

2019 - 20

## Rural Action In Development Society - RAIDS



### Annual Progress Report 2019 - 20



**RAIDS Rural Action In Development Society (RAIDS)**

#2-4-142, Near Old Govt. Junior College Pulivendula - 516390, Kadapa Dist. A.P

Email: [raids.india.org@gmail.com](mailto:raids.india.org@gmail.com), Web: [www.raidsindia.org](http://www.raidsindia.org)

Mob: +91 9440013274, 8125504493



## Introduction:

**Rural Action in Development Society (RAIDS)** is an autonomous registered non-profit organisation promoted by Mr. S. Thyaga Raju in association with few women social workers of Dalit community in 1988. RAIDS is working for the protection and welfare of children and women in various vulnerable conditions through upholding their rights and facilitating its support towards their holistic development for 25 years in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is working in collaboration with various line departments including judiciary, Dept. of Women and Child Development, Police, Department of Education, Labour Department and other line departments for effective service delivery in rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of child marriages, child trafficking, child sexual abuse and exploitation and also victims of various other forms of violence against children and women. In addition, RAIDS is working in collaboration and coordination with the statutory bodies such as State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, CHILDLINE 1098, Special Juvenile Police Units, Child Welfare Committee and District Child Protection Units for addressing the issues of children in need of care and protection services. The General Body consists of 30 members and the Governing Body is made up of 7 members. The vision of RAIDS is to promote a fair community where the child is free from exploitation, discrimination and develop at their full capacity: and the mission is 'Empowering the children and their families through Quality Education, intellectual and vocational skills basis and Sustainable livelihood promotion'.

The main objective of the organization is to empower the deprived community towards their holistic development by building partnership among vulnerable groups. For the last 21 years RAIDS has been carrying out various developmental activities in Pulivendula block of Kadapa district, Nellore, Prakasam, Kurnool Districts of Andhra Pradesh and also T-Tsunami Rehabilitation Project in Nagapatnam District and Safe Drinking Water Project Vellore and Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu.

RAIDS is imparting Participatory trainings to local communities, staff of other NGOs, teachers and other stakeholders from both Government and Non-Governmental organizations/agencies as well as community in bio-farming, Land and Water resource management, Micro credit, livelihood promotion, Job Oriented Vocational Skills, waste management, Career guidance and counseling to youth. It is imparting capacity building trainings and workshops to all the above cited stakeholders on existing legislations, policies and schemes for protection and promotion of child rights. Further, RAIDS is publishing and disseminating numerous vibrant and effective IEC materials that help as a ready reckoned to refer and execute their day-to-day job responsibilities while rendering effective service delivery to the needy.



During the reporting period of 2019 – 20 RAIDS has implemented a variety of programmes and interventions supported by different donor agencies such as Girls Advocacy Alliance programme with support from Terre des Hommes-Netherlands, CHILDLINE 1098 supported by Childline India Foundation, school drinking water project with the support of Vesting Founder and also implemented Wanitha Wani programme for socio-economic empowerment of girls and young women. The beneficiaries from these interventions include girls and women who are in need of care and protection, a holistic development with economic empowerment. While bringing a positive and progressive change among the lives of many girls and young women, RAIDS has involved various stakeholders from Government and Non-Governmental organisations, agencies and institutions in its developmental activities to instigate a sense of confidence and with a ray of hope towards their dignity of life among beneficiaries.

RAIDS has created a common platform to strengthen the coordination and synergy between various line departments and Civil Society Organizations that are working for the welfare and protection of women and children in various districts with key focus on Kadapa, Prakasam and Anantapur districts for an effective service delivery for their rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration from different vulnerable conditions. RAIDS has conducted different capacity building trainings, workshops, consultations, mass campaigns and also conducted researches and studies various issues of children protection including prevention of child marriages, child trafficking, child sexual abuse and exploitation and also put its best advocacy efforts for promotion of Secondary Education for Girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women to reduce the scope of Gender Based Violence and Economic Exclusion against them.

### **Progress under different projects by RAIDS during 2019 – 20:**

#### **Childline 1098:**

##### **Protection from Abuse:**

During the reporting period a total of 61 children have been rescued from various issues of abuse and exploitation. Out of 61 children, 2 rescued from sexual abuse, 4 from physical abuse, 32 children have been rescued from child marriages, 15 children from child begging and 8 children have been rescued from corporal punishment. However, there were no incidents of child trafficking, selling of children, abandoned, bonded labour and infanticides have been reported or identified or found by Childline during 2019 – 20 by RAIDS.

##### **Child labour:**

A total no. of 25 children from issues of child labour has been rescued during the year 2019 – 20 out of whom 18 children have been rescued from rescue operation by police. All the rescued



children have been given counselling and successfully restored with their families by RAIDS - CHILDLINE 1098.

#### **Open House Sessions:**

RAIDS has conducted open house sessions at Peddarangapuram, Peddakudala, Ankamma Gudur and Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya during the months of Sep 2019, Jan, Feb and Mar 2020 as part of Childline 1098 interventions. A total of 69 boys and 351 girls as well as 177 adults have been participated. Grama Volunteers, Animators, Anganwadi Teachers, Asha Worker and Counsellor, Sub Inspector of Police, Constables, ICDS Supervisors, Religious Leaders, Mandal Educational Officer, High School Head Master, Grama Sachivalayam Staff, Village Revenue Assistant and Nodal Coordinator of CHILDLINE 1098, Welfare Special Officer and Health Supervisors have been participated in these open houses during the reporting period.

**Issues raised in open houses:** Communities have raised the issues of child marriages and the socio-economic distress emerged from COVID 19 pandemic outbreak during the open houses. Simultaneously the issues that have been raised regarding the children are school transportation and drinking water facilities.

**Action taken against above raised issues:** Displayed Short Films on disadvantages of Child Marriage, created awareness on importance of secondary education for children with main focus on girls. In Peddakudala of Kadapa district, the Coordinator and Team went to Child's House along with a constable, ICDS Supervisor, Asha Worker and Anganwadi Teacher. The team has given Counselling to child and her parents. Parents also came to police station along with Childline team where the Sub Inspector of police also has given awareness on legal provisions of Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006. As a result, the parents have convinced and agreed not to solemnise marriage till the girl turns out of her legal age of 18 years. Accordingly, concerned MEOs have suggested to the school head masters to take necessary action to resolve the issues of school transportation and drinking water facilities.

