt.

I had no other way than to approach VCT. The VCT studying my case helped me to register under Davdasi Rehabilitation Association ,Raichur because I was not yet a member. Being a member of that association now, I receive a monthly salary under the Davadasi Rehabilitation Association. Money was also sanctioned from this association to build my house.

I feel relieved that from the time I approached the VCT, I live a much better life than from the past. My burden is lightened by this institute. Words would not be sufficient to thank this institute. They have helped me and encouraged me in my time of need. I remain ever grateful to this institute.

VIMUKTI LEADS ME TO SUCCESS

When I was studying in the 6th Standard in Muddangudi School, in our village there were four groups namely Ganga, Sindhu, Kaveri and Yamuna. As I was going to school, I used to meet Mrs. Jacinta the VCT staff who always guided and enlightened students on various subjects. I made up my mind to join the Ganga group.



I got ample opportunities to participate in various programs which were organized by the VCT like, 'Magu Nagu Yojane', a three day children's camp, a children's health camp, develop hobbies, speech, dance, and other amusing activities. I was very regular in attending all these activities and I enjoyed them so much. It was not just a time for fun but I learnt a lot from all them specially discipline, time management, so on and so forth. I became closer than ever to this institute. The VCT recognized my talents and gave me opportunities to go to a higher level. I had a talent for public speaking for which I got a unique opportunity of becoming a member of the child parliament.

Along with Channamma, Monamma, Manjunatha, Yankamma, Hanumagowda I had the privilege of participating in the Child Parliament



Program held in Raichur district on 26th November. A prominent officer from Bangalore was present on this occasion. There were altogether 99 students who participated in this program. We were also told that few would represent the district at the state level. We were divided into five groups and I lead the fifth group. With my best effort and skill I wrote all the problems and our expectations on the stage. I was appreciated by many especially Mr. Ragavenda who had come all the way from Bangalore.

He chose Mallangowda from Raichur, and me, to represent the whole group. Four of us travelled to Bangalore and stayed for two days in Bell Hotel. We were given sufficient time and guidance to prepare ourselves fully to present ourselves before the officers. The four groups were made under Gulbarga division namely Mysore, Bangalore and Belgavi. We together prepared the questionnaire and added many more valuable questions to address the gathering.

We entered the venue to meet the officers with eagerness and much curiosity. The dignitaries like, N.L. Narendrababu, Veeranna Matthikatte, Vimalagowda Kimmani, Rathnakar Ganesh, Ashok Kani were present. We presented before them all the questions and our doubts were clarified. It was a proud moment. Everything went on so well. One can only dream of such an occasion or opportunity. It was a great moment indeed in my life to be in the presence of such dignitaries and I cherish this moment. This was made possible by the VCT that made me achieve a dream. To reach this level there was strong support and encouragement from the director and staff. All that I want to say is a big thank you. I will remain indebted to you always.

VIMUKTI TRANSFORMED MY LIFE

I am Sridevi, daughter of Tikkaya from Devipura. I had a great desire to pursue my studies , however my parents wanted me to take care of my younger sister at home. In spite of the hardships I joined school. Later, however, the poor economic condition of my family forced me to discontinue school.

VCT had started a school for the drop outs with free



"All of us do not have equal talent. But , all of us have an equal opportunity to develop our talents." - A.P.J Abdul Kalam



lodging and a six month skilled course. Miss Jacintha from the Trust visited my family and explained about the school & it's benefits to my parents. My parents agreed to send me to the institution. Upon completion of the six month course they helped me to continue my studies at Manvi Girls High School. I am grateful to VCT for giving me education and a new life. I, along with my parents express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to VCT and its staff.

"FREE FROM MENTAL TORTURE"

We are grateful to VCT for providing employment opportunities for



drop outs when we faced unemployment. We were unemployed for three years and we were pressurized by our parents. The VCT indeed gave us hope by helping us in our search for employment. It not only helped us in finding jobs but also gave us training in tailoring. This training truly ignited our minds

to tailor different kinds of garments. VCT donated us weaving machines too, to continue the work ceaselessly. We are indebted to the help VCT offered us to earn our livelihood.

I AM BACK TO SCHOOL

"I am Rangamma, daughter of Rangappa and was studying in first standard. When I lost my father due to ill health. While I was studying in a government school along with two of my brothers, my uncle and aunt came to my house and took me to Bangalore to take care of their children. I was unwilling to go as I wanted to continue my studies. However, they never paid heed to my request and kept me for two years to look after their children. Fortunately, Mrs. Jacintha happened to visit my house and spoke to my mother who explained my situation. She directly contacted my uncle and advised him to take me back to my hometown to continue my studies. Once I reached home I was readmitted to the



same school and currently I am studying in the fourth standard. I am studying well and scored the first rank in school. Indeed, I am extremely happy to continue my studies. I thank VCT Staff especially Mrs. Jacintha, for helping me to continue my studies and giving me a promising future".



"TRULY HAPPY"

"We live in a small hut at Udbal village in Manvi taluk. We are blessed with five boys and three girls. I am eighty-two and my wife is seventy eight years of old. Due to our advanced age and poor health we find it very difficult to earn our daily bread. The tragedy of our life is neither our children nor the government came forward to lend us a helping hand in our old age.



We came to know about VCT through Mr. Charles who is a regular visitor to our village. He conducts several awareness programs for different age groups. When he visited our house we shared our problem with him and he gave us hope in life stating that he will help in getting us old age pension from his Trust. The following day he came to collect necessary documents and began the process without charging any fee. Currently we get monthly pension without any hassle. For the past four years VCT is helping us through Mr. Charles who is a committed staff member of the organization. We truly admire him and the service rendered by VCT. May God bless VCT in abundance and may it grow to be able to hel the poorest of the poor in society. Thank you Mr. Charles and Vimukti".



"HEARTFELT GRATITUDE"

The people of Malkapura express heartfelt gratitude to VCT and Mr. Charles for providing senior citizen cards to avail the



benefits exclusively programmed for the elderly people of the society. The best thing of this process is that it provided senior citizen cards without any charge. We truly appreciate VCT, Mr. Charles and the entire staff for their support and help.

RAY OF HOPE IN OUR LIFE

We four students of Markamdimmi remain grateful to VCT for giving us six month's education in a special school with all amenities. Once we completed our six month's education Mr. Charles enrolled us in Manvi Girls High School to continue studies. At present we are doing well in our studies. We earnestly wish VCT Trust all the best so that it may be a beacon of light to those students who wish to build their future through education.



VCT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO GET GOVERNMENT BENEFITS



"We (Eranna & Srinivas) and the other farmers depend upon agriculture for our livelihood. In 2014 -15 we had gone to government officials requesting them to provide us with subsidies to purchase



advanced machinery in order to increase the agricultural produce. They denied giving us subsidies on machinery. Thus we approached Mr. Charles a coordinator of VCT with our problem. He enlightened us on various government schemes and also assured us of his help to avail subsidies on machinery. Mr. Charles addressed our issue to the government officials who agreed to offer us a subsidy amount of Rs.19,500/- in buying the planned machinery. It really helped us to increase our produce. We thank VCT and its staff for their excellent support in our struggle of getting government subsidies".

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES LIGHTENED MY BURDEN..



My name is Amaramma ,w/o Yankappa living at Markamdinni village in Manvi taluk. I am a daily wage laborer. I have two children. When I gave birth to my second child I did not get any benefit either form Janani Yojana or Madilu Yojana. I spoke to Mr. Charles the coordinator of VCT about this issue. He promised me with his help and contacted the concerned authorities which resulted in me receiving an amount of Rs. 700.00 from Janani Yojana and Rs. 1000.00 from Madilu Yojana respectively after six months of delivery. I sincerely thank VCT and Mr. Charles for dedicating themselves to the welfare of the downtrodden.

VIMUKTI TRULY BRIGHTENED OUR PATH

We the beneficiaries of Tadhkal (Anchamma) and Udbal (Mariamma) express our gratitude to VCT for their selfless service for our well being. In 2012 - 2013 we had submitted applications to CDPO to avail the benefits under the Self Employment Program. However due to the carelessness of CDPO officials we were deprived of the benefits. We brought this issue to the



You cannot change your future, but you can change your habits, and surely your habits will change your future.

notice of Mr. Charles, the coordinator of VCT. He discussed this matter with the CDPO officials and requested them to forward the names to SBI bank as the earliest. Once our names were forwarded to SBI bank we were sanctioned an amount of Rs.9000.00 under Self Employment Scheme and government's concession amount of Rs. 18,000.00. We utilized this amount with utmost care for the betterment of our life. We sincerely thank Mr. Charles and VCT for their tireless service.



"TRULY, GRATEFUL TO VIMUKTI PARLIAMENT CHILDREN"



I am Yashoda, wife of Mr. Mallappa living in Muddangudi village for the past few years. I have two children, a son and a daughter. Ours is a poverty stricken family. The most affected are my children, especially, my only son. From birth, he suffers from malnutrition and I have tried in

every way to get him treated. But I could see no results after treating him despite giving him extra care and love. He was like this for a long time. This made me ask my daughter to give up her schooling to take care of her brother. And she willingly obliged my request. I struggled to give my son good nutritious food and clothing. At this moment of distress, the VCT children's parliament group of our village came forward to render support in a small way. They collected some funds clothes and fruits. It was a kind deed on their part. They also insisted that I send my daughter to school. Mrs. Jacinta VCT staff of our village enlightened me of the consequences of not sending my daughter to school. I was encouraged by her and she with her entire VCT team rendered their support. As a result, I sent my daughter to school and now she is happy that as her mother I am there to encourage her and she is doing wonderfully well in her studies. I remain ever grateful to the VCT for showing special interest to my family and I thank them sincerely from the bottom of my heart.



WE ARE SELF EMPLOYED...



"Gratitude is the attitude of our heart. Here we have every reason to thank and appreciate the things done in our lives by the VCT. Today, we the trainees Sunanda, Lurdumary, and Sharanamma feel proud



that we have achieved something in life through this institute. At one time we were seeking work and we had none. We were treated harshly by our parents. They kept on insisting that we should find some work. At times we were annoyed with the situation but we could not help ourselves. During this struggle of ours, VCT had organized a tailoring camp in our village. We made use of this opportunity equipped ourselves with this training. We didn't stop at this. We were very eager to learn to stitch different styles of clothes. VCT, seeing our interest and ability, made arrangements to give us tailoring machines. They were real benefactors to us. We couldn't have afforded to acquire them ourselves. Today, we are self employed. We have a lot of satisfaction and peace within ourselves and in our families. We are able to stand on our own feet. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the care, concern and attention shown to us and to our families. We are greatly indebted to this institute. May their good work be blessed and may they be successful always".

"FARMER KISAN CARD" - LIGHTENED THE BURDEN OF THE FARMERS...

The three villages namely Tadkal, Jeenoor Camp and Jeenoor are 25 k.m. away from Taluk center and have limited irrigation facilities. The farmers of this village are basically poor and fully depend on the weather for their cultivation. This has been a way of life for the past few years. Until then these farmers have not received any help from the Agricultural department like tools for cultivation, hybrid seeds etc., At this juncture the VCT staff Mr. Arogyappa who had been visiting our



villages for many years helped these farmers to get necessary facilities from the Agriculture department under the concession scheme of 2014-15. He gave them all the information concerning this scheme and he got their names registered under the "Farmer Kisan Card". Through this they

received many facilities from which they could benefit and improve their standard of living. The farmers of three villages remain ever grateful to Mr. Arogyappa and all other VCT staff for their help and support.

