

## ACTIVITY REPORT: 2022-2023

With great satisfaction and pride, we present this annual report on the program activities carried out by the Deborah Foundation India for the growth and development of children and youths in the Doddaballapur region from 1st June 2022 to 30th May 2023.

Four years have passed since this Charitable Trust was formed in May 2019. Unfortunately, the very next year of its formation, Covid-19 struck, so the Trust's work for children could not progress as much as planned in the subsequent year. However, the extensive relief measures DFI had taken up during and after the pandemic for the communities in the villages of Doddaballapur, helping the families, especially children, to overcome their sufferings, helped build a strong rapport between DFI and the communities. In the past, it seems no charitable organization had ever reached out to the underprivileged children and youth in these villages for their educational advancement with high commitment. So, the communities gradually began to trust the work of DFI, and the request from other villages started to come in. With the full support of the communities and the local staff, DFI could lay a good foundation for its work during the year 2022-2023. The DFI could stabilize and improve the program regarding the number of EA Centres operating in the villages, and the strength of the children attending centres started increasing. Similarly, there has been a good response from the young women in the villages coming forward to undergo Tailoring and Embroidery courses.

**Our plan for promoting quality Education:** The Deborah Foundation India has adopted two approaches to promote education for underprivileged children in the Doddaballapur region. One is, reaching out to the school-going children, who are encouraged to attend Educational Activity Centres to develop their learning skills and improve their academic performance. The other is to establish a good school with all the basic facilities to provide quality education in English medium. Therefore, a piece of land measuring about 2 Acres and 36 Gunthas has been purchased in an ideal location at Doddaballapur to establish a school. Presently the applications from DFI for the conversion of land from agricultural to non-agricultural status and the change of Land use for educational purposes are with the state government for approval. The process to start and open the proposed school will begin as soon as the same is sanctioned.

**Educational Activity Centres (EAC):** In rural villages, access to quality education and opportunities for overall development are often limited, especially for underprivileged children. DFI fulfils these



Children learn in small groups at EACs

needs through its Educational Activity Centres (EACs). Children, who come after school hours, learn their daily school lessons in depth. Tuition Teachers pay personal attention to each child to help them complete their homework. These facilities are not limited to just learning their academic education alone. Many other opportunities are provided to improve their overall development – nutritious supplements, health care and various child development activities that help

them build their confidence and gain motivation. Centres offer school supplies such as notebooks, school bags, uniforms, shoes, raincoats, etc. All activities are focussed on core subjects, literacy, numeracy and practical knowledge building to empower children with an adequate educational foundation.

Currently, 13 EACs are functioning in 14 different villages around Doddaballapur town. Presently More than 464 children are benefitted from this program. In continuation of the relief work DFI had

done during the pandemic for the Kole Basava tribe (Nomads) in Bangalore city, on an experimental basis, the DFI has set up an EAC centre for the children in Horumavu in Bangalore, where more than 30 children are benefitted from this program. Most of these children have yet to get into the formal school education system. DFI is trying to ensure that primary education is provided as a foundation for small children who don't go to school and loiter around so that later they can join the mainstream - formal school education.



*Managing Director of Rittal Foundation, Germany, visiting the makeshift EAC*

**Skill Development & Vocational Training for Girls:** In rural villages, where employment

opportunities are often limited, empowering youth, especially girls, with vocational skills can be a transformative step towards self-reliance and economic independence. One such step to empower them is to offer tailoring and embroidery courses, which Debora Foundation India does to equip young girls with valuable skills and open doors to economic empowerment and social progress. While learning tailoring and embroidery, they acquire



*Skill development training for youth*

marketable skills to generate income. Whether making traditional garments, designing modern clothing, or offering alteration and stitching services, these skills enable them to become self-

employed, find employment in the fashion industry, local garment workshops, or even start small businesses. So far, around 124 young girls were benefitted from this program till now. Presently 50 young girls are undergoing a Tailoring course in 5 centres in Aluru, Bannimangala (2 centres), Shraavanur & Huskur. Cast system and cultural restrictions do prevent them from personal and economic advancement. It



*MLA of Doddaballapur attending the graduation*

has been a challenge for DFI to persuade the parents to send their daughters for such training programs.



*Mr. Dinesh from Rittal Pvt. Ltd handing over graduation*

In February 2023, 32 young girls received their graduation certificates from the Doddaballapur Local MLA, Mr. T. Venkataramanaiah, in a grand program organized by DFI, attended by the officials of Rittal Private Limited. At the function, they were given Tailoring kits, which included Lining cloth materials, measuring Tape, 25 nos. of thread, needles packet, oil can, scissors etc., to start their business from home, or they could establish a small shop in their villages.



