Situation Analysis of Anganwadis, Social Welfare Hostels and Government Schools in the State of A.P.

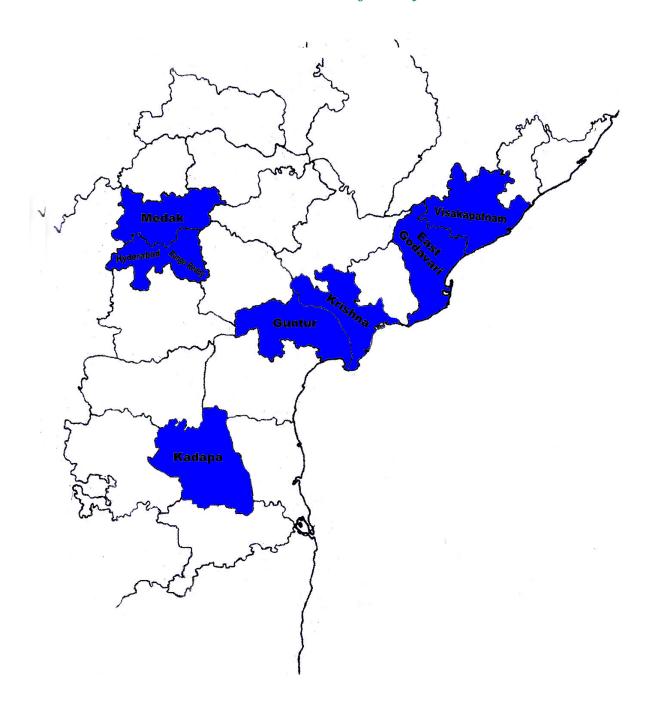
A Survey Report

By



DALIT STHREE SAKTHI (DSS)
2009

Area of Study



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1. About the Report

Globalization in its wake brought various reforms which had lot of negative impact on dalits. There is marked increase of landless dalits over a decade, reduction of priority lending in the banking sector directly affected flow of funds to dalits; rural employment as well as regular salaried jobs in the public sector decreased drastically thereby affecting dalits. Another important change in the wake of globalization was commercialization of education which has become too costly making education more inaccessible to dalits. These changes have seriously affected dalits if these trends continue; the Dalits would be one of the sections that would be hard hit in the long run. The increase of prices of all commodities due to privatization on the one hand and denial/withdrawal of subsidies, welfare measures has made the lives of dalits miserable. The economic crisis percolated down to dalit women and girls driving them to more pathetic conditions.

Traditionally in our society dalit girls are being exploited at home and outside. Now in the wake of increasing marginalization, the poverty stricken, illiterate, dalit parents are forced to send their dalit girl children as domestic servants to long distances even for petty sums. As domestic servants these dalit girl children are subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment including sexual exploitation. Locking inside homes, beating, dragging by hair, torturing with hot iron instruments, pouring hot oil on the children are some of the incidents that occur routinely. More serious torture incidents have surfaced in the recent times and a few of them attracted media attention when the tormentor was a high official, cine artiste or politician. In rest of the cases it has become a matter of routine.

If the dalit girl children are not sent as domestic servants, usually the parents get them married even when they are below 14 years of age. These marriages are only marriages for the namesake but actually the girl is taken by the in-laws as a wage slave. In the State of Andhra Pradesh some incidents were reported where poverty forced the parents to sell their girl children. The number of kidnaps of girls is also alarmingly on the raise. There are professional women and men who lure a girl, sedate her and kidnap her. Such kidnapped girls are sold away to prostitute dens. Recently when police raided prostitute dens in Mumbai and Delhi and liberated many sex workers, they revealed that they were all kidnapped long back from their villages in Andhra and forced in to prostitution.

Another lurking danger for the dalit girls is cheating in the name of love. Modern looking, young dalit and non-dalit youth are luring the innocent dalit girl children by promise of marriage and later cheating them after causing pregnancy. Hundreds of such incidents are being reported day-after-day.

Apart from all these dangers, a dalit girl is discriminated in her own house and her labour is exploited by the members of the family. The only way out for dalit girl education is only when the government guarantees free residential education. That is why it is necessary to streamline the Anganwadis, Social Welfare Hostels and Government Schools for the better education of dalit girl children.

Unfortunately the situation of social welfare hostels is very pathetic. There are no minimum facilities in these hostels like potable water, toilets, clothing and the food supplied is infested usually with worms. There are no proper teachers or wardens. Budget actually released for the hostels is far less than the allocated budget. Even these funds are misutilized and corruption in social welfare hostels is now institutionalized. Lack of facilities stare at the face of the dalit girl children on the one hand, atrocities are committed on them in the very same hostels on the other hand. Going by media reports alone the number of instances of sexual exploitation and causing pregnancy of the girl children of the hostels by the teacher /warden are on rise. Political parties respond to girl child situation only when a serious incident takes place or before the elections. Last year, when some SC and BC leaders announced formation of an alternative political forum for the political empowerment of the oppressed castes, the leading political parties felt threatened and they all announced various schemes for the benefit of dalit and backward class children in social welfare hostels, but all the euphoria evaporated in short time. Now, neither the so called dalit leaders nor the political leaders are not to be found anywhere. It is the experience of DSS that the politicians talk only for a short while to catch votes and they never come forward with any concrete programme of action for the upliftment of the socially and economically underprivileged sections, especially, dalit girl children. That is why DSS decided to take up the issue of dalit girl children and formulated specific time bound programme for the improvement of social welfare hostels. The agenda DSS is:

- 1. Conduct scientific survey and study of the existing situation of Social Welfare Hostels, Anganwadis and Government Schools.
- 2. To formulate strategies and draw up programmes and activities to improve the situation on the basis of study.
- 3. To monitor and check the corruption in the social welfare hostels and to launch movement for release of more budget.
- 4. To increase the awareness of dalit girl children and parents on their rights and facilitate them to struggle for their rights and to work for eradication of all forms of corruption by bringing the violations to the notice of higher officials and media.

Thus, DSS has clear strategy and programme of action for improving the situation of social welfare hostels. With this broad agenda in view, DSS conducted survey of the hostels, schools and anganwadis in the operational areas.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

- 1. Focused group discussions with target group.
- 2. Small group interviews.
- 3. Individual interviews.
- 4. Group discussions with dalit communities in the villages.
- Discussions with Government officials.
- 6. Collection of primary and secondary data and documentation.

