

Campaign on Gutka Chewing Habit: (duplication)

Tharuni had taken up a **Campaign against Sale of Gutka** near Educational Institutions which resulted in imposing of Ban on the sale of Gutka by the District Collectors of Warangal and Karimnagar for the first time in the state. Subsequently the State Government extended this ban to all Gutka products, Pan Masala and Zarda in the entire state of Telangana.

Tharuni ran a campaign called “**GutkathoGutukku**” and staged puppet shows, in various villages & schools to educate people about the evils of Gutka, and most importantly to bring awareness among school students.



The Collector, Mr. K. Prabhakar Reddy, lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration of a workshop on ghutka consumption in Warangal on Saturday.

Collector calls for steps to ban ghutka in school zones

By Our Staff Reporter

WARANGAL, DEC. 15. The Warangal Collector, Mr. K. Prabhakar Reddy, has asked officials concerned to explore under what powers they may issue an administrative order banning sale of 'ghutka' within a radius of 250 metres from any educational institution in the district.

Participating in a workshop on 'combating ghutka consumption by schoolchildren' organised on Saturday by an NGO, Tharuni, working for the welfare of the adolescent girls, Mr. Reddy said the growing children who were earlier consuming groundnut, fruits and other edibles now developed addiction to fast foods, soft drinks, cigarettes and ghutka. The habits were passed on from parents to children.

Mr. Reddy emphasised the role of NGOs in eradicating cancer and other harmful effects on ac-

count of ghutka consumption and called for creation of awareness among a large extent of population to rid the society of the evil.

The outgoing Conservator of Forests, Mr. P. Raghuvier, said the consumption of ghutka by schoolchildren had increased manifold since 1996.

The Indian Medical Association, Warangal branch president, Dr. N. Sambasiva Rao, said the children were drawn to ghutka by the inherent fragrance in the material. The disease resistance power of people was affected by regular consumption, he maintained.

The Additional Superintendent of Police (Admn), Mr. D. Vittal, University Law College Principal, Dr. Padma, a psychiatrist, Dr. Sridhar Raju, a plastic surgeon, Dr. S. Hanumantha Rao, and a physician, Dr. R. Lakshmanamurthy, made presentations on the dangers of ghutka consumption.

The frustration tolerance and pain-bearing capacity of people diminished due to ghutka consumption, according to Dr. Sridhar Raju. He also said people consumed ghutka to overcome strains in inter-personal relations.

The idea of banning sale of ghutka pouches near educational institutions was proposed by Tharuni as expressed by its General Secretary, Dr. Mamata Raghuvier, in her opening remarks. She referred to the findings of the World Health Organisation-sponsored Global Youth

Tobacco Survey which covered school students of Khammam, Karimnagar, Nalgonda and Warangal districts while making the suggestion. About 20 per cent of the children are already addicted to ghutka because of its easy accessibility, low prices and attractive packaging, Dr. Mamata said.

MEETINGS OF THE COLLECTOR & DIST. MAGISTRATE, WARANGAL::
PRESENT: SRI K.PRABHAKAR REDDY, I.A.S.,

C2/13324/2001.

Dated:20-12-2001.

Sub:- Conduct of trade or business of all Gutkas within the radius of 250 meters around the educational institutions in Warangal District - Prohibited - Orders issued.

Read:-Work shop on "Combating Gutka Consumption by School children" at Millenium Hall, Government Junior College, Hanamkonda, Dated: 15-12-2001.

ORDER:

During the interactive sessions held at the workshop on "Combating Gutka Consumption by School children" at Millenium Hall, Government Junior College, Hanamkonda, Warangal held on 15-12-2001, It is revealed that the consumption of gutka is on the increase in school going children. About 20% of the students have already become addicted to gutka, which contains cancer-causing chemicals such as Titanium Oxide. The easy accessibility, low prices and attractive packaging are drawing the innocent children towards gutka consumption. It is noticed that gutka pouches are being sold freely by the panwallahs along with supari pouches in almost all the surrounding places of schools. According to dental surgeons, the use of Gutka and panmasala is the main cause for incidence of oral cancer. In order to keep away the students from easy consumption of gutka, It was felt necessary to prohibit the sale of gutka pouches near the Educational Institutions.

2) The suggestions made in the workshop are genuine and felt necessary to prohibit the conduct of trade or business of all types of Gutka within the radius of 250 meters around the educational Institutions in the District.


3) Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred u/s (1), 133 of Cr.P.C., the conduct of trade or business of Gutka within the radius of 250 meters around the educational Institutions in the District is prohibited forthwith.

4) Persons found violating the orders shall be liable for punishment u/s 188 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 i.e. imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or both.

//Attested//

Sd/-K.Prabhakar Reddy,
COLLECTOR & DIST.MAGISTRATE,
WARANGAL.

Administrative Officer.

To 
The Superintendent of Police, Warangal.
The Revenue Divisional Officers, Warangal, Jangaon, Mulug and Mahabubabad.
All the Mandal Revenue Officers in the District.
Copy to the District Educational Officer, Warangal.
Copy to the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Warangal.
Copy to the Regional Joint Director of Higher Education, Warangal.
Copy to the Regional Joint Director of School Education, Warangal.
Copy to the District Public Relations Officer, Warangal for necessary action.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLLECTOR & DIST. MAGISTRATE, KARIMNAGAR

Present: Smt. Sumita Dawra, I.A.S.

Proc.No.C1.6501/2001

Dated: 18.1.2001

Subj:- Conduct of trade or business of all Gutkas within the radius of 250 meters around the educational institutions in Karimnagar District - Prohibited Orders issued.

Read:- Workshop on "Combating Gutka Consumption by School Children" at Milamias Hall, Govt. Junior College, Hanamkonda dated: 18.1.2001

ORDER:

Whereas it has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that the consumption of gutka is on the increase in the school going children. As per the findings of TARUNI (NGO), about 20% of the students have already become addicted to gutka which contains cancer causing chemicals such as Titanium Oxide. The easy accessibility, low prices and attractive packaging are drawing the innocent children towards gutka consumption. It is noted that gutka pouches are being sold freely by the panwallahs along with sugar pouches in almost all the surrounding places of schools. According to dental surgeons, the use of Gutka and paanmasala is the main cause for incidence of oral cancer. In order to keep away the students from easy consumption of gutka, it was felt necessary to prohibit the sale of gutka pouches near the educational institutions. The workshop strongly recommended to totally ban the sale of gutka from the premises of all education institutions.

In the above circumstances, it is felt necessary to prohibit the conduct of trade or business of all types of Gutka within the radius of 250 meters around the educational institutions in the district.

3. Therefore, in exercise of powers conferred u/s.133(1) of Cr. P.C. the conduct of trade or business of Gutka within the radius of 250 meters around the educational institutions in the District is prohibited forthwith.

4. Persons found violating the orders shall be liable for punishment u/s. 188 of Indian Penal Code, 186 i.e. imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or both.

Sd/- SUMITA DAWRA,
COLLECTOR & DIST. MAGISTRATE,
KARIMNAGAR

To
The Superintendent of Police, Karimnagar
Copy to the District Educational Officer, Karimnagar for implementing order through all Head Masters of Schools in the district.
Copy to all the Revenue Divisional Officers/Sub-Collector and Mandal Revenue Officers for strict implementation.
Copy to the Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Karimnagar
Copy to the District Public Relations Officer, Karimnagar for publication in leading Telugu and daily news papers.

ATTENDED

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.



