

KMRF NEWS

A MID YEAR PUBLICATION OF K M R FOUNDATION



**Employment for
Female Youth**
-Vocational Training
Page 3



Children's Day
Page 3



**"Now.... I can also go
to school"**
-Supporting Education
Page 4

A Dream come True...

KT Mahi, Chairman

It is heartening to note that KMRF has successfully moved out of its initial starting blocks. Social Responsibility is something important to every citizen and I am glad that both the school (SNIS) community and the KMR Foundation are passionately involved in this endeavour towards achieving the set goals. KMRF has taken bold steps to move from a position of initial uncertainty to a position of strength, good-will and respect in the neighbouring village Aziznagar.

It is important to provide the minimum expected facilities to the community to improve two important areas - health and education. We are pleased to note that KMRF has made a mark in the neighbouring village of Aziznagar by providing free medical aid through the school Health Clinic; systematic data collection of the families; visits to motivate and monitor the programmes towards 100% immunization to children and pregnant women; training and subsequent placement of unemployed youth through vocational training programmes.

The future of our country and the world is in the hands of children and youth. Our endeavour is to provide opportunities to them to discover their talents and pursue them. KMRF is one such vehicle which is committed to providing these opportunities through the resources and infrastructure available in the vast campus of Sreenidhi International School.

Let me take this opportunity to wish every one "A Happy New Year."

Moving Forward

A thorough study and mapping of Aziznagar village is the first step in our scheme to start community service. After an initial meeting and discussion with the village *Sarpanch* and a few other village heads the major ground work which is the collection of data in Aziznagar village started in June 2008.

Data
collection in
Aziznagar
village



At the time of our entry in the village, we could sense the anxiety, inquisitiveness and to some extent resistance from the people of Aziznagar community. But after some visits and interactive meetings they understood our motives and commitment to their development. Through daily visits, coordinators built a strong rapport with them. In the course of data collection, we were able to get valuable information with regard to the health and living conditions of the villagers, immunization status of children and employment status of youth. Planning and targeting on these issues then became easier.

Data collection took two months (July & August'08). Collecting data by going door to door in the village helped our coordinators interact with the community, motivating them to immunize their children and encouraging unemployed youth to under go vocational training and so on. In due course, people in Aziznagar village realized that they would benefit immensely by supporting our cause in the improvement of the whole village.

EDITORIAL

Vasantha Srinivasan, Administrator

It is my great pleasure to present before you the first issue of KMRF News Letter. I must say that past six months had been a great experience in terms of learning, working and interacting with the local community. Our active participation and involvement helped to develop a well structured platform to deliver possible support and service to village community and achieve the goals and objectives set forth.

What is more satisfying is that we could do a substantial amount of meaningful work during this short time. The challenge now will be to sustain the activities and programmes and make them more meaningful and effective.

Working with a team passionately engaged in every aspect of activities gives us the confidence that we shall continue to play a significant role in future.

Wishing you all, "A Happy & Prosperous New Year".

Building Rapport with the Village Community

Village community meetings paved the way to set the stage and plan our actions. It gave us the opportunity to read their minds; understand their attitude and approach towards certain issues and events; to study their awareness regarding health and other issues, like economic and social ones.



K M R Team in Aziznagar village

Motivation and educating them has been a continuous process. Our effort has been on the following:

- To send the children to school.
- Immunization of children on time.
- Encouraging and motivating girls to join the training course to improve their skills and earn a livelihood.
- Motivating unemployed youth to join skill development training courses and find employment.

K M R Foundation

K M R Foundation is a trust started in memory of Mr. K. Mahipathi Rao by his children in 2008. Mr. K. Mahipathi Rao had a deep respect for education and had an abiding interest in health issues all his life. His passing in December 2007, spurred the idea of starting a foundation to honor his memory and the ideals he valued.



His elder son Mr. K. Jawahar Mahipathi Rao, (ex-IRS) is an accomplished personality. After a distinguished career as a civil servant for several years he has opted to resign to engage more actively in public service.

