

A Project to Support Community based Self Assessment under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in

Andhra Pradesh

REPORT ON VIDYA CHAITANYAM, ANANTAPUR

October 2010 to June 2011

INTRODUCTION

CjBT Education Services is currently implementing the Vidya Chaitanyam project in seven mandals of Anantapur district – Bathalapalli, Bukkaraya Samudram, Gandlapenta, Hindupuram, Madakasira, Peddavadaguru and Gudibanda. The programme includes all the primary and upper primary schools (about 450 public schools) in the seven UNDP Mandals.

Project Summary:

The *aims* of the project are threefold:

- i. To improve the educational quality and managerial capacity of state primary schools in all the villages in the seven Mandals;
- ii. To improve the quality of education through improving the ability of the community to assess the performance of education; and
- iii. To establish simple accreditation procedures and process that can be contextualized to diverse local standards and operated at the community level and provide information instruments (such as scorecards).

The *Expected Outputs/Results* include the following:

- (i) Evidence of the impact of community assessment on the quality of education provided in rural primary schools;
- (ii) Increased interest from the community on involvement in school-based management; and
- (iii) Increased understanding by CBOs on ways in which they can influence service performance – for example putting "teeth" into community empowerment/watchdog functions.

Phased Approach

The project is being delivered in a three Phased manner – the ‘Preparation’ Phase, the ‘Scaling Up’ Phase and then the Institutionalization Phase.

Phase 1 Preparation Phase This Phase contains the following key activities to be carried out in the seven Mandals:

- ✓ *Signing up of MOU by partner organizations*
- ✓ *Orientation programmes (for school staff and for Field staff)*
- ✓ *Identification of field staff*
- ✓ *Survey – Baseline survey of the community (SHGs) and schools*
- ✓ *Activation/ Formation of AM Cs/SMCs in primary and upper primary schools*

Phase 2 Scaling Up The following integrated activities will be delivered:

- ✓ *Survey report sharing with stakeholders*
- ✓ *Tracking of enrollments and schools*
- ✓ *Competitions for children (themes based on RTE)*

- ✓ *Monthly Monitoring visits to strengthen AMCs*
- ✓ *Convergence meetings at district level*

Phase 3: Institutionalization Phase This Phase involves embedding the activities that have been undertaken, catching up where there has been slippage and deepening learning and gains in those activities that have been completed. Further, in this Phase the project will conduct the final impact assessment and commence activities designed to share best practice.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Quarter I – October to December 2010

(i) Preparatory activities, capacity building and data collection

After completion of the formalities associated with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Department, the Action Plan for the academic year (October 2010 to September 2011) was drawn up in consultation with the district officials and shared with the key personnel, the Mandal Education Coordinators from the six concerned Mandals (BK Samudram, Pedavaduguru, Bathalapalli, Gandlapenta, Madaksira and Hindupur). This was followed by the recruitment of the field staff in the additional villages within the six Mandals and one additional Mandal, Gudibanda. Announcements were made through the AMS and the respective Mandal Mahila Samakhyas.

By the end of November (within a month) around 300 Education Activists were identified by the SHG women and screened for the post. Wherever possible, preference has been given to literate women from the villages. In the absence of suitable women candidates from the same village, male candidates were recruited as Education Activists (Vidya Karyakarthas). All the new VKs were then invited for an orientation regarding the programme and assigned to a village. They were groomed and equipped with skills required to conduct the survey of out of school children in the villages.

The project staff consisting of over 300 Education Activists conducted a door to door survey in all the 300 villages located in the 7 mandals. Details of the findings are presented in a separate report and in the Appendix.

Quarter II – October to December 2010

(ii) Strengthening of AMCs and modeling AMC activities

During the Quarter January to March 2011 while the survey of Out of School Children was still underway the Mandal Education Coordinators were oriented regarding how to conduct an Academic Monitoring Committee meeting in the schools. The officials from the Education Department were requested to conduct a Model Academic Monitoring Committee meeting for the benefit of all the stakeholders. The purpose of the Model AMC at Anantapur was to invite the Office-Bearers and Education Subcommittee members of the AMS and the seven Mandal Mahila Samakhyas and educate them regarding its importance and the need for parents to play an active role in them.

