

# NISARGA FOUNDATION

H.D.KOTE, MYSURU DISTRICT, KARNATAKA



## ANNUAL REPORT

**2016-17**

**Nisarga Foundation,H.D.Kote**

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## INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1997 under the Indian Trust Act, Nisarga Foundation, a non-profit, voluntary, registered organization, has set its goal to ensure the positive socio-economic change of the indigenous communities and underprivileged, downtrodden and marginalized communities by taking up various activities. The organization is based in tribal taluk of Heggadadevana Kote of Mysore district in Karnataka. The organization is governed by a Governing Body which comprises of six members of repute. Based on a firm decision of the GB, Nisarga Foundation, since its inception, has opted to work for the realization of rights of the tribes and non tribes in and around Heggadadevana Kote.

Mr Nanjundaiah, Secretary of Nisarga Foundation, who has been entrusted with the responsibility of Director of the organization, is a dedicated person to the tribal issues. He has been working with the indigenous communities in the taluk for the past 25 years. The involvement with the communities has, over a period of time, helped him attain immense knowledge about tribes and their culture. He has been part of several networks including that of tribal self-rule, like Adivasi Solidarity Council, Tribal Joint Action-Karnataka, FEVORD-K, INSAF, and Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI).

Nisarga Foundation has implemented activities under the five-year project on Food Security and Livelihood issues of Tribes (FSLT) with the support of Terre des Hommes (tdh), Germany, during the year 2004 - 09. The FSLT Project was implemented in 20 tribal hamlets of the taluk.

The organization has implemented another project on 'Indegenous Jenukuruba Community empowerment and natural farming for sustainable livelihood in H D Kote taluk', funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Italy during January–December 2008.

Moreover, various programs were implemented by Nisarga Foundation in collaboration with various government departments and voluntary organizations in the taluk and district. It has been implementing the programs and projects of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) since its inception. The rapport with the taluk and district department officials has improved much, due to regular contact and involvement of officials in various programs of the organization. This has resulted in enhancing its negotiation capacity.

Based on the experiences gained in the FSLT project, Nisarga Foundation has been selected to implement another project on Adivasi Forest Rights Act and Integrated Development project 2010 - 2013 in H D Kote taluk by BMZ, Germany and Tdh (G). This 4-year project has three components, namely Forest Rights Act implementation, Education and Women empowerment. Launched in April 2010, the project has made tremendous changes in the lives of tribal communities in the taluk. The details of the activities undertaken are given below.

During the year 2016-17, Nisarga Foundation has implemented the following projects/programs in H D Kote taluk.

They are: 1) Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre with the support of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) & District Administration, 2) Childline with the support of Childline Foundation of India and 3) Spirolina Nutrition Program.

The detailed activities of the programs are hereunder:

1. **Spirulina Nutrition Project, supported by Mission Inde, France**
2. **Bridge School and Dormitory, supported by Areva/ Mission Inde, France.**
3. **Childline project supported by ministry of Women and child development, Govt of India through CHILD LINE India foundation.**
4. **Child Labour Rehabilitation Project supported by District Child Labour Project Society, District Administration, Mysore.**
5. **Networking among NGOs, CBOs and government departments**
6. **Advocacy and Lobbying**

### **III. SPIROLINA NUTRITION PROGRAMME**

Spirolina is a nutritional capsule, which is helpful in boosting the growth of malnourished children, and pregnant women and lactating mothers. This is more effective among the pregnant women. This program was launched in 2014 in tribal haadis of H D Kote Taluk for the benefit of malnourished children and undernourished women. The implementation of this program has made considerable achievements in terms of bringing back nutrition among the malnourished children in the area during the past 3 years. Karnataka Government has made an allocation of Rs.2 crores in the state budget 2016-17 considering this as a priority area.



CFTRI appreciated the achievements made in the taluk by Nisarga Foundation. Mission Inde, France has supported this program and Dr Jerry Pais of Mysuru is the consultant and advisor of this program.

