

YERALA PROJECTS SOCIETY
'Yerala Bhavan' Guest House,
Vishrambag, Sangli.
Maharashtra India 416415

Edu-Key III Yearly Report 2009

Edu-key I was the 1st step in the educational activities in the field. In this phase we worked for ensuring the infrastructural development in the schools, ensuring active participation of the community. The development of Village Education Committees (VEC) has done in education process of children and generating sense of ownership towards school among the villagers.

During the second phases of Educational activities, we have worked to bring all children from the project area Jalihal , under the educational facilities provided through Edu-key II phases. The hostel facility has made available for the children of migrant families. During this phase we have started balwadies for children staying at remote places later on those handed over to the government authorities. The girl child has encouraged for continuing education with bicycle bank activity.

Edu-key III is a 3rd phase of educational activities. This phase has come up with various new ideas which bring gender equality and respect towards others. This phase has motive of overall growth and behavioural change in the children. The phase will concentrate on Quality of education not only with the academic interest but to develop children as good citizen. In this phase youth have been focused and activities have been designed to make them more responsible.

The phase continues with some of the activities from Edu-key II to stop dropage at school level and to bring all children under the equal educational facilities.

The activities in continuation are stated as follows.

Education for All

- *Balwadies at Remote places:*

During this year we have again foundout those areas where children have no access to pre-primary education. With the help of local people we have started Balwadis at 6 locations. Also we could convince 6 young women to conduct these balwadis. The capacity building of these teachers have been carried out through trainings. 2 trainings have completed during the year.

The Training for balwadi teachers has been conducted to ensure the quality of teaching and to adopt the play way manner of teaching. The

training is been conducted by Padmanabh and Edu-key staff members. Padmanabh explained them the necessity of telling stories and songs for these children. He showed how to in act the story and song or rhymes to make learning interesting and fun for children. The Balwadi teachers also found it interesting way of teaching besides the traditional one. The session there after has become interactive; all teachers showed their interest to enact the stories and songs. Harish added by demonstrating the use of paper puppets while story narration. All the teachers from 6 balwadis have been attended this training with good response and interest. Vaishali explained the way of presenting rhymes through enacting dance steps to help them developing interest of children in it.

▪ *Bicycle bank:*

There has been significant improvement in the enrollment of girls in secondary schools. This year we have added 50 more bicycles to the innovative bicycle bank to make the total 362. Now more than 500 girls from 22 villages are using bicycles to attend the school. The bicycles are provided to the girls from those families which have poor financial background, it is now often observed that, to meet the same requirement, girls from better families force their parent to buy bicycles! Hence ‘trend’ is getting developed of providing bicycle to the school going girls!

▪ *Hostel facility for children of migrant families:*

During this year we have supported the children of migrant families with the provision of hostels as well as foster parenting. Six hostels are being run accommodating **87** boys and activity has also proved effective in continuation of education for children of migrant families. We supported 6 hostels to run for these children.

Parents of girls do not prefer to leave behind their daughters in the hostels. Considering this fact, we have promoted the concept of foster parenting. 94 school going girls are being looked after by the foster parents. Hence their education is continued!

Newly Introduced Activities

◆ *Balpanchayat Training (Change Maker):*

During this initial stage of Edu-key III we have succeeded in formation of balpanchayat group of 10 -15 children in 4 villages, so as to reach more than 40 children within the four villages.

In November, we have conducted the training for these changemakers. The training at Jaihal School, has been conducted by Ramesh and Mulla. Whereas Kittad and Kiran have conducted the training with the Balpanchayat

members in Girgaon high school,. They have addressed children in a friendly manner. The children have been allowed to talk freely. The students have asked where they know why they are in Balpanchayat. Do they know the role they have to play being as a member of Balpanchayat. The children answered very honestly, that they have to help the children to solve their problems. Then Ramesh added that they have to definitely help to solve the problems but with the help of elders like teachers, parents. They have been asked whether the birth day has been celebrated by their parents. Some of them answered yes they do celebrate with cakes and toffees. But some of them have the one whose birthdays have not been celebrated. The children further been asked have they got a reading books from their parents. The answer was no. Then the importance of reading story books or the novels has been discussed and children then said that they will demand a story book as a birthday gift from their parents. The session ended with this promise that they will definitely talk on the books they will read at home.

Such sessions really come out with good experience itself for all of us. All about 18 students from 6, 7 and 8th std. students have addressed in these training.

◆ *RTTS (Reading to the Smallest):*

The parents of Aanganwadi children have addressed in the parents meeting of Govt. Aanganwadis for RTTS. The discussion began with the basic question that who's the first teacher of a child. The typical answer came, that the Aanganwadi teachers, then Kittad recalled their memory that a



newly born baby doesn't know any thing and the parents plays the role of teacher at first in the life of child before coming to Aanganwadi. Then they realised the fact. The question then raised was, do they feel that teaching is also the responsibility of parents too.

