

Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services



ROPES

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Andhra Pradesh, India.

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ABOUT US:

1. Name of the Organization : Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services.
Acronym : **(ROPES)**
2. Address for communication : 1-88, Shanthi Nagar,
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Chittoor District– 517 416,
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Phone: 08573 – 280270/282070
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3. Website : www.ropesindia.org.in (under construction)
4. Contact persons : K. Dhana Sekaran
Chairman & Director.

Ms. P. Sree Latha
Program Director
5. Legal Status : Under the societies Registration Act of
1860. Registration No: 392/89 Date: 4.12.89
6. FCRA Registration : 0 1 0 1 4 0 0 9 5 Reg. Dates: 13 Dec 1990
7. Income Tax : 12 A (a) H.Ors.No.X (76) / TPT / 97-98
80 G tax exemptions.
F.No.H.QRS.I (114) / CIT / TPT / 08–09
8. Area of operation : Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu & Karnataka



PROFILE OF ROPES

About ROPES:

Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES) is a registered Nonprofit non political and secular society under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act of 1860 with the Society Reg No: No: 392/89. It has secured the necessary FCRA and Income tax exemptions under 12 A and 80G of the Income Tax Act.

It has actively been serving in different parts of India with its administrative Central Office in Bangarupalyam and ROPES Resource Centre in Palamaner, Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, India for the last 25 years and brought significant impact in the lives of thousands of vulnerable and exploited children, oppressed women and helpless rural and urban unemployed youth, small and marginal farmers from the most backward dalits, tribal, gypsies and minority communities.

Since the inception of ROPES in 1989, it has relentlessly been working in the spheres of education for children, livelihood skills development for the youth, healthcare development in rural villages and urban slums, women empowerment and sensitization of the underprivileged masses with a special focus on dalit, tribal and most backward communities in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Our focal intervention is devoted for the protection of child rights and thereby ensuring rescue, restoration and rehabilitation of hapless children.

History, Vision & Mission

Who We Are:

ROPES being a nongovernmental organization works to empower the oppressed, voiceless and powerless dalits, tribal communities with special focus on dalit women and vulnerable children. ROPES established in 1989 and started its services for the welfare of poor and needy people in a small way in a cluster of 10 villages in Bangarupalyam Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. Since then, the organization has exhibited real growth development both in scope and coverage of operational area.

Presently we reach thousands of children living both in rural and urban areas through a range of genuine interventions. The ROPES team comprises of distinguished educationists, committed development professionals and prominent activists, civil servants, consultants, workers etc., to pool up their perspectives and experiences in planning and implementation of organizational project activities for the benefit of the target beneficiaries and practically succeeded in improving the future of vulnerable children and empower in the community at large.

History:

ROPES was founded in the year 1989 by Mr. K. Dhana Sekaran, a double post graduate and undergone various short courses in India and abroad related to development, whose aim was to work for the up-liftment of those who live on the fringes of our society especially from dalit and tribal communities. A group of committed likeminded people also joined him in his pursuit of fostering development among the target people found in the bottom of social heap. Development of children and women and their empowerment remains the bedrock of their essential mandate.

The rich experiences of ROPES brought significant changes in the lives of children for betterment during the last 2 decades and the organisation stands for what we do today and tomorrow to build a better and brighter future for children in crisis.

Our Vision:

ROPES vision is a society in which every child and woman attains their basic rights, protection and development.

Our Mission:

- ❖ To enrich the quality of life and advance the rights of children
- ❖ To effect lasting changes for good on behalf of children and their families and to live a dignified life in a safe environment free from exploitation, discrimination and poverty and encourage them to participate in sustainable development.
- ❖ To develop opportunities and serve the community of India in the areas of education, health, training, employment, economic development and relief work.
- ❖ To help exploited women from the clutches of land lord, money lenders and human trafficking agents and enable them to have a fresh start in life, as well as supporting women from poorer communities acquire skills that make them independent and viable.

CORE VALUES:

A set of core values identified at the epicenter of ROPES prompt us to plan, implement and develop people constantly and these core values are of the fundamental principles that spontaneously determine our commitment and concerns to each other and to the poor especially vulnerable children and oppressed women.