**Methodology:** The methodologies adopted during open houses are display of IEC material like Childline 1098 posters and distributing pamphlets and group/open discussions.

#### **Children coverage and events:**

During the reporting period of Apr 2019 to Mar 2020, there were 240 case interventions out of which 139 have been reported to 1098 and 101 cases covered through outreach. As part of outreach, a total of 372 programmes have been conducted and 4191 people have been covered. Further 10035 people have been covered through conducting 2 mass awareness programmes. A total no. of 18 schools has been visited and conducted awareness programmes covering 1863 students. 4228 people have been covered through conducting 25 special events/observance days. One campaign has been conducted on the occasion of local Jathara/festival in which a total of 5920 people have been covered.



### Overview of the progress:

During the reporting period RAIDS has facilitated rescue, counselling and rehabilitation of 86 children who are in need of care and protection services and has successfully reintegrated with their families. Four open house sessions have been conducted during the reporting period involving a variety of stakeholders both from Government such as District Women & Child Development Agency, revenue, police, Department of Education and health departments and also Non-Governmental organisations as well as community leaders including religious leaders. This resulted in a healthy cooperation and coordination between different actors ensuring synergy of action in effective service delivery for the children in need of care and protection services. There was robust awareness created among the school going children on issues of child protection, preventive measures and also existing child protection mechanisms run by state such as Childline 1098, police helpline 100, Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Unit and Special Juvenile Police Unit and so on.

### Girls Advocacy Alliance Programme:

**Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA)** is a global programme initiative of PLAN-International, Terre des Hommes-Netherlands and ECPAT International aimed to offer Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women across 10 countries of Asia and Africa. The programme is being operated in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in India for prevention of child marriages and child trafficking through promoting Secondary Education for Girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women. RAIDS organisation is leading the programme in Andhra Pradesh with its direct operation in Kadapa and Prakasam Districts and with its partner organisation HANDS at Anantapur District.

There are a variety of activities that have been carried out during the progress period involving the key actors of the programme from Communities, Civil Society Organisations, Government and Private Sector representatives. The following activities have been implemented during the reporting period of 2019 – 20 under GAA programme.

### Communities:

#### ✦ Strategic planning workshop with key religious leaders on prevention of Child Marriages:

GAA Programme believes that Key Religious leaders are influential persons who could sensitise the parents, men, women, community elders, boys and girls among the communities on ill effects of child marriages. In this connection, RAIDS has conducted



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orientations/sensitisation of key religious leaders from Kadapa and Prakasam districts on not only negative impact of child marriages but also on legal provisions that penalises the perpetrators. The knowledge of key religious leaders has been percolated to the block and community level religious leaders in turn to the communities. Hence, a strategic planning workshop has been conducted and facilitated the key religious leaders to prepare and implement a strategic plan of action so as to monitor the actions of block and community level religious leaders for effective prevention of child marriages.

✚ **World Day against Trafficking in Persons at District Level:**

RAIDS has observed one of the significant occasional days World Day against Trafficking in



Persons meant to show solidarity towards child victims of trafficking and break the silence with joint action by the stakeholders from both Government and Non-Governmental organisations towards the issues of prevention, protection and rehabilitation. The event was observed in three districts of GAA operational areas involving youth advocates, officials from line departments such as police, judiciary, DW&CDA, Education department and also the

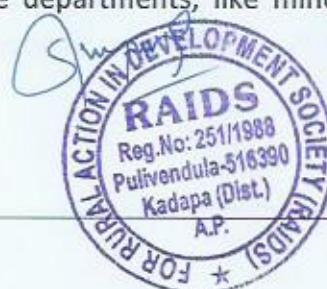
child protection mechanisms like CHILDLINE 1098, SJPU and DCPU including the statutory bodies Child Welfare Committees, SCPCR and Women Commission. A poster on need for collective action to curb the crime of child trafficking has been inaugurated by the guests of the programme and Mr. S Thyagaraju – Director –RAIDS.

✚ **Child Rights Week Celebrations at district level:**

The fundamental Right to Survival, Development, Protection and Participation of children be ensured as a national responsibility and accountability of the State including every citizen. The Government and Non-Governmental Organisations, academicians, activists and all the stakeholders that support and strives for the welfare and protection of children take part in the Child Rights Convention week celebrations so as to convey their commitment and solidarity



that upholds the rights of children. **Children's Day** is celebrated by RAIDS across its operational areas from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 involving the stakeholders from both Government and Non-Governmental organisations includes officials of line departments, like minded NGOs, Child



Protection mechanisms; Statutory Bodies like CWC, SCPCR and State Women Commission and so on.

✚ **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) at District level:**

The day is an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. It has been



observed with varying degrees of success around the planet. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and

cultural life. In this connection, RAIDS has observed the day at state and district levels involving members of SCPCR, CWCs and other stakeholders with the participation of children with disabilities. The children who are with special needs have been recognised and were felicitated in line with the performance of their inherent talents/skills.

✚ **State level youth consultation and facilitation on youth advocacy action**

GAA believes that youth are the distinguished change makers of any social issues including bringing policy reformation to address the issues of child marriages and child trafficking. Hence, GAA has built the capacities of youth advocates in various aspects including advocacy skills. The youth advocates have realised the importance of grassroots comics as an effective medium of communication to convey the messages and advocacy asks of GAA programme with various stakeholders. The youth advocates have drawn various comics based on their learning from the workshop and also using their inborn skills in line with the issues of child marriages and child protection. Youth advocates have realised the use of comics in raising vast awareness among general public and also among the stakeholders on issues of child marriages, Gender Based Violence and Child Trafficking.



✚ **International Youth Day 2019:**

RAIDS has conducted International Youth Day The theme of International Youth Day 2019, "Transforming Education", highlights efforts to make education more relevant, equitable

and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves for Sustainable Development. 1100 adolescent girls have participated and understood the importance of celebration of International Youth Day including its significance. The participants have understood the need for learning life skills along with regular education curriculum. The girls and young women have realized that there is a great need for empowerment of girls in terms of socio-economic, cultural and political contexts.

