

# **Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES)**

## *ANNUAL REPORT*

*For the period from April 2013 to March 2014*



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## **ANNUAL REPORT OF ROPES FOR 2013-14**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

It is an act of joy to present a comprehensive report of the activities and achievement of ROPES for the year 2013 – 14 with our focal endeavor devoted to ensure the character of child rights to all children belonging to tribal, dalits and minority communities, and empowerment of vulnerable dalit and tribal women with the involvement of our staff, community and officials of the local administration and government. The main thrust and focus remained child centric during the year to bring rescue, rehabilitation and restoration in the lives of children at large facing abuse.

The following in the details of the report for the year 2013 – 14.

### **Stop Child Exploitation:**

The stop child exploitation project duly sponsored by TdH-NL in 2012 to cover 39 villages in the target area for protection, prevention and prosecution of vulnerable children belonging to tribal, dalits and minority communities affected severely by child abuse ,labor, child marriage and trafficking for sexual and other forms of exploitation. The area is also known for children affected with HIV/AIDS and malnourishment on one hand and on the other hand showed higher Infant mortality, maternal mortality and still birth. The children at school and villages lacked safe drinking water and sanitation in their homes. The critical issues faced by dalits and Adhivasis include untouchability, poverty, exploitation, displacement, land alienation, illiteracy, discrimination, atrocity and social ostracism. The social and economic issues faced by the grass root communities though remained great challenges before ROPES were overcome and tackled to bring dignity and equality to the affected community through the well equipped infrastructure and adequately trained and motivated staff and volunteers of ROPES which evinced deep interest in serving the vulnerable children for rescue, rehabilitation and restoration in all its policies and program. It also closely co-ordinate with the child line 1098 foundation and created sufficient level of awareness among the grass root communities, Anganwadi teachers and police personnel for child protection.

### **PROTECTION:**

All round development of 278 children protected from abuse took place by establishing 6 child protection centers (CPCs). Each CPC is equipped with 228 learning materials and 87 children successfully completed pre primary education and joined in Primary school. The year under report saw 62 children enrolled in our CPC while 520 children

were encouraged and counseled to enroll in high school after completion of primary education.

### **Outdoor activities**



### **Indoor activities**



### **Capacity Building: Training of 248 Government Anganwadi Teachers**

To strengthen Anganwadi teachers for safe guarding other children. we chose two Mandals for effectively training them in the realm of child assessment, preparation of learning materials, protection, prevention and prosecution and promotion awareness on child rights but the Anganwadi teachers of two more Mandals came on request for including them to participate in the training and thus 248 Anganwadi teachers of 4 Mandals were given enrichment training on child rights.



### **Life Skills and Coping behavior Improvement Training:**

615 school teachers and 61 headmasters of schools in the area received life skill and coping behavior improvement training first of all and later they conducted training to impact life skill education for a record number of 2839 children in their schools.

## ROPES Trained team giving Life skills education to Government School Teachers



## Awareness for Police personnel (Training on 1098 & Laws related to Child abuses):

The dedicated child line team of ROPES provided awareness training for police person's right in their Police station at Palamaner, Bangarupalyam and Gangavaram Mandals on Child rights and demonstrated the process of child line 1098 services for protecting the vulnerable and missing children in the operational area. It is again a rare privilege that the police included the staff of ROPES in their local committees to save children.



## Main streaming of rescued and drop children:

Project during the year under report main streamed followings number of laboring, non-laboring and exploited children aged 0 to 18 years

### **ROPES / TdH-NL INTERVENTIONS**

Child Marriage stopped	: 16.
Child Labor redeemed	: 31
Neglected rehabilitation started	: 289
Drop outs re-enrolled	: 67
Sexually abused rescued	: 7
Medical Assistance provided	: 5
Shelter provided	: 16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>: 431</b>

### **Vocational skills and Trainings:**

A record number of 421 youth hailing from poor and needy families received vocational training in supply chain management, Home care nursing, computer literacy and tailoring during the year and as many as 380 youth selected by placement service for suitable employment in Apollo hospital, Chennai, Siva shakthi group of companies, Vinuthna fertilizers, More and reliance marts, dairies, browsing centers and are known to earn Rs 6000/- to 10,000/- per month in private firms and super markets in nearby towns.



**Home Care Nursing Students**

### **PREVENTION:**

In the area of prevention the risk of vulnerability and abuse got significantly reduced with the effective counseling and awareness education for the parents and public. 56 parents who were alcoholic addicts counseled for training new life and found to show meaningful change in their behavior and attitudes towards children and family.

