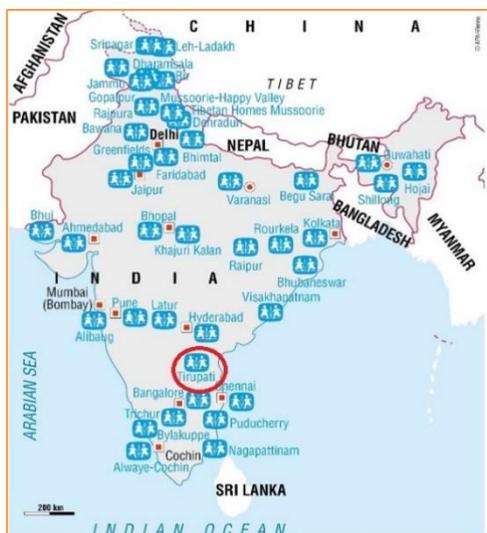


SOS Children's Villages Tirupati, India



Tirupati is situated in the province of Andhra Pradesh, which is a province of over 84 million people of which 30 million are children. The poverty level is high, and it is estimated that over 14 million children are living in absolute poverty, and around 1.3 children have lost parental care. Child labour is a prominent phenomenon in the region. Many children who live there do not go to school, or have dropped out of school, because they have to work in order to support their families. Some are left behind by parents who migrate to other places for better job opportunities. The lives of girls and women are particularly difficult, with a higher risk to be abandoned and high rate of illiteracy.

SOS Children's Villages has been present in India since 1963. With the work developed rapidly all over the country, the activities in Tirupati started in 2010 with the family strengthening programme to help vulnerable families stay together. Since late 2011, they have also been providing SOS family care for children who have lost the care of their parents.

SOS Children's Villages Tirupati

In 2018, there have been 108 children living in 12 family houses, and 15 girls living in the boarding, college hostel and vocational/professional institute. Activities like regular quizzes, exhibitions, and digital library have ensured children's academic performances. Study sessions have been arranged at home to improve school results. Caregivers also visit the schools frequently to check on their children's progress and will provide necessary support to the children according to teachers' feedbacks. In addition, various activities have been organised in the village to strengthen the family relationship and emotional wellbeing of children and mothers, such as festival celebrations, water park trip, sports and culture activities. Frequent health check-ups, health, nutrition and hygiene workshops focusing on preventive health are arranged, and other sessions like road safety, communication, sexual education are also in place.

By the end of 2018, 16 children were welcomed to their new families in SOS Children's Village Tirupati. They have adjusted very well in the new families under the love and care of their respective

SOS mothers. Three children were reunited with their biological family and 8 boys were transferred to SOS Youth Care.

Renovation of village buildings

In 2018, several cracks were discovered in four of the family houses and some of the administrative buildings. Experts were called in for investigation and found that it was probably caused by run-off from the mountains that carried soil and gravels, which have weakened the substrate. Therefore, the renovation started following the instructions from the experts. The renovation was first tested in one family house. When the house passed the test, the measures were then implemented on all the damaged houses. The cracks were repaired, and the damaged walls are reconstructed. Floor tiles were relocated, and substrates were reinforced with wooden piles and metal bars.

Youth Facility

In 2018, in total 56 boys/young men are enrolled in the youth programme in Tirupati. Out of these, 22 boys are staying in youth home, 22 boys are in boarding schools /inter-colleges and 12 boys are in Sopan (facility for boys pursuing vocational courses).

All the boys performed well in school and all of them were promoted to the next grade. One youth has also completed his job-oriented program and is now under professional training. Besides good academic performances, youth have also showcased their talents in sports and games. Some of them participated in badminton, volleyball and running practices and competitions and have gained good results.

Various capacity building programs were organized throughout the year for youth to develop their social and intellectual skill, so that they can be better prepared for career and independent life. Activities' themes vary largely, including life skill education program, orientation on examination & study skills, spoken English classes, career guidance, motivational speech, awareness on child rights, personality development, etc. Although the boys have moved out of their SOS family houses, there is still a tight bond between them and their SOS families. To support these youth men, mothers are visiting youth house weekly to involve them in housework like cooking and gardening. Every two months, they will also go to the village and spend some quality time with the mothers and SOS brothers and sisters.

Family Strengthening Programme (FSP)

In total 1,213 beneficiaries were supported through the Family Strengthening Programme in 2018, including 457 children and 756 adults from 286 families.

In the year 2018, various capacity building and training programmes were organized for caregivers, so that the families can stay strong with better economy, and children can receive better care in the family. As all our care clusters are in rural villages, most of the caregivers have chosen cattle rearing as an additional livelihood. Therefore, 60 families received livelihood support on cattle rearing from

FSP regarding animal disease prevention, increasing milk production, selling milk without middlemen, and insurance for cattle, and a visit has been arranged to Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University for better cattle rearing. Other training on child safeguarding & child rights, child care practices, nutrition, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS awareness were organized throughout the year for primary caregivers.

We have also equipped four of our centres with teaching & learning material, and six government schools with sports material. Children and youth from the communities painted walls to raise awareness about local issues, such as Child Rights, Health & Hygiene- Open Defecation, Child Marriage issue, Girl Child Education, in 6 clusters. Health check-ups were arranged. Based on hemoglobin count, children were given nutrition and multivitamin supplements. Due to the nutritional support, 92% of children have shown improvements in their HB count levels in the first half of the year and only 87 children need to take nutrition and multivitamins supplements now.

During 2018, 91 families have exited from the programme, out of which 62 families have attained self-reliance and 29 families exited for other reasons. There are also 17 youths from FSP that got enrolled in vocational training.

Testimonial:

Chinta married her maternal uncle in the year 2009 and has a seven-year-old girl who is mentally challenged and blind. Her husband is homebound because of his multiple accidents and operations and is unable to find work. Chinta was in a very dire situation because of her child's health status, and her in-laws are not supportive of her and her daughter, due to the child's medical conditions. FSP started supporting her in December 2015 and she is one of the most active members in the group.

With the support of FSP, Chinta has been able to more than double her earnings. The increase in the family income and regular counselling have made Padma's in-laws start to accept the child. Her daughter's HB count has been improved, and her general health has also visibly improved.

"When I started accepting my child, I started being more affectionate, I started giving more love and acceptance to my daughter. She has become a happy child, she is smiling more often now. My husband is extremely appreciative of the support provided by SOS, due to which our family income has increased quite a lot", says Chinta proudly.



Chinta and her family

Financial report

Donated by Akelius University Foundation, EUR	2018 Budget	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget
CV, YF, and FS Tirupati	382 881	228 733	433 402
Investment costs renovation			175 000
Total	382 881	228 733	608 402
SEK (using exchange rate at the time of payment)	3 713 950	2 218 708	6 278 711
Average exchange rate	9,7	9,7	10,32

Total budget/actuals, all facilities above, EUR	2018 Budget	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget
Balance adjustment	0	-110 000 *	0
Investments/maintenance incl renovation	28 133	6 013	202 566 ***
Current working expenditures	235 066	219 425	246 983
Personnel expenditures	95 913	79 505	109 323
Other expenditures	9 933	6 869	6 190
Total	369 045	201 812 **	565 062
Share covered by Akelius	94%	103%	98%

* Balance adjustment

** The deviation depends on lower costs for school books, stationary, school fees, co-worker salaries, outsourcing cook etc.

*** Including construction costs 175 000 EUR of renovation of the children's village