SELF SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED MADE THE DIFFERENCE ...



This is the Story of Vishwacharya of Pothnal village which is situated 25 km away from Manvi Taluka. This small village has a large population of people who are marginally poor. "I am Vishwachrya, 65% physically challenged from my birth and I think for me poverty came also as a blessing. As I was

growing up, I had the responsibility of caring for my entire family. My two children were studying. We had no land to cultivate. The family depended on my earnings. So far I could build a small house from my savings. That is an achievement I could say. I get 1200/-Rs per month from the Government. I also hold a job as a supervisor in the Pothnal village library. The government has many welfare schemes for the physically challenged people. Those who have enough get these facilities by hook or by crook, but the poor have to struggle all the time. In this situation of our VCT Trust staff visited our family and studied our case. Through their intervention, I got self employment. They felt that my family needed more support than other families in and around Pothnal. Now I am self employed at home itself. I have no words to describe

the favor done to me by this selfless institute. I thank them for recognizing me and identifying my needy situation and providing me self employment at home. My family and I will always remain indebted to this institute.



"AN ACT OF GIVING - AN ACT OF LOVE"



French Benefactors show their immense love and support by building a house for the sponsored child Mahabub

"I am Mahabub born and brought up in a poor family. My family condition for the past few years has been miserable and hard to describe. My family and me did not have a decent house

to live in. My father was physically weak, unable to work and had a nervous disorder. He walks on crutches. Three years ago, my mother had deserted the family and now she is back and we are living together as one family. That is the happiest thing to happen in my family. We are two children to our parents. We were living in a thatched house with mud walls. Due to the floods in the year 2009, a portion of the house collapsed and due to poverty we were unable to repair it. First of all we had no proper food to eat and sometimes my father had to practically beg for a single meal. For a long time we were depending on the midday meals which were served



to the children in the primary school at Karbadinni. In this moment of struggle and distress "Ensemble Agissons and Vimukti" came to our rescue, and supported us immensely. They constructed a new house for our family. We also added some amount to make the house little bigger. Now we are very happy to live in this new house. Words fall short to describe their act of giving- an act of love. We remain ever grateful to "Ensemble Agissons-France" for their kindness and generosity. We are indeed blessed to have such donors. "God bless each member of the Ensemble Agissons hundredfold."

VIMUKTHI GIVES MUKTHI FROM UNEMPLOYMENT



"My name is Vijay Lakshmi, daughter of Late Mr. Yellappa, who was the sole bread earner in our family. Our family resides in Sindhanur taluk. We are a family of 5 members - my mother, three younger brothers and I. After I lost my dad, my mother took the responsibility of running the family. But she found it very difficult to make ends meet. As a result, we were always under a financial crisis. This situation caused us a lot of anxiety and stress. With much difficulty I managed to complete my Stitching (Sewing) Course. But I was still jobless and our family could not afford to buy a sewing machine because of our poor financial condition.



However, I wanted to do something to support our family, at least to seek a job in some tailoring shop but that attempt proved to be a failure. I could not go out for work because very often I encountered indecent behavior from immoral youth. This situation forced me to stay at home. I was doing practically nothing worthwhile except some household chores. I was frustrated with this kind of living - unemployed and jobless.

However, things started to change gradually for the better. My life took a new turn when I met Mrs. Jacintha. She is a social worker with VCT Institute. She and her mother explained to me everything about Vimukti Institute and its social activities that were being carried out for the benefits of the poor and needy. This gave me an opportunity to seek their help. I willingly shared all my problems especially my current family situation. Hearing my problems, she asked me for my certificate of the stitching (sewing) course and advised me to submit an application in Municipal Corporation. I did exactly what she asked me to do. After 3 months, she got in touch with me and informed me that the new stitching (sewing) machine had been delivered to my house. I was very happy to receive this message. Above all, I received this sewing machine costing Rs.6500/- absolutely free of cost. They did not charge me anything. Now I am earning Rs.200/- per day which has brought joy and peace in our family. All this has happened because of VCT and through its dedicated social workers.

I am very much grateful to VCT Institute for helping me to get mukthi from my unemployment and encouraging me to stand on my own feet again.



VIMUKTI'S RETRIBUTION AGAINST CORRUPT DISTRIBUTION

"We are the beneficiaries under a state government scheme. Under this scheme we receive free food supplies at a specified amount of quota that is earmarked for this purpose. This distribution of food supplies is channelized through various Anganwadi Centers (AWCs). We



belong to ward No.1 AWC of Muddanagudi village situated under Manvi Taluk. As per government scheme AWC should provide 100 grams of rice, jaggery, eggs, masasla powder, milk powder, etc. to pregnant and prenatal women, weak children and children below the age of 3 years. But we noticed that they provide only 70 grams of ration to the beneficiary which is well below the stipulated quota. Where we questioned them about their malpractices, they argued saying that they do not know the correct rules and calculations and what they provide was correct according to the rules. We were helpless and did not know how to deal with this corrupt distribution.

However, at the right time Mrs. Jacinta came to our aid. She is a social worker at VCT organization. We addressed our issues to her and informed her how the poor people are being deceived in the name of rules and regulations. Next day, Mrs. Jacinta accompanied us to AWC center No.1 and requested them to release proper amount of ration to the beneficiaries. She also exhorted them not to cheat poor people of



their rights and give them what is due to them in a just manner. Otherwise, this issue would be escalated to higher authorities. Further, she appealed to them to listen to the cry of poor people.

The exhortation of Mrs. Jacinta had a great impact on them. Soon they started to



Since I and my wife are both handicapped, earning our daily bread had become a Herculean task and difficult responsibility to shoulder. It seemed our lives were deformed and in darkness. Until one day when light dawned for us which came as a ray of

hope and brought forth a new sunrise in our lives. And VCT is that new sunrise.

They reformed our lives and dispelled our darkness by taking our cause publicly. On 11th January, 2015 on the eve of the 5th anniversary of VCT, they rendered economic support to our family. Through this support I bought 3 goats which are now my added possessions and a source of livelihood.

I am very happy and doing very well. I sincerely thank VCT Pothnal, from the bottom of my heart for giving my family a new lease of life and livelihood for our sustenance.

VIMUKTI STRENGTHENS MY FAMILY

"I am Mrs. Huligamma, the wife of Mr. Huligappa. I live in Karabdinni village of Manvi taluka. I belong to the SC. For the past five years, my husband has been drinking. The drinking habit has destroyed my husband's life and health, and as a result he used to change his jobs time and again because he could not work hard or reached late absented himself from work or fought with his fellow workers and villagers. Many times he used to fight with the neighbors, as a result my children and I were getting physically attacked and once he had chased his mother out of the house in rage. There were also times where we had to spend sleepless nights outside the house in fear. We were fed with his type of behavior but we had to cope up with him.



For the past one year, my husband has been bedridden and sickly. He has high blood pressure, he stutters while speaking, his nose and cheeks turned red with scaly skin. He was sweaty, his eyes were dilated



and hands trembled so badly that he could not even get the key out from the door. He was taken to many hospitals and was given good treatment but he was resisting the treatment and as a result just six months back after a prolonged illness he died. I was shocked and could not withstand this traumatic experience. When my husband expired I did not have any money left for his burial. Some of my relatives and villagers came forward to support me in whatever way they could for his burial.

After the death of my husband I was in total dilemma and struggling to take care my siblings. I had no proper house and children were very small. At times I worked whole day without a meal. When I was in this traumatic situation ,one fine evening as I was returning from work, I met Mrs. Jacintha, VCT animator with whom I shared my feelings and struggles after which I felt extremely peaceful and consoled. Mrs. Jacinta came to my house the very next day and gave me brief information about getting the facility of widow pension from the government. With the help of Jacintha, I could apply immediately for the pension and as a result within four months I received the widows pension from the government. I am very grateful to VCT for their support in my most dire need.

EMANCIPATION FROM CHILD LABOR

"I, Kavitha am the 2nd daughter of my parents. My father is Mr. Amaresh and mother Mrs. Deveamma. We are residing in Tadkal village, Manvi Taluka, Raichur District. We are very poor and my parents work as day laborers. We have our own house and little property.



For the past many years my parents migrate to Bangaluru in search of work and return in December for holidays year after year. For the last three years due to poverty, financial constraints they have been sending me for grazing sheep. Very often I have

been requesting my parents to admit me to school since I had dropped out three years ago. Looking at my companions going to the school regularly ,many times I have felt very bad with my situation. Now I am a ten year old girl.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

-African Proverb



Just few days ago VCT staff Mr. Arogyappa who visited my village was doing a dropout survey and at the same time my parents too had returned home from Bangaluru to cast their vote. Meanwhile the VCT animator came to my house and explained to my parents about the importance of education, and consequences of child marriage and child labor. After a long discussion and constant visits my parents were convinced. As a result I was really inspired and motivated to go to school regularly. Very next day along with my parents I went and got admitted to the 4th standard in a special School. Now my mother is at home grazing sheep and my father works in Bangaluru.

Now I am very happy and regularly go to school. VCT has quenched my thirst for education. It is a U turn through which I could gain hope to make my dreams a reality. VCT is successfully working for the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden children like me.

LAKSHMI DEVI STRIVES TO SECURE A GOOD JOB AND REACH OUT TO HER FAMILY

I am Mrs. Lakshmi Devi, from Nalagamdinni village in Manvi Taluka, of Raichur District. I was born in 1991. Ours is a small family. My parents are Mr. Basavraj and Mrs. Amamma. We have a small agricultural land



which is a source of income for the family. Four years ago my father borrowed a loan from the bank in order to cultivate paddy for our daily sustenance. Due to the lack of rain, fields did not yield good crop and as a result my father committed suicide. At that time I was studying in the 9th standard and my younger brother was studying in the 6th

std. After the death of my father we had to sell our property in order to repay the loan. Then, onwards my mother started earning and brought in income for the family. After high school I was helping my mother in her work but she was really struggling in order to give us good education. I had a great desire to continue my studies but due to poverty and family constraints, I discontinued my studies. At this crucial time VCT animators visited my family and promised me to get financial help



from Vimukti. VCT after studying our family situation helped me to continue my degree studies at Manvi. I am the only girl from my village who has stepped into a college. To make my life comfortable VCT has offered me a cheque of Rs.8000/-, clothes, books, a bag and other study material. I am really indebted to the VCT center for the whole hearted support to further my studies. I want to secure good results and to get a good job soon after my studies, so that I may lessen my family's burden. My aspiration is to take care of my beloved mother and my younger brother and live decent lives. I am thankful to the whole VCT team for their whole hearted support.



VIMUKTI QUENCHES MY THIRST FOR EDUCATION.

"I am Radhika, the daughter of Mr. Mallappa and Mrs. Huchamma from the village Mudammaguddi of Manvi taluka. To my parents we are only two children. Three years ago I was a student of 2nd std. I was



forced to leave school because my younger brother was suffering from a mental ailment and hence there was no one to look after him. However, I had an ardent desire to continue my studies but I could not do it due to poverty and absence of anyone to take care of my sick brother.

