

# THE GUNTUR DIOCESE SOCIAL SERVICE AND WELFARE SOCIETY



**ANNUAL REPORT  
APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020**

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## CONCLUSION



**GDSSWS** CARITAS GUNTUR

*The Light of Love.....*

**Overview**

## THE GUNTUR DIOCESE SOCIAL SERVICE AND WELFARE SOCIETY (GDSSWS)

The Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) is the official and mainstream social service arm of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Guntur, in Andhra Pradesh. It has a glorious history for its indomitable work towards the empowerment of the rural poor backward communities.

The GDSSWS registered on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1976 completed 43 years of impeccable service setting benchmarks in social, economical and educational empowerment of the poor and the downtrodden. It has its headquarters in Guntur Municipal Corporation, with full-fledged office and infrastructure. The GDSSWS is well organized with Most Rev. Dr. Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah, the bishop of Guntur as its President, Rev. Dr. Govindu Rayanna, Executive Director and experienced staff. Overall planning and administration responsibility is vested with the Executive Director of GDSSWS, who executes all the programs under the guidance of the executive board of GDSSWS.

The GDSSWS has set milestones by implementing several projects starting from organizing women into groups to work collectively for their development. Community health programmes in several villages with women in focus educating them on preventive, curative and promotive aspects of health. Cancer awareness is progress in several villages with the help of VHWs, ANMs and ASHA workers. Leprosy Eradication was executed in 493 villages. Health education for 26,000 children in 100 schools, generated health awareness among school children.

The people are provided with drinking water and water for irrigation through the

drilling of bore wells and agricultural bore wells, construction of overhead drinking water tanks and setting up of mineral water plants. Houses have been constructed for the homeless rural and urban poor. Toilets have been built to improve health, hygiene and sanitation of the poor backward communities. A mobile water tanker supplies drinking water to the slums in urban and rural areas on daily basis with the collaboration of Guntur Municipal Corporation. The farming fraternity was educated on new farming techniques and assisted with quality seeds and fertilizers to improve crop yield.

Education for poor school children and college students is being promoted throughout the district especially among the girls irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Youth have been imparted vocational trainings in computers, medical lab, technology and tailoring for employment opportunities. Several projects have been executed for the physically challenged towards self-reliance. Guntur district situated on the coastal belt and always affected by cyclones, floods and tsunami that caused untold havoc and destruction to lives and properties. The disaster victims have been helped through emergency food relief and construction of over 5000 strong houses as a permanent measure in collaboration with the government and external funding partners.

All our projects adopt a bottom-up approach involving the beneficiaries in all the levels of the program. We firmly believe that the beneficiaries are the architects of their own destiny and their involvement is central at all the levels of the project.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fathers, Sisters, Donors, Well-wishers and Friends,

I am extremely delighted to know that the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) is bringing out a splendid annual report of 2019-2020 with all its multifarious activities.

GDSSWS established in 1976 has a glorious and enriching past of 43 years of unique and invaluable service working among the people at the grassroots. Besides communitarian activities the GDSSWS worked towards the eradication of leprosy and cancer awareness. They also met the needs of the victims of natural and man-made disasters having played a pivotal role in humanitarian emergencies in times of cyclones, floods, and tsunami. They have trained staff in Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM). The staff has been successful in building resilient communities in the coastal belt of Guntur that are vulnerable to disasters.

I had the privilege to participate in the planning of the various programmes of GDSSWS, which you will know as you browse over the pages. It is worthy to mention that in spite of the limited resources at hand they were able to perform many worthwhile projects encompassing the 8 sectors of development, the guiding principles of their development approach. What I admire is the excellent team work and seamless coordination and people's participation that spelt astounding success promoting sustainability.

The litany of social welfare activities have been generously funded by several international donors and Caritas India had always been in the forefront. Caritas India had also built the capacities of GDSSWS staff periodically and honed their skills that helped them to work efficiently empowering the poor. We are deeply indebted to the donors and well-wishers for their benevolence and magnanimity.

I am proud that GDSSWS has been evincing great enthusiasm to realize its vision and mission by undertaking myriad activities and achieving extraordinary results by empowering poor rural communities. They have added significance to all the activities involving the people at all levels of their development. The report speaks out for itself. I am greatly impressed by their efforts.

Rev. Fr. Govindu Rayanna, Executive Director of GDSSWS and his staff played a heroic role bringing relief through the distributions of sanitizers, facial masks, dry rations, cooked food, mineral water and other essential supplies to the slum-dwellers, migrant laborers, sanitary workers and police personnel on patrol affected by COVID 19. I had also participated in the distribution.

I congratulate each and every member of GDSSWS workforce for their dedicated services in empowering the rural poor. I urge them to continue their good work and win laurels to the diocese. I invoke God's bountiful graces on each and every member of GDSSWS.

*+ Ch. Bhagyaiah*  
+ Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah  
Bishop of Guntur &  
President of GDSSWS



**GDSSWS** CARITAS GUNTUR

*The Light of Love .....*

## A NOTE BY VICE - PRESIDENT



Dear Fathers, Sisters, Donors, Well-wishers and Friends,

I greatly applaud the sterling services of the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) towards the empowerment of the poor and the marginalized.

As the Vice-President on the Executive Board of GDSSWS I have been following with interest all the activities of GDSSWS. They have done exceptionally well in empowering the people through the various community development interventions. They have registered a good presence in the villages as it is seen in this annual report of 2019-2020.

The most important is that GDSSWS has successfully crossed a historical milestone with 43 years of impeccable and dedicated service towards human development. All along they have nurtured a skilled, professional, dedicated and dynamic team to carry forward the wonderful mission, the development of people. Their continuous thoughts and reflections have not only made the development interventions relevant to the times, but also ensured that all programs remained people-centered.

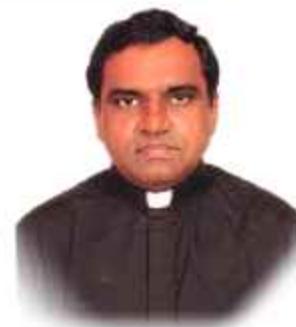
Behind the success of the efforts of GDSSWS there are numerous benevolent and gracious donors, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for all their generosity and kindness without whom nothing could have been achieved.

I congratulate Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, the Executive Director, and all the members of his team for their steadfast commitment. I encourage them to move on with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, while transforming and sustaining the change of rural communities. I am sure the Lord will accompany them in all their future endeavors.

Rev. Fr. Yeruva Bala (Sr)  
Vice - President  
GDSSWS



## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear Fathers, Sisters, Donors, Well-wishers and Friends,

I am delighted to write a few lines on the occasion of the presentation of the Annual Report of the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) for the period 2019 – 2020. It is a joy for me to revive my experience working with people in the past one year and share with you the activities taken up to empower the rural communities of women, children, youth and farmers to effectively address the development issues in the social, educational, economic, and environment aspects. I hope you understand these activities as you go through the pages of this annual report.