సూక్ష్మ పిల్లలను తినేస్తున్న గుట్టా

పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులకు ప్రమాదకరమైన చెడు అలవాట్లు ఏమైనా ఉంటాయా అంటే ఒకప్పుడు ఆశ్చర్యకరంగా ఉండేది. హాంవర్క్ చేయకపోవడం, బడికి పోకుండా రోడ్ల మీద తిరగడం, క్లాసులు ఎగ్గొట్టి సినిమాలకు చెక్కియడం, చెడు సహవాసాలతో చదువును నిర్లక్ష్యం చేయడంలాంటి కొన్ని మినహా పెద్దగా ఆందోళన చెందాల్సిన చెడు అలవాట్లు పిల్లలకు అలవడేవి కావు. అంతగా అయితే సిగరెట్లు తాగడం లాంటి దురలవాట్లు కొందరికి అట్టేవి. కానీ ఇటీవల కొన్ని ప్రమాదకరమైన ప్రాణాంతకమైన అలవాట్లు స్కూలు విద్యార్థులకు అలవడుతున్నాయి. దశాబ్దం క్రితం నగరంలో స్కూల్ పిల్లలకు నమోసాలు, చాక్లెట్లతో మాడక ప్రవ్యాలు కలిపి విక్రయిస్తున్నారని వార్తలు వచ్చేవి. ఇలాంటి నేరాలను అరికట్టడం పోలీసులకు కూడా సులభసాధ్యంగా ఉండేది. కానీ ఇప్పుడు వారి అదుపులో అంతగా లేని గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాల అలవాటుకు పిల్లలు బానిసలవుతున్నారు. గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాల వ్యాపారానికి ప్రభుత్వ పరంగా కొన్ని పరిమితుల్లోనైనా అనుమతి ఉండడమే కాకుండా స్వేచ్ఛా విక్రయానికి అవకాశం ఉండడంతో స్కూలు పిల్లలు వీటికి సునాయనంగా అలవాటు పడుతున్నారు. గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాల విక్రయాల మీద చట్టపరంగా కొన్ని పరిమితులు ఉన్నా వ్యాపారస్తులు వాటిని ఉల్లంఘించడం, అధికారులు, పోలీసులు నరైన తనిఖీలు నిర్వహించకపోవడం వల్ల ముక్కుపచ్చలారని వయస్సులోనే విద్యార్థులు వీటికి బానిసలై ప్రాణాంతకమైన రోగాల బారిన పడుతున్నారు. ఇటీవల 'తరుణి' అనే ఒక స్వచ్ఛంద సంస్థ స్కూల్ పిల్లల గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాల అలవాట్లపై వరంగల్ పట్టణంలో చేసిన పరిశోధనలో ఆసక్తికరమైన



వచ్చే వర్క్ షాప్ లో పాల్గొన్న విద్యార్థులు

అంశాలు బయటపడ్డాయి. సుమారు 20 శాతం విద్యార్థులు గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాలలకు అలవాటు పడ్డారని తెలియింది. వీరిలో చాలా మంది నోటికి సంబంధించిన ఏదో ఒక జబ్బు బారిన పడ్డట్లు స్పష్టమవుతోంది. స్కూల్, హాస్పిటల్ కు 100 మీటర్ల పరిసరాల్లో పొగాకు ఉత్పత్తులను విక్రయించకూడదని, 18 ఏళ్ల లోపు వయస్సు వారికి కూడా వీటిని అమ్మకూడదని చట్టపరమైన ఆదేశాలు ఉన్నా వ్యాపారస్తుల నిర్లక్ష్యం కారణం 6, 7వ తరగతి పిల్లలు కూడా వీటికి బానిసలవుతున్నారు. నగరంలో కూడా పరిస్థితి ఇండుకు భిన్నంగా ఏమీ లేదు. వాస్తవానికి సమస్య ఇక్కడ మరింత సీరియస్ గా ఉండే అవకాశాలున్నాయి. ఈ నేపథ్యంలో గుట్టా, పాన్ మసాల అలవాటు మంచిది కాదని చాటేందుకు తరుణి సంస్థ ఆధ్వర్యంలో నగరానికి కొందరు బాలలు తరలి వచ్చి ఒక వచ్చేత్రీ (తోలు బొమ్మలాట) కార్యక్రమాన్ని రూపొందించారు. దుర్గాబామ్మడేశ్ ముఖ్ కాలనీలో ఉన్న నోరి ఆర్ట్ అండ్ పెప్ట్రీ సెంటర్ లో ఆరుగురు విద్యార్థినులు వచ్చేత్రీ వర్క్ షాప్ లో శిక్షణ పొందారు. డిసెంబర్ 27 నుంచి 30 వరకు జరిగిన ఈ వర్క్ షాప్ లో 'గుట్టా గుట్టక్క' అనే అంశంతో పాటలు, మిమిక్రీ, డ్రామాలతో కూడిన వినూత్న కథాంశంతో ఒక కార్యక్రమాన్ని రూపొందించారు. ఈ వచ్చేత్రీ షోను రాష్ట్రంలోని పలు ప్రాంతాల్లోని పాఠశాలలో ప్రదర్శించే రీతిలో విద్యార్థినులకు శిక్షణ ఇచ్చారు. విద్యార్థుల హృదయాలపై వచ్చేత్రీ మంచి ప్రభావాన్ని కలుగ జేసి వారిని ఈ చెడు అలవాటుకు దూరంగా చేస్తుందని తరుణి నిర్వాహకురాలు డాక్టర్ మమత రఘువీర్ ఆశాభావం వ్యక్తం చేశారు.