For about two years, I was taking care of my younger brother. Few days back VCT animator visited my house along with children's parliament members. I expressed my difficulties of not going to school. They assured me that they would convince my parents and admit me to school again. The very next day VCT animators visited my house and persuaded my parents and as a result today I am a regular student like many other children.





Now I am able to read and write. When I look at the society today, there are many children who like me are deprived of their basic education. I humbly appeal to the government agencies and the NGO's to come forward to help them and brighten their lives.

I am deeply indebted to the VCT, Mrs. Jacintha and all the children parliament members who supported and motivated me. I am excited to say that even though I was a 4th std. school dropout, and had forgotten the alphabet, now once again I have learnt how to read and write. I am proud of myself. My aspiration is to take care of my beloved parents and my sick brother and to live a better life.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

(A Man was arrested and booked under POCSO ACT for raping and impregnating a 15 year old girl)

Spirituality enhances life. It boosts the shattered or the weak soul.



Spiritual guidance is the most effective means where one can benefit maximum in the journey of life. Timely spiritual guidance can heal one's deepest problems and add value to human life. Recently in a nearby village a minor girl was allegedly raped. The Girl had a traumatic experience and she was emotionally disturbed. It took her a long time to come out of this bad 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 engaged himself totally in giving spiritual counseling and help to the traumatized rape 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 also were 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.

Spiritual counseling had helped the child to grow spiritually. She was able to identify the values in her and thus move forward to live a better life in future. Throughout the sessions, the child was persuaded



to muster self-confidence and thus regained her strength through analysis filling her with lots of positive aspects of life. The sharing and interaction helped her to cultivate self-esteem, awareness, understanding, clarity and spirituality.

Later the man who had allegedly raped and impregnated the minor girl was arrested. Further the Police have booked the culprit under POCSO act.

Meanwhile the girl was produced before CWC ,Raichur for a medical checkup. VCT demanded CWC to give complete protection and support so that she may totally recover from the trauma and also gave her requisite medical assistance. Now she is sheltered at CWC at Bagalkot. Recently VCT director and staff visited the CWC Bagalkot and offered the child clothes and other necessary material for her daily use. VCT has made every effort to bring justice to the child through using various strategies. Assurance and hope is filled in the life of the child.



'EDUCATION' A TOOL FOR A GIRL TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TO GAIN STATUS IN THE SOCIETY

Mallamma, 23 years old is a woman of great courage and determination. She was forced to discontinue her studies after class 12th and hard situations pushed her into marriage when a city boy's alliance came her way. Reluctant, yet having no choice, she got married at the age of 15. From that moment on Mallamma's life took a drastic turn when, after two years of her marriage, her husband began to love someone else in her village, and day by day he started to discriminate her because she belonged to a low caste family. One fine evening she returned back to





her family along with a year old son. For about six months she stayed at home along with her parents. Meanwhile one day VCT animators visited her house and found her very active and jovial. Animators enquired about her and whether she was interested to join VCT as animator. She willingly accepted and without delay joined the VCT organization. She became a very active member of VCT team and worked hard and efficiently. She used to participate in all training programs and she had unique talents to attract people through her speech and family visits. Being in the VCT organization she learnt and gained a lot for her future. One evening she expressed the desire to leave the organization and to continue her studies in a neighboring town. With all the present day difficulties, she is pursuing her higher studies. She has a single aim in life, that is, after her studies she wants to get a government job. Mallamma inspires other girls insisting that education is the only way for a girl to be independent and gain respect in her own right. From feeling helpless and being unhappy, today Mallamma is bold and confident enough to make her own decisions and stand by them. This change occurred ever since she became involved with the Vimukti, which has given her a new horizon in life.

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT MADE ME COURAGEOUS

Utakanoor village in Raichur District illustrates the hardships and setbacks faced by children parliament in carrying out their assigned task. VCT children's parliament in this village was forced to disrupt their team, after they tried to stop the wedding of an



underage girl (who was also a relative of the Panchyath member) and for filing a police complaint about the incident. After few days, the villagers and village leaders turned against the girls and their parents. The VCT animator was beaten and threatened with further violence for her part in such an action. The girls were asked to quit the children's parliament by their families. VCT animators visited the village one month after the incident occurred, to find out if this hostility still continued. As we started talking to the girls, hostile villagers began to surround the area. Every time the girls tried to answer a question, the



villagers pressurized them. One man even tried to disrupt the meeting. We were forced to leave soon after. As we were leaving, we were told, no matter how many of us come, we will not allow you to motivate our children. The girls want to re-establish the children's parliament as soon as possible, although village opposition is so great that VCT personnel cannot even discuss this matter in the village. Knowing that they would have to face the repercussions of their actions, the girls have overlooked the community pressure by coming over to the VCT center to meet us. This courage is extraordinary and testifies to us the impact the children's parliament has had on this particular girl and other members.

'TODAY I AM HOPEFUL OF A BRIGHT FUTURE'



I, Savitha, born in 2002, am a physically handicapped girl from birth. Though I joined school, it was not easy to go to school every day as I needed help always. But I did not give up even though I missed classes many times. I studied at Markamdinni

upto high school which was 2. k.m, away from my house. My friends used to take me to school in their toy cycle.

Now I am studying in 10th standard with great difficulty. However, since I had to crawl always, my leg was injured and there was a wound. When I was in class IX the wound had become bigger and the pain was severe. I had taken treatment but to no avail. VCT helped me by giving me special medicine and my leg got cured. Last year looking at me struggle they offered me a tricycle which helped me to go to school without difficulty. Earlier I was going to school with crutches but now I go to school in a tricycle.

I am happy to say that I can go to school without anybody's help and as much as possible I am able to travel alone from place to place. Now I am also attending computer classes. I am thankful to VCT organization for their selfless service and help to me. I am hopeful of a bright future.

"I'D LIKE TO BECOME A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHER PHYSICALLY-CHALLENGED GIRLS"



"I, Miss Nirmala Markamdinni, am a polio- affected girl from Karnataka. I have studied up to Xth std. I was doing household work and was feeling depressed. One day, the animator from VCT came to our village. He also met my parents and told them about



the facility of tailoring and embroidery training with hostel facility at Church Farm, Jawlgere. In the beginning I was not willing to leave home. My parents were also not ready to send me to Church Farm. However, He kept on visiting and motivating us. My uncle Mr. Kariyappa once visited Church Farm and was quite pleased. Eventually I was sent to church farm. After the completion of the six month training, I got a certificate, a new sewing machine and some clothes.

In 2013, I started my tailoring shop in our village. In the beginning I was mending torn pants, frocks, shirts, blouses, etc. I also stitched blouses, frocks, petticoats and dresses with the clothes I got from Church Farm. Seeing the newly stitched blouses, frocks and petticoats, women from neighboring villages started coming to get their dresses stitched. Slowly, the number of the customers increased and my earning also increased. I earn around Rs. 2500 to Rs.3000/- per month. Now I am supporting my family and I also have opened a savings bank account and I have already saved Rs.28000/-.

I am happy to say that I am the bread winner of my family. I have no time to brood over my life but I am always busy with my work. I would like to become a role model for other physically challenged people in my area. With my initiative, 'Jothi swasaya Sangha' an SHG has been formed of which I am the president.

Today, I am not just a helpless polio-affected girl but another citizen in the society living like any other person independently. This was only possible due to the timely intervention of VCT animator Charlie. I know VCT has supported me through Ensemble Agissons. My sincere thanks to them".

ADVISE FOR THE BETTER LIVING



Utaknoor is the small village in Raichur District, Karnataka and it is surrounded by paddy fields. There are 750 families living in this village. This village consists of a famous Siddaligeshwara temple and mosque. People are fully dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. Here people are very traditional in their dealings. 91% people from this village are uneducated. From the last 10 years education has played a major role in this village. They have been sending their children to schools. Many child marriages have taken place, and parents are yet to be motivated in this regard.

In 2014, nearly 28 girls who passed 10th standard could not continue their further studies because of the distance (17. K.m). These 28 girls were deprived of their further studies due to various reasons.



VCT ® Pothnal visited this village several times and studied the situation and motivated them. They opened a tailoring & computer training center in the village. VCT has been promoting many life skill oriented programs especially to these girls. The purpose of this training is to promote the dignity and to create self-employment among the youth and women of the village. So far, 129 girls have benefited from this training. VCT is supporting and promoting life skill orientation to the unqualified and the unemployed youth and women, which would create self -employment and help them to stand on their own feet. Mrs. Mallamma the staff member of VCT shared her views and experiences to the group and encouraged them.

RE- ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL AFTER A BREAK OF TWO YEARS:



Sunkunoor is a beautiful village situated in Manvi taluka of Raichur district in Karnataka. Muthanna the boy is the fourth child after 3 girls. He was studying in the 6th standard at a primary school nearby. The youngest girl child Shanthamma was going to an anganwadi. Then, later, the elder girls got married but the debts of the marriage were pending, so there was external pressure on the family. Meanwhile, Amamma went to the 10th Std. and Shakunthala to 7th Std, the following year. The pending school fee of about Rs.2500, made the principal refuse Muthanna .



Muthanna's father Mr. Anil went to the government school seeking admission the following year, but the headmaster asked for the TC from the previous school. The school laid a condition that if they were to give the TC; they had to pay the pending fees. So the effort of getting admission in the government school was in vain that year. Since the house of Muthanna was located in the outskirts of Sukanoor village, the family was not aware of the Markumdinni Children's Parliament that was functioning in the neighboring village.

In this hopeless situation, Muthanna gradually came to know of the activities of the children's parliament and realized of the opportunities that he missed all these days to develop himself. He requested the Prime Minister, Vijay to enroll him as a member of the Parliament and with the consent of the members he was taken in. Immediately, after knowing about the situation of Muthanna of being deprived of education, the children took efforts to admit him back to school.

This decision was taken on June 25th, 2015 by the members of the parliament, and a medical certificate was issued to admit him to the 8th STD at Markumdinni Government Higher Secondary School. Now the life of the Muthanna has changed. He is more confident about a bright future. Thanks to the Markumdinni children's parliament.

I AM PROUD OF MY WORK....



I am Nagaraj, from Pothnal, Raichur, Karnataka. I am a student of Navachethana high school Kavital. I came to know about FVTRS advance Electrician course at CCFT centre, Jawalgera farm. I thought if I do this program it would enhance

my job opportunities and hence I took up this training with the help of VCT and got trained as an Electrician in an advanced course. After completing this training program I was very confident in working in an industry as this training inspired me and gave me the confidence to work more efficiently. Later I joined a group of electricians at Shivmogga and took up wiring work for new house constructions. Within one year, I left these groups and began individually and took up house wiring work more confidently. Till date I have completed wiring work of 40 new houses and as a result I am earning 20,000/- per month. I am proud of myself and grateful to VCT for the support and encouragement to reach my goal.



TUITION CLASSES MOTIVATED ME TO GO SCHOOL REGULARLY

Pavithra belongs to Belwat village in Manvi taluka. Her parents work in the fields. She gave up studies when she was in the third standard. Now she helps her parents in looking after the household work. Whenever she finds time, without the knowledge of her parents, she attends tuition



classes. She is 11 years old. Now she doesn't want to miss tuition classes as a result she is very active. After she joined the tuition classes, she went back home and got herself admitted to the fourth standard at the school in her village. She goes to school regularly and also motivates other children to do the same. She is loved and admired as a good girl by all the teachers of her school.