*Life-skill training for youth*

Special Training in life-skill development and workshops on various issues that affect their lives are also offered to build their self-confidence and self-esteem. Equipped with the required knowledge and expertise, these girls establish their tailoring enterprises in the villages, cater to the needs of their local communities and find ways of marketing their products. Such training programs also offer financial literacy, communication, time management, and entrepreneurship skills. It helps them become financially self-sufficient.

**Beautician Course for Young Girls:** Beautician Training Course for young girls in Doddaballapur was started in Sunnaghatta for eight girls this year. This course aims to provide comprehensive training and skills development in beauty and grooming, empowering girls with valuable expertise and



*Skill development training for youth*



enhancing their employability prospects. Recognizing the potential of the beauty and grooming industry, DFI organized this course to cater specifically to the needs and aspirations of young girls in the community.

**Motor Driving Course For Rural Youths (Boys):** DFI had organized a Motor driving course for rural youths living in and around the Doddaballapur villages.



*Skill development training for youth*

Ten rural boys were trained and gained the skill to fetch employment or self-employment if they chose to drive a taxi or auto. These courses equip them with the necessary knowledge & expertise to operate vehicles safely and efficiently. Possessing a valid driver's license significantly increases their employability in various sectors such as transportation, logistics, tourism, and delivery services.

**Our Response Post-Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted communities worldwide, leaving many vulnerable individuals and families struggling to meet their basic needs.



*Post-Pandemic relief support*

As we move forward, post-pandemic recovery efforts include initiatives to ensure food security for all. One vital aspect of these efforts is the distribution of groceries to people in need. During this challenging phase, DFI ensured groceries were provided to children and their families in Doddaballapur. By providing groceries, these initiatives alleviated the financial burden on households and enabled them to redirect their limited resources

toward other pressing needs, such as healthcare, education, and rebuilding their lives. Items distributed: 10 Kg Rice, 1 Kg Dhal, 1 Litre Cooking Oil, 2 Kg Atta, bathing soap, Washing soap etc.

**Details of Groceries/dry ration kits distributed to Children & families:**

No. of Families	No. of Persons	No. of Villages in Doddaballapur
288	1450	Aluru 2. Duddenahalli, 3. Rajaghatta 4. Bannimangala 5. Bachahalli 4. Dinnuru, 5. Sulukunte 6. Venkatapura 7. Sunaghatta 8. Pandithpura 9. Arasanahalli 10. Obedanahalli

**Details of Groceries distributed to the Kole Basava Community in Bangalore city:**

No. of Families	No. of Persons	No. of Villages/Location
212	1200	1.Hormavu area-1, 2. Hormavu area-2, 3. Madhepura, 4. Marthahalli 5. Chandapura Hoskote, 6. Tatanagar, 7. Yelahanka, 8. Gariapalla 9. Laggeri 10. Malagala & 11. Mahalakshmi Layout.



*Post-Pandemic relief support to Basava community*

In addition, with the support of another NGO, DFI distributed 500 Grocery kits were distributed to needy people in Doddaballapur & Kole Basava communities in Bangalore, around 291 Grocery kits for Doddaballapur & 209 kits for the Kole Basava community.

No. of Families	No. of Persons	Villages/Location
291	1650	DODDABALLAPUR: Dinnur, Bachahalli, Bannimangala, Aluru, Obedanahalli, Sunnagahatta, Venkatapura, Rajaghatta, Sulukunte, Pandithpura
209	1180	KOLE BASVA: Malagala, Kamakshipalaya, Laggeri, Tatanagar, Yelahanka, Hormavu, Bangarappagutta, Arikere, Mudinapalya, Kothanur



*Distributing tarpaulins and solar lamps to the tribal*



**Joy Kits & Hygiene Kits for Children:** Around 278 Children from 9 Doddaballapur villages received

Joy kits, consisting of goodies like biscuits, sweets, energy drinks and school supplies like pens, pencils, erasers and scales. Also, hygiene kits consisting of personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, oil, bathing soaps, and nail cutters were provided for children in Doddaballapur and Bangalore (Kole Basava children). Around 355 & 145 Hygiene kits were provided to children in Doddaballapur & Kole Basava children, respectively.



*Distribution of hygiene kits*

**Tarpaulin for the families of Kole Basava:** The communities of Kole Basava live in temporary makeshift tents, lacking adequate protection from harsh weather conditions. Tarpaulin is an effective barrier against rain, preventing leaks and flooding inside the tents. It also provides shade and insulation during hot summers, reducing the risk of heat-related illnesses. Around 50 Tarpaulins were distributed to the Kole Basava community living in the Hormavu area in August 2022.