His younger son Mr. K. T. Mahi, Chairman, Sree Group is a founder of the KMR foundation. The Sree Group runs Sreenidhi International School and the

reputed Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology. Mr. Mahi's goal is to use the facilities and resources available through these institutions to help KMR Foundation's goals.

His daughter Dr Humaira Mahi Hasan (Ph.D) teaches international business at San Francisco State University and is a founder of KMRF. She is keenly interested in bringing global ideas on the use of the latest technology etc. to assist with healthcare, literacy and other KMRF goals at the local level.

Goals:

The key aim of the foundation is to provide healthcare and education to the underprivileged. As a first step we have decided to adopt the village of Aziznagar near Hyderabad and focus on healthcare and education initiatives there. The specific goals of KMRF for Aziznagar are:

- 100% immunization
- Pregnant women care
- 100% literacy for children
- Microfinancing for villagers
- Vocational training and employment for youth.

The Team:

- Mrs. Vasantha Srinivasan - Administrator
- Mr. A. Bhujanga Reddy - Coordinator
- Ms. B. Sushmalatha - Coordinator
- Mr. M. Nandu - Data Entry Operator
- Dr. Immanuel Victor Babu - Resident Doctor
- Mr. Sharfuddin - Male Staff Nurse

Connecting with the 'REACH' Project

An interactive session with Dr. P. S. Reddy, Chairman, Mediciti Hospital, Hyderabad gave an insight into the "REACH" project system, a project initiated to deliver a complete and comprehensive health care system covering 40 villages in A.P.

One of the objectives of KMRF being 100% immunization to children & pregnant women, it was decided that KMRF team will:

- Visit 'Mediciti Hospital'- and learn about the "REACH" project.
- Undergo training under "REACH" team for a week.
- Study their software program.
- Conduct field visit to observe them functioning.

Diwali Celebrations

During the Diwali Special Assembly conducted in the Sreenidhi International School (SNIS), a strong message was delivered by KMRF about curbing child labour and about "Crackerless- Noiseless- Pollutionless" Diwali celebrations.

The following extract from Grade 7 student Sai Suhruta's letter reflects the effect of the message on the young minds.

"Mrs. Srinivasan's speech touched our hearts and we vowed that we will make a difference by reducing the crackers and maybe by next year we will stop the use of crackers. We are for eco friendly festivals and it's possible to celebrate the festival in a magnificent manner and still keep peace with our surroundings and loved ones."

Children's Day

It was a day of joy and celebration for class 3 of Aziznagar Primary School children. For two hours, around 40 of them were engrossed in drawing, colouring and painting. It was an exciting experience to the student volunteers from Sreenidhi International School to interact with them.



A song of innocence...

An extract from the letter written by Siddhangana & Aaslesha, Grade 7, SNIS

"Our interaction with them (children from the village school) was an eye opener for they were very eager, curious and quick to learn. It felt good, in the previous Children's Day celebrations we were at the receiving end, but for a change it felt good for once to give. The excitement on those children's faces gave a pleasing satisfaction to all of us. It was truly one of the best and most memorable Children's Day, as we had the opportunity of giving".

Vocational Training

Skill Training and Generating Employment

Meeting the youth in the village helped us to know their interests and the skills that they want to develop. There was initial reluctance in joining the training course due to various family problems but we succeeded in motivating 30 unemployed youth to register their names in Government I.T.I., Mallepally. School Transport was arranged for the trainees to commute between their homes and the Institute. Even though at the end of the month, only 10 continued the training, still we felt that it is an achievement to start with.



Training Programme at I. T. I. Mallepally

Training is given for 3 months in basic electrical, house wiring, refrigeration and D T P (Desk Top Program) are the courses being offered by this institute.

Skill Development Training for Women

In collaboration with a nationalized bank, which holds short term training courses like tailoring and fashion designing, cell phone repair, light and heavy motor vehicle driving, DTP and spoken English, KMRF mobilized 27 female youth to get trained in tailoring, fashion designing, hand embroidery, maggam work and fabric painting. Post training, they will be able to find gainful employment. Finding or facilitating employment for the youth is the main motive of the foundation. We have also motivated two female youth to join govt. ITI Mallapally for the diamond cutting course.