TIMELY HELP TO REACH OUR GOALS...

This year the 2nd batch of Advanced Skills Training for girls above 6 years was successfully completed. About 228 have been trained in tailoring since the inception of this VCT organization.



The trainees hail from various village communities. This training is an integral part of the VCT strategy to prevent child labor and early marriages. Courses like tailoring, computers were chosen for providing sustainable livelihood options. The literacy rate in Raichur district stands at a dismally low level of 55%. But if one were to look at literacy rate of SC/STs especially the girl child, the situation is far worse. Most of the SC/ST children drop out of school and start working as child and bonded laborers. A study in nearby villages revealed that 7 out of 10 girls stop studying after 10th standard and 70% are going for agricultural work. After getting socially involved in whole of Manvi Taluka, VCT has created an awareness that every child has a fundamental right- right to education and other rights. VCT therefore has totally dedicated itself towards literacy and education of children as a part of a larger and integrated process of social, economic and political change and empowerment of such girls.

Vocational training alone has evolved into the next logical step of economic empowerment. As a result, many trainees have purchased sewing machines and earn their livelihood.

SHARING FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY BY STITCHING CLOTHES GIVES ME A LOT OF SATISFACTION



"My name is Miss Shakunthal and I am from Udbal Manvi taluka. I lost my father five years ago. My mother is sickly and aged. My elder brother migrated to Bangalore for Metro work and he doesn't show any interest in the family. I am uneducated and learnt tailoring with the support of the neighbors, But I did not have money to buy a sewing machine. I was really worried and one fine morning VCT animator Charlie visited my family. I shared the struggles of my family. He encouraged me by introducing me to the VCT organization. I approached VCT and explained my situation to the director.



The organization offered me a new sewing machine with the condition that at the end of the year I had to give back half of the amount which the machine cost. When I started stitching at home all my neighbors started bringing clothes for sewing to me. People were impressed with the way I was stitching clothes and they started bringing a lot more clothes over a period of time. This way I was able to help my family. Now I am earning from Rs. 350 to Rs. 450 per day .I also teach stitching to four girls at home. On the whole I am earning a pretty good income with which I am clearing all our loans and also sharing the family burden. I thank VCT organization for guiding me and supporting me at the right time, to become someone in society.

VIMUKTI ENHANCES THE LIFE OF AN ORPHAN CHILD RENUKA



Life is a precious gift of God. We all have the duty to promote, to protect and to sustain life. Human life is considered to be the most valuable gift which we have received from God. VCT from the past few years has been adding value to human lives especially to the lives of children who are poor and distressed in and around Pothnal, Raichur District for their all round development, welfare and growth. Among



the many privileged Renuka is one of them. Recently it was discovered that she was suffering from an incurable disease and she was in her last stages. She had no one she could call her own in society and even her only brother had abandoned her. In this difficult situation, VCT trust

added value to her life by caring for her so much and helped her to get the best treatment in the hospital. Further she was taken to Mangalore Wenlock Hospital. She was given all the necessary treatment by the doctors to prolong her life. The VCT almost spent 60 to 70 thousand rupees for the medicines and treatment.

On behalf of Renuka we the members and staff of VCT trust like to remember all those people who came forward to support her in her last journey of life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev Fr. Provincial, Fr. Fredrick Rodrigues, Fr. Alwyn D'silva, Fr. Devdass Dolphy Serrao and Lion's Club Mangalore, who generously contributed their resources to treat her. It was a kind gesture of you all. This shows your sincere interest and your concern for the poor and the needy. We thank you for your wholehearted support in this regard. May God shower his choicest blessings upon you all. We will always remain indebted to you for all that you do to us and for our children. We tried our best that Renuka was never lonely or sad in her final stage of life. All that we have done is we have added dignity to her life. Thank you and God bless you.

MEERA'S FIGHT NEVER ENDS...



Meera (name changed, Manvi, Raichur, 14 years, raped by a man and acquired forced unwanted pregnancy). She suffered over a year with deepest emotions and fears caused by the rapist. Anxiety, stress, depression, sadness, loss of self confidence haunted Meera for a long time.

Meera delivered a baby girl, who would grow into an unwanted, unaccepted child by her own family, community and society. Meera's fight never ends.

CHINNU LEADING A POSITIVE LIFE WITH A POSITIVE HEART



Children are resilient; they are optimistic and they believe in miracles. Perhaps that is why this 10-year-old Chinnu is still alive, despite her heart growing outside her chest cavity. Her parents are migrant laborers who travel every month from one place to another place in search of work. Normally they live in tents on road sides seeking work and continue to struggle for survival. Because of unemployment and drought this family is wandering from one place to another. Recently VCT came into contact with Chinnu's family on the Manvi road side living under a plastic tent. There are over 100 houses in a private land at Manvi, which is located about 1.k.m, away from the heart of the city. This area, which looks like a slum, does not have any facility other than thatched mini-huts which functions as a roof over the heads of families. They have to walk two kilometers to get drinking water, and they do not have toilets.

Chinnu's family explained about their problems that a private person collects monthly rent from them. They don't have ration card, voter ID, Aadhar card etc, and no of facilities needed to get a rented home is being extended to them. These migrant families face lot of hardship and struggle for survival. Open defecation by the residents here also creates problems, foul odour encompassing their house and as a result Chinnu's family suffered very often with Malaria, chickenguniya etc. Her parents were passing through mental turmoil as her health condition was declining day by day which was a cause of concern. Chinnu has a thin layer of skin covering and protecting her heart that's beating outside her chest. Fighting all odds, the girl not only continues to live with difficulty. Several hospitals have turned her down due to the complicated nature of her surgery. Her parents have spent more than four lakhs for her health but no improvement. Thus, they have lost hope on Chinnu and her parents wanted to abandon her. But like a blessing in disguise Vimukti came to know this situation and without delay visited the family. Counseling was done to the parents and a clear understanding was given to this family. Now, for the past four months her parents are



relieved from tension and anxiety. VCT is encouraging and supporting them in many ways. Chinnu's parents are very grateful to VCT for being there at every moment of their life." The 'Vimukti' social work center of Capuchin Fathers of Pothnal, Raichur district is taking care of this child since one year. We invite all the readers to extend your helping hands to help this child and its family in whatever way you could. Let us enhance the life of this child and its family.

VIMUKTI LIGHTENED OUR BURDEN

"We, the 4 students from Markamdimmi remain grateful to VCT for giving us education for 6 Months in a special school with all the facilities and basic needs. After finishing our 6 months study, Mr. Charles took us for the further studies to Manvi girl's



high school. Now we are doing well in our studies and happy so we thank the VCT for lighting our life with extending education to us .we wish that VCT may grow bigger and bigger and may it light the life of many more children just like me who are not able to fulfill their goal and specially the dropouts".



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO VCT FOR EMPLOYING US BECAUSE WE WERE UNEMPLOYED AND DROP OUT STUDENTS.

"The VCT has become the light to our life from three years since we were unemployed our parents used to tell us to go for work which was making us feel very bad. At the same time the VCT trained us in dress making. We learnt all kinds of dress making and we came out successfully. VCT also provided us with sewing machines. We remain grateful to VCT for making getting us employment to earn our livelihood and stand on our own.

HAPPINESS IN LIFE THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF GOD



"I, Ms. Rathamma ,d/o Lingappa, Dotharabandi would like to share with you the wonders that happened in my life. I am 15 years old and born physically challenged. I cannot walk like other people because my legs are strengthless and weak to take steps or walk normally. Others have to carry me to go to anywhere and it takes 1

1/2 to go to the toilet in the fields. It is really miserable. My regular job is to cook and maintain the house.

But one day God turned his mercy towards me. VCT, after studying my condition, bought me a three wheeler bicycle free of cost. I was not registered in the hospital when I was born as a result I could not get any aid from the government. Recently VCT took lot of interest and care in order to get the physical disability Identity Card for especial benefits from the government. As a result the very next month I could get my pension of Rs. 1200, besides other benefits from the government.



A million thanks overflow from my heart to the VCT for their selfless service.



RELIEF FROM SUFFERING AND PAIN



"My name is Renuka.

I am 38 years old and my husband is Yenkappa. We are from Jeenur Camp. I am married for 20 years, spending my time with my family happily and joyfully. But I have undergone a sexual problem and for the past two years I was very sad. I dint

know what was happening to me. I was ashamed to share this painful experience which was within me. It was ruining my happiness and joy every moment of my life. Due to this I was suffering for many years.

When I was in pain and suffering, I met Mrs. Vidya who is working in the VCT. I shared the story of my life with her. At the beginning I felt ashamed to tell her everything but as we got speaking I was more open and told her the reality with full trust. Having known my problem she consoled me and encouraged me not to lose hope. She stood by me and helped me undergo treatment. She educated me about the illness. She came with me to the hospital in Raichur and was always to help me. I have received the treatment from the doctors and am now under medication. There is a lot of improvement in my health.

I sincerely thank all the VCT staff especially Ms. Vidya and the Director Fr. Satish. I will never forget what they have done for me. Words of thanks may disappear in the air but my heartfelt gratitude will never fade away in my heart.

THE VEIL OF TWO PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED GIRLS OF THE SAME FAMILY

"I, am Ms. Siddhalingamma ,d/o Channabasara, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the VCT. We are 5 members in our family Channabaspa, father and Neelamma, mother. Basvalinga, younger brother and elder sister Mallamma. We don't have any



Tension is who you think you should be.
Relaxation is who you are.- Chinese Proverb



property. My father is a coolie ,mother remains at home to look after us. Younger brother has gone to Bangalore for work. We are living in a miserable state of affairs. About 5 years back I and my sister have become physically handicapped, and are deprived of monetary benefits from the government. The amount to help the physically challenged has been released in the month of October and January, but it had not reached us which is very sad.

We are not physically challenged from birth. It happened when we fell sick and were studying in the 2nd and 4th standard. We do not know how it came to be. Our lives are in a pathetic condition. We are unable to do even our own work by ourselves. To respond to nature's call someone has to carry us to the field and even for a bath we need someone's help. We even find it difficult to have food. When the VCT noticed our situation, we were given a three-wheeled bicycle. This helped us a lot in life. Thanks to the VCT for their generosity".

INDEPENDENT BLIND MAN



I am Nagraj, born blind, Parents-Errappa and Rangamma, from Karabdinni, Manvi Taluk. My parents help me in every way possible. I am regular to school with the help of the neighboring

children. So I started going to the field to respond to nature's call with the help of a stick independently. I have been knocked down by cows and dogs several times.

At this time VCT came to my rescue by giving me a stick which facilitates the blind with a bell attached to its head. Therefore with this bell I can avoid and chase away the animals which are in the way when I go to respond to my personal needs. I am really happy and content. A Million Thanks.





VIMUKTI REACHES ANOTHER MILESTONE!

The spirit of democracy cannot be imposed from without. It has to come from within. In true democracy every man and woman is taught to think for himself or herself. - M. K. Gandhi

VCT has something very positive to share with all the readers. It has been working well for the development of the children in various villages, and recently it has come up with a unit as the 'children's parliament' which is a new trend to create a strong impact in bringing some changes in the society.