1. We are committed to the poor:

We are constantly called to relieve the suffering of the poor and promote the transformation of their condition.

2. We are stewards:

We are faithful to the purpose for which resources are entrusted and manage them in an impartial manner that brings maximum benefit to the poor.

3. We are responsive:

We are responsive to the life-threatening emergencies where our involvement is needed and appropriate.

Problems:

Child Protection Issues:

- ☞ Child labour
 - ☞ Trafficking
 - ☞ Child marriage
 - ☞ Child sexual abuse & exploitation
 - ☞ HIV/AIDS infected and affected children
 - ☞ Differently abled children
 - ☞ Street children
 - ☞ Malnourished children
- ☞ Most street children have never been to school, unable to afford the time or the money to do so. As part of the Education Initiative, ROPES has been encouraging and educating the rural, street and working children who have either no motivation to join schooling, or have no access to school or have dropped out.

- ☞ Child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18 years which is a prevalent reality in the rural backward area comprising mainly tribal, gypsies, Lambadies and dalit communities for both boys and girls, although the girls are disproportionately and commonly affected lot because of parental ignorance, poverty and tradition.
- ☞ Child trafficking is commonly resorted to mainly involve innocent children in labour sexual trade, begging, robbery and other anti social activities. A few pockets in the project area where Lambadi tribal live, the practice of female child trafficking is more prevalent for becoming commercial sex workers in red light areas of Mumbai and Pune and that of locally known centers of flesh trade.

Women Issues:

- ❖ Discrimination
- ❖ Sexual abuse
- ❖ Domestic violence cases against women
- ❖ Number of issues affecting women's reproductive health
- ❖ Atrocities inflicted on women
- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Land rights
- ❖ Unemployment migration
- ❖ Suffering of older women and widows who do not have any other means of support for their survival.
- ❖ Health issues:
- ❖ Infant mortality, still birth,

Over the past 25 years, child mortality has fallen in our target area due to our intervention. In 2012 it was 27 infant mortality out of 978 births. Now it is 18 infant mortality out of 1112 birth. Yet children still die needlessly, most of them from causes that are both treatable and preventable.