I embarked upon my social ministry focusing on the instruction given by Jesus to his apostles: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find" (John 21: 6). Following the bidding of their divine master the apostles were able to make a good catch as a result their net was bursting at its seams. I took up the call trusting the Lord will enrich my social ministry and opening up opportunities for the poor and efforts made to stem the cycle of poverty.

To this effect, the GDSSWS began to focus on four facets of development namely **Motivation, Animation, Implementation and Community Development**.

**Motivation** forms the most important area of human development in the process of the people's own development. The people are endowed with the drive and direction needed to engage them in their development pursuit. When the people are motivated, they are energized, persistent and goal oriented.

They come forward to discover their hidden talents and bring about social transformation through effective **animation**. They will be educated and oriented to work towards their development. They will be made to understand that they are the architects of their own destiny and to work towards self-reliance.

People who are motivated and animated will surely be competent and confident of **implementation** of their plans and schemes whether they are based on personal, family and community development.

That is how right from the beginning of my social apostolate at GDSSWS I set down to the task working for the **community development** initiating programs of motivation, animation and implementation. The development is brought about by stimulating, encouraging and assisting the people in the villages in improving their standards of living.

I avail this opportunity to thank Most Rev. Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah, President of GDSSWS for all his guidance and moral support. I acknowledge the encouragement of the Executive Board members in all our activities. It is a joy to work with them.

I wish that all our efforts will be converged to build happy and healthy families and clean and green villages. Thank you one and all.

*Fr. L. Rayanna*

Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu  
Executive Director  
GDSSWS



## 1. GDSSWS ACTIVITIES



### i. Appointment Of The Executive Director, Gdssws

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu took charge as the Executive Director of GDSSWS on June 4, 2019. He acquainted himself with the entire system and the staff of the GDSSWS in a short span. He revisited the vision and mission and the objectives of GDSSWS and the present situation of the people according to the natural, economic and community resources. He drew the attention of the entire staff of the GDSSWS towards community resources like individuals, associations, institutions and cash and in-kind donations. He chalked out a plan of action for the coming months and distributed the work among the staff according to their areas of expertise. He left for USA on June 30, on prior commitment, to conduct Biblical classes and to make use of the occasion to contact donors to mobilize resources. He returned on August 5, 2019, and resumed his duties.

### ii. Feast of St. Teresa, Kolkata- Steel Frame And Pedal - Episcopal Anniversary

Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah, Bishop of Guntur, inaugurated the steel frame and pedal put up around the statue of St. Teresa at Lakshmipuram Junction on Sunday, the 8th September 2019. The day happened to be the 3<sup>rd</sup>



Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah. The two functions held one after the other were attended by the priests, sisters, staff of GDSSWS and Kolping Centre and prominent men and women of Guntur city. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu congratulated Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah on his Episcopal Ordination Anniversary and thanked him in a special way for inaugurating the steel frame and pedal constructed by the GDSSWS. He appreciated the initiative taken by Mr. Kanapala Joseph, member of the Executive Board of GDSSWS and the staff for their cooperation and coordination.

### **iii. GDSSWS Projects Review**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Stockholm (CDSS) under the guidance of Mr. Charles Câmara, its development director, equipped our schools with computers, digital class rooms, libraries, science laboratories, fire extinguishers, mineral water plants, toilets and urinals. A record number of our youth have also been trained in vocational skills such as computer education, medical lab technology and bed-side nursing care.

These important projects equipped our schools with advanced educational infrastructure. The learning experience of the students was enhanced and improved the teaching prowess of the teachers. Both the teacher and the taught enjoy their teaching and learning. Over 500 youth having been trained in vocational skills obtained jobs and have become financially independent improving their lives.

An evaluation study had been conducted for the 20 mineral water plants to see to their utility, maintenance and sustainability. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Charles Câmara for his support and guidance and Mr. A. Kulandai Raj, Project Manager and the staff for all the efforts put in to review and learn the outcome of these mineral water plants. The whole study though painstaking was interesting, inspiring and encouraging and a rich experience that will be helpful in the future.

### **iv. Designing of Gdssws Web-Site And New Email Ids**

In today's digital world, everyone is connected in some way or the other to the World Wide Web in order to satisfy their entertainment, education, research and consumer arenas. The popularity of the Internet has prompted organizations of all dimensions to have an online presence in the form of a website.

If any organization does not have a website of its own, it is probably not performing to its fullest of capabilities. A strategically planned website can effectively attract the targeted audience. A well designed website opens myriad benefits to any organization that one may not have been aware of before. To this effect, Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS, contacted an expert web designing company and prepared a well structured web-site with crystal-clear pictures of GDSSWS activities in a record time. The GDSSWS website identity is: [www.gdssws.com](http://www.gdssws.com). Due to technical and administrative difficulties a "new email-id" as [gdssws2019@gmail.com](mailto:gdssws2019@gmail.com) was created. He informed the members on the Executive Board, the donor agencies, clergy and Religious men and women of the diocese and others who are on the contact list about the creation of new website and email Ids.

### **v. GDSSWS Brochure**

A brochure is one of the most effective and versatile tools to showcase international donor agencies, organizations and communities of the multifarious interventions. It is the best means for relaying information or announcements to a wide audience. Having seen the usefulness of a brochure an informative, pictorial and colorful brochure with a double parallel fold was brought up highlighting GDSSWS services to a target audience, along with its vision, mission and objectives. It was circulated to all the people concerned, distributed in our meetings,

seminars and workshops and made available at all the institutions connected with GDSSWS. It was well received and appreciated. It helped us to know one another especially our supporters, volunteers and well-wishers and get involved in our eight sectors of Integral Development.

## **vi. Photo Gallery**

An attractive photo gallery, a dynamic platform, depicting the snapshot of activities of GDSSWS adorns the notice boards of the office. The pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of our nation, and Supreme Pontiffs of the Church: St. Paul VI, St. John XXIII, St. John Paul II, present Pope Francis and St. Mother Teresa with their rich and meaningful quotations are presented at the entrance to the office to inspire the staff and every visitor to the GDSSWS. Motivation is the invisible force that drives us forward. It forces us to set new goals and change the image of our present self for the better. These quotes will help us to get ourselves back on the right path again, and to start moving in the right direction.

## **vii. Preparation of Meeting Halls**

The GDSSWS meeting halls, which had conducted several meetings, training sessions, seminars and workshops from all sections of the community during the past years, were renewed, tidied and spruced up for effective use for all occasions. These halls are equipped with interactive communication, hassle free wireless presentation, centrally controlled AV systems with correct lighting conditions. A good number of meetings, seminars and workshops are being conducted in these halls throughout the year and have been conducive and effective for all types of trainings and orientations.

## **viii. GDSSWS Dwindling Finances**

The global economic slowdown and the consequent drying up of funds from our donor agencies found GDSSWS at a tight spot finding it extremely hard to maintain its various administrative expenses, such as staff salaries, stationery, electricity, xerox machine, phone bills, vehicles maintenance, road tax,

mobile water tanker supplying drinking water to the slums, building tax, insurance, house maintenance, water system, repairs and audit charges. This is a cause of grave concern on the economic front. However, strenuous efforts are being made to improve the economic position of GDSSWS through various stringent measures. "When God closes a door, He always opens a window."

