



People's Organisation for Rural Development (PORD)

CRY – supported partner PORD works intensively in two Mandals of Chittoor district- Madnapalle and Thambalapalle with children of dalits and tribal communities from highly disadvantaged economic backgrounds. The families barely meet basic needs, let alone access to education, health and land. PORD reach out to 25 Villages of Madanapalle Mandal and 65 villages of Thambalapalle Mandal.

PORD has been working with 6,200 families and 10,901 (children and works extensively towards protection of children with education centric approach. Children here are at the cusp of issues such as child - labour, trafficking and marriage at one end and existential issues related to access to schools, higher education; quality of infrastructure in schools, and availability of other resources, at the other. Given the poor economic background and caste taking the front-seat, children have become the obvious victims.

PORD has been efficiently promoting child rights in the rural and urban areas of the project. While continuous enrolment drives and promotion of education is carried on, PORD has successfully re-enrolled 148 children of which 102 are of age range 15-18 years old, in the last year. PORD is meticulously working towards promoting education by sensitising parents on importance of education, meeting with education authorities and local authorities, closely working with and increasing participation among teachers, ICDS workers, and other stakeholders.

13 additional class rooms were sanctioned in 8 schools, 1 Kitchen room sanctioned added in a school and, 9 toilets were sanctioned in two schools as a result of PORD's triumph. PORD was able to achieve 100% retention (479/479) in Thambalapalle High School and 98% retention (1285/1300) in Vivekananda Z.P. High School at Madanapalle.

To ensure this and to bring more children to school, one of the effective way adopted is formation of children's collectives. Children Collectives not only provide a platform for children to express, interact and relax but also encourage participation in decision making and engaging them in dialogue, debate and discussions on issues they face. PORD has strong participation from children through these collectives that is essentially aiding to strengthen the project. Currently, 80 collectives comprising 4,626 children are present in the two mandals.

Although children meet and participate in multiple activities, there is dire need for bringing in activities such as sports to actively engage children. Aside from ensuring, health, skills development sports will aid to let children be children, play and learn. Given the economic background and many children still victims or vulnerable, introducing elements like sports will strengthen the collectives and make it more dynamic and thus aid to paradigm shift.

Children's collective act as a right platform to introduce digital literacy as the dynamics of the collective allows children to be curious, explore, question, think loud, share ideas, teach each other, and have fun and activity based learning. Well designed interactive sessions and hands 'on learning, with increasing learning levels at right intervals will allow children to gradually get comfortable with technologies, learn and yearn for more learning.



About CRY – Child Rights and You

CRY is an Indian NGO, working to ensure rights for underprivileged children across India. In the last three decades, CRY has reached out to over 2 million children. It has made a lasting and permanent change in the lives of nearly 6.5 lakh children last year alone. Working on the model of holistic child rights as laid down by the United Nation Convention for the Rights of the Child, CRY works to identify the root causes that threatens children's rights and in correcting to those, seeks to make a sustained change in their lives and their communities. Currently, CRY works across 23 states and in 3,112 villages in the last year.

With core focus on four basic rights:

- Right to Survival – to life, health, nutrition, name, nationality
- Right to Development – to education, care, leisure, recreation, cultural activities
- Right to Protection – from exploitation, abuse, neglect
- Right to Participation – to expression, information, thought, religion

What we do?

To achieve far-reaching impact, we enable grassroot NGOs by partnering with them building their skills, perspectives and capacities in addressing issues that affect children and their families and providing them with funds, monitoring and evaluating programmes.

Generate funds and resources (voice, time, skills): From individuals and through institutional partnerships. We encourage CSR and people from all walks of life to contribute in creating an environment in which children enjoy their basic rights.

Thus, CRY works towards ensuring children live, learn, play, express... bringing about lasting change in their lives.