✚ **District Level Workshop with Key Religious Leaders, Endowment department waqf board officials on developing reporting mechanisms to address child marriages:**

The block and community level religious leaders sensitises the community through their preaching on ill consequences and legal provisions of child marriages. It is felt that, frequent monitoring and follow-up of key religious leaders improves the performance of block and community level religious leaders in turn helps in building sense of ownership among the vulnerable communities in prevention of child marriages. In this context, RAIDS has organised a district level consultation with key religious leaders, officials of endowment department and waqf board members to sustain their inputs and on improving the reporting mechanism and accountability of community members on incidents of child marriages. The participants have realized the need for developing a reporting mechanism and provide their inputs and suggestions to develop the same.

✚ **International Women's Day:**

International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.



The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. No government, NGO, charity, corporation, academic institution, women's network or media hub is solely responsible for International Women's Day. Many organizations declare an annual theme on this occasion that supports their specific agenda or cause, and some of these are adopted more widely with relevance than

others. International Women's Day is a collective day of global celebration and a call for gender parity. In this above context and also as part of the 2020 action plan RAIDS-GAA planned to observe International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at three places in Kadapa district in collaboration with GAA network CSOs involving officials of line departments and relevant stakeholders. 250 women and 750 adolescent girls were involved in the event and sensitised on



rights of women, issues of girls and young women and existing policies and legislation related to girl child protection and promotion of their rights.

### Government:

- ✦ **District Level Sensitisation of Police department through DLSA on roles and responsibilities of police to deal and prevent child trafficking cases:**

A handbook on **Standard Operating Procedures** for police officials with investigation

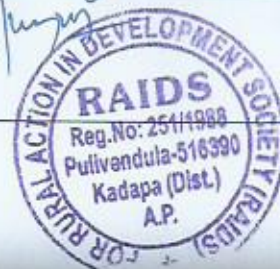


techniques on child trafficking cases has been prepared so as to equip them with enough knowledge on investigation techniques in dealing with the cases of child trafficking. Simultaneously, a district level workshop has been conducted to enlighten the police personnel on their roles and responsibilities while dealing with the cases of child trafficking. All the police personnel have realised the nature of crime and

importance of efficient investigation in the cases of child trafficking because of its clandestine nature. The participants come to know about various legal provisions from the laws/Acts of child protection including the key features of ToP Bill. The participants recognised the need for preparation and enforcement of ITPA State Rules for the state of Andhra Pradesh. The police personnel understood the importance of building and strengthening coordination between various line departments, child protection mechanisms and statutory bodies for effective disposal of the cases of child trafficking and child sexual abuse. The police personnel realised the importance of reducing demand of trafficking of minors for commercial sexual exploitation of children.

- ✦ **District level consultation with CWC, Police, Judiciary, Panchayatraj department on effective implementation of Trafficking Bill:**

District level consultation with relevant stakeholders from line departments and statutory bodies like CWC has been conducted on Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill. The officials of the line departments and CSOs have recognised the need for improved coordination and collaboration for combating the crime of



trafficking in persons. The participated officials have learnt about the key provisions from Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956. The participants have realised the need for sharing the data, information of success stories, best practices and challenges in addressing the issues of human trafficking. The participants discussed with their practical knowledge and especially the police officers felt happy for giving the difference between IPC and ITPA section related to trafficking. Police personnel stated that, if any child related cases like POCSO, ITPA, PCMA, JJ Act filed in their police stations, they will send the FIR and other details to DLSA for facilitating compensation support to the Victims.

✚ **District level workshop with responsible department and Government stakeholders on increasing opportunity for women to JOVT**

The girls who are dropped out from education as well as illiterates are easily prone to



trafficking and other crimes by the perpetrators. The girls and young women who are not having trained with vocational skills to opt decent employment or dignified livelihood with sufficient earning are more vulnerable to economic exclusion there by fall prey to criminals in turn to various harmful incidents. With this view GAA proposed to sensitise responsible Government and Non-Governmental institutions/agencies to create

more opportunities to opt Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women that helps them in acquiring a decent employment or convenient/comfortable livelihoods based on their interest and learning with enough income to cope up with challenges in their life and make them to stand on their own.

✚ **Mapping of vulnerabilities among young women to opt Job Oriented Vocational Training:**

RAIDS has conducted a mapping of young women from high risk areas of Child Marriage and Child Trafficking through its GAA network CSOs to identify the challenges to opt vocational training for them. The CSOs have utilised a format prepared by RAIDS with technical support from GAA – TdH-NL that includes the questions on status of their family condition in terms of both socio-economic and psychological issues. Among target groups, there is the target beneficiaries who are early married. So that, the vulnerabilities of victims of child marriages also be explored. The findings of the mapping will be the source or evidence-based information that could be used by the CSO for their advocacy initiatives with the Government for necessary policy reformation and to address relevant issues accordingly.



✦ **Interface between youth advocates with Government line departments responsible for implementation of PCMA and CRMA**

The youth advocates have brought the issues and challenges from vulnerable communities that are having the prevalence of Child Marriages to the notice of Government line departments looking after the implementation of concerned legislations. The officials have understood the need for improving the coordination between various line departments for effective prevention of child marriages. The officials and other participants have realised the legal provisions of Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006



and Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2002. The officials and CSOs have recognised the need for work in coordination for creating awareness among general public and other stakeholders on ill effects of Child Marriages including its legal provisions. The Panchayat Secretaries came forward to display ill consequences of child marriage, IEC materials in their office at Village Panchayath and discuss about the child marriage issues in their monthly review meeting.

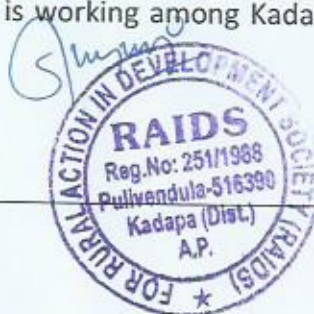
✦ **District level workshop with Education Department on improvement of service and accessibility for girls to secondary education**

GAA has prioritizing in promotion of Secondary Education for girls aiming Equal Rights for girls.



