

July 2018

The CherYsh Post



CherYsh Shiksha students from Tatawanagi village in Haliyal

Welcome to July Newsletter !



At CherYsh, we continue to struggle to bridge the gap between what children learn in school and what skills they should learn to face the larger world. How do we make learning effective to the extent that it integrates into their livelihoods? In this struggle, we realize that one of the crucial factors is educators. Not having enough Human Resources to enable learning is a huge stumbling block for any education programme, particularly in rural areas. CherYsh is directing efforts to explore and design a programme to create a resource base of educators who can start their own after-school centres to give access to quality education. CherYsh Programmes team is working to get this up and going in the next couple of years. Any support to take this forward is welcome!

It is often said that the purpose of education is not just to help students acquire degrees and obtain jobs. Is our education system adequate for the holistic growth of children? Are schools adequate to shape their futures? These are the questions that bother parents, educators, thinkers and students.

The new thrust in elementary education emphasizes two aspects:

1. Universal enrolment and Universal retention of children up to 14 years of age.
2. A substantial improvement in the quality of education.

Thank you and have a great month !

Renu Mukunda
Director, Programmes & Social Innovation

Dreaming big, football champions from Haliyal



Haliyal is blessed with plenty of talent in sports and athletics. Five girls from the villages of Haliyal Taluk - Jyothi, Akshatha, Sheetal, Madevi and Sunita - have proved their football skills and have played National Level Junior Women's Football, representing Karnataka. They dream to achieve greater heights in football and to play for India one day. CherYsh supports them by funding their education and football coaching, by connecting them to scholarships provided by kind-hearted sponsors across the globe. The scholarships have brought the girls closer to their goals with admission in the prestigious St. Aloysius College, Mangalore where they can continue their formal education and pursue football coaching.

CherYsh is committed to creating an environment where young girls can pursue their dreams and passion and achieve excellence in their chosen life paths. In addition to sports, CherYsh has sponsored Pre-University education of Pavithra, a young girl from Mundwad village of Haliyal.

CherYsh is also supporting nursing education of eight nursing students who are currently attending College of Nursing, St. Martha's Hospital, Bangalore.



New momentum for CherYsh Shikshas in the new academic year

CherYsh Shikshas are well into the new academic year with new energy and lots of activities. Our team is conducting parent meetings in all the villages where Shikshas are functioning. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents to understand their children's progress, share their concerns and partake in the learning process. In Halmaddi village, the parents are offering to come up with monetary support for the upkeep of the Shikshas

The newly-appointed Learning Facilitators attended a one-week induction programme and got hands-on exposure to Shikshas by assisting an experienced Learning Facilitators. They learned our curriculum, teaching methodology and class maintenance during the induction. More activities and training are planned for the Shikshas and Learning Facilitators in the coming months.



Tapping into the talent of Shenaz Begum



CherYsh has discovered a hidden talent in Shenaz Begam, from Mundwad, Haliyal Taluk, Uttara Kannada District. She is a skilled craftsperson in the exclusive 'Kila work' or nail weaving.

Shenaz was born in a poor Muslim family in Dharwar in the year 1972. She studied up to the 8th standard, but discontinued because her parents could not afford to send her to school. She learnt tailoring and embroidery in her spare time, after household chores. Married off very early to an Army man, she moved from city to city with her husband.

Shenaz Begam has always taken the lead in bringing women together as collectives and motivating them to work as a team. She learnt the craft of nail-weaving during her stint in Agra as an Army wife. Her talent was hidden until the day we were brainstorming with the Mundwad women, when we discovered her beautiful and exclusive work. She has been encouraged to teach this skill to a few more women in Mundwad and with inputs from a design expert, the products could be improvised. So Shenaz Begam is our beneficiary-turned-resource person!

New steps towards sustainable livelihoods

Rigorous planning was done in July to unearth the talents of women and promote sustainable livelihoods in the villages of Haliyal. During the planning session, women showcased their skills which included a variety of hand- embroidery techniques. Subsequently, a group of women decided to pilot a livelihood programme based on these skills. CherYsh would support them at the initial stage with startup material, design inputs and market linkages. The programme could be developed into an entrepreneurship, based on the outcome of the pilot.

The women in Mundwad village expressed their interest in a sugarcane-bud nursery programme, an entrepreneurship model that can be nurtured in partnership with EID Parry Ltd., a major sugarcane-based industrial house in Haliyal. CherYsh's team is working with the women to execute the pilots and develop the livelihood programmes into successful entrepreneurship.



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