The discussion further continued with the key question that how many

parents do tell story to their young one and why it is essential. The parents must build the strong relation with their child through this program. The parents slowly realised what their child is missing something very important. Then Kittad introduced 1st book of RTTS with only picture. The parents then supported, by giving the confidence, that making stories through pictures, has very easy



even for the one that has illiterate. Then the parents asked that besides books can this be possible to make stories based on the things or animals around. That's also good suggestion came up through this open discussion that's so good for illiterate parents.

The baseline survey from 10 villages has been completed through 16 'Anganwadis'. The RTTS sessions covered through 4 villages and the set of 6 books based on the same have been distributed to the 6 Anganwadi teachers. The capacity building of these teachers have completed with using these books.

◆ *Gender Equality Sports (GES):*

To achieve gender equality in the area some local sports have identified such as Lezim, Tiparya & Kho-Kho. Where girl and boys play lezim together, there must be good coordination with the payers to make it best performance. At first it was really difficult to gather the girl and boys together for one task. The girls were hesitating to perform this together with boys. Then counseling of this team has done by Padmanabh and explained that they are at same level and going to perform to show that there should not be any difference between them. Both of them should equally received respect from each other. Both of them having same talent so can come together and form a friendship bond.



When they started playing together they have been explained the behavioural changes in them and the

good effects of it while playing. At present, about 100 lezims have been distributed in the schools of the area namely Scope, Dhulkarwadi, Lavanga and Girgaon. They have formed the groups of 12 girls – 12 boys from 8th and 9th std. students in all schools.

We have arranged the interschool Tournament with mixed games with all the three local games for encouraging Gender Equality program.



We have divided all schools from the area in two zones east and west to participate. The tournament will be from 15 to 20 Jan. At 1st level the matches will be between their mother zone and the two winners from both zones will go for final match. So right now the net practice is going on.

Two new games have introduced at the end of the year in mixed games, Judo and Korfball. The expert trainer, Ageeth, had come from Holand to train the children. We have about 25 children all together participating in the training. Judo has been played with younger children while korfball have been played with 14 to 15 years or even elder than that.

The preparation of korfball ground and judo mats at local level was very exciting experience for us.

On the very first day we have inauguration ceremony to explain them why we are here, the view behind performing these mixed games. We told them that there should be respect with both sexes to one another and that is what we are addressing through mixed games. We explained them this with many examples and in interactive way. The Surpanch and other committee members have participated in the ceremony with YPS staff and Ageeth.

Ageeth explained both games in details with their peculiarities and importance in playing. The session was interactive, boys asked many quaries like

- Can we use kicks in judo?
- Can we defend with the person stronger than us?
- Is there any red card system for faults in korfball?
- Can we able to use different tactics while playing the korfball?

The girls were not open for discussion but after the session they came up with some difficulties like-

- Can we were the same dress or there is any uniform for it, if yes, then can we able to see that?
- Are we going fight with boys or with girls only?

Ageeth and we explained them very well. Then we fixed the Program Schedule in the afternoon session through the open discussions with all participants and Ageeth. Then we all realized the approach of girls, have to be handle in different way so that the girls can come out confidently to play with boys. So we thought we have to work with them very hard, so as to Ageeth also.

◆ *Philosophy For Children :*

The trial session on this topic has been conducted by Padmanabh in SCOPE for 8th -9th std. children. Session started with informal way of conversation with the questions like,

- What expectations your parents have from you.
We found different answers from boys & girls.

Girls replied,

1. GET UP EARLY IN THE MORNING.
2. OBEY THE ORDERS GIVEN FROM ELDERS.
3. GIVE RESPECT TO THE ELDERS.
4. DON'T BE SELFISH.

5. SHARE THE WORK AT HOME WITH MOTHER.

Boys replied,

1. OBEY THEIR ORDERS.
2. DON'T FIGHT.
3. RESPECT YOUR ELDERS.

Then the discussion further continued with,

- How to respect the elders.
- How to learn values of life.
- Do you think the stories play important role in expressing it.

The students was equally expressing their thoughts, then Padmanabh asked that if he will narrate the story can they able to tell whether the story play role In expressing values of life. Then Padmanabh has narrated the story to the class. Then asked them to tell the moral of story, when they told one or two different morals he asked them to make a habit of reading books. On this note the session ends. The trial session, concluded that the children are open for discussions. The response from them is encouraging. Some who have not expressed took part later on.

◆ *Teachers quality improvement:*

The 2 trainings for teachers have been completed so far. During 1st training we make them aware about “Students generate the knowledge”. And “curiosity is a mother of knowledge generation” During the session of eight days we arranged discussions on ‘Constructivism in science teaching, use of concept maps, gender equality in the students, and use of ITC in education’.

