

# DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA

(A Charitable Trust under formation to promote Education for children)

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT: 2018-2019

Debora Foundation India is a charitable Trust formed to promote and provide quality education for children of marginalized communities. The idea of creating a Trust in the name of 'Debora Foundation India' was mooted out in the year 2016 after seeing the condition of the children from the villages around Doddaballapur. This town is 40 km away from Bangalore. All of them are deprived of getting a quality education. Right from the beginning, the Trustees of this Trust have desired to start some program activities exclusively to promote education for the children and youths much before forming a Trust for this purpose and then gradually increase educational activities. The primary aim of the Trust is to ultimately build a model school near Doddaballapur Town with all the facilities to provide education of high quality in English and Kannada medium to the children of Socially and Economically backward communities coming from the villages around Doddaballapur, particularly to the children of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backwards classes and others who are neglected and deprived of such privileges.

Although the registration of this Trust was done much later in the name of 'Debora Foundation India,' in September 2017, the Trustees visited villages, had held few rounds of interaction with the rural communities around Doddaballapur. Simultaneously to understand the people's views and develop a good rapport with the communities in the villages, the first gathering of selected village leaders and some men and women from the community, who are concerned about their children's education, was held in September 2017 in Doddaballapur. Initially, all expenditures were met by the Trustees by contributing their personal money. Subsequently, the first Training camp on leadership qualities and spoken English, with the support of another NGO, was successfully organized for the children in October 2017 to understand the children's capabilities and desire to learn in English medium school. Altogether 35 children had attended this program and expressed at the end that it was very beneficial to them.

After that, from April 2018, the Trust had started to raise some funds from friends and relatives to carry out certain program activities. After seeing a great need and the good responses from the communities and the children, that is carrying out specific educational programs and carefully observing, that is, almost for a year, the Trustees had formed the Trust in May 2019. Before April 2018 (in the year 2017), a few schools existing in that area were visited to understand the educational system, discussions were held with certain groups such as parents from different surrounding villages, school teachers of other schools and children on how to promote quality education in that area. Most of the work was done by the Trustees and others involved on an honorary basis.

The main object of the Trust is to impart free education and training to the said categories of children stated above in English medium by establishing an English medium model school (by constructing a modern building to cater up to 10<sup>th</sup> std. with all the facilities) for the said groups of children who are deprived of getting a good education. To provide education on a charitable basis it has been decided that the Trust shall raise funds from donors within the country - seek one or two companies in Doddaballapur to provide funds as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to run the school that is; to carry out various educational and training activities on charitable basis once the school is established. However, in order to build a good building for starting a model English medium school on a land of about 5 acres in Doddaballapur with all the facilities for the overall development of the children, a major portion of the funds (non-foreign) for both acquiring land and constructing a building are being sought from a charitable Foundation in Germany.

After having decided to put up an English medium School for such children, at the very beginning of the year 2018, lots of efforts were put in to survey the area, search and identify a dozen of lands in various location to select the best amongst them keeping certain criteria in mind that the land should - have the size of at least 5 acres, be located in an ideal place for children from different villages to have quick access and above all it should have enough ground water available, as water scarcity in the area is a serious problem. This took almost three to four months to complete the task.

  
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After the feasibility study was done at the beginning of 2018, the first workshop was organised in September with 44 men and women belonging to socially and economically weaker section from 15 different nearby villages were invited to attend to understand their views and expectations with regard to their children's education and what a Charitable Trust like this one can do to give their children the best education. While they had expressed that their immediate need for the education of their children is English medium school with no fees is charged where they can send their children so that they can avail quality education and compete with other children who are able to fetch jobs because they can speak English when their children cannot. However, according to them the most important and urgent requirement is, to organise tuitions in Maths, Science and English for their children in which subjects they are poor. They and also want the Trust to organize training camps where their children could be taught "spoken English", leadership qualities, moral teaching, etc. apart from organizing short-term training programs in motor driving for young boys who are jobless and tailoring courses for young girls.

