

COREED

A MOVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Department of Education



Department of Health Services



Department of Technical Education



Department of Women Services



Department of Public Relations



Department of Environmental Issues



Christian Organisation for the Rural Education and Economic Development

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Contents

S.No	Title	Page NO.
1	Our Suffering Brethren	1
2	Personal Experience of the Founder	1
3	Our Belief	1
4	Department of Education	2
5	Department of Technical Education	3
6	Department of Health Services	4
7	Department of Women Services	5
8	Department of Public Relations	6
9	Department of Environment Issues	6

Our Suffering Brethren

South India presents a picture of simmering discontent. Behind the façade of civilization lies the true picture of hatred and disharmony. Here our hapless Dalit and Adivasi brethren are even today subjected to mental oppression. They suffer the humiliation of discrimination and denial at every stage of life. These poor unreached live a life of denial throughout with no access to physical as well as spiritual resources.



Though the Constitution of the Republic of India has declared the discrimination as a punishable offence, there is hardly a case of its enforcement. In cases the State or its agencies try to provide access to the basic facilities of life to these people, the privileged classes boycott the facility thus negating the very purpose of the State.

Personal experience of oppression

Rev. Dr. Joseph Ravela born a Dalit, the founder of COREED personally experienced oppression by the high caste at every level has made him to realized the importance of a committed work to provide succour to these hapless unreached. Thus was born COREED, Christian Organization for the Rural, Educational and Economic Development. Since its inception in 1987 COREED has been the source of solace to these silent-suffering majority in two districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh, in South India. The two districts Prakasam and Nellore have a large concentration of Dalits and Adivasis and the gap between the haves and the have-nots is very vast here.

COREED has been the instrument of mercy in the eyes of the unreached vast majority. This organization has been offering a helping hand at all stages of life, the children are getting their education, the women are learning skills for sustainable livelihood, and the people are being provided access to basic and advanced medicare. More importantly the eligible youth are getting trained in vocational skills enabling them to find a more remunerative occupation.

COREED has been instrumental in developing the underprivileged Dalits and Adivasis and it is also committed to fight the twin evils of casteism and poverty.

Our Belief

COREED is a committed Christian organization which believes in Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry of love and compassion to help the poor and the needy. COREED strongly believe that it is the responsibility of every one to take care of the oppressed, the needy and the helpless to achieve a better quality of life. It is the faith in Lord Jesus Christ that COREED is commitment to the uplift the unreached in the remote rural areas of Andhra Pradesh which do not have access for minimum facilities like shelter, water, health, education and awareness.

The Departments of COREED

COREED strives to promote the overall development of the Dalit and Adivasi communities through a holistic approach. Functionally we operate as separate departments to deal with the different requirements of the underprivileged we assist.

Department of Education has been focussing on areas of Education for children and Adults. *Department of Technical Education* is providing career-oriented technical courses for the unemployed youth. *Department of Health Services* is helping by providing medical care for the sick and differently enabled individuals. The *Department of Women Services* is focussing on women empowerment and emancipation through cooperative programs. *The Department of Public Relations* is constantly informing the rights of the Dalits and Adivasis through Awareness programs and the *Department of Environmental Issues* is an action oriented programs to promote and to make known the importance of the ecological issues.

The Department of Education:

The Department of Technical Education:

The Department of Health Services:

The Department of Women Services:

The Department of Public Relations:

The Department of Environmental Issues:

The Department of Education:

The education is the only source that can solve the problems of human kind and it is the education, which is essential to bring in qualitative change in the lives of these people. Education is the bedrock for human development and thereby social development. Our emphasis on education has not been misplaced and today after decade-of toil we find those who were children then are today in a position of comfort in terms of livelihoods and are enjoying the fruits of their toil. As a part of the programme of providing access to education to the oppressed unreached we have been operating *30 Free Rural Study Centers* in the remote villages in the two districts.



Committed to Uplift the rural poor Dalits and Adivasis in South India.

There are 3,343 students who are receiving free education in these centers. These centers also double up as *Free Summer Tutorial Institutes* during the summer vocation providing systematic coaching for 4,500 children of all classes.



We have taken up the onerous task of *preparing these children for the entrance examinations* for different study programmes like *Polytechnic and State-run residential schools*. Over 250 students are entering into the State Residential Schools. Our committed staff is providing tutorial assistance to 300 students annually of *7th and 10th grade to enable them to score well in the government examinations*.

The Lord has been giving us the right direction and support to ensure that we continue to work for the uplift of the poor, silent and oppressed majority in the region of our operations. We have been able to bring about a qualitative change in the



lives of the people we are working with. The children have been able



to score A+ grades in the schools with the support of our tutorials and constant motivation. A large number of students have entered the portals of the State-run residential schools, colleges and to professional courses and from there graduated to independent careers.

The Department of Technical Education:

We have been imparting vocational skills to a large number of youth at our George Technical Institute. The graduates of these programs have been able to find employment in different agencies across the State. A large number of these skilled youth have set up their own micro-enterprises and are today providing gainful employment to a number of others.



Our technical training combines the theoretic with practical exposure to trade in association with a number of tradesmen in the region. The George Technical Institute has successfully trained 941 students so far, and awarded them with certificates.



