

Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services

ANNUAL REPORT

For the period from April 2011 to March 2012



Santhi Nagar, Bangarupalyam, Chittoor District - 517 416, Andhra Pradesh, South India.

Ph: +91 8573 - 280270 / 282070

E-mail: ropes_india@yahoo.com

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We at ROPES, take pleasure in submitting the latest Annual Report of our Organization. We take this opportunity to wish and thank everyone who supported us to carry over the program. The year has been eventful for ROPES, faced with many a challenging situation, ROPES emerged stronger. I, K. Dhana Sekaran am happy to present the Annual Report for the year 2011-2012.

INTRODUCTION:

Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES) is a registered non Governmental and not for Profit Organization. ROPES was founded in the year 1989 by Mr. K. Dhana Sekaran and friends, individuals committed to ensure that every child exercises his / her fundamental right to quality education and social equality.

The organization has been working mostly with Dalits and Adhivasis and amongst them Women and Child living in Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

ROPES has witnessed many changes and improvements in the lives of the people. ROPES believes that after 22 years of working with the discriminated and disadvantaged that lasting and irreversible change is possible when active Ngo's affected communities and partner organizations come together and address the causes that keep millions of people non illiterate and hungry.

The main objectives of the ROPES are to empower and develop women and children in all activities and to provide welfare services for the poor. The preamble of this society is to protect the women rights, human rights, children's rights, Dalit rights and promotion of micro credit schemes for sustainable development of the poor women. At present ROPES is implementing its activities in Chittoor district. The major programmes conducted by the society are stated below:

Various projects/activities implemented by the organisation:

- ❖ Early stimulation and Childhood Education for 609 children in 15 villages
- ❖ Quality Primary Education for 909 children in 10 Primary Schools.
- ❖ Educational and medical support to 192 differently able children.
- ❖ Antenatal care for 362 mothers & post natal care for 174 mothers
- ❖ Health education to 3000 women on preventive and curative aspects
- ❖ Health clinics & camps
- ❖ A Home (Karunaya Nilayam) for 150 HIV/AIDS infected and affected children
- ❖ Ensure child rights and child protection
- ❖ Eradication of child labour and child marriages in the target area

- ❖ Enrollment of school dropouts and nonstarters in formal schools
- ❖ Supplementary nutrition for children 271 poor and mal nourished children
- ❖ Organizing & strengthening of 138 Women's Associations
- ❖ Promotion and strengthening of 84 self help groups for women
- ❖ Vocational trainings for youth (Computer course 156, Tailoring 21, Four wheeler mechanism 10)
- ❖ Special coaching for 362 primary children, 197 X std., students
- ❖ Awareness education on HIV/AIDS prevention 20 Mandals
- ❖ Pediatric initiatives for 1000 HIV/AIDS affected/infected children.
- ❖ Strengthening of Panchayat raj initiatives
- ❖ Networking, Advocacy & lobbying
- ❖ Mobilisation of various Government welfare & development programmes

Our journey with the needy and marginalized children and communities continue, we have learnt some lessons from our mistakes and achievements. We are fortunate in the sense that we have been well supported by the team of TdH.NL in India. Our approach to the needy has been pragmatic in 9 panchayats consisting of 68 hamlets. We have taken all efforts to address critical issues such as child health and nutrition, quality primary education, disable children; HIV/AIDS infected and affected children and child labour eradication. Our intervention ensures children's rights and improving their futures.

The projects comprised of providing play way education for pre-school children. Children in all our 15 Early Learning Centers are imparted education in play way methods. Play way education not only keeps the children interested but is useful to the children to attain all-round development. We have introduced this type of play way education in 22 Government Anganwadi centers of ICDS in our target area.

ROPES support primary schools for quality education by providing Teaching & Learning materials and support teachers trained by MEC, Vocational trainings for youth, rehabilitation of differently able children, Antenatal and postnatal care for women, addressing the issue of nutritional deficiencies of children, and provision of microcredit to self help groups of women for their economical empowerment. Our intervention brought out a lot of meaningful changes among deprived children and oppressed women.

1. EDUCATIONAL SECTOR:

A. EARLY LEARNING CENTRES:

Children in all our 15 Early Learning Centers are imparted education in play way methods. Play way education not only keeps the children interested but is useful to the

children to attain all-round development. We have introduced this type of play way education in 22 Government Anganwadi centers of ICDS in our target area.