SURVEY

A random survey of the Anganwadi Centres, Government Schools and Social Welfare Hostels in the working area of Dalit Sthree Sakthi (DSS) spread over 7 districts has been done. The number of centres surveyed district wise is as mentioned below:

S.	Districts	Anganwadi	Government	Social Welfare
No.		Centers	Schools	Hostels
1	Guntur	344	164	9
2	Krishna	117	75	16
3	Hyderabad	20	14	3
4	Ranga Reddy	36	23	2
5	Kadapa	17	31	0

6	Vishakapatnam	25	7	5
7	East Godavari	201	214	11
	Total	760	528	46

INTRODUCTION

There are about 250 million Dalits in India. There is not considerable improvement in the socio-economic condition of dalits in the past 50 years, when compared to non-dalits. Much more needs to be done. The urgent need is to have a national sample survey on dalits. Every fourth Indian is a dalit. There is no proper survey to give the correct number of dalit women in India. They are generally scattered in villages and they are not a monogamous group. About 75% of dalits live below poverty line. Economic backwardness of dalits is mostly due to injustice done to them in the caste system for generations by which they are kept away from economic, social and every other resource by the higher castes and also due to exploitation through all means. Since a long time in the history, the dalits were coerced to work like slaves, sold as commodities resulting in their social discrimination, economic deprivation and educational backwardness. To assess the position of dalit girl children in India this chapter is divided into various heads.

EDUCATION:

Education provides the basis for the realization of other rights and strengthens the poverty ridden to fight for the enjoyment of many other human rights, such as the right to work, health and political participation. Thus, education plays an important role in the social, economic and political progress of any nation. In a rapidly changing society in the era of science and technology, those without education perish as they do not have the skills to offer.

All human rights instruments have right to education as an important right and obligated the States to provide free and compulsory primary education for all children. The States also have an obligation to root out illiteracy among its adult population. Important hallmark of right to education is equality and non-discrimination i.e. States should see that there is equal access for the girl child and vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities and of minority and refugee children. As per the international standards, the Governments should also concentrate on the quality of education and see that education is directed

towards the development of the child's personality, talents and abilities to their fullest potential.

While the above are the international norms concerning education, in India the educational level of women generally and dalit women and girls in particular is at a very low level. Age old traditions of denial of education for dalits are the chief reason for the educational backwardness of dalits in general and dalit women in particular. Though there were reformative attempts and governmental encouragement since some years, the situation did not change much for various socio economic and cultural reasons. The reasons for the high rate of illiteracy among dalit women are many of which the following are important:

- 1. Resistance from the family to send girls to schools due to cultural notions that girls' education is unnecessary.
- 2. Fear of insecurity in villages.
- 3. Lack of physical facilities like accommodation, school, transport and medical facilities.
- 4. The need of the girls to take care of the siblings when the parents are away at work.
- 5. The tradition of giving privileged status to boys to enjoy leisure and forcing girls to do domestic chores, which prevent them from attending school.
- 6. Poverty forces the parents to employ the girl children to make extra earnings for the family by employing them in beedi factories or other unorganized sector, thereby preventing the girls from attending school. Apart from (and in addition to) poverty, sickness of parents, unemployment of parents and drunkenness of father etc are other reasons that force the girls to go for work.
- 7. The tradition of getting the girl married soon after puberty is still largely prevalent among the dalits which results in the discontinuation of the studies of the girl. Social restriction is that the girls should stop education after marriage. Moreover, as per the tradition a girl after marriage is expected to do the entire household work in the in laws home and the in laws force her to do the entire work.
- 8. Misbehaviour, blackmail and exploitation by the male staff, other high caste people in the school is another reason why the parents prefer not to send the girl to school.
- 9. Fear of alienation of girls from their environment as a result of education.
- 10. Need to pay more dowry to get suitable match is another draw back if the girl is educated.

The above are some of the factors for low literacy level among SC girls and due to all these difficulties many parents wish to withdraw the girls from schools. The present position seems to be better with reference to the rate of literacy among dalits. The literacy rate is 31.48% for boys and 10.93% for girls.

ANGANWADIS

Anganwadi is a government sponsored child-care and mother-care center in India. It provides services to children in the 0-6 age group. The word Anganwadi means "courtyard shelter". They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition.

ANGANWADIS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The ICDS Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme and is the single largest integrated programme of child development. It was started in 1975-76 in 2 Blocks of the State on a pilot basis. At present 376 ICDS Projects are sanctioned, of which 300 are in rural, 29 in Tribal and 34 in Urban areas. Under these ICDS projects, a total of 66,101 Anganwadi Centers are being run in the state. Proposals are submitted for Government of India for 9 more Urban ICDS Projects and 6847 additional Anganwadi Centres in existing ICDS Projects.

THE ANGANWADI

The Anganwadi (AW), literally a courtyard play center, is a childcare center located within the village or the slum area itself. It is the focal point for the delivery of services at community levels to children below six years of age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls. Besides this, the AW is a meeting ground where women's/mother's groups can come together, with other frontline workers, to promote awareness and joint action for child development and women's empowerment. All the ICDS services are provided through the AW in an integrated manner to enhance their impact on childcare. Each AW is run by an Anganwadi Worker (AWW) supported by a helper to deliver integrated services and improve linkages with the health system - thus increasing the capacity of community and women - especially mothers - for childcare, survival and

development. Presently in ICDS there are, on an average, 125-150 AWCs per ICDS Project/Block.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AWC

- 1. Supplementary Nutrition to 6 months 6 years children, pregnant and lactating mothers.
- 2. Immunization to children and women.
- Health check-ups to children and women.
- 4. Referral services to children and women.
- 5. Nutrition and Health Education to mothers and Adolescent Girls.
- 6. Non-formal pre-school education to 3 years 6 years children.
- Supply of IFA & De-worming tablets.

OBJECTIVES OF AWCs

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children of age group 0-6 years.
- To lay the foundation for proper Psychological, Physical and Social development of the child.
- To reduce the incidence of Mortality, Morbidity, Malnutrition and School dropouts.
- To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development
- To enhance the capacity of mother to look after normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

Table 1.1.1
Status of Dalit Girls in Anganwadi Centers Surveyed

District	No of Anganwadis Surveyed	Centers located in Dalit Colonies	Total children	Dalit girls
Guntur	344	153	15740	4497
Krishna	117	67	3073	1165
Hyderabad	20	14	856	391
Ranga Reddy	36	6	1369	407
Kadapa	17	7	619	77
Vishakapatnam	25	12	635	156

East Godavari	201	111	5485	1946
Total	760	370	27777	8639

Graph 1
Percentage of Dalit Girls



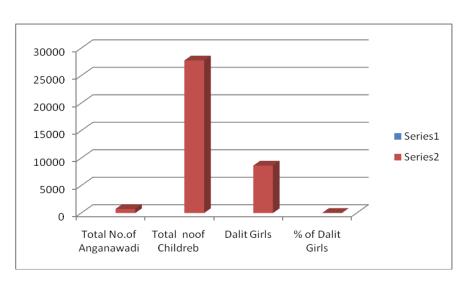


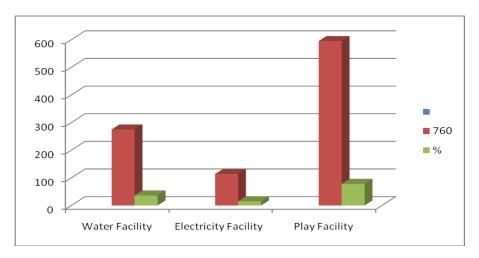
Table 1.1.2 Facilities Available in Anganwadi Centers