## **ix. GDSSWS Foundation Day**

The Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) founded on December 7, 1976, had successfully completed 43 Years of its existents in the service of the poor and needy. To commemorate this significant event a prayer service was conducted on GDSSWS campus. The Executive Director, Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, addressed the staff members recounting the services of the past directors, donor agencies and the staff who contributed towards its progress. He emphasized that there is no future without past and one should learn from the past and plan for the future. The staff also shared their viewpoints and experiences that enabled them to deepen their commitment and continue their service relentlessly among the poor and underprivileged with renewed zeal and enthusiasm.

## **x. Visit to the Slums**



Guntur city is one of the major slums populated cities in Andhra Pradesh. Thousands of poor families from rural villages are migrating to

Guntur city in search of employment and settled in the outskirts, pavements, behind drainage canals and open public places of Guntur city and engaged in various daily wage labor works particularly house constructions, factories, mechanical, transportation, painting, carpentry, motor repairs due to failure of agriculture works in rural areas. City profile reveals that there are 187 (133 - Notified & 54 - Non-notified) Slums with population of 1,86,927. They are situated 7 to 12 KMs from Guntur city. They migrated from rural and urban areas from Guntur district and living together here without any facilities. No good houses, no schools, no hospitals available in the slums.

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, along with the coordinators visited the slums at Pitchkulagunta, Sarada Colony, and Reddypalemcheruvu, Pragathi Nagar, Mother Teresa colony and Siva Naga Raju colony and interacted with the slum-dwellers to know their felt needs to explore the possibilities of external support to empower the slum-dwellers.

## **x. GDSSWS Calendar for the Year 2020**

The GDSSWS framed a colorful and activity-based Calendar for the Year 2020. The subjects are Value education, health education, SHG development, cancer awareness, environmental protection etc., focusing on the 8 sectors namely, i) Education for poor children; ii) Vocational Training for Youth; iii) Enabling Specially Challenged; iv) Health for all; v) Clean and Green; vi) Housing for the Poor; vii) Water for all; viii) Emergency Relief which will enable GDSSWS to reach out to the various sections of the society.

## **xii. GDSSWS Staff Picnic Peda Avutupalli**

Picnic is a well-known staple activity of socializing which provides an easygoing environment to catch up and entertain all kinds of company. Spending time with colleagues is always a great bonding experience. Hence the

committee in charge of staff picnic arranged to Peda Avutupalli on February 20, 2020. As the staff arrived at GDSSWS campus in the morning travelled together by mini-bus and arrived at Blessed Joseph Thambi Shrine for the schedule. They went around the shrine, visited the exhibition and spent some time with the priests at the shrine. It has been also an excellent opportunity for the staff to spend time meditating about personal life, the decisions made and the decisions will be made. Solemn Thanksgiving Mass was offered in the shrine church by Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, the Executive Director. On the way back the staff paid a visit to Our Lady of Gunadala and the Vijayawada Social Service Centre.

## **xiii. GDSSWS Eight Sectors of Integral Development**

The Executive Director and the Staff of GDSSWS made an in-depth study of the various facets and interventions of GDSSWS and its added value. With a lot of brainstorming and reflection sessions among the staff, keeping in view the vision and mission of GDSSWS the activities were revamped. We hope and pray the GDSSWS will grow from strength to strength. The following Eight Sectors of Integral Development were in progress with a collective participation.

### **a. Education for Poor Children Peda Pillalaku Uthama Vidya**

- To implement the Right to Education Act (RTE);
- To develop Infrastructure in Schools;
- To sensitize community on importance of Education;
- To promote and improve competence of teachers in schools.

### **b. Vocational Training for Youth Yuvathaku Vruthi Vidya**

- To offer training for specific employment;
- To enlighten youth on wider job opportunities;
- To promote technical trades and life

- skills among youth;
- To encourage and guide youth for a better future.

#### **c. Enabling Specially Challenged Divyangulaku Cheyutha**

- To embark upon micro schemes for self reliance;
- To provide tri-cycles and other implements;
- To extend professional training and technical equipment;
- To build self-confidence and enhance self esteem.

#### **d. Health for all Arogya Samrakshana**

- To develop personal and community health;
- To raise health consciousness and cleanliness;
- To inculcate healthy food habits and practices;
- To generate awareness on WaSH diseases and construct toilets.

#### **e. Clean and Green Pachadanam Parisubratha**

- To instill love and care for Mother Earth;
- To educate all on environmental protection;
- To teach on the importance of sanitation and hygiene;
- To promote plantation of trees to safeguard environment.

#### **f. Housing for the Poor Pedalaku Illu**

- To provide strong housing for the homeless poor;
- To construct night shelters for needy;
- To create awareness on house construction for safety and security;
- To develop human dignity through social housing.

#### **g. Water for all Andariki Neeru**

- To supply water through mobile tanker for slum dwellers;
- To dig bore wells for drinking water and agricultural bore wells for farmers;
- To install Mineral Water Plants to make available clean water;
- To supply water throughout the day by the construction of overhead tanks.

#### **h. Emergency Relief Apathkala Sahayatha**

- To prepare the people to counter disasters;
- To generate awareness on natural and man-made calamities;
- To provide material relief and permanent rehabilitation for affected victims;
- To comfort and support affected victims of calamities.

### **xiv. TCBC Women's Desk – Celebrates International Women's Day**



GDSSWS campus was the venue for the celebration of the "International Women's Day", March 8, by the Women's Desk of the Telugu Catholic Bishops Council (TCBC), Commission for Women. The event was presided over by the Bishop, Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah and Rev. Fr. Govindu Rayanna. Sisters, Teachers and prominent and well placed lay women of society attended the function. Sr. Saritha, JMJ, Secretary, TCBC Commission for Women briefly sketched the various value-based activities of the commission towards the social,

economic, cultural and political achievements of women. She drew many examples from the lives of great and illustrious women of bye-gone days, who brought name and fame to gender. She strongly advocated that women should play a pivotal role towards Women Rights. She cited the slogan for the international women's day 2020: "An equal world is an enabled world" and called upon women to realize it.

The teachers were awarded a certificate for their meritorious services for the development of their institutions and children in their schools. The Bishop of Guntur outlined the many worthwhile activities of women in the different fields of activity and paid accolades to them. The Executive Director, GDSSWS also spoke on the important role played by women for the upliftment of society and the development of the poor and the downtrodden paying glowing tributes to womanhood. The Bishop of Guntur and the Executive Director GDSSWS were felicitated on the occasion.