As the beautiful quote says "If you see someone without a smile give one of yours" is very applicable in the context of today`s world. We see many people especially the children who are without a smile due to various reasons. This institute has brought smiles on the faces of many children of the villages in and around Pothnal. The institute has 21 villages in which 1250 children are the members of this club. As the members of this club they have benefitted in various ways. From the inception of this institute there are various programs which were held to help the children.

The need to empower children is accepted and well recognized by everyone. The children need more learning opportunities to understand their rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and other International Conventions and also to experience democracy in a participatory way. They need to be taken into confidence, and be involved in the affairs of the villages, schools and panchayats, if a meaningful empowerment is intended for them. It is a movement of children who are self-confident and believe that they can come together, think, analyze socio political happenings at a certain level, speak about them and make decisions and act on them together.

We know that the children's parliament is a powerful force in the present day society. It can directly involve eradicating multiple defects and evils of the society. As the children are the future citizens of the society this new trend trains them to be effective instruments of the society. The VCT has great satisfaction as it formed the children's parliament. And it wishes the best for the smooth functioning of this movement.

VIMUKTI CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT MISSION:



To obtain accurate evolution on the scope, nature and impact of Children's parliament, to build self esteem and self confidence in all children to be used in developing future legislative and program interventions.

Objectives

- To have 100% registration and attendance in every school
- To give an independent voice to every Child
- To develop leadership qualities at a tender age
- To create awareness on their rights
- To improve their civic sense
- Improving their communication and negotiation skills.
- Building inter-personal relationship between children and also between children and the Government.
- To create awareness on various issues in their villages
- To provide an arena for children to involve in action responses.

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT:

Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a cleverer devil. -C. S. Lewis

In the present world, we can think of some change in the world only through the leadership of children when they question how? It's very simple and the latest organization is called the "Children's Parliament". Children's Parliament gives a chance to speak for the children, by the children and of the children. It serves as a platform for the children to develop leadership skills, confidence, team spirit, analytical skills and maturity. This is nothing other than an organization/movement for children. VCT has indeed worked wonders and has lit a spark of rejuvenation and vigor to traverse the un-trodden paths, striving to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children who have been anxiously waiting to be lifted up from the drudgeries of life's struggle and help them find meaning in life.

PARLIAMENT AT THE GRASSROOTS (BUS FACILITY):



No doubt a Children's Parliament is a strong force and has succeeded in getting what they wanted. Here, we would like to bring to your notice, its first achievement in the Pothnal area. In many of the villages in and around Pothnal, there was a lack of proper



transport facilities. People and especially the children were the worst hit victims of this. In Nalgamdinni, Iralagaddi, Utakanur, Karabadinni, Devipura, Muddanguddi villages, the children face transport difficulties and due to which, many a time they have to bunk school and college. During peak

hours in the morning as well as in the evening there is hardly any bus facility in these areas. That is why this Children's Parliament approached the Taluk transport department, with a strong urge to do something concrete immediately. After their pleading the unit head Mr J.T. Choudari promised to provide transport facility from October 21, 2014. The Children's Parliament members warned them that if they fail to fulfill their need, they will counter the head of transport ministry by way of protest. On this occasion Miss. Mamatha, Mr. Arogyappa, Mrs. Geeta Patil, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Charlie were present.



This was indeed a drastic move in getting in touch with serious problems. The CP has indeed showed its might and power and by their challenging approach to these petty issues has made the children more concerned about their well being and at the same time responded to the demanding needs of the society. The VCT wishes that the children may be better equipped to respond to the various issues, thus, bringing a sign of relief and a happy smile on the faces of hundreds of people who long to see such amazing tasks being handled right in their midst, by the Children's Parliament.



This first ingenious move will surely drive a strong impulse in making the people and even the government officials feel the importance and necessity of having such units of force and energy in driving away the woes and worries of the people.

A PLEA TOWARDS THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC AMENITIES IN MARKAMDHINI VILLAGE



In the recent times health has played a vital role in facilitating the growth and the development of society. A serene life is possible if only the living conditions are better taken care off. Many a time due to lack of favorable and suitable living conditions human life has deteriorated and humanity is at

a loss. So, it is very important to note that the fundamental human requirements are to be fulfilled at any cost. Pure drinking water is one of the basic amenities needed everywhere. There are lots of diseases that occur due to consumption of polluted water. In our target villages , Utaknur, Dotharbandi, Tadal, Belavata, Sunkanur were the most affected areas which did not have proper basic amenities. Keeping this in mind, the VCT organization led the Children's Parliament to submit a note to P.D.O of the Gram Panchayat. This note included in detail how the people from their area were



affected due to the consumption of polluted water. The water also stagnated around the roads and was polluted and dirty water. Sad to say, there are no drains to let the water out and make the road or even the area free from stagnant water problems. This has given rise to multiple chances of increase of mosquitoes an other diseases which spread everywhere. The P.D.O was asked to take note of these problems immediately.

PANCHAYAT PRESIDENT MR. VEKATESH NAYAK FULFILS THE CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT REQUEST:



The Muddammaguddi primary school lacked drinking water facilities for its students. The children had to walk a kilometer to have a glass of water. The children's Parliament of that village decided to take the initiative and address this issue faced by the children and sought the help of the panchayat president, Mr. Vekatesh Nayak. He could not refuse this pressing demand and the kind request of the children. The President made sure that a water tank and fresh drinking water facility was made available at the school premises. Thanks to the children parliamentarians and the panchayat governance!!

BRINGING LIGHT TO OUR HOMES:



The children's parliament took notice of the Muddamaguddi village in Raichur district where people were groping in darkness for a long time. The children couldn't go out to study or play. The electrical poles and wires were not in good condition. This affected both the children and the elders. We, the children ministers, gave a petition to our ward member and kept on reminding him. This initiative brought 12 new street lights and new wires were installed.

INTEGRATED TOILET FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN:



The women and children had to use open places for defecation. This was a common phenomenon in these villages. But the members of the children's parliament of the Markamdinni village decided to do everything possible to ensure the privacy for the women and children of the village. The children's parliament took the lead in this issue very seriously.



The parliamentarians brought the issue to the notice of the panchayat administration by giving a strong memorandum. The panchayat now has promised that they will look the after matter without fail.

A CLEAN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:

The students of the Government Primary School of the Muddammaguddi village had been answering natures call all over the school premises since the school did not have water facility. The



children's parliament of the area appealed to Mr. Vekatesh Nayak, the panchayat president in the Grama Sabha meeting stressing on the need of a clean school environment. Now the school has a water facility in the premises.

RESCUE OF CHILD LABORERS:

We had discovered 35 children who were employed as workers in the wayside Tiffin and tea stalls, flaking cotton, and grazing cattle. They are now enrolled as the beneficiaries of the Sarva Siksha Abhian



(SSA) Scheme. Some of them were not willing to attend the regular classes. They were sent for short term courses like electrical course, tailoring, plumbing, T.V repair etc.



CHARITY IN REALITY

Sharannappa and Gurupadda from Muddammaguddi were about to discontinue their P.U. first year studies due to lack of finance and poverty. The VCT and our children's parliament members pooled together the sum of Rs 8,000/- (the required amount) of the fees, and thus helped these boys to continue their studies. These are the first of the youths from this village who pursued to complete their studies. They are a role model to all youths. We congratulate them and wish them all the best.



EDUCATING CHILDREN BY GUIDING THE PARENTS

10 year old Devaraj, from Karabadhinni Manvi taluka was forced to discontinue his schooling after class 2nd. VCT animators along with the



boys and the school teacher from his village pursued the issue with Devaraj's parents and advised the family constantly on the importance of education until they consented to let their son to resume his studies.

ANGANWADI TEACHER'S VISIT ENSURED:



The Anganwadi teacher had been absent for a long time in Dothrabaddi village. The children's parliament members of that locality took notice of this, discussed it in their meetings and brought the matter to the leader of the village. The village leader took action and the anganwadi

teacher has been regular at school these days. Thanks to the children's parliament members.

CHILDREN BRING DROPOUTS BACK TO SCHOOL

In government schools, absenteeism and dropouts are a common occurrence. Government Higher Primary School, Mudammaguddi, Pothnal Gram panchyat was witness to this familiar tale. Devraj and Nagarathna skipped school and worked as laborers, grazing cows. Fortunately, VCT animator Mrs. Jacinta visited their houses very often and convinced their parents. But they did not turn up. VCT club members decided to fight for the



rights of their classmates. Forty children carrying a VCT banner went up to the family and told them that employing children as laborers' was a punishable offence and persuaded them to send them to school. Their efforts paid off and they had their classmates back in school with them.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Two girl children from Devipur village, completed the 10th standard and dropped out for a year. The children along with the staff discussed about it in their parliament and went to these families and talked to their parents, motivated them to send their children to the school. We





approached the headmaster to get them notebooks, textbooks and uniforms. Now they are studying in the First P.U.C. Thus the children's parliament members helped these girls to get higher education.



BASIC NEEDS

The Markamdinni village children's parliament students organized a rally on "SAVE MOTHER EARTH", mainly an awareness program for the village people on the conservation of water, plastic ban, cleanliness, health and hygiene and also to create an awareness among the people about the bad effects like mental degradation, after which a



memorandum was submitted to the president of the village panchyath to repair the bore well and to provide dust bins in front of the school.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S PLIGHT PUT TO AN END

The plight of women and children walking a long distance to fetch drinking water in Markamdinni invited the attention of the children's parliamentarians of that particular neighborhood. The children approached the panchayat president and pressed on him to take the earliest action possible. A bore well was dug and a hand pump was fixed to solve the issue. Thanks to the initiatives of these young parliamentarians!!



AVAIL BENEFITS OF BHAGYA LAKSHMI SCHEME OF THE GOVERNMENT



The main aim of the scheme is for those women from the economically weaker sections of the society who should come forward to avail the benefits of the Bhagya Lakshmi scheme and ensure a secure future for their girl children. But still the women in the society are subjected to severe mental and physical harassment if they fail to bear a male child. Some traditional customs practiced from centuries had encouraged ill treatment of the girl child and the disparity between the genders was sad besides the injustice caused to the women. The government had launched the ambitious Bhagya Laxmi bond. Knowing the importance of this scheme the staff helped two children to receive benefits.



SHIFTING GARBAGE FROM THE ROAD

The main road at Mudammaguddi had been stinking due to the uncleared garbage and waste water stagnating beside the road, creating major problems for the residents. The students and people used the



same road to reach their destination. Though the problem was brought to the notice of the concerned people, no change had occurred so far. Therefore Mudammaguddi's children's parliament discussed the issue in the meeting and cleaned the place, and as a result people commended their work.

KNOCKED THE DOOR FOR A GOVERNMENT SCHEME

The P.U.C students from Pothnal, Mudammaguddi, and Karbaddinni went to



the Grama Panchayth and sought the help for a government scheme. The students gave a petition to their ward member and kept on reminding him about the SC/ST scholarship amount from the government. After a long wait, a scheme was introduced which brought

broad smiles on the faces of the students. Nearly 150 students received Rs.78,000/- from the government.

AVAILING GOVERNMENT FACILITY

In the Muddamaguddi village, the children's parliament leaders along with other children went to the Grama Panchyath and demanded caste certificates. As a result 76 children received caste certificates. This boosted their spirits to work efficiently.