B.SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN

Supplementary nutrition is provided to 609 children. The nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years has improved. The progress of the children is constantly monitored.

June 2009 to September 2008	Total	Normal	Grade 1	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
	609	306	227	65	11	0

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that our children perform better, yet they do share their skills / knowledge with children less fortunate than them in primary schools. The primary school teachers are most satisfied with their performance. 609 children are attending early learning centers from all 15 villages. Our intervention gradually reduced the malnourishment among children.

At present there are 168 learning materials in each ELC. The local community has played an active role, contributing locally available materials to the ELC centers. 282 children from our 15 ELCs successfully completed their Pre primary education and joined Primary school. ROPES continuous motivation and education enable mothers to look after the needs of the children properly through good nutrition, health and education. Our intervention ensured and witnesses all round development of preschool children.

ROPES in partnership with TdH.NL lay the foundation for the psychological, physical and social development of children. During the year 136 new children were enrolled in our Early Learning Centers.

ELC children out door play



Case Work:

Growth monitoring



Sneha is a sweet and lovely girl, belongs to Drivers Colony, Gangavaram Mandal, her mother's name is Gopiamma and father's name is Raghu. She is the youngest one in this family. She has one elder brother and one elder sister. Her father quiet often falls sick and his contribution to the family is very less. Her mother is the only bread winner of this family.

Her mother Gopiamma does not have the means to support her 3 children, with the meager wages she earns as a daily labourer. The child sneha was mal nourished right from birth; ROPES intervened and with the supplementary nutrition provided at the Early Learning Center ensured that the child

received the needed nourishment. Today her health condition has improved from grade 1V to normal. The photographs depicts the growth monitoring is being done by the ELC teacher. Sneha is standing in front of the scale to know about her height.

C. QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION:

Our ELC centers prepare children using play way methods and innovative teaching techniques. Our support teachers contribute to the development of children at the Primary school. Periodic trainings to our teachers organized by MEC helps them to update their knowledge and skills. These trainings help them to impart their skills to the teachers in the primary school. ROPES support teachers in 5 of these schools. 284 children successfully completed primary education and enrolled in High schools.

MLA distributing educational materials

During the academic year 2010 - 2011, 282 children completed early childhood education and enrolled in 21 primary schools. Our continuous motivation, encouragement and follow up on their education, help to reduce school drop outs. 429 poor and needy primary children of 27 schools were provided with educational materials. The educational material consisted of slates & slate pencils, note books, pencils, erasers, school bags, geometry boxes, rulers etc., the distribution of educational material to these children helps in bringing down the number of school dropouts. Our local MLA Mr. Amaranadha Reddy distributed the educational material to the children. All 21 primary schools in our target area have been provided with sports material, this has resulted in improved attendances in these schools.



20 new learning materials were prepared by our teachers according to the competencies and used for children.

Independence Day celebration:

Primary school children celebrated Independence Day on 15 August 2010. This is a special occasion for all especially children. Children enacted drama, sang songs with action holding national Flags. Children enjoyed more on that day by seeing and participating cultural programs. Children had chocolates and sweets. This photographs taken at a primary school, Rentaguntla village.

Dancing with India flags



D. MOTIVATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON RE-ENROLLING CHILDREN IN FORMAL SCHOOLS:

Rally on reenrollment

In the first week of June the primary children of our target area took out a rally holding placards highlighting the importance of education and reenrolling children out of school into formal schools. Children, community people and staff participated in the



campaigns. Parents were counseled about the importance of education and to send their children to school. Our intervention helped to reduce school dropouts.

123 school dropouts and child laborers were re enrolled into formal schools and vocational training

6 child marriages were prevented

Special coaching for rural children :

<u>S.No</u>	<u>Name of the program</u>	<u>No.of units</u>	<u>No.of children benefitted</u>
1	Special coaching for primary level rural children	5 villages	367
2	Special coaching for X class students	2 tuition centres	357
3	Distribution of Note books to poor and needy children	42 primary schools	1256

Special Coaching for primary children and X class Students:

Special coaching was given to primary children of remote villages to improve their educational performance. Special coaching takes place in the evenings after the school hours. We provided snacks to the children after the coaching. The special coaching helps children to improve in local language Telugu, Math’s, English alphabets etc.,

The coaching centers provided a healthy environment for the children where their basic physical, emotional and developmental needs were met and where they can develop a healthy positive relationship with adult role models who care about them. Longer term, it will enable the children to complete their education and to equip each one of them with the skills they need to function as responsible, independent and balanced members of society, preferably in the context of their own families and communities.

