

LITDS, KDPETA

Jesuits of Andhra Pradesh volunteered to serve the tribes of Visakha agency area in collaboration with the Sisters of St. Ann's of Luzerne in September 2003. The team chose to serve the tribes of Koyyuru Mandal of Visakha agency area and settled down at KD Peta, a village near Narsipatnam of Visakhapatnam District. It is a rustic area. It is a very backward village, 110 kilometers away from Visakhapatnam city. It is a poor rural area; all other villages and hamlets around are under developed and unreachable. The poor are dwelling in small mud made and palm leaves used thatched huts. Tribes are engaged in daily wage work in agricultural lands. Some of them go into forest to collect the forest produce like honey, tamarind, gum, soap nuts and addaleaves. They do not fetch them enough money. Because of their low income, almost several families engage women, old and children in agricultural works. Due to unavoidable poverty several families, children and women are not cared for. They are deprived of medical care so it is the need of the area to take up medical service. More over these people are subjected to Malaria, Jaundice and Typhoid fevers. They are near fatal in nature and character. Hence, since then we serve the tribes from the interior villages through our medical clinic started at the center. The LITDS mobile clinic responded at once and treated on an average 200 to 250 patients per day. With a sense of pride and gratitude to God we place on records that our team treated nearly 4, 35,000 patients till date. About 1450 chronic cases were saved from the danger of death.

Loyola Integrated Tribal Development Society [LITDS] is a sister concern of Andhra Jesuit Province. LITDS-K.D.Peta is of the Jesuit missions for the tribals' welfare and development. LITDS-K.D.Peta serves the tribal population who are vulnerable to poverty, hunger and diseases. The ultimate goal is enabling the tribals towards integrated development through various for community based education, training and movement building for the welfare of the communities vulnerable to poverty and diseases. Being their settlements are remote and not access to any public services the region is selected as field working area and implement programs in a joint ventures to replicated the models which were the pioneer efforts and to avoid overlapping of human and financial resources. LITDS-K.D.Peta would like to work together and achieve together with the tribal people's goals that we have set to save the tribal population from hunger, poverty, illiteracy and diseases through.

- **Mobile health services**
- **Dispensary**
- **Health Workers training**
- **Health awarness training**
- **Herbal medicine preparation and training**
- **Women group formation**
- **Networking among the groups for a movement for gender equality**
- **Income generation activities through women self-help groups**
- **Tuition centers**
- **Mobile Tailoring to the drop out tribal youth**
- **Computer education to the drop out youth**
- **Small Scale Tribal Farmers Clubs for men**
- **Cultural Empowerment programs**

In all programs, LITDS relies on local structures and co-operates with local initiatives like women's sanghas, youth associations, farmer' associations etc. One of the main emphases of the program is to create and strengthen local level people's organizations and promote local leadership among the disadvantaged communities, so that they are capable of taking decisions and challenge the unjust structures affecting their lives. In all its efforts, a special focus and attention is given to women who are familiar with local conditions and show inclination in their own development. In this way, the organizations have come together in offering support and accompaniment, which corresponds to the actual needs of the suffering and respect their dignity, their rights and their capacities.

Note: we act as catalysts. We educate. We give awareness. We conduct seminars. We teach them how to fish. We provide both the hard as well as soft skills for them. We ensure that the government welfare schemes meant for the tribals reach them. We provoke, we pro-act so that tribals assert themselves that they are second to none.

We believe that all of us are independent people. We enjoy life in abundance. We are dignified. Therefore we are called to promote life and uphold the dignity of the marginalized and the least

especially the Tribals. Our small efforts aim at empowering these simple people to make them enjoy independence, freedom, equality, liberty and fraternit

GIST OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Mobile Medical service: Two days (Sunday and Monday) the mobile medical team remains at the center. On an average Monday being a shanty day nearly 125 to 175 patients get treated. During the season the number increases to 200 to 250. Only Tribals are considered. Poor non-tribals too avail our services.

Other days our team goes to the villages. Everyday three to five panchayats are covered. All the villages are grouped into five routes. We have selected a few points where most patients could conveniently come to have health checkup. We are visiting two mandals. 17 panchayats in Koyyuru and 4 in the G.K.Veedhi are regularly visited once a week. Nearly 240 villages benefit either directly or indirectly. We have 10 health animators to assist us.

Main objective of rendering medical service is - to Promotion of Sustainable Community Health through Curative and Promotive Health Programs in 280 tribal villages of Koyyuru and Gudem Kotha Veedhi Mandals of Visakhapatnam Agency Area, Andhra Pradesh.”

- a. Facilitating an education processes which may lead the population to get accesses to health care programs focusing main impetus to reproductive health services (vaccination) to the poorest of the poor.
- b. Identify, train and support Community Health Volunteers at the village level
- c. Promote Rural Voluntary Health Committee in every village.
- d. Eradicate the communicable diseases, which exist among the population to save the children and the tribals through education and Organization.
- a. Generate awareness and consciousness on health and hygiene among the community members.
- b. To link this health program with the Women self- help group as one of the major activities.
- c. To create health insurance for each tribal family to enjoy subsidies in case of treatment and loss of earning member in the family.
- d. To involve the community members and the women groups to cultivate herbal gardens and prepare medicines in their own dwellings.