For the other training Keralite Educational Expert Mr. Jinan had invited to give training to the teachers. The workshop had arranged from 17th Nov to 21st Nov. As he showed his interest in working with children we arranged training 17, 18, 19 with the children of Scope, Balgaon, and other villages where as 20th and 21st with the teachers from all schools. Jinan is the master in extracting learning experience from nature. He teaches to experience many different colour sheds naturally available, the different sounds coming from the nature including bird’s voice, the voice of leaves, the sound of wind, etc. He is a good artist as well. The children gave good response and enjoyed a lot the different experience all together being with him. He asked them to collect the leaves, sticks and pebbles with different shapes and colours. Then he asked to make a drawing with the help of those collect things. He asked them to draw the different shape leaves and colour it in a way they think it should be. In one session he asked them to make pictures out of sticks. The students said that they didn’t realize that so many coloured leaves are there in the surrounding. These pictures of the collected things made their teachers surprised that these are the same children they meet every day. So many talents came up with these children. Then some memory drawings also asked

to draw, and the children are really good in all. The same exercise has been carried out with teachers as well but due to less number of teachers present in the training, he requested the members to share this with others.

◆ *Gender Equality Section in CC:*

- Poster Exhibition And Drama Competition:

A Science Poster Exhibition have been arranged at CC, with help of Curiosity clubs. About 150 students from different schools with in the project area have enrolled. These posters were evaluated by body of experts. This exhibition covered different subject such as environment, education, health and hygiene, gender equality etc. A poster by 4 year old boy was appreciated by the juries.

Similarly a drama competition was arranged with the help of C.C. 11 schools participated in it. Most of these shows were in local languages. It created some trouble to juries.

An exhibition of models prepared by students has been organized, a model of D.N.A. structure got first prize. The winner impresses the judges with simple mode but excellent information about genes and genetic engineering.

- Developing computerized games or programs.

To develop the computerized games or programs based on Gender equality we meet to Mr. Mone at Kolhapur. He has experience in developing interactive educational CDS for school children based on their syllabus since 10 years. He has good set up for developing CDs for School children. We have fruitful discussion; he has got ready to work with us on the concept of gender equality and to develop games, clips or films for children. The follow up meetings has been done by Padmanabh. In the first meeting Padmanabh gave him a story, he has to prepare the estimated cost of it. The same story has discussed with Cees which has been further discussed by him with a child psychologist at Holand. After the final conclusions from them and the estimated cost the action has to be taken.

Kerwadi people have sent the CD based on gender equality. The CD has been translated Kannada, the local language as its essential over here. The inauguration of 'Gender equality section in CC' has been planned by Ageeth from Holand.

- Participation in Gender Activity

We are participating in a Cultural Program at Kolkatta, India arranged by YMWS, They have International Youth Consort on Gender Equality. The cultural activities have to perform with mixed group of 7 girls and 7 boys from the age group 13- 14 the event has been conducted at international level.

We have surprising experience that the children who was not ready to come together to perform single task with opposite sex, are readily performing together when they have been explained that it is cultural activity. The experience:

1. At first when we call them for selection, they were hesitating to participate.
2. The boys at last showed interest in performance.
3. But girls, have changed after every day. They remaining absent in the school with the fear that she can asked to participate.
4. So daily we used to select new team and started practicing.

After this experience, Padmnabha and Harish took the sessions with boys and girls separately. They explained them where we have to go and why we have to participate the in Consort. They told them the meaning of items to be performed together the songs selected have patriotic one and the other have cultural one. Then we have found the different approach of boys and girls working together.

1. Both girls and boys are now mixed together very well.
2. They are now familiar with good or bad qualities of each another.
3. While performing, they are ready to find out mistakes and try to reduce with in the friendly atmosphere.
4. They are taking care that the performance must be good one.
5. So they are practicing the same to make it better teamwork.

This is really different experience all together so we are sharing it here with details.

◆ *Encouraging girls education:*

The experienced that the girls from the project area have lack of confidence to go to the urban area for learning. They have interest in continuing their higher education.

We feel that, there should be enough exposure to these girls to the Urban collages from their early days of higher education. For this purpose we have used our social contacts and meet to the authorities of colleges in Sangli. We had a meeting with the Principal and staff members to make them aware of the present conditions and the mentality of these girls from Jalihal area. They have responded well and became ready to visit Jalihal and meet the girls. We have asked them to bring 2-3 girls from their



college so as to assure the village girls with the free talk. We have addressed around 30-40 girls from 9th & 10th std. of the project area. We have visited to 3 schools from the area and had a nice conversation with these girls.

After this 1st stage we have planned to bring these girls to the College for a one-day workshop. The girls will mix

up with the atmosphere, the staff members and students of the college.

We have asked the school teachers of the project area to conduct the meeting with the parents so as to satisfy their needs with free talk. YPS Edu-key staff will support the schools during these meetings.

We believe that these meetings and exposure visit will definitely bring confidence in these girls and they will start discussing about it with their parents, friends and thus the environment will built supporting for the higher education.
