



The Philanthropist

Transforming Lives

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Global Pragathi (Global Progress)

Issue 5

Pragathi Welfare Society (Sister Concern in India)

Global Pragathi

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Poverty Alleviation Through :

- Education Improvement
- Women Empowerment
- Youth Employment
- Preventive Health Care
- Community Involvement
- Infrastructure Improvement

We work beyond race, caste, religious, gender, political, regional, linguistic and socio-cultural divides with core values of

- ❖ Compassion
- ❖ Dignity
- ❖ Progress
- ❖ Peace

“A philanthropist is a person who donates time, money, experience, skills or talent to help create a better world.”

Chenchu Tribals, Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) Remote Nallamala Forests in Sri Sailam, Telangana

The first section of the newsletter features Pragathi's efforts to support Mr Vamsidhar Kalidasu and his nonprofit organization, **Children of The Forest (COF)**. A math teacher by profession, he now works full time with passion to support Chenchu tribal communities in 50 interior forest habitations, cut off from rest of the world. Of the 32 tribes in AP and Telangana, these aboriginal tribals are the most underprivileged, living their lives in extreme conditions.

- They live in small hamlets with population of few hundreds
- Literacy is nil – they are unaware of value of education
- They collect gum, honey and other forest produce
- Income is for 100 days a year through MNREGA government scheme
- They depend on hunting and gathering for food
- There is remarkable unity amongst them

Mr Vamsidhar Kalidasu's Testimonial

Thank you very much Global Pragathi and Pragathi Welfare Society. We are incredibly grateful for your continuous support during 2021 - 2023. We have achieved several milestones with your proactive support, listed below.

Transforming Lives of Adivasi Chenchu (Aboriginal Tribal) Kids With Pragathi Support

- We have purchased 24 cycles to cycle 9,000 km to explore other parts of the country
- Supported kids in the tribal areas
- During COVID second wave 2021 Kids rescued from Uttarakhand and sent to their hamlets safely
- Supported kids walking 307 kilometers for exposure to outside world
- Construction of 3,600 square feet school building with 4 toilets, 3 class rooms and a community kitchen with partial financial support
- Obtained bricks making machine to make indigenous bricks
- Obtained regular advice to improve the lives of the tribals

Humanitarians Join Hands To Make A Difference - Collaboration with Telangana Development Forum, USA

Philanthropy is not only about donating money. Realizing that one individual or organization can only make so much of an impact, Pragathi team encourages other philanthropists to join hands and work towards alleviation of poverty and creation of a better world. Dr Divesh Anireddy, a gastro-enterologist in the USA, doing tremendous humanitarian work has been sharing lot of ideas in the field of education, employment and health care. We have collaborated and implemented several projects successfully in last three years. We are encouraged by the involvement of nonprofit organizations, the **Telangana Development Forum, USA (TDF)** and Swastava Cancer Care. Below, we showcase some of the projects implemented successfully, after countless hours of diligent planning.

Providing Livelihood to Fifteen Rural Women - Computerized Embroidery Machine

As part of women empowerment program, to help 15 rural poor women with gainful employment, a computerized embroidery machine was purchased. The inauguration ceremony was on March 3, 2023 in Lingampally village. The village women, filled with joy, thanked Pragathi and TDF for providing the machine.

The program is going very well. Ten ladies have learned to use this machine, four out of them have done advance training. Others are still learning to use the machine. Pragathi team thanks Dr Anireddy for all the support and guidance.

Support the Poor Farmers in Twenty Five Villages - Jai Kisan Project

Sixty Five to Seventy percent of the population in India lives in rural areas. The Jai Kisan project was started by **Telangana Development Forum (TDF)** in 2015. Pragathi team is excited to be a partner in Jaikisan Project in Telangana and to support the needy poor farmers. As a pilot project, we will team up with local farmers in 25 villages who are already doing natural farming work, and with support from local agriculture officers help these farmers with natural farming. A great opportunity for the Pragathi team to learn more about good practices in agriculture. The program will be expanded to Burgula and other areas in Telangana state eventually . Some of the objectives and plans of the projects are as follows:

- a. Promote natural farming among the poor rural farmers and improve their income.
- b. Help revive and rejuvenate contaminated soils.
- c. Help with high yield crop and safe practices.
- d. Improve health leading to prevention of diabetes mellitus, hypertension and cancers at a younger age.
- e. Helping farmers market the produce at good prices.
- f. Support farmers to start growing organic food for their households and eat healthy organic foods.
- g. Providing farmers organic seeds and agricultural tools.

Mobile Medical Van For Cancer Prevention and Screening in Telangana State

Swastava Cancer Care expresses hearty and sincere thanks to Pragathi and Telangana Development Forum for making available a 14 seater Force van to increase cancer awareness and screening in Rural Telangana . The Van is commissioned and running , giving enough publicity to create awareness, screening & early detection. The goal is to eradicate cervical cancer in Telangana. Swastava is looking forward to working with Pragathi during 2023-24 on cancer awareness, school health programme and vaccinating girls in the age group of 9 to 14 with HPV vaccine as soon as it is released commercially by Serum Institute of India.

- *Dr Chaturvedi, Founder & General Secretary, Swastava Cancer Care*



Zero Formal Education in Chench Kids - Construction of School Building

3000 Kilometer Bicycle Expedition to Explore the World by Tribal Kids

Chenchu children walk 307 km to explore life beyond their 'pentas'

Sushil.Rao@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Venturing out of the Nallamalla forests, Chenchu tribal children walked 307 km in a marathon relay walk, wearing a sport jersey and sports shoes, as they explored a different world other than their interior 'pentas' (habitations).

Twentyone children in the age group of 8-13 also had a memorable meeting with Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu in Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. The tribal children, including eight girls, walked from Srisaikal forest area to Muppavaru farmers training centre of Swarana Bharati Trust in Nellore where they met the Vice-President on November 13. The walk, which began from Yerragondlapalem in Prakasam district on November 4, ended on November 17.

Apart from the 21 tribal children, there were four other children and six elders who accompanied them on their marathon walk. While 20 children hailed from Nagarkurnool district in Telangana, one was from Mekalabanda in AP's Kurnool district. The children are students of government schools.

"We also had a car in which the children could rest after they completed their walk for the day before they would join the walk again. It was all about exposing the tribal children to the world outside of their tribal habitations," said Children of the Forest founder Vamsidhar Kalidasu.

The marathon walk was intended to inculcate in them sportsmanship so that they are exposed to the world of sports and also develop interest in them, he said.

The walk was also for a cause. They were taken to a temple but the surroundings were littered with plastic and other waste materials. The children picked up and segregated one tonne of waste. A more challenging task was taken up by 18 Chenchu youth earlier this year who embarked on a 9,000-km cycle journey as an expedition to the Himalayas. However, they could not complete the expedition because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children meet vice president M Venkaiah Naidu



Tribal Kids Walk To Explore Life Outside Forest and Meet Vice President of India

Mobile Medical Van Bought For Cancer Prevention and Screening in Telangana State



Increased Income for Farmers - Jai Kisan Project



Computerized Embroidery Machine to Support Livelihood for Fifteen Rural Women

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Pragathi thanks profusely all the donors and well-wishers, without whose timely and generous help it would have been impossible to carry on our work of helping the poor.

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Pragathi Thanks Advisors, Partners and Supporters

Dr Divesh Anireddy, Mr Vamsidhar Kalidasu, Dr Chaturvedi are true champions working hard to alleviate poverty