District	No of Anganwadis Surveyed	Drinking Water Facility	Electricity Facility	Anganwadis in Rented Buildings	Centers with Compound Wall
Guntur	344	76	38	243	21
Krishna	117	57	33	163	15
Hyderabad	20	12	14	7	6
Ranga Reddy	36	15	3	15	12
Kadapa	17	12	1	8	4
Vishakapatnam	25	8	2	18	2
East Godavari	201	95	23	123	2

Total	760	275	114	577	62

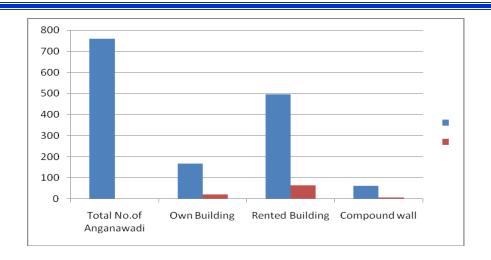
Graph 2
Anganawadi Centers with Water, Electricity and Play Facility

Total No.of Anganawadi	Water Facility	Electricity Facility	Play Facility
760	275	114	595
%	36	15	78



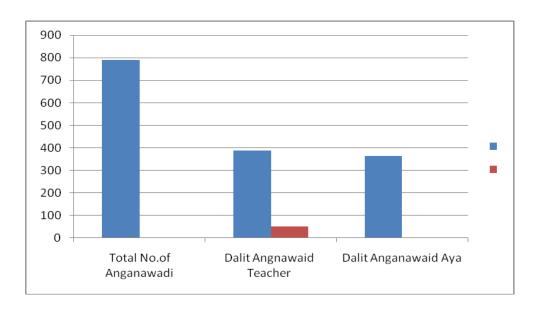
Graph 3
Anganawadi Centers Based on Type of Building and %

Total No.of Anganwadi	Own Building	Rented Building	Centers with Compound Wall	
760	167	495	62	
%	22	65	8	



Graph 4
% of Anganawadi Centers with Dalit Anganawadi
Teacher and Aya

Total No.of	Dalit Angnawaid	Dalit
Anganawadi	Teacher	Anganawaid Aya
760	387	365
%	51	48



An attempt is made to know the facilities available at Anganwadi Centers. In terms of facilities available and accessible to the children, the figures are not encouraging. The facilities available at Anganwadi center are not adequate enough for the children attending.

Though the children are attending they are not getting proper care and support due to such improper conditions.

The total strength of the 760 anganwadi centers surveyed is 27,777 out of which dalit girl child strength is 8639, which comes to 31%. Only 167 centers (22%) are in own buildings and 495 centers (65%) are in rented buildings. Only 62 centers (8%) have compound walls, it means 92% do not have compound walls. 51% of the teachers are SCs and among the Ayas it is 48%. 275 centers (36%) have water facility and the remaining 64% don't have water facility. Only 114 centers (15%) have electricity facility and the remaining 85% don't have. 165 centers (22%) don't have play facilities.

Social Welfare Hostels

Provision of hostels for the children hailing from oppressed sections of the community like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes is an important social welfare measure. The role of these hostels in their education advancement is considerable. To achieve this objective, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has started a large number of social welfare hostels and at present, there are 2210 hostels functioning in the state with scheduled caste children comprising 70% of the hostel inmates. Health care of these hostel children is of utmost importance as they are in a period of growth and development and need an optimum health & nutrition care. Though useful information is available for the management of these hostels and upliftment of dalit girls, still the facilities which are available in the hostels is sparse. In this context, the present study was taken up among children residing in social welfare hostels for scheduled castes in 7 selected districts/towns of Andhra Pradesh. This study focuses on facilities available and status of children.

Table 1.1.3
Status of Hostels Surveyed

District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Own Buildings	Buildings in good condition	Distance from hostel to school >1 km
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Hyderabad	3	2	2	0
Guntur	9	9	7	9
Krishna	16	15	8	13
Vishakapatnam	5	5	3	4
Ranga Reddy	2	2	1	2
East Godavari	11	8	7	10
Total	46	41	28	38

Table 1.1.4
Facilities Available at Hostels

District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Drinking Water	Toilets	Compound wall	Clean surroundings	Fans & Lights
Hyderabad	3	2	3	3	1	3
Guntur	9	9	9	9	2	8
Krishna	16	13	15	15	3	14
Vishakapatnam	5	4	5	5	1	3
Ranga Reddy	2	2	2	2	0	2
East Godavari	11	11	11	9	4	11
Total	46	41	45	43	11	41

Graph 7 Analysis of Facility



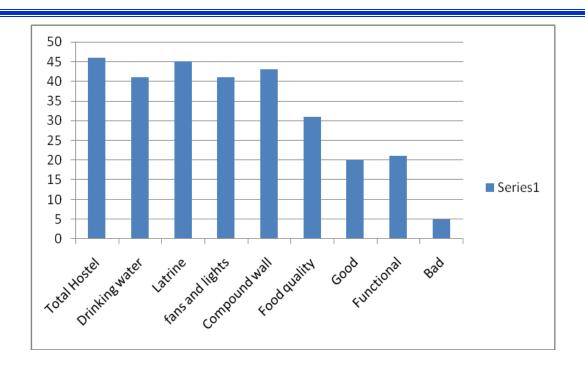


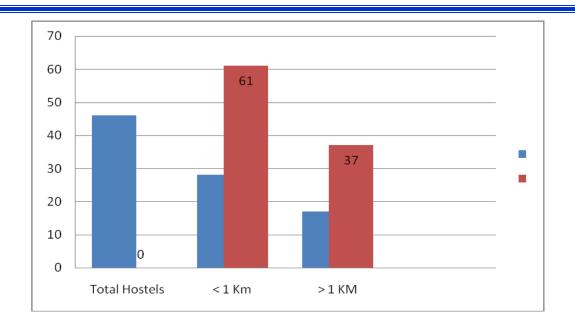
Table 1.1.5
Status of Food Available at Hostels

District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Adherence to Food Menu	Food Quality as per Norms	Food Served on Time
Hyderabad	3	3	0	0
Guntur	9	9	9	3
Krishna	16	9	9	0
Vishakapatnam	5	4	2	0
Ranga Reddy	2	2	0	0
East Godavari	11	11	11	2
Total	46	38	31	5