### **Improvement of socio economic conditions:**

SHG's were promoted with a total 1015 members and saved a sum Rs 1093595/- and the amount was given as revolving loan for income generation and this socio economic status of the families of the children showed improvement. During the year 2 more SHG's were organized with 24 members who started income generation activities.

### **Socio economic security for unorganized laborers :**

Social security measures launched among a un organized labor community brought the following improvement.

- 133 unorganized laborers benefited from various social security schemes viz..
  - IKP, IAH, MEPMA etc.,
- 421 new house site pattas (Legal Entity) were procured for 295 families with plat size of 2 cents each.
- 495 old age pension secured.
  - (Rs. 500/- each per month)

- 226 widow pension secured.
  - (Rs. 200/- each per month)

### **Health care services:**

It is again an essential service on the part of ROPES utilized its medical and paramedical staff to provide health care services for the benefit of Antenatal and postnatal mothers and their infants for health care improvement.

### **Health education**



- 359 Antenatal Mothers were given health care services through identification and distribution of vitamin and mineral supplements and promoted awareness for immunization with TT for the period from April 13 to March 14.
- 323 Postnatal Mothers identified and follow up services rendered.

### **PROSECUTION:**

In the sensitive area of prosecution despite more risks and hostility were bore by the staff of ROPES child line team, the following commendable work has been accomplished.

- 39 Child Protection Committees (CPC) in 39 villages constituted with a total of 348 representatives and follow up meetings was conducted for identifying the child abuse new cases. Each committee consisted of 9 representatives who include one village head, one school teacher, one Asha worker, one Anganwadi teacher, two parents, One ROPES team member, two elder children.
- 48 cases were reported by Child Protection Committee members and resolved the issues of child abuse.
- 54 Child Protection Committee members were trained by ICPS and ICDS regarding child protection, child rights etc.
- Networking with ICPS.



- Effective enforcement of recent laws in Nirbhaya Act and POCSO Act were involved to book the culprits to undergo prescribed legal punishment. The total number has come to 17 cases.

### **ROPES children at MMS:**

ROPES took keen interest in securing admission for rural children to the prestigious Madagondapalli Model School run by TdH-NL over the past years many of the students not only completed their studies in flying colors, but also become engineering graduates, B. Sc nurses and PG degree holder, started earning and enhanced their family economic status. It is a matter of pride to mention that this year 6 rural children admitted to CBSE stream passed their 10<sup>th</sup> class with impressive performance.

### **Children club:**

As many as 39 children's clubs were organized in 39 Schools with 9 representatives of children and are member of ROPES child line team. The clubs are empowered to identify issues affecting children and work for realization of child rights. The clubs started working effectively and spreading the knowledge of child line 1098 services to the parents and public in the matter of child rescue and rehabilitation activities. 12 open house programs conducted in 12 villages with children. Awareness was given about 1098 toll free number, about child abuse and child rights. Children were very active and shared problems of their friends, neighbors and the other children who come across to them. Children promised that they will help other children who are in problem.

### **Because I am a girl child (BIAGC):**

#### **(District Senior Judges Mrs. Hemelatha, & Mr. Srinivas addressing the gathering)**

Under the auspices of plan India, ROPES organized a one day seminar involving the District legal service authority Mrs. Hemalatha and senior civil judge Mr. Srinivasulu as chair persons and the participants included NGO representatives and adolescent girl for the meeting at Chittoor. The key note addresses were given by the civil judge legal cell authority and the CEO of plan India. Group discussion and reporting were promoted among the participants a various issues and challenges



conformed for the adolescent girls in particular. The legal authorities appropriated the effort of ROPES for promotion of ROPES

### **Participation in the district legal cell:**

It is rare honor for ROPES to be represented as a member in the Chittoor district child protection committee headed by the District collector for revolving and providing remedial and rescue services for the welfare of vulnerable children at large. The network once in six months conducts meeting and ROPES had unique privilege to highlight the problems and resolved for the bright future of affected children. The legal cell authority appreciated the ROPES interventions for vulnerable children.



### **District child protection NGOs network:**

#### **Networking for child protection:**

To promote effective monitoring and ensuring child rights, ROPES has co-ordinate for networking with 18 dalit & tribal NGOs for the least two years at the District level Child Protection network. The above effort also has paid good results because of our identification, involvement and collective action to resolve the issues facing the children of dalit & tribal community.