## **xv. GDSSWS Observes International Women's Day**

GDSSWS observed "International Women's Day" in Yesubaktha Nagar, a slum centre, Guntur city and in the village of Chinthamotu, Bhatiprolu Mandal. In both these areas more than 150 women assembled along with men. Many women issues were discussed, awareness generated, to celebrate achievements and rally for a change to help forge a more gender-equal world. Small games were conducted for the women assembled. This created a great impact in



the villages and the women showed enthusiasm to improve their life situation.

## **2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

### **i. Flood Havoc in Coastal Villages**



Heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of Krishna River in Maharashtra and Karnataka led to heavy inflows from upstream dams namely Srisailam reservoir, Nagarjuna Sagar dam, and Pulichintala reservoir into Krishna River caused massive floods in downstream villages. 800 families from 7 coastal villages in the Mandals of Kolluru, Bhattiprolu and Thulluru were devastated by massive floods. Food grains, namely 5 kilograms of rice, 1 kilogram of dal and 1 litre of oil were distributed to the flood-hit to the tune of Rs. 300,000 sanctioned by CARITAS INDIA. The GDSSWS also mobilized local donations both in cash and kind and distributed to the poor and needy in the affected villages.



## ii. Eradication of Leprosy



The GDSSWS successfully executed the "Leprosy Eradication Program" since 2014. Review Meeting in connection with this project was held on September 11, 2019, on the premises of GDSSWS. 30 Village Level Health Workers (VLHWs) of the leprosy eradication program working in the 103 villages shared their field experiences and presented their work reports to the executive director. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu addressed the VLHWs on the added value of the program and their selfless contribution for its success. Review meetings are usually held during the first week of every month to assess and evaluate the direction and the progress of the project in line with the objectives. The VLHWs make a valuable contribution to community development and more specifically, improve access to and coverage of communities with basic health care services in the program villages.

## iii. Social Forestry - Tree Planting Drive



2600 saplings were planted under tree plantation drive initiated by Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS. The staff of the GDSSWS chalked out a well organized program of plantation of saplings in all our institutions with the help of the Headmasters/ Headmistresses, teachers and children starting from Mutluru, Chebrolu, Pathareddipalem, Patchalatadiparru, Phirangipuram, Perecherla, Pedavadlapudi, Pedaparimi, Thulluru, Namburu, Pedakurapadu, Siripuram, Krosuru, Thallacheruvu, and Sattenapalli from September 21 to 23, 2019. It formed a part of the school curriculum of education and a program of study. It was quite fascinating and rewarding to guide the children how to plant and nurture plant life. It instills in children the need to plants to protect and strengthen the environment around us. Of course plantation of tree seedling improves life and fulfills the essential needs of mankind. Most importantly it will help maintain ecological balance especially in lessening the effects of global warming. The saplings were supplied by the Social Forestry Department of Andhra Pradesh. The cooperation of the Correspondents, Headmasters/ Headmistresses, staff and students of different schools was very encouraging much acknowledged and appreciated.

## iv. Survey of Leprosy, Cancer, TB, HIV/AIDs

The GDSSWS field staff conducted a survey with a specified format on leprosy, cancer,



TB and HIV/AIDs in the different villages of Guntur district and produced an accurate data from among the village population. The data collected enabled GDSSWS to learn needs of the people in the area of health especially the people affected with leprosy, cancer, TB, HIV/AIDs and prepare a plan of action. Basing upon the data available a three tier system of service is initiated for example: to bring awareness among the people; to prevent the spread of these ailments, and support the people affected. It is also very useful to request donor agencies both in India and abroad stating the facts discovered in our real study and research. In fact, it saves a lot of time, treasure and talent and drives our resources and energies towards people who are in dire need of our assistance.

#### **v. Revival of SHGs in Urban/Slum Areas and Villages**

The worth of a civilization can be judged by the place given to women in the society. One



of several factors that justify the greatness of India's ancient culture is the honorable place granted to women. As the days went on the position of women began deteriorating due to socio-economic, political and religious factors. Having motivated by the experience and knowledge that women in India continue to be the victims of discrimination and injustice, GDSSWS launched, the "Development of Poor

Rural Women" in the urban slum centres and villages in 1994 in 10 slums and 45 villages of Guntur district. The poor rural women were organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and empowered in multiple ways, intellectually, socially, economically and politically. This instilled dignity, self-reliance and self-confidence in the minds and hearts of the women and helped them become effective agents of social change.

As years passed by and with the change of directors these women groups have gradually become defunct as there was no proper follow-up. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu made a serious study of the SHGs with the help of coordinators and started to make ardent efforts to revive the Self Help Groups in the slum centers and the villages of Guntur district. He motivated the staff that the evils of illiteracy, dowry, ignorance, and economic slavery would have to be fully removed in order to give them their rightful place in Indian society.

#### **vi The GDSSWS Executive Board Meeting**

The GDSSWS Executive Board met at GDSSWS office on October 19, 2019 under the presidency of Bishop Ch. Bhagyaiah. Rev. Fr. Govindu Rayanna elaborated the various activities of the GDSSWS after he took charge. The Bishop appreciated the remarkable work of GDSSWS towards rural development and encouraged the staff to keep up the good work in reaching out to the poor and the needy fulfilling the vision and mission of GDSSWS.

#### **vii. Kindernothilfe (KNH), Germany**

The issue of KNH program was discussed in a meeting held on June 24, 2019 at GDSSWS in the presence of Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah, President of GDSSWS, Fr. Govindu Rayanna, Executive Director, Monsignor K. Inna Reddy and P. Sunder Raj and Fathers N. Chinnaiah and Prathap Reddy. There has been some disturbance in presentation and

implementation of the project due to frequent change of rectors at St Theresa's orphanage, Rentachintala. They sought out some modalities to organize the project effectively and efficiently and take forward such a wonderful program paving a way for the future of the KNH children in the diocese of Guntur. Since the KNH project agreement is getting over by the end of March 2020, Fr. Rayanna Govindu was requested to follow the project closely and do the necessary correspondence and work for the renewal of it. As for the terms and conditions of the KNH, Germany, completion report for 2019 – 2020 and budget for 2020 – 2021 were prepared and sent to the head office in India.

### viii. Visit of Mr. Stanley D'Silva, KNH Project Coordinator



Mr. Stanley D'Silva, Project Coordinator, KNH, Bengaluru, made a visit to GDSSWS from October 15-17, 2019, to assess the capacity of GDSSWS to manage the KNH program. He conducted a meeting with the Executive Director and Staff and enlightened them on Child Rights centering on Child right to survival, development, protection, and participation. He also visited three villages, where SHGs are working out their development dynamics to ascertain that GDSSWS is engaged in women-centric activities. He made clear the vision and mission of the KNH, Germany, and budgeting, annual report, letters of appreciation by the children and presentation of children oriented activities. He was happy with the GDSSWS and

its infrastructure and the way KNH program is going on in the diocese. Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu thanked Mr. Stanley D'Silva for his visit, enlightenment and encouragement.