Special coaching was conducted for X class students on difficult subjects like English, Math’s and Science. Special coaching helped them to write well the public exams. Children are hoping for better results.

- ❖ 367 children from Mogilivaripalli, Andareddypalli, Mogili Mittoor, Vepanapalli and Thagguvaripalli got special coaching in the evening after school hours on all subjects. Special coaching helped them to improve their educational performance from basics like learning Telugu and English alphabets, numerical. It helped

them to do their home work properly. Reducing the number of out of school children

The special evening classes helped poor and needy primary children to build and strengthen the reading, writing and arithmetic skills of age 6 and above. The classes targeted both out-of-school children and in-school children who are unable to undertake age and grade specific reading, writing and arithmetic. We run special learning support classes in the communities after school hours. 367 primary children from 5 primary schools were covered under this program. 5 teachers were engaged in 5 villages to give evening coaching. Those who do not know even letters of the alphabet begin reading sentences haltingly and those who can read words only with difficulty but cannot read Sentences fluently graduate to good reading.

The list of primary level children benefitted under special coaching:

S.No	Name of the Village -	Girls	Boys	Total
1	Mogilivari palli	26	18	44
2	Andareddypalli	36	35	71
3	Mogili Mittoor	34	32	66
4	Vepanapalli	44	40	84
5	Thagguvaripalli	47	55	102
	Total	187	180	367

The list of children benefitted under x class special coaching:

X CLASS RESULTS:

The children who are perusing their education in corporate schools get through the exams with good marks. Whereas the poor rural children unable to get through the X public exams especially in Math's, Science and English subjects. Most of the failed students end their career with this educational background and become juvenile delinquency and unproductive to the family and community. Some of the children especially girl children become child labour get early marriage, early pregnancy and end their childhood.

Most of the students who have undergone our special coaching have hail from dalit, tribal and from most backward communities. These students are from remote villages. Their parents are illiterates and do not know the value of education.

S. No	Name of the School	Results 2009-2010	Results 2011-2012	Total Children
1	Government High School Tuition Centre, Mogili Mittoor	62%	92%	87
2	Government High School Tuition Centre, Bangarupalyam	44%	86%	270
	Total			357

Special Coaching for X class students were given in 3 difficult subjects (Math's, Science & English). Our Special coaching helped the poor children to get through the public exam with good marks and helps them to peruse their further studies and aim for bright future.

Distribution of Note Books and Stationeries:

Distribution of note books to poor and needy children program was taken place at different places. Mrs. Aruna Kumari, The Minister for roads and mines, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Ravi, M.L.A., Mr. Kumar Raja, Zilla Parishad Chairman, Mr. Chandran, Mandal Education Officer, Local Sarpanches, Head masters, teachers and other local leaders were participated in the note books distribution program and appreciate the services of ROPES and VOLKART FOUNDATION.

The School going poor and needy children was provided with note books and stationeries. It helps them to continue their education. Our intervention helps to nurture and enhance the children's development. ROPES focus family education and counseling, home visits and parents support groups. Our intervention reducing school dropouts. Educational materials helping them to increase their educational performance.

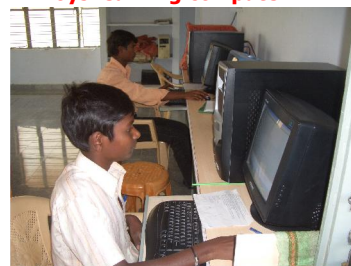
S.No	No.of schools covered	B	G	T
1	30 Primary schools	631	625	1256

SKILL & VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE:

S.No	Name of the Course	Total beneficiaries	Boys	Girls	Duration
1	Tailoring	21	0	21	6 months
2	Computer (PG Diploma in computer education)	156	88	68	6 months
3	Four wheeler mechanism	10	10	0	One year

Vocational trainings in tailoring and computers are being imparted in the ROPES Multi Purpose Community Resource Center at Palamaner. 21 girls are undergoing Training in tailoring and computers and 8 boys are undergoing course in computers.

Boys learning computer



Some of the girls, that have successfully completed their training in tailoring at our Multi Purpose Community Resources Center at Palamaner are self employed / employed and earn Rs. 100 to 200/- every day. Both courses are very useful to the youth for self employed /employed.