Since, the education is paramount requisite to acquire a decent employment and dignity in life, GAA is advocating with Dept of Education to address the issues, barriers and challenges that obstructing the girls to continue their education at least to complete their secondary education. Simultaneously, GAA is sensitising the officials of education department to allocate enough budget for promotion of

girl child education under a safe and secured environment. In this connection, GAA has conducted a survey to trace out the different factors both at schools and community levels that influencing the children to drop out from education. The findings have been disseminated with the officials of education department wherever GAA is working among Kadapa and Prakasam Districts.



#### ✚ State Level Consultation on Amendments to A P Rules of ITPA, 1958 – A Report

The state rules of Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956 have been prepared during the year 1958 which are age old and are not suitable to the current scenario as well as to the changing trends of trafficking. Hence, GAA as part of its advocacy efforts has prepared recommendations for necessary amendments to the existing state Rules of Andhra Pradesh on ITPA. A State Level



consultation has been organised involving the Directorate of Prosecutions, Govt. of AP, retired senior Judge, Public Prosecutors and few like-minded CSOs to present the prepared recommendations seeking their opinion on the same. Accordingly, the revised document with recommendations proposed to submit to the Govt. of A.P.

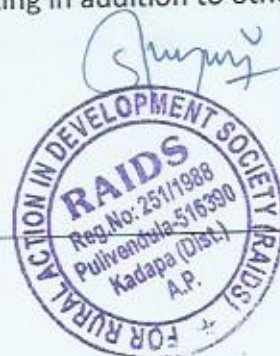
#### ✚ State level Sensitisation of Police department/judiciary on dealing Child Trafficking cases

RAIDS organisation under GAA AP Programme is working in collaboration with key departments



including police mainly with CID of AP to curb the crime of trafficking and to address relevant issues. In the wake of COVID 19 Pandemic Outbreak there is an increased incident of child marriages, child trafficking, child sexual abuse and exploitation. Hence, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gol has issued recommendations to set-up AHTUs across the country in each and every

district to curb the crime of trafficking in persons. Also, the MHA recommendations advised to sensitise the police personnel on relevant issues of trafficking including its key legal provisions and its socio-economic ill effects on mainly children and women. Hence, RAIDS has conducted extensive workshops with police personnel at regional and district levels and has sensitised on the issues of trafficking mainly involving the Investigation Officers deal with the crime of trafficking and also to the AHTU unit officers. RAIDS has distributed Standard Operating Procedures for IOs dealing with the cases of Human Trafficking in addition to other IEC material.



#### ↓ State level Interface between survivors of Sex Trafficking and media personnel:



RAIDS organisation on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 2019 under GAA - AP conducted a State Level Interface between survivors of sex trafficking and the media personnel on the issues of enactment of ToP Bill, 2018, victims compensation, improving the rate of conviction to traffickers and also criminalisation of sex buyers. The media could cover the issue with special stories; curtain

raisers and special articles that could build pressure on policy makers and planners. The media representatives have understood the importance of ToP Bill, 2018 including its key features and provisions that address the prevention, protection and rehabilitation aspects. The media representatives have realised the need for criminalising the sex buyers to reduce the demand of trafficking minor girls for commercial sexual exploitation.

#### ↓ State Level CRC Week Celebrations:

On the occasion of CRC week, RAIDS organisation under GAA programme has explored the current status/scenario of Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Secondary Education for girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women in Andhra Pradesh to the statutory bodies like CWCs and SCPCR as well as like-minded child rights NGOs so as to draw their attention towards addressing existing gaps and challenges in implementation of relevant laws. Simultaneously, recognising the effective service delivery, best practices and unstinted efforts by the statutory bodies of CWC and APSCPCR in substantiating the Juvenile Justice System in the state of Andhra Pradesh, RAIDS felicitated them on the occasional day of Child Rights Convention that encourages their committed efforts and initiatives for further best services to the children in need of care and protection. The participants realised the need for allocation of enough budget for promotion of Secondary Education for Girls along with necessary policy changes and enforcing further better schemes.



✦ **State Level Workshop on Improved Rehabilitation and Victims Compensation to Rescued Survivors of Trafficking in collaboration with APSCPCR:**

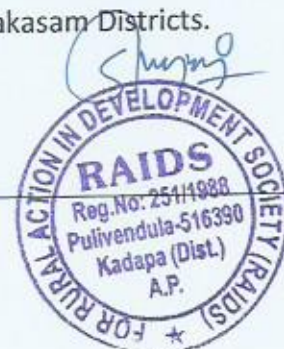


RAIDS organisation observed that, the poor rehabilitation and victim compensation services by the state resulted in re-trafficking of the rescued victims. The survivors deeply feel that if policy makers and planners proactively step ahead towards improved provision of state support services mainly the Rehabilitation support under GO.MS. No. 1 and A.P. Victim Compensation Scheme and also NALSA Scheme, 2015. Further, the new

**Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018** is very promising in its intent to curb human trafficking. In this context, RAIDS GAA AP Programme in collaboration with APSCPCR is planned to organise a state level workshop involving line departments and statutory bodies expecting improved rehabilitation and victim compensation services for the survivors of trafficking. **Smt. Taneti. Vanitha, Hon'ble Minister, Dept of Women Development and Child Welfare** was the Chief Guest to the programme chaired by **Mr. S Thyagaraju – Director – RAIDS organisation**. Posters and pamphlets on child trafficking, child Labour and child sexual abuse have been inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister and other guests of the programme.

✦ **Workshop with Mahila Samrakshana Karyadarshis:**

RAIDS has organised extensive workshops with the Mahila Samrakshana Karyadarshis and also to the village/ward secretaries/volunteers on effective implementation of legislations related to issues of child protection Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956, Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006, Andhra Pradesh Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2002, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and so on. A special module on roles and responsibilities of Mahila Samrakshana Karyadarshis including key provisions from above said legislations has been published and distributed by RAIDS across Kadapa, Anantapur and Prakasam Districts.



