



IDO

January – March 2025

NEWS LETTER



INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Every initiative begins with a small step.

We are delighted to share with you the very first edition of our newsletter!

Our work takes us deep into the heart of Telangana, to the remote tribal habitations of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, regions where access to healthcare is limited.

We are committed to engaging with Indigenous Tribal Communities and bringing their stories to light.

Every individual has a story to tell. We put in every effort to interact with the people we serve and present their narratives with dignity and authenticity.

This print edition marks our first step in showcasing the work we do and the communities we work with. We hope you find it insightful and inspiring as we highlight the voices and lives of Indigenous tribes.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated field team for their tireless work in gathering stories and insights. Your contributions have made this edition possible and meaningful.

Wishing you all a Happy Reading!

**Warm Regards
Team Communications
Indigenous Development Organization**



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Honoring Parvathi's Commitment to Maternal and Child Health



The inspiring story of Parvathi, a Community Health Worker (CHW) from Umeshchandra Nagar, highlights the vital role CHWs play in enhancing maternal and child health in tribal and underserved regions.

Recognising her efforts, the IDO team felicitated for her commitment and support in helping a pregnant woman deliver a healthy baby amidst a forest away from the mainstream road.

In remote tribal areas with limited access to healthcare, Parvathi's swift and resourceful actions during an emergency exemplify the profound impact of her work.

When a crisis arose, Parvathi didn't hesitate. She provided essential counseling to the family about the Institutional Delivery.

With quick thinking, she transformed a bed into a makeshift stretcher to facilitate a safe delivery.

Her proficiency in using the Mother and Child Health Kit (MCH) to carry out a successful birth in such challenging circumstances showcases the courage and expertise required to tackle healthcare emergencies in isolated locations.

Parvathi's story is a powerful reminder of the resilience of CHWs who work tirelessly to improve health outcomes in tribal and underserved areas.

Her dedication is a call to action for us all to support these life-saving efforts and help create a healthier, more equitable future for all.



They Lost, yet WON the Hearts of Bhadrachalam!



FIVE of our talented students from Ashram Boys School, Markodu participated in the Chief Minister Cup State Level Hockey Championship - 2024 held at Sports Authority of Telangana in Gachibowli from December 27 - 30. While they gave their absolute best, they unfortunately lost to Medak team.

Though our team didn't progress further, their journey is what truly matters. From the early preparation to competing at the state level, they have faced challenges, experienced growth, and shown immense determination. It hasn't been an easy road, but the unwavering support from the

school, parents, and government made a tremendous impact on their journey.

When IDO reached out to Shri B Rahul, IAS, Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) – PO and shared that children were disheartened as they lack hockey equipment to play the tournament, he personally visited and gifted the sports necessities and motivated them.



This achievement has set a new precedent, and our students have become shining examples for the tribal communities in Bhadradi, Kothagudem. Their courage and hard work have rewritten their destinies and inspired others to follow their dreams. They are the NEW Sports Heroes, whose dedication will always be remembered with respect and admiration.

Despite hailing from remote habitations and pursuing initially in Indigenous Development organisation Bridge schools, today they have shown their stellar performance in sports. This is truly remarkable and a best example of what one can do when given the right environment and support while they are young and in early stages of life.

Adarsh - Empowering Tribal Students with Digital Education

Indigenous Development Organisation ((IDO) is proud to acknowledge Adarsh Vikas Sriram for his inspiring social initiative that seeks to enhance digital learning opportunities for tribal students in Bhadradi, Kothagudem district

Adarsh's passion for tackling literacy challenges in remote hamlets led him to collaborate with IDO. With the guidance of our team, his vision transformed into a meaningful project.

His valuable efforts resulted in equipping 13 Bridge schools with Solar TVs each worth Rs. 45,000, offering over 450 tribal children access to digital education.

In recognition of his outstanding work, we invited him to inaugurate the Solar TV project in a Bridge school at Yerrakunta habitation. The children and community members were thrilled to experience this new technology, something they had never seen before.