Graph 8

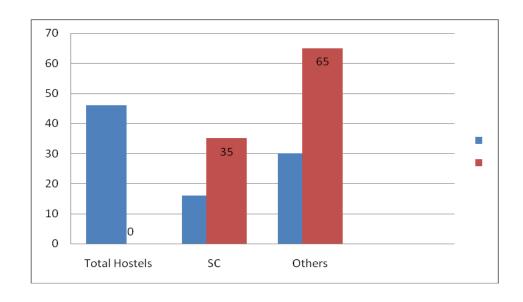
Distance between School and Hostel

Total Hostels	< 1 Km	> 1 KM
46	28	17
%	61	37



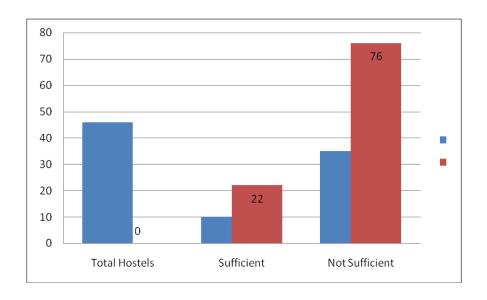
Graph 9
% of Hostels with Dalit Warden

Total Hostels	SC	Others
46	16	30
%	35	65



Graph 10
Hostel functionaries, Employees

Total Hostels	Sufficient	Not Sufficient
46	10	35
%	22	76



A total of 46 hostels have been surveyed of which 10(22%) have sufficient staff and 36 (78%) do not have sufficient staff. Only 16 (35%) hostels have SC wardens and 30 (65%) are non SC wardens. 17 (37%) hostels are more than 1 km away from the schools. In 15 hostels the quality of food is low and in 15 hostels unhygienic conditions prevail. On the whole while considering the facilities such as drinking water, toilets, fans, lights, compound wall, quality of food and clean surroundings 5 hostels have come under 'BAD', 21 hostels under 'FUNCTIONALLY OK' and 20 under 'GOOD'. The hostel buildings are also not in a good condition. The safety and security of children is utmost important. But according to the data the safety measures are very poor. Most of the hostels are taken on lease.

The quality of food provided to the children at the hostels is not good in 15(33%) hostels. Qualitative and nutritious food in sufficient quantity is of utmost importance to growing children. It was found out in the survey that food is not supplied in accordance with the menu and the quality is not satisfactory in some hostels. Though there are toilets in the hostels, they are not cleaned regularly or cleaned by the children. Many toilets do not have doors at all or even if they have, the bolts are lacking. Though the compound walls are physically present, they are easily accessible. All the hostels lack proper night watchmen.

The kitchen and its surroundings are in unhygienic conditions, the hostel surroundings are unclean, the rooms are dirty and congested, resulting in diseases like skin allergies, malaria, chikun guinea and other communicable diseases. There are instances of food

poisoning and stale food being served. Likewise, cosmetics are not given properly. Further the water facility is inadequate.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The status of AP in terms of Education

- AP ranks ninth in the country in terms of children's (6-13 years) school attendance. Only 76.2% girls and 82.4% boys from the total children's population in that age group attend school reflecting high level of drop out (census 2001).
- Census 2001 shows that of every 100 children in the 5 14 years age group, 26 continue to be out of school
- Of every 100 children who are enrolled, 25 do not reach secondary level. DSE (2005-06)
- Of every 100 children who are enrolled, 51 drop out before they complete secondary level (Class VIII) and 64 dropout before completing 10th class DSE (2005-06)
- It is evident from the following facts that, Out of 100 SC children enrolled, 57 drop out before reaching secondary level and 70 dropouts before completing 10th class. Similarly, 72 out of 100 enrolled children of ST dropout before completing elementary education and 82 dropout before completing 10th class (DSE 2005-06)

Graph 11
No. of Schools Surveyed

No. of School	Primary School	Upper Primary School	Secondary School
528	382	50	96

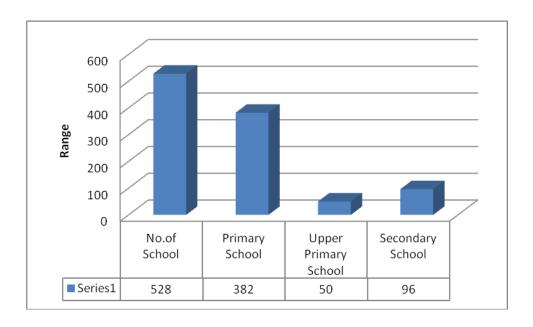
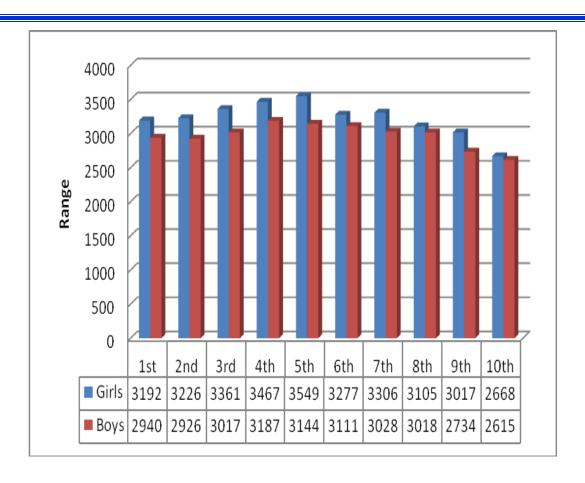


Table 1.2.0 % of Facilities in Schools

Total No. Schools	528	Percentage
Toilet	221	41.86
Play Ground	160	30.30
Compound Wall	175	33.14
Water Facility	222	42.04
One Room	87	16.48
2 Rooms	117	22.16
> 2 Rooms	324	61.36

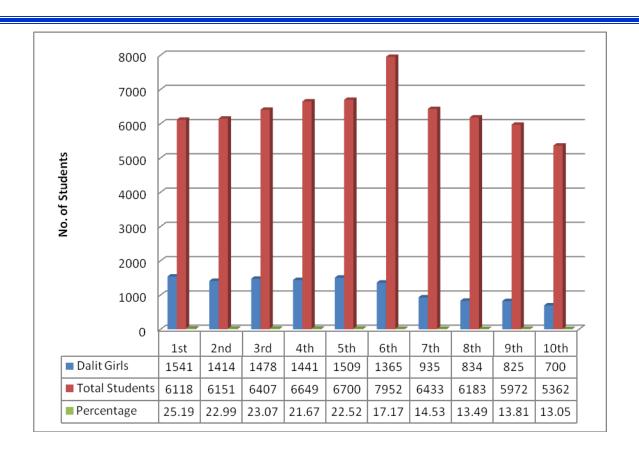
Graph 12
Class wise number of Girls and boys

Classes	Girls	Boys	Total
1st	3192	2940	6132
2nd	3226	2926	6152
3rd	3361	3017	6378
4th	3467	3187	6654
5th	3549	3144	6693
6th	3277	3111	6388
7th	3306	3028	6334
8th	3105	3018	6123
9th	3017	2734	5751
10th	2668	2615	5283
Total	32168	29720	61888



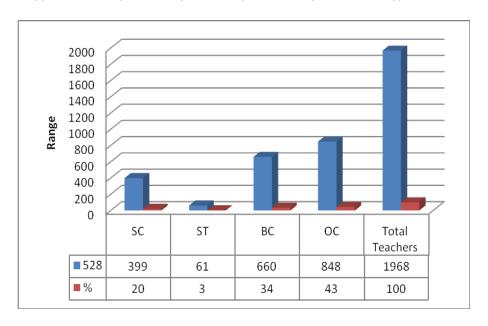
Graph 13
Class wise % of Dalit Girls

		Total	
Classes	Dalit Girls	Students	Percentage
1st	1541	6118	25.19
2nd	1414	6151	22.99
3rd	1478	6407	23.07
4th	1441	6649	21.67
5th	1509	6700	22.52
6th	1365	7952	17.17
7th	935	6433	14.53
8th	834	6183	13.49
9th	825	5972	13.81
10th	700	5362	13.05
Total	12042	63927	18.84