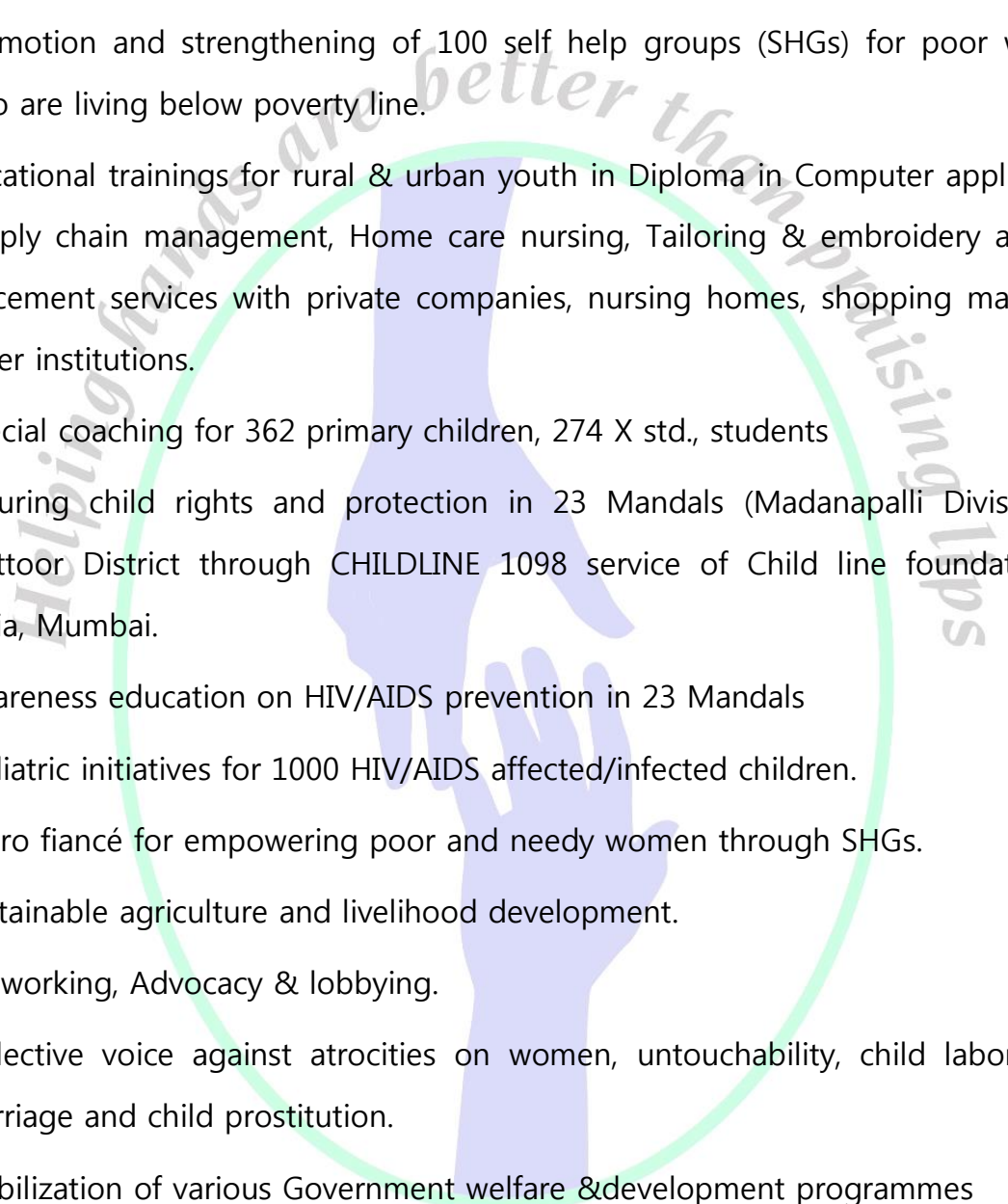
In 2012, for 978 antenatal mothers, 34 were still birth. But now 14 still births for 547 mothers.

ROPES with the support of TdH-NL putting its efforts to end preventable child deaths, working with the local government to support effective and life-saving actions at each phase in a child's life from prenatal care in a mother's pregnancy to effective and affordable health care through childhood and into adulthood.

Our intervention like antenatal and postnatal care helps mothers to improve maternal health and ensure safe delivery.

A glimpse of current program:

- ❖ Rescue, restoration and rehabilitation of exploited children and prosecution of the erring agents and violators of child rights or coerce girl children into child marriage and trafficking for sexual exploitation of minor girls with the benevolent support of TdH, Netherlands and ROPES strongly believes that every child must be in school and learn well without missing their childhood.
- ❖ As a recognised sub centre of Childline India foundation, Mumbai in 23 Mandals, ROPES is imparting awareness and knowledge of the childline 1098 services available for protection and prevention of children in crisis and prosecution of persons involved in the abuse and exploitation of vulnerable children.
- ❖ Protection and development of vulnerable children through Early Childhood Education for 279 children in 6 villages.
- ❖ Educational and medical support to 367 differently abled children.
- ❖ Antenatal & post natal care for mothers in target villages
- ❖ Health education for target women on preventive and curative aspects
- ❖ A children's Home for 50 HIV/AIDS affected children

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- ❖ Supplementary nutrition for malnourished and vulnerable children belonging to poor families.
 - ❖ Promotion and strengthening of 100 self help groups (SHGs) for poor women who are living below poverty line.
 - ❖ Vocational trainings for rural & urban youth in Diploma in Computer application, supply chain management, Home care nursing, Tailoring & embroidery and job placement services with private companies, nursing homes, shopping malls and other institutions.
 - ❖ Special coaching for 362 primary children, 274 X std., students
 - ❖ Ensuring child rights and protection in 23 Mandals (Madanapalli Division) in Chittoor District through CHILDLINE 1098 service of Child line foundation of India, Mumbai.
 - ❖ Awareness education on HIV/AIDS prevention in 23 Mandals
 - ❖ Pediatric initiatives for 1000 HIV/AIDS affected/infected children.
 - ❖ Micro fiancé for empowering poor and needy women through SHGs.
 - ❖ Sustainable agriculture and livelihood development.
 - ❖ Networking, Advocacy & lobbying.
 - ❖ Collective voice against atrocities on women, untouchability, child labor, child marriage and child prostitution.
 - ❖ Mobilization of various Government welfare & development programmes

