

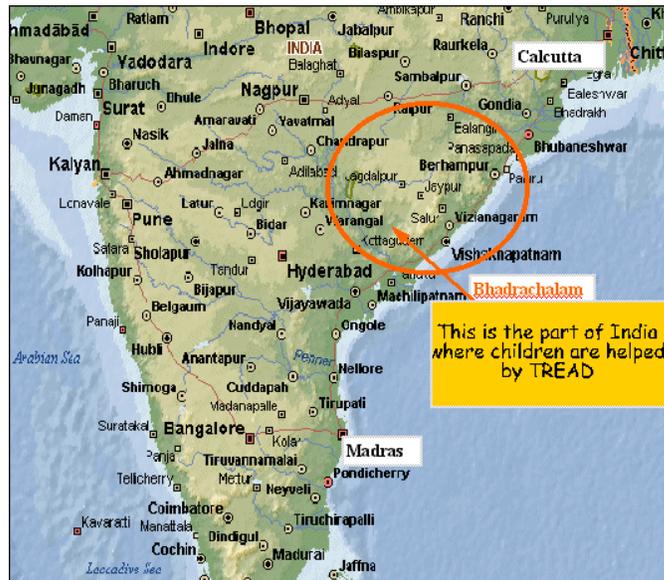


Friends of TREAD

in partnership with TREAD India Trust
Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development

....giving hope and a new future to needy Indian children

Annual Report 2010/11



Charity Registration Number: 1081400 **Inland Revenue Number:** XR 41597

Trustees: Amanda Burling, Colin Burling, Janet Crawford, Jerry Dart,
Timothy Overton, David Owen (Chair), Patricia Owen, Doug Robertson

Hon. Treasurer: Janet Crawford **Examiner of Accounts:** Martin Fletcher

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STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Friends of TREAD (*Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development*) was registered as a charity in July 2000 with five trustees who have appointed a further three trustees since then. Charity overheads are minimal as all work is carried out by the trustees and other supporters on a voluntary basis. Expenses incurred are costs of governance and generating funds including administration of the charity and since last year, the basic expenses for two trustees to visit TREAD India Trust each year.

OBJECTS AND AIMS

Friends of TREAD exists to further the work of TREAD India Trust by supporting various projects and has the following objects and aims:

- To relieve need, hardship and distress for people of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, S India
- To further the education of children and young people and to found new establishments for that purpose
- To found and maintain technical training and vocational institutes
- To provide financial assistance for children and young people upon leaving their place of study to prepare them for the workplace so that they are able to live independent lives
- To preserve and safeguard the health of persons of any age in AP and Orissa providing necessary medical aid and to found and maintain medical institutions.

PARTNER ORGANISATION AND PROJECTS

TREAD India Trust is a charity whose headquarters is based in Bhadrachalam, Andhra Pradesh in South India. Its founder and director was Dr M Sounder Raj who with his wife Ranjita had devoted his life to childcare; the charity's work is targeted at children, young people and their families. Since the untimely death of Sounder in December 2007, his wife has taken on the role of Director and continues the work of TREAD with support from their adult children and trustees. Although TREAD is based firmly on Christian foundations it seeks to help children of any religion, caste or creed and indeed two of its trustees are Hindu and Jain. Projects supported are:

CHILD DEVELOPMENT/ DAY CARE CENTRES

(to further education of children and young people)

These centres provide care before and after school for primary school children with meals, activities and homework supervision. The children are given clothes and school uniform and are taught self-discipline, personal hygiene and a work ethic which they pass on to family and peers. The children have vaccinations against common diseases and receive additional medical care when necessary. The local primary schools have been transformed with improved attendance rates and extra teachers provided by government.

- **Trinity Day Care Centre (TDCC), Kudunure, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Opened in 2000, up to 100 children attend this day care centre that is supported solely by funds raised by Friends of TREAD. It provides 6-day week care throughout the school year, 2 sets of new clothes a year and 2 nutritional meals a day. After children leave TDCC there is ongoing supervision of them. Coaching is given to help children with their exams and there are also holiday Bible schools. A special medical fund is in place to provide appropriate medical care when needed. Funds are largely provided by regular monthly/annual donations from supporters of Friends of TREAD and are topped up by one-off donations or fundraising events. **Sarah Child Development Centre, Podia, ORISSA** is

based on a 3.5 acre site purchased and developed through donations from Friends of TREAD. This centre is run in partnership with Compassion International's East India branch that pays for the running costs of the project, whilst Friends of TREAD takes responsibility for the costs of management and infrastructure. It opened in 2002 and now 271 children attend daily during school terms and it acts as the base for two more satellite centres in nearby villages run in partnership with Compassion:

- ❖ **Hannah CDC**, Dubathota which is in an isolated, poverty-stricken forestry tribal village. The centre opened in 2004 and it now cares for 212 children
- ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and currently 268 children attend

GRACE TAILORING CENTRE, Podia, ORISSA

(To found and maintain technical training and vocational institutes)

Opened in 2002, this project is mainly funded by Friends of TREAD although it does now generate a little income itself. It operates in a purpose built workshop on the Sarah site and runs 12-month courses for up to 20 needy tribal girls a year to give them a skill for life and independence. At the end of the course each girl receives the gift of a sewing machine. Friends of TREAD raises some of the costs through individuals sponsoring girls and the remainder from its general funds.

ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

(To relieve need, hardship and distress and further education)

This project provides care for orphans and semi-orphans and includes an educational assistance programme for education of promising students from poor families. It is funded exclusively by Friends of TREAD on a sponsorship basis. The youngsters live with a carer (who could be a relative or neighbour) or sometimes one surviving parent. If there is nobody to care for the child, he or she will be absorbed into the family of Ranji or one of the other trustees, whilst attending weekly boarding school/hostel nearby. There are currently 36 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES

Friends of TREAD is now in its eleventh year. Six of its trustees are based in Hastings and Bristol so many regular donors come from these areas. Two of the trustees are now based in France but keep in touch regularly through phone and email and attend the trustee meetings. The number of supporters has increased steadily each year; often people are attracted by word of mouth or through the website and get in touch with the trustees. Without the regular standing orders given so faithfully by many of its supporters, Friends of TREAD would be hard-pressed to continue its work. One-off donations are regularly received and are invaluable to "top-up" the projects or pay for some of the regular management and infrastructure costs incurred in India. These donations come from both individuals and organisations such as churches or schools. Many of these donations are eligible for Gift Aid to be reclaimed and this additional income has been very beneficial. We also receive donations from such website schemes as e-bay and easyfundraising and sometimes donations through Charity Aid Foundation, Virgin Money or Charity Choice. The trustees and many supporters are regularly involved in giving presentations to clubs or groups, holding fundraising events or taking part in sponsored activities. Some people prefer donations to be made to Friends of TREAD rather than receive gifts to mark special occasions, or to replace tributes of flowers at funerals of loved ones.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS

This year, TREAD celebrated its 10th anniversary and during the visit of FOT trustees in February, a special ceremony was held to mark the occasion. Other news and achievements include:

TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC)

- During this year, 91 children have been attending daily with all costs met by Friends of TREAD (FOT). The numbers have dropped slightly this year due to some families moving away, and this year TDCC will allow some older children to start at the centre, thus reflecting the changing needs of the community.
- The current building is an old house which FOT is considering replacing in future with a purpose built building to offer more space and better accommodation for the children. This year, FOT paid for the purchase of a nearby plot of land for this purpose. During their recent visit, FOT trustees noted that the new land is large enough not only for a building but also for play areas and vegetable plots. Fencing is needed to form boundaries and protect it from intruders.
- Last summer, dengue fever swept through South India. One of its victims was a valued member of TDCC staff, Sudha Rani, who died on her 26th birthday. She had been one of the TREAD's original orphans, living with the family since the age of 14, so this was a great blow to everyone. An annual prize will now be awarded at TDCC in memory of Sudha Rani. FOT paid for her medical bills and funeral expenses.

SARAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- This year funded by Friends of TREAD, a 2nd multi purpose hall was constructed to provide extra space for the growing youngsters.
- Terrorists continue to cause problems in surrounding areas, although the Sarah site has escaped personal attack. However, phone masts in the region have been blown up, creating continual difficulties for the centre with little or no telephone and internet access. Fortunately, a nearby mobile phone mast enables some calls, though the supply is somewhat erratic.

DAVID CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

FOT Trustees were happy to see this centre continues to deliver a good service to the children. No new building work has been necessary this year.

HANNAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

After three years of terrorist activity forcing the centre to be evacuated, the villagers were able to return last year and the political situation has stabilised. Our trustees noted that "the children here are well cared for and look healthy. The return to the site has been successful. A request for an additional multi-purpose hall has been made and we have suggested an integrated building to incorporate both the hall and the classrooms, thus increasing the use of the space."

GRACE TAILORING CENTRE

This project is now in its 10th year based in Daniel Cottage on the Sarah site and continues to deliver an excellent one year course. Sewing machines have been given to the girls who completed their course in October 2010. The centre continues to have a waiting list as there is always a need for village tailors. The girls are often able to marry out of the village and use their skills elsewhere. We were sad to hear of the death of one of the girls due to heart problems. Assistant Pappayamma married this year and left the centre; her place has now been taken by one of the original Grace Tailoring students. Friends of TREAD trustees visited 6 former girls who were

trained at the centre. They spoke in their homes of the benefits of the 12 month course and the gift of the sewing machine that was making a big difference to their lives, providing additional income.

ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

36 youngsters have continued to benefit from this project and FOT Trustees met many of them in February. We were happy to hear of the marriage of one of the girls, Shanthi Latha, during the year and her place has been taken by another youngster

MEDICAL NEWS

Owing to widespread disease this year that affected many in TREAD centres, FOT has sent out a small contingency fund to TREAD India Trust to be used at their discretion for any future medical emergencies with youngsters of TDCC or those on the orphaned assistance programme. Compassion E India take that responsibility for their partnered child centres

UK registered charity Love the One has been planning a partnership with TREAD India trust for some time to complement and add on to the existing work of TREAD India Trust with children and young people by providing Integrated Child Health Care. The objects of LTO are:

1. The promotion and protection of, and provision for, health.
2. The advancement of education and training in community and child health, and child care.
3. Addressing the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of children, including working through families and communities.
4. The advocacy and protection of children who are disadvantaged or vulnerable to exploitation or abuse

LTO will provide staff, training, equipment and medicines to treat the local children free of charge. Friends of TREAD, as partner to TREAD India Trust, will provide basic infrastructure of a clinic/office space and night residence for this work. Funded by Friends of TREAD, a building is being converted on the Sarah site to provide a first medical clinic. LTO paediatric doctors Mary Cusack and Catherine Morris are now on site to begin the work. This will include annual health checks on all the TREAD children and Acute Daily Clinics. They will also train local people to continue this work and eventually provide outreach care for other local villages. This first Sheep Shed Clinic will be a model for TREAD's David Child Development Centre and Hannah Child Development Centre where it is hoped to repeat the process over the next three years.

EURO NEWS

Friends of TREAD trustees now living in France have been pleasantly surprised at the interest shown by local residents who have helped raise some funds through events for Friends of TREAD during the year, making good use of the subsidiary euro bank account to facilitate donations.

FUTURE PLANS

The trustees of Friends of TREAD will continue to fund the development and maintenance of existing projects and sites according to requests and needs highlighted by TREAD India trust including the medical infrastructure as outlined above. FOT will also help TREAD India Trust develop its longer term management structure to better cope with the future expansion of its work and responsibilities.

FRIENDS OF TREAD FINANCIAL REPORT 2010/2011

1. Income

The income for the year, excluding legacies, was lower than the previous year (13%), but last year we had a large number of contributions to mark special events. There was also a decrease in Gift Aid recovery. We are very grateful for the donations that have been made this year in memory of loved ones. The regular individual donations remain consistent, which is very encouraging considering the current financial climate. The bank interest was greatly increased as a result of movement of funds into accounts bearing better interest rates.

2. Grants To TREAD India

The exceptional grants to TREAD India were for a number of projects:- Sarah project additional hall (£8334); purchase of land near TDCC (£7,500); provision of a reserve medical fund (£1,000) and initial costs of building and equipping clinic (£4,000). The regular grants continue, and these have been increased where necessary.

3. Governance Costs

The governance costs were higher than last year, but did include two years' payment for the website domain. We also agreed at the last AGM to fund the expenses for two trustees to visit the projects in India each year, rather than just one. We had also exhausted our supply of stamps previously purchased before the price increase. The governance costs amount to 4.3% of the income.

4. Fund Raising Events.

We had a well attended and enjoyable afternoon tea in the summer. Tricia and David have hosted a number of very successful events in France. The EasyFundraising website is proving to be extremely useful for raising funds at no additional cost to the purchaser. We are very grateful to Megan Vowles for her coffee morning and have had money donated through collection tins.

5. Reserve Funds and Bank Accounts

We have one reserve restricted fund for TDCC as a result of funds being provided to cover the costs over a period of time rather than being available for immediate use. During the year we opened a Notice Charity Deposit Account, which provides a better rate of interest for our short term investments, and a Euro Account so that funds can be deposited in France.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Alpha State Website Services
Church of the Good Shepherd, Bristol
In Memory of Roy Carter
Elaine and Jerry Dart's 25th Anniversary
Martin Fletcher
Easy Fundraising
Luc Fernandez, Filsham Road Convent
Hooe Baptist
NatWest Bank, Hastings
Panto Pals

In Memory of Morris Passley
Points of Light (e-bay)
A Ramesh
St Bart's, Bristol
St Bonaventure's Rainbows
St Michael's Church, Bristol
St Michael's Piglets
St Michael's Earlybirds
St Michael's Youth
Megan Vowles Coffee Morning

Friends of TREAD would also like to thank the many individuals who faithfully support the work of TREAD financially, practically and prayerfully – without your help this work could not continue.