## Child Rights CSOs/NGOs

### ✚ District level workshop with Child Right CSOs on ToP Bill :

RAIDS organisation has conducted a district level workshop with the CSOs keeping in view of



the significance of the Bill in terms of its efficacy in addressing the issues of Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation of Child Victims of trafficking. Civil Society Organisations of GAA network have come forward to create awareness in their working areas on importance of ToP Bill in addressing the issues of trafficking. The CSOs are assured to support GAA partners in advocacy efforts and initiatives for the enactment of ToP

Bill, 2018 with the Government. Trained Youth Advocates of GAA programme also been participated in this workshop and have expressed that they will share the learning on significance of ToP Bill with their other members of youth groups/networks in the district. They come to know the key provisions from the Bill that addresses the issues of child victims of trafficking.

### ✚ District level Workshop with Child Rights CSOs on status of institutional policies

RAIDS organisation is improving the knowledge levels on Child Safety Policy, Sexual Harassment of Women at workplace policy and Gender Policy, it is also planned to build their capacities in terms of existing gaps in implementation of relevant laws and policies on addressing the issues of child marriage and child trafficking so that the CSOs of GAA network will engage effectively with line departments such as Dept of Women Development and Child Welfare, Police and Judiciary and so on. Hence, RAIDS organisation has conducted a workshop on Institutional Policies for the GAA network CSOs. Enlightened the CSOs on various topics in the workshop.



- ✚ Develop strategy paper on the role of NGOs in addressing the issue of school dropouts amongst girls there by addressing the issue of Child Trafficking and Child Marriages: As per DISE (District Information System for Education) 2015-16, out of total 15, 22, 346



schools, 14, 49,078 (95.19%) schools are providing primary and upper primary education in India whereas the number of schools which provide secondary education are 2, 39,148 (15.71%). One of the key reflections from draft National Education Policy 2019 denotes that re-integrating dropouts and ensuring universal access to education. GAA has built the capacities of the Child Rights CSOs of GAA network to lobby and

advocate with the Dept of Education for improved accessibility and promotion of Secondary Education for Girls among its operational areas in the district.

In this context, RAIDS organisation has conducted a workshop to Child Rights CSOs of GAA network along with rest of the NGOs working on issues of child protection in developing a strategy paper on their role in addressing the issues of girl child dropout thereby addressing the issues of Child Marriages and Child Trafficking. The CSOs have understood the finding derived from the assessment of school dropouts conducted in 12 Mandals of KADAPA District. The CSOs have realised the need for a strategy paper on role of NGOs in addressing the girl child dropouts thereby addressing the issues of Child Marriages and Child Trafficking. The CSOs who attended the workshop had prepared action plan to work on creating awareness on GAA Themes in their working areas as well as on the lobby and advocacy with the government officials.

#### ✦ Prohibition of Child Marriages Day:

In accordance with the District Women and Child Development Agency, KADAPA reports since 2012 to 2018 a number of 253 child marriages were stopped and 249 girl children and 4 boy children were rescued from the child marriages. A total of 24 child marriage cases have been registered. In the year 2017 a total of 65 child marriages were stopped which are increased from 50 in the past year 2016. In the year 2018 again there is a slight decline in the number of child marriages stopped was 48. In this context, RAIDS has conducted prohibition of child marriages day on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019 involving adolescent girls and young women from local schools and colleges.

#### ✦ State Level Workshop with CSOs on Gender Assessment: Sustainable Development Goal 4, which requires primary and secondary education that lead to relevant and effective learning





outcomes. Many of the global goals depend on the achievement of SDG 4, which demands an inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of "lifelong learning opportunities for all". In particular, Target 4.1 demands that all children complete primary and secondary education of sufficient quality to ensure that they have "relevant and effective learning outcomes". In this context, HELP GAA AP State Level programme planned to conduct a "State level workshop on Gender Assessment in Secondary Schools" to identify the girl child dropouts including its reasons and factors behind the status. The participated child rights CSOs of GAA network have understood the significance of gender assessment in secondary schools in their respective operational areas of Prakasam, Kadapa and Anantapur Districts. The participated CSOs have actively discussed on the draft questionnaire prepared by GAA for gender assessment in secondary schools and have given their inputs for its improvement. The CSOs of GAA networks have learnt the directions/guidelines for taking up the assignment to identify the girl child dropouts from secondary schools in their respective areas and agreed to move ahead accordingly.

- ✦ **Advocacy Campaigns by CSOs on ToP Bill, enhanced opportunities for JOVT, setting-up AHTUs at all the districts in A.P. and strengthening DCPUs:**

The Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956 (ITPA) does not have provisions for rehabilitation of victims. It calls for detention of victims in protective homes and does not provide for non-institutional rehabilitation. The new **ToP (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill** takes all these issues into consideration and provides for effective services for rehabilitation beyond the institutionalization of the victims. In 2018 Trafficking of persons Bill was passed in Lok Sabha but rejected by Rajya Sabha referring for scrutiny by Parliamentary standing committee. In this context, RAIDS has facilitated the CSOs to take up a **post card campaign to the PM of India** for early enactment of ToP Bill. And also as part of GAA themes, the CSOs have submitted representations for enhanced opportunities for JOVT, setting up AHTUs in all the districts and also to the Dept. of WD&CW for strengthening District Child Protection Units.



### Private Sector:

- ✦ **Workshop with Corporate bodies/Business Associations to motivate them to be part of GAA for investing their CSR funds in SE for girls and JOVT for Young Women:**



GAA – AP Consortium has developed Case Stories identifying the potential business



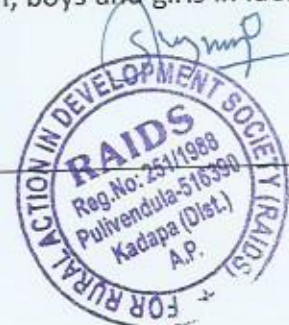
associations/corporate bodies investing its mandatory CSR funds for promotion and improving the accessibility of Secondary Education for Girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women. The findings of the Case Stories proposed to disseminate to the corporate bodies/business associations. Hence, RAIDS in collaboration with Vasavya Mahila Mandali and VEEDHU

with technical support from Gateway Consultancy has organised a state level workshop at Vijayawada to acknowledge role of Corporates and to influence their members to invest on improving the accessibility and resources for promotion of Secondary Education for Girls and JOVT for Young Women from their mandatory CSR budget. So that, these developed Case Stories could be useful to motivate/influence rest of the corporate bodies too for the said cause of improving girl child education up to secondary education and empowering the young women with enough dignified employment opportunities in the state of Andhra Pradesh that helps in addressing the issues of child marriage and child trafficking in the state.

