

Academy of Root Development (Australia) Inc

2017 Annual Report



The Reproductive and Child Health programme is entering its third year of operation and the benefits are starting to have an impact on the lives of the participating communities.

Wendy's visit to the project in March this year enabled us to see the progress we are making, especially in the areas of reproductive health awareness amongst adolescent girls and adolescent boys. This is a time of increasing social awareness in rural India! ARD(Australia)Inc, through its operational centre WEIV (Women's Empowerment in Indian Villages), is at the forefront of this awareness raising in the Guraru project area.

This is an excerpt the Monthly Report from Sarika, our Programme Coordinator.

Meeting with Adolescent Girls - We have organised meetings with 1196 girls in Adolescent Girl Clubs in 95 villages on the function of cleanliness of reproductive parts and self hygiene, as per the Monthly Health Calendar given by Virinchi.

Meeting with Adolescent boys - In 21 villages, we have organised meetings with Adolescent Boys on the topics of cleanliness of reproductive parts and self hygiene. A total of 256 boys have participated.

Meeting with Pregnant Women – We have also organised meetings with pregnant women on the topic of safe delivery and government support schemes. We have conducted meetings in 94 villages of ten panchayat and have also visited some homes to educate newly married, pregnant and last month of pregnancy women.

Meeting with Community - We have organised joint meeting with community women and men on safe delivery and government scheme. (Incentive of Rs.1400 to women for safe delivery in hospital) in 103 village where around 1552 persons participated in these meetings.

Meeting with Newly Married women – We have organised meetings with newly married women in 42 villages, where 70 women have taken part in these meetings. We have talked with them on the topics of safe delivery and government incentive.

Meeting with Married women - We have also organised meetings with married women in 102 village on safe delivery. 743 women have availed of this opportunity.

Participation in VHSND - Our staff are actively participating in VHSND (Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day). We are supporting the Bihar Health Department in the proper implementation of all aspects of Reproductive and Child Health. We support beneficiaries to avail of their rights through VHSND. We are providing Health Education to pregnant and lactating mothers, safe delivery, nutrition, breast feeding, child care, sanitation and hygiene on this day.

We have organised Self Help Group meetings on the issue of Loan Repayment, Regular Meeting and Saving, Sanitation and Hygiene and cleanliness of reproductive parts. We have covered 9 SHG meeting in 9 villages. We are mobilising SHGs members to repay their loans to enable them to join the government SHG programme.

Literacy Centres

Since May 2015, ARD(Australia)Inc has established five Literacy Centres for poor adolescent girls, who otherwise would not be engaged in the education system. Classes run from 10am to 2pm, which allows the girls time in the morning and evening to perform domestic and rural working duties to support their families.

Twenty adolescent girls are enrolled in each of the Literacy Centres, making a total of one hundred. In recent months, around 80% of students have attended the centres, the absences due mainly to the marriage season, when families are attending marriage ceremonies of their relatives. In all centres, the teachers are teaching well.

ARD(Aust)Inc opened a sixth Literacy Centre in early July 2017 and we are proposing to open two further centres in the current calendar year.

Literacy Centres:

1) Pathra/Indil:

Established: May 2015

Teacher: Phulmanti Devi

Benefactor: ARD(Australia)Inc

Moved to Indil Village March 2017

2) Manjhiyama:

Established: 10th November 2016

Teacher: Sabita Kumari

Benefactor: Mike Crompton

3) Bahbalpur:

Established: 6th December 2016

Teacher: Chandrawati Sinha (Resigned end January 2017)

Teacher: Rekha Devi (Commenced 2nd February 2017)

Benefactor: Diana Hanaor

4) Aliganj/Mahuain:

Established: 10th March 2017

Teacher: Minta Kumara

Benefactor: Alandra McLaren

Moved to Mahuain Village June 3rd 2017

5) Marha

Established: 4th June 2017

Teacher: Shobha Devi

Benefactors: Renia Gryc and Teresa (Ruth) Langford

6) Kanausi

Established: 5th July 2017

Teacher: Suman Devi

Benefactors: Liat Sokal and Michelle Mahrer

In Australia

Monthly and Annual Donations continue to be the mainstay of our fundraising endeavours and we extend heartfelt thanks to all those who donate on a regular basis. The regular flow of donations enables ARD(Aust)Inc to forward plan and ensure our programme can continue to build upon the foundations already laid down.

The secondhand goods stall at the Lismore Carboot Market has consistently been a substantial contribution to our fundraising. We wish to express our deep appreciation to all of the volunteers who have regularly given their time and energy to support the market stall, especially the “early birds” who give up their chance for a Sunday morning sleep-in to setup the stall!

Due to the growing demands of operating the market stall, we are looking to find an alternate source of funding that will bring in regular funds that do not require such a large commitment.

We Love India:

A successful evening was held at Dorset and Gina’s home in Tyagarah on 4th February, 2017. Roanna Gonsalves, Indian/Australian writer and journalist shared anecdotes on the role of women in India, supported by Jasmine and Daniel playing sacred chants and an inauguration temple dance by the lovely South Indian dancer Aruna. ARD(Aust)Inc is very grateful for the support that Dorset and Gina have given in opening their home for this benefit concert.

Feel good as you raise funds for NGO Women's Empowerment in Indian Villages.

For more information, please visit our website www.ard-india.org

Thank you to everyone who has contributed for your continuing support of this important initiative to empower the women and consequently their families, in villages of Bihar, India.

**Committee of Academy of Root Development (Australia) Incorporated
September 2017**