-ప్రభాతవార్త, సిటీబ్యూరో

HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaigns: (Pl add in HIV/AIDS)

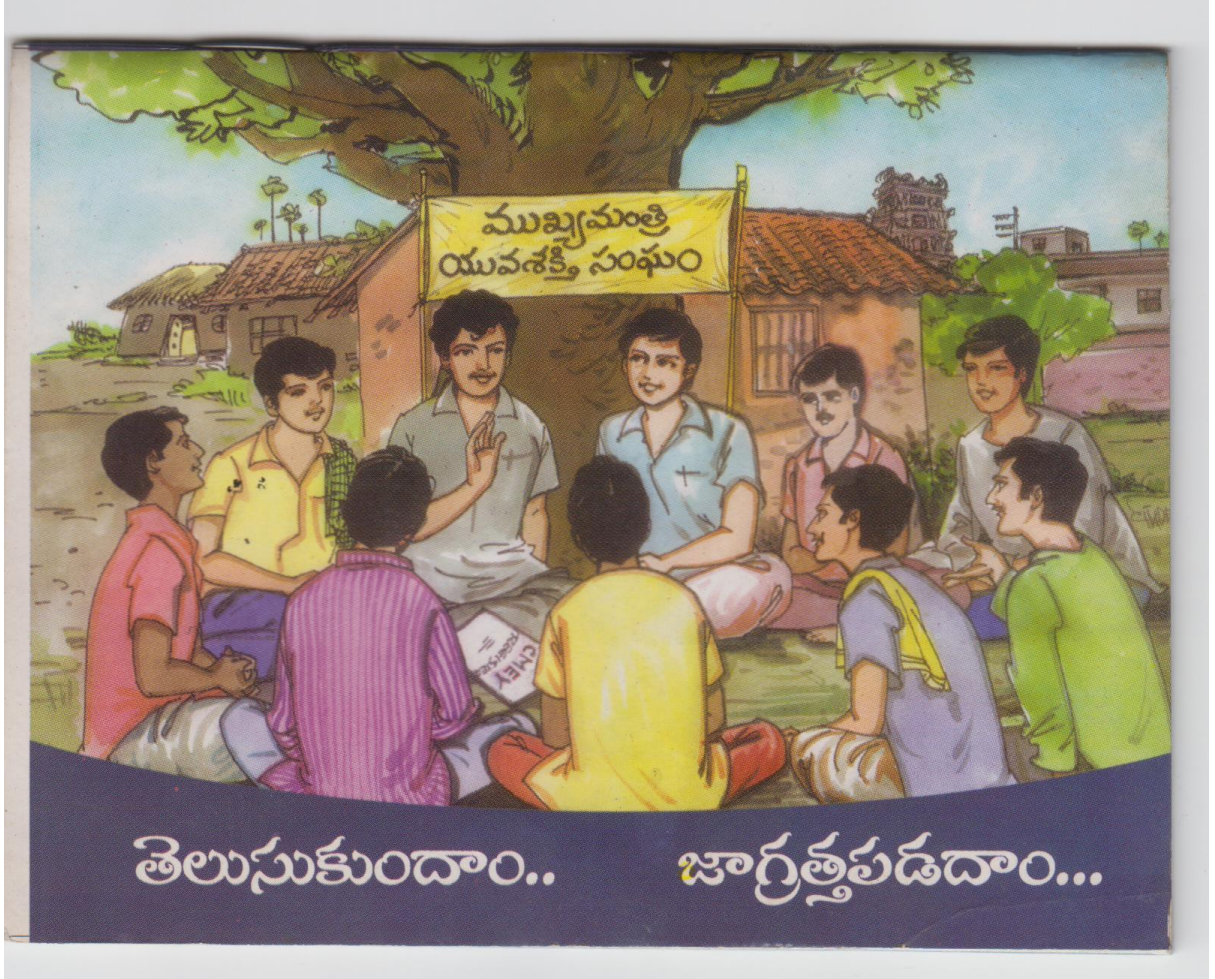
Tharuni structured training programs on HIV/AIDS for out of school Adolescent Girls in three Mandals of Warangal district. During this program, Tharuni realized that adolescents are more vulnerable to such diseases like HIV/AIDS and they needed lot of counseling and support.