Case Work:

Nageena D/O Anwar living at Sai Nagar colony, Palamaner. Her father is a driver. She has two elder brothers. She has studied upto X std., Due to her family poor condition she was unable to continue her studies. Her father is a drunkard not giving more support to the family. Her elder brother is going for painting work and younger brother is studying Intermediate I year. At that critical situation ROPES identified her and asked for her interest in Tailoring and hand embroidery. She visited the centre and saw how other girls are undergoing training. She was convinced to undergo the training. In order to convince Nageena's family members, ROPES instructor approached them and explained about the importance of the course and their Child Nageena is interested in Tailoring and hand embroidery. Her family members convinced to send her to the course.

Nageena engaged in stitching



She has completed her 6 months course in June 2009. Along with tailoring she has learned hand embroidery also. We helped her to get loan from Government and purchased a Sewing machine. Now she is self employed and having machine at home, get orders and stitch cloths. She is earning Rs. 120/- to Rs.200/- per day. Now her earnings are more helpful to the family especially his brother to continue his education.

II. HEALTH SECTOR:

A. RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM:

Through our intervention we are ensuring quality health care services.

Achievements:

Activity	No. of Beneficiaries
Patients screened through the clinic	3,124
Referrals made	226
Total immunizations	3,288
Beneficiaries of school health awareness Programme	2,160
People adopted family planning measures	124
Children received pulse polio vaccine	3,288
People attended the awareness programmes	6,313

Health Education is conducted regularly in our target villages to create awareness on the need for better health. The need for antenatal care, postnatal care, Special children rehabilitation, personal hygiene & sanitation, nutrition and balanced diet, National pulse polio and immunization, family planning, safe drinking water and HIV and AIDS prevention was stressed.

ROPES has motivated the community on the need for the immunization of 0-5 year's children. In all 2120 children were immunized.

Our health workers given care to 262 pregnant mothers and 224 post natal mothers; they were given antenatal checkups, education on exercise, diet, and personal hygiene, post natal care new born and infant care. Our health staff and local Traditional Birth Attendants do follow up care. Patients who needed specialized care were referred to nearby hospitals.

Out of 224 deliveries, 222 mothers had safe deliveries, and gave birth to healthy babies, 2 mothers unfortunately delivered still born babies, and 4 mothers had an abortion. Despite these set backs ROPES intervention has helped to reduce the Maternal and Infant mortality rate significantly in our project area.

Case study:

Interaction with post natal mothers



Bharathi w/o Ramaswamy is living at Pathur village, Palamener Mandal, was badly under nourished during her first pregnancy, lack of proper ante natal care, resulted in her delivering still born baby. Due to her family condition, she was in her mother's house for some time during her first

pregnancy. ROPES health workers intervention during her second pregnancy, ensured that she had proper nutrition, counseling, ante natal care and regular health checkups. She delivered a baby girl weighing 3.5 kgs. The delivery was normal, today both mother and child are healthy. Mrs. Seetha from MEC also witnessed and had talk with her during her visit to our communities.

Mr.Sivakumar talking about TB

We conducted sensitization program on TB prevention with the cooperation of Government. Mr. Sivakumar senior supervisor from TB unit demonstrated with TB treatment kit to the women to understand about TB. Our target participants learnt how to prevent them from TB and what measures the victims have to take to cure TB.



SPECIAL CHILDREN CARE:

Vijay receiving hearing aid from Mandal Educational Officer



We have provided comprehensive and holistic rehabilitation services to transform the lives of the children with disabilities towards empowerment on rights. During this period 116 children were referred to BIRRD hospital, Tirupati for regular check up and treatment. They were given physiotherapy and 3 children were provided with calipers. 3 children underwent surgery in 3 phases. ROPES helped them to get Bus pass, Medical

certificates and pension from the Government.

III.COMUNITY SECTOR:

A.COMUMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Access to financial services alone is not enough for poor people to transform their economic activities into profitable economic enterprises. Proper education is required for rural people. Besides, training is also important for sustainable growth. Training is extremely important for helping people to get over their economic difficulties faster and surer. To achieve this we arranged training programs for our target village communities and improved their capacities.

