



GOOD SHEPHERD Values imparted through FORMAL & NON – FORMAL Education

From time immemorial, India has had a very starring patriarchal set up which has prevented the development of women. It has led to severe suppression of not just women, but also the less privileged class in society. With independence, there has been a slow but steady attempt to break the shackles of injustice towards women. Great freedom fighters and social activists have awakened the people and worked to empower the women. The Indian government has tried to boost the situation with various schemes like National Literacy Mission as well as provide more opportunities to women and people from the lower caste in all walks of life. Yet, the expenditure on education is as low as 1.3% of the GDP.

In this storming background, the Good Shepherd Mission Partners have plunged to rescue the oppressed people and empower the women and children, by way of providing education which is the golden key that can unlock the path to freedom, since their inception in India in 1854. Today, they have formal and non-formal holistic education programmes both in the rural and urban areas with the motive of empowering the future torchbearers of the world.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Our sisters work in Balaghat - Madhya Pradesh, Mulakalapally in Telangana, Simon Colony in Tamilnadu, Kathmandu in Nepal. and Chainpur in Jharkhand work in the schools managed by the respective dioceses and in Nepal by the Jesuits.

Most of these children are basically from poor sections of rural and urban background and many of their parents are illiterate. All the same they desire to educate their children preferably in English Medium Schools hoping to secure a brighter future for their wards. In spite of the insufficient infra-structure and adequate facilities the managements try to provide programmes for the all round development of the students. We feel privileged to be part of this education ministry. It is our great joy to impart knowledge and values of the Good Shepherd to these less fortunate children through:-

- Catechism and Moral Science classes – teaching the basic Gospel values, prayer,

meditation and yoga also instilling in them good manners, respect for self and others and enabling them to grow as good human beings

- Academic knowledge - encouraging creative learning, developing talents, improving speaking skills both in English and Hindi.
- Visit to the families of the students – to establish good relationships, foster openness and cooperation, to understand the background of the family in order to help the child feel that he / she is precious, thus enhancing the ability to concentrate in his / her studies.

Our presence and active participation in this ministry is much appreciated and there is evidently a lot of improvement in the quality of education. For the past few years there is a steady improvement in the enrolment of students and the parents cooperate whole heartedly with the school management. Our joy is to see the growth in the students both in their studies and their personality.

Testimonies



35 years spent in the field of education in one of the renowned schools of Mumbai, were not so fulfilling and satisfying as when I joined the Good Shepherd Convent School in Karjat. Coming from an elite school initially it was very difficult for me to adjust and understand the children, the environment and the people of the locality. But as time passed with the help of a few other teachers and the guidance of Sr. Divya, we were able to bring about lots of changes in the students, their parents and their attitude. The enthusiasm and willingness of these children to learn English and the efforts put in by the Sisters, the teachers and the support staff was amazing. What is more important to understand is that these children are first generation English learners in this area.

Some of the students are from the Good Shepherd boarding who are either orphans or are of children of women in prostitution. It is rewarding to see these children picking up the language, keeping the discipline and maintaining certain decorum. They are eager to take part in all the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in par with the students of other schools in order to fulfill their dream. The Good Shepherd Team at Karjat truly believe, preach and practice that in true sense education must aim at socially empowering the girls along with academic excellence.

I am extremely proud to be associated with this school which has such a noble perception about Education and have found immense satisfaction and understood the true meaning of Education.





Count your blessings!

By the grace of God, I was fortunate to be a student of Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Nungambakkam from L.K.G to standard XII. It is one of the prestigious girl's schools in Chennai. Along with a good standard in academic studies, the school is famous for extra-curricular activities such as literary, cultural and religious activities; so that students passing out are found to be responsible, confident and equipped with knowledge and wisdom to face the tough life thereafter.

Confidence comes from understanding our own strengths and weakness. Once we identify our strengths, we should develop it further. I realized I was good in music and dance and the school gave me several opportunities to groom my talents all through

the years. Unless we know our weakness we cannot improve in that area. Initially I was not very confident in talking on stage but slowly the teachers encouraged me to overcome the fear of public speaking by motivating me to take up every opportunity I had.

SAMPOORNA, an outreach program of the School that is aimed at helping the students to reach out to the underprivileged children as well as the differently able students, has ingrained in me the sense of social responsibility. Being a member of this group, I felt the need to help the lesser privileged and have discovered the joy of giving and helping others. Taking tuition for the students of Mottukul (a home for the disadvantaged girl children run by our sisters), has taught me to be patient and helped me share the little knowledge

I had. We had an opportunity to go to learn more about the ministries of Good Shepherd and this exposure has inspired me to commit myself as a volunteer in the mission.

“AGE QUOD AGIS” - Do well all that you do, is the motto that the school has ingrained in me and I thank God for grooming me in this glorious institution which continues to mould me even after I have left the portals of this school. Today, wherever I go, I am still recognized for the core values that the school has instilled in me rather than my engineering degree or any other qualification. Ode to gratitude to my Alma Mater is always there on my lips and in my heart!