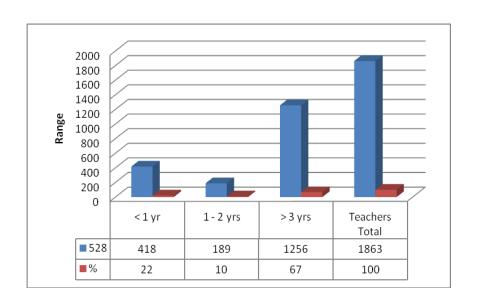
Graph 14
Teachers Details

School Total	SC	ST	BC	OC	Teachers Total
528	399	61	660	848	1968
%	20	3	34	43	100



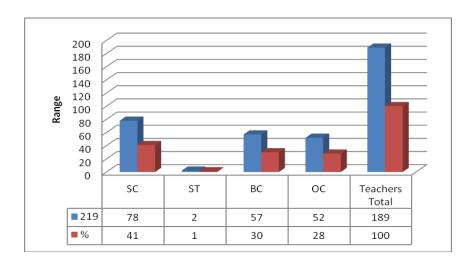
Graph 15
Teachers - Continuance Details in Years





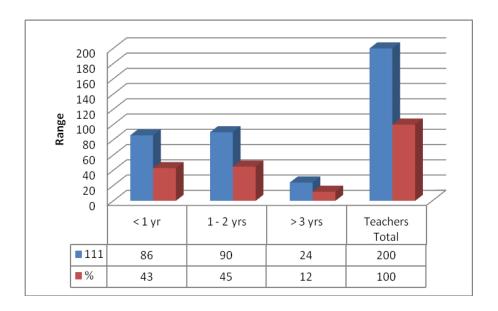
Graph 17
Schools With Vidya Volunteers

School Total	SC	ST	BC	OC	Teachers Total
219	78	2	57	52	189
%	41	1	30	28	100



Graph 17 Vidya Voluntary Teachers - Continuance Details in **Years**

School Total	< 1 yr	1 - 2 yrs	> 3 yrs	Teachers Total
111	86	90	24	200
%	43	45	12	100



A total of 528 schools have been surveyed, which includes 382 Primary Schools, 50 Upper Primary Schools and 96 High Schools. From a total of 1968 teachers, the SCs - 399 (20%), STs – 61 (3%), BCs – 660 (43%) and OCs – 848 (43%). The period of stay of the teachers less than 1 year - 418 (22%), 1-2 years 189 (10%) and more than 3 years 1256 (67%). From a total of 189 Vidhya Volunteers, SCs –s 78 (41%), STs – 2 (1%), BCs – 57 (30%) and OCs - 52 (28%). 221 schools have toilets only 175 schools have compound walls. In most of the primary and upper primary schools, either one/two teachers handle 5 classes. There are instances of students taking classes. Likewise there are supposed to be a minimum of 5 class rooms per school, whereas in 87 schools there is only one room and 117 schools have only 2 rooms. There is a sudden decline of dalit girl students' right from 7th standard, thus decreasing class wise up to 10th standard. The percentage of dalit girls in Anganwadi centers shows 31% and there is a sudden decline of 6% when it comes to 1st class. Likewise the percentage of dropouts further declines by 8% in 6th class. It is further decreasing and ultimately at 10th standard, the percentage of dalit girls is 13%. On the whole, quality education is lacking in primary and upper primary schools.

Appendix I

<u>VIOLENCE ON GIRL CHILD AND VIOLATIONS IN INSTITUTIONS</u>

Violations in Institutions

1. Name of the Institute: Mandal Parishad Elementary School

Place: SC Colony, Kothaganeshunipadu, Machavaram, Guntur

Issue: In this school, classes from 1st to 5th standard are held. All the 5 classes are being taught in just one room and a verandah by 2 teachers. There are no ventilators to the kitchen and it's very unhygienic. As there is no compound wall to the school, animals like buffaloes and dogs move around freely, thus making the premises dirty.

2. Name of the Institute: SC Hostel for Girls

Place: Piduguralla, Guntur

Issue: The toilets in this hostel are unhygienic and there are no workers to clean them. The hostel premises are also unclean resulting in contagious skin diseases among students. Also due to the germ-infested surroundings, students are often falling sick. 10 students have fallen ill at once and were taken for treatment. The warden denied this fact with the DSS team and objected them to take photos and inspect the place.

3. Name of the Institute: Anganwadi Center

Place: Nidamarru, Mangalagiri, Guntur

Issue: The Anganwadi center has only one room. Bandicoots have dug the floor in the room. Hence the whole room is filled with mud leaving no place for the children to sit. Neither the teacher nor the concerned authorities have taken proper steps to get the room cleaned.

4. Name of the Institute: Anganwadi Center

Place: Kuragallu, Mangalagiri, Guntur

Issue: The construction of the Anganwadi center is going on since 15 years which is not yet complete. The children are being made to sit in the same premises.

5. Name of the Institute: Primary School, Anganwadi Center

Place: Pedakakani, Guntur

Issue: The school is run in one room for 1st to 5th standards. Anganwadi Center is run in the verandah. As there is no compound wall, the villagers come at odd times for fetching water in the school premises. Also the children go to houses whenever they want to. As the water facility is not arranged, the students are being forced to go for toilets outside.

6. Name of the Institute: Anganwadi Center, Upper Primary School

Place: Gaddipadu, Guntur

Issue: The anganwadi center and Upper Primary School are run in the same premises. The anganwadi center is being run in the verandah of the school. Due to this, there is no place to teach anganwadi children through board or charts. Hence the Anganwadi children and the school students are getting disturbed.

7. Name of the Institute: Primary School

Place: Tarakaramanagar, Guntur

Issue: There is no compound wall for the school. The outsiders who come to play are disturbing the students. There is no water facility; hence the toilets are not being used.

8. Name of the Institute: Social Welfare Hostel for Girls

Place: Rajagarithota, Guntur

Issue: There are totally 120 students from VIII, IX and X standards. There are 4 bathrooms and 4 toilets among which only 2 bath rooms and 2 toilets are used by the students. The other 4 are damaged. There are also bathrooms adjacent to the living rooms but they are locked and students are not allowed to use them. Students have to clean their rooms. Cosmetics are not being distributed to the students since some months. Low quality food is given to the students.

9. Name of the Institute: Mandal Praja Parishad Elementary School

Place: B Savaram, Razole, East Godavari

Issue: There are totally 102 students from I to V standards, of which 20 are dalits. There are 4 rooms for all the students and no bathrooms. Even these rooms are dirty and stinking. There are no benches for studying. There is no place for playing. The school is filled with water during rainy season.