All the Mandal Education Officers and the Mandal Resource Persons from the seven Mandals also participated in the meeting conducted by the District Academic Monitoring Officer. This created a lot of awareness among the women SHGs who shared the information with the respective VO leaders.

Following on the success of the Model AMC at the district level a series of Model Academic Monitoring Committee meetings (by CfBT with SSA support) were arranged between 10th and 25th of March. Schools that were centrally located were identified in each Mandal for this purpose. Education Activists, parents and all the teachers and HMs from the neighbouring schools within the Mandal were invited to participate in the live demo. There was a tremendous response to the model AMCs in all the seven Mandals and a total of 1,000 participants witnessed the live sessions.

Five out of seven Sarpanches attended the model SMC meetings conducted in the schools within their mandals. Except for Madaksira, the actual demo was conducted by the officials from SSA/RVM in all the mandals. The District Collector and officials from DRDA also made their presence felt by encouraging such programmes. At one session, the District Collector and the PO, RVM, SSA interacted with the school students as they reeled out lessons from their textbooks. Feedback from MEOs, MRPs and HMs was very encouraging.

On the whole it was found that the majority of students from the different schools (where the AMC was hosted) were good in Telugu as they were able to read their Telugu text. They needed help in English and Mathematics. The other areas of concern in these schools were student absenteeism, maintenance of toilets and drinking water facility. The project staff also visited the government primary and upper primary schools in the villages. In the 122 odd schools that were visited by the project team also confirmed that the major concerns of the schools were indeed maintenance of toilets and availability of drinking water.

Today around 233 (out of 335) schools have active Academic Monitoring Committees (now referred to as the School Management Committees under the RTE Act). Some of them are very proactive and have started organizing regular monthly meetings while others are just beginning to understand the purpose of its existence.

Quarter III – January to March 2011

(iii) Enrollment of Out of School Children into KGBVs and Summer Schools

The survey of the community revealed that almost 909 children were Out of School Children (OOSC). This includes both girls and boys of which 176 children are with Special Needs.

As soon as the survey was completed and the data collated and analyzed, it was shared with the officials from the Education Department. The PO, SSA who was very supportive, offered full support in enrolling the out of school children. He also shared information with all the Mandal Education Coordinators regarding the various schemes under which they could be enrolled, such as the KGBVs, the RSTCs and special schemes for the children with special needs. Immediately the project team swung into action and held meetings with the respective Vidya Karyakarthis and disseminated the information through all the SHG meetings at different levels - district, mandal and village level. The outcome of these meetings resulted in a positive response from the community.

The MECs with the help of the SHG women went to the homes of dropout children and motivated them to join in school once again. Till date almost 141 children have been enrolled into various schools, out of which 67 girls were admitted into the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and 74 joined the regular schools. Priority planning in consultation with the district officials is underway for enhancing the regularity of students' and teachers' attendance. In some schools such as those in BK Samudram and Madakasira, corrective actions have commenced to support appropriate enrollment for these children.

Another major achievement during this period has been declaring the names of villages which do not have any Out of School Children in them, which means that all the children between the age of 6-14 years are in school. The project staff with the assistance of the SHG women and SSA officials have been working hard to declare villages free of Out of School Children (OOSC). Currently 95 villages (out of 335) have been declared as free from Out of School Children.

In collaboration with SSA the CfBT team also took part in a Summer Schools Programme called - AATA-PAATA-CHADUVU in the seven Mandals of Anantapur. The basic idea behind the programme was to engage students in play and help them to learn basics in school during the summer vacation. Schools were started where VOs came voluntarily to run schools. Trainings were given by SSA team to Vidya Karyakarthis on how to teach basics in Telugu and Mathematics. The following activities were taken up in the Summer Schools:

- Use of SNEHABALA cards to improve basics in Telugu & Mathematics
- Basic English from the text books
- Rhymes in Telugu & English

The entire programme was conducted by the VKs between 1st May'2011 and continued till 1st June 2011. A total of 4065 children participated in the 131 Summer schools.

APPENDIX

1. School going age children survey – in seven mandals
 - Table 1 – School going age children*
 - Table 2 – Children enrolled in Govt schools and Private schools*
 - Table 3 – Out of school children*
 - Table 4 - Children with Special Needs*
2. Participations of stakeholders in model AMCs
3. Enrolment of Out of School Children
4. Enrolment in Summer Schools

APPENDIX

Table 1 Survey- School going age children in seven mandals

Mandals	School Age Children - 5 to 14 years								
	Gender		Age		Community Background				
	Girls	Boys	5 to 8 years	9 to 14 years	S. Caste	S. Tribe	Backward Caste	OC	Minorities
Bathalapalli	2150	2152	1854	2448	814	336	2131	934	87
Gandlapenta	1629	1724	1461	1892	315	278	1367	1024	369
BK Samudram	3374	3598	2760	4212	1406	313	3507	1447	299
Peddavaduguru	2653	2604	2387	2870	1247	43	2701	1075	191
Madakasira	3977	4067	3766	4278	2590	238	4063	980	173
Hindupur	3089	3158	2376	3871	1206	66	3743	920	312
Gudibanda	3249	3303	2585	3967	1781	267	4273	192	39
Total for Mandals	20121	20606	17189	23538	9359	1541	21785	6572	1470

Table 1 provides details of children in the age group of 6 to 14, gender wise, age group wise, caste wise

Table 2 Survey- Children enrolled in Govt schools and Private schools in seven mandals

Mandals	Children in School - 5 to 14 years	
	Type of Provision	
	Government School	Private School
Bathalapalli	2664	1500
Gandlapenta	2421	877
BK Samudram	4403	2298
Peddavaduguru	3680	1436
Madakasira	6881	1011
Hindupur	4199	1971
Gudibanda	5496	981
Total for 7 Mandals	29744	10074

Table 3 Survey- Out of school children details

Mandals	<i>Out of School Children – 5 to 14 years</i>					
	<i>Gender</i>		<i>Age</i>		<i>Present Status</i>	
	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>5 to 8 years</i>	<i>9 to 14 years</i>	<i>Dropouts</i>	<i>Never Enrolled</i>
Bathalapalli	55	83	26	112	110	28
Gandlapenta	35	20	8	47	54	1
BK Samudram	127	144	69	202	234	37
Peddavaduguru	93	48	25	116	130	11
Madakasira	62	90	11	141	146	6
Hindupur	33	44	11	66	72	5
Gudibanda	27	48	5	70	75	0
Total for Mandals	432	477	155	754	821	88

Table 4 Survey - Mandalwise Children with Special Needs

S.No.	Name of Mandal	No of children with special needs
1	BKSamudram	28
2	Peddavaduguru	13
3	Bathalapalli	30
4	Gandlapenta	9
5	Hindupur	19
6	Madakasira	50
7	Gudibanda	27
	TOTAL	176

Table 5 Participation of Stakeholders in Model AMC meetings

Position	BKS 11/3/2011	BTP 22/3/2011	GDP 18/3/2011	GDB 25/3/2011	HDP 15/3/2011	MDK 14/3/2011	PDV 10/3/2011	Total
Village officials	Sarpanch	Sarpanch	Sarpanch	Sarpanch, MPTC, Ward members	M.P.P, M.P.T.C, Sarpanch, Ward members			
No. of HMs	43	42	67	47	63	92	44	398
No. of VO leaders	24	23	26	52	43	27	27	222
No. of VKs	29	24	23	50	40	40	23	229
No. of SMC members/par	40	30	60	35	45	20	20	250
Total No. attended	136	119	176	184	191	179	114	1099

Table 5 provides a summary of the persons who attended the model SMC meetings in the Mandals

Table 6 Enrolment of Out of School Children

S.No.	Name of the Mandal	Enrollment in KGBV	Enrollment in regular schools	Total
1	BKSamudram	21	22	43
2	Peddavaduguru	0	8	8
3	Bathalapalli	9	2	11
4	Gandlapenta	0	2	2
5	Hindupur	0	25	25
6	Madakasira	35	13	48
7	Gudibanda	2	2	4
	TOTAL	67	74	141

Table 6 shows the number of Out of School Children who were enrolled into schools

Table 7 Number of Summer Schools details Mandal wise

S.No.	Name of Mandal	Number of schools	Number of children attended
1	B.K.Samudram	16	800
2	Peddavaduguru	13	383
3	Bathalapalli	13	273
4	Gandlapenta	12	287
5	Hindupur	16	543
6	Madakasira	40	990
7	Gudibanda	21	789
	Total	131	4065
