

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019-2020

As Education is the key to Development, for a long time, the three Trustees have desired to offer Education of high standard to the children of Socially and Economically backward communities inhabited in the villages around Doddaballapur, a Town forty kilometres away from Bangalore. The wish of the Trustees is to build a good model school for such children so that they have access to free Education of good quality and subsequently find gainful employment. To achieve the desire of the Trustees, a feasibility study was conducted in 2015. After understanding the situation of children and their families in the villages and the different opportunities available for opening a school in a suitable place, the undersigned had held rounds of meetings with the rural communities around Doddaballapur to learn about their views on the better Education of their children and also to develop a rapport with the communities in the villages. To begin with, the first Training camp on leadership qualities and spoken English was successfully organized for the children in October 2017 to understand their capabilities and desire to pursue their education, especially in English medium school. Altogether 35 children had attended this program and expressed their wish to learn English, which was indeed very beneficial to them.

After seeing a great need and the good responses from the communities and the children, that is, after carrying out specific educational programs (described below) and carefully observing almost for a year, to achieve this objective, a **charitable Trust was formed on 3rd May 2019**, and the same was registered with the Karnataka Government in the name of "DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA" with Reg. No. GAN-4-00048-2019-20 (GAND 422). Prior to 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 - parents from different surrounding villages, school teachers of other schools, children etc. on how to go about establishing a School and promote quality education in that area.

The main object of the Trust is to impart free education and training to the children preferably in English medium by establishing a model school (by constructing a modern building to cater up to 10th std. with all the facilities) for the said groups of children who are deprived of getting good Education without charging any fee. In the year 2017 and subsequently, in 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 piece of land 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 easy access and above all it should have enough ground water available, as water scarcity in the area is a serious problem. This took almost one year to identify the right piece of land.

Simultaneously, the efforts to organise workshops for children to learn not only academic Education but also carrying out certain activities that gives the children the opportunity to develop their personalities and enhance their confidence, continued. The first workshop was organised in September 2018 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


MANAGING TRUSTEE
DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA



from organizing short-term training programs in motor driving for young boys who are jobless and tailoring courses for young girls.

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 9th or 10th 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 was counselled by the counsellors to identify their aptitude and desire for a particular vocational training.

Students participated in vocational counselling and guidance program



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. 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.

Tailoring course started for 15 girls in March 2019



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.

The third camp was held for 95 children (both boys and girls) for 10 days during school vacation in May 2019. The subjects taken up by the teachers, who were carefully chosen and appointed for this purpose, were spoken English, life skills, crafts, moral Education, qualities of a leader, etc. The sports were also conducted; children also learned dance and skits to perform. They were provided with snacks and lunch. They came in the morning around 9:00 am and went back to their villages after 4:00 p.m.

Spoken English and Life Skill camp for 10 days



In August 2019, Independence Day was celebrated with great joy by two groups of children. One in the villages of Doddaballapur where 40 children took part in a one-day session wherein speakers

Shanmuganathan
MANAGING TRUSTEE



were invited to talk about patriotism and their responsibility towards their country apart from briefing them on History and background of how our country had achieved Independence. Simultaneously, another group of children numbering 35 had the same privilege of learning of our History and background of our Independence on patriotism from the speaker. The children expressed that they never had such an opportunity in the past to know about the responsibility towards the Nation and how they can serve for their country when they grow up and what responsibilities they have to share in shaping up the country. Also about civic responsibilities were shared.



From September / October 2019, the Debora Foundation has started long-term educational and vocational training activities in three villages near Doddaballapur and in due course of time the long-term activities will be extended to other villages depending upon the quantum of donations raised within the country. Of the 3 educational/ vocational activity centres, which was opened in a rented place, one is in Rajaghatta village, the second one is in Obedanahalli village and the other is in Aluru village. In each village two types of programs are being carried out in these centres (except in the case of Obedanahalli only one program for small children is being carried out). One is, for small children up to 6th standard who come to the centre after their school hours, where they under the supervision of teacher / teachers play for some time, do their homework, read the text books, seek clarifications as and when required from the teacher, have something to eat (fruit and bread or biscuits) and then return to home. They stay for about 2 hours in the centres on all the working days except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Presently in each centre about 30 children are attending this program from the respective villages.

Children are in one of the tuition centres in Rajaghatta village



On-going tailoring course in Rajaghatta village

On-going tailoring course in Aluru

Shamshad
 MANAGING TRUSTEE
 DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA



(Doddaballapur)



village (Doddaballapur)



Apart from this, young girls who are dropped out from school and staying at home without having any skills to find suitable jobs are being offered a short-term training in tailoring course for 3 to 4 months. The courses are conducted at both the centres from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. In each centre 10 girls are presently undergoing the training and the strength is likely to be increased to 15 from next month. Each trainee has already been given one new tailoring machine received as donation and on completion of their course they will take the machines along with them and probably they can either individually establish a tailoring shop in their villages or join as a group of 2 or 3 and open a tailoring shop in the town for which necessary guidance will be given to them.

Since March 2020, unfortunately India including the whole world, has been affected by the COVID-19. The educational activity in India too was affected and from March 24th 2020, the day the country-wide lockdown was imposed initially for three weeks and subsequently extended for three times, all together for about eleven weeks the Educational activity centres are closed down. As the days passed by, India saw millions of migrant labourers, who have lost their livelihood, were still returning to their villages located hundreds of miles away from megacities. A large number of daily wage earners and off-farm workers in rural communities have been out-of-work with no hope for survival.

Children who are living in small houses (huts) under unsafe conditions will not be in a position to isolate or distance themselves or comply with necessary hygienic measures to avoid the spread of the virus. When the parents have no income, their children will not get sufficient food. Their health, wellbeing and Education are severely affected. COVID - 19 pandemic has the potential to intensify the risks to vulnerable children and impact their lives forever. Therefore, the primary focus of our care and decision making will have to be to protect them from an immediate and long term. As such Debora Foundation India is contemplating to provide dry rations to the families.

Thomas Rajkumar
Managing Trustee.
Debora Foundation India

Place: Bangalore
Date: June 2020

MANAGING TRUSTEE
DEBORA FOUNDATION INDIA

