

NEWS LETTER

April – June 2025



INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Heatwaves, Floods, and Hope: A Chronicle of Courage in Kothagudem

The past three months had been a sizzling experience for the inhabitants of Bhadradi, Kothagudem. With temperatures hovering around 42⁰ C during Summers, it was difficult to work in extreme climatic conditions that became a true test of physical and mental endurance.

Yet, IDO team stood strong and carried out its operations through MMUs by making minute changes to their work schedules amidst the intense heat. This helped in reaching out to many people who might otherwise have been left without care. Kudos to our incredible Frontline workers!

Just as the heat-wave began to ease, it is the unrelenting Monsoon that transformed the interior tribal habitations into flood affected zones affecting our work. The incessant rains filled every pothole and made its mark spreading its existence felt across the landscape.

Come what may go, our medical teams remained undeterred and ensured that they meet patients at accessible points for consultations. Most importantly, the pregnant women nearing their due dates were followed up diligently by our Community Health Workers (CHWs).

In this edition of our news letter, you will find many such stories- tales of grit, hope and healing that bring you closer to the lives of the indigenous communities of Bhadradi, Kothagudem. Stories that show you the unseen and tell you the untold.

So, Grab a cup of warm coffee and dive into the heart of vibrant and enduring tribal communities. Wishing you all a Happy Reading!

Team Communications
Indigenous Development Organization



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Bridge Schools - Giving Wings to Children to Soar High in Life



Bhanumathi N (8) from Pinapaka Mandal, joined Bridge School. She is elated to come to school regularly and learn new things. Like her, many children those who once dropped out or are new to the system are readily entering classrooms this academic year.

In every tribal habitation of Bhadradi Kothagudem, supervisors and dedicated volunteer teachers are going door-to-door, identifying children and encouraging families to prioritize education.

What are Bridge Schools?

Bridge schools at IDO are make-shift study centers that are built with meagerly available resources in the tribal habitations to educate the Indigenous Communities. A Volunteer Teacher is selected within the community and trained on educating the children. They do a regular follow up of children health, attendance and even counsel the parents to send children to the school. Mid-Day meals are also served to the children.

Mainstreaming into District Schools

Once they complete minimum education and obtain the capacity, the children are mainstreamed into District schools for further education. This paves way for a generation of literate children, who can change their destiny.



With the advent of Bridge schools, children in the habitations have developed a genuine fondness for learning. It's heartening to see them attend classes regularly, recite poems with actions, and grasp

new concepts quickly. Watching them speak fluently and express themselves with confidence is a moment of real pride for us.

Ms Shanthi Sode, Volunteer Teacher - Pinapaka

Civil Services Aspirants Design Curriculum

A dedicated group of Volunteers - Civil Aspirants are designing the curriculum for children studying in Bridge School. They thoughtfully craft the syllabus after conducting a thorough assessment of literacy levels among children in the tribal regions. They are investing their time and energy in uplifting Indigenous communities and empowering them.



Community Owns the Construction of Bridge Schools

What sets IDO Bridge Schools apart is its ability to reach the most remote communities and deliver high-quality services. It becomes a true milestone when these communities embrace our vision and join us on this journey.

Empowering Educators, Transforming Futures



Volunteer Teachers completed a 5-day training at Fly Holistic School, Attapur, Hyderabad, all geared towards making classrooms in our Bridge Schools more engaging and impactful in the month of May 2025.

From hands-on subject activities to Mid-crossing exercises for brain and motor skill development, and creative TLMs that make learning fun, our Bridge school teachers are now better equipped to spark real change.



Vanjam Mangaiah – the first student to pass Intermediate from Kranthi Nagar hamlet!

His journey is truly inspiring. While preparing for his exams, he spent nearly three to four months caring for his sick mother, who later passed away due to cancer. He cooked, fed her, and studied beside the chulha fire – sometimes under the solar streetlights of Kranthi Nagar, Laxmidevipally Mandal,

He secured 772 marks out of 1000 in his Intermediate education, inspiring other youth in the habitations to pursue higher studies.

