

Teachers' Training May 2011- a brief Report

Introduction:

A twelve day long teachers' training programme was organized at the main resource centre of Balamitra with nearly 60 participants from the model and village schools. Teachers' training, to equip the teachers with the requisite teaching skills is a quarterly activity of Balamitra. All the teachers were eagerly looking forward to this training, which was meant to recoup them with teaching techniques and make them well versed with Waldorf pedagogy. Mrs. Ute Meuser and Mrs. Neena Nambiar, who carried good amount of experience with them in the teaching arena, came as resource persons for this training. Mrs. Ute has been a Waldorf teacher for 20 years. A warm welcome was extended to them by all the participants. This important activity of Balamitra became more important because of the resource team. A preparation checklist for conducting the workshop smoothly was made ready before one month with the following topics:

1. Theory of Waldorf Pedagogy, Anthroposophy, history and methodology.
2. Overview on field schools, assessments and children camps.
3. Assessment of Teachers.
5. Enhancement of subjects.
6. Learning new songs.
7. Practicing spellings through dictation.
8. Preparing lesson plans for the next three months.
9. Craft work and Rhythmic activities.
10. Discussion on record keeping at field schools and resource centers.
11. Health awareness, distribution of medical kits.
12. About Samata judgment and Tribal laws.
13. Teaching techniques and qualities of a teacher.

Day 1 to Day 6:

The programme started with an invocation and continued with lighting of the lamp by the trainers and singing of traditional songs by teachers. A brief introduction about Waldorf movement and Rudolf Steiner was given by Ms Ute on the first day and some exercises to increase the energy levels were taught by Mrs. Neena.



During these six days the teachers were able to learn about ‘Anthroposophy’, significance of early childhood (age 0-3), development of the child and the importance of the age, the 12 senses, first steps of form- drawing, creation of a story, handy-craft, energy exercises to balance the body, mind and soul, tools to control and balance emotions, rhymes, songs, discipline in classroom etc. Walking up to the beach for learning form drawing was a good experience for the teachers.

On the last day of the universal training workshop, all the participants were given an opportunity to provide feedback about the training. A fond farewell was given to the resource team by the team of Balamitra.



Day 7:

The day started at 9.00 am with prayer, songs and rhythmic activities followed by a feedback on field schools assessment. There was also a discussion on the outcome of the children's summer camp held just before the teachers' training program. Assessment of the field school teachers in the subjects by the teacher trainers of the main resource centre started after the tea break and a brief discussion on the results was done after evaluation. After the lunch break, the teachers were given lessons for the enhancement of subjects.

Day 8:

The teachers were made to practice songs, rhymes and rhythmic activities in the first session. Enhancement of the subject continued till lunch break. After lunch, craft classes started and all the teacher's had training in conducting craft classes for children. The last session of the day was for the health coordinator Ms. Rajulamma, who gave training on first aid and suggestions to prevent seasonal diseases.

Day 9:

Practice sessions for the teachers continued on the 9th day also along with the distribution of lesson plans developed by the teacher trainers who also guided them through the lesson plans. All the teachers were encouraged to follow the lesson plans. Craft classes were also held and the teachers learnt to make paper baskets.



Day10:

Guiding the teachers through the lesson plans continued on the 10th day followed by a class to establish productive record keeping practices. This session was taken by the field coordinator Mr. Ramaraju, who taught them the importance of good record keeping. The day ended with an interesting session by Mr. Srinivas, Journalist and Media coordinator of Samata who came as a resource person to give a detailed description of Samata Judgment. The teachers felt very happy to learn about the hurdles that Samata has to overcome for the Judgment.

Day11:

After practicing the songs and rhythmic activities, teachers were made to practice the activities related to lesson plans in the first session. The second session was meant to learn about the teaching techniques and principles of teaching. This session was taken by Project Coordinator Mrs. Anupama who elaborated the principles of teaching. They were also explained about the techniques of teaching. Tips to make teaching and learning an interesting process were given.

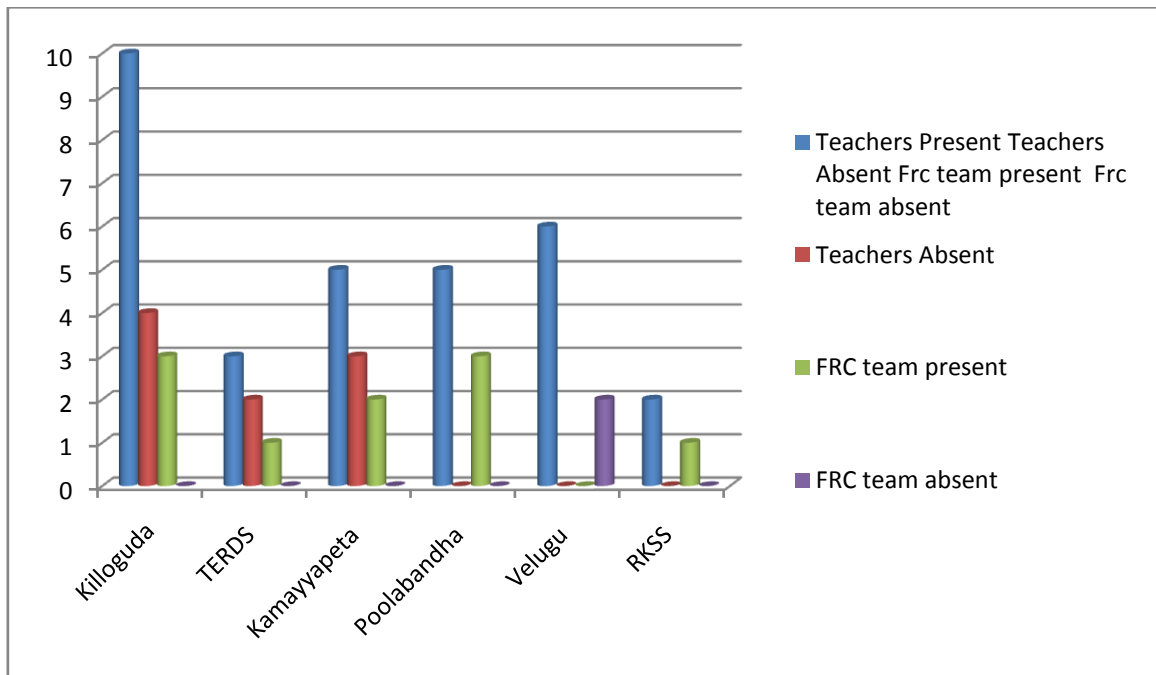
Day 12:



Clearing of doubts given in the lesson plans and practicing the activities was done during the first half of the day. Revision of subjects taught to the teachers also took place. After lunch there was a feedback session, which developed in to a discussion on topics learnt during the first six days. Every one shared their views and opinions with the coordinators.

| Field Resource Centre | Teachers Present | Teachers Absent | FRC Team(Present) | FRC Team(Absent) |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Killoguda | 10 | 04 | 03 | 0 |
| TERDS | 03 | 02 | 01 | 0 |
| Kamayyapeta | 05 | 03 | 02 | 0 |
| Poolabandha | 05 | 0 | 03 | 0 |
| Velugu | 06 | 0 | 0 | 02 |
| RKSS | 02 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table showing the attendance of teachers and field resource team.



Conclusion:

It was observed that the training sessions were quite impressive. The enthusiasm seen during the sessions was well appreciated by the trainers. The most important thing learnt by the teachers was to create a friendly environment for teaching and learning which would help in improving the quality of interaction between the children and teachers. A total of 31 teachers and 10 frc team members were benefited from the training.