



Friends of TREAD

Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development

In partnership with TREAD India Trust

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

FOT Trustees visit



Grace Tailoring students pay FOT trustees a visit in Bhadrachalam.

"In February Tim Overton and I flew to Hyderabad to represent the Trustees of FOT, this being an annual visit to our partners and projects in India. We were elated because on that same day Vasanth was confirmed as Director of TREAD India by Compassion E India, TREAD's partner in the Odisha State projects. Another initial highlight of our trip was the improved infrastructure, particularly in the area surrounding Hyderabad. What was once a tortuous 7 hour journey over potted road surfaces was now a smooth, tarmacked surface benefiting both vehicle and passengers. We arrived speedily and relaxed at Shiloh, TREAD HQ in Bhadrachalam -our base for ten days. Normally Trustees would spend less time here and travel into Odisha State to visit TREAD sites, David, Hannah and Sarah. But ongoing rebel activity in the region would have made our visit unsafe so we took police advice and stayed put. Instead the personnel from the three projects at some inconvenience to themselves came to visit us. Conversations and interaction with them enabled us to gain clear pictures of how the various projects were progressing. Eleven young women from the Grace Tailor project travelled to Shiloh in the company of Ranji and instructor Gajalashmi and proudly showed us some fine samples of their handcraft. Apart from the important skills they were developing they stated that they valued being part of a Christian community. Later in our stay, Vasanth with Compassion project accountants and managers joined us at Shiloh. He is growing into the role of Director and reported that Compassion are very positive about the organisation of these three projects - David, Hannah and Sarah. We could see that the managers and accountants had a very sound working relationship with Vasanth and had bought into the values of TREAD. During our stay we travelled on two occasions to

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TDCC in the company of Jayraj the manager. It's such a pleasure on these visits to mingle with the children and experience their joy and contentment. We heard that Maslow, a leading educationalist, came up with the Basic Needs to enable learning. TDCC further enables learning to take place at school by giving the children good quality food, teaching them to take pride in their appearance and giving them many opportunities to be creative and for play—our visit to the Primary and Secondary Schools later in the day confirmed this. Thanks to the success of TREAD's work, more school places have had to be found. On another 'away' day we visited Dornakal and nearby Khamman for meetings with other TREAD India trustees - Mr Ramesh Jain, Achsah and Mr Appa Rao who thanked us for travelling to India. We can only thank all the wonderful people we met and expressed our gratitude for the work they do, often in difficult circumstances, for such needy children. They have remained true to the vision of Sounder and their impact glorifies the Name of the Lord. "

Doug Robertson

Retired teacher and Trustee of Friends of TREAD

Trinity Day Care Centre

TDCC has just begun its new year after the summer and given all the children mosquito nets, funded by FOT, which we hope should decrease the cases of fever and malaria. 17 new children have joined TDCC in place of some who have now moved on. All the children are delighted with their new school supplies such as pens, notebooks, slates.



An English Medium School in the village would greatly benefit these children and also those in TREAD's other centres.

FCRA Registration

Every NGO and charity in India has to register with its Ministry of Home Affairs to receive a Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) number enabling Indian charities to receive funds from overseas. This Act was updated in 2010 and in the last year all charities have had to re-apply. TREAD India submitted its application earlier this year and we are delighted that it has just been granted. Compassion still await the outcome of their application so please think of them during this difficult time.

Sarah, David and Hannah Centres

TREAD India sends us regular updates of the activities run at all their projects, including these three child development centres sponsored by Compassion E India. FOT pays for infrastructure, management and building maintenance whilst Compassion has paid for the everyday running costs and runs activity programmes.

These activities are vital for the development and wellbeing of the children in these remote villages. They are supported and enabled to attend the local schools and offered extra training in practical craft workshops. The living conditions are primitive with poor domestic sanitation and unsafe water supplies. The provision of regular nutritional meals on our site prevents malnutrition. There is little or no medical or dental care locally so the dental and medical check up programmes enable identification and treatment of conditions. Regular dialogue with the parents ensures that the care is directed to the needs of the children.

Children at the three centres have benefited from these Compassion run programmes this summer.

Bible school for ages 3-12, **Awareness on World Malaria Day**, **Father's Day** celebration—enabling fathers to share ideas of paternal responsibilities and care, **Youth camps**, **Parents and Teachers' Meetings**—including one to discourage early marriage, **Handwriting and General Knowledge Competition**, **Story Writing and Telling**, **Self awareness** sessions on respect and good behaviour, **Games and Sports** days, **Drawing/Painting competition** exploring colour, **Dance and Drama**, **Awareness of Sunstroke**, **Bamboo Craft**, **Pickle Making**, **Coconut Broom making** class run by the cooks, **Vocational training in Electrics; Vocational Computer** classes—popular with children who would otherwise have no access to this technology and 11 youngsters are doing a one-year **Post Graduate Diploma in Computers**. Some children took part in a **one month music workshop** in Odisha. Those children who are musically gifted will continue with practice and study of music theory. A **health screening for boarders** was held and 63 children had medical checkups. Various medical needs were highlighted and are being addressed - including 4 cases of malaria—and a **Dental checkup Camp** was held for 3 days in April where the children were also instructed in teeth hygiene.

Some older youngsters took an **Educational trip** to Indrabathi Waterfalls, a major tourist attraction and trade and commercial centre for tribal culture—for many youngsters, it was their first trip away from their village.

A special **income generating initiative for families of Highly Vulnerable Children** has proved successful. Some receive cows, some small retail shops, some have started to sell chickens or vegetables.

David Centre—many of the children now attend secondary school elsewhere as boarders as the village has no school. So TREAD works with them and their families, visiting them in their place of study in term time and running special programmes for them and their parents.

Motor Vehicle Needed!

Vasanth, Director of TREAD India lives on the Sarah site and is in urgent need of a vehicle to visit sponsored children studying in colleges, transport children in medical emergencies and attend meetings with Compassion. Hire vehicles are scarce and very expensive. A heavy duty Mahindra suitable for local roads costs approx £11000.

You may remember Mounika (centre) a former TDCC student and now tutor who had serious heart problems. She is seen here with her TDCC friends/tutors Medi Mounica and Siddi Achsana—she is now much improved after her treatment through Love the One and attends college regularly.

Mounika Update



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HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

People often ask us how they can help support the work in India.

This month we are focusing on using the internet.

Have a look at our Facebook page—just type in Friends of TREAD—and then share our page with your friends.

If you copy the link below and make it your homepage, each time you use a search engine you raise money for Friends of TREAD.

It doesn't cost you a thing but donations to us add up!

<http://tread.easysearch.org.uk>

If you do any shopping on the internet—anything from your weekly groceries to buying flights or insurance, try

easyfundraising.org.uk

who provide a FREE fundraising service. Every time you shop online using all your favourite retail outlets you raise funds for Friends of TREAD and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Jeremy and Suzanne Cross

The seeds of TREAD were sown with a mission team visit to the area in 1993 under the leadership of Rev Jeremy. We met the future TREAD family at this time. He has since retired to France with his wife Suzanne and they recently celebrated their Golden Wedding and have kindly asked friends and family to donate to TREAD in lieu of presents. Our congratulations and thanks go to them.

Jayraj the English Teacher

Jayraj manager/qualified teacher at TDCC ran a successful one month residential English language course in May at Shiloh our HQ in Bhadrachalam for 20 students from Hannah CDC. He was assisted by two tutors and a cook from the centre to help Sumanth and Saroja with the two 2hr sessions a day. The English language is increasingly important in the modern world of IT, science and communications and the development of English Medium Schools is becoming an educational priority for parents in India.