IDO Health Centre is fondly called as 'Adivasi Hospital'

IDO Health Centre located near the borders of Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh has become a trusted destination for the critically ill patients especially from poor economic backgrounds. Fondly called as the 'Adivasi Hospital', it became a symbol of hope and healing for the Indigenous Communities we serve, which is definitely a Pride moment to us.

Hope Across Borders: A Baby's Lifeline from Chhattisgarh to Warangal



A One year old child from Chattisgarh suffering with altered liver function and anaemia was brought to IDO Health centre. With no strong financial support, the child's parents desperate for help, turned to IDO in search of a miracle.

The medical team ran all the necessary blood tests and arranged a Pediatric Tele-consultation. Following the diagnosis, the child was referred to the Warangal Government Hospital for further treatment.

Recognizing that the parents were unfamiliar with the hospital system and their difficulty in communicating in Hindi or Telugu, our dedicated Community Health Worker (CHW), Ms Laxmi, personally accompanied them to Warangal to ensure a smooth transition and continued support. The baby is now healthy after the treatment.

Life Saving Surgery for a Tribal Woman with 25 CM tumour

A female patient from a remote tribal village in Bijapur district of Chattisgarh was brought to IDO Health center last year by our CHW Kunja Anil

She had been experiencing severe abdomen pain for the past one year. With limited access to health care and financial constraints, she had neither been able to get necessary medical attention nor afford tests and treatments. IDO medical team held further investigations and found a 25 CM tumour in her abdomen.

After discussing the case with Dr Ramakrishna, Surgeon, Superintendent of Bhadrachalam Government Hospital, she was admitted for the surgery. On December 7, 2024, she successfully underwent a procedure. This successful surgery happened as a result of cooperation between our local medical teams and specialists highlighting the importance of collaborative healthcare efforts in undeserved regions. IDO expresses gratitude to Dr Ramakrishna, Dr Sathvika, Dr Mallesh and the entire team for their unwavering support in helping the patient access the care she needed



Nitya Annadanam: Nourishing Hope, One Meal at a Time



Patients often travel long distances from over 130 tribal habitations to access care at the IDO Health Centre in Laxmidevipally mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem. For these individuals, the Nitya Annadanam (Daily Meal Donation) Program has become a lifeline.

This support is vital as patients, attendants, and volunteers visiting the hospital get access to daily free meals where hotel / meal services are a scarce. It is also of a great support to pregnant women from tribal areas coming for antenatal check-ups.

Last year, around 15, 168 beneficiaries were able to access fresh food. And this year, IDO well-wishers Sai Anna Lakshmi Foundation, Nallakunta Seva Group came forward to support the program.

Their generous support is a Game Changer, providing nutritious meals to patients and caregivers, ensuring no one is burdened by hunger while seeking medical care. This compassionate initiative not only nourishes bodies but also restores dignity and hope to the needy.



Access to Fresh Hot Meals

"We come from Kranthinagar habitation, and it takes us nearly half an hour to reach the hospital. During the monsoon season, the journey becomes even longer and more difficult often leaving us hungry and exhausted. In such times, having access to free, freshly cooked hot meals is a huge relief. It truly makes a difference for patients like us".

Mr Ramu Sode and Mrs Seetha Sode



"It is amazing to see patients from tribal areas using the IDO Health Center and calling it as 'Our Tribal Hospital.'"

Mani Subramaniam
Nallakunta Seva Group

Summers, Monsoons and Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)



In tribal habitations of Bhadravadi Kothagudem district, every day 4 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) travel to various villages, ensuring residents receive essential health care services that would otherwise be inaccessible.

At least a day before, the Community Health Worker (CHW) from IDO Health Centre or an Asha worker informs the villagers about the MMU arrival. Residents make adjustments to the daily routine to make time for the medical consultations.

The Doctor examines the patient and the Pharmacist ensures that he/she is aware of the medication dosage and follow up schedule.

In addition, the Door-to-Door screening of sick individuals, Iron supplementation of Anaemic Pregnant women and Home Based New Born Care for Infants is also carried out. Through these efforts, MMUs improve health awareness among the villagers and advise the necessary precautionary measures.



Summers!

