

A brief background on the project – August- 2010 to May 2018

This project started in August 2010 at Pampanagar colony of Taveragera village, Koppal District, North Karnataka, for children of highly marginalized community especially devadasi community children by Prakash. Patil who was from Samuha (NGO) and guided by Margaret.K.T.

The children of this colony are enrolled in the government school of Taveragera. Samuha had a supplementary school in this area which was closed down due to lack of funds.

From our association with these children we found most of them are either school dropouts or irregular in attending school. The teachers of the government school felt it was impossible to teach these children, believed it was their fate to be so.

Prakash who had an experience in teaching children using MKT's methods of teaching while he was in Samuha, believed he could help this particular group of children improve their learning and attend school regularly with interest by providing a conducive environment, and that's how the centre started at Pampanagar.

The children enjoyed coming to the centre and they were regular. They participated in the various learning activities, a very new experience of school for them. Though from the outside the centre appeared to be a place bubbling over with activities where children are active and happy, we observed a heavy block in their learning.

They were not able to retain and recall what they have learnt. They were not able to connect their learning experiences with new experiences and develop their thinking ability and curiosity to know the how and why aspects of knowledge and their life.

They needed an environment where they received individual attention, love, acceptance and respect as persons. So the need for a residential learning centre was felt and began one in June 2013. With 16 children. Not all the children opted for the residential learning centre. It is the choice of each individual child. The young ones 3 years to 5 years attended the day school which was conducted in the Ambedker Bhavan in Pampanagar.

The aim of the centre was not just to improve their learning skills and knowledge but to develop their true personality, that is a good human being who is sharing and caring with a commitment in life to bring about a social change in their community and in society.

The children who were in the residential learning centre showed a marked improvement in their studies as well as in habit formation, developing attitudes and values in life.

This did not continue as we expected it to be there were problems. With the R.T.E act the day school came to an end and in that confusion even the residential children left.

The first two months of the academic year 2014 – 2015 seemed very disappointing, frustrating with no hope. We felt the interest with which the centre functioned and the positive results we saw in the children's learning every day came to an end. Meeting the B.E.O. and the D.D.P.I. of the area wasn't of much help in solving the problems.

Since we are not a registered school the parents were wary about sending their children to the centre preferred they go to government school and get the government benefits which seemed good.

For two months children attended government school as and when they liked and roamed about they got fed up. Parents who were unhappy about this situation brought their children back to us, accepting their mistakes. Children also came on their own without their parents. But we first had a parents meeting and took those children whose parents were willing to cooperate with us.

These children attend the government school from 9.00AM to 4.30PM and come back to the RLC.

Now that the children have decided to come to the RLC after school, we realized the residential learning centre needs to become more stable.

We were temporarily staying in the Samuha campus and we needed safe and secure residential home for the children and also we need government permission to run a residential learning centre.

So we were forced to send the children home and work on those.

Wipro supported us and we purchased 100*120sq.feet land in Samuha campus Tavaragera. Now we are in the process of raising funds for construction of residential centre and getting permission from government.

Meanwhile to keep the contact with the children we go to the government schools and teach the children there and also help the government teachers there

We got a positive response from government teachers and CRC and BEO. Now we work with other nearby government schools in this area.

Our aim is to have a model school in each of the government school in the cluster in this Kushtagi Taluk, and modify the RLC, to take not only children from Pampanagar colony but children of marginalized community who are in the other villages.

The annual reports from August- 2010 to July 2018 are attached