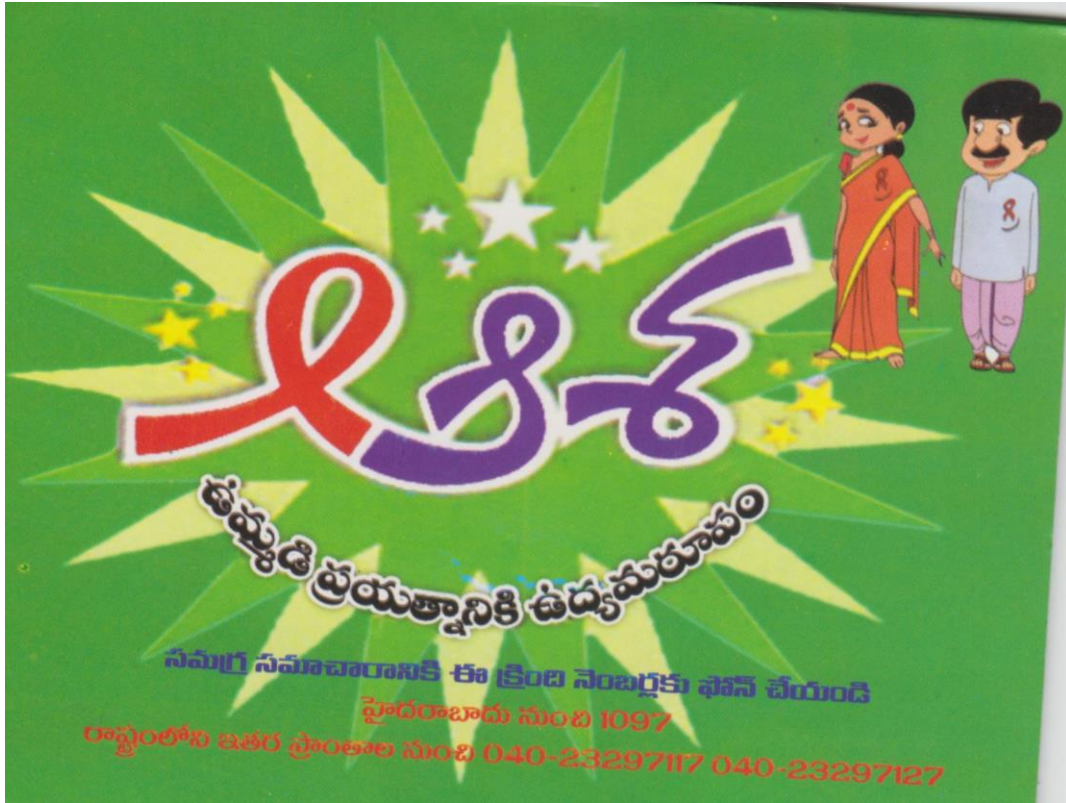
Tharuni organized a UNICEFPilot project on HIV/AIDS for Self Help Group women, Adolescent Girls and Youth in 200 villages in Warangal District covering 90,000 people.

The NACO and UNAIDS reports show that 50% of new infections occur among youth under the age group of 15 to 24 years. The risk of HIV/AIDS increases with the

increase in number of child marriages. Hence, Tharuni's efforts were well received by the people in the district.

Tharuni developed a colorful **Flip Book and Training Module** for Adolescent Girls on HIV/AIDS for A.P. State AIDS Control Society, Hyderabad.





తలుసుకుందం / జిగ్రత్తపడదం

ESTABLISHING BALIKA SANGHAS

500 BalikaSangams have been formed for 10,000 girls in 95 villages in Ghanpur (Station), Dharmasagar, Geesukonda and Devarupputa Mandals by Tharuni. 3 Group Leaders from each BalikaSangha were trained on Child Rights, Life Skills & Reproductive Health.

All this has improved the confidence levels of girls and parents. The parents are feeling that forming BalikaSangams are helping them to improve in Education and Employment and also helping them to postpone their marriages. The girls are getting correct information regarding various issues related to girls. They also inform about Child Marriages and help Tharuni in stopping them.

To bring out their talents various competitions like Quiz, Essay writing, Sports, Song & Dance are organized and certificates are issued during the 'BalikaMelas' every year.

Tharuni imparts **Vocational** courses training for Tailoring, Hand Embroidery, Cycle Repair, Karate, Karrasamu, Mobile Repair, Agarbathi making, Chalk piece making, Candle Making and Photo lamination to girls as per their need. By doing so, Tharuni motivates the girls to have their source of revenue and also be proud of contributing to the family. Young girls can earn and utilize the money for their education. Tailoring center is being run in one village (Station Ghanpur) and about 100 girls have been trained. Most of the girls are stitching uniforms for welfare hostels in the district.

