



Balamitra Newsletter.... July - September 2010

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**New volunteers:**

In the middle of August three new volunteers from Germany joined the Balamitra team. All three of them – Jana Buescher, Nora Witte and Franziska Mikolay – are very excited and eager to work with the children. They were warmly welcomed and got a good introduction from the Balamitra team and the old volunteers. The three girls will teach English, Music, Craft, Formdrawing and Sports in class one to three.



## **Adivasi Youth Camp Dabbanda:**



During the month of August the Balamitra team was busy with two Youth Camps that were held from 23.08. to 26.08. and from 28.08. to 31.08. Each Camp contained around 100 Adivasi Youths who stayed in Dabbanda where the Camp took place. After an opening speech from Ravi Rebbapragada the participants were educated about health, their rights and farming methods and were made aware of sustainability. These things were taught over the four days of Camp. For each subject a specialist was invited who gave dependable and backed up information.

Every day the Camp was accompanied from one Balamitra school teacher as well as from the new volunteers. Nevertheless, school went on as usual. Through pujas, songs and games a feeling of community was created between the Youths.

## **Volunteers:**

During this month the Balamitra team said Good-bye to Henrik Rubner and Paula Oerter who stayed with us for the last year. Both of them did a very good job and it was sad to let them go. The whole Balamitra team wishes them all the best for their future and will always remember them.

At the same time two new volunteers from Germany arrived – Simon Stange and Estefania Casajus – and completed the batch of volunteers for this year. Simon will work at the Samata office in Visakhapatnam whereas Estefania will support the school team in Sagar Nagar.

The three other volunteers had already started working. During their English lessons they worked on improving the pupils' reading and writing skills. New songs and playing the flute was taught in Music class as well as new games in Sports. Various things were done in Craft and Formdrawing.

## **Ganesha-Festival:**

One week before the Ganesha-festival the volunteers started preparing Ganesha-figures out of clay. This was connected with the Craft classes. A little altar was prepared and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September a little celebration took place at school. Pujas were



held and flowers and fruits were brought to the altar. Some days later the figures were finally carried into the sea.



### **Field Trip:**



In the end of September three of our volunteers – Nora, Jana and Franziska – went on a field trip to three different resource centers. These centers were Killoguda, Velugu and Poolabanda.

All three of them lived with tribal families and experienced the tribal life first hand, which meant joining their daily routine such as taking water from a stream, cooking on fire, using the bush toilet, showering outside and eating the seasonal fruits. At day time they taught in village schools and did Craft and English. They enjoyed the assignment but had to face some language difficulties because most tribal have their own language. Our volunteers visited different villages where they sometimes stayed several days and walked long distances through beautiful nature.

Moreover, they joined the Balamitra team by the assessment that takes place every three months. In the assessment the children's health and knowledge was checked.

The volunteers were astonished how much in balance with nature the tribal live. It was a time full of new experiences.



### Contact us

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### Appeal:

You can contribute to our efforts by way of donations in materials or money. Financial contributions to Samata are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80G and has a contribution regulation act (FCRA) number from the Central Government which allows it to receive foreign funds. Please make Cheques payable to 'Samata'. Legal Status:

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