

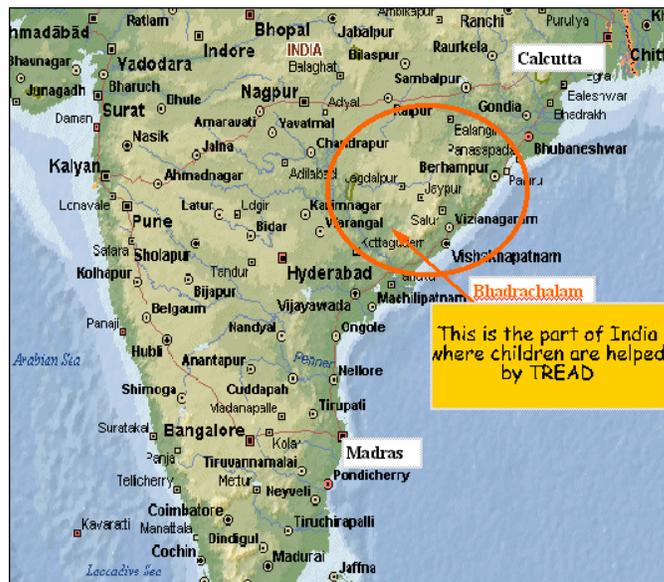


Friends of TREAD

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

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

Annual Report 2012/13



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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STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

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 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 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, 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, 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, 273 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 303 children
 - ❖ **David CDC**, Girkinpalli opened in November 2005 and currently 263 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 33 youngsters benefiting from this project, two of whom are severely disabled.

FRIENDS OF TREAD ACTIVITIES

Friends of TREAD is now in its thirteenth year. Seven 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

GOVERNANCE OF TREAD INDIA TRUST AND FOT

FOT are continuing to help TREAD India Trust develop its longer term management structure as they prepare for the retirement next year of Director Ranjitha Mentam Raj. Her younger son Vasanth who currently co-ordinates TREAD's work in Orissa with Compassion International will take over the post of Director of TREAD India Trust in March 2014. One of FOT's trustees will be in close contact with him this year, mentoring him as he trains and prepares for his new role.

We were saddened and shocked to hear of the illness and demise last year of one of the key members of TREAD's staff, Lalitha. She was part of the original TREAD family of orphans who then went on to play a key role in TREAD's development. The costs for her treatment were met by the generosity of FOT supporters but this highlighted the need to put in place sensible medical insurance policies to cover TREAD staff in the future.

FOT was pleased to welcome another member to our Board of Trustees - Mr Clive Daniels. He is a long-term supporter of FOT and visited TREAD India projects some years ago.

TRINITY DAY CARE CENTRE (TDCC)

- During this year, 105 children have been attending daily with all costs met by Friends of TREAD (FOT).
- There has been a longterm problem with the roof which leaks; FOT are working closely with TIT and local builders to ensure that the roof is properly repaired.
- The additional land which has now been properly fenced off is to be used for crops until it is developed for further building.
- Former TDCC students met FOT trustees during their last visit and confirmed the value of the input they had received from TREAD during their time there.
- The children continue to perform well academically and in their cultural activities

SARAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- This Compassion International project continues to go from strength to strength thanks to the input of the dedicated TREAD staff. Youngsters there do well in their school exams, and many of them attend Leadership Development Programmes organised by Compassion. Counseling and career guidance sessions are organized by TIT staff for the older children. TREAD encourage traditional dance, music and drama and at the last Christmas celebration the children were complimented by visiting guests of honour on their excellent performances and invited to perform elsewhere.

DAVID CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- Similar programmes run by Compassion have taken place at this centre, with career advice, Leadership Development programmes, cultural activities and celebrations and as with the other centres, a picnic outing.

HANNAH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- Threats from rebels have prevented the new hall from being finished but TREAD is hopeful that the problems will soon be resolved and the building finally finished and put to use.
- Despite ongoing problems with rebel unrest, the children in this centre continue to excel in sport, school exams and cultural activities. They were also invited with children from the other centres to perform their Christmas celebrations to over 1000 people.