Tharuni also facilitates job oriented trainings to girls in collaboration with State and District Administration. As many as 250 girls could get jobs in the fields of Hotel Management, Retail Marketing, Apparel and garment making, etc.

CHILD HELPLINE – Sub Centre at Eturnagaram

Tharuni used to run a Sub Center (support organization) at Eturnagaram Tribal Agency area in District Warangal. It operates in three Mandals – Eturnagaram, Mangapet and Tadvai where Awareness, rescue, Support & Shelter activities of Child helpline – 1098 are being facilitated by Tharuni. In this area, Tharuni also worked with migrant **GuthiKoya** Tribal children from Chhattisgarh. These children were provided medical care and are helped to get mainstreamed in to regular schools.

Rural Resource Centres for Girls

Tharuni runs Resource Centers in Villages for Adolescent Girls in collaboration with an IT company – **Hexagon** under its **CSR**

initiative. In these centers girls are being trained in Soft Skills like Spoken English, Basics of Computers, Life Skills & Health Education. We are also running a Library and Sports for the girls.

TharuniGurukul for Children

Tharuni runs a Concept School for children of Domestic Workers in Hyderabad near our Administrative Office. This school runs on Sundays and Summer Holidays and helps in mainstreaming these poor children in school and colleges. A free tailoring center is also run for the women. The children get tuitions every day. During Sundays and Summer holidays they are taught Carnatic Music, Drawing & Painting, Sloka recital and Life Skills. Education Sponsorships are being given to these needy children.

Tharuni Newsletter

Tharuni has a special Newsletter for women & girls. It has so many useful articles for girls like Legislations related to Children & Women, Inspiring Articles related to women & girl achievers, Nutritive Recipes, Beauty tips, Tharuni Activities and special articles focusing every time one burning issue related to girls and women.

‘Tharunopayam’ – a confidential SMS Helpline

Tharuni runs a special SMS based Helpline (**9000243000**) for women & girls. Any query can be asked by the girl / woman related to their health, Education, Life – relationships, Love affairs, Career, Legal guidance, etc. The SMS will reach the concerned expert and the expert will answer the query. They also help in connecting to the required assistance like Advocates / NGOs / Govt. officials and help the victim in rehabilitation.

Case Study:

Here is one such Success Story of a Woman, suffering from so many family problems from 2013, who could re-establish her family and started a special branch of 'Tharuni' at Khammam in Telangana State. This is only one example of the service given by Tharuni through the SMS Helpline - Tharunopayam.

Raja Kumari comes from a lower middle class family, who could complete her Graduation from a local college. She was married to a Graduate from the nearby village, many years ago. She has two children, a girl and a boy. Her family's expenses were managed by the meagre income that was incurred from their small medical shop. Eventually, even that had come to a halt. The concerning authority found fault with their license and the unit was seized.

Soon after this, they moved to Hyderabad to make both ends meet. This was the time when her husband started to physically abuse her as he couldn't do much to sort out the situation. This has traumatised Raja Kumari quite a lot; however, she found a piece of story in the Sakshi news daily about Tharunopayam – A Confidential SMS Helpline. Upon contacting Tharunopayam, she was referred to NGOs for jobs, but she failed. On contacting Tharunopayam yet again, she shook hands with Dr. MamathaRaghuveerAchanta and handed over her resume and got posted as a Teacher in TharuniGurukul on Sundays. Not just that, her children were also admitted in Government schools. Eventually, she was also placed to work in a Supermarket on weekdays. Later, she joined a school as teacher.

After several such hardships, she started a branch of 'TharuniGurukul', helping 25 children to improve their skills at her place. Recently, they celebrated 'Children's Day' for which her husband, contributed refreshments to the children, and participated in their activities.

TharuniSwecha – Cycle to School Campaign for Girls

Cutting across the odds of the lack of transportation in villages, which are resulting in school dropouts, through TharuniSwechaprogramme, Tharuni is donating bicycles to girl children to help them attend school daily. Cycle to School is a mission to increase literacy among economically poor students, besides instilling a sense of confidence in building a bright future. Through this initiative, “Tharuni-Swecha” plans to donate at least 500 cycles to school-going girls every year. This year Tharuni could donate nearly 100 Cycles till today. Tollywood Actress MsRakulPreet Singh stands tall as the brand-ambassador for this initiative.