Training at Mediciti Hospital

One week training under "REACH" team has been a learning experience to strengthen skills and improve the quality of work. The health care system covers many villages. The software program was developed to manage data and retrieve reports that enable action on immunization due dates and maintain the percentage of immunization at 100% to children and pregnant women.

Field visits to villages being managed by the Reach project gave an opportunity

- for exposure to a different community,
- to observe the social worker's and health visitor's approach to the issues,
- learn about the reporting system & action plan,
- learn about how follow-up, updating and maintenance of the rate of percentage at highest level is managed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ **Awareness Programme:** Field visit to the village by the Grade 9 students of Sreenidhi International School (S.U.P.W.Class) with KMRF team was a real eye opening experience for them. It was an exciting event to do data collection going door to door, asking questions, and understanding their problems, giving SNIS children a chance to understand the cultural differences, and the differences in life-style.

■ **Donation - Drive for Recycling:** The Grade 3 of SNIS were requested to bring all the used but usable stationery items from home for recycling them to the village school children. The children responded quite sensitively and brought many items of stationery like bags, pouches, crayons, pencils, soft toys etc.

■ **Health- Clinic for village community:** On December 12, 2008, commemorating the first death anniversary of late Shri. K. Mahipathi Rao, the Health-Clinic for the village community located near Main Gate of SNIS campus was formally inaugurated by his brother Dr. K. Pruthvipathi Rao. The clinic is now open for the village community from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

■ **Global Positioning System:** KMRF & REACH team are presently engaged in the mapping of Aziznagar village with a population nearly 5000 with a G.P.S. (Global Positioning System)

■ **KMRF: Review meetings**

With village Sarpanch and ward members

After addressing the gathering our Chairman, Mr K.T. Mahi, gave a brief account of KMRF programmes and activities relating to immunization and health care, support of education and vocational training to village youth. He said that the foundation can do better quality work with little more cooperation and help from the village community.

He thanked the Village Sarpanch and other members present for their support.

With Dr.P.S.Reddy

In the review meeting with Dr. P.S. Reddy, Chairman Mediciti Hospital, Hyderabad, and Mr. Purushotham, Data Manager, Mediciti Hospital the implementation of the REACH software program in Aziznagar village was discussed. Different strategy and effective plans to achieve sustainable results were worked out. At the end, it was clear that working in partnership with local health workers would bring good results and higher percentage status can be maintained with regard to immunization of children and pregnant women.

Supporting Education

Our main aim with regard to education of village children is to improve the quality of education by extending services and resources from Sreenidhi International School, Aziznagar campus. It helps village school children enjoy the extra space and facility in the area of games, music & art. Children of the village school visit Sreenidhi campus and receive training in sports and also attend art classes. This gives ample opportunity to young children to express and expose their talents. We need to address & strengthen these activities in the coming year through well charted out programs with SNIS. It was a touching moment to see the smiles on their faces!! and listening to their comments and questions.

- "Teacher, (every one is teacher for them) We like this school very much!!
- When are we going to come next?
- What game are you going to teach?

Areas Covered

- Supplied note books to children.
- Sponsored a teacher in English to help in Govt. Primary School, Aziznagar.

Areas for future focus

- Minor repair to school buildings, building class rooms if essential.
- Providing furniture.

Single Cases of Motivation

A few children joined the village school after an effort of convincing and motivating the parents. The coordinators helped review performance of these students so they can be placed in the appropriate class for their age.

Students were given note books. The coordinators routinely visit these schools and meet the teachers, learn about their performance and encourage them to go to school.

Data Collection in Aziznagar Village

A comprehensive software program managing data and to generate reports has been developed for Aziznagar village for immunization of children and pregnant women, with the help of Mr. Purushotham, Data Manager of "REACH" project.

Data was collected for the entire population of Aziznagar village as per "REACH" format. With the checklist & the alert report generated we were able to achieve the immunization targets on time. This data of all family members in each household in the village, will be useful for future updates in terms of health related information, employment and economical status of the family etc. Data gets updated periodically. We are working out an action plan to continuously maintain 100% immunization of children and pregnant women with the support of the village sub centre ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery), our working partner.