

Final Report

Promotion of eco-friendly schools and environmental education for Children Project

From July 2018 to June 2021

Submitted to:

**Mr.Shimoga Srinath,
People for Progress in India (PPI)
Seattle, WA.**

Submitted by:

**CHINTHANA FOUNDATION,
Near Sri Vidya Public School,
T.H.Road, Ajjampura Town,
Ajjampura Taluk-577547,
Chikmagalur district,
Karnataka state, India.**

CHINTHANA FOUNDATION, AJJAMPURA
Progress Report on
Promotion of eco-friendly schools and environmental education for
Children Project
July 2018 to June 2021

Introduction:

CHINTHANA FOUNDATION have effectively implemented and monitored the project “Promotion of eco-friendly schools and environmental education for Children” in the field at 05 schools (Arabala Gollarahatti, Garagadahalli, Nandipura, Muguli and Bankanakatte government schools) in Ajjampura block with the support by PPI, Seattle. In this final report we are highlighting about the progress and impact of this project activities in detailed for the period from July 2018 to June 2021. The project is also received a well cooperation and support from the school children, teachers and relevant stakeholders.

Activities done so far:

The following activities were initiated and effectively implemented under this project during the period from July 2018 to June 2021.

1. Fencing including barbed/mesh wire:

It is essential to establish proper fencing line to protect all the trees planted in school campus. Hence, before the tree plantation takes place, we have established and completed the proper fencing line in Arabala Gollarahatti, Garagadahalli, Nandipura, Muguli and Bankanakatte Schools through barbed wire/mesh wire with stone pillars erecting. During the middle of the project, we have made up-keeping of this fencing line and strings. As a result, the fencing was aligned well, more tighten and stronger. Similarly, we have monitored the fencing line from time to time. This has ensured safe fencing line and it was helped to protect the planted trees from unexpected attack from animals or outside people.

2. School tree plantation:

Before start the school plantation, all the ground work like fencing, earth work and soil moisture conservation required for the school tree plantation were done step by step. Thereafter, during the time of monsoon and rainfall, we have planted trees in school plantations with the active participation of school teachers, children and SMC (School Management Committee) members. They all were orientated on the need and importance of tree plantation programme. Children were also introduced each tree plant and understood its benefits during this event.

Thereafter, with the active participation of school teachers, children, SMC members and villagers, we have planted 1525 tree plants such as Mango, Sapota, Guva, Gooseberry, Neem, Pongamia, Jamoon, Jackfruit, Cherry, Coconut, Hebbevu, Teak and Soap nut in school plantation. All the plants were planted followed by pit digging according to the technical planning. Later on, the further maintenance and caring responsibilities of tree plants made oriented to SMC members, teachers, children and villagers. All these planted

trees have grown well. Besides, the CHINTHANA team was also continuously made monitoring visit and caring for each plant.

Due to lockdown restriction and COVID19 issues children and teachers were not at school for certain period (from April 2020 onwards) for the full days. At the same, it was also not possible for us to visit and monitor the school plantation for certain period. Besides, the fencing had to be removed while constructing the brick wall compound in two schools. During this time, some of the plants attacked by local livestock. As a result, 30% of planted trees could not survive.

3. Earth work:

In total 70% of planted trees survived due to earthwork and maintenance with utilization of local labour, tools and equipments. This has helped for the further growth of each plant.

4. Distribution of tree plants to school children:

The distributed tree plants to 50 students those having own lands or kitchen garden of their parents were well maintained the planted trees as the children were at home for more time due to COVID and staying at home. Children were happy to look these new plants are slowly growing in their house premises. They are continued to spend their time with them like caring and watering every day.

5. Soil and moisture conservation:

To ensure proper soil and moisture conservation, we have formed a water percolation pit with the size of 30 feet length, 20 feet width and 3 feet dept in the down part space of the Garagadahalli school campus. Since the landscape was quite slope in this school, we have planned this pit technically utilizing the waste land space in order to control soil erosion and percolate water to enhance ground water table. Now this pit is well formed and holds 25,000 liters of water approximately during rainy season. In addition to that, one more percolation pit was formed with the size 4 feet length, 4 feet width and 4 feet dept. This pit was conserved the excess over flow of water always comes from the existing water tank and utilized for the tree plants after the rainy season.

Simultaneously, the 150 formed water percolation pits were conserved the soil erosion and fully stored with water during the rainy season. At the same time all the pits filled with silt. Hence, these pits were cleaned during the summer season. The stored rich soil excavated and applied to the existing tree plants. This activity not also increased storage capacity of these pits but also conserved and utilized the fertile soil and organic manure within the land itself. The birds and other relevant species were also accessed the water from here already.

6. Mulching through coconut fibrous husk

The strategy of mulching through coconut fibrous husk was done for planted tree plants. This was holding the required water to plants for longer periods and enhanced the growth of each plant.

7. Manuring

To enhance the growth of 1525 planted trees, the organic manure (cow dung & Jeevamrutha liquid) have been supplied to the roots of these planted trees. In total 08 tractor loads of cow dung and 02 tractor loads of silt from the tank applied to the school tree plantation land. The fertility of the soil is getting improved and tree plants are also slowly growing well.

8. Establishment of Kitchen garden (in addition)

In addition to the proposed project activities, the team of CHINTHANA FOUNDATION and school children have developed the kitchen garden units in PPI supported 02 schools (Arabala gollarahatti and Garagadahalli). Similarly one more kitchen garden was developed in Basavapura School. The various vegetables like beans, chilly, green leaves, tomato, lady finger, bitter gourd, ridge gourd and radish have grown here and these vegetables added to mid-day meals. The existences of kitchen garden have consumed the vegetables by children with the value of Rs.6000/- in each school till end of second year. There was a gap for growing vegetables for more than one year due to COVID. Now, teachers and children are restarted growing the vegetables in their school kitchen garden.

The programme team of CHINTHANA FOUNDATION has continued the effective implementation of all the project activities in 05 school tree plantations. At the same time monitoring of fencing, watering, caring, providing manure and protection measures were timely initiated for the sustainability of all trees planted. As a result of timely monitoring we could managed to survive the 70% of planted trees. So far all the trees are growing well. The project is also received a well cooperation and support from the school children, teachers and relevant stakeholders. We have built a good rapport with school authorities and SMC members.

But the emergence of COVID and lockdown restrictions, we could not continue the monitoring for the certain period. Hence, there is 30% of mortality rate among the planted trees. Though, we will continue our efforts for the further sustainability of all the existing trees planted. At the same time, we will put our effort to replace the trees which are not survived. We will continue our monitoring measures to care for all the trees planted.

Reported By:

Secretary,
Chinthana Foundation.