We celebrated Adarsh as a 'Champion of Change' at the IDO Health Centre, honoring his role in advancing digital literacy in tribal



communities where access to electricity is scarce. His parents, Ms. Geethalakshmi G and Mr. Sriram, also joined the event.

At such a young age, Adarsh's commitment to bridging the digital divide showcases remarkable leadership and compassion. IDO is privileged to support Adarsh in his impactful mission, and we believe his work will inspire others to contribute to the development of underserved communities

Bridging Healthcare Gaps through Free Cardiac Screenings



Access to quality pediatric cardiac care in Bhadradri Kothagudem district is a major challenge due to the lack of specialized healthcare centers, with the nearest facility 88 km away in Khammam.

Inadequate referral support from public institutions, high treatment costs at private hospitals, is also a challenge. As a result, many children with heart conditions either remain undiagnosed or face delays in treatment, leading to complications and irreversible damage.

To address these challenges, a collaborative initiative was launched involving Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital for Child Heart (Kondapakka, Siddipet), Indigenous Development Organization (Bhadradri Kothagudem), and the District Government RBSK-DEIC team.

The goal was to provide early detection and intervention for paediatric cardiac anomalies in the age group 0-18 years.

Cardiologist, Dr. Mallindra Swami MD, DM, Global Hospitals, LB Nagar conducted the screenings and Mr Ganesh, 2D ECHO Technician, Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital for Child Heart was present during the camp.

Moving forward, the collaboration will continue with bi-annual screenings and free surgeries for identified cases.

Children from IDO Medical Camp Undergo Heart Surgeries



Following a medical camp on March 11 at IDO Hospital, which focused on the early detection and intervention of Paediatric Cardiac issues for children, four children underwent Congenital Heart Disease surgeries at Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital for Child Heart. The children responded positively to the treatment.

Presenting Good Practices for the Development of Tribals

Dr Kapil Sharma represented IDO in a workshop, 'Good Practices and Prospects of Sustainable Development in Primary Care Sector among the Vulnerable Tribal Communities' at Research Cell UNIT, AIIMS BIBINAGAR.

He was also awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation for his substantial contribution in the form of services towards the Tribal Communities.



Gandhi Alumni Reminisce Memories of IDO Bridge Schools



Alumni Doctors (1968-1974) from Gandhi Medical College came together for a Reunion on January 31 in the city. The get-together brought back fond memories from the past.

Most importantly, the entire team of Doctors were instrumental in supporting and laying the foundation of BRIDGE schools during IDO early stage.

As a result, their collective effort gave a new lease of life to the children in remote tribal habitations of Bhadravathi, Kothagudem district.

Dr Ravinder Rao, President of IDO, who is also a batch mate, presented activities to the team. They were happy about the progress that happened since the inception and lauded the efforts of IDO staff.

IDO Honored for Grassroots Efforts in Tribal Habitations



Shri Rahul B IAS, Project Officer - ITDA Bhadrachalam honored Indigenous Development Organisation (IDO) on the eve of Republic Day for our dedicated grassroots work in the tribal habitations of Bhadradi, Kothagudem district.

Our team members Dr. Kapil Sharma, Dr. Archana, Sodi Gangaiah, Sodi Lakshman, and Kunja Ramu received the certificate from ITDA.

Cautery Medical Device to Aid in Medical Surgeries

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a Surgical Gastroenterologist from Gleneagle AWARE Hospital, L B Nagar, Hyderabad generously donated a cautery medical device.

This device is vital in removing tissues, stopping bleeding, sealing wounds, and healing small skin lesions during surgeries.



Creating Awareness on New Born and Infant Health Care



To let villagers understand effectively about Infant Health, Nukkad Natak (street play) as a medium is opted in their native language to bridge the knowledge gap. This keeps them engaged and informed about timely medical intervention.

This Street play will educate the communities about the risks posed by home-based deliveries without the supervision of a trained health worker. Especially in such situations, both new-born and mother health can be fatal.

Through the play, our Community Health Workers (CHWs) Madakam Swapna, Madavi Nangamma, Gundi pramila & Muchaki Dinesh are on a mission to empower the communities to take proactive steps in ensuring safe deliveries .