Emergency relief during natural disaster:

ROPES provided assistance to communities in a small way by addressing the crisis and recovery needs of local families at the time of natural disasters during Tsunami

of 2004. ROPES did Tsunami relief & Rehabilitation services in Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh and Nagapattinam District in Tamil Nadu. We distributed dry ration and clothes to the families of victims. We constructed 5 Anganwadi centers in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu with the support of Terre des hommes, The Netherlands for the Traumatized children due to Tsunami. We gave effective counseling for the traumatized children and their communities affected by Tsunami.

Child rescue and child rights protection:

According to India Census, Andhra Pradesh is one of the states with the highest incidence of child labour, child marriage and girl child trafficking for commercial sex in the country.

ROPES is one of the partners in CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development acting as the parent organization for setting up, managing and monitoring the CHILDLINE 1098 service all over the country. CIF is the sole agency/body responsible for establishing the CHILDLINE service in the cities/districts of the country, monitoring of service delivery and finance, training, research and documentation, creating awareness, advocacy as well as resource generation for the service. ROPES has got CHILDLINE SUB CENTRE at Bangarupalyam and extend services to vulnerable children in 23 Mandals of Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. **Day by day we witness vulnerable children and their plight.**

ROPES supporting vulnerable children in rescuing from child labor, child marriage, child trafficking and promotion of child rights.

ROPES addresses the challenge of making the Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality, particularly of those children who are most vulnerable, neglected, abused and exploited. ROPES is committed within its mandate, to work towards solidarity among NGOs, Government and all Civil Society organizations for addressing the concerns of all children.

ROPES protecting trafficked children require timely victim identification, placing them in safe environment, providing them with social services, health care, psychosocial support, and reintegration with family and community, if it is proven to be in their best interest.

During the last one year our intervention supported around **200 vulnerable children** were rescued and extended service and support.

SKILL & VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE:

Youth especially girls do not have the opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge they need to secure a livelihood. ROPES vocational training programs help fill that gap, empowering hundreds of youth with skills for life. Focusing on the poorest households, we aim to help the



most vulnerable - especially young people and women. We are providing vocational training to marginalized youth both boys and girls from most backward communities. Most of the participants found stable jobs shortly after completing the trainings. Vocational [Skills centre helps girls to succeed](#) and [Vocational training helps children especially girls escape hard and hazardous work](#)

Computer training is very effective for helping rural youth especially girls for their future and to become economically independent. Private training institutes often have high fees. Youth from poor socio-economic background have no access to such institutes. At the end of the course the students will receive certificates. These days to get employment either in



public or private sectors, basic computer literacy is must. Therefore, youth are interested to take up computer training. 65 youth are undergoing vocational course in ROPES training centre and Bro Siga Community College (Diploma in computer application 31, Tailoring 19, four wheeler mechanism 6, Lab technician 7, DTP 2)

Hasina – How she has self employed with the support of our training in tailoring & embroidery:



Hasina is a young woman hailed from a poor Muslim community. She dropped her studies while she was doing her X class due to her family condition. She is living with her sick old parents. She was jobless, living in dire poverty and upset in her life without any skill to earn money for her livelihood. Because of her poverty condition and sick parents, she was unable to marry and lead a happy life. At that point of critical time her married sister was divorced and living with her. One of our staff observed about the family condition and counseled her and guided her to undergo tailoring & embroidery course run by ROPES. She has undergone six months tailoring course in ROPES, bought a sewing machine with the support of government and started doing her stitching work and saree embroidery. Now she is able to earn Rs. 100 to Rs.200 per day. Further her earnings will be improved. Now she is in a plan to expand her business. She is able to support her whole family with her income. She says proudly that ROPES has made her life difference.