Non-Formal Education



“Education moves a person from darkness to light”. Compassion, reaching out to the last, lost and the least of the society are the core Values of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Keeping these in mind all our communities

impart the values of discipline, hard work, team spirit, self confidence and the desire to do well in life in children coming from slum areas of the cities, from red light areas and those from economically and socially poor backgrounds. Apart from helping children in their studies, these centers serve as a platform for children to develop their talents through drawing, singing, dancing, storytelling, acting, role plays and reading news. These extra-curricular activities motivate the children to come here regularly so that in an atmosphere of peace and acceptance they can concentrate on their studies, also develop their hidden talents, pursue higher studies, get professional training and raise their standard of living.

in the province conduct non-formal education through play schools, coaching / supplementary classes, Bridge schools (non-formal schools for children who were child laborers, and dropouts to coach them according to their age and main stream them to the formal schools.). Though each of these initiatives has a unique approach, the aim is to

I am Sophia Rodrigues aged 22, working as a teacher after completing my degree and professional training. I was born in Mumbai in a poor family where I grew up seeing my parents struggling to sustain us by selling snacks. Life became still harder when one day we were thrown out on to the roads forcefully. It is at this point of time that Good Shepherd Sisters reached out

to us and enrolled me in their sponsorship programme called CHALICE (Canada). Today about 900 children are financially supported by this sponsorship.

With the financial assistance and encouragement given by the Sisters and staff of Anandini I worked hard, studied well; participated in all extra - curricular activities of the school and Anandini though at that time

I had to travel long distances to reach these places.

I am happy to share with every one that hard work combined with financial assistance; understanding and encouragement; one can overcome any amount of hurdles and arrive at our dreams. It is now my joy to take care of my family and contribute my mite in helping another girl who needs support to fulfil her dream of becoming someone who counts and keep the circle rotating.

Testimony





Elimination of Child Labour and Promotion of Right to Education

Despite the efforts and commitment put in by the government and local NGO's, child labour seems to exist to the fullest in all districts of Andhra Pradesh. Guntur had the highest number of child labourers in the state. Children of migrated labourers, from broken families, orphans, abandoned children and those who are deprived of parental care are found to be employed in hazardous working conditions. In the year 2002, a community based intervention was initiated to eliminate child labour and promote education in Mangalagiri and Amaravathi Regions in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. Surveys taken in 2004 and 2005 in 108 villages saw 3412 school drop outs (1587 boys and 1825 girls). During the past 13 years 3329 child labourers are mainstreamed into formal schools (1572 boys and 1757 girls).

Residential Bridge Camp for the Out-of-School Girls

Girl children who are drop outs or have discontinued school are identified, counselled and academically trained and helped to get back to school. In the year 2014-2015, 57 girl children benefitted under the Residential Bridge School organized by the Sisters of The Good Shepherd, Amaravathi and were mainstreamed into the formal schools in June 2015. There has been regular and periodic monitoring of these children to keep them motivated to continue their schooling. Towards the Abolition of Child Labor and Promotion of Child Rights, especially Right to Education, support groups have been initiated and strengthened:

(i) Children's Parliament: Children from the age group of 11 to 18 years are oriented and trained to form Bala Panchayats. This



is done to help them realize their responsibilities towards the society. There are 35 Bala Panchayats having the membership of 860(463 boys and 397 girls)

(ii) Child Rights Protection Committees: In 35 villages Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPCs) have been initiated and have 440 members to monitor child rights violations.

(iii) Community Sensitization: The general public is made aware of children's right to education, ill-effects of child labor through media, street plays, handouts, thematic posters and television.

I am T Bhavani, and have been working as a teacher in NLCP for the last 10 years. It has been quite a challenge to reframe the minds of the children who seem to be affected physically, emotionally and psychologically by child labour. It is a task to get them to learn academics as they feel it is a waste to sit with paper and pen or learn how to read and write. To get them involved and interested in learning the basics we incorporate creative methods of teaching like singing songs, enacting stories with morals, using stones to learn numbers, matchsticks for writing alphabets and drawing with the help of food grains. To teach and train them to follow healthy habits, hygiene and proper communication is also very difficult as they have been in environments which give no importance to such things. Despite all the difficulties that I have faced as a teacher, to see each one of these children turn a new leaf is very fulfilling. Their efforts are commendable and have taken most of them to intermediate schooling, colleges and nursing. I thank the Sisters for letting me be a part of this noble cause.



Kala Koti Divya Vani Case study

Kalakoti Divya Vani was staying with her grandmother and studying 5th grade in Government school. But she discontinued studies as she had to move back to her village with her parents to Mangalagiri. She could not complete her 5th grade and started working with her parents. She was brought to R.B.C. (residential bridge camp) in the year 2006. Initially she found it very difficult to read and write, but with the constant help of the teachers and Sisters Vani did well and was sent to SDIMPL (Shree Dhoddapaneni

Indhira Municipal Girls High School) in Tenali Mandal to study 8th, 9th, 10th. After her 10th she joined CK. Jr. College to study intermediate and completed her 12th in 2012. In order to help the family, she joined in "Super Specialty Dentist Hospital" as assistant Nurse. At present she is earning Rs. 5,500/- per month. Vani says, "I am very happy to have got the opportunity to reshape my life through education. A million thanks to the Sisters of Good shepherd for helping me at every stage of my life".

D.Dhayakar
of Gundla Palem village
lives with his parents and five elder siblings. After his 5th grade, he discontinued studies and worked in different places to support his family. He joined the RBC (Residential Bridge Camp) in 2006 with the help of the Sisters of Good Shepherd and completed his 10th grade in 2008, after which he finished graduation from M.B.T.S. Government – Polytechnic in the year 2012. He now works as assistant Civil Engineer in Jubilee Hills; Hyderabad with a monthly salary of Rs. 10,000/- He is also trying to do his M.Tech. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Good Shepherd Sisters who changed his life. He has promised to join them and help others who find difficult to study.



Our Sisters in Guntur District both in Mangalagiri and Amaravathi had been working to abolish child labour and to promote education for every child for the last 13 years. Today we can proudly say over 200 villages in the district the child labour, child marriage and other violation on children are minimized to a large extend. It is a big achievement for our mission partners who worked over the years with great determination and commitment.

Srs. Rosily & Annie