

Youth Camp December 2010

A brief report

Youth Camps, organized at all the five resource centres, turned out to be successful events with more than 200 youth from rural areas actively participating and deriving the benefit. This activity being one of the important activities of Balamitra, is very helpful in bringing together the rural youth and creating awareness about various issues related to them. The camps which were supposed to be held in the month of October, got postponed due to some delay in the release of funds by the funders and was conducted from 27th December 2010 to 30th December 2010. Preparation for the camp started well in advance. Planning, which included selection of the topic, organizing the resource team and the attendees, structuring the program, estimating the costs, listing logical needs, structuring the cultural activities etc was done by the team belonging to the main resource centre, and the field resource team was intimated about it. Inputs, outputs and the objectives were listed out to have more clarity about the program plan. This time it was decided to target nearly 200 youth and make them aware about the various options available for them to choose a career. It was also decided to make them aware of some of the alternative income generating methods. The field resource teams were asked to pick up the participants from the villages that fall under the purview of their resource centers by grouping them into :

- Unemployed youth
- Students
- Youth practicing agriculture

All the required steps were taken to make the counseling effective and efficient. The support staff and the facilitators were from the resource centres. There were also resource persons to explain about the most demanding career options available for the youth.



CBO	FRC	Place	Participants	Boys	Girls	Age group	Education	Occupation	villages
Velugu Association	Ippaguda	Cheedimanuguda	43	31	12	18 to 33 years	10th class	Agriculture	10
TERDS	TERDS	Dumbriguda	54	27	27	12 to 29 years	6th to B.Ed	Agriculture	13
Adivasimitra	Kamayyapeta	Paderu	40	23	17	15 to 27 years	Graduation	Agriculture	12
Adivasimitra	Poolabanda	Paderu	37	37		15 to 27 years	Graduation	Agriculture	11
Sanjeevini	Killoguda	Anjooda	51	44	7	18 to 27 years	6th to Graduation	Agriculture	20
Total			225	162	63				66

The schedule was set in order to deliver the best. The mission was to teach subject matter and life skills through an intentional process that helps young people meet key developmental needs and produce functionally valued outcomes of competence, confidence, character etc. The vision is for all youth to experience economic and social success in adulthood while making positive contributions to their communities. The participants included campers, youth counselors, resource persons, support staff and adults.



A team of 6 members from the main resource centre reached the field resource centres where the camps were held simultaneously. Youth camp of Sanjeevini was held at Killoguda and Terds at Dumriguda. Frc's Kamayapeta and Poolabanda of Adivasimitra came together to hold the camp at Paderu.

Inauguration of the camps at all the field resource centres was done by the CBO directors and objectives and importance of the camps were discussed by CBO's and the team from the main resource centre, subsequently the youth introduced themselves to each other.

Youth was classified into students (pursuing education), unemployed (educated and unemployed), and youth practicing agriculture.

Students were given career counseling to help them know their powers. They were made aware about various options open to the youth in the present scenario when there is increased competitiveness in all areas. The aim was to inspire every individual to make a career for themselves in the field in which their interests and passion lies and the objectives were to let the youth know that choosing a career helps in getting the benefits of planning ahead, guide them in making a good choice, help them in pursuing their interests, and further help them to match their interests and abilities with their career choice. Various career options like Agricultural and Natural, Designing and Art, Health science, Media and entertainment, Information technology, Humanistic studies, Education and training etc,



Forestry and wild life were discussed by the resource persons. Careers in Agriculture & Natural Resources were explored and the following was learnt by all the groups :

- In brief about the career.
- Would the career suit them?
- Where will they work?
- How to pursue the career?



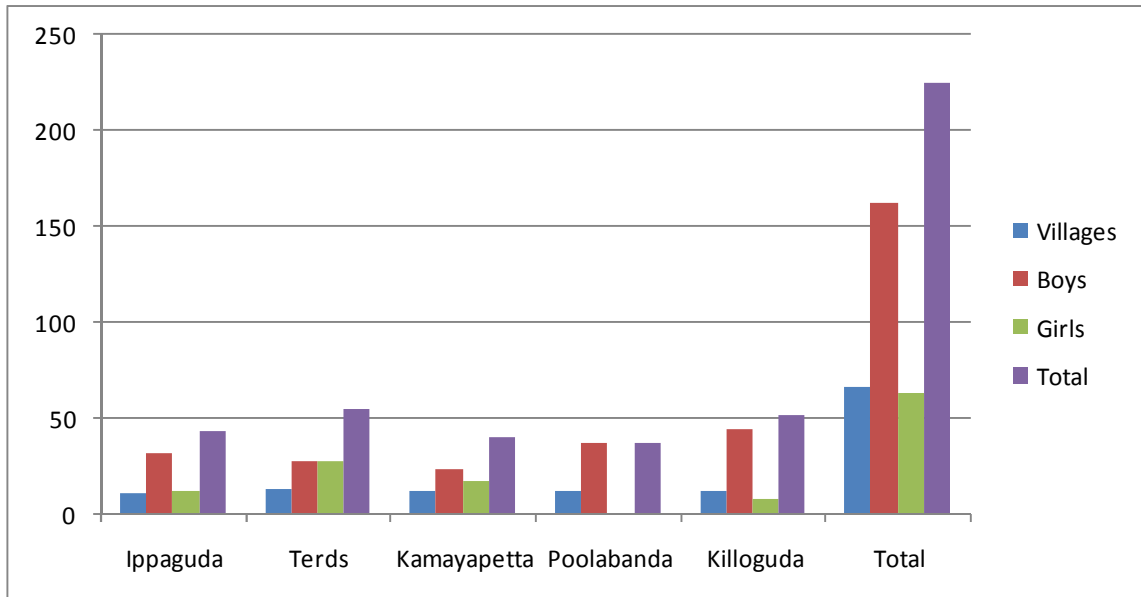
Career counseling as a career option was also discussed and job hunt tips were given. Job description and responsibilities of some careers were discussed. The students were told about the importance of having strong communication skills and high levels of enthusiasm. The importance of self-reliance and self motivation was also discussed.

The interests and the career plans of the **unemployed youth** was asked and some income generating methods were given to them. They were also updated with the possibilities of self employment. Common crops of their areas were listed out for the youth engaged in **agricultural practices** and discussions on related practices took place. They were also explained about the innovations in agricultural practices. Organic farming methods were shown and easy ways to market their products were given. There were also discussions on NREGS.

Each day, the session began with a recap of the previous days activities and rhythmic activities. There were cultural and recreational activities in between the sessions to keep them entertained and to keep the tempo going. The youth had high amount of physical energy and enjoyed all the sessions. The evenings were always funfilled and musical. The youth enjoyed performing their traditional dance form 'Dhimsa'.



Chart depicting the participation of youth from all the resource centres.



The team of Balamitra is satisfied with the camps and is happy about organising the events in a structured way. The participants enjoyed the camp's activities as well as the energysing surroundings. Responses from the participants were good, indicating the success of the camps. They were ready to share their camp experience with their friends and make them understand the purpose and value of camp. Participating in the youth camp made them more responsible for themselves and helped them to overcome shyness and become more confident.