10. Name of the Institute: Mandal Praja Parishad Elementary School

Place: Kandikatla, B Savaram, Razole, East Godavari

Issue: 1st to 5th classes are run in one room only. Teachers do not attend the classes at least for 4 days in a week. Mid-day meals are not being served to the children as the concerned authorities have failed to release the funds.

11. Name of the Institute: Social Welfare Hostel for Girls

Place: Vedullapalli, Bapatla, Guntur

Issue: There are 109 students from 3rd to 9th standards of which 14 belong to SC and 66 belong to ST community. There are 11 rooms and the students use 4 rooms for sleeping. One room is used for TV, one for watchman, one as store room, one for electrical material, one office room, one kitchen and one dining room. The rooms do not have flooring. There is a well in front of the rooms which has no cover. The parapet wall around the well is also very low. There is no water tank for the hostel. The students get water filled in buckets which is strenuous for young students. When the motor is not working, they have to get water from a hand pump outside the hostel. There are 6 bathrooms and 6 toilets. But bathrooms are used by elder students. Younger ones take bath outside only. There is only one bulb for all these 12 washrooms. The compound wall is also very low, which gives easy access to intruders. Though warden has arrangement to stay

there, she travels to and fro Bapatla. Washrooms are cleaned once in 2 weeks by a person from Bapatla.

12. Name of the Institute: Vijayanagar Colony Govt. Elementary School

Place: Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad

Issue: The Government Elementary School at Vijayanagar Colony is in the heart of the Hyderabad city and in near vicinity to the Chief Minister's office. It is a clear definition for the government schools. The classes in the school are from I to V standard and each standard has 2 sections. The total strength is 334. The number of girls is 172 and of boys are 162. The break up is as follows:

Category	Girls	Boys
Scheduled Caste	60	65
Backward Class Community	99	90
Scheduled Tribes	5	5
Other Castes	8	2
Total	172	162

The total staff including Headmistress is 9. The school is located in an old building pertaining to Andhra Pradesh Housing Board, which is a residential building. The building has a ground floor and 1st floor. On the 1st floor 6 class rooms are being used, wherein III (A & B), IV (A & B) and V (A & B) classes are being held. On ground floor only IV A class is being conducted. In the shed located behind the main building classes I (A & B) and II (B) are being conducted. In the ground floor 5 rooms are not being used as there is no electricity.

The students of classes I (A & B) and II (B) are made to sit down on the floor due to the lack of benches. The students are drinking unsafe water. The toilets are insufficient in number and are in unhygienic condition. There is no out let for the drain water to go as there is no drainage connection. The school doesn't have an attender / ayah. The students are made to sweep. There are no benches, black boards, etc. There is no water tap and the water procured is preserved in an uncovered tank. The water tap and the electricity connections have been disconnected in the year 2002 for non payment of bills. In the year 2002 the school was shifted as the building has been damaged and was again shifted back into the same building in the year 2003 and is still continuing in the same old unhygienic and pathetic conditions. The corporate school adjacent to this elementary school shows us directly the quantum of difference between the corporate schools and the schools run by the government. It also indicates how the children studying in the government schools are being denied of quality education and conducive atmosphere. On fear due to the bad condition of the building even the strength was reduced by 200 students.

13. Name of the Institute: Sanathnagar Social Welfare Hostel for Girls

Place: Sanathnagar, Hyderabad

Issue: Discrimination and denial of admission during the year of 2007

9 girls in the hostel have completed 9th class in Sanathnagar High School and have come to 10th class. Since most of the teachers have retired and the posts being vacant, the children are missing important classes. Hence they thought of joining in Somajiguda High School which is located in Sanathnagar. The head master denied admission the children as the pass percentage will come down. Hence they were forced to approach the DEO. With his recommendation they were admitted into the school.

Since then the teachers started harassing the girls and humiliated them in front of other students. They warned the other students not to give books to complete the notes of the missed classes. As these children could not perform well in the unit tests, the teachers humiliated them. Though the children were still continuing, the head master and the staff forced them to leave the school or else they will lodge a theft case on them. The children got frighten and left the school.

14. Name of the Institute: Kodamanchili SC Girls Hostel

Place: Kodamanchili, Achanta Vemavaram, West Godavari

Issue: Food poisoning

Kodamanchili SC Girls Hostel is located in Kodamanchili village, near Achanta Vemavaram in West Godavari District. The hostel accommodates 70 SC girl students ranging from 3rd standard to 9th standard. Like most of the Social Welfare Hostels, even this hostel has the most unhygienic conditions with untidy living rooms, unhygienic bathrooms and kitchen with rotten food material. In addition to this the hostel building is surrounded with a gutter flowing by, alcohol belt shop, agricultural fields and a fertilizer store house.

The building consists of 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms and a kitchen. The living rooms are unhygienic and there is literally no furniture either for dining or for sleeping. The students have only bed sheets to cover themselves. They do not have anything to spread on the floor. The bathrooms are dirty and insufficient for 70 students. The smell from the gutter and the fertilizer store house is unbearable. There are no proper facilities for the students during nights from the mosquitoes and other bugs that come from the gutter and agricultural fields. All these conditions exhibit the intensity of incidence of diseases.

Neither the in charge warden of the hostel, nor the other staff, do not visit the hostel regularly. There is lack of proper monitoring on the students. Among 70 students, almost 30 of them go to their homes during the nights and return in the morning. All these clearly show that the safety and security of the students are at stake.

On 16th July 2008 the cook has sent her mother for cooking. She cooked bottle goud, potato and scrambled egg. The students who ate the food fell sick. There was no one to move the students to the hospital; hence they had to suffer until next day morning. Again on the next day, i.e., on 17.07.2008 as the cooking gas exhausted, the cook brought idly from the boys hostel. Unable to bear hunger the students ate one idly each. Within no time about 40 students started vomiting and some of them fainted. Even by that time there was no one to take care of them in the hostel. Finally, coming to know about the issue, the local people called ambulance and took them to the Primary Health Centre in Achanta Vemavaram that is 8 kms away from the hostel. Some of the students were taken in autos. 8 students fell seriously ill.

15. Name of the Institute: Mummidivaram Residential School

Place: Mummidivaram, East Godavari

Issue: Insufficient Accommodation

A Residential School was established on 10th February 1999 in Komanapalli village, Mummidivaram mandal, East Godavari District. It was shifted to a rented building at Mummidivaram in June 2000. Presently, Rs.9,500/- is being paid as rent. Among the 333 girl students studying in this Residential School, 300 are SC girl students. Due to lack of accommodation, every year 40 students are loosing the chance of being admitted.

Category	Girl Students
Scheduled Caste	300
Other Castes	33
Total	333

The rented building in which the school is situated has only 10 rooms and 4 lavatories. There are no bathrooms for bathing. The girls are forced to take bath outside while it is dark. Even the lavatories are in a pitiable condition. There is no proper drinking water facility.