SHGs achievement for the period 2011-2012:

Total Number of groups formed	: 98
Total members in the Self Help Groups	: 902
Total Savings of the groups	: 116175
Total groups received Micro finance	: 84

Total amount disbursed as micro finance : 11, 00,000
Total amount of loan revolved : 37, 83,000

Women engaged in scented sticks making

The capacity building of the community was done through various programs mobilized for the permanent development of the community. The initiatives on community development were as follows, more women were enrolled in self help groups. Total savings during this period increased. Loans were mobilized from the Government for Income generation programs, an increased awareness on government schemes. Our staff mobilized income generation programs from the Government.



The benefits amongst the community had been:

- 902 women's income increased from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 per month
- 105 pucca houses and 22 house sites were mobilized from Government for our target people living below the poverty line
- 13 SHGs availed loan of Rs.37, 83,000/- from Nelindco and invested on various incomes generation programs.
- 4 Self Help groups received Rs.6, 35,000 from Government under VELUGU scheme for various income generation programs.

Case study:

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. 100/- per day. Their family economic condition is improving. Moreover their repayment is also regular.

Women Rights :

ROPES being a rights based organization more so as far as women are concerned have been making sustained efforts for their empowerment. The activities amongst others include education, women sanghas, federations, education for women elected representatives.

We do believe that women best understand their own problems. Mass awareness campaigns were conducted on issues relating to girl child education, early marriage, dowry harassment and domestic violence. Gender sensitization programs were conducted in five villages for both men and women.

Families were encouraged to raise kitchen gardens. 785 families raised greens, vegetables, papaya, drum stick, banana. The ROPES team was able to address the needs of community development.

ROPES has mobilized Rs. 21,937,500 for the construction of 702 houses under State Government scheme 'Indiramma program'. The work is under progress.

PEDIATRIC INITIATIVES FOR HIV/AIDS INFECTED AND AFFECTED CHILDREN:

ROPES is covering 15 mandals of Chittoor District under Balashyoga Program with 8 FCM's and 14 CV's. During this year we have identified 1204 households and registered household are 604.

Community advisory boards formed at village level with all relevant stakeholders' i.e village surpanches, ANM's, Anganwadi teachers, RMP's, PMP's school teachers and local leaders. CAB's meetings conducted at village level were increased the number of registration of PLHA in BSY.

Regular follow-up were there by the positive ANC's, exposed children, HIV TB patients CLHA, and PLHA an ART etc. Physical assessments were done to all eligibility households and child status index forms are used to know the status of the HIV infected and HIV affected children.

Health domain focused mainly on adult and children testing, treatment cascade follow up of PPTCT. Mortality and morbidity is also one of the key indications for quality of the life of children and adults.

Out of total 787 children, 465 children for eligible for testing. 250 children were tested and 39 children found positive. Among 39 children, 28 children are registered in pre ART and 5 children are on ART. No children are receiving CTX prophylaxis.

Counseling specifically continued in ANC and lactating mothers, ART adherence, CD4 follow-up recent death of any households, HIV exposed children.

Food security assessment done to all types of households, 90% of the family completed the FSA first time in that 60% of the families belong to severely food in secure and 20% of the families belong to moderately food in secure.

10 widow headed families selected for kitchen gardens from working Mandals during the March 10. We distributed different types of vegetable seeds and seedlings to 10 families to raise kitchen garden and to improve their nutritional status.

2 widow headed households were given micro credit under micro enter prices programme for their economic empowerment. One woman is running Tiffin centre in Palamaner and another woman is looking after milch animal.

One Self Group was formed with 10 PLHAs and the given micro credit from ROPES micro finance programme to strengthen their income generation programme.

"Karunya Nilayam" HOME for Children in Crisis:

"Karunya Nilayam" is a residence that a child calls a home, where the child feels at home. Here the children are mentally, spiritually and physically free, we share our love in word and deed by providing shelter and other support services believing that everyone is someone.

The Home today is a residence to 150 children infected/ affected by HIV, the Home is situated on about 3 acres of land. The Home has brought about a much need change in the lives of the children; they have lots of place to play, plenty of water.

V. CONCLUSION:

ROPES core competence lies in facilitating child centered community development. ROPES vision is reflected in the belief that children represent the future. The effort put in by ROPES on education and the results reflect this vision.

Our interventions will continue to help increase the enrolment, and retention of children, those that are most vulnerable and marginalized, in both pre-primary and primary schools, we essentially are a child focused agency, which is committed to work in an atmosphere that is essentially child friendly. We are passionately committed to children; it is important to us that they in the longer term are educated, employed meaningfully and is contributors to the development of their communities and their own families.

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