The fourth stage of Spirolina Nutrition Program has been implemented in the following hadis with the guidance and support of Mission Inde's leaders and Dr Jerry Pais, Mysuru. The number of children in the age group of 2-5 years and the mothers selected for this program are given in detail.

| Name of Haadi       | No of children | Lactating mothers | Pregnant women | Total     |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Prabhanagara        | 06             | 12                | 01             | 19        |
| Majjanakuppe        | --             | 02                | --             | 02        |
| Bheemanahalli Haadi | 08             | 12                | 03             | 23        |
| Kunteri             | 05             | 04                | --             | 09        |
| B.R.Katte           | 01             | 04                | --             | 05        |
| Malada Haadi        | 23             | 08                | 04             | 35        |
| Rajegowdanahundi    | 00             | 03                | 00             | 03        |
| Annuru Haadi        | 00             | 02                | 00             | 02        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>43</b>      | <b>47</b>         | <b>08</b>      | <b>98</b> |

After selecting the children, they are given two spirulina and one kg of nutrition powder. The food and health benefits from Anganwadi centre also are made available to them. It is ensured that the food given by PTG is accessible to the mothers and children. Creation of awareness among them about hygiene, healthy food and sanitation is part of the program.

The growth of children and mothers is documented every month. In the beginning of the month, every child is weighed and the weight is documented by the Nisarga staffs. Emotions and growth of mothers also are recorded. If any health problem is found, they are taken to the hospital nearby by the staff. The mixed flour of nutritional cereals is given every month to the parents to serve it to the children every day.

During the reporting period, Dr Jerry Pais, Ms Bhagyammal of PHC, Annuru, 5 staffs of RLHP, Mysuru and 25 community members visited Prabhanagara Haadi and interacted with the beneficiaries and learnt about the benefits of spirulina. Representatives of Mission Inde, France, Ms. Catherine, Ms Isabella and Ms.Mary Christina visited the project area and had interaction with the beneficiaries during the year.

The benefits given to children and mothers by the government

| Sl. No. | Pregnant women     | Lactating mother   | For children in the age group of 3-6 yrs. |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1       | Rice – 5 Kg        | Rice – 6 Kg        | Rice 3 Kg                                 |
| 2       | Groundnut – 500 gm | Groundnut – 500 gm | Broken Rice for Payasam -1.650 Kg         |
| 3       | Moong – 750 gm     | Moong – 750 gm     | Moong 500 gm                              |
|         |                    |                    | Sugar 300 gm                              |
|         |                    |                    | Milk powder 500 gm                        |

The activities conducted:

**Health and awareness camps every month:** Wheat, toor dal, moong dal, ground nut, sugar and cardamom are powdered to make nutritional flour and given to the parents. Awareness was given in order to provide the best nutritional flour given to the children under the Special Jenukuruba Scheme. Awareness program for the parents and community members was conducted. Consultancy was conducted with mothers in haadis about making the locally available vegetables and cereals in a nutritional manner. Information was given on time to the pregnant women about the significance of immunisation. Counselling was given to the migrant parents about Nisarga's contributions and the importance of nutrition to the children and pregnant women and lactating mothers. The children and mothers with malnutrition were identified and they were given awareness about Spirulina that brings the person from malnutrition to nutrition.

Impressions of parents: It is very beneficial for the lactating mothers and children. Mothers have noticed the healthy hair, activated energy, delightful eyes, changes in skin etc after the spirulina was administered. Spirulina has created good appetite and digestion and therefore, children are able to eat more. Health workers of Health department visit the children every month and conduct check up and report back to the department about the children's growth. Supervisor of Anganwadi centres comes to the Anganwadis every month and orients the Anganwadi workers about nutritional

food. Jayamma of Malada Haadi suggests that if this program is started with pregnant women, healthy babies will be born.