CHILD MARRIAGE AVERTED:

On definite information the VCT staff rushed to the Chagbavi village's Malikarjuna temple where the engagement of a 15 year old girl studying in the X standard with a 25 year old man was to take place. The girl is the daughter of Mr. Mudukappa and Mrs. Laxmi, the residents of Chagbavi village and the boy was the son of Mr. Amresha Nayaka. The staff persuaded the parents of the girl not to conduct the child marriage. They were advised about the legal implications of the child marriage and consequences it would bring about on the girl in the future due to



the premature marriage. They were told that under the law the minimum age of marriage for a girl is on the completion of 18 years. After constant persuasion the parents of the girl were convinced and they agreed to hold the marriage of their daughter only after she completed the age of 18 years. To make sure, the staff member Jaysheel requested them to give it in writing before the witnesses.

NEW DUSTBIN IS MADE AVAILABLE AT KARABDINNI SCHOOL

Karbadinni Government School had no dustbin in their school compound, so the children used to throw the filth and waste on the



main road. As a result the passersby had to cover their noses due to the bad stench and also noticed garbage everywhere on the road. Children's parliament of that locality identified this issue, discussed about this in

their meeting and reported it to the school headmaster. Surprised by the initiatives taken by the children, the school administration board supported the children and engaged the matter with VCT center. This great act was well appreciated by Vimukti and further the children went around their village asking villagers to contribute their share to buy the new dustbins. Thus the children's parliament efforts were much applauded by everyone and as the fruit of their labor the children have contributed 2 dustbins to the school. Congrats dear children for the great work and the initiative taken.....

CREATE AWARENESS ON GROWING TREES

The children's parliament of Mudammaguddi, Devipura, Udbal, Pothnal, Utaknoor, Dotharabanddi, Karbdinni, Sunknoor, Markamddinni





villages have been actively advocating growing more trees and to arrest falling of trees. 5225 saplings have been planted near the schools, public places and on the road sides so far by the efforts of the local children's parliament.



BOY RESCUED FROM BONDED LABOR

On 20th August when the VCT staff was on the way back from Harvi Manvi taluk he observed a boy who was plucking cotton in the field. On enquiry Ramesh the owner of that field said he found the boy abandoned at the bus stand in the town few months ago and brought him home. He made the boy do household chores, without sending him to school. After long discussions Ramesh ,the owner agreed to send the boy to the Government school. Regular follow up was done by the staff Jaysheel Dotharabandi.



ANOTHER DROPOUT BACK TO SCHOOL



In Markamdinni village, Children's Parliament leaders identified a dropout child who was very interested in continuing her studies. The members of the Parliament spoke to the family members and motivated her parents to send her to school.



MARKAMDINNI NOW HAS WATER!

The residents of Markamdinni village of Raichur district suffered water shortage due to a salty water motor which the Panchayat had left unrepared. The children's parliamentarians of the locality, taking notice of the plight of the residents appealed to the Panchayat leader Mrs. Hannumama on this.



The motor was repaired and the residents of the village greatly appreciated the effort of the parliamentarians.

GARBAGE DUMP GIVES WAY TO VILLAGE ROAD:



The village road at Udbal had been stinking due to the uncleared garbage and waste water stagnating besides the road creating a major problem for the residents. This was a major cause for many diseases in the area. People used the same road to reach their destination. Though the problem

was brought to the notice of the concerned people, no change was brought in so far. Therefore, Udbal children's club along with the help of the staff gave a memorandum to the panchayath president. The president heeded the voice of the children and the garbage place was turned into a beautiful road to the village. The people of the village appreciated the heroic work of the children.



VILLAGERS ASKED TO INVOLVE IN TOTAL CLEANLINESS PROGRAM:



The whole hearted participation of villagers in the implementation of the total cleanliness program was necessary to keep the village clean and free from diseases. The VCT children's



parliament and club children got together and organized jointly the cleanliness program in the Karbdinni Village. The president of the children's parliament said in his speech that good health is the outcome of a good

environment which keeps us away from all kinds of diseases. The unclean environment is the storehouse of epidemics and many dreaded diseases. Further he said that it is every one's duty to contribute in a positive way for keeping the village clean. He suggested that the practice of open toilets should be ended paving the way for toilets in every house. The VCT animator Jacintha



enlightened the children saying that diseases would be mostly infectious and would spread in a galloping way. Therefore, it is the most sacred duty of every parent to keep himself clean, keep his family members clean and keep his surroundings clean and help the village to be clean. The Director suggested very strongly that all the villagers should be alert and demand information from the Gram Panchayath about the funds meant for constructing toilets.



RESIDENTS SEEK ROAD REPAIR:

The dilapidated condition of the Pothnal Thoranadinni Road in the taluka has been creating a major problem for the residents of many villages who use the road regularly. The condition of the road had turned worse and the dust menace too had been



increasing. Huge pits developed on the road creating problem for the vehicle movement. Crops such as cotton, jowar, paddy, sugar cane, and others, were grown in the field beside the road and they were being affected due to the dust.



Large number of people were dependent on this road to reach the taluk headquarters. But due to the pathetic condition of the road they would face problems to reach the schools, town and thus spend more time in travelling. Moreover, the officials had not been taking notice of the condition of the road to lay good road under any schemes, they alleged. Mr. Charlie of the VCT staff took this great challenge, gave a memorandum and demanded to repair the road at the earliest. As the fruit of his hard work within a short period the amount was sanctioned and the work is to begin soon.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT USED FOR CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENTS:



Redress mechanism through the Right to Information Act, is under process but no child rights special Grama Sabhas were held by the whole taluka of Manvi for the past three years. The VCT organization asked the concerned government department to use RTI in order to give the details to them as

early as possible. The VCT Director explained to the children how to use the Right to Information Act in order to get one's Rights and entitlements from the government. This has strengthened the self confidence of the children in the villages.



SANITATION WORK IN TWO VILLAGES



When the rains began another problem surfaced. The lack of drainage and sanitation facilities caused the poorest families virtually to live in slush and mud. This was leading to breeding of mosquitoes and other insects and people were falling sick. The

children's parliament members came together to tackle the problem. They came together under the leadership of the animators, discussed and cleansed the road and canals. Today, along with a clean and healthy settlement, there is also a feeling of group strength and happiness.



MUDDAMAGUDDI CHILDREN PARLIAMENT MEMBERS HELD RALLY ON USE OF TOILETS:



Underlining the need for maintaining cleanliness in the village, the children parliament members got together and held a rally at Muddamguddi village. Children holding placards, banners and shouted slogans passed through the houses and created awareness on use of toilets.

After which Mr. Ballapa the health officer highlighted in his speech saying stop open defecation and begin to use the toilets. Let us stop blaming each other for not maintaining cleanliness and all are responsible to keep clean the surrounding as best as possible. VCT director emphasized on the need of constructing toilets particularly in



rural areas to come forward and to make use of the Government funds to construct toilets in their respective houses. Cleanliness should begin in homes. The main message of the rally was to stop open defecation and the use of toilets.

A CLEAN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:

Students of both Government Primary and Middle Schools of Markamdinni village had been littering the school premises since the school did not have dust bin and water facility in the school toilet. Children's parliaments of the area came together, collected Rs. 1200/-, purchased the dust bins for a clean school environment. Now, the school has a dustbin and water facility.



INVOLVEMENT OF VILLAGERS IN A TOTAL CLEANLINESS PROGRAM:

The wholehearted participation of villagers in the implementation of the total cleanliness program was necessary to keep the villages clean and free from diseases. The VCT children's parliament and club children got together and organized jointly the cleanliness program in the Karbdinni Village. The president of the children's parliament said



in his speech that good health is the outcome of a good environment which keeps us far from all kinds of diseases. The unclean environment is the storehouse of epidemics and many dreaded diseases. Further, he said, it is every one's duty to contribute in a positive way for keeping the

village clean. He suggested that the practice of open toilets should be ended paving the way for toilets in every house. The VCT animator Mrs. Jacintha enlightened the children about the spread of infectious diseases. Therefore, it is the most sacred duty of every parent to keep himself/herself clean, keep his/her family members clean and keep his/her surroundings clean and help the entire village to be clean. The director suggested very strongly that all the villagers should be responsible, and demand information from the Gram Panchayath about the funds meant for constructing toilets.



CHILDREN BROUGHT BACK TO SCHOOL:



As many eight children who were on their way to work in the agricultural fields near Devipura, village near Pothnal, were rescued by the VCT staff and brought back to attend the school. Latter, at a meeting held in this regard in the Gram Panchaytha office, the officials made the parents of these children submit an understaking that they would not henceforth send their children to work in the fields. Panchayath President warned the parents that if they sent 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.



KARABDINI CHILDREN PARLIAMENT MEMBERS PROTESTED FOR MAKING THE SCHOOL PREMISES AN OPEN DEFECATION PLACE:



On 15th, children parliament members and club members got together and demanded with the village leaders and concerned officers an explanation for making the school premises an open defecation place. Since the school was near the main road of the village the villagers used

this place for open defecation, It was stinking and children were not able to study and have a healthy atmosphere. Though the problem was brought to the notice of the concerned people, no change was brought in so far. Children gave a memorandum to the village leaders and demanded to clean the school premises immediately and avoid the possible danger of the spread of contagious diseases among children.



IDENTITY CARD FOR THE PARLIAMENT CHILDREN:



Every children's parliament member was given identity cards that carried all the detailed responsibilities of the child to be carried out in the parliament sessions. The staff distributed these cards and explained to the students the need and requirement of this card and requested everyone to preserve it till the

end. The identity card is also an identity of the students belonging to the VCT center and also an image presenting device.



VIMUKTI CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT VOICES THEIR DEMANDS LOUD AND CLEAR TO MLAs AND MLCs AT STATE LEVEL:



"Opportunities are like the ocean, have the joy of swimming in it and reach the shore of success".

It is not every day that one gets to see Karnataka MLAs and MLCs Ministers answering a series

of questions posed by none other than children. However, this is exactly what happened on 23rd November Friday, at the Conference Hall No. 333, Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore, when the Kimmene Rathnakara the Primary education Minister, Umashree, the Women and child Development and along with other Ministers were grilled by around 60-odd-children from different parts of Karnataka, on various issues pertaining to child rights. Along with several members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) and members of the legislative council MLCs participated in the discussion, where children representatives took the centre stage. The event was part of the state-level Children's Parliament hosted at





Vidhana Soudha for almost two hours-11.00 am to 1.00pm. The unique attempt to help children raise their issues directly in front of the highest policy makers was a collective attempt by the Karnataka State Legislators' Forum for Child Rights, Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO) and supported by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Hyderabad. For the second time in the state, Ministers had held consultation with the children directly and listened to their problems in the Vidhana Soudha, the epicenter of power.

Be it the low-quality food supplied at anganwadi centres, or the discrimination faced by HIV-positive children, the young participants at the session minced no words in bringing forth the issues related to school-going children across Karnataka. The other topics which figured during the interaction between the Ministers and the children included lack of infrastructural facilities in schools, lack of good quality teachers in schools, problems faced by disabled children, stray dog menace, poor health care facilities, education of migrated children, human trafficking, female feticide, lack of transportation facilities and ban on liquor, to name a few.