Women Groups: we animate. Capacity building exercises are conducted. We provide awareness activities. We motivate them to have savings. We educate them on health and hygiene. We bring in social conscientization. We conduct seminars on Women Rights, awareness programs about Government Policies for Women and Welfare schemes like Nutritional Food for Pregnant Women. Our medical team helped and directed nearly 780 pregnant ladies to get medicines and nutritional food from government centers.

We prepare tribal women to elect leaders who are efficient, honest and people oriented. We help tribals to make their own manifesto a reflection of their wants and aspirations. According to 73rd amendment of Constitution, 29 activities suppose to be implemented in local areas for effective development of the local villages in panchayats. If these are to be implemented effectively and efficiently, our people need leaders who are in touch with the Tribal reality and are willing to uplift the standard and quality of living in an honest way. We provide knowledge through training program on 73rd amendment of Constitution. Nearly in 10 panchayats and 110 villages, the village heads have been given training for the past 8 months. Any time the government might announce local body elections. We are also encouraging them to prepare candidates of their choice. We hope to elect unopposed at least half a dozen people representatives in the local body elections or the Panchayat elections.

As part of this program, we provided training in para-legal services for nearly 30 village heads in both the mandals. They have come to know the tribal laws and rights. They have become experts to solve the local conflicts and provide instant solutions to the problematic issues without at once going to the courts. In case of necessity, they are taught the procedure and case presentation. As much as possible we encourage the tribals to make use of the government appointed lawyers. As a part of familiarization exercise the very same government lawyers are invited to address the tribals.

Right Based Empowerment Programs:

We act as catalysts. We educate. We give awareness. We conduct seminars cluster wise for the community based organizers on “Forest Rights Act, Right to Information Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Right to education act, Right to food and Election Manifesto.” We teach the tribals to be on their own foot. We provide both the hard as well as soft skills. We ensure that the government welfare schemes meant for the tribal people reach them. We provoke, we pro-act so that tribals assert themselves that they are second to none. We hold regular awareness programs to provide information and process of obtaining and asserting the due rights and social welfare measures. Most of these activities are in the cluster of villages. We conduct awareness programs in villages on Panchayat Extension Service Act (PESA), which ensures local governance and power of attorney to the villages in the agency area. The above act demands that no agency could exploit the natural resources of agency area without the explicit approval and consent of the Gram Sabha. Now slowly people are becoming aware of the fact that they are the owners, users and preservers of land, forest, water and minerals. They are motivated to be the stewards of Nature, Natural Resources, Rich Tribal Culture and Humane Social Life.

Cultural empowerment program:

In order to preserve and empower dwindling traditions, customs and arts of tribal people our LITDS' team encourages and motivates people to mobilize both physical and human resources by themselves and conduct the cultural festivals thrice a year in different parts of two mandals. We also provide opportunity to exhibit their talents at different platforms like National, district and Mandal levels tribal cultural festivals. Cultural Festival is a communion of various tribal sects to encourage their culture, art and folklore. It is conducted during April or May in different villages every year. In this get-together, the tribal communities from two mandals participate, share their own experiences and wisdom and perform their art forms. At the end people's representatives discuss and deliberate upon the local issues, problems and encourage people to participate in the movements to preserve their land, water, culture and forest. This gathering ensures awareness and motivation to prevent the exploitative influence of the non-tribal culture. In an indirect way cultural gathering helps the tribals to know the preciousness of their own culture, identity. This in turn provokes the tribals to have respect and reverence towards their culture, which upholds dignity and promotes life. Our tribal youth club members organize this Mega Mela. All the tribal people not only participate but also are the partners. Village presidents, Panchayats' Leaders and Government Officials attend the festival. The expenses of the programs are totally met by the local themselves. Invariably dances like Kollaattam, Dhimsa, Gankacheli, Archery and various native Instruments occupy the centre stage during the cultural festival. An exhibition with artifacts and costumes used in the cultural festivals is organized and kept open to the people.

Farmers clubs: On an experiment basis we have small scale farmers groups or clubs in eight villages. Each group has nearly eight members. They are given interest free loans. They are motivated to fix the interest for the loan received. This interest turns out to be the principal amount in the future. Each group is encouraged to pool together Rs 50, 000/- with in a three year period. They return back the loan. The very same loan is passed it on to the other new group. These people have every month group meeting. It is attended by the animators. On an experimental basis, we have formed small-scale farmers groups or clubs in 15 villages. Each group has nearly eight members. They are given interest free loans. They are motivated to fix the interest for the loan received. This interest is collected and saved in current account. The very same amount turns out to be the principal amount in the future. Each group is motivated and encouraged to pool together at least Rs 50, 000/- with in a three year period. Thus saved Rs. 50, 000/-, is later utilized as crop loan. This amount is rotated among themselves. Once, the fixed target amount is pooled together that club returns back the loan. This returned back loan is passed it on to the other new group. These people have every month group meeting. It is attended by the animators. In these meetings, the group members identify some of the developmental issues, which are pending. Members also identify, discuss and plan how to solve common problems of the village. If they can be solved by themselves, they all fix the day and time to render free labour. If it is to be solved through the government official then they entrust the responsibility to some of the members on rotation. They also conduct evaluation on the previous targets. All the members approve and sign recorded minutes. For example, people in a Village called Lubbarthy did not have proper bus shelter. Through constant guidance and support of LITDS they worked out and got a good bus shelter now. Moreover, in the same manner they got the support from the government to repair a culvert, which was damaged due to heavy rains.