### **Staff Training: (2 trainings conducted in a year)**

ROPES endeavors to impart efficiency and motivational training through half yearly Instructional and competence training for the staff of ROPES by appointing suitable resources persons. Since the staff face risks and threats from the community and parents who are at time hostile if child marriages and abuses are reported in the local dailies or in the media. Integrity and industry are the by word of the staff members enlisted for service by ROPES. The image of ROPES in the sphere of child centric activity and women empowerment in the eyes of government officials and public is positive because of our grass root rapport for the last two decades and our adequacy in staff and infrastructure availability.



### **Recognition from the district legal authority:**

#### **(Issue of Authorization letter to ROPES team from District Legal Cell authority)**

ROPES team is recognized to represent child rights violation and issues affecting the welfare of children in the district legal cell authority without any inhibition. The district legal cell authority appreciated the work of ROPES in child care and protection, also distributed certificate of authorization as volunteers in legal cell authority to take up all child abuse cases to bring to the notice of legal cell judge for help in prosecution of accused.

### **Participation in Asio Gusto at Korea:**

**Mr. K. Dhana Sekaran, Chairman & P. Sree Latha, Director of ROPES presenting the paper in International Slow food festival, Korea.**

An invitation to participate in a one week International slow food work shop Asio Gusto in October 2013 at Korea for the founder Mr. K. Dhana Sekaran and the director Mrs. Sreelatha deserves to be maintained. Mr. K. Dhanasekaran presented a paper on food security while Mrs. Sreelatha demonstrated the preparation of Indian recipe popular among Tribal's and exhibited delicacies of south Indian menu.



### **ROPES INTERVENTION WITH CHILD LINE 1098 PROGRAMMES:**

ROPES is also partnering with the Child line 1098 India foundation focus on 23 Mandals of Madanapalli division in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh for rescuing and rehabilitating children in crisis with a team of child line members who promptly take up rescue measures when child line 1098 phone calls are received from the informers about the abuse or threat faced by the child.

### **ROPES CHILD LINE INTERVENTIONS:**

Child Marriage prevented	: 43
Child Labor rescued	: 58
Neglected provided care	: 86
Trafficking rescued	: 14
Drop outs reenrolled	: 31
Missing found and rehabilitated	: 51
Sexually abused rescued and resorted to legal action	: 26
Medical Assistance extended	: 39
Shelter secured	: 55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>: 403</b>

**N.B:** ROPES so far prevented highest number of child marriages 43 in the state and provided shelter and safety for the adolescent girls who have not attained 18 years of age.

### **Open house meetings:**

ROPES has conducted several open house meetings in the target area for driving home awareness, advocacy and services of 1098 children operation among villages school children and elicit suitable reaction and response from them. A number of issues affecting the children like abuse, neglect, exploitation and sexual molestation including child marriage were narrated by the children. In Shanthipuram Mandal, Chennuru Bandarlapalle lacked primary school and this incidence was reported by the children and a petition was duly addressed to the district authorities for opening a primary school at an early date. Suet is the splendid response of the children if they were empowered. This is a good platform for the children to participate in the program and share their problems and clarify their doubts.

## **ROPES INTERVENTION WITH VOLKART PROGRAMMES:**

**Programs implemented with the support VOLKART Foundation, Mumbai**

### **1. Special coaching for 8<sup>th</sup> class students**

A total of 573 students which included 272 boys and 301 girls belonging to four high schools in Bangarupalyam, E.R Penta, Gundla katta manchi and Mogili Mittoor received special coaching in English, Science and Mathematics under the in charge of trained teachers during the evenings and holidays. We have also gathered the children studying 8<sup>th</sup> class in Government hostels for SC, ST and minority community children. The feedback provided by the class teachers and the head masters concerned revealed that the performance of the students after the implementation of special coaching really improved their knowledge and confidence. The progress reports of the terminal examinations are showed impressive performance due to the fact that we conducted several tests every week and month in order to promote their understanding and memory in the crucial subjects which earlier were considered very tough by the students.

#### **English Class**



#### **Mathematics Class**



### **2. Special coaching for 9<sup>th</sup> class:**

A total of 563 students which includes 284 boys and 279 girls belonging to the four high schools in Bangarupalyam, E.R Penta, Gundla katta manchi and Mogili Mittoor benefited with the special coaching program implemented by employing experienced teachers who provided effective coaching in English, Science and Mathematics during the said period under report. The outcome of the coaching resulted in equipping the students with impressive knowledge and understanding of the subjects. The students also found to score good marks in the quarterly, half yearly and annual examinations because of the practice tests conducted

before the examinations. The class teachers, the head masters and the parents expressed their satisfaction over the progress of the students especially after the implementation of the special coaching program. In this special coaching program we paid attention to the students residing in government hostels and other marginalized families.