**Solar Lamps for the Kole Basava community:** It was a joyful day for the families and children of this community to experience the light burning at night in their makeshift tents. When the sun sets, children cannot read and write. Women found it difficult to carry out household chores in the dark; around 86 families in Hormavu & Tata Nagar living in makeshift tents received the Solar powered lamps at their homes. These lamps are portable, easy to use, and environmentally friendly. Solar-powered lamps enabled the children to study and complete their schoolwork after sunset. This provision has ensured safety, improved the educational performances of children and contributed to environmental sustainability.

**Raincoats for the children:** Walking long distances to school during excessive rains and engaging in routine activities with protection from heavy downpours has been a severe challenge for the children. Every child deserves the right to have regular access to school without any hindrance. DFI had provided raincoats to protect themselves from rain and attend school without absenting themselves. These raincoats will shield them from the rain and enable them to attend school regularly, participate in extracurricular activities, and enjoy their childhood without worrying about getting wet and falling ill. Around 307 children benefitted through the Raincoat distribution in August 2022.



*About 300 children received raincoats*

**Educational Materials & School Supplies:** EAC Centres are equipped with all the required learning and teaching materials, including Green writing Boards, Wall hanging Maps and Study Maps, Dictionaries, etc. Altogether 500 children received school supplies like Notebooks, Children's Activity books, School bags, School shoes, Geometry boxes, Water bottles, school stationery items, white Uniforms, Track Pant & T-Shirts. With the support from another NGO, around 182 children in Doddaballapur areas of Dinnur, Aluru, Bachahalli, Sulukunte, Arasanahalli, Rajagahatta & Obedanahalli. In addition, 95 school uniforms for Kole Basava children in Hormavu & Tata Nagar were distributed as part of the Non-formal education. As part of the program, children were also provided with daily nutritious food items like eggs, Peanuts, Kabul Chenna, Brown Chenna, Peanut Burfi, fruits, green grams, Moong Dhal etc., after their study time in EAC centres.

**Summer Camps to Empower Children:** Summer camps are often associated with fun-filled adventures and memorable experiences for children, besides building up their self-esteem and developing conflict-resolution skills., The summer camps organized by DFI for the children in Doddaballapur offered much more than just a break from routine. Around 80 children attended the summer camps in two batches organized in Doddaballapur (May 15-27, 2023). It was a unique opportunity to learn new things in life. Children spent one week participating in various programs - drawing, painting, crafts, singing, dancing and motivational classes, with adequate time for games and sports. The camps provided opportunities for them to learn and practice teamwork, problem-solving, communication, leadership, and resilience. They could learn to collaborate, think critically, and overcome obstacles through group activities, team-building exercises, and challenging tasks. Camps also offered nutritious meals and emphasized personal hygiene, promoting good health. In the first



Children engaged in various activities during summer camp

Batch, 40 children from Neralaghatta, Huskur, Talagavara, Sharavanur, Menasi Colony, and Kolur and in the second Batch, 40 children from Aluru, Bannaimangala, Sulukunte, Bachahalli took part.

**Meetings and Training for the project staff:** Knowing that always the program's quality wholly and solely depends on how well the project staff are trained, and staff meetings to exchange views are frequently held, Deborah Foundation India organizes monthly meetings with all the staff to discuss and improve the program and address the issues and challenges they face. Various training programs are organized to

improve their child-care skills and knowledge.

Around 22 staff, including Tutors, Supervisors,

Tailoring teachers & Social workers, participate in the meetings. At such meetings, they

discuss the effectiveness of various strategies

and interventions, identify areas that require improvement and exchange best practices for community engagement and mobilization, keeping the child as their primary focus of attention.



*Training for teachers and project staff*

**Conclusion:** In closing, firstly, I wish to thank Professor Dr. and Mrs. Friedhelm Loh in Germany for their generosity in supporting this entire program to promote quality education for the deserving children in Doddaballapur, without whom it would not have been possible to carry out such programs. So, also to Rittal Private Limited, the company which operates in the Industrial area of Doddaballapur, has come forward to support the entire program through its CSR funding. I always thank the Trustees for their guidance, encouragement, and commitment to this good cause. Without the support of the project staff, we would not have been successful in our work, for whom we are indebted for their committed service. Above all, to God. More importantly, we are grateful to God for how he led us to this stage.

Thomas Rajkumar  
Managing Trustee

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: June 2023