St. Ann's English Medium School: In the year 2009-2010 we opened an English Medium School for the Tribals as well as for the locals. We began with LKG, UKG and 1st Class. In the first year itself 68 students joined us. This year we upgraded to 7th standard. At present we have 340 students. More than half of them are tribal children.

Tuition centers:- We are conducting 40 tuition centers to improve school attendance of tribal children of Koyyuru and G.K.Veedhi Mandal villages.

Director of works:-Madimi Antony Prasad

Assiantant director& Correspondent:-Elias Arockia Samy

Principal of School: - Polisetty Praveen Kumar

OUR COLLABORATORS

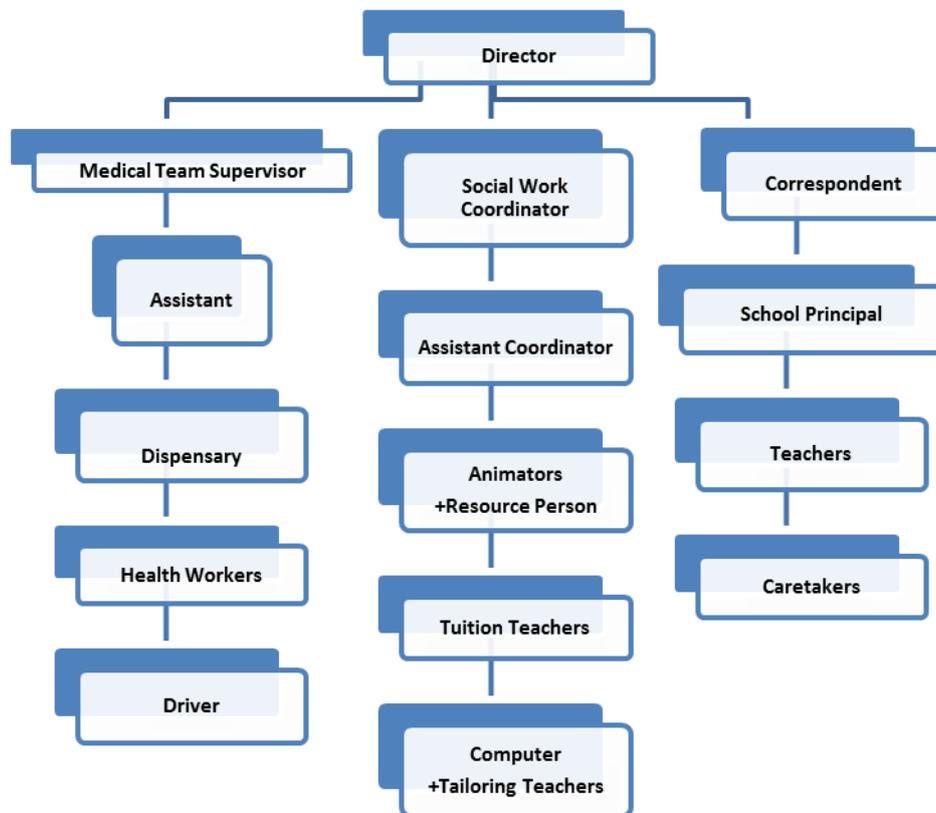
Sr.Jai Mary - Medical mobile supervisor

Sr.Isabel- Assiantant

Sr.Rapheal- Loyola health center, Dispesnary in-charge

Organogram of

LOYOLA INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPEMENT SOCIETY (LITDS), K.D.Peta (Regd No. 1601/96)



Conclusion

Though the tribals are resource rich, their one day at a time philosophy of life unfortunately makes them vulnerable to exploitation at all levels and in all spheres of their life. It is so because of ignorance and innocence. Hence, LITDS has initiated education to the younger generations in their own places by starting Tuition Centers. Besides teaching and making them play we also instill a sense of leadership to these tribal children. To carry out the above purpose in all twenty-five tuition centers we have introduced Children Parliament. This is a platform, wherein the children are enabled to think, plan and act on the burning issues in the School as well as in the Village. Invariably the issues discussed, deliberated and solved, are related to health, hygiene, water, roads, electricity, teacher's regularity, midday meals, books and uniform. The Parents Committee attends the Parliament session. In all the twenty-five tuition centers teachers are regular, midday meals are sumptuous, parents committees are active, children are growing in intelligence. They have learnt to appreciate their surroundings, their culture and identity. They have gained confidence that they are second to none.

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them. We provoke, we pro-act so that tribals assert their rights. They themselves realize that they are second to none. They develop sense of dignity and promote life in abundance.