Corporate bodies understood their Role of CSR in social and economic empowerment of girls and young women Participants have realised the best practices of CSR investments on secondary education and JOVT. Corporate bodies understood their potential roles and responsibility for empowerment of girls and women in line with SDG. Mr. Rajib Haldar from Kolkata is the facilitator for the workshop who has explored different opportunities in CSR.

#### Overview of the progress:

Girls Advocacy Alliance programme in the state of Andhra Pradesh implemented by RAIDS with the support of Terre des Hommes-Netherlands has substantiated its utmost significance in the area of advocacy and lobbying with the state for necessary policy reformations and changes in systems and child protection mechanisms towards prevention of issues of Gender Based Violence against girls and young women including Child Marriages, Child Trafficking, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and for promotion of Secondary Education for Girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women. RAIDS has worked in collaboration with different line departments such as Dept of WD&CW, Judiciary mainly the State and District Legal Services Authorities, police, Dept. of Education, labour department and Dept of Juvenile Welfare and Correctional Services for facilitating effective service delivery to the above cited victims. RAIDS as part of GAA programme has built the capacities of Religious Leaders at both block and district levels and also community leaders, men, women, boys and girls in identifying,



monitoring and reporting the incidents of child marriages and child trafficking and all forms of Gender Based Violence against girls and young women.

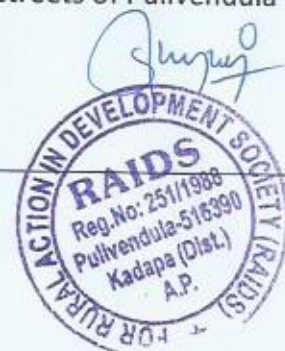
Girls Advocacy Alliance has conducted many research works and conducted field studies on issues of protection including position papers on child marriages, child trafficking, Secondary Education and Job Oriented Vocational Training and has submitted its findings along with recommendations to the state government helped them in taking necessary measures in prevention of child marriages and child trafficking and also promotion of secondary education for girls and Job Oriented Vocational Training for Young Women. Further, RAIDS has conducted many state and district level workshops with police, judiciary, Dept of Women Development and Child Welfare, Dept of Education, labour department, railways as well as rest of the NGOs working on issues of child protection across the state of A.P and also distributed enough effective IEC material on above issues.

### **Wanitha Wani:**

Wanitha Wani programme implemented by RAIDS Organisation in Kadapa District is aimed at a holistic development and socio-economic empowerment of girls and women. During the reporting period of 2019 – 20 the programme has conducted various activities for building the capacities of girls and young women which instigate and influence them towards a gateway of growth in their life where they could access and acquire demand oriented employment opportunities or self-employment in the market. The beneficiaries under Wanitha Wani programme have been equipped with enough courage and confidence in facing issues and challenges in their day to day life and strive their best to find possible remedy or solution to address those issues on their own. The below mentioned activities have been carried out during the progress period of 2019 – 20 under Wanitha Wani programme:

- A. Awareness on Important of Girls Education, Rally with Police, Anganwadi Teachers (Women & Child Welfare Department), Teachers and Students

Considering that, lack of awareness is one of the important impediments for slow progress of girl child education; RAIDS in collaboration with Police Department and Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) collectively started its work on awareness generation among the cross sections of the society on importance of girl child education through different means of awareness building. RAIDS in collaboration with Police department and ICDS have planned to conduct a Rally having a banner of “Education for Empowerment of Girls” with its alliance partners police, Anganwadi, active youth and Teachers from Government schools have conducted a mass rally involving 352 persons with a combination of male (60), Women (25), Youth (35) and Teachers (7) joined in the long march through main streets of Pulivendula Town.



This Mass rally is inaugurated By B. Veera Reddy Local Mandal Education officer, Ms. Rama Devi Child Development Project Officer and Mr. Sankaraiah - Circle Inspector of Police who are the important dignitaries participated in the rally. Display cards and Slogans are made on importance of Girl Child Education. This rally started at 10 A.M and ended by 11 A.M. At the end of the event participants were formed as HUMAN CHAIN and proclaimed slogans. As it is hot summer, the organizers have distributed butter milk packets to the participants.

Followed with mass rally, there was a public meeting was organized. This meeting is chaired by Sri Thyaga Raju, Director, RAIDS and Smt. Rama Devi - CDPO and Sri Sankaraiah - Circle Inspector of Police. In his inaugural address the Mr. S. Thyaga Raju stressed the importance of girl's education and its role in development of girls quoting some examples. CDPO has explained to the group about various schemes which are implemented by ICDS towards girl's education. Sri Sankaraiah Inspector of Police explained to the members on various existing Acts for Protection of Girls. The meeting ended at 1.30 pm with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Manjula RAIDS.

**B. National Girl Child Day on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019 Rally with Anganwadi Teachers, Asha Workers, Teachers and Students and Mass Awareness Meetings**

The National Girl Child Day celebrations have been conducted on 24th January 2019 followed by a mass Rally with Anganwadi, Asha Workers, Teachers and Students. Mass Awareness Meetings are conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 RAIDS with his alliance partners, Asha Workers from Health Department, Anganwadi Teachers from Women and Child Development department, students and teachers from 5 Government Schools. Officials and school teachers were joined in and moved as rally through main streets of Pulivendula Town.



This rally is inaugurated by Sri Mukunda Reddy local Mandal Development Officer and Principal Government College. During the procession display of placards and slogans were made on importance of girl child education. This procession started at 9-30 am and ended by 12.30 PM. At the center of the town the participants were formed as HUMAN CHAIN and proclaimed slogans on the importance of National Girls Child Day.