ROPES is rendering this type of intervention to give different job oriented skills and help them to start business on their own to stand on their own feet.

Rajiv Yuva Kiranalu: (Rajiv Gandhi Rural Youth Employment Training)

Under the auspices of Rajiv Yuva Kiranalu a Govt. of India sponsored vocational skill training programme for rural youth, ROPES has organized two short –term employment oriented courses namely “Computer Assistance” and “Home Care Nursing” in ROPES Resources center at Palamaner and enrolled 71 rural youth for providing them adequate skills for employment. At the end of these two months trainings, they will not only be awarded with course completion certificates, but will face “Campus Interview for job selection” by the Human Resource development (HRD) personnel of different managements and entrepreneurs. An additional two

months short- term course namely "Supply Chain Management" will be inaugurated for the benefit of rural youth belonging to the project area and the necessary advertisement for admission of candidates is also published in the local daily. The three short-term vocational courses are really a boon for enhancing the opportunity of rural educated youth to secure employment and empowerment. The cycle of admission and course completion will be repeated once in two months and thus more number of rural youth will be the beneficiaries. ROPES hereby registers that it is one of the few NGOS which is recognised and selected to conduct these short-term vocational courses for imparting skill training to rural youth for employment in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHGs achievement for the period 2012-2013:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Total Number of groups formed | : 98 |
| Total members in the Self Help Groups | : 1005 |
| Total Savings of the groups | : 1,16,175 |
| Total groups received Micro finance | : 84 |
| Total amount disbursed as micro finance | : 11, 00,000 |
| Total amount of loan revolved | : 37, 83,000 |

During the reporting period various income generation activities like Basket weaving, saree business, Hybrid cows, sheep rearing, petty shops, vegetables and flower vending shops, Terrakota, agarbathi making, provision shops and tender coconut sales units were launched to raise the income level of the people in the target area. The beneficiaries were assisted and given training to improve their business by the professionals and community organizers. Now we can see their income level has been enhancing.

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Case study:

Women engaged in scented sticks making

There are 4 Self Help Groups in Agarbathi colony promoted by ROPES, who are engaged in Scented sticks making. They used to work for daily labour and earn Rs.40 per day. One group approached us for loan for purchasing lump sum raw martial like sticks, block powder etc., and making and selling them in the market cooperatively. We sanctioned them a loan of Rs.50,000/-from Nelindco. This self help group do scented sticks independently and sale in the whole sale shop. Now each woman earn minimum of Rs. 120/- per day. Their family economic condition is improving. Moreover their repayment is also regular.



Govindamma w/o Damodharam (a member of Adharsha Mahila self Group – formed by ROPES):

Govindamma hails from a poor family of Mommidoddi village, Palamaner Mandal. Her father is a daily labourer and she has two children her daughter is doing Teacher's Training and son is studying 7th std. Her family was in dire poverty. First she started her business with painting work, taken loan from money lenders and the interest was Rs.10/- per Rs.100/- Interest was high and she was unable to do her income generation activity profitably. Since she was getting loss, she completely left this work and going for daily labour for very meager income. Her husband and family members scolded her because of her failure and loss in her hand work. She was decided to commit suicide. But some of her friends prevented doing so. They told about ROPES Economic development program, which is helping hundreds of poor women with micro credit with low interest to start or improve their business and extend other services for poor women empowerment and development. She joined in one of the members in Adharsha Mahila Self Help Group and taken a loan of Rs.12, 000/-. With this capital she bought brushes and paints



and started again her hand work. She does painting to saris, glasses, pots etc, and attracted many people with her hand work. She earns more than Rs.10, 000/- depending on orders and time. Now she is the bread winner of the entire family and supporting both her children to continue their work. When we approached her for case study, she was very happy to share her bitter experience to the present better position. **“She says Because of ROPES my business has improved and my family is in the process of developing and all credit goes to ROPES, who encouraged and supported me.**

Our Supporting partners:

We are grateful & thankful to all funding partners, foundations, Governmental agencies, individual philanthropists who supported all our implementation activities for the beneficiaries of the most vulnerable children, oppressed women and their communities in the past and present projects. Our major funding received from **Terre Des Hommes**; The Netherlands deserve special mention while Childline India foundation also has been supporting our work for rescuing children from exploitation. Volkart foundation also deserves gratitude for the support extended for providing a quality education to rural children in primary and secondary schools.

