

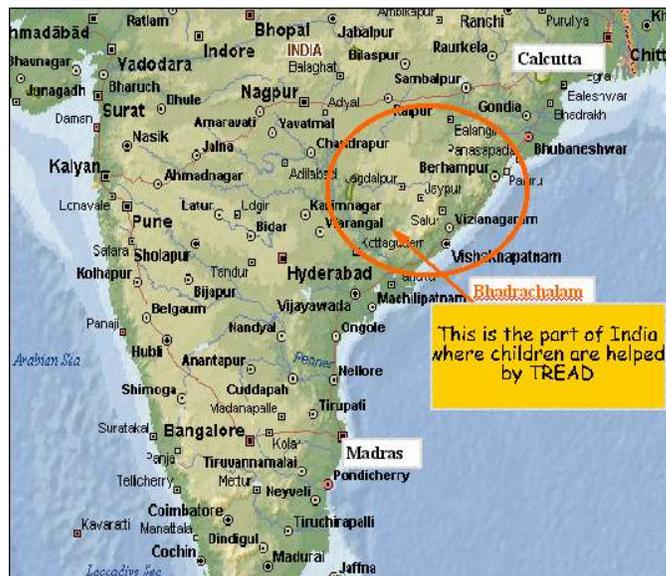


# Friends of TREAD

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

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

## Annual Report 2014/15



**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 last year when she was succeeded by their younger son Vasanth as Director of TREAD India Trust. Vasanth had worked for TREAD India trust for some years coordinating TREAD's work in ODISHA and surrounding areas with partner Compassion International so has the necessary experience and understanding to take on this new role. His wife Annie was formerly employed by Compassion as Manager of the Sarah Centre, so is able 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 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, 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, 255 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 250 children
  - ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and currently 242 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 33 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

## **FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES**

Friends of TREAD is now in its fifteenth 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 has increased steadily each year; often people are attracted by word of mouth or through the website or our new Facebook page (we now have over 80 followers) 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.

This year has been the first one for Vasanth in his role as Director of TREAD India trust and we had expected him to take some time to settle in. In line with Compassion International's policies, he has had to serve a probationary period with them before they can officially accept this new leadership but now all the paperwork has been submitted and he is expected to have this final clearance in time for the start of Compassion's financial year in July 2015. In addition to his new role, Vasanth has personally had a difficult and disruptive year, missing the input from his wife Annie who had to move to her mother's home some distance away in order to access the medical supervision that was necessary during a difficult pregnancy. The early unexpected delivery of their premature baby Rachel in January then resulted in him travelling extensively whilst at the same time he had to support his accountant and friend at the Sarah Centre whose young sister tragically died in an accident at home.

### **TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC) Kudunure, Telengana**

- During their visit to TDCC last year, trustees of FOT discussed with TDCC manager Jayraj ways in which the centre could outreach to nearby villages. Following this discussion, Jayraj started to make weekly visits to build relationships with the children and elders of nearby tribal village Botugudem. There are three different tribes in Botugudem and most of the adults are illiterate. The children already attend school in Kudunure and were very keen to join TDCC. In Summer 2014, FOT willingly agreed to increase the number of supported children at the centre from 100 to 116 to include 31 of these tribal youngsters. The village is situated 1 km from Kudunure and the children walk to TDCC daily, arriving on time each day.
- For some time, Jayraj has been asking FOT for funds to build a boundary wall at the rear of the centre to keep out neighbouring cattle and to improve safety at the centre. Thanks to the generous donation from a FOT supporter in memory of his wife, this wall has now been built. Jayraj managed to raise funds locally to pay for the large metal entrance gates.
- The plot of land nearby which was bought a few years ago for future development of TDCC is currently used for games and play activities. Previously purchased metal gates have now been erected at the entrance to safeguard the land from intruders.
- The youngster from TDCC who had a heart operation last year continues to call in to TDCC each day and has meals there. She recently had a checkup at hospital where the doctor adjusted her medication. She will continue to be monitored and it is likely that she may have to have more treatment in the future.

## **COMPASSION AIDED PROJECTS**

The Compassion International projects at Sarah, David and Hannah centres continue to go from strength to strength thanks to the input of the dedicated TREAD staff. All TREAD projects are highly thought of by Compassion officers. TREAD are always invited to attend regional conferences where their centres are used as examples of good working models. Compassion International continually monitor their own projects, responding to feedback and changing needs of the youngsters by introducing new programmes.