Followed with mass rally, a public meeting is organized. This meeting is chaired by Sri Thyaga Raju, Director, RAIDS and CDPO and Principal Government Arts College Pulivendula. In his

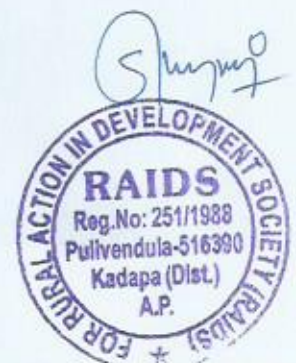


inaugural address the Mr. S. Thyaga Raju stressed the importance of girl's education and their role in development quoting some examples. CDPO has explained to the group about various schemes which are implemented by ICDS towards girl's development principal explained to the members on status of the girls at home and community places and advised the audience they should not discriminate Girls due to their birth as there are various schemes for girl child development by the Government. Small skits and awareness songs were performed by RAIDS cultural team.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Bhavani RAIDS.

#### C. Fashion Designing Course to Young Girls and Young Women for 30 Members.

Rural Girls and Women are constrained by lack of vocational skills and income generation sources. This makes them dependent on their counterparts and become victims of exploitation and abuse.



Fashion Designing course is designed to cover 30 Girls as a remedy to the problem that brings economic empowerment among them. RAIDS in collaboration with Wanitha Wani has started one vocational skill development programme on FASHION DESIGNING AND TAILORING covering 30 adolescent girls and women with a promising activity which is designed to cover 30 active young girls from economically poor section from Pulivendula urban. A preliminary screening test was conducted to assess the interest levels of the participants and identified 30 girls and women who are in teenage.

A 60 days training course is designed to elicit inherent skills of the participants with theory and practical classes.



30 girls were made in 2 batches and were imparted the training with both theory and practical with a duration of 3 hours a day. Each day's session starts by 9 AM and end by 1pm including doubts clarifications session. The participants were provided with fashion designing materials, equipment and tools required to complete the training successfully. One trained experienced instructor trained them throughout the training course with the support of charts and various upcoming designs. As a follow up action, RAIDS has prepared the data of the trainees and is negotiating with apparel industries for employment.

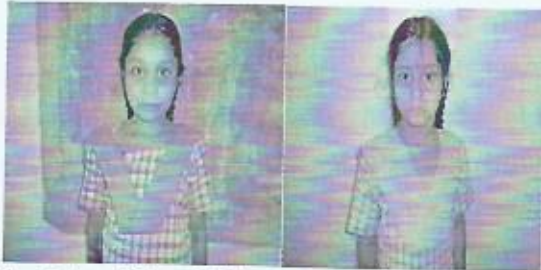
- D. Supply of Safe Drinking water to 269 Girls: Scarcity of Safe Drinking Water have an adverse effect on both physical and mental education levels of children at school. It is unfortunate to notice that most of the schools lack infrastructure for provision of safe drinking water at school which makes the children to get water from home.



RAIDS and Wanitha Wani have decided to address this small but an important issue at schools. In the preliminary analysis in schools with 269 children were found with the basic problem of lack of availability of drinking water and infrastructure to provide drinking water at school premises. As a solution, these schools were provided with purified

drinking water with bubble cans for 10 months. Each child shall get 2 liters of drinking water during her/his school hours. Each individual child is provided with water bottles to collect, preserve water and use during their lunch (mid-day meals) time. It is evaluated that the girls/children benefitted under this activity were reported healthy and regular to school and perform well in qualifying examinations.

E. Support to Thalasemia Girls.



Thalasemia is a deadly disease which need continuous attention and treatment. Two girls by name J. Sri Usha aged 13 years and another by name Jada Swetha aged 12 years are suffering with Thalasemia disease and their parents being poor are unable to meet the cost of treatment and left

the fate of the children to god.

These two children were identified by RAIDS through members of self-help groups and are proposed to extend support for treatment with the support from Wanitha Wani through RAIDS. These two children were supported both in terms of finance to meet expenses for diagnosis and medicine for cure. It is observed that with the assured timely assistance these two children are regaining their health and are normal.



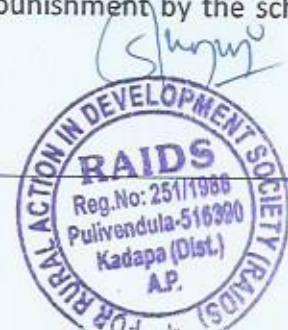
F. Transportation to school going Children.



There are 42 children from 3 villages are coming to Pulivendula for their studies in schools. These children approached RAIDS with a problem of being always late to classes and face

punishment by their teachers. The public transportation is uncertain and private auto will not follow regular timing as they have to wait for more passengers to fill their auto and then leaves to destination. They requested RAIDS to help them with a means of transportation.

Considering the reality of the issue, RAIDS and Wanitha Wani have provided transportation through engaging one private Auto Rickshaw to pick and drop them on time. In their opinion, this facility had helped them a lot as it makes them free from the punishment by the school



authorities as they are attending classes in time and parents were also feel happy about the assured security of their girl children which makes them worry a lot. Now they are out of that tension and feel happy.

#### G. School Uniform Distribution



There are 35 children from 5 villages are coming to Pulivendula for their studies in MPP School. These children approached RAIDS with a problem of lack of uniforms and due to this they were not allowed in to classes by the school management as they have not observed the dress code. The government under welfare department fails to provide the uniforms in time due to administrative problems. Parents, for want of money are unable to procure uniforms to their children. This makes them uninterested in school and is dropping them from regular schooling. They are very poor and such children are requested RAIDS to help them with a means of providing a uniform so that they can continue their schooling. Considering the importance of regular schooling, RAIDS proposed to Wanitha Wani to assure the provision of school uniforms to 35 children.

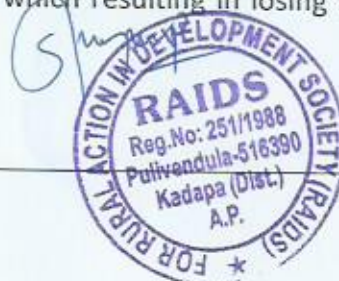
As an outcome of this intervention, 35 children benefitted who felt happy. In their opinion, these facilities have helped them a lot as it makes them free from the punishment by the school authorities and feel proud at par with other children be in uniform. Parents were also feeling happy as this has reduced their financial burden to meet the cost of uniform and happy to see their children going to school regularly.