In the Summer season, the MMU unit comprising Medical Officer,

Nurse, Pharmacist and Driver travel to the destinations as early as 6 am to avoid the blazing heat. With temperatures hovering around 42 – 44 degrees, it is an extreme risk to wander around.

It is a real challenge to venture into habitations where MMU can't enter due to hilly terrains. In those instances, the team travels by bikes which burdens their health as the Sun reaches the mid-afternoon.

Being the season of Mahua Flower, most of the villagers go to the fields as early as possible. Thus visiting them in the morning hours helps the MMU team have sufficient time to interact.

Educating and Empowering through Display TVs



A unique feature of these MMUs is the TV display screen onboard, which showcases curated IEC (Information, Education & Communication) videos. These visual aids are proving to be powerful tools raising awareness on anaemia, malnutrition, hygiene, and preventive healthcare among villagers as they wait to consult the doctor.

This impactful initiative is part of the Strengthening Primary HealthCare - Participatory Action Research (SPH-PAR) project, funded by the Vijayavahini Charitable Foundation, supported by TATA TRUSTS and implemented by Indigenous Development Organisation.



Monsoons!

Come Rainy season, the roads in remote tribal habitations transform into a deluge. With incessant rains and flowing water accompanied with mushy roads, it becomes impossible for vehicles to move into interiors of villages.

The usual potholes that remained the way they are transform into mini-water ponds that over flow with intensity halting the operations on field. In such situations, the MMU teams come to a mid-point where they can access roadways near the villages and Community Health Workers (CHWs) bring the patients from the tribal habitations for the medical consultation. Adding to it, lack of signals creates hurdles for medical consultations. With dark black clouds engulfing the sky, it is impossible to recharge the Solar Panels which the villagers depend upon for electricity. In these cases, they go to nearby villages, charge their phones and call us.

MMU & AAM Timely Response Saves 5 yr Old from Malaria



The interior tribal habitations of Bhadradi Kothagudem are close to the borders of both Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh states. For this reason, these tribal areas are located in the endemic region where prevalent of diseases is high and more so Malaria.

On May 23rd, little Kovasi Rajub from Pitthathogu a remote tribal hamlet was found to have PF-positive malaria and dangerously low haemoglobin (Hb 8.8 g/dL) during a community screening by IDO.

Despite initial treatment, his condition worsened. By June 9th, his Hb dropped to a critical 6.2 g/dL with high fever, a life-threatening situation.

AAM Sirisha acted swiftly, getting him admitted to Manguru and then referred to Area Hospital, Bhadrachalam due to the severity.

But a serious hurdle awaited: No O+ve blood was available. That's when the Medical Officer of the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU), Dr PVS Laxman stepped in personally donating blood and coordinating urgent lab work for a safe transfusion.

After 3 intense hours of critical care, Kovasi received the transfusion that saved his life. With the rapid response and the commitment of our Doctor's and Community Health Workers, he's stable and recovering well (Hb 9.2 g/dL)!

This story is a powerful reminder of how timely diagnosis, strong referral systems, and dedicated health workers can truly make the difference between life and death especially in underserved areas.



Dr PVS Laxman
IDO

From Garden to Plate: Nutri Gardens Boost Mid-Day Meals



With the arrival of the monsoon, lush green Nutri Vegetable Kitchen Gardens are springing to life in the backyards of Bridge Schools in the tribal areas.

Volunteer Teachers received Nutri Garden Kits containing 12 varieties of nutrient-rich, leafy vegetable seeds. Sowed by children, these gardens are now yielding a healthy harvest, providing fresh, organic produce that is being incorporated directly into the Mid-Day Meals.

This initiative addresses the rampant anaemia and malnutrition particularly among women and children in the remote tribal areas of Bhadradi, Kothagudem. By integrating nutrition education with hands-on gardening and daily meals, the project is fostering self-sufficiency and well-being from the ground up.

Enhancing the wellbeing of women & children – Nutripowder Mix



In Bhadravadi Kothagudem, approximately 65% of tribal women aged 15–49 suffer from anemia due to inadequate nutrition, leading to complications such as low birth weight and pre-term deliveries as per a study. The lack of access to anganwadi centers exacerbates the situation, highlighting the urgent need for nutritional support for women and children.