The work of ROPES for empowerment and development of target people will be incomplete without the generous support and cooperation of the above mentioned funding agencies, individuals, Government and well wishers in India and Abroad. Therefore the unfailing support and kind gesture of every one encourage our successful reaching of the target people and inspire us to work with greater enthusiasm and involvement for making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and oppressed and weaker communities who need succor for transformation of their lives.

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Some of the activities in picture Gallery:

Some of the adolescent girls and women of backward community undergoing vocational training at ROPES Training Centre

Vocational training to adolescents Woman basket weaving School dropout girl learns pottery



Nutrition demo and supply

1-1-Health education

Girl children cognitive skills



Dist. Collector Releasing CHILD LINE – 1098 Posters



Explaining to Local MLA about CHILD LINE



Receiving Raju (a missing child) & handed over to his parents

CASE STUDY

Name : Gangulamma,
Age : 13 Years,
Sex : Female,
Class : 6h class,
Father Name : Ramaiah,
Mother Name: Lakshamma,
Address : Tirumala Kondaiahgari Palli, Royal peta – Post
Peddapanjani - Mandal,
Chittoor District – 517408.



Details of the Case:

The girl child who is 13 years of age in VI class belonged to a poor and helpless family in Tirumala Kondaiahgari Palli. The parents are agricultural labourers who get a meager amount of wages for their seasonal work. The child's mother is bed-ridden due to some chronic sickness and the child was compelled to discontinue her studies for look after the mother and domestic chores in the belonging and recently the parents secretly arranged the marriage of child with a boy aged 15 years living Drivers Colony.

Intervention:

On receiving information about the proposal of child marriage through the Child Line 1098, we rushed to the Drivers Colony in Gangavaram Mandal and contacted Mrs. Visalakshamma, an Anganwadi staff for seeking further information. We reached the village temple where the marriage was about to be performed and informed the local Police. The parents at first told us that it is only a betrothal but later accepted their mistake after sufficient counseling and stopped the marriage. We have taken the child bride, child groom and all relatives to the Police Station and the parents gave a letter of assurance that they would abide by the constitutional stipulation of age norm. They have also agreed to send their girl child to school.

Present Status:

The child is attending to school and the child is met by the Child Line Staff (Mrs. Eswari and Mrs. A. Kumari) to know about her condition at home and school.

CASE STUDY

Name : Muneendra,
Age : 6 years
Sex : Male
Class : 1st Class
Father Name : Venkata Swamy,
Mother Name: Suseelamma - Late
Address : Thettumitta – Village,
Gangavaram Mandal,
Chittoor District – 517408.



Details of the Case:

The male child aged 6 years in Class 1st lost his mother while he was one year old. He belongs to a poor family and his father is an addict to alcohol. His father is aged and weak but he spends all his earning for buying liquor and never cares for the boy. Moreover he carries the boy for all places wherever he goes for coolie. This has made the boy to lose attendance in school without proper care and sufficient nutrition, the child looks stunted without proper growth when compared with his age.

Intervention:

We received the relevant information about the adverse condition of the child through the Child Line 1098 and reached the village called Thettumitta to collect the details of the neglected child and his parents. The teachers of the Primary School and the staff of Anganwadi were unable to provide enough details about the child. After meeting the elders and leaders of the village, we were able to meet the child and his father and also his guardians who happen to be the parental uncle and aunty. The father requested as to take care of his son in view of his advanced age and inability to provide all the need of the child. He gave a letter for getting his child to an orphanage and the same was delivered to the President Smt. Sree Latha who was kind enough to admit the child in the Karunya Children's Home at Bangarupalyam. He is safe and happy in the home.

Present Status:

He is admitted to M.P.P Elementary School at Bangarupalyam in class I and attends school regularly from Karunya Children's Home.