Impression of mother about the program: “I take Spirolina tablet for the past 6 months and I feel good appetite. Earlier I was not feeling hungry. Now I have developed a good eating habit, thanks to the Spirolina tablet. I do not feel tired now whereas I used to get headache and tiresome always. My health has improved a lot. I get lot of breast milk and therefore, I am able to feed my baby sufficiently. I am thankful to Nisarga.”

This program has been implemented effectively with the support and timely guidance of Dr Jerry Pais.

#### **IV. BRIDGE SCHOOL AND DORMITORY**

Under this project, the deprived children who are dropped out of school are pushed back to mainstream education. The dropped out children are identified by the staffs of Nisarga Foundation and brought them to the Bridge School. They are motivated to go back to school and minimum learning level is provided in order to admit them in age appropriate class in the government school nearby. At present, 20 children are under this project and they have been attending classes in the government school in various classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> std to 7<sup>th</sup> std.

#### **Dormitory**

Areva/ Mission Inde of France was benevolent to support Nisarga Foundation to construct a Dormitory with bathrooms and toilets for the Bridge School children in Nisarga campus. The construction was started in June 2016 and completed in March 2017. It will be inaugurated in the beginning of next academic year.



There are two dormitories, one for the boys and the other one for girls. Girls stay upstairs while boys stay in the ground floor.

The children admitted to the bridge school have been provided stay and accommodation in the dormitories. All the children stay in the old building during the reporting period till the new facility is ready to occupy. Children come back to the Dormitory after the school hours and all the basic facilities including food are provided in the dormitory. A warden and a cook are placed for the children. In the evenings, children conduct cultural programs for expression of their talents. This project was started in June 2016 and is continued with the kind support of Arive/ Mission Inde and Nisarga Foundation Board of Directors are grateful to their benevolence and guidance in time.

## **V. CHIDLIN PROJECT**



Childline project has been implemented in the taluk as a sub centre for the past 6 years. During the reporting year, 6 open house programs were conducted wherein 2100 children and 90 teachers attended. Awareness was made on child rights, child labour, drop out children, POCSO Act 2012 and Childline 1098. The major issues found in the program were 1) malnutrition, 2) drop out children, 3) child labour and 4) child marriage.

Youth committee has been formed to prevent child marriage and whenever a child marriage is found, the committee members inform the department or childline 1098. In this program, government officials, Town Panchayat President and members, Gram Panchayat Presidents and members, parents, youth, SDMC members, SHG office bearers and villagers were present.

## **Awareness program about Childline 1098**

The crowded places like market, bus stand, auto stand, car stand, thoroughfares, hotels in the Taluk were chosen to distribute handbills and stick the stickers in order to prevent child labour and child marriage and to protect child rights. About 13000 people were benefited by this program.



Awareness was created among the SHGs and youth groups, school and colleges, Anganwadi centres, Children's Clubs on child rights, child labour, child abuse, child marriage and POCSO Act. Handbills were distributed to all of them and more than 10,000 people were benefited by this activity.

**Child marriages:** 39 child marriages were effectively prevented after the complaints received during this year with the help of childline staffs, gram panchayat PDO, headmaster, head teacher, staffs of Mahila Santhwana Kendra and CDPO. This initiative has created a lot of awareness about child marriage among the people in the area. Some of the children who were rescued from child marriage have been undergoing training on tailoring and others have continued their education.



**Child marriage**

**Awareness in GP/TP and Town Panchayat:** PDOs in 35 Gram Panchayats, 25 Presidents, 360 members, and 20 members in 2 Town Panchayats and officials, and 10 members of Taluk Panchayat were given handbills of Childline and awareness was created about Childline.



Childline staffs visited 5 Police Stations in the taluk and distributed handbills to Inspector and 3 Sub Inspectors and 75 police constables and thus created awareness about Childline, child marriage and POCSO Act. They were told to inform Childline if cases of children below 18 years are reported.

**SDMC:** 300 members of 30 schools were addressed during the reporting period. All of them were given handbills of Childline. They were oriented to call Childline 1098 if any child is found dropped out of school or in difficult circumstances in any part of the Taluk. They were requested to display 1098 on the school walls and compound. Child rights, child marriage, importance of education and POCSO Act were discussed with them.