### **Sarah Child Development Centre**

- With input from one of FOT trustees, Vasanth has been exploring the best method of updating the toilets on this site. There is ongoing research to decide on the most ecological and sustainable method and once resolved, the work is expected to begin shortly.
- The biggest problem in the TREAD projects in this area is lack of internet and phone, since activists destroyed the communication system a few years ago. Vasanth is trying to get a new landline connected at the Sarah site now that these difficulties have died down.

### **Hannah Child Development Centre**

- The main reason why work originally halted on building the new hall is that TREAD couldn't get labourers to come to this village as they are afraid of the local political activists. The activists themselves aren't forbidding construction work apart from refusing a boundary wall to be built which would inhibit their access across the land. The political unrest continues and correspondence on the subject is necessarily limited; however we have been told that the local people are still intent on continuing the building work.
- The children at this centre are tough and resilient and some of the best achievers in the TREAD/Compassion projects. Compassion continue adding to their numbers and another 40 children have been selected to join the centre in the next few months bringing the total there to just under 300!

### **David Child Development Centre**

- FOT had raised funds to pay for a much needed generator. However the company who supplied the generator at the Sarah site haven't provided a good after sales service so TREAD India have been deciding on the best source and model for this site. A decision has now been reached and the money will be sent from FOT in the first draft of the new financial year in April 2015.

## **ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

One of the girls on this programme left during the year to get married. She is now living with her husband's family and has continued her education with support from them. The couple are now expecting their first child. There are 33 remaining youngsters supported by this project.

## **GRACE TAILORING CENTRE**

This project is now in its 14th year based in Daniel Cottage on the Sarah site and continues to deliver an excellent one year course. The last course finished in summer 2014 and all the girls were delighted with their training and gift of a sewing machine each. There are a number of girls on the courses who come from further afield and are boarders at Grace whilst local girls often marry out of the village and use their skills elsewhere. Not only are they trained as tailors, but the students are also encouraged by TREAD staff to further their general education and learn cooking and gardening skills as well. The new course that began this year has only 12 students as many of the 25 applicants didn't arrive for one reason or another. However TREAD India trust assure us that there is still a need for this training and places are always offered to leavers from the Compassion aided child development centres who haven't passed their 10<sup>th</sup> year exams. Last summer all the girls passed these exams so there were no places needed by them at Grace.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

With such a busy settling-in year for Vasanth, FOT Trustees have put their visit on hold until early 2016.

The Trustees hope that the political situation will allow them to travel once again to Odisha to visit the Compassion aided projects and the Grace Tailoring project and discuss future plans with TREAD Trustees. These may include using the medical clinic at the Sarah site for antenatal care with outreach to other villages. We shall also discuss the provision of more suitable boarding accommodation for the Grace Tailoring students with a built in kitchen to learn cookery.

## FOT FINANCIAL REPORT 2014/15

### 1. Voluntary Income

Excluding exceptional items the income and Gift Aid for the year was very similar to the previous year. The regular individual donations remain consistent, which is very encouraging considering the current financial climate. As a result of the movement of some reserves to a Virgin Money Charity account we saw an increase in the amount of bank interest received.

### 2. Grants To Tread India.

The regular cost of supporting the projects was similar to the previous year with the exception of the Grace Tailoring project. As mentioned in the Annual Report there were only 12 Grace girls for part of this year. As a result some money will be available for the next financial year when the project should be fully subscribed. The exceptional expenditure during the year was for the bore well, the wall at TDCC and the repairs to the Hannah roof. Tread India Trust purchased a screen and projector from the library fund and we sent £1,000 to replenish the Medical Reserve Fund.

### 3. Governance Costs.

The cost of administration this year was minimal as the trustees visit in 2014 was late March and therefore in the previous year's accounts.

### 4. Fundraising Events

The afternoon tea at St Leonard's was very successful, despite the weather (again!), raising £339 from general donations and £788 from individual gift aided donations giving a total of £1,127. Easyfunding continues to be a good source of income.

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

Hastings Lions for a donation from the Hastings Half Marathon, with thanks for Colin Burling for organising the local park and walk scheme.

Thanks also go to Alpha State Website Services; Association Les Mains Ouvertes, France; Martin Fletcher; St Bart's, Bristol; St Bonaventure's Rainbows; St Leonard and St Ethelburga PCC, St Leonards on Sea; St Michael's Church, Bristol and St Michael's Piglets.

### 5. Reserved Funds and Bank Accounts

There are now three reserve funds - TDCC where money has been given in advance for use in future years, a reserve for medical needs 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 and in Virgin Money.