Since the community, particularly the children, were requesting the Trust for a number of such camps to be organised, similar to the one that was organised in the year 2017, so that a large number of children could benefit, two camps were organised at different locations for two different groups of children and youths during the school vacations. One was organised for 10 days between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Doddaballapur, where 35 young boys and girls had participated and benefited. The subjects taught were of the most important ones such as life skills, leadership qualities, moral teaching, spoken English and also sessions for Maths and Science were held especially for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> class students.

35 taking part in 10 days camp in October 2018



The other workshop was organised in October 2018 at Bangalore for three days for the children and young girls affected by HIV, where 46 children and young girls participated. The sessions on Life skills and Moral teaching were of great help to the girls who are the children of HIV affected parents. For the others who were full or semi orphan children, a separate sessions were held on life skills, leadership qualities, moral teaching etc.

Session on life skill and leadership qualities



*Shamshir*  
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In order to communicate to the village leaders and other important community members of the surrounding villages of the objectives of this charitable Trust, which is being formed and in order to understand and seek their cooperation for the education of their children and the plan of the Trust to build a model school for their children, they were invited for a one-day session, which was held in January 2019 at Doddaballapur. Altogether 21 village leaders and community members were present in this session and they once again expressed that the new charitable organization should provide education in English medium to their children and only then they will have a better future. Secondly, they also expressed their wish to continue the special camps being organized for the children on life skills, spoken English and vocational counsel and guidance. They also expressed that tuition centres should be started in different villages to provide tuition for their children who are going to Government schools where the education offered is not up to the mark.

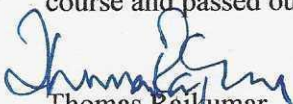
Since it is important to understand the aptitudes of young boys and girls who are either completed 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> classes or failed or dropped out of school and the interest they have in pursuing vocational training in a particular trade, a one-day session for 57 students (boys and Girls) were organized in February 2019. The sessions were held basically to provide vocational counselling and vocational guidance. They were briefed about the various vocational training programs available in Karnataka, both short-term and long-term and the career opportunities if they choose for the training in a particular trade . After these sessions, each boy and girl were counselled by the counsellors to identify their aptitude and desire for a particular vocational training.

A majority of the boys wanted to go for a short-term training, which will fetch them job quickly since their families are economically weak and so they were eager to work, earn and substitute the income of their parents. A good number of them preferred to go in urgently for Motor Driving course to become the drivers of either to drive heavy motor vehicle or to become the drivers of taxis run by Uber or Ola since there is a good demand for such jobs and paid well. Therefore, 15 boys opted for this training.

Similarly, a majority of the girls chose short-term training on tailoring since their parents want them not to go away from Doddaballapur and to remain in their respective houses and work somewhere close by until their marriages are held. Therefore, they wanted both tailoring skills and a tailoring machine so that they can have the machine in their house and stitch clothes for others who live in their villages and by this way earn some income. They asked for the new tailoring machines to be supplied.

In March 2019, a three-month tailoring course was organized for 15 girls coming from rural villages located around Doddaballapur. New tailoring machines were received as donations from an NGO, a tailoring teacher was appointed and the course had started in March and ended in May 2019. All the girls regularly attended the course with much interest. On completion of the course they were given the new tailoring machines and were encouraged to engage themselves in the business of stitching clothes for the villagers and earn money by having machines in their homes or in hired small shops. They were also advised to form a group of two or three, have a shop in a town and start the tailoring work to earn money together and divide amongst them.

Similarly, motor driving course was conducted for 15 young boys, which lasted for two weeks. A driving school was approached to train them in driving and also help them in getting licenses initially for driving a light motor vehicle and thereafter heavy motor vehicle. All the 15 boys attended the motor training course and passed out with certificates and licenses. They are now employed at different places.

  
Thomas Rajkumar  
Managing Trustee

Place : Bangalore.  
Date : July 2019

  
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