

VILLAGE VOICE

Quarterly Newsletter - July - September 2023



VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION

(For Private Circulation only)

FROM THE DESK OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the start of a new year, it is a time to reflect on our values and priorities. For many of us, environmental protection is a top concern.

We are all aware of the challenges we face, from climate change to pollution to biodiversity loss. But we also know that there is hope. We can make a difference, and we must.

That is why I am calling on all of us to go green in 2023. It is not enough to simply talk about the need for environmental action. We need to take concrete steps to reduce our impact on the planet.

We can also support businesses and organizations that are committed to sustainability. When we shop, we should look for products that are made with recycled materials and that are produced in an environmentally friendly way.

GO GREEN

There are many things we can do to go green. We can start by making small changes in our everyday lives, such as:

- Reduce our energy consumption. This can be done by making simple changes such as turning off lights when we leave a room, unplugging electronics when we're not using them, and weatherizing our homes.
- Switch to renewable energy sources. This could involve installing solar panels on our homes or businesses, or switching to a renewable energy provider.
- Drive less and walk, bike, or take public transportation more often.
- Promote green transportation options for our staff and volunteers.
- Educate our members and the public about the importance of environmental protection.
- Plantation of tree saplings in all our working areas.

We can also support businesses and organizations that are committed to sustainability. When we shop, we should look for products that are made with recycled materials and that are produced in an environmentally friendly way.

Going green is not just about protecting the environment. It is also about creating a more just and equitable society. We cannot address the climate crisis without addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality. That is why we need to work together to build a green economy that benefits everyone, not just the wealthy few.

As an NGO, we have a unique opportunity to lead the way in going green. We can use our resources and influence to educate the public about the need for environmental action and to support sustainable businesses and organizations.

I urge you to join me in making 2023 the year that we go green. Together, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Sincerely,
Fr. Peter Daniel SJ
Operational Director, VRO.

PANORAMA OF PROJECTS

CHILD EDUCATION AND RIGHTS (CER)



The uniqueness of ESSC is to create a platform to bring children of different communities together to study, learn, play, do extra curricular activities and share their thoughts thus connecting with their Parents, Villagers towards integrated development of villages. Children are protected from abuse, labour, marriage, poverty and fragmented society.

"If the Society is not able to devote attention and track the growth and development of children very rigorously and in a high quality manner, then we are dealing with a civilizational problem". Provide every child with better education to excel in studies. Childhood is precious and VRO cares. Children say 'ESSC, We are ready' and Community workers are champions for children. 5601 children are enrolled in ESSCs from 136 villages across 4 states.



Supportive Academic Assistance -ESSC
Children with their school bags and note books

Essc Children during study hours in the center



CWs use fun and play to teach children to learn.



Service Camp



Parents committee meetings brings together the stakeholders to discuss the challenges. It gives hope and renewed sense of purpose to parents of children with average performance. ESSC Children engaged in Premises cleaning as part of Sevice



Empower children get involved and speak out their rights - Survival, Development, Protection, Participation in Children mock Parliament. Train on ethical practices and give every child a fair chance to succeed.



Parents of ESSC in Chandrarajunagar, Nellore interact with PM

YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT (YSD)

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT - TAILORING



Changing lives of Rural Girls and Women by Empowering them through Skills and Education. The community women are dependent on farming, fishing, construction labours & stewards where most of the women were housewives with little or no educational background. With the intervention of VRO, the tailoring centres are set up locally in the areas they live. The process of enrolling the women in the program was planned very well such as Baseline survey and enrolling women from each village so that they can get business from their nearby places with less or no competition for their venture after the course completion.



Feedback from all the trainees was studied in different aspects such as how they knew about the training program, training time, teaching methodology, technical guidance, and Overall learning experience. It was encouraging to note that all the respondents of Tailoring training were satisfied with the training time, place, methods, and content. The training venue was comfortable with all physical facilities which helped participants to learn effectively. The technical guidance provided by trainers during the training programme was useful and effective. These women got to know about the tailoring program through the Volunteers and Community Workers. 1305 rural women / girls from 143 villages acrohave enrolled as Trainees in Tailoring course.

Impact on trainees through the training program:

All of the women increased their knowledge on stitching activities like drafting, cutting & stitching new garments. Women with no education have gained the skill of tailoring which helped them to earn decent amount of money for their livelihood lifelong. 70% established their self-enterprise & 30% are employed in garments industry. 80% of the beneficiaries started earning 2000 Rs to 2500 Rs per week to support their families. This tailoring course has given all these women a sense of self-reliance that they shall have not to be dependent on anyone for money.







YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT - DRIVING

Objective is to enable youth to learn industry-relevant skill training to have a better livelihood. Skill development refers to identifying the skill gap in a person and ensuring that he or she develops these skills. Skills determine the ability to achieve goals and execute better plans.

VRO focus training on Road Safety Management, Procedure for getting Driving Licence, Driving skills, Vehicle Management and helps to add essential value to the lives of countless youth through efficient education, training, skill and entrepreneurship development, also opening many employment opportunities for them.





YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT – COMPUTER & TYPE WRITING

Typing remains a fundamental skill, and it is still one of the most important computer skills you can learn. Typing is a useful skill that is applicable to many different jobs. Having excellent typing skills allows you to communicate more efficiently and accurately convey written information.

Skill Training is run in batches for both girls / boys and interestingly household women also as they are confident of getting employed in government or private offices or by starting their own Internet centres. 1st batch is successfully completed.



VILLAGE EMPOWERMENT & ENTITLEMENT (VEE)



The concept of self-help groups (SHGs) has taken its roots in nook and corner of the rural, semi-urban and urban areas, which help to improve the living standards and enhance and enlarge livelihood possibilities.

A self-help group is defined as a small economically homogeneous group of 15 or 20 poor and middle class women, voluntarily coming together to save small amounts regularly, deposit in a common fund to meet the emergency needs of its members to provide collateral-free loans decided by the group and to discuss social and economic engagement with one another.

This concept is very well spread for the economic development of poor women. VRO motivated village women to start Mutually Aided Cooperatives Thrift Society (MACTS) and enabled them to pool the resources from them and from external sources to start internal lending and to start a seasonal business and income generating activities.





Sanitary Pad making



Tribal Women in Cashew making process unit, Kothakota Circle, AP

AGRO FORESTRY



Long term income generating sustainable activity for the tribes. The saplings include cashew, mango, guava, lemon, and papaya. The cashew being the main income generating crop, the farmers are given various trainings in soil testing, making pits, protection, survival of plants and natural farming. The farmers also do the inter-cropping by cultivating cotton, millet and vegetables that are used in their day-to-day life. During the quarter 2070 saplings (1780 cashew, 58 lemon, 102 mango, 106 sapota and 30 pomegranate) have been distributed to 61 farmers in Tribal Areas across 16 villages during July - Sep'23.



VILLAGE REBUILDING PROGRAM



HEAD OFFICE



AD & PM in Urban Dialogue Meeting organised by Habitat For Humanity India (HFHI), New Delhi



AD and PM in a meeting with OBI Team (Operation Blessings India) in Gurgaon



Zoom meeting with POs

SUCCESS STORIES

I am Gosula Sriram hailing from Choutapapayapalem. I am studying 5th standard in Govt. MPP School. My father is Gosula Venkaiah and my mother is Gosula Ramadevi. They are daily wage laborers. Due to poor economic conditions my family members took me to work along with them to distant place. Then my Community Worker came to know about it through my class mates. My Community Worker talked to my father over the phone and counseled him and motivated him to send me to school. The Community Worker told my parents that they need not pay for books and bags and VRO would provide that. My parents convinced of it. After receiving encouragement from the Community Worker my parents again joined me in the school. Now I am regular to school. Thanks to Community Worker and thanks to RO.



My Name is Kodali Basava Rajyam, hailing from Repalle. My Husband is working in a Photo Studio. We have 2 Children. After children go to school in feel lonely did not know what to do. I took training in Tailoring skill organized by VRO. With that skill I stitched my children clothes and clothes of my villagers. Since then, I am earning good income. I am also stitching school uniforms also for which I got an income of 7500/- and with that income I paid school fees of my children and also I am standing by my husband in fetching income. Now I am very happy. I am grateful to VRO for supporting me in this way.

I am Bijaya Sahu (36 years) hailing from Kendupada village Biswanathpur (Lanjigarh) Block, Kalahandi District, Odisha. I belong to general caste. I got married to Mr. Harendra Sahu in Balangiri District. My husband is a Businessman. I have a daughter. Due to misunderstanding with my husband, I was staying in my mother's house with children. I have completed intermediate .My aim was to be self-reliant and work for people. I was searching for some skill which will be of help and support to reach my goal.

One day I met the VRO Volunteer of YSDC Kuangabasa in Biswanathpur market. During the conversation with Parbati madam, I came to know about the skill training at Kuangabasa and I requested her to join me for the training program. I got admitted at VRO -YSDC Kuangabasa for USHA 9 month training course.



Completed my training and learned to cut cloths for different design with measurement and stitch them. After finishing the training, I purchased a sewing machine and started my business. My community people could not go outside to stitch their cloths and hence I stitched their cloths and gave concession up to 40%. I also stitched marks and distributed to my community. I learned from VRO to think of others instead of myself. Unless we make sacrifices, we cannot touch the hearts of the poor. They were very happy with me and are grateful to me. I have become a role model to my villagers by creating a kitchen garden in our field. reaping fresh organic vegetables and greens for our home. I am now imparting knowledge about tailoring and knitting to 10 village girls and motivating SHG group women to save money regularly every month.

Now my villagers are very proud of me. With this effect of mine, I am sure to make a bright future for my children and the villagers. I feel very proud of myself and at the same time grateful to VRO for grooming me for what I am today.

Head Office: