

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES TAKEN UP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION AMONG TRIBAL CHILDREN IN ITDA, BHADRACHALAM AREA DURING 1997-98

Preamble:

The post of the District Educational Officer (Agency), Bhadrachalam was created in the ITDA, Bhadrachalam through GO Ms No 301/Edn. Dated 9-7-86 to improve the education level of the tribals. As per the job chart communicated by the Director of School Education, Andhra Pradesh through proceedings Rc. No. 1377/IC-2/95 dt 28-10-95, the DEO/A has to look after both the academic and administrative functions of the education wing in the tribal sub plan area. Further the Mandal Education Officers of the 32 TSP area Mandals of the Khammam district was brought under the control of the DEO(A) vide GO Ms No 460/Edn.dt 30-3-96 for effective monitoring and close supervision of the educational activities in the agency area.

Though these orders were in vogue for many years, it was only during this academic year that the office of the DEO(A) has asserted itself and actively got involved in the educational activities in the agency area. Till now all the schools under the ITDA, Bhadrachalam was looked after by the DTWO and the schools of other management were reporting to the DEO, Khammam. By an order of the Project Officer ITDA, Bhadrachalam all academic activities and teachers establishment of the schools under the control of ITDA was brought under DEO(A). Only the infrastructural aspects like buildings, scholarships, uniforms, plates, trunk boxes, diet etc were retained with the DTWO wing. The DEO(A) was asked to conduct review meetings with the MEOs of the TSP areas and these meetings were held in ITDA every month since June 97.

The following steps were taken to improve the quality of education in the agency area this year:

1. FORMATION OF THE ACADEMIC MONITORING CELL

In order to assist the Project Officer to monitor the progress of the quality of education in the Ashram schools an Academic Monitoring Cell was formed in June 97. This cell prepared the detailed teaching plan for the year and is watching the progress of the monthly completion of the syllabus. They also prepare the question papers for the common monthly tests conducted in the Ashram Schools, analyse the results and issue necessary instructions to the teachers, organise training programs for the teachers and compile the inspection reports of the inspection panel constituted for detailed inspection of each school. They monitor the functioning of the School Complexes introduced this year in the agency mandals.

2. MONTHLY EXAMINATIONS:

In all the Ashram schools and Residential schools monthly common examinations are conducted for all classes from 7th standard to 10th standard. Quarterly and half yearly tests are also conducted by the AMC. The question papers are set in the AMC at the ITDA and sent to every school after getting them printed in the ITDA itself. This has ensured a common syllabus front in all the schools. The results of the exams are brought by the HMs to their pay centers and the pay center HMs bring them to ITDA during their monthly meeting with the DEO(A). (The DTWO has been instructed since January 97 to counter sign the salary bills of all teachers. He has been asked not to draw salary of the teachers who are not completing the syllabus as per schedule and those who have not valued the monthly test answer sheets).

The results are analysed in the AMC and suitable instructions/memos are issued to the teachers accordingly. The results are plotted using *computer graphics* subject-wise, exam-wise for each school and *monthly feedback* given to take corrective steps. The teachers have been give a target to achieve atleast 70% pass results in the 10th standard exams this year compared to 38% last year (1996-97).

3. ORIENTATION CLASSES FOR THE TEACHERS:

1. The lecturers of the Government Junior College, Kothagudem and Palvoncha conducted orientation-training programs for 40 School Assistants in Maths, Science and English for three days from 19-8-97. This has helped in improving the skills of the subject teachers.

2. APPEP training classes for all SGTs working in the Ashram schools, GVVKS and Residential Schools were conducted during the year 96-97 by the Government DIET lecturers, Khammam.

3. In 1997 training on basic teaching principles was imparted to 120 newly recruited GVVK teachers for 15 days in three batches.

4. Now these 120 GVVK teachers are deputed for TTC at Sub-Diet, Utnoor.

5. DPEP survey has been completed through MEOs and the report has been submitted to DEO.

4. SCHOOL COMPLEXES.

With a view to co-ordinate and improve the teaching in the schools in the TSP mandals, 29 School Complexes have been formed. They are still in the fledgling stage, though a few meetings have been held in these complexes to exchange views and notes between teachers working in a mandal. A study team headed by the DEO(A) and DTWO along with 5 panel grade HMs had been to ITDA, Paderu and Rampachudavarem to study the working of the school complexes which have been recently started there under the IFAD project.

5. PANEL INSPECTIONS

As per the instructions of the CTW a panel inspection team consisting of retired HMs and subject teachers headed by the DEO(A) has been established to have detailed inspection of all the schools under ITDA, Bhadrachalam. All aspects of the school are covered exhaustively in these inspections and the reports are sent to the CTW regularly.

6. MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH MEOS, HMS AND PRINCIPALS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS:

DEO(A) and DTWO are conducting monthly meetings with the MEOs of 32 mandals, HMs of Ashram HSs and Principals of the Residential schools at ITDA, Bhadrachalam to monitor the functioning of the educational institutions. Every 30th of the month PO, ITDA, DEO, DTWO and EE, TW has a meeting of the Education Cell to look into the academic as well as the infrastructural aspects of the schools under ITDA, Bhadrachalam.

7. GVVKs:

There are 288 GVVK schools and approximately 300 *Mabadi* schools functioning in the area. In order to monitor the functioning of these schools the following steps have been taken:

1. Six supervisors have been appointed @ 2 per division to visit all the GVVKs and monitor their functioning; attendance of students and teachers; drop outs, if any, and implementation of the cooked mid day meal program.
2. All of them have been provided with a *motorcycle each* to visit these schools and give reports.
3. In all these schools **mothers committees** have been formed and they are entrusted with the task of implementing the cooked mid day meal program. They have been supplied with *post cards* addressed to the Project Officer to report on any issue related to the functioning of the school. 40 to 50 feedback cards are received every month at the ITDA office. The amounts for the wages for the cook, purchase of the grocery etc are directly released to these committees. Quarterly meeting are also held with these committees. These steps have brought down the complaints of non-attendance of teachers to almost zero.
4. Performa has been designed to monitor the progress of individual child.
5. Five teachers have been sent to RCVarem to acquaint them with the concept of "*joyful learning*".
6. ITDA, Bhadrachalam was the first to start the implementation of the cooked mid day meal program in the state last year. The effective implementation of this scheme has improved the attendance of children in the schools.
7. 120 GVVK schools sanctioned through GO Ms No 731/SW dt 28-9-94 were opened in school-less habitations during the year 1997-98, selecting the qualified ST candidates as per the guidelines issued by the CTW through proceedings Rc.No. B4/6223/95 dt 28-8-95.

8. KALA JATHAS AND "NOBODY TO SOMEBODY" SCHEME:

1. In order to attract tribal children to the schools and to motivate the parents to send their children to the schools kalajathas were organised in the agency areas in the months of July and August. Four teams of ten members each toured in all the villages of low enrolment and high dropout rates in the agency area exhorting the parents through dances and dramas to send their children to the schools.
2. In order to meet demands of for schools in the habitations MEOs were asked to start some school in the school-less habitations under the "**NO BODY TO SOME BODY**" scheme introduced in the ITDA, Bhadrachalam last year. The MEOs were asked to reorganise the schools or start Mabadies here.

9. CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS WITH THE UNIONS:

In order to ensure co-operation of the teachers in the implementation of these schemes and to ensure better working conditions for them Co-ordination meeting with the teachers union is held once in three months at the Project Officer level and once in every month at the DEO(A) level. Steps have been taken to regularise the

services of the teachers/ wardens/matrons even though many of them had been working in the schools/hostels for more than two decades.

32 Wardens and Matrons who were working in the same place for more than 3 years were transferred to distant places in June 1997. Some of them were working in the same hostel for over 14 years! Guidelines have been issued for the smooth and efficient functioning of the hostels.

10. FILLING UP OF VACANCIES

In order to strengthen the teaching faculty the following vacancies were filled up during this academic year:

1	School Assistants	07 (maths)
2	School Assistants	08(science)
3	School Assistants	04 (Arts)
4	Telugu Pandits Gr II	08
5	Hindi Pandits Gr II	12
6	PETs	07
7	SGBTs	24
8	Gvvk teachers	124
TOTAL		<u>194</u>

11. APPOINTMENT OF PART TIME TEACHERS

ITDA has taken steps to utilize the services of qualified unemployed youth as part time teachers on daily wages basis in needy schools to fill up the gap of subject teachers. These teachers were selected on the basis of the recommendation of the VTDA's or the School Complex HMs. This was to ensure that the education of tribal students should not be affected due to leave or training of the regular teachers.