### ix. Launching of "Sneha Hastham - Cancer Awareness Program"



"Sneha Hastam - Cancer Awareness Program" was sanctioned by Caritas India to be implemented in the diocese of Guntur. It was inaugurated on Saturday, December 21, 2019, on the campus of GDSSWS, around 11.00 a.m. in the presence of dignitaries from the government and non-government organizations. The inaugural ceremony started with the lighting the traditional lamp by the dignitaries signaling the official launch of the cancer awareness program.

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS, welcomed the dignitaries and thanked them for their august presence for the inaugural session. He shared further three point program of Snehahastam viz., awareness, prevention and accompaniment. To make the project feasible and practical was introduced in the Mandals of Guntur Rural, Mangalagiri and Vatticherukuru covering 20 villages and was extended to schools and colleges in the diocese with special focus on awareness.

Dr. Subba Rao, Additional District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO); Dr. Giridhar,

Head of the administrative wing, DMHO office, Dr. Raju Naidu, Professor Radio Therapy, Government General Hospital, graced the occasion. There was also a gathering of Community Health Workers (CHWs), recruited for the implementation for the cancer awareness program and the GDSSWS staff.

The doctors spoke on the seriousness of the disease and the measures to be taken to outsmart cancer. Dr. Raju Naidu, a radio-therapist from Government General Hospital, through a power point presentation explained the causes, effects and the preventive measures to be taken against cancer.

## x. WANAKKAM Team Visit



Six members of WANAKKAM team namely: i) Mrs. Rosette Van Herpe, ii) Mrs. Wiske Vanden Bosch, iii) Mrs. Martine Van Daele, iv) Mrs. Marleen Lebegge, v) Mr. Guido Vermeir, vi) Mrs. Agnes Vereertbruggher paid a visit to GDSSWS on January 9, 2020, to review the implementation of 5 bore wells financed by them. The team visited Patibandla, Jalalapuram, Lingaraopalem, Mydavolu and Jaladi where the bore wells were sunk. The team was quite satisfied with the successful implementation of the project. Later in the evening a meeting was conducted with the WANAKKAM team along with the Executive Director, GDSSWS

and his staff. The leader of the team and their members expressed their satisfaction of the project execution by GDSSWS in line with their guidelines. Further, the team leader explained the priorities and the various guidelines of WANAKKAM towards application of projects and financial sanction.

## xi. Celebration of "Anti-Leprosy Day"

The GDSSWS celebrated 'ANTI-LEPROSY DAY', on January 30, 2020, at Atmakur, Mangalagiri Mandal and Krosur in Krosur Mandal. In both these places, the programs were conducted in Government Zilla Parishad High Schools. The school children held rallies shouting slogans and carrying placards on leprosy eradication. At the end of the rallies meetings were conducted in the schools meeting halls.



Mr. Bikshapathi, DPMO, retired Deputy Para Medical Officer, from the leprosy department, addressed the students at Krosur on Leprosy and its chief characteristics, measures to be adopted to combat the disease. He also explained how to diagnose leprosy and the correct method of examination of skin lesions/ peripheral nerves.

The students from JMJ College of Nursing, Nallapadu enacted a street play at Atmakuru enlightening the audience, on how to diagnose and treat leprosy, and to shun social stigma

attached to the scourge. Mr. Ramachandra, Deputy Para Medical Officer briefly spoke on the determinants of Leprosy, sources of infection, portal of exit, transmission of infection, portal of entry, host factors, and socio-economic factors, and factors influencing susceptibility. Further, Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS, elaborated on the aims and objectives of Leprosy Awareness Campaign program adding that observation of this day provides an opportunity to create mass awareness on Leprosy disease to educate common people and remove the misunderstanding about the disease and encouraged the public to fight stigma and discrimination against Leprosy. This year's theme for World Leprosy Day, he informed the gathering is 'ending discrimination, stigma, and prejudice'. The staff and students who took out procession were given snacks and a cool drink and the whole program was a grand success.

## xii. World Cancer Day

GDSSWS observed "World Cancer Day" on February 4, 2020, in the three educational institutions abounding in Guntur city: i) St. Ignatius High Schools both Telugu and English Medium, ii) Lourdes High School, and iii) St. Joseph's High School. The students and staff of these schools were informed about the year's theme for cancer elimination, "I can, we can" that everyone has the capacity to address the burden of cancer. We can work together to reduce cancer risk factors. The staff and children from these schools along with the GDSSWS staff conducted rallies and carried

placards with slogans. Attractive banners were also erected. The GDSSWS is thankful to sisters K. Showreelu, JMJ, Deepthi, CSSA, G. Mary Rani, CSSA, and Mr. P. Kishore, in charge Headmaster and Mr. E. Anil for their unstinted efforts and incredible support.

## xiii. KNH Project Review Meeting

KNH Review meeting was held at GDSSWS, Executive Director's office on February the 22nd attended by of the Project Coordinator and the three wardens. The KNH activities were reviewed by the Executive Director and important suggestions and instructions were issued by him for the further improvement of the KNH program. He appreciated the performance of the staff and encouraged them to work fervently and put forth best efforts towards the development of children.

## xiv. COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus

February 20, 2020 "COVID-19 Novel Corona Virus", contagion broke out in Wuhan, China and spread out at an alarming rate all over the world claiming deaths at tens-of-thousands and creating panic all over the globe.

March 22, the Government of India declared a total lockdown till April 14 and simultaneously this has been enforced all over Andhra Pradesh. The preventive and control measures were put in place in Guntur district. All the educational institutions, public spaces were closed down;





trains and buses were grounded to a halt until further orders. This situation continued with further regulations from the government.

Movement was restricted all over the district with stringent punishment if the rule was breached. The police have been patrolling all over the area cautioning the people through mega phones to stay in-doors in the confines of their homes to contain the epidemic. GMC has been conducting a house-to-house survey to ascertain genuine cases. A good number of cases have been registered and numbers are expected to rise with huge number of people quarantined in different hospitals and kept under medical surveillance. It was a medical emergency.

The Executive Board of Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS), the Staff and Executive Director, seized the occasion, and distributed face masks, sanitizers to the sanitary workers, the poor on the streets, daily-waged coolies and slum-dwellers were provided food packets and mineral water. The police personnel patrolling the streets were served tea, snacks and drinking water and the sick in the hospital food, towels and basic clothing.

12 plumbers from Jharkhand, Ranchi, stranded in Guntur City, lost their jobs and in a helpless situation, left out in the open deprived of food, drink and money. GDSSWS extended humanitarian support by offering them shelter

and supplied cooked food, food grains rice, dal, wheat, oil, vegetables and financial support for 15 days. COVID-19 continued raging like wild-fire and the government going all out to flatten it by continuous lock-down and medical service. The GDSSWS played a proactive role to help the migrant workers, slum-dwellers, and sanitary workers.