TharuniSwecha – Two Wheeler Training for Women

To make women independent and more on their own, Tharuni initiated Swecha, a two wheeler training programme which spans over 8 weeks for women.

With a unique concept of advocating #FreedomThroughMobility and #EmpowermentOnWheels, THARUNI, in collaboration with The BIKERNI Hyderabad, an all women motorcycle club started Two-Wheeler Training sessions to girls and women in the city. Our objective is to make women more self-reliant, confident and help them to not see travelling as a hurdle while climbing up their career ladder.

With both Geared and Non-Geared options to choose from, and expertise from the mentors of The Bikerni Hyderabad Chapter, the Transport and the Traffic Departments, the Hero MotoCorp, the Traffic Training Park, this initiative emphasizes on Riding Responsibly. All the participants will be trained on Safe Riding Techniques, Road Safety, Traffic Rules, and Assistance to acquire Driver's license and Self Defense. Adding to this Apollo Hospitals who always believe in safety first, are importing a session on how to handle emergencies.

From breaking the threshold of fear to take the first step towards mobility to building a community of women who are more on their own, #TharuniSwecha plans to impart these training sessions to approximately 2000+ girls/women over the period of 1 year.

To enrol yourself, logon to **swecha.tharuni.org** or follow us on **facebook.com/tharuni.swecha**

Happy Riding!

TharuniMitra Awards:

Tharuni lets women nominate all those wonderful men who've always stood for women as much as they've stood for themselves. This is one amazing way to recognize and reward those wonderful men in their circles and put them on a higher pedestal for being their natural yet wonderful selves! All the selected men are therefore felicitated as TharuniMitras for more men to be inspired and follow suit. This event happens on International Women's Day every year.

Tharuni – TS Tourism: (duplication)

In order to save an indigenous art from turning extinct, Tharuni, in collaboration with Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation has been supporting 111 families of the reputed Nakashi artisans of Cherial by providing them a platform to showcase their skill to the world. To also promote Rural Tourism, a Village Tourism Development Seva Society has been setup, along with a Training Centre, Gazebo for craft-retailing, Open-Air Amphitheatre, Cafeteria and Demonstration Hall among others to define a means of livelihood for the craftsmen.

Network of International Legal Activists: (link website www.nilawcr.org)

Tharuni, as its legal wing, is fully operational through Network of International Legal Activists (NILA) to support women and children across the world against gender atrocities, for free. NILA helps counsel and initiate legal proceedings to women and children affected by violence, for an improved access to judicial provisions to seek relief.

NILA could solve 52 cases over the last two years, related to domestic violence, marital conflict/divorce and workplace harassment among others.

Bandhavya:

As another feather in the cap, Tharuni also launched “Bandhavya – The Premier Relationship Management Academy” on September 15th, 2017. Tharuni, through Bandhavya provides services to strengthen and support all the relationships in your life – with self, your partner, your family, your children, your employer/employee, and your teacher/student and any other relationship to occur within life’s eventual transitions. Moreover, Bandhavya offers Victim Rehabilitation and Counseling services to benefit those in need of it.

Girls Advocacy Alliance:

The Girls Advocacy Alliance is an initiative of Plan Netherlands, Defence for Children Netherlands-ECPAT and Terre des Hommes, Netherlands. The alliance tackles violence against girls and young women and create (economic) opportunities for them through lobby and advocacy. Starting January 2016, the alliance is implementing a five-year programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This programme covers ten countries including India. Terre des Hommes, Netherlands is implementing this programme in three districts of Telangana State, namely Warangal, Mahbubnagar and Khmnamam through Tharuni Consortium comprising ShramikaVikasaKendram (SVK), SCOPE-RD, and Tharuni as its lead partner.

The Girls Advocacy Alliance programme has four strategic objectives - to eliminate Child Marriages, Child Trafficking and promote Secondary

Education along with Job Oriented Vocational Trainings to girls and young women.

We work with:

- 1) Key leaders (traditional, religious, community) and role models of the local community.
- 2) Civil society organisations and networks so that they advocate for the active implementation of policies for prevention of Child Marriages, Child Trafficking and promoting Secondary Education and Job oriented Vocational Trainings.
- 3) Corporate sector for providing safer workplaces, better working conditions for girls and young women and supports the transition from school to work for girls.
- 4) Government, by advocating with concerned departments for an effective implementation of legislation and public policies to protect girls and young women.