There is no furniture at all in the class rooms and the students sit on the floor even without mats. Only the computer lab is furnished. But as all the computers are placed in one room, it has become congested and inconvenient. Previously they used to run from classes 6th to 10th, but this year 5th standard has been started, making the situation more vulnerable. Two sections have been clubbed and being conducted in the same class and some classes are being conducted in the shed on terrace.

The situation turns still worst when it rains. As the doors and windows are not proper, rain water enters the rooms. Students have to study under trees and sleep in the verandahs during rainy season. The rooms are stinking and insufficient to sleep. As the rooms are small and insufficient, the students have to keep their belongings to a side and sleep there it self. Even the walls and roof are worn out and may collapse at any time.

Though government has granted money and land for the construction of Residential School buildings, the work has not begun since 2006. The Social Welfare Department has lent a deaf ear to numerous complaints about the pathetic conditions of the hostel.

16. Name of the Institute: Eedarapalli Primary School

Place: Eedarapalli, Amalapuram, East Godavari

Issue: Inadequate Staff

Eedarapalli Primary School is situated nearby Amalapuram Mandal Educational Office. There are two teachers – one Headmistress and one teacher. There are 51 students ranging from 1st to 5th standards. As the HM is nearing her retirement, she applied for medical leave since the beginning of the academic year. The whole responsibility of running the school has fallen on the shoulders of the teacher. She has to solely teach to 5 classes, take care of Mid-day meals and look after the construction work of new building and all the other works of the school.

This has made it virtually impossible for the students to gain quality education. The students of higher classes teach to the lower class students. The teacher finds hardly any time to teach the children. This situation was brought to the concerned authorities, but in vain.

The parents and the village leaders have demanded for appointment of Vidya Volunteers or a teacher on deputation. Since all the requests have gone in vain, the community and the parents have come to the opinion that it is better not to send their children to the school at all. Hence many children have dropped out.

17. Institute: MCH Colony Anganwadi centre:

Place: MCH Colony, Hyderabad

Issue:

The centre is run in an old hall of the primary school, where part of the hall is occupied by the waste material and classes I to V are also conducted in the same hall. As there are no separate class rooms, the students are unable to follow the lessons.

The Anganwadi centre in MCH colony, Dilshuk Nagar, Hyderabad was started in the year 2003 and was conducted in the Community Hall of MCH colony. Due to the repair of community hall in 2007, the centre was shifted. Since then the anganwadi centre is being held along with primary school. Total Students in Anganwadi are 30. The details are as follows:

CATEGORY	GIRLS	BOYS
Scheduled Caste	14	13
Backward Class	2	1
Total	16	14

Apart from the above mentioned the facilities such as water; electricity facilities are also not available. Drinking water is being procured from the neighbouring houses. The children do not have plates to eat, toys to play and they are made to sit on the floor. The anganwadi children have to clean their plates. Apart from this, they are also made to clean the floor after the mid day meal, even the food is of not good quality. The storage facility of the food material is not proper.

Violence on Girl Child

1. Physical Assault of 5th Class Girl in Residential Hostel

AP Residential Hostel is being run beside high way in Jagannadhapuram village of Tuni mandal in East Godavari district. On the night of 16th Sep '08 all the girls were fast a sleep and they didn't lock the door from inside. An unidentified person entered inside in the late night and put a towel round the neck of Alekhya a 5th class student and dragged her outside. She got awake and shouted loudly. In the mean time other students, watchman and assistant warden woke up and came to her rescue. The miscreant left her and ran away. A complaint was lodged in the Tuni Rural Police Station. Till now the miscreant has not been traced out.

2. Vemagiri Bhavani

Vemagiri Bhavani aged 10 yrs, SC Madiga by caste is studying 5th standard by staying in Social Welfare hostel at Kapileswarapuram, East Godavari district. On 27th Aug '08 at 12.30 pm Bhavani was attempted to rape by Karri Tathabbai s/o Sanyasi aged 65 yrs belonging to dominant community. She was caught hold by the accused while she was coming down the stairs and attempted to rape. Bhavani shouted loudly. Kranthi a 9th class girl noticed it and shouted. The accused left her and ran away. Bhavani complained to the warden. The warden beat her with footware and warned of dire consequences if she reveals outside. On 3rd Sep '08 she informed to her father Vemagiri Raju. The warden even warned her father of dire consequences. Raju went to the police station and lodged a complaint in Angara PS. After much public action by all the organizations the accused was arrested and the warden was suspended.

3. Ghanta Sirisha - Rape and Murder

Ghanta Sirisha, aged 14 years, D/o Ghanta China Venkateshwarlu, R/o Ward-I, Bapujinagar, Gudivada, Krishna district, SC Mala by caste was studying 7th Standard

in Navodaya Convent which was located in Mubarak Centre, Gudivada, Krishna District. On 4th January, Sirisha was found dead in the class room around 01:30 pm.

On 4th January 2007 Sirisha has come to school. Sirisha's father has taken the lunch box and went to school and gave it to her at around 12:30 pm. Then the Principal Tangella Rama Mohana Rao, (50), OC Brahmin by caste called Venkateshwarlu and asked about the fees to be paid and also informed that Sirisha is not attending the tuition classes regularly. Later Venkateshwarlu left the place. When Venkateshwarlu was having lunch at his home at around 01:30 pm, two men came on Scooter and informed that his daughter is dead. When he went to school, he found his daughter hanging to a raft in one of the classrooms. There were few students and a teacher Krishna Kumari. The villagers organized public action (dharna) until late night with a suspicion that it was a murder. At around 01:00 am of 5th January 2007, the dead body was taken down and the people noticed blood from her private parts though she was not on menstrual periods. They have also felt that it is not possible for her to hang herself from the raft in the given short period of time according to the narration of the school staff.

Sirisha joined in Navodaya Convent in 6th standard. Until then she studied in Telugu medium. She has come to 7th standard. Sirisha has been complaining her mother since 2 months that her principal is talking in an abusive way to her and beating her. Her mother persuaded, saying that she would join her in another school next year. Sirisha refused to attend the tuition classes conducted by the principal in the school, but her father forcefully took her to the classes.

4. Mundlapalli Subbamma - Rape

Mundlapalli Subbamma, aged 14 years, D/o Late Mundlapalli Munnaiah, R/o Ramanapalli Harijanawada, Chennur mandal, Kadapa, was learning tailoring in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan Centre Residential Bridge Course Camp. Subbamma was suffering from dehydration since three days and on 15th May 2007 the chief functionary, Bala Venkata Reddy said that he would leave her in her home and took her on his two wheeler. He took her in wrong route and when she questioned, he said that it is short route to her village. He took her to an abandoned building near Airport and raped her. Then he left her near her village and went away. She informed about the incident to her brothers and they complained in the police station at 12:00 hours on the same day.

The caste elders tried to compromise saying both are relatives and also ensured that no complaint was lodged. The caste elders suppressed the mother and sisters of the victim though they repurcated.

