

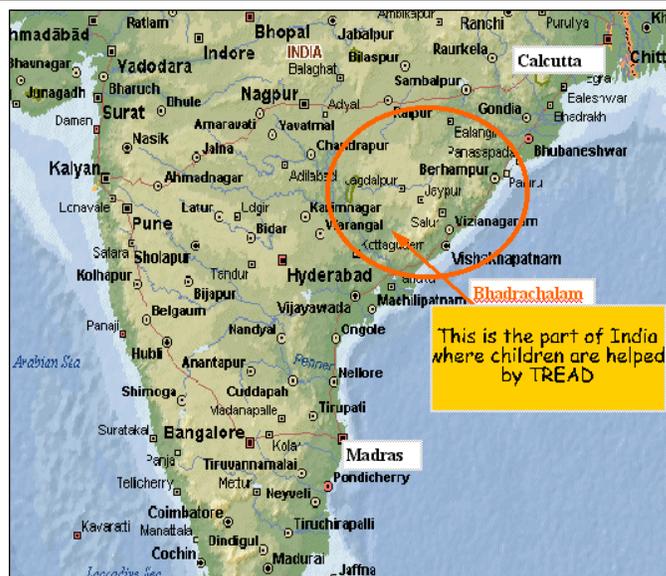


Friends of TREAD

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

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

Annual Report 2015/16



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

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

Hon. Treasurer: Janet Crawford

Examiner of Accounts: Martin Fletcher

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Friends of TREAD (*Trinity Rural Educational Association for Development*) was registered as a trust in July 2000 with five trustees who have since appointed a further four trustees. 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 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 Telengana (formerly part of ANDHRA PRADESH) and Odisha (formerly 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 these regions 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, Telangana (formerly ANDHRA PRADESH) in South India. 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. 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. After Sounder's death in December 2007, his wife continued the work of TREAD until her retirement when she was succeeded by their younger son Vasanth as Director of TREAD India Trust. Having worked for TREAD India trust for some years coordinating TREAD's work in ODISHA and surrounding areas with partner Compassion International Vasanth has the necessary experience and understanding to take on this new role. His wife Annie, formerly employed by Compassion as Manager of the Sarah Centre, is well placed to support her husband in his work as well as oversee the Grace Tailoring Centre.

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 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, TELENGANA**

Opened in 2000, around 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 for 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, ODISHA 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, 276 children now 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 281 children
 - ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and currently 206 children attend.

GRACE TAILORING CENTRE, Podia, ODISHA

(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, one of the TREAD trustees will take responsibility for him/her, whilst the child attends weekly boarding school/hostel nearby. There are currently 28 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES

Friends of TREAD is now in its sixteenth year. Six of its trustees are based in Hastings and Bristol so many regular donors come from these areas. One trustee lives in Nottingham and two trustees are based in France but keep in touch regularly through phone and email and attend the trustee meetings. The number of supporters continues to increase steadily; often people are attracted by word of mouth or through the website or Facebook page 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 and Virgin Money. 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

GOVERNANCE OF TREAD INDIA TRUST AND FOT

Vasanth Mentam Raj was appointed as Director of TREAD India Trust in 2014. The Trustees and Management Committee of TREAD India Trust continue to meet regularly with Vasanth to discuss progress and new plans and their meetings are minuted and copied to Friends of TREAD Trustees. FOT Trustees meet twice yearly and correspond regularly between themselves and TREAD India Trust. Money for projects is sent quarterly to India along with any one-off grants for any items or needs that have been requested by TIT and approved by FOT.

Although Vasanth was officially appointed Director of TREAD India Trust in 2014, he had to serve a probationary period with partner Compassion International to comply with their policies. In February 2016, just before Friends of TREAD's trustee visit, his post was finally approved and confirmed by Compassion and he attended his first director's meeting shortly afterwards. We are delighted that this has now been finalised and that TREAD India's projects sponsored by Compassion continue to meet the high standards required.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A report from our trustees' recent visit states that "India continues to improve its infrastructure rapidly. The roads we used are now comparable with English roads reducing journey times significantly. A large reservoir is being constructed on the Godaveri down river from Bhadrachalem. This will flood a large number of villages including Chintur and the Kunavarem road. A replacement road will be constructed from the Bhadrachalem to Kudunuru road. This new road will go through Chattisgar and cross the River Sabari on a new bridge (which is under construction) about four kilometres from Podia. The road from Podia to Malkangiri has been relaid and reducing that journey to about an hour. All this will make it much easier to get from one site to another. There is apparently even talk of building a new regional airport at Kotagudem."

TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC) Kudunure, Telengana

During this year FOT were able to fund the purchase of a new motorbike for the manager which has been much appreciated.

FOT trustees recently spent a complete day and two half days in this centre and reported that:

"The building is now in good condition, well painted and a much nicer place to be than it has been on some previous visits. There is no standing water and the back wall has been carefully positioned to allow for the construction of an adequate drain when the lane along the back of the site is concreted. The playground equipment is in reasonable condition though some repair is needed on the slide and it could do with repainting. The nearby field is well fenced as is normal in India. It is well placed as a potential building site if at a future date we should find it surplus to requirements. The village continues to develop with more shops. We visited the two schools - it is very encouraging to think that there are now two schools in Kudunuru largely as a consequence of TIT's presence. The tenth standard children are receiving extra tuition from the headmistress in preparation for their exams in March. Children now only have the second Saturday of the month off from school. Jayraj, the manager of TDCC, has a good rapport with the children and the villagers. He sees a continuing need for TDCC but accepts that due to increased spending by the government there is unlikely to be much demand from the surrounding villages. The children are well, happy and doing well at school. The average daily attendance is between 85 and 103."