### 3. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

#### i. Caritas India

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS, participated in the meeting conducted by Caritas India, on 17th September 2019. The meeting was held at CHAI Complex, Secunderabad. There was a proposal development for cluster to bring together the partners to work with a unified approach-building a cadre of change agents. It is to bind together opportunities of mobilizing resources and volunteers to make the programs self-sustaining. Rev. Fr. Jolly and Babita Alick explored various aspects of development namely mobilizing people and their participation, community-led economic sustenance, dialogue and networking for and with the poor. There was also a briefing session on Proposal Framework for "SNEHA HASTHAM" Cancer Awareness Programme. The participants were happy with the sessions and thanked the resource persons especially Rev. Fr. B. Anthaiah, Director, APSSF and Ms P. Usha, CRO, for all the arrangements for the success of the programme.

#### ii. CHAAP

Catholic Hospital Association of AP (CHAAP) organized its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Body Meeting on September 7, 2019, at Fatima Nagar,

Warangal. The Vision and Mission of CHAAP and its various activities towards community health targeting women and children were outlined. Group discussions, brainstorming and reflections were some of the aspects covered



during the day. Most Rev. Ch. Bhagyaiah, Spiritual Advisor, CHAAP, who presided over the meeting lauded the efforts of the members of CHAAP. He extolled its members to empower the poor in urban, rural and tribal areas, most particularly among the socially excluded SC/ ST and other backward communities. Rev. Fr. Govindu Rayanna, Executive Director, GDSSWS, who also attended the sessions and participated in the deliberations. He paid rich tributes to the work undertaken by CHAAP to promote community health and forged ahead living out to its ideals.

### **iii. Sneha Hastham- Cancer Awareness Seminar**

One day orientation seminar was organized on December 4, 2019, at Gunadala, Vijayawada, for the coordinators from the diocesan social service centres of AP and Telangana. It was conducted by Rev. Fr. B. Anthaiah, Director, APSSF and it was sponsored by Caritas India, New Delhi. Mr. K. Soori Babu, the project coordinator for the cancer awareness program from the GDSSWS participated in the seminar. The methodology and strategy and other insights to implement cancer awareness programme effectively in the rural and urban areas were expounded. He shared with the staff specially the group actively involved in cancer awareness program.



### **iv. KNH - Refresher Workshop for Capacity Building on Sponsorship Administration**

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS, attended the KNH - Refresher Workshop for Capacity Building on Sponsorship Administration from January 14-15, 2020. On the first day the following were taken up: Introduction to KNH and its programs in India and KNH partnership; orientation on partner manual; sponsorship and challenges in Germany; donors and their expectations, project requirements; concept of Sponsorship; sponsorship administration tools - identity sheet, selection criteria, content of ID sheet and process for selection of children.

The second day was dealt on Sponsorship administration tools - Leaving Form; Annual Instruments; Records to be maintained and Time-lines for submissions; Challenges in Sponsorship Administration & Solutions. At the end of each day the highlights of the day were discussed and on the second day the entire two day program was evaluated with a feedback. It was well organized and very useful especially for the new directors, administrators, coordinators and wardens.

### **v. Seminar on Holistic Development of Children**

One day seminar was organized on January 22, 2020 in the premises of its head office at Brodipet, for all Headmasters and Headmistresses of the educational institutions who obtained financial help from the GDSSWS. The purpose of this meeting was to evaluate projects implemented with GDSSWS assistance; Child Rights and the framing of child policy and to introduce Children's Parliament in the Catholic schools.

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu explained in detail



that the purpose and function of education is the development of an all-round and well-balanced personality of the students, and also to develop all dimensions of the human intellect so that our children can help make our nation more democratic, cohesive, socially responsible, culturally rich and intellectually competitive nation. Sr. Dr. Victoria, JMJ spoke about: What is school health education, why should one care about health education, goals for school health education, focus of schools in health promotion. She also spoke about therapeutic services such as health appraisal, treatment and follow-up, first aid and emergency care and specialized health services. Mr. G. Shekar Babu, Navajeevan, Vijayawada, addressed the gathering on Child Rights and Children's Parliament. The sessions were moderated by Rev. Dr. Rayanna Govindu, Executive Director, GDSSWS. There were also group discussions and reporting. A Plan of Action was drawn up to frame Child Rights Policy and setting up of Children's Parliament in the schools.

## vi. Training on Cancer

Dr. Srikanth from OMEGA Hospitals, a popular cancer speciality medical unit in Guntur, conducted a cancer training programme for the Project Coordinator and Community Health Workers involved in the implementation of "Sneha Hastam - Cancer Awareness Training Program". The training was held on February 6, 2020.

The doctor explained in detail the causes, types, treatment, symptoms and signs of cancer.



Diagnosis, he stated, begins with a thorough physical examination and a complete medical history. Laboratory studies of blood, urine, and stool can detect abnormalities that may indicate cancer. The risk factors for cancer in addition to smoking, he pointed out, are heavy alcohol consumption, excess body weight, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

## vii. Meeting for Introducing Value Education in Schools

Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu held a meeting at GDSSWS on February 28, 2020 for a small group of Headmistresses/Headmasters of Catholic schools who received help from the GDSSWS in some way or the other in the past. The purpose of this meeting is to select and train resource persons to impart value education in schools which is the requirement of some of the institutions. The Executive Director explained



to the participants the main purpose and function of education is towards the all round and well-balanced personality of the students. He listed out the objectives of value education.

He made the members present to know the importance of the framing of Child Rights Policy, and the introduction of Children's Parliament in our schools. These important aspects will raise great leaders from among our children, he added. It is slowly becoming the criteria for sanctioning of projects by the donor agencies.

## 4. SUCCESS STORIES

### i. Mineral Water Plant Holy Cross School Kollipara Village

a. Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod run a school for poor children from underprivileged communities at Kollipara village. The school has strength of 650 children. The ground water is contaminated by chemical impurities adversely affecting the health of the children. The children are inflicted with Water WaSH diseases.

Having come to know that Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) had set up mineral water plants in a number of schools, the Sisters approached GDSSWS for support to erect a mineral water plant. The



GDSSWS mobilized external resources and moved the project forward.

The GDSSWS conducted a motivational class for the school children and the Sisters through which they were educated on the importance of clean water for wellbeing, the role and responsibilities of school and GDSSWS. The contribution of the school is the provision of a strong room with tiled flooring, a motor and electric supply to the water plant and GDSSWS on its part will bear the cost of the machinery. Children's committees implemented the project and set up a mineral water plant in the school. All the project activities were performed by the children under the guidance and supervision of the headmistress and the teachers. A technical person from the mineral water firm supplied qualitative technical components and installed the water plant. The children played a proactive role in all the levels of the project. Clean drinking water had greatly improved the health of the children and helped them to progress in their studies. The project developed the social skills of the children making them responsible.

The principal, staff and students of Holy Cross School, Kollipara, greatly acknowledged and expressed their gratitude to the donor agency, GDSSWS, Executive Director and the staff for the Water Purification Plant (WPP) and the motivational classes.

b. The villages of Patchala Tadiparru and Munipalli are adjacent villages in Ponnur Mandal. These villages have a total population of 3700 divided into 825 households belonging to different castes and religions. The major occupation of the people is agricultural coolie work hardly enough to make both ends meet. The drinking water is drawn from the bore well that contains 2.5 PPM fluoride, which is above permissible limit and harmful for human consumption. Consequently the people of these villages were suffering from fluoride-related diseases.