Every year 120 students join the different trades at the institute. Besides this we are also operating George Technical Institute in the remote villages for the benefit of the women folk where 100 women students are trained to earn their lively hood. Notably all of them come from Dalit and Adivasi communities that are extremely remote and backward rural areas. More than 90% of the students who have graduated from the technical training course, are now either employed or self-employed. This program is helping the educated unemployed poor Dalit and Adivasi youth to secure jobs immediately.



The Department of Health Services:

The Lord in his graciousness wishes us to enjoy the fruits of his creation in good cheer. It is unfortunate that many of our brethren continue to suffer illnesses for the simple reason they do not have access to basic healthcare facilities. The habitations where they reside are far from the urban centers, which have the medicare facilities and more often their habitations do not even have a proper road leading up to it.



These remote villages are serviced by two trips by the public transport system buses. In almost all cases of emergencies the patient expires even while being transported to the nearest healthcare center and pregnant women often deliver while in transit. In an attempt to address some of the requirements of these people, we have been trying to conduct medical and health camps that would provide access to latest medical and healthcare facilities.



We are indeed fortunate that our efforts are supplemented by the volunteers like medical specialists who do not think twice and leave their personal practice to be available in the service of the poor oppressed flock.

Our team of two doctors and nurses travel two remote habitations every day providing succour and relief to more than 160 patients apart from distributing medicines free of cost. The state of affairs in these areas is depressing; most common complaints are Cancer, Tuberculosis, Ameobiasis, Typhoid and Malaria.

The gynecological cases are a cause for concern. Uterine bleeding is most common ailment. Among the children, respiratory tract infection is common apart from vitamin deficiency and related disorders. The general absence of medicare facilities has also deprived the children of the opportunity to get immunization vaccine shots. The infant mortality rate is 66 per 1000. This is the general indicator of the health status of children in our State. The new age disease like AIDS is being reported in significant numbers in these areas, making it a cause for concern.



Committed to Uplift the rural poor Dalits and Adivasis in South India.

The Department of Women Services:

In the hierarchy of oppression women come last, the Dalit and Adivasi women come a rung below that! This is the reality that pervades entire India and not just the region where we are working. We view this situation as a unique opportunity to work to bring about a positive difference. The grit and fortitude of these women has been heartening and it is indeed heart warming to know that you have made a difference in their lives.



We have been taking advantage of common cause cohesion, which enables women to come together and form as COREED Women Groups. These Women Groups are instrumental in strengthening the family as the primary institution for social development.

These Women Groups, comprising 15 to 20 women contribute Rupee One a day towards a corpus. The amounts from the corpus are loaned only to members at market rate of interest. The borrowing member gets the advantage of market rate being less than the call money rate and rates of the local Shylocks. The amounts that are rotated enable the corpus to grow and make available a larger amount for loaning among the members. The thrift and credit groups have not only enabled the women come out of indebtedness to usurious shylocks and



also provided them a platform to discuss and address common issues and vices like domestic violence, gambling and alcoholism.

With increasing corpus being available for credit, the women members of the COREED Women Groups have been able to take up sustainable livelihoods like vegetable vending, dairying, sheep and goat rearing, tailoring, knitting and cycle-rickshaws.



We have taken up premises in some villages, which serve as the nodal points for all the women of the community to come together and discuss common problems, resolve them



and take up activities like training. By the grace of some donors we have been able to raise buildings in a couple of villages and these have become the centers of all activity for women of the community.

Women have owned up these centers, which have come to represent the bright future that is possible with a little education and training. We propose to build more such centers, one for each habitation. This would enable us to provide training to women right at their doorstep thus ensuring greater attendance for the training programmes. These Women Development Centers would provide easier access to the rural women and facilitate the coordination and expansion of the ever-growing activities of COREED women empowerment groups.

Department of Public Relations:

Right from the beginning we have been very clear that the people have to help themselves and for that purpose we have been organizing specific seminars and workshops that enable the silent oppressed majority know their rights and do the needful to earn their rights. We help build their capacities for the purpose.

Our programme to educate the Dalits and Adivasis about the ground realities and prevailing also helps them take a decision on the appropriate action for achieving the desired results. Our department of Public Relations has the responsibility to coordinate with all the stakeholders in the village and encourage them to take up appropriate action by themselves to address their problems. Our personnel have taken up the roles of facilitators, and they liaison with the appropriate departments of the State. It would be of interest to note that the coordinators and field workers are Dalits and Adivasis who are active volunteers in supervising each activity of the department of public relations. As a part of the capacity building exercise we have been conducting Motivation Seminars, Parental Retreats, Rural Teachers and Volunteers Training Programs, Career Development Program, Talent Search and Cultural Programs, and Tribal and Welfare Information Cell.



The Department of Environmental Issues:

With extensive exposure to the field we have learned to appreciate the importance of ecological balance and issues concerning the environment. We have constantly been taking up activities not only for environmental protection, but also for reconstructing ecologies.

The focal point of our environmental activities has been the education of the lay public on the importance of environmental protection and also imparting skills to do the needful to halt environmental degradation. The children, youth and the women are at the forefront of our Green Army and have taken up avenue plantations and social forestry activities to bring back a the green cover to acceptable size.

Apart from planting trees the oppressed poor have been motivated to participate in the “Green Earth Program” and “Water Consolidation Program”. These programs help the Dalits and Adivasis to plant saplings and store enough rain water by digging pits to prevent the wells from drying up during the summer season.



These programs are enabling the villagers to restore healthy environment for living.



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