12. ADOPTION OF SCHOOLS BY UNIT OFFICERS AND TEACHERS UNIONS:

All high schools have been brought under the guardianship of one Unit Officer of the ITDA, Bhadrachalam. They are to ensure the proper functioning of their schools for achieving better results in the final exams. The teachers unions have also come forward to take up the following schools for improving the performance in the SSC exams in 1998 March.

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|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Ashram High School, Rompaid | APTF |
| 2. Ashram High School, Perur | UTF |
| 3. Ashram High School, Sunnambatti | STU |
| 4. Ashram High School, Irusulapuram | TWU |

13. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

1. For the maintenance of all Schools and Hostels @ Rs 2000/- and Rs 5000/- respectively to all Ashram Primary Schools and High schools and @ Rs 2000/- for taking up electrical works. All schools were white washed and repaired by July 97 itself.
2. Assessment of requirement of buildings, drinking water sources was done school wise. All schools were provided with drinking water facility.
3. 66 GVVks in the IFAD villages were provided with one table and 2 chairs each from IFAD funds.
4. Games materials worth Rs 6.38 lakhs have been supplied to all schools in this year.
5. Teaching aid materials like globes, maps, lab equipments were also supplied.
6. Furniture worth Rs 7 lakhs were supplied to the newly upgraded APRJ Colleges.
7. Generators were given to the APRS schools and inverters to the interior Ashram schools.
8. Science equipments worth Rs 3 lakhs were given to the Degree College

14. VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE:

A Vocational Training Institute has been started in ITDA, Bhadrachalam from 2nd October, 97. 40 students are undergoing training in 4 skills in the institute.

15. SPORTS, GAMES AND SCOUTS:

To waken up the talents lying dormant in the tribal children, for the first time "**BALOTHSAVAM**"- a sports and cultural meet- was organised in ITDA, Bhadrachalam last year. This year also the zonal meets have been conducted from 16-12-97 to 19-12-97. The Project Level meet was held at Palvoncha from 22-1-98 to 24-1-98. The meet was opened by Mr. S.Ray IAS, Principal Secretary, (Social Welfare), Government of AP. Mr. APVN Sharma IAS, CMD of the Singereni Collieries distributed prizes to the winners.

In association with the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh, ITDA, Bhadrachalam conducted the state Tribal Sports meet at Bhadrachalam from 8th March 98 to 10th March, 98. Over 1000 tribal sports-persons participated in the meet, vying for top spots in archery, athletics, kho-kho, kabaddi and volley ball. ITDA, Bhadrachalam clinched the Bhadrakiri cup for the overall champions. This was the result of the infrastructure developed and the 10 days training program organised by the ITDA before the start of the meet.

On 26th January, 98 an **Archery Coaching Center** was started at Bhadrachalam to give training to the talented tribal students in archery. On the same day an office for the scouts and guides was also opened here. This is intended to inculcate leadership qualities and discipline among the tribal students. Earlier a team of scouts from Bhadrachalam had secured prizes at the national scouts Jamboree held at Bhubaneswar in December 97.

16. PTG Schools

Special attention has been given for the improvement of the education of the Konda Reddy children. One Ashram Primary School Exclusively for the hilltop Konda Reddies was started on 20-7-96 at Vidyanagaram, Chintoor. 65 Konda Reddy children have been enthusiastically studying here since then. The teachers belonging to the Konda Reddy habitation schools have been deputed for training in Joyful learning methods.

17. SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY RETARDED AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.

One school for the benefit of the mentally retarded and physically handicapped children was started on 14th November, 1996 under the auspices of ITDA, Bhadrachalam. The school is run by BRESH a voluntary organisation. ITDA is giving them necessary financial assistance to run the school. The school has been recognised as one of the Best Available School for the handicapped children. The teachers have been sent for training at the National Institute for Mentally Retarded, Secunderabad by ITDA, Bhadrachalam.

18. Mapping of the schools in the computerised Geographical Management Information System (GMIS).

All the schools under all management in the tribal sub plan area are mapped on the GMIS developed for the ITDA, Bhadrachalam. This information along with the demographic data was used to locate school-less habitations. It is now proposed to start another 151 schools from the education department this year in the tribal pockets. Another 50 schools are sanctioned under DPEP this year.

19. Best Available Schools:

In addition to the already available 355 seats under the Best Available School scheme another 150 seats were sanctioned this year.

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