GRACE TAILORING CENTRE

This project is now in its 12th year based in Daniel Cottage on the Sarah site and continues to deliver an excellent one year course. This year some of the students visited girls in other local villages to promote the benefits of the course. The girls are often able to 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 this year eleven trainees have decided to re-sit their national 10th year exams.

ORPHANED ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Two of the youngsters on this programme have married this year and left the programme. One severely handicapped youngster has now returned to a local school thanks to intervention from FOT who will pay the extra costs involved.

The Orphan Programme was FOT's first project and has helped 58 children past and present. Last October, FOT trustees met 30 of the youngsters from this project. Five young people, who have been on this programme for some time, gave testimony to its great effect with their maturity, courtesy and readiness to face the world. They have all either started or plan to go into areas of further education including Lab tech training at the hospital, medicine and police college. FOT trustees were moved by these youngsters as they related the benefits of the Orphaned Assistance programme and some of the huge difficulties that they have overcome in their lives.

MEDICAL CLINIC AND PARTNERSHIP WITH LOVE THE ONE

The state of Orissa authorities have now forbidden foreigners to visit since rebel activists kidnapped two Europeans last year. English doctors from TREAD's partner organisation Love the One had to make a hasty retreat to Hyderabad last April, initially leaving a skeleton staff in the medical clinic on the Sarah site in Podia. In July a storm hit the region causing widespread damage to all buildings on the site and taking the roof off the clinic which then had to close. The roof is being repaired and the building will provide extra much-needed accommodation for some of the Grace Tailoring students, until such time as it can be used again as a medical clinic. Meantime the partnership continues between LTO and TREAD, albeit at a distance. The doctors have arranged for several children with serious health problems from Podia to be sent to them in Hyderabad to access operations and treatment and they are in contact with TREAD staff in an advisory capacity.

FUTURE PLANS

- In the coming year, the trustees of Friends of TREAD will continue working with TREAD India Trust as it prepares for a change of director and restructures its management.
- We shall be considering with TREAD India and LTO ways to continue providing long-term, sustainable medical services in Orissa.
- With the addition of another trustee, FOT plan to reflect again on the short and long-term vision of FOT and TREAD India Trust.

Friends of TREAD would 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.

FOT FINANCIAL REPORT 2012/2013

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. Bank interest was decreased as our balance was much reduced following last year's capital expenditure. There have also been two reductions in the interest rate.

2. Grants To Tread India.

During the year we made a recommendation to the TIT Board of Trustees that they should review their management structure and salary scales to reflect the changes that have been made to the way that TREAD functions. As a result of this a portion of the Director's salary was reallocated directly to the projects.

The final payment for the new Hannah Hall was sent as well as the money for the repair of the clinic roof.

One of the original TREAD orphans, Lalitha, became seriously ill during the year and needed urgent medical support. We are deeply grateful to those supporters who gave a great deal of money at very short notice to allow access to the care she needed. Sadly she did not recover and died in a hospice.

3. Governance Costs.

These were as expected this year and amount to 4.5% of income. Last year's costs were exceptional as the expenses for the yearly trustees' trip were not claimed.

4. Fundraising Events

The afternoon tea at St Leonard's was our most successful to date, raising £1310. 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 ride scheme, Therese and Mark Jenkins for donations in lieu of wedding gifts, Caroline Ludlow Jones for her tea party in Bristol, Clifton College Bristol, Janey Mackness, Alex Dart and James Dart for their sponsorship through Virgin Money. Thanks too to Alpha State Website Services, Association Les Mains Ouvertes, Church of the Good Shepherd, Bristol, Hooe Baptist Church, Martin Fletcher, Nick Warren, NatWest Bank, Hastings, Sandhurst Church, St Bart's, Bristol, St Bonaventure's Rainbows, St Leonard and St Ethelburga, St Leonards on Sea, St Michael's Church, Bristol, St Michael's Piglets, Terry Dawe in memory of M Barker and A Dawe, University of West England

5. Reserved Funds and Bank Accounts

There are now two reserve funds - TDCC where money has been given in advance for use in future years; and orphans 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 reserve funds in the Scottish Widows Bank.