Empowering Tribal Women on Family Planning Initiatives



Long before IDO started its work in Bhadradri Kothagudem, women in tribal habitations were unaware of Family Planning Surgery. This often led to situations where they had no spacing between children impacting their reproductive health.

Fear of hospital admission forced them to visit traditional healers, known as Vadde'. They used to administer traditional medicines as a contraceptive. It often failed resulting in various health issues.

In the interior hamlets, most of the women are anaemic due to lack of nutritional support. This resulted in pre-term deliveries, low-birth weight babies, high risk pregnancies and poor health outcomes for both mothers and infants.

Most importantly, lack of access to health facilities has led many women bear large families, giving birth to 7-8 children and in some cases even up to 11 children.

This affected the health of already malnourished and anaemic women. It leads to a serious illness, if left untreated. There had been instances where Elderly women between 45 – 50 years were pregnant risking both mother and children.

It is only after Community Health Workers (CHWs) started visiting, a change began. By educating women and men about the benefits of Tubectomy, they were able to bust the misconceptions.

Empowering Tribal Women on Family Planning Initiatives



With their continuous efforts, the community's trust in medical practices grew, and women began to understand the importance of reproductive health.

To avoid impending health burden on women, Indigenous Development organisation - IDO started Family Planning Initiative including both Tubectomy and Birth Spacing (Copper - T).

The shift from traditional

practices to modern, scientifically backed methods like Mini-Laparoscopy and Tubectomy surgeries not only empowered women but also encouraged family participation.

Now, couples are involved in the decision-making process, with both partners receiving counseling at IDO Center. The Doctors at IDO Health Centre help them get a holistic view about the procedure.

All the pre-surgery blood tests and post care till next 3 days is provided at the centre ensuring that every patient receives complete care.

This transformation has enabled women to experience healthier pregnancies, better maternal health, and, ultimately, healthier families.

Nutri-Gardens Promoting Self Sufficiency and Awareness



People in tribal habitations of Bhadradi Kothagudem are growing Nutrigardens in their backyards resulting in enhanced health and well-being of women and children.

In remote tribal areas, the prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition, particularly among women and children, is a major concern. This is due to low level of awareness regarding the consumption of nutritious rich foods.

They majorly consume seasonal vegetables, Spinach, Bamboo shoots, eggs of red termites cultivated in the forest. Scarcity of water and imbalance diet led to poor immunity levels.

As part of Strengthening Primary Health Care – Participatory Action Research (SPH-PAR), Adivasi Arogya Mitras (AAMs), distributed Nutrikits containing 12 varieties of leafy and high-nutritional vegetable seeds. The project is funded by Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation supported by TATA TRUSTS in collaboration with Indigenous Development Organisation.

AAMs played a very instrumental role in creating awareness among the communities by connecting how consuming nutritious food will reduce the anaemia among pregnant women and children.

They also explained and encouraged how Preventive medicine will reduce the financial burden that Curative medicine can lead to.



IDO receives Rotary Vocational Award!



“What started with a vision to provide primary health care to the unserved population in Indigenous Tribal Habitations had now transformed into a movement where men and women are making informed health choices. There is lot more to do in terms of Public Health going ahead.”

Rendering invaluable services to the community through and beyond their chosen vocation, Dr Narender Ramavath and Dr Swathi Ramavath were honored with Rotary Vocational Award on January 30, 2025.

The award constituted by Rotary Cantonment Secunderabad Club was given as part of 'The RCCS Vocational Awards NITE 2025'.

Distinguished President, Rtn Manju Gupta, Chairperson- Rtn Sirish Dhopeswar, Secretary - Rtn Acharya V Venkat and other guests felicitated our Power Couple during the program.

We immensely thank each of you all and especially our staff for placing trust in our journey towards building a Healthier society in the remote areas of Bhadradri Kothagudem.

We also take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to Sir G V Sethuraman, our well-wisher for nominating Indigenous Development organisation for the award and letting our work known to the outside world.

Dr Narender Ramavath
Founder - Indigenous Development Organization



Please share your valuable feedback about the News Letter to
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