### **SDMC**

**PHCs:** About 1200 people including doctors, midwives, staffs of 6 Primary Health Centres were oriented about child marriage, childline, POCSO Act during this reporting period.



**PHCs**

**Komal Video:** 2450 children and 60 teachers of 8 government high schools were shown Komal video and thus oriented about the abuse carried out on children.



**Komal Video**

**Awareness in community:** during this reporting period, community awareness programs were conducted at 12 places including villages and haadis. Through this program, Childline team reached about 870 people comprising of officials, Gram

Panchayat members, villagers, village leaders, tribals and women. Awareness was created on childline 1098, child marriage, child rights, significance of education in children's life, and POCSO Act.

**Medical checkup:** free medical checkup was organised in 6 haadis during the reporting period. Children and parents were given medicines free of cost. Doctors and team from Mysore Ayurveda College visited the haadis and villages and distributed medical kit to tribal children free of cost.



**Medical checkup**

**Mothers' meeting:** 10 Mothers' meetings were organised by Childline during the reporting period. About 270 mothers were given handbills and through which they were oriented about child rights, child marriage, atrocities on children, education and healthcare of children other than presence of Childline.

International Child Helpline Day was observed at Nisarga Foundation office premises on 18.5.2016. In the program, 70 women, children, Nisarga staffs attended.

**Mythri week program:** As part of the Childline Mythri Week program, awareness program and international day against child abuse were organised at Sacred Heart School, Naganahalli. Children took pledge as follows:

1. We condemn child abuse
2. We will not allow child marriage
3. We will be friends of Childline forever.

Another program was organised at Golden Temple area in Periyapatna taluk on 20.11.2016. All the shopkeepers and hoteliers, auto and car drivers, tourists and administrative wing of Golden Temple were given handbills and stickers were stuck in key places in the area. About 700 people were benefited by this program. They were oriented about child labour, child marriage, POCSO Act and Childline 1098.

**International Day Against Child Labour:** On 17.6.2016, International day against child labour was observed at Taluk Office auditorium by the Taluk administration, dept of labour and Nisarga Foundation. Tahsildar, civil judge, 100 Anganwadi workers, children, parents and Childline staff participated in the program. Childline staffs made announcement in an autorickshaw in the main roads of the town about the consequences of child labour.

**Meetings and trainings:** During the reporting period, the staffs of Childline attended 5 training programs, 2 Child Advisory meetings and 10 staff meetings. Subjects such as POCSO Act, JJ Act, Child Labour Act, Presentation and Report writing skills, Child counselling and Communication skills were covered in the training.

Case Intervention details with no of cases during 2016-17:

Child Marriage 39, Shelter 2, Education Support 18, Child Labour 10, Medical/Nutrition 9, Emotional & Guidan 4, Begging 6, School Dropout 34, CSA 5, Corporal Punishment/ Physical Abuse 11, Parent asking help 7, Child Trafficking 2, Missing 2, Wrong Call 4, **Total: 153**

## **VI. NCLP REHABILITATION SCHOOL**

A centre for rehabilitation of child labour has been run by Nisarga Foundation at Belaganahalli near H D Kote Town in collaboration with National Child Labour Project Society, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Department of Labour for the past 8 years. Children who never went to school or have dropped out of school and worked in hazardous and non hazardous occupations have been rehabilitated in this centre. All of them have now been driven back to their education stream in Nisarga Foundation. So far, 350 children have been mainstreamed into education through the centre.

30 children have been enrolled during the reporting period. They were grouped according to their age and the lessons were planned for them accordingly. The timings of the centre are scheduled from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm every day.