CASE STUDY

Name : Gunavathi,
Sex : Female,
Age : 14 years,
Class : Intermediate,
Father Name : Sundar Raj,
Mother Name: Sampurnamma,
Address : Pullimadugu - Vil,
Bangarupalyam - Mandal,
Chittoor District – 517416.



Details of the Case:

The teen aged girl 17 years old in Intermediate final class belongs to a poor coolie family in which the father is a coolie and the mother is a vegetable vender at Katpadi. She has another 2 elder siblings who were married. As the parents could not afford to provide the teen aged girl's needs of clothes and school stationary from their marginal income, they arranged an alliance against the wishes of the girl.

Intervention:

After receiving the information about the child marriage and forced acceptance of the marriage of the child by the parents over the Child line – 1098, the Child Line Co ordinator and Team members, Sarpanch, Anganwadi Supervisor and village elders met the parents of the bride and the bridegroom and outlined the stipulation the constitution requiring 18 years for the bride and 21 years for the bridegroom to legally valid marriage and the consequent punishment for the parties involved and counseled them sufficiently. By the time the team approached the marriage party, they marriage was already got solemnized. Hence the parents pleaded with the above team and gave an undertaking on a stamped paper to the effect that they would send the girl to the junior college to complete her studies from their home and keep the marriage abeyance. The groom and the bride with their parents came to the ROPES office and met the Sub Centre Director Mr. Dhana Sekaran along with the Sarpanch, Team Leaders and other village elders.

Present Status:

Presently the girl stays in her mother's place and attends her studies regularly.

CASE STUDY

Name : Siva Prasad,
Age : 12 years,
Sex : Male,
Class : 5th Class,
Father Name : Venkatappa - Late,
Mother Name: Amaravathi,
Address : Kuravanka,
Madanapalli Mandal,
Chittoor District – 517002.



Details of the Case:

The male child aged 12 years is studying VI class and he lost his father three years ago. Even when the father was alive, the family could not get sufficient food and amenities because his meager earnings through coolie. The widowed mother became a house maid for a paltry sum and neglected the boy and treated him harshly. The boy absconded for the classes and started playing. As there was indifference and negligence for the child, he started begging and stopped attending school.

Intervention:

On receiving information about the child over the child line 1098 the child was met on the Bangalore highway in Madanapalli and brought to his mother in his native village. The mother complained about the recklessness of the boy and his careless behavior in spite her love for him. The child complained about the mother's callous attitude. After enough counseling the boy is staying with the mother and waiting for the decision of CWC and their recommendation. She case is under follow up.

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NITHYA, AN ABANDONED CHILD TIREDLESSLY RUNNING FOR A LIFE

Nithya is a 13 year's orphan girl. Nithya says that she does not know about her parents. She was with one beggar family for some years in Panivoor near PALANI along with their 5 biological children. They used to leave her in their hut and go for begging. One day somebody chased them from that place. The beggar family said the girl that they cannot feed her anymore and left her there and went away. A man saw her sitting in front of a tea shop and crying. After listening to her story he asked the girl to come with him to his house for doing house hold work in PALANI. She went along with him to his house and she was there for 5 years working as a servant without any salary. They were providing her food. She was working till late nights without rest. She



has to do all the work alone and has to look after their two children. After that the owner's wife did not like her work and asked her husband to leave the girl somewhere. On 5th June 2012 the owner gave her Rs.700/- and made her to sit in a bus saying that if you go to that place where the goes, you get a work. The girl innocently travelled till Palamaner and got down there. There she went to a house and asked for a work but they said they do not have any work. When she went to another home and asked for the work. The owner of that house chased her from there saying she will call police and handover her. The girl ran away from there. In the Late evening when she was sitting near government hospital and crying a police came there and took her to the police station and the police called ROPES child line co coordinator and informed about the child. ROPES Child line staff



Nithya with ROPES Director Ms. Sree Latha

immediately rushed to the police station, whole night they were there in the police station with the child and fulfilled all the formalities and brought the child to our children's home. Now the child is in Karunya Children's home safely. She is mentally traumatized and very silent without talking to anybody. We are giving her counseling and giving care. Nithya likes to study and a do a job for her earning.