**Welding unit boy’s background**

I am vignesh from Austin town. I belong to a poor family. I have my father and mother. My father has two wives and my mother is the second wife for him. Now my father is helpless in my family due to his poor health condition. My father had a stroke and the left side of his body parts is not functioning well. My mother is a domestic worker. I have one younger sister and two younger brothers. I am the first son in my family. I was not interested in going to school. I spent my time in the slums and involved in many illegal works such as stealing. I grew up in a bad surrounding so I cultivated bad habits such as using drugs and smoking pipes. At this time I have joined the REDS-STC at Deepahalli in the year 2010. In the beginning, I was not interested in learning anything here. I wanted to run away from here and join my friends. But it continued for more than one and half years. After that I had much counseling with the welding instructor and the Brothers. I found something good in myself, then I begun to learn welding and the lathe. During this course of time I really was able to change myself and able to think of my family condition and the future life of my siblings. Unless I work and earn money who will look after my family? I was inspired by the boys with whom I stayed. They are also like me coming from poor family backgrounds. I have almost spent my four years in REDS-STC. Two years ago, I begun only to understand the reality of human life and then I worked hard in learning skills. I became a good student and I was able to do grill designs, making windows, benches, desks, and so forth. Now I have got a good job in a welding workshop near by my home town. My parents are very happy to see me. I always think and pray for the Brothers and the teachers who helped me to find good qualities in myself and saw me as a good person in the society where I now live. I give a big thanks to all of you.

My name is Ranjith from Mysore road. My father is a daily laborer and an alcoholic. He spends whatever he earns on drink and drugs. My mother is working in a hotel whatever she earns; she uses that money to take care of the family. I have two siblings, one elder brother and one elder sister. My brother is a daily laborer and my sister is working in a garment company. I live with my parents and siblings. I was studying at the local school. I used to leave the classes and go out stealing with my friends. Finally, I lost my interest in studies and dropped out of school after completing my 7thstandard. My mother came to know about me and put me in a hostel but I ran away from there. I was in my house doing nothing. I have been involved in illegal acts such as stealing. One day, my mother met one of the REDS boys who stay in my village through him; I joined the REDS-STC. I came here along with him and I liked the place and decided to stay here. I was asked to select skill training then I chose welding and lathe. I have been here almost seven months here. I feel very happy and I have set a goal to become a good welder. I am still working on achieving my goal. The life that I live here really is giving me a good motivation and support. Truly, I enjoy being here because it is like living in a big family. I would like to get a good job after completing my training. I am very grateful to REDS-STC for helping me to recognize my vocation in my life.