COMPASSION AIDED PROJECTS

Due to continued rebel activities in the whole region, FOT trustees were still unable to visit the three Compassion aided sites in Odisha and the surrounding area. Instead they were visited in Bhadrachalam

by the managers and accountants from the three projects - Sarah, Hannah and David Child Development and our trustees reported that "They seem to be in control of what they are doing and Compassion are happy with them. There is clearly a close working relationship between them and Vasanth."

During this year FOT has funded the purchase of a new generator and electrical rewiring at the David Centre. Money was sent for Sarah site sanitation work as well as to pay for electrical wiring for computers on that site which were provided by Compassion International.

ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

There are 30 youngsters supported by this project and all but two of them met our FOT trustees during their visit in February this year. FOT trustees reported that they all appeared well and smartly presented and really enjoyed their time together. These youngsters are spread out geographically so it isn't easy to coordinate communications with them and their sponsors. However letters will be sent twice a year from the youngsters to their sponsors. FOT plans to revise its introductory document to sponsors to clarify the realities of Indian culture.

GRACE TAILORING CENTRE

This project is now in its 15th year based in Daniel Cottage on the Sarah site and continues to deliver an excellent one year course this year to 17 students. Our FOT trustees reported "The eleven Grace girls who board at Sarah site came over to Shiloh (TREAD HQ in Bhadrachalam), and we had an enjoyable time looking at their sewing. They come from villages up to 60k away from Podia. For the first time, there are three married girls with children in this year's contingent. When asked, the girls said that among other things they particularly valued being part of a Christian community and were learning about the importance of punctuality. Some of these girls are very bright, two in particular never attended school and have taught themselves to read and write. Ranji (retired Director of TREAD India trust) spends much of her time with them and they clearly have a great love for her. The instructor, Gajalashmi, was one of the students from Grace's first ever course and is clearly doing a very good job."

FUTURE PLANS/REQUESTS

- **New water supply** at David Child Development centre - Vasanth has negotiated with a neighbouring farmer to have water pumped from the river through a buried pipe to a cistern on site to deal with the serious water problem. This is very urgent as there is not enough water coming out of the existing boreholes to supply the children in the summer holiday.
- **Satellite internet connections** are needed at all Compassion sites and Vasanth wants to start at the Sarah site. His research so far suggests a cost of about £800 plus running costs per site.
- Vasanth would like to run **day camps** in Christian villages near Kudunuru who had previously asked Sounder for help.
- There is an **urgent need for a second TREAD** vehicle to be based in Podia to serve all the Compassion sites. The original TREAD vehicle based at HQ in Bhadrachalam is now ten years old and will need replacing at some time.
- **Hannah site** still needs a fence built along the bottom boundary.
- **FOT plans a second visit** this autumn with some supporters to run some workshops and have some input with the TREAD staff and the children.

FOT FINANCIAL REPORT 2015/16

The Statement of Financial Activities for 2016 has been presented in accordance with the new regulations from the Charities Commission.

1. Voluntary Income

The individual giving showed an increase of 6% and the Gift Aid Recovery an increase of 4%. Donations from schools and churches were greatly reduced but this was partly an issue of timing of donations. We were very grateful to receive a donation of £3,000 from the Orr Mackintosh Foundation as part of their Share Giving scheme.

2. Grants To Tread India.

The grant to Tread India for the Grace Tailoring Project was reduced as they had a smaller number of trainees. This therefore resulted in a smaller grant for sewing machines for the leavers. This year's intake has increased to 17, which is encouraging. We had some orphans leave the programme during the year but have recently accepted two new children onto the scheme. The TDCC project costs were similar to last year. We purchased a new motorbike for Jayraj. The Compassion centres' maintenance costs were the same as last year. At the David Centre we were able to provide funding for a new generator and some rewiring. At the Sarah Centre we supported the improvement to the toilets and sewerage system and provided the funds for the necessary wiring for the computers which had been supplied by Compassion.

3. Governance Costs.

During the year we purchased an upgrade to the accounts package to facilitate compliance with the new Charity Commission Regulations. There was also an increase in the cost of stamps. In February 2016 two of the FOT trustees made a visit to TREAD India at a cost of £1,400.

4. Fundraising Events

In April Mandy and Colin Burling hosted an open day in their home which raised £135. The afternoon tea in September was very successful (and it didn't rain!). Including personal donations and gift aid it raised an amazing £2,483.56 - our best yet. Hastings Lions again donated £350 in thanks for Colin's organisation of the Hastings Half Marathon Park and Walk. Easyfundraising brought in another £98.

We are grateful to a number of individuals and organisations:-

Alpha State Website Services; Association Les Maines Ouvertes, France; St Bart's, Bristol; St Bonaventures' Rainbows, Bristol; Martin Fletcher; Hastings Lions; St Leonards and St Ethelburga PCC, St Leonards on Sea, St Michael's Church, Bristol; St Michael's Piglets; Orr Mackintosh Foundation.

5. Reserved Funds and Bank Accounts

There are two reserve funds - TDCC where money has been given in advance for use in future years and an orphans' fund where some sponsors donate extra each month but TIT would prefer we keep it in the UK and send it when a need arises. We have funds deposited in the Scottish Widows Bank, the NatWest Bank and in Virgin Money.