3 academic groups have been made as per their level of learning. Five staffs including the teacher trained in Nali-Kali and Chinnara Mela, vocational teacher, clerk, cook and peon have been posted in the centre to look after the children and their learning and development. The languages such as Kannada, English and Hindi are taught other than mathematics, social sciences and environmental science on all the days. Tests are conducted once in three months to assess their progress in learning. Those who pass in term tests and annual exams are enrolled to the

mainstream schools. 18 such children have been mainstreamed during the reporting period.

Extra-curricular activities are taken up for the development of children. story-telling, songs, drawing, theatre activities, games that are complementary to the lessons, role plays, yoga etc are practiced as part of the curriculum.

In the first group, there are 11 children. 6 stages of Nali-Kali, simple words, skill to write digits upto 500, tables of 2 to 10, familiarity with the names of wild animals, birds, trees and plants, and other natural resources in the environment are the criteria for them.

The second group consisting of 10 children is put to learn simple sentences, complex alphabets in Kannada, tables from 2 to 15, skill to write digits upto 1000, familiarisation of living beings and non living beings, English alphabets, writing simple words in English, writing digits upto hundred in English, Indian Map, human anatomy and protection of human body.

Advanced learning takes place in the third group consisting of 9 children. They learn construction of sentences, complex alphabets, reading lessons, tables from 2 to 20, simple mathematical skills like addition, multiplication and division, Hindi alphabets, Indian states, districts of Karnataka, making of Indian map, drawing pictures related to science, and fluency in reading and writing. 18 children from this group have joined the mainstream school previously.

On 22.4.2016, children were oriented on using a Tab with a view to improve their learning.

All the children are healthy and involved in their studies. They are checked up every month by the doctors from the government hospital nearby. Their weight also is monitored periodically. Boiled water and clean drinking water are used for their daily drinking purpose. Adolescent girls are given training on hygiene and sexual problems by Health department staffs and ASHA workers. Children are given coconut oil, soap and other toiletries regularly.

Food is given to them as per the scheduled menu. For break fast, rava upma, vegetable rice, flattened rice uppittu, puliyogre, bisibelebath, pongal, idli and wheat upma are prepared and given. Lunch comprises of sprouted grams, leafy vegetables, rice and curry. In the evening, vada, bonda or biscuits are supplied. Dinner comprises of rice and vegetable curry. Milk is given for three days in a week. Tapioca and sweet potato are given once in a week. Chicken, mutton or fish is given once in 15 days. Sweet dishes are made on special occasions.

During this reporting period, the major cereals and pulses used were: rice, wheat, sugar, ragi, flattened rice, toor dal, moong dal, peas, horse gram, ground nut, cumin, mustard, curry powder, tamarind, oil, jaggery, etc.

Sports activities are conducted for children every day. Kabaddi, cricket, chess, carom board, throw ball, etc are the favourites of children. These apart, local traditional and tribal games also are given priority in order to preserve their culture. Yoga, work out and prayer are practised in morning to enhance their physical and mental capacity. The centre has procured play materials like volley ball, throw ball, net, ring, skipping, cricket bat and ball, carom board, shuttle bat and cokes.



Sports activities

**Kitchen garden:** Children with the help of teachers and staffs have succeeded to set up a kitchen garden in the centre premises. There are a few trees including coconut in the campus. Neem, mango, curry leaf, blackberry, silver, drum stick, plantain, guava, cherry, tapioca, papaya have been planted. Moreover, vegetables like beans, toor, tomato, chilly and edible leafy vegetables and spices are growing in the kitchen garden. Rare and medicinal plants and flower plants also have found place in the campus. The vegetables produced in the garden are used exclusively for the benefit of children. Construction of kitchen garden has helped the children learn about how gardening is done and edible items are produced.

**Cultural activities:** children are encouraged to participate in cultural programs held for two days in every week from 4.00 to 5.00 pm in the centre premises. Tribal songs, dance, mono acting, solo song, street play, folk songs, fancy dress, story telling, etc conducted for exposure of their talents. Traditional tribal musical instruments are used during the cultural programs.