SUCCESS STORIES

Yamuna :



The IAS girl is how Yamuna is referred to as. For it is her dream to become an IAS officer one day. The answer to what she would like to do when she becomes one is quite predictable. “Work for the prevention of child marriages and child labour and making sure that all children receive education”. Yamuna scored 521 on 600 in her 7th class examinations and stood first in school. The joy was short-lived as her parents began scouting for a groom for her.

Yamuna approached Tharuni after knowing about its activities through a friend. Dr.Mamatha immediately got in touch with her family members, who were reluctant to send her back to school. The expenses are a problem, they said. Dr.Mamatha financed her education for the next three years. Yamuna scored 463 on 600 in her SSC exams. “A disappointingly low score,” she says. Even as she was pondering over which college to join, her parents once again wanted to get her married. It was a distress call to Dr. Mamatha yet again, and no time was lost in responding. The local police, upon being alerted by Tharuni, counseled Yamuna” s parents and took an undertaking that they would not get her married until she turns 18 from them. Yamuna is now studying Intermediate 2nd year at a college in Station Ghanpur. She chose Biology, Physics and Chemistry as her majors and aspires to join a Pharmacy college. Then of course, is Mission IAS

Mamatha:



Born into a family with four children, life had been a struggle on a daily basis for Mamatha. The family saw her through 10th class, after which she started working as a labourer. She got married soon to an electrician in Khammam, at a tender age of 15. The abusive husband wounded her physically and mentally, with more demands for dowry. He brought home his girlfriend and continued to have a live-in relationship with her, with tacit approval from his parents. Unable to endure the torture any longer, she returned home.

She attended a YES (Youth Employment Scheme), organized by Tharuni in association with Police department for creation of employment opportunities for youth in naxal-affected areas. Tharuni provided her with all necessities, including uniforms and money for miscellaneous expenses. She was enrolled into hotel management course, and had successfully finished it. Tharuni helped her hire an advocate to fight her divorce case, and also in getting back the Rs. One Lakh rupees that had been given as dowry. One and a half years later, the 20 year-old girl is now working at a hotel in Karimnagar and married happily to MrAmruth.

Sumalatha:



There was no reason why Sumalatha's brother threw her off the stairs when she was a child, but the incident continued to haunt for a long time, in most brutal ways. Her intestine ruptured and required a few stitches. Sumalatha had been a sick child from ever since, complaining for days at a stretch about stomach pain and other problems.

She never received medical care, partly due to negligence and also because of the precarious financial condition of the family. The family ruled out marriage, for no one would marry a sick girl and even if marriage happens, it wouldn't last long.

In a strange twist to irony, the family decided that Sumalatha would become a nun and sent her to Vijayawada.. The nuns, taken back by her health condition, decided to send her back after getting a medical checkup done. Back in Chilpur, she became a member of the local BalikaSangham, which was where she got in touch with Tharuni. Upon

knowing her health condition, Tharuni took her to MGM Hospital in Warangal and got a comprehensive health checkup done. She was diagnosed with Hernia and when her parents did not turn up, Dr. Mamatha and other Tharuni coordinators took care of her. Sumalatha was relieved of her pain, a result of an infection at the site of sutures in her intestines, after living with it for 13 long years. She was enrolled in an undergraduate course through the Open University system and had even found a job as a warden at Karuna Health Centre, Veleru. She now earns Rs.4000 per month. Even her family, which had disowned her, is on talking terms with her now.

Jyothi:



Jyothi completed her intermediate and was found to sit idle. Tharuni coordinator, Rajitha encouraged her to pursue her further studies while Jyothi expressed her interest in computer education. Rajitha discussing with Dr. Mamatha, director of Tharuni foundation, arranged computer training classes in NIT, Warangal.

After her training programme Jyothi says, „I learnt how to live in the society. I was previously scared to go to my teachers and clarify my doubts but now I am courageous enough to talk to professors directly. Professors helped me understand every topic with great ease. I am very thankful to them. Thanks to Tharuni team for encouraging me and giving me this opportunity to learn.” Parents verbalized, “We find no cowardliness in Jyothi now. She intermingles with everyone around her which was lacking in her previously. A great confidence appears in her words. We feel very proud of her. Thank You Tharuni for giving her such an opportunity.”