5. Somarapu Lakshmi – Sexual Exploitation

Somarapu Laxmi(15) daughter of Sakuntala(60) is the native of Thorumamidi village, Bantwar mandal of Ranga Reddy District. Laxmi is studying 10th class in the Government high school in Basheerabad. As the social welfare hostel in Basheerabad

has accommodation up to 9th class only, she was shifted to BC welfare hostel in the same village 15 days before the day of incident. Mattappa (55) was working as watchman in social welfare hostel for the past 3 years. Since the day he joined the hostel he started sexually harassing many children. Unable to bare his harassment many children stop their education and went back to their houses. In the same manner Mattappa threatened Laxmi and continued his sexual harassment regularly. Having come to know that her menstrual periods have stopped, she informed to Mattappa. Mattappa took her to the doctor in Tandur for check up. The doctor confirmed that she is 5 months pregnant and has said that it will cost Rs 10,000/- for abortion. As he couldn't afford, he asked for medicines and send her back to hostel. The watch women of the BC Welfare hostel noticed that Lakshmi was sick and enquired into the situation. Next day the watch women took her to hospital in Basheerabad and the doctor has confirmed that she is pregnant. The watch women informed to the warden about the pregnancy of Laxmi. The warden warned Laxmi to go back to her house and also said that she will see that Mattappa will pay her some money towards abortion expenditure. A case was registered and Lakshmi was aborted and send back to home.

5. Sexual Violence at Nancherla Residential School

The Gurukul Girls High School is run by the state government and the students join the school once they secure necessary merit in the entrance test. The admissions are done on the basis of reservation system in accordance to the merit. Totally there are 578 students comprising of SCs, STs, OBCs and Other Castes. 90% are SC students. The school runs classes from 5th to Junior Intermediate. Since there is shortage of teachers, the management has appointed 20 teachers on contract basis.

The principal of the school took Radha Sabhavat a tribal girl aged 15yrs, studying 10th standard to the hospital in Mehaboobnagar as she was sick. Having come to know that she is 6 months pregnant got her aborted. He dropped her in Mukthavenkatapuram with her grand mother as her parents have passed away and gave Rs 2,500/- and took a letter from her stating that she was aborted with her consent.

One of the teachers was searching the suitcases of the students, which is done on routine basis and found a cell phone in the box of Devi Mudhavat a tribal girl. When asked she revealed that it was given on 6th Sep'07 by Bala Krishna the Telugu teacher working on contract basis. She revealed that Bala Krishna had sexually intercourse with her forcibly by threatening that if she reveals, he will sent her out by giving away Transfer Certificate. The principal sent Devi back to her parents at Mangampet.

The students revealed that more than 15 girls were sexually assaulted. The students have complained that the previous principal Jyothi used to make some of the girls to sleep in her house, give them water mixed with some sedatives and then exploit them sexually. Some of the men teachers including Bala Krishna and Jyothi's husband were also involved in this series of sexual assaults. The sexual assaults have

continued even during the tenure of the present principal Ranga Swamy. Even the food and the facilities in the hostel are not proper.

8. Caste Discrimination and Attack on Dalit Students

Nalli Navil, Jillella Shalem Raju, Deva Anand Babu, Bandela Praveen, Deva Sanjay Raj are the residents of Ramaraju lanka, E.G.Dt. They are studying in the Government High School at Ramaraju lanka. Enjeti Sangetha a dalit student got 92% in 10th class. Likewise a Kapu boy of the same village got 93%. Based on the reservation Sangetha got seat in IIIT. The teachers have said to the Kapu Community students that Sangetha got the seat in the IIIT though she has secured less percentage than the Kapu boy. This raised anger in the Kapu community and they forced to close the school. Though they terrorized the dalits, the dalits remained calm. On 22nd August as it was Chiranjivi's birth day the Kapu community students celebrated his birth day in the school. They distributed chocolates to Shalem Raju, Anand Babu and Praven. As they rejected to take, the Kapu students complained on the dalit students to the other Kapu students. Immediately the Kapu students came and abused the dalit students on the name of caste saying "era mala lanja kodakallara, memu chocolates este tisukora? ". They also used to tease the dalit girl students and even used to take out the air from the cycle tyres. They even used to put on their feet in the meals plates during the mid day meals. Though the dalit children complained about the same to the caste elders they cautioned them to remain calm. On 27th August while Sanjay was returning back through the Kapu Street Madicherla Durga Rao OC kapu was beating Navil a dalit boy. As Sanjay questioned it, Durga Rao said that there is no need to say and used abusive language on the name of caste. Shalem Raju was also there. Durga Rao and Trinadh caught hold of Shalem Raju tore his shirt, pushed him down and beat him up. As Sanjay, Shalem Raju and Praven were returning back to their home through the Ramalayam street Ravuri Srinu, Bolisetti Chinnabbai, Bonam Srinu beat them up again. Later Chiranjivi's flex banner was torn by some unknown people. The Kapus blamed the dalits and forced them to wash the feet of Chiranjivi in the flex with milk. After some days the statue of Ambedkar was broken by Kapus. When the dalits asked the Kapus to cleanse the statue with milk the kapus rejected by using abusive language. Like this often the Kapu community people used to beat them regularly on petty issues. This has been going on since many years.

CONCLUSION

India's commitment to the cause of children is as old as its civilization. It has been a time honoured belief in our culture that the child is a gift of the Gods. Unfortunately, over the years in the pre-independence period, due to socio-economic and cultural changes, the code of child centeredness got replaced by negligence, abuse and deprivation, particularly in the poverty afflicted sections of the society. From being an advantaged lot, the children plummeted into a disadvantaged group. Such a scenario made it imperative to intervene for providing care and protection to

children. Setting up of extra- familial Institutions to provide care to the young both in the governmental and voluntary sectors became inevitable. In India, independence ushered in a new era in the field of child welfare and child development. The last 60 years, are marked with events which are a testimony to the commitment we have, towards our children. Adequate provisions were made for care and protection of children in the Constitution. The Indian Constitution has a frame work within which provisions are available for protection, development and welfare of children. In addition, there are a wide range of laws which guarantee to a substantial extent the rights and entitlement as provided in the Constitution and in the UN Convention.

About DSS

Vision:

Facilitating the Dalit girl children to shape their future and mainstream them in society as potential leaders.

Mission:

To access quality education to dalit girl child and capacitate them to fight against violation of rights, gender and caste inequalities, all forms of exploitation in the society.

Specific Objectives:

- To document the existing realities, analyze and to plan for an appropriate action at micro as well as macro levels drawn for successful implementation of the project.
- 2. To create awareness and capacitate Dalit girl children to access their rights and sensitize the larger civil society
- 3. To educate the Dalit girl students, the concerned staff and parents on reproductive and other rights.
- 4. Ensuring proper functioning of educational institutions where Dalit girl children are educated.
- 5. To eradicate violence against Dalit girl children, particularly in social welfare hostels.
- Networking advocacy at various levels with district, state level
 officials and linkages with like minded NGOs and lobbying with
 the legislators and top political brass for suitable legislation
 and GOs.
- 7. Campaigning and research for prevention and reduction of existing violence on Dalit girl children to establish a liberal society.

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