**Science class**



**English class**



### **3. Special coaching for 10<sup>th</sup> class**

The special coaching program targeted a total of 382 students which includes 180 boys and 202 girls from the high schools in Bangarupalyam, and Mogili Mittoor with the help of 6 trained and experienced teachers to handle English, Science and Mathematics. The students were motivated to regularly attend the tuition in two centre's so as to make them thorough in the above subjects well in advance before public examinations in March 2014. A record number of tests and model examinations were conducted and evaluated besides clearing the doubts in the 3 subjects. The pass percentage in the recently announced 10<sup>th</sup> class results on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 is 95% and all the students got passed in English, Science and Mathematics in the public examinations held in March 2014. The failure was noticed in Telugu language which we never expected. The good performance was attributed to the special coaching and care shown by the dedicated teachers appointed by ROPES with the generous support extended by the Volkart foundation. The students, parents, teachers and ROPES sincerely thank the Volkart foundation for their timely support and encouragement to extend the intervention for the betterment of academic result by the students targeted.

### Mathematics class

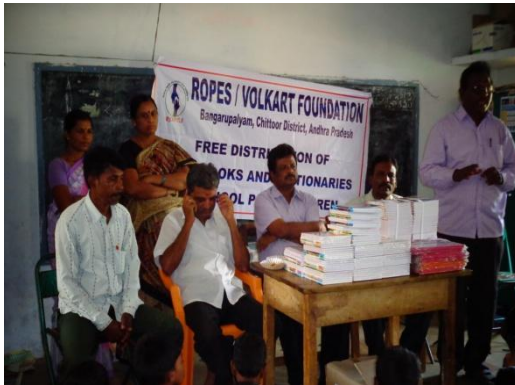


### Science class



## 4. Distribution of school stationery

School stationery in the form of note books, pens, pencils and scales were distributed for 1000 students belonging to poor and needy families as mentioned in the approved proposal in the presence of the DEO, MEO, MDO, Community leaders and the head masters concerned in the schools in the reference area. In addition to the above we distributed 75 pairs of shoes to the students who are hailing from extremely poor and needy families in Mogili Mittoor.



## 5. Distribution of Sewing machines to 11 young girls

A batch of 11 young girls trafficked were rescued and enlisted for undergoing tailoring training for a period of 9 months. A qualified instructor was appointed to impact the training for this batch of young girls and the successful trainees were given sewing machines. These girls were trafficked for child labor and sexual exploitation and they were rescued and rehabilitated by ROPES.

**Tailoring students**



**Saritha is stitching blouse**



### CASE STUDY - 1

Name : N. Sony  
Age : 16 years  
Gender : Female  
Father name : N. Nagesh  
Mother name : N. Ammulu  
10<sup>th</sup> Class marks : 7/10  
Cast : SC (Mala)  
Address : Paleru (Mothigunta), Bangarupalyam Mandal

#### **Case description:**

**“ROPES with the support of Volkart Foundation, Mumbai making difference in the lives of Sony who hails from the poor background of dalit community”.**

The girl Sony belongs to poor family. She has one sister and one brother. Her sister name is Supriya studying 9<sup>th</sup> standard and her brother name is Pavan and he is studying 7<sup>th</sup> standard. Her parents are daily wage laborers. Their income is 40,000/- per annul. So it is very difficult to run their family and provide education to their children. This situation leads to the child to work hard and study well. At that time the girl knows about **ROPES providing special coaching classes for the X class students** at evening times in the schools & hostels and then the poor girl very much interested in

studies and did hard work in tenth class with the support of ROPES and got good rank. Present the child is studying Intermediate with AT (Accounts & Tax) group at Bangarupalyam Government College. Her aim is to study MBA. In such a way we are making difference in the lives of many poor & needy children of our target area. This type of program helps many poor children to improve their educational performance and compete with other children and get through Government public exams.