As part of the Children's Parliament, young participants were provided a day-long time on 14th November to interact among themselves and priorities of their issues to be discussed with the ministers. This coincided with the Children's Day celebration, observed across the country. Many of the children who participated in the state level children's parliament felt that the momentum now created should not die down with this particular program, rather the process of children's representatives meeting the Chief Minister and other cabinet ministers with their demands should become a regular feature every year

VIMUKTI CHILDREN PARLIAMENT ORGANIZES AWARENESS RALLY IN MUDAMAGUDDI:

VCT Children Parliament group organized an awareness rally in Mudammaguddi village, to create awareness on growing infant mortality, violation of child rights, child trafficking, child marriage, child labor, illegal adoption, lack of quality education, and lack of health care, HIV infected children and so on. The rally began from Mudammaguddi primary school and they went through the prime areas of the village.



Hundreds of students participated in the rally, carried banners and placards showing the importance of "promoting and protecting child rights" to local people. The children also cried out loud the slogans to protect the environment for a healthy

living. The rally was planned under the leadership of VCT staff. The program was held at the school auditorium. More than 658 students participated in the rally and received assistance from the program. Poor and dropout children were given free note-books, pencils, pens and educational materials to mark this event.



SAHANA BEGHAM GIVES UP HER SHYNESS IN ORDER TO MINGLE WITH OTHERS



Sahana Begham a twelve-year old girl was suffering from mild mental disorder. She is hailing from Manvi Taluka of Raichur District. She is the eldest child in the family and has a younger sister. It was later revealed that at the time of delivery, the birth cry was missing in this child. At the age of one and half years, the parents realized that Sahana was unable to walk and speak. They took the child to nearby hospital, but medication did not help her to recover from her disorders. The child's aunt was a great support to her.



Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!
Try and fail, but never fail to try.- Jared Leto



It was in 2013 that the VCT came in contact with her and the family. Initially SahanaBegham's parents were frightened to expose the child to the society because they had faced a lot of humiliation from their neighbors. Through the intervention of the VCT organization the child started showing some positive results. She gradually gave up her shyness and started mingling with other children, and did all the daily activities by herself. She always kept herself neat and clean and was very sensitive to the needs of others. Though she could speak, her words lacked clarity. Her parents and the neighbors took special interest in her and thus she was able to develop her talents meanwhile speech therapy and necessary trainings were given to her.

In 2015 VCT offered her wheel chair which was very useful to her to go one place to the another place. Her parents are indeed glad to notice the positive results in SahanaBegham. Now she can easily remember people, places and situations. She is a changed girl now. The family is very grateful to VCT for the great effort and service.

RIGHT DIRECTION AND TIMELY GUIDANCE



I am Praveen kumar son of Mariyappa and Gangamma. I am from Dumthi village which is situated in SindhnoorTaluka and am studying in 3rd standard. Due to the lack of rain, and drought like situation prevailing in my village my parents migrated to Bangalore in order that they may find some work for daily sustenance. Due to poverty my parents discouraged me from going to the school. I was not ready to give up my studies because I was a bright student in the class but due to the pressure and financial crisis in my family I had to give up my studies.

One fine morning VCT staff visited my family and they came to know that I was not going to the school and was a dropout child. Mrs. Jacintha after a long conversation convinced my parents, on the importance of education and the disadvantages for not educating me. After that, the village leaders were called to discuss on this very issue

and prepared a memorandum. VCT assured the parents that it will support the child in matters of education at any cost. As a result I was very happy to continue my studies. After a week, I got the news that we could go to government school while staying in the Government hostel. Now my parents have migrated to Bangalore in search of work, and I stay in the government hostel at kavithal. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the VCT organization, all the staff and the Director Fr. Satish for showing me right direction and for your timely guidance.



YASHODA IS PROUD TO BE THE PART OF CHILDREN CLUB



Yashoda a 3rd standard student is studying in the government school. Her father is a daily wage earner and her mother is domestic worker. Yashoda comes from an economically poor background and since she

would always accompany her mother in her domestic work, could not cope up with her studies had to leave the school.

It was at this time that VCT came to help Yashoda. The children club members and tuition teachers from the VCT convinced her parents to send her to school regularly. Today, Yashoda is happy to join her friends at school and the tuition classes.



In 12 villages of Manvitaluka VCT has the tuition centers. The project monitors help her in her studies through evening tuition and thus improve the quality of education. The project has been incredible, because it has managed to reach out to some of the most vulnerable population in the village in the remotest areas. The tuition teacher continually motivates and encourages her to be regular to the school and to the tuition centre. Today Yashoda is proud to be the part of children club in village.

COMFORT IN TIME OF DESOLATION



Shanker is 28-year-old man, coming from a very poor family. He has two more sisters who are married and have alienated him from the family. Father is a drunkard and mother is taking care of Shanker and shouldering the entire family's burden.

When Shanker was 8 months old child was affected by Paralysis due to overdose of oxygen while being treated for a severe cold. The brain damage he sustained that time resulted in a deformation of his spine and underdeveloped motor skills and speech. He is not able to walk and do his personal needs by himself, which is biggest tragedy of his life. Mother has to feed him three times a day just like feeding to a child. In this pathetic condition VCT went to his aid and supported shanker by giving free wheel chair and medicine for his sickness. Family is very happy now and is grateful to VCT organization for the loving support and concern.

'PRABHU'S DREAM' - TO FIND A JOB AND LOOK AFTER HIS PARENTS



I, am Mr. Prabhu from Udbal. My Father is Mr.Thippanna, and our's is a very poor family. My parents go for daily wage work for daily sustenance. One day I was travelling by bike to Belwata, a neighboring village to attend the program. I lost control over the bike, slipped and fell on the road. For about one year I suffered a lot and was bedridden in the hospital. After a year my leg was amputated. Due to this I was undergoing lot of struggles and mental torture. Very often I use to come to Vimukti to share about my pain with Fr. SathishFernandes the

Vimukti Director and he used to guide me and support me. Today I am very grateful to him for his guidance and support.

Through physiotherapy and treatment, slowly I started to move around freely and perform daily activities independently, despite of

my weak legs and hands. Recently VCT came forward and helped me by gifting crutches to walk, which is very handy and useful to me. My desire and only dream is to find a suitable job after completing the computer course and look after my parents.



VIMUKTI REACHES OUT TO THE NEEDY



I am, Dhurgamma daughter of Mr.Chaurappa and Mrs.Mariamma, hailing from PamanaKallur, of Manvi Taluka. I am the fourth child among six children. Among six, three are girls and three are boys. My father is a farmer and mother a housewife.

While I was just a year old child, polio drops which were given failed and caused my legs to be completely paralyzed. As a result I can't walk properly even now and feel very weak and can't perform my normal daily duties. While walking or moving around, I feel pain in my legs. I am twenty now. It has been very difficult to move around to any place. In this critical situation VCT came to my rescue by giving me a wheel chair which became handy for me to travel one place to another. I express my heartfelt gratitude to VCT organization.

"A BIG THANKS- TO VIMUKTI"



Mr. Desai is fifty two year old from Dhotharabandi Village of Manvitaluk in Raichur District. He is the eldest in the family. His parents are daily wage earners who work in the fields. He is blind from the very birth. But he is very intelligent and very active. He keeps good relationship with family members, neighbors and friends.

Presently he is working as, the president, of district physically challenged association. For many years he has been working for the



rehabilitation of the physically challenged and for the upliftment of the otherwise abled. On this course, several times he had to stand against the government authorities while obtaining justice to the poor and the needy. But he is proud to be the part of VCT in many ventures. Today VCT is a source of encouragement and inspiration for him. Mr. Desai's parents say "A big thanks to VIMUKTI ", may God bless your organization in hundred folds.

LIFE BLOSSOMED AND TRANSFORMED



Mobility dramatically improves a recipient's way of life. While we don't really see all that the ways that a wheelchair can bring some changes in someone's life, but even sometimes just seeing the smile on the recipient's face as they are placed into their wheelchair is more satisfactory to understand the positive impact it has

on them.

Baslingamma 14 years old girl and her younger brother Kiran 12 years old from the same family are physically challenged and are 60% intellectually dull too. They find very difficult to walk or to talk as normal like any other children are. Their parents have tried their best to help their children in a variety of ways, including traveling 100 miles to see a doctor hoping that they would be able to improve the quality of life of their children. When the VCT learnt about this situation, they were given wheel chairs. This helped them a lot in life. Thanks a lot to the VCT organization for their, generosity and for their timely help.

ONGOING INITIATIVES



CHILD SPONSORSHIP:



The Primary goal of Pothnal Children's Project is Education. With the collaboration of ENSEMBLE AGISSONS France and The ASSOCIAZIONE COLLAGE Milan Italy, who are our benefactors we have begun a child Sponsorship program. Sponsorship program was meant for the poor BPL (Below Poverty Line) families. They are unable

to bare their economic pressure. We identified them and work for their food, shelter and livelihood. Beneficiaries are trained with various skills and given training programs. They get guidance and assistance socially, economically and spiritually. Importance of education is taught to both parents and children. There are more than 210 families getting benefits from this sponsorship program.



These children are enrolled in schools to get better education and moral values. In the aspects of health, education, exposure and social awareness they are motivated. There will be a platform created for them to face their challenges with courage and confidence. The children have sent Christmas cards and letters to the sponsors. The children are closely monitored in their education and health aspects.



NON- FORMAL EDUCATION:

Literacy is very important for the development of the individual and for the nation as well. A literate or educated person has a high self esteem. He or she is fairly independent

and is aware of his/her rights and duties. With these sentiments, brothers from Clara Vihar, Pothnal, have started non-formal evening classes in the VCT campus. Every evening,



from 6.00 p.m to 7.00 p.m., classes are conducted for these children. These children have shown great progress and evinced a lot of interest in learning.



FREE TUITION CENTERS:

The concept of free tuition centers have acquired a new dimension these days with the latest developments in the field of education. The entire process of teaching, learning and evaluation has become

more children centered. The bright side of the situation presents students more confident and less scared. On the other hand, the number of children who are promoted to the next level without acquiring the required levels of skills and awareness in the subjects has increased considerably and this is because of the weight age given to activities and even areas like games, speech, storytelling, organizational skills, work experiences etc.,

As a result in each class there are a number of students who fail in grasping the concepts and performing basic tasks. This is a great challenge before teachers



and the way to tackle this issue is timely remedial teaching. Therefore VCT is working hard in providing tuitions to children in 16 Villages, taking into account the right to Education. The intention is none other than helping the students to make their future bright and prosperous.



COMPUTER COACHING CLASS:

Computer knowledge is something basic today. But the youth and children in the rural areas have little access to this. Hence the VCT has organized free computer training for the poor rural youths and children during the summer holidays.



FREE TAILORING CENTERS:

For some or the other reasons women are been marginalized and



looked down upon in some parts of our Indian society. Due to ignorance or lack of specific implementation of plans, local communities especially the women are not getting the scope and benefits of government schemes and programs. Some of them have not actively participated in their emancipation due to their lack

of economic independence and illiteracy. There is a concrete need to address the issue by raising the standards or the status of women. Keeping these issues in mind VCT has opened a free tailoring center for the empowerment of adolescent girls/ women. In this training center, tailoring skills are imparted free of cost. Students





are trained by a well qualified and professional tailoring teacher. Further as a sign of appreciation and encouragement certificates are given to those who successfully complete the course in tailoring. These tailoring classes enable women/girls in rural and sub-urban areas to earn their daily living, making them self-confident and self-dependent. After successfully completing six months training, some women/girls start their own tailoring shops, while the others secure a well-paid job in the export garment factories in the nearby areas, or sub-contract work in large tailoring shops.

FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF CHILDREN'S CLUBS:

One of the main programs of child friendly projects is the formation



of the children's clubs. In all our 16 villages we have children's clubs functioning fortnightly. Five animators are handling the project helping out the children in clubs and other child related programs in schools and in the community. The main aim is to tap children's potentials and

capabilities in accordance with their talents and thereby build up their capacities and abilities to take initiatives. The children lack basic guidance and direction and therefore every child needs a wholesome growth (i.e. personality, education, general knowledge, cleanliness,



creativities and the like). So the project tries to guide the children for a successful future through Saturday clubs. Above 4th grade, students

participate in these clubs. Through this the children will be more vibrant in their school studies and activities and a sound rapport is built up between the project and the children. Altogether there are 1300 children in the clubs.



SPECIALTY OF VIMUKTI:



Today the VCT is one of the best flourishing NGOs in the District which is marching forward with much success and glory. We have built a constant connection with local and district government, media, other NGOs which makes us to work more efficiently. We have more than 15,000 beneficiaries where we have constant linkage collaboration and it clearly speaks volumes about our organization. The reason is that this enables the adaptation of new techniques. Today's children who are very interested in computers, T.V. and sports are taught with those mediums. Accordingly, we have the computer lab, audio visual and sports which have turned learning as effective and fruitful. The vision of the organization is to form the Children into a "Universal Man" and therefore care is towards all- round development of the children. This has made our organization attractive and acceptable to all those who are interested and made the local government involved.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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

LIBRARY AT VIMUKTI:



The students are busy with their lessons and exams all through the year. Hence the long awaited summer is the only time to learn anything of their interest. Our VCT center was in full swing with several students learning, and enriching their knowledge by reading books at the center. The VCT was

filled with new comers as well as those who have aptitude for learning. The VCT is the treasure house of knowledge and has upgraded and has a good collection of new books. There are 1455 children who are benefiting from the child resource center such as learning computer basics, English grammar, etc, and they are enjoying indoor and outdoor games in the resource center too.



CO CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

It is the part of the education where children have learn the art of concentration in their studies. Games and competitions play a vital role in the lives of the children.



Through games and competitions we help them to mould their characters. We give various opportunities to exhibit their talents, to

build self confidence and self esteem. We also give them personal guidance. We have built the rapport with the children by meeting them personally, guiding them and leading them forward.



THE JOY OF WORKING

St Francis admonished his brothers, "Let the work of each brother be an expression of the entire fraternity. Let each one, according to his God- given talents and the condition of his age and health, make full use of his energies with joy, keeping in mind the needs of the fraternity." It is true that our VCT organization director along with VCT staff members is working hard to reach out to many who are in need through their ministry. The VCT Director constantly motivates and guides the VCT staff to dedicate them totally for the vulnerable of the society. So as a team they deal with various burning issues of the society like, IMR, MMR, violation of child rights, child Trafficking, child marriage, child labour, etc. Thus they form children clubs, reach out to the children dropouts, fight for human rights by organizing various programmes, conduct vacation training, help them to find self-employment, deal with health, hygiene and education of orphan children and HIV infected children and so on. They make themselves available to the needy in every way, and fill joy and happiness in the lives of them. This brings them tremendous joy and satisfaction. They work together as a team with collaboration and cooperation, for the development and good of the Society.



OUTCOME



The organization always believed in people's participation and people as the implementing agents of the program. Accordingly the organization concentrates on programs that are development oriented for the people. The main component of our work is education and promotion of child rights in the rural areas particularly of dalit children. VCT is working for the past seven years in the situations mentioned below, has witnessed the problems and has provided effective solutions through the involvement of the community and other stakeholders. Some of its interventions are:

- ❖ Formation of 34 Children's Clubs in 16 villages to promote talents and personality development. Over 2200 have benefited from this program.
- ❖ Formation of 10 Children's Parliaments in 16 villages & Child Rights clubs in 30 Panchayaths to build leadership, get involved in local governing in voicing out their problems and around 10,000 children benefitted.
- ❖ Four youth clubs were formed and function to discuss and study the local panchayat issues, career guidance.
- ❖ A total of around 46 health camps have been conducted benefitting over 9,000 people.
- ❖ 36 school health programs were conducted making over 10,000 school students health conscious and practice healthy life styles.
- ❖ Over 28 mass awareness programs were conducted making over 25,000 people aware.
- ❖ On the women's empowerment front, over 22 capacity- building programs were organized for the CBOs, benefitting around 5000 thousand members of SHGs, SHRI Shakti groups, youth groups, farmers, associations, etc.
- ❖ Awareness rallies were conducted on Dengue, HIV / AIDS, cleanliness, open defecations, Tobacco and Alcohol, Children's Rights, Child Marriage, Child Abuse, Child labor, and communicable disease's etc. 20,000 benefited from this awareness.
- ❖ SDMC Training targeted 36 Gram Panchyaths with total beneficiaries of 1800



- ❖ Conducted Panchayat level training in 36 GP centers for the adolescents on health and hygiene and their physical and emotional development, benefited around 7,000 adolescents.
- ❖ Organization is involved in advocating and lobbying with the Government to implement the schemes and benefits at the local level, particularly those concerning the children.
- ❖ Network with like-minded NGOs, Government Health and Education Departments, local Panchayats etc. to avail and facilitate the programs reach the people.
- ❖ Organization submitted a report to the District CEO after conducting a survey of Anganwadis, Schools and Primary Health Centers, and public infrastructure of the villages.
- ❖ Vocational training like Tailoring and Computer courses for the young and adolescents to build confidence and generate income. 3500 benefited from this training.
- ❖ Evening tuitions in 16 villages with a reach out of 970 children.
- ❖ Advocating and lobbying at the local, panchyath, taluka and district level by way of memorandums.
- ❖ Re- admitted 320 school dropouts to formal schooling
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Rehabilitation of Physically challenged people.

CONCLUSION



WITH DEEP GRATITUDE....

"Nothing tires a human more than to be grateful all the time"

- E.K. Howe

Every step of the journey became smooth only with the unstinted support of the Ensemble Agissons France, America House of Jesuit community New York and Associazione Collage Milan Italy. The contribution of the donors, benefactors, well wishers and friends from India as well as abroad have been a great help and has enabled VCT Pothnal work in tandem with the expectations of the society.

VCT impacts hundreds of lives with education skills, child rights issues, skill training, health initiatives, housing, women empowerment, etc. Besides implementing the project, VCT is committed to engage in advocating and lobbying, thus promoting the rights of the individual and systemic changes. Every new initiative of VCT Pothnal will witness a great change in human beings, to be the torch bearers, epitomes of love, peace and champions of Equality, Truth and Justice.

The effects produced by the work of the VCT will have far reaching consequences. Some will appreciate and some transform their lives in the light of what they have learnt from our VCT. There is much more VCT is called to do among the deserving children so that they may enjoy the fullness of life and become fully integrated in the wider society.

SHARE THE JOY OF SERVING THE POOR

KINDLY CONTACT



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2. REGISTER NO. OF SOCIETY : Registration of Trust Act,
Trust/718/10A/vol-II/V-299/2000-2001
Dated 01-05-2000
3. PROJECT HOLDER : Fr. Sathish Fernandes
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5. F. C. NO. : F.C. Reg.no.094610030 under FCRA (1976).
6. BANK & A/C. NO (foreign contribution) : 18032200025580
Account Title/Head : Cheque drawn in favor of
Vimukti Charitable Trust Syndicate Bank,
Jawalgera Branch,
Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur Dist.
7. Bank Swift Code : SYNBINBB118
8. IFSC/NEFT Code : SYNB0001803
9. Web Site : www.capuchinvimukti.com
10. Email : vctpothnal@gmail.com
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11. Phone : 08538- 281326
09448335778
12. 12A : Available
13. 80G : Available
14. PAN NO. OF INCOME TAX : AAATV2670H(01-05-2000)

If you contribute through Indian banker cheques, then follow the following bank informations:

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| 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 STATE, INDIA. |

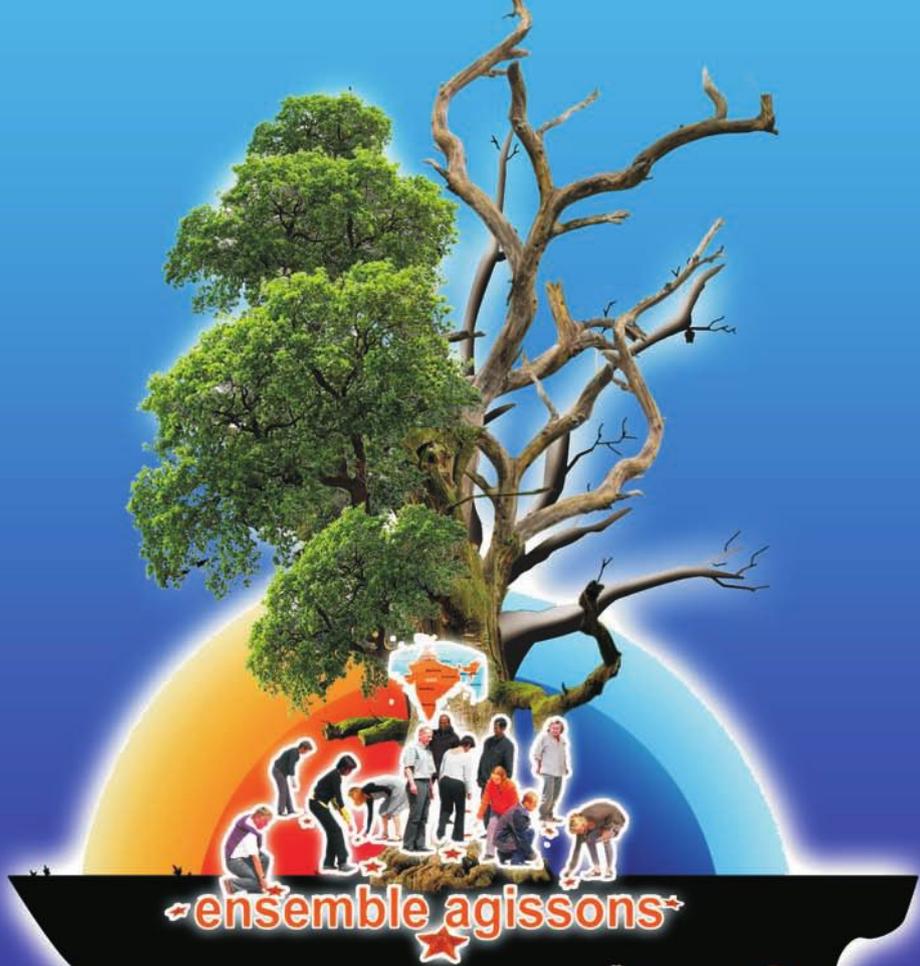












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