### Cultural activities

**Donors:** Mr Madhusudan, proprietor of M G Electronics has contributed a big wall clock while Mr Santhosh Chowdhary has donated clothes to children. Prabhu textiles has donated clothes to children on the occasion of new year. Mr Hilary of LIC made arrangement for lunch with sweet on the occasion of his child's birth day. Mr Ranjith and Preethi have given the children sweets on their child's birth day other than donating play materials like cricket bat and ball, skipping, shuttle cock, ring and carom board.



### Donors

Senior Health Worker of the Community Hospital Mr Mahesh has contributed biscuits to children sufficient for three months. Moreover, he along with Mr Baby contributed Note Books, pencil, pen, mender for all the 30 children. Mr Rajgopal Gubbi of Suvidya institution, Bengaluru and Prabhu Mysuru have contributed a tab to children in order to enhance their learning. Ms Annie of France has contributed two Tabs to children. Social worker of Germany Ms Pia Hanings has donated cricket bat and ball, brush, ear rings, pen, pencil and mender. Ms Katrina, Isabella and Mary Christina of France have donated pens, pencils, Indian map, caps and sweets.

Special programs and achievements of children: 20 children from the centre participated in the summer camp conducted on 18.5.2016 to 27.5.2016 jointly by Karnataka Balavikasa Academy, Dept of Women and Child Development and Prithvi Cultural Centre at PU College for Girls, H D Kote for 10 days. Children have learnt songs, dance, drama, fire extinguishing skills, ambulance service, consequences of child labour etc.

Children from the centre earned first prize in 'Kolaata' and second prize in patriotic song and Hindi reading competition in the Prathibha Karanji held at the cluster level on 26.8.2016. The winners were selected for Taluk level competition.

Environment day was observed in the centre on 5.6.2016 by planting saplings in the campus. In this context, children were oriented on environment conservation. International Day against Child Labour was observed on 17.6.2016 jointly by Taluk Administration, Dept of Labour and Nisarga Foundation Childline. Tahsildar Mr Nanjundaiah, Civil Judge Mr Sarvaraj Hussain, Advocate P. P. Baburaj, Nisarga Foundation Director Mr Nanjundaiah and staffs and children participated. In this program, child rights, child marriage, atrocities carried out on children, child trafficking and child labour were discussed.



Environment day

On 9.8.2016, International Tribal day was observed. The origin and evolution of tribals were explained in the program. Director and staffs of Nisarga, Head master, teachers and children attended the program.

On 25.11.2016, Christmas was celebrated wherein children were given information about the childhood of Christ, his parents and achievements. On the day of new year, children celebrated the day with greetings and sweets. On 21.2.2017, international day of mother tongue was observed wherein discussion was held on the ECCE policy notified by the Government of India in December 2013. As per the policy, mother tongue is the carrier to reach the other languages.

On 8.3.2017, International day of women was observed wherein Nisarga staffs, teaches and children attended. Smt. Ammanna participated the program and spoke about the status of women.

The national festivals also were celebrated. On 14.4.2016, 125<sup>th</sup> birth day of Dr. B R Ambedkar was observed wherein his childhood, education, achievements and principles were discussed. Mahaveer jayanthi also was observed on 18.4.2016. Independence day was observed on 15.8.2017. Mr Nanjundaiah, Nisarga Foundation Director hoisted the flag and thereafter spoke about the achievements made by the great legends of freedom.

On 20.9.2016, Teachers' Day was observed at taluk level on the occasion of 189<sup>th</sup> birth day of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan at Ambedkar Bhavan, H D Kote. In this program, children and teachers participated. Childhood, education and achievements of Dr Radhakrishna were discussed in the program. On 2.10.2016, Gandhi Jayanthi was observed and thereafter, Gandhi's principles and values were discussed. On 14.11.2016, children's day was observed by Nisarga. The staffs, teachers and children were present.

A number of sports competitions were organised for children on this occasion. Children were given away prizes. Principles of Jawaharlal Nehru, political theory, etc were discussed. On 26.1.2017, 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was observed. Children presented patriotic songs and dance. The role of Dr Ambedkar in the process of finalising the constitution, his childhood and life were discussed. Local festivals also were celebrated in the centre.