Nutrition Powder Mix Initiative

To address this, the IDO developed a Nutrition Powder Mix composed of Bengal gram, Wheat, Jowar, Ground nuts and Jaggery powder.

This mix is designed to provide essential proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and iron, targeting under-5 children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers in 31 habitations.

Implementation:

Daily Distribution: Each beneficiary receives 60 grams of the Nutrition Powder as Ready-to-Use Food (RTUF) daily.

Spot Feeding: Community Health Workers (CHWs) conduct daily spot feeding to encourage consistent consumption within the habitations.

Impact:

The initiative aims to provide 70 grams of nutrition powder daily to over 1800 beneficiaries in 40+ interior habitations, resulting in significant health improvements:

- Reduction of Anaemia: 39.5%
- Reduction of Wasting: 38%
- Reduction of Underweight: 24%

This program not only addresses the immediate nutritional needs of women and children but also empowers local community members by providing them with skills and livelihood opportunities. The sustainability of the nutrition unit ensures continued support for the community's health and well-being.



Production Unit: A production unit has been established in Regalla village, where two local tribal community members have been trained to prepare the powder, providing them with sustainable livelihoods.



Bringing Hope to the Hinterlands: How Netcracker Technology's CSR Initiative Delivered Lifesaving Healthcare to Remote Tribal Communities

In the heart of India's remote tribal regions where rugged terrain and limited infrastructure often keep basic healthcare out of reach, thousands of lives have been touched through a groundbreaking partnership. Thanks to the support of Netcracker Technology India Pvt Ltd's CSR initiative, vital medical services have reached communities that have long remained underserved.

Over the past five years, this initiative has made a measurable impact across several villages:



INTERVENTIONS IN TRIBAL HABITATIONS	
Habitations covered	47
Population covered	11500+
Vitamin supplements for Pregnant women, Lactating women and Children	1550+
Primary care treatment provided for sick individuals at door-step	4100+
Antenatal Checkups done at door-step	224
High -risk pregnancies identified & referred	57
Home based newborn care	243
Anaemia screening done	1600+
Total malaria screening done	625+
Critical patients referred to higher centres	117

- **More than 4,100 sick individuals** received primary healthcare within their own habitations, many for the first time in years.
- **Over 1,550 pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children** were provided with essential vitamins and nutritional supplements, helping to combat malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
- **224 pregnant women** received doorstep antenatal care, a crucial step in improving maternal health outcomes.
- **57 high-risk pregnancies** were successfully identified and referred to higher medical centers, a life-saving intervention for both mothers and their babies.
- **243 newborns** received sustained, home-based neonatal care to ensure a healthy start in life.
- **1,600+ individuals** underwent anaemia screening, aiding in the early detection and treatment of this prevalent condition.
- **625+ people** were screened for malaria, a major public health concern in these areas.
- Most significantly, **117 lives were saved** through timely medical intervention and referral to government healthcare facilities.



The IDO Health Centre was grappling with a series of critical issues related to power supply. These issues encompass not only the overall operations of the I-DO Health Centre but also pose significant risks during surgical procedures performed in the operating theatre (OT). It experiences frequent and unpredictable power cuts due to the unreliable electrical grid

17 Kilo Watt Solar Grid installed on the OP block of IDO Health Centre



These power interruptions disrupt various essential healthcare services, including patient consultations, diagnostics, and the preservation of medications and vaccines that require refrigeration.

The implementation of 17 kilo watt solar power solutions in the health centre, particularly for surgical units, not only addressed the pressing electricity issues but also ensured the safety and well-being of patients during surgical procedures.

This partnership is a shining example of how corporate social responsibility, when aligned with community needs, can transform lives and build lasting change. As these tribal communities take steps toward better health and well-being, the impact of this collaboration will be felt for years to come.

Behind these numbers lies a powerful story of collaboration, compassion, and community resilience. The initiative not only brought healthcare to people's doorsteps but also restored hope in areas where access to even basic services has long been a challenge.



IDO



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