**Marks obtained in X class subject wise:**

English – 7/10

Mathematics - 8/10

Science – 8/10

**CASE STUDY - 2**

**HOW ROPES STOPPED CHILD MARRIAGE:**

It is a common practice in many countries around the world; however it is especially prevalent in India, where more than one third of all child brides live. According to UNICEF, 47% of girls are married by 18 years of age, and 18% are married by 15 years of age. These marriages are often performed without the consent of the girls involved in the marriage. Indian law has made child marriage illegal, but it is still widely practiced across the nation. The highest rates are seen particularly in the rural states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. It affects both boys and girls, but statistics show that girls are far more likely to be forced into a child marriage than boys.



Siva a 15 years boy, son of Narayanappa and Chinnapamma hails from Tribal community of Drivers colony of Gangavaram Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh. His father is a daily labour and his mother is a house wife. He studied up to 8th class and dropped out from the school and became a child labor. He was going for daily labour along with his father and brother. He was not interested in education. His father is severely sick. Hence elder's from both families fixed marriage to this boy with his maternal aunt's daughter Gangulamma who is about 13 years old. Bride's mother is a chronic mental patient and severely sick also. The bride Gangulamma hails from Tribal community of Royalpeta village, Peddapanjani mandal. Her father is also a daily labour.

Because of sickness of Siva and Gangulamma parents, The village elders and relatives arranged for a child marriage for the children Siva and Gangulamma , which was suppose to be held engagement on 19.2.2013 and marriage on 20.2.2013. On 19.2.2013 afternoon SHG members from Drivers colony passed on the information to the ROPES team over phone. ROPES team immediately called to 1098 and informed the matter to them and rushed to the Bridegrooms house where the ritual is going on. ROPES team informed this about the child marriage to the local ICDS team and Sub Inspector of Police for help. The boy and his parents were taken to the police station and the girl was sent to her parents' house.

Police and ROPES team gave awareness to the parents and boy about the disadvantages of child marriage and laws regarding child marriage punishment and the correct age of marriage. Moreover we counseled and explained their parents about Child Marriage is such a social evil which has the potentialities of dangers to the life and health of a female child and plays havoc in their lives, who cannot withstand the stress and strains of married life and it leads to early deaths of such minor mothers.

The parents accepted to stop the marriage and to send the boy to the school instead of work. ROPES team members gave counseling to the boy and his parents. ROPES professional counselor also visited the boy's family in Drivers colony and girl's family in Rayalpeta village and counseled them. Both the family members accepted and promised to stop the marriage and the same was given in writing stating that they will not perform child marriage, till they become majors and eligible for marriage . Moreover we counseled the boy and girl and stressed the importance of education and how it affects both boys and girls. Kalpana, counselor and other ROPES team stressed the parents about the after effects and implications of child marriage. Fortunately good sense prevailed upon both the sets of parents and they have now postponed the nuptials till both their children attain majority. Kalpana helped her through offering counseling and psychosocial support to the child.



### **CASE STUDY - 3**

Name of the child : K. Nandini  
Age : 16years  
Gender : Female  
Class : X  
Parents : Bhagavan & Rajeswari  
Address : Sadakuppam village, Bangarupalyam Mandal  
Case title : Child marriage

#### **Case description:**

Nandini is a regular tenth class student at Govt. School in Aragonda. She belongs to a poor family. The child's parents were illiterates and they are not having awareness on child marriages so they planned to do marriage for the child.

#### **Case intervention:**

The ROPES child line team members, Police personnel, ICDS supervisor and the village people stopped the child marriage. Counselling the parents as well as the child. Our team members planned to keep the child at shelter but the parents were not allowed, and finally they were accepted to send the child to school.

#### **Present status:**

The adolescent girl now attends the school and she is being watched by the teachers and the Anganwadi staff.

#### **OUR FUNDING AGENCIES DURING THE YEAR**

##### **Our heartfelt thanks due to,**

- Terre des Hommes – Netherlands
- Child line India foundation – Mumbai
- Volkart foundation – Mumbai
- Local donations

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The activities and achievement listed in the above report really warrant us to extend special word of thanks for the unstinted co-operation and support provided by the donors and foundations during the year financial 2013 – 14. The leaders of the

community in the reference and the officials of the local administration and that of the government also deserve our appreciation for the remarkable co-operation and kindness shown for the welfare and protection of children and their rights. We also record our appreciation and acknowledge the close rapport and services extended by the staff and volunteers of ROPES in planning and implementation of project activities for the empowerment of children and women of tribal, dalit and minority communities.

Let us conclude by thanking all, who support, appreciate, encourage and promote ROPES, there by promoting the well being of the marginalized.

**Submitted by:**

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