Visitors to the centre: On 1.7.2016, activists, doctors and nurse of National Child Health Program visited the centre and examined the health of children. On 20.7.2016, Mr Mahesh, Health Worker delivered a talk on dengue fever, chikungunya in detail for children. On 19.8.2016, medical officers of National Child Health Program Chethan, Rakshita and Rekha visited the center and conducted a check up of children.

Asst Labour Commissioner Mrs Meena Patil, Mrs Manjula, Mrs Geetha, Labour Inspector visited the centre and spoke to each child and inspected their respective

files. Mr Mallikarjun H P, director of Child Labour Project Society visited and got impressed with the children's development. Dist Labour Officer Ms Manjuladevi, DCPO Mr Nagaraj, DDPI Mr Basappa, BEO Mr Udayakumar visited the centre on 19.1.2017 and appreciated the progress of children.

On 18.10.2016, Ms Catherine and Patrick of France and Dr Jerry Pais visited the centre. They offered support to the hostel building for children. On 20.2.2017, Ms Katrina, Ms Isabella and Ms Mary Christina visited the centre and inspected the building. They appreciated the progress of children. Dr Jerry Pais had accompanied them.

On 17.3.2017, Yuv and Liya of France along with Mr Ananda Kumar visited the centre and appreciated the learning progress of children. On 22.4.2016, Dr Jerry Pais, Vishalakshi, Rajgopal Gubbi of Bengaluru and his wife Prabha Mysuru visited the centre and oriented the children about how to use the Tab. On 24.9.2016, Dr Jerry Pais and Ms Visalakshi oriented the children further on the usage of Tab.

Press coverage: News about text book and tab distribution to children was covered on 23.4.2016 in Andolana, Vishwavani and Prajavani dailies. Awareness rally on enrolment was covered in Vishwavani on 12.5.2016.

#### **NETWORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Nisarga Foundation is actively involved are Village Forest Rights Committee (VFRC), Monitoring Committee, SHG Federation, Hejjenu Kalathanda, Taluk Adivasi Grama Sabha Vedike, Rajya Moolanivasi Vedike, Adivasi Solidarity Council, Mythri, FEVORD-K and Adivasi National Front.

In the reporting period, 6 meetings of Mythri were held. Mr Mahadevappa of Nisarga Foundation who is the secretary of Mythri has spent time to strengthen the district network.

In the reporting period, two meetings of Taluk Gram Sabha Vedike were held wherein Nisarga staffs participated.

Nisarga Foundation has continued its networking with the following groups:

- SC/ST Hitarakshana Samiti, Taluk and District.
- Jeeta Vimukti Karnataka- district committee
- Child line district committee
- Child labour district committee
- PTG indigenous communities district committee

## **VI. Advocacy and Lobbying**

Village Forest Rights Committees (VFRC) have met the sub division and district level FRA committee members and put pressure on them for implementation of Forest Rights Act, particularly individual rights and community rights. As a result, 450 individual rights and 25 community rights have been availed by the tribals.

## **Conclusion**

Nisarga Foundation has stepped ahead with the above mentioned programs during the reporting period in terms of achieving progress of children from the deprived status. Various agencies like Arive and Mission Inde of France, Childline India Foundation (Ministry of Women and Child Development), and government departments like Child Labour Project Society, Dept of Labour, Education, Women and Child Development have immensely helped the organisation to roll out the programs.

The Board of Directors of Nisarga Foundation is thankful to all the agencies for their support and guidance in time. The continuous support of media in the taluk and district is very encouraging and it was sometimes instrumental to bring out some issues related to tribals. Nisarga is actively in touch with various network organisations as earlier. If the funds released on time to the centre by the Dist Child Labour Project Society, it would really help in achieving better progress of deprived children.

H.D.Kote

13.07.2017

Nanjundaiah

Director