The poor families from the water contaminated villages of Patchala Tadiparri and Munipalle represented their case to the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) having heard that GDSSWS had set up WPPs in the villages and provided safe water to the poor. The GDSSWS after an in-depth study of the problem organized an awareness generation meeting in the two villages on the importance of pure water and the project concept and ensured the village community provided a room, drill a bore well, fix a motor and the electrical connection to the plant. GDSSWS in its turn would make its contribution by way of providing the machine.

A Water Committee was formed consisting of 10 members with 3 women representatives to ensure project implementation under the supervision of GDSSWS. The Committee members were oriented on project sustenance and were trained on book-keeping and technical aspects of handling machinery in order to ensure sustainable results. This enabled the committee to build leadership skills and improve their knowledge in maintaining the project with commitment and transparency.

GDSSWS installed a machine with a capacity to provide 1000 liters of water per hour. An operator was appointed by the Water Committee and adequately trained to operate the water plant.

The mineral water is being sold to the people of the target villages at the rate of Rs.5/- per can of 20 liters of water. After incurring all the expenditure of regular replacement of filters, chemicals, operator's salary, and electricity bills, the project holds an extra maintenance fund.

The mineral water plant helped the poor to access potable water 24 hours a day at an affordable price improving health, increasing productivity and income. Unity and solidarity among the community had been strengthened. They are thankful and grateful to the donor

agencies, the GDSSWS, Executive Director, Rev. Fr. Rayanna Govindu and the staff for their initiative, support and encouragement.

## ii. **Kindernothilfe, Germany**

a. I am happy to introduce myself as Master Vennapusa Angi Babu from Mandadi village of Veldurthi Mandal. My parents are poor from a Dalit community. They are agricultural coolies and paid a minimum daily wage. My parents struggled to run the family. My father passed away when I was young schooling. We were forlorn without a breadwinner. My mother shouldered the entire responsibility of the family through hard labor and took care of my needs. The chances for the continuation of my education seemed poor. Our village is remote and the school is beyond reach. Luckily, my mother admitted me into 6th class at St. Joseph's High School, Rentachintala. The Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) in consideration of my poor background enrolled me in the KINDERNOTHILFE (KNH) Program.

Through this program I was provided with all my educational needs from hostel and school fees, books, and school bag. This was a great encouragement for me. I studied hard and presently in the final year of my graduation. The GDSSWS provided me this golden opportunity to improve my life. I am truly grateful to GDSSWS and KNH to have generously come forward to help me at a time when I was financially backward to continue my studies.

b. I am Mudavath Nageswari Bai from the Lambadi community (Tribal caste). I live in the village by name "GOLI", in Rentachintala Mandal, of Palandu area. Agricultural coolie work is the main source of income for our



family. Both my father and my mother attend work without which life would be very difficult.

My father expired due to illness when I was in the V class. We were financially challenged and unable to pay my school fees. I decided to give up my studies and take to farm coolie work. It was at that time the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) visited our village on a survey to select poor orphan and semi-orphan children, whose education would be sponsored under Kindernothilfe Program (KNH). I was lucky enough to be selected. All my educational expenses such as school fees, books, school bag and medical expenses were covered under the program. With the generous help of KNH I completed my 10th Class and joined my Intermediate studies. Without the assistance of GDSSWS and KNH it would have been next to impossible to complete my studies. Mere words are not enough to express my sentiments of gratitude to my benefactors.

I along with my mother are deeply indebted to GDSSWS to enroll me in the KNH program and guide me take advantage of its valuable financial assistance to continue my education. I am greatly inspired by the passion and commitment of GDSSWS and KNH to help poor orphan and semi-orphan children in their education.

### iii. House Construction

I am Mrs. Onteddu Anjamma from Peddapalakaluru Panchayat residing in Budugujangalu Colony on the outskirts of



Guntur city. Budugujangalu is a slum centre deprived of basic facilities.

We belong to the Scheduled Caste community, socially and economically sidelined. We are a very poor family living from hand to mouth existence. I and my husband perform agricultural coolie work for minimum daily wages hardly enough to eke out a decent living. Even this coolie work is not regular and we languish in poverty and suffer starvation. Daily living is very hard for our family with two children.

Our house is a small single roomed hut. The hut is lowly built which is used for multi-purpose as kitchen, store, living, dining and sleeping room. This tiny hut is made of fragile palmyra leaves vulnerable to natural and man-made calamities. In the rainy season our hut leaks and during hot summer we are afraid of fire accidents so common in our area. This hut has to be renewed every year and the cost of housing materials escalates pinching our pockets. The hut is also not protected and all our meager belongings earned through the dint of hard labour are stolen when we are away for work. As agricultural coolies on daily wages of Rs. 300/- per day, which is not enough even to feed our children and look after the other essential needs of the family. In such a poverty-stricken situation it is next to impossible for us to construct a strong house of cement concrete.



The Staff of the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) as part of their social activities among the poor often visit our colony generating awareness on health, hygiene and sanitation, community development and educated us on the various social welfare schemes of the government. They formed us into small manageable groups to work out our development dynamics. With the awareness built by GDSSWS we approached the Government department and got houses sanctioned. Along with the subsidy from the Government added with the partial financial assistance of GDSSWS we built strong permanent houses with a toilet component. Now we have a strong roof over our heads and our life is safeguarded from natural and man-made disasters. There is also no threat of robbery as our house has a strong doors and locking facility. We don't have to spend annually for the renewal of houses and that money goes into our savings for the welfare of our family and children. Our social and economic situation spiraled and we lead a decent and respectful life with a new social status.

We remain deeply indebted to GDSSWS for helping us financially to construct a strong house and lifting us out of poverty. The house is an asset, which will be passed on from one generation to the next. We are really very fortunate that GDSSWS stepped into our slum centre and brought about social and economic transformation among our communities.

#### **iv. Toilet Construction**

My name is Sankula Yellamma aged 60 years from Scheduled Caste group, the underprivileged. I live in Janmabhoomi Nagar on the margins of Guntur city. It is a typical slum location with a population of 50 families. We are all farm coolies and completely depend on our small daily wages for our daily sustenance.

We are entrenched in poverty without basic amenities. There is no toilet in our house

plots, which causes a great inconvenience particularly for us the womenfolk. We are constrained to defecate in the open, which is threatening. Normally we control ourselves during the day and at day break we relieve ourselves behind bushes. The area is also wild and infested with poisonous snakes and other reptiles that cause harm plus there is also a fear of sexual assault. Open defecation is also not healthy as germs are transferred into the sources of food, air and water and many of us suffer from water related diseases. These diseases grossly affect our health and earning power.



The Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) often visits our area educating the poor towards empowerment. They grouped us together to work collectively for over development and discussed many issues to find a solution. Absence of toilets was a pressing issue. They raised awareness among us on the importance of toilets for disease prevention and improvement in health, hygiene and sanitation. They educated us on the various development programmes of the government for the poor and encouraged us to approach the government for assistance under the "SWATCHA BHARAT" - a programme specifically to assist the socially and economically backward to construct toilets. We were able to mobilize government resources and with the partial assistance from GDSSWS we were enabled to construct toilets in our households. The construction of individual hygienic toilets in our house plots helped us to improve health, hygiene and sanitation. It provided our women safety and privacy while safeguarding the entire family from various WATER WASH diseases.

We are grateful to GDSSWS, firstly, for having generated much awareness among us on social development techniques and secondly, conscientizing us of the resources available with the government for our socio-economic improvement. It is through their support, guidance and encouragement we were able to access government assistance and along with the contribution from GDSSWS we constructed hygienic toilets of our own.

#### v. Drilling of Bore Well

I, Mrs. Karra Mariamma hail from Jaladi village of Edlapadu Mandal of Guntur district. The village has a population of 150 families. Water scarcity is one of the major problems of our village. The village population depends on an open well for their drinking water needs, which is two kilometers away from the village. We spend a considerable amount of time walking to and fro to fetch water from the well. As agricultural coolies we leave the village at day break and return only late in the evening. This causes us great inconvenience in collecting drinking water from the well. Moreover, the well goes dry during the summer months depriving the whole village of drinking water. The people experience great hardship to secure water.

GDSSWS played a pivotal role to provide us with drinking water.



As per their social service interventions the GDSSWS team visits our villages once a month and organizes the people for collective action to work for their development. They conduct meetings and many issues were discussed to find a solution to

improve their living conditions. The scarcity of clean drinking water always surfaced in the meetings. The people requested GDSSWS to drill a bore well to help them with clean drinking water. GDSSWS came forward generously and mobilized external resources and dug a bore well in our village. The bore well yields abundant water that provides water to the entire population of Jaladi village benefiting the women of Jaladi village.

I along with the entire village of Jaladi express our heartfelt gratitude to GDSSWS for having helped us to obtain clean drinking water through the sinking of a bore well.

#### vi. Cancer

Guntur Vinay Babu is the son of Mr. Guntur Akkulu, in the village of Vellaturu in Bhatiprolu Mandal, Guntur district. Mr. Guntur Akkulu is a farm coolie by occupation on a minimum daily wage and lives below the poverty-line.

Vinaya Babu is the youngest in the family of three members. He is studying in V class when he was diagnosed suffering from blood cancer. The infection started with continuous back pain, which could not be identified at the early stage. He couldn't stand erect and his body was becoming bent. The parents were in a quandary and panicking.

The para medical team of the Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) undertaking a medical survey in the villages of Bhatiprolu visited Vellaturu village. The villagers directed the team to the family of Mr. Guntur Akkulu. The GDSSWS medical team took Vinay Babu to Guntur Government Hospital. After different diagnostic tests it was confirmed that Vinay Babu was suffering with blood cancer. GDSSWS referred Vinay Kumar to Basavamtaraka Indo-American cancer hospital, which is the best cancer hospital in Hyderabad staffed with highly qualified and

experienced doctors. The medical expenses are affordable and waived for the poor from backward communities. Vinay Babu was subjected to various treatments starting from chemotherapy for a period of one year, radiation 8 times and every month he was injected in the bone marrow. These injections helped him to correct his posture and he began to stand erect. His health is progressing steadily. The parents are immensely grateful to GDSSWS and they express that GDSSWS medical team was God-sent and gave life to their son.

## vii. Leprosy

Name : Dova Suvarna Kumari  
Age : 42 years old  
Village : Juvvalapalem,  
Mandal : Kolluru

I belong to Juvvalapalem village in Kollur Mandal of Guntur district. I have a son and a daughter. I and my husband depend on hard agricultural coolie work to maintain our family and meet the essential needs of our children.

The Guntur Diocese Social Service and Welfare Society (GDSSWS) under the "Leprosy Eradication Program" held a number of leprosy awareness classes in our village. Simultaneously they also conducted household survey in the village to detect leprosy cases. A coordinator and a village level health worker visited our family and conducted examination of skin lesions/ peripheral nerves. They found skin lesions on my hands and legs. On examination at the Primary Health Centre in the village, the doctor confirmed that it was a genuine

case of leprosy infection. The entire family was upset and emotionally disturbed but the health personnel reassured us that leprosy is curable with accurate treatment. The coordinator and the health worker followed up the treatment. They constantly visited me to see that the medicines are taken regularly without fail. They also held health classes to the family members on the preventive measures to be taken to combat the disease, which proved to be very beneficial. I am now completely cured and able to take up my work of farm coolie. The last six months that I was under treatment I couldn't attend to my work that affected us financially.

Understanding our poor financial situation GDSSWS here again reached out to us. They extended a financial support of Rs. 40,000/- to start a petty shop in the village. I easily earn Rs. 4000/- per day and discounting all the expenses I safely put aside Rs. 1500/- per day as savings. Now I have regular work unlike agricultural labor which is seasonal. My strict financial discipline had improved the financial position of our family.

If, I and my husband are now leading a happy, healthy and comfortable family life taking care of our children providing them nutrition, health care and education we attribute it to the yeoman services and initiatives of GDSSWS.



## CONCLUSION

We are grateful to Almighty God for His manifold graces showered upon us to continue steadily in our work towards the empowerment of the poor. It is the Lord's work for the betterment of the poor, who are the dearest to His heart. We always rest assured that He will not fail us in our efforts to bring about social and economic transformation of the poor.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all our funding partners for their unfailing help and support in our social apostolate. They are always with us at all times without whose help we wouldn't have moved forward even an inch.

We are thankful to Most Rev. Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah, President of GDSSWS and the members on the executive board who helped us to scale great heights in social development works in the diocese of Guntur.

We thank the clergy, Religious men and women of the diocese of Guntur and all those extended their support in one way or the other for the development of the GDSSWS. We fondly remember them all and pray that God may bless them abundantly.

*"We do not serve ideas; we serve the people."* Pope Francis

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# THE GUNTUR DIOCESE SOCIAL SERVICE AND WELFARE SOCIETY

## EIGHT SECTORS FOR INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### 1. EDUCATION FOR POOR CHILDREN

పేద పిల్లలకు ఉత్తమ విద్య



### 2. VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH

యావతకు వ్యక్తి విద్య



### 5. CLEAN AND GREEN

వశ్వదాసర పరిశుద్ధి



### 6. HOUSING FOR THE POOR

పేదలకు వాస



### 3. ENABLING SPECIALLY CHALLENGED

చివ్వాంగులకు వేయువం



### 4. HEALTH FOR ALL

అర్థగ్యంరంగుల



### 7. WATER FOR ALL

ఆంధరకి విధు



### 8. EMERGENCY RELIEF

ఆహతాలు సహాయత

