



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 growth in the city's economy and infrastructure has been rapid over the years. However, along with this growth, poverty levels in Tirupati have also seen to be rising, and it is estimated that over 14 million children are living in absolute poverty, and around 1.3 million children have lost parental care². 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 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 a 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

- SOS Children's Village Tirupati provides care and support to 120 children living at 12 family houses.

The children on their first day were welcomed in the new home by the respective SOS mothers, their new SOS siblings, Village Director and the coworkers. A special prayer was offered at each family home with "arati" while welcoming the new children. All mothers underwent training on New Child

² <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/asia/india/tirupati>



Entry Programme. This helped the mothers to make the new child and the existing children in the family more comfortable in the family home, to make them adapt to the family and the new environment. IQ test of all the new children was done and follow-up being done as per the advice of the doctor.

Quizzes, exhibitions, digital library and workshops were provided for the children to ensure their academic performances and intellectual development. Evening tutor and self-study sessions were arranged according to children's study status. Caregivers also visited the schools frequently to check on their children's progress and will provide the necessary support to the children according to teachers' feedback. Students from Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati (IIT) and Indian Institute of Science Education Research (IISER) Tirupati visited frequently and arranged different sessions such as motivation and experiments in science and mathematics, as well as building a mini library in the village. Besides, various activities have been organised in the village to strengthen the family relationship and emotional wellbeing of children and mothers, such as traditional festival celebrations, international days, visiting science centre, training and competition in sports and cultural activities.

This year the village also focused on Child safeguarding to create a more child-friendly atmosphere in the village and family homes. With the help of experts, risk areas were identified and special awareness was given to children and mothers. Health check-ups were also arranged twice a year, while different sessions on health and hygiene were arranged for children and SOS mothers. The focus was on preventive health rather than curative treatment, at the same time immediate treatment was given to children who were sick. Kitchen gardening was done in 7 houses by mothers and children. Different training sessions arranged for children and mothers including adolescent issues, value education, sexual education, positive interaction, life skills, communication skills by professionals in the respective fields. Children were also encouraged to go to the local community, market, banks, shops, movies, parks etc. with mothers so that children were more familiar with community life.

Renovation of village buildings

In 2018, several cracks were discovered in four of the family houses and some of the administrative buildings. Therefore, after an investigation by experts, the renovation started in 2019 and was completed in February 2020. This house is currently under observation and in case no further cracks appear by June 2020, the remaining houses will be repaired the same way. Timeline for the completion of renovation is by the end of 2020.

All the children have remained in the children's village during the renovation with no impact on their school-going and other activities. The repair work will be done for two family houses at a time, and some buildings of other functions – Village Director's Residence and one co-worker residence – will be used as family houses during the renovation time. Village Director is currently staying in Guest House.





Youth Care

- 69 boys/young men have been enrolled in Youth Care in Tirupati by the end of 2019.
- Out of these, 23 boys were staying in the youth home adjacent to the Children's Village Tirupati, while 34 boys were in boarding schools /inter-colleges and 12 boys were in Sopan (a facility for boys pursuing vocational courses).

All the boys performed well in school and all of them were promoted to the next grade. 11 youths were doing their Professional education, of which 9 underwent internships during 2019. To promote academic performance and personal development among youth, tutoring and self-study sessions are provided, along with other sessions on such as spoken English, handwriting, career guidance, awareness on child rights, etc. We also encouraged the boys to use the digital library and motivated them to become good readers, and 21 youths were enrolled in a computer certification course.

The youth were encouraged to participate in all curricular and extracurricular activities, such as sports, competitions, summer camps, theatres and gardening. Mothers visited youth home regularly every Sunday to meet their children and spent quality time with them. All the important traditional festivals were celebrated properly. During festivals, youth go to the village and spend time with SOS mothers and SOS brothers & sisters.

Family Strengthening Programme (FS)

- Family Strengthening Programme reaches out to 454 children and 292 women-headed families.
- The families have made remarkable improvement economically and socially during the year, with an increase in average annual family income by 49% compared to 2018. Children are also receiving better care and all the children who are 6 and above are enrolled in schools, with no reported school dropout or child marriage cases this year.

Family Strengthening Programs aims to support disadvantaged families in the community to prevent child abandonment and ensure adequate care to children. The programme in Tirupati spread across 6 clusters with a 20km's radius from SOS children's Village Tirupati. The project has exited 301 families after five years of support, which counts for 91% of families who graduated from the programme by achieving self-reliance. A wide range of services was provided in the programme, from income-generating activities, capacity building for parents, health services, to education and childhood development. Here are a fraction of all the activities taken place during 2019.

Since all the families enrolled in the programme are farmers, training programmes are organized for the parents to adopt modern and scientific agriculture and animal husbandry methods, in collaboration with Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University and local government agencies. Parents were also trained on children's rights, parenting, financial literacy, entrepreneur development, legal awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness etc., while youths are provided workshops on adolescent health and menstrual hygiene. Located in a remote tribal area, it is very common for children to experience



school dropouts in these clusters. Therefore, extra attention was given on this issue in 2019, and a monitoring mechanism was developed in the region involving local actors, which has resulted in 100% school enrolment and zero dropouts in the FSP clusters this year.

The programme was also successful in developing active partnerships with media and various government and non-government agencies. All major programmes of FS had received good visibility through media and a majority of our awareness and capacity building programmes were in collaboration with government departments like Integrated Child Development Services, Social Justice, Health, District Rural Development Agencies etc.

Financial report

Donated by Akelius University Foundation, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
CV, YC, and FS Tirupati	433 402	350 629	349 809
Investment costs renovation	175 000	50 785	143 659
Total	608 402	401 414	493 468
SEK (using exchange rate at the time of payment)	6 278 711	4 142 595	5 354 130
Average exchange rate	10,32	10,32	10,85
Total budget/actuals, all facilities above, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Investment costs renovation	175 000	40 197	134 803
Investments/maintenance	27 566	12 431	2 530
Current working expenditures	246 983	229 140	222 126
Personnel expenditures	109 323	108 053	114 119
Other expenditures	6 190	5 889	6 612
Total	565 062	395 709	480 190