#### H. Livelihood & Nutritional status development through supply of the she buffalo to Vulnerable Women.

10 vulnerable women identified and facilitated to get livelihood on continued basis.



Due to lack of assured livelihood they depends on their male counterpart to support these women made them to feel unsecured and become victims of exploitation. Further, they have been released from the clutches of workplace harassment which resulting in losing their self-





respect. Adding to this the children at home are suffering with malnutrition and dropping out from school. Hence, they required to support with suitable livelihood options to address these issues.

**Action Taken:**



10 marginalized women identified. These women are assisted with one she buffalo that helped to the women to start milk production as their livelihood and means of earning income. Some portion of milk was consumed by the women for their family needs and also for children to nourish with nutritional food. It was one buffalo milk 12 lts yielding per day worth of Rs. 600/- \*30 day gives rise to Rs. 18, 000/- every month also getting additional income for one She Buffalos per day. This income spending women for their children education. The women are expressing thanks to Wanitha Wani for supporting this activity.



PHOTO GALLERY:





**SCHOOL DRINKING WATER PROJECT:**

It is evident from lots of studies and research findings that, lack of enough facility for drinking water is also one of the major factors behind increased dropout rate. In Kadapa District which is by intrinsic a drought prone area as identified by the union Government itself, there is a scarcity of water and in turn having sufficient drinking water facility is in fact far beyond the grounds for the people and school children are not an exemption for the same.

RAIDS has implemented the School Drinking Water Project sanctioned by Vestingh Founder which was Started in March and April 2019 in two schools in Peddarangapuram and Atchavelli



Villages of Pulivendula Mandal, YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh and project implementation is completed in the month of April 2019.

In Peddarangapuram Village in Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School which has total Children of 68 and 5 Teachers in the year 2018-2019 and Present Strength is 116 and 6 Teachers in this Year 2020.

In Atchavelli Village in Mandal Parishad Primary School has strength of 52 Children with two Teachers in the year 2018-2019 and Present strength is 61 in this year 2020. These two schools are located in scheduled caste colonies which are away from main village and the children are from all communities.

#### Process of Implementation

The school drinking water project consists erection with water purifiers connected to overhead tank. The School Management which consists of 15 members comprise school headmaster and elected representatives by the parents. There are series of meetings on Management of the system maintenance and judicious use of the water by the children and when needed by the parents. The committee agreed and took responsibility in procuring good branded water purifier and day to day management shall be done by the headmaster with the help by the cook of midday meal programme. Monthly maintenance is done by the School Management Committee by meeting the expenses from school funds. Proper use by children is ensured and monitor by the cook. Children normally take water during the lunchtimes and the water is also used for cooking food.

#### Present Status

The units established in two Schools in May 2019 are in good working condition. Till the closure of schools due to Corona Pandemic in the month of March 2020 the children and school staff is used the drinking water. After that the school remain closed for Corona lockdown and the families in the school surroundings are using the water in regulated timings by school Management committee. There are three maintenance services are taken up by the committee. The quality of the water is good and the committee is of the opinion that the units will work for another one more year.

#### Impact

- The school drinking water project helped at present 177 children to meet their drinking water needs in two villages during their schooling.
- Secondly it is serving parents in the off school timings.
- The child health status is good as there are no cases reported with diarrhea.



- The parents are also happy about the quality of the food cooked by using purified water. There are no evidences of diarrhea and food poisoning Cases among the school going children which reduces their investment on child health.
  - School Strength is increased in Peddarangapuram School from 68 to 116 and Atchavelli School from 52 to 61 because of Purified Water accessible to Children.
  - There are no dropouts students in both the schools.
  - In the Academic year 2019-2020 all children are passed out in A Grade.
- Over all the parents felt happy about this project and expressed their gratitude to the Donors.

### **Terre des Hommes-Netherlands Revolving Fund Programme:**

Under revolving fund programme supported by TdH-NL, RAIDS has conducted the activities including organizing community awareness creation, women development, mother and child health, livelihood development, Income Generation Programme, Non-formal education, early childhood education, Alliative Child Abuse/Exploitation and mobilizing government resources and also from International Non-Governmental Organizations.

Under Terre des Hommes–Netherlands Revolving fund, initial fund supported was Rs.26, 11, 397.00 to women and children through Rural Action In Development Society (RAIDS), in order to improve the social and economic status in 69 villages since February 2008. This fund is supported to women to have their own Income Generation Activities and thereby getting additional income in various trades from Rs. 10,000/- to 20, 000/- per month.

#### **Present Membership Details:**

No of Active SHGs: 241

No of Active members: 2410

Members with active bank account: 2361

#### **RF programme - Portfolio details**

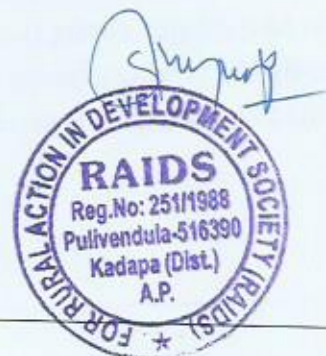
Total Members supported with RF: 4796

Amount of RF disbursed: 61, 55, 000/-

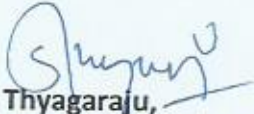
Outstanding with members – 7713625/-

Revolving Fund Repayment Percentage 91.33%

#### **Project Activities and the Trades Supported during the Year:**



- ◆ Agriculture Cultivation and Implementation
- ◆ Petty Shops
- ◆ She Buffalos
- ◆ Saree Business New and Old
- ◆ Sheep and Goat Rearing
- ◆ Tiffin Center
- ◆ Grinder Shop
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Auto
- ◆ Charcoal Making
- ◆ Computer Center
- ◆ Tailoring
- ◆ Beldari/Centering Material

  
S. Thyagaraju,  
Director – RAIDS.

