



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

Summer News 2013

Summer arrives in India!

After a very poor start to summer in UK, we may be tempted to complain but read on....

Most schools in South India only open half days as temperatures soar from mid March to the last week of April when they break up for holidays. Schools reopen in mid June. Monsoons begin in June and whilst welcome, can bring their own problems with rivers overflowing. This year has been an exceptionally hot one and has presented the TREAD staff with difficulties that we can only imagine. The annual outing to Hyderabad for Grace and TDCC students has been postponed to this autumn. Below are some of the daily problems encountered:

Trinity Day Care Centre

Kudunure Andhra Pradesh

This day care centre for children is facing a lot of problems with water and electricity. There are power cuts from 6am to 6pm each day which affects the water supply. Water is stored in drums for drinking, cooking and washing and used when the electricity power is off but isn't enough for the needs of the centre. The water level in the ground has also decreased. Hepsi tells us that it takes an hour to fill 3 drums of water!

During April, rasna juice was served to the children providing necessary glucose in the hot weather. As school and TDCC shut for the summer on April 24th we were asked to pray for protection from sunstroke and dehydration for the children as they travel to visit relatives and work in the chilli fields during "this terrible summer".

Sarah & David centres

Orissa

Sarah and David Child Development Centres in Orissa are also suffering from a shortage of water mainly due to the low voltage of power in the villages. Both sites are struggling with only 110 volts of electricity whereas 220 volts is needed just to supply basic electrical needs and power for the water pump motor to work. Sarah centre has a new tank with 8000 litres of water but that needs electricity to access. The girls are having to carry buckets of water from the handpump for cooking and washing. After 10 to 15 buckets of water are pumped by hand (in 45 degrees of heat upwards) they have to wait for over an hour before more water is available. Some of the men have had to go by bike to nearby towns to get drinking water to supplement the need. The cooks on both sites are bringing water from pumps outside the campus to cook for the children.

So how does FOT help?

Poor electricity and water supplies are a major problem so last month Friends of TREAD received an urgent request from TREAD India for 2 new generators for Sarah and David sites and a hand pump and borewell for Trinity Day Care Centre. Generators cost almost £3000 each and we are waiting for estimated costs of borewell and handpump. Costs like these must come out of FOT general funds which always need to be topped up. We are always so grateful to faithful supporters

Hannah Centre

Dubatota

Compassion have added 25 new children to Hannah Child Development Centre—all very small and very excited to join!

On World TB Day, the children and staff joined the local rally run by local government to promote awareness of this disease which is so common in this region. Many children have lost a parent to tuberculosis.

During the summer many of the children will accompany parents and siblings to gather local forest products so we are asked to pray for their protection from the sun and from poisonous snake and insect bites.

Other News

Since founder and director of TREAD India Dr Sounder Raj died over 5 years ago, his widow Ranji has faithfully continued his work. She is held in high esteem by local folk, children and officers of Compassion International alike. She is now looking forward to retirement next spring and FOT is delighted that her successor will be younger son



Vasanth, currently coordinating TREAD operations in Orissa. He has spent most of his adult life in Podia and along with wife Annie works closely with Compassion at the Sarah, David and Hannah centres. He will spend this year

working alongside his mother and attending meetings with her. FOT will pay for him to enrol on suitable training courses. FOT trustee Doug is mentoring him during this year and hopes to visit Vasanth this autumn.

Grace Tailoring Centre

Podia, Orissa

This one-year training course for disadvantaged young women and teenage girls continues to attract new candidates. This year all 20 students are regular attendees and 11 of them were so encouraged by TREAD teaching earlier this year that they re-sat their 10th school year exams, sadly they didn't pass this time but we hope they might try again. One student has become a Christian and during an all-night prayer session in Lent shared an inspiring testimony of miracles of healing to her family in the last few months. In April, the Grace students visited local villagers to tell them about the Grace Tailoring course and the benefits it offers.



Home alone while his parents work in the fields.

TREAD sent us this photo recently which highlights why TREAD is needed to help children and families like this.

How can you help us?

STOP PRESS: We urgently need to raise funds for 2 generators, borewell and handpump (see overleaf)

People often ask us how they can help support the work in India. Here are some suggestions:

- Pass on this newsletter to your colleagues and friends.
- Have a one-off lunch or coffee morning for FOT
- Set up a sponsored event—we are registered with Virgin Moneygiving which makes this so simple
- If you belong to a sports or leisure group, see if they would jointly sponsor a TDCC child or Grace student—we STILL need more sponsors
- Ask your teens and twenties kids to look at and comment on Friends of TREAD website and "like" Facebook page—we welcome constructive comments or suggestions!
- Support Friends of TREAD when you shop online easyfundraising.org.uk

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

- Change your search engine to <http://tread.easysearch.org.uk> and raise funds for FOT each time you search on the internet.



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Building works

Following the cyclone last autumn, necessary repairs have been in progress to the clinic building on the Sarah site which had to close last year due to local security issues. In the meantime, this building will be used to provide extra accommodation for the Grace Tailoring students who board here. The roof has undergone extensive repairs in the hope that it will be more resistant in future to the terrible storms that afflict this region. Trinity Day Care centre is still based in its original building in Kudunure village and has always had problems with the roof despite previous repair. Now with input from FOT trustee Jerry and a local structural engineer the roof repairs are done and so far have stood up to the extreme weather conditions. Once the monsoons have finished, the inside walls will be repainted.

Meantime TDCC manager Jayraj is seeking government permission to drill a borehole and will provide FOT with estimated costs. This would overcome the constant lack of water supply at this centre and ensure that the centre always has sufficient safe water for its needs. If operated by a handpump it will not be affected by electrical power cuts.

Congratulations!

In UK we have GCSEs and A'level results coming in, whilst in India as the new term begins the results of the 10th Grade exams have arrived. Unless you pass this exam you are unable to access any further education in India so they are crucial.

TREAD offers facilities for homework to be done and extra tutorial support to all the youngsters of their child development centres to help prepare for these exams. So we are delighted to report the following results:

Trinity Day care centre—all 9 youngsters passed!
Sarah Child Dev't centre - 25 out of 28 passed
Hannah CDC—4 out of 5 passed
David CDC—8 out of 11 passed

Well done to all the pupils and



Ravi with grandma and TDCC manager

Ravi is one of TREAD's more seriously handicapped youngsters. He lives with his grandmother but had dropped out of school as she had to go to work. FOT has now arranged for Ravi to return to school and enabled Grandma to give up work to care for him.