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The Cherysh Post



Pakkirrawwa and Savitri from Mundwad displaying the shawls made in their village

Welcome to November Newsletter !



The school education has remarkably improved, the roads have improved, Sanitation is improving. Drinking water still a problem. But all not in par with the resources spent. More number of girls go to school and up to Pre-university. But the other issues like domestic violence, destitution, lack of access and control over resources and decision making power are yet the same. Early marriages if not child marriages are a household tale. A woman is seen an additional labour for work both by parental and marital families. The critical questions Parents of daughters who passed matriculation or above have now are:

1. Where to get boys who are educated, boys who are educated go to cities and want big dowry or want city girls.
2. Girls have no job opportunities in the villages or in the nearby towns.
3. Girls who go to college hesitate to go to the fields and do agricultural work.
4. Finally, the girl is forced to marry whomever the parents choose.

This is a Paradox. Isn't it?

Have a great December and a joyous festive season!

Renu Mukunda
Director, Programmes & Social Innovation

When I started my career in the Development Sector in the late 70s the most popular song in the training programmes for field workers among the NGOs was 'Go to the people, be with them, live with them.....I understood and believed in it all my life. Charity to Welfare to Development to Partnership , concepts changed, approaches changed, Programmes changed , investment priorities changed, a plethora of jargons emerged, flood of NGOs came into existence, Crores of Rupees allocated for the poor, the marginalized, women; through Populist Schemes, hundreds of legislations are in place.

Now, being in Haliyal and interacting with the rural community in the remote villages I wonder where all these resources disappear.



Nagaratna is engrossed in adding a few finishing touches to this beautiful shawl made using khilla work

“Stoles and shawls” from Mundwad-Haliyal; Baby steps of a rural entrepreneurship

Women of Indian villages have many exquisite talents and skills, most of which go unnoticed and discouraged. CherYsh conducted a skill mapping in the villages of Haliyal during mid-2018 to find out such skills. One of the unique skills that got surfaced during the exercise was “khilla work” (nail work) where woollen threads are woven into beautiful pieces of fabric using a wooden frame with iron nails. Shahnaz Begum from Mundwad village is an expert in this art and she picked up this skill during her stay in a cantonment with her husband, who was a soldier with Indian Army.

What happened in the following days is a beautiful demonstration of the determination and strength of the women of Mundwad, when nurtured with the right inputs and leadership from CherYsh.

With a wee bit of motivation, financial support and design inputs from CherYsh, Shahnaz organised her fellow women from Mundwad into a group, trained them on khilla work and started making beautiful shawls and stoles. It took a few months of doing and redoing the sample before they arrived on the final sizes and specifications. Eight hours go into the making of one finished product. The entire village is excited about the activity and many more women are coming together to explore and learn the skill.

The first lot of these beautiful shawls and stoles will be available for purchase from 20th December, just in time for Christmas and New Year. The women of Mundwad-Haliyal are eagerly awaiting to unfurl their entrepreneurial dreams.



A host of activity workshops to nurture the extra-curricular talents

All round development of children is the core of CherYsh Shiksha. With this objective a host of activity workshops was conducted in the Shikshas during November. Mr. Siddappa Biradar, an expert in extracurricular methods of education, anchored the programme which was named "Samarthya Belesuva Karyakrama CherYsh Makkaligagi"(Personality Development

Programme for CherYsh children).

Led by Mr. Biradar, the children involved in clay modelling, skits, plays, paper craft etc. The programme was conducted in all Shikshas and the children participated with much enthusiasm. The fun and frolic in the Shikshas invited a lot of attention from the community as well.



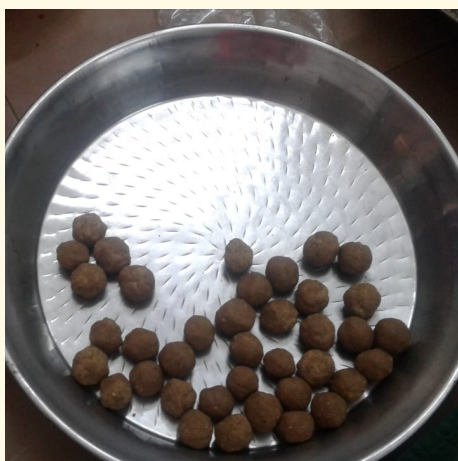
Snacks at CherYsh Shikshas get a healthier improvisation

CherYsh tries to ensure that the children in our Shikshas are getting proper nutrition so that their growth and development is well rounded. A peanut-jaggery laddoo was being supplied to the children every day. This serves as a mid-evening snack which is often their only meal between lunch and dinner. We revised the nutrient profile of the snack in the beginning of this academic year and decided to fortify the laddoo with a well-balanced nutrient constitution.

We worked with nutrition experts from Pristine organics and came up with a laddoo mixture which is made of Bengal gram, soya flour, green gram flour, mixed millet flour ,

sesame seeds, flax seeds, groundnut , garden cress seeds ,cardamom , ghee and jaggery . Each laddoo weighs 25 g and provides 117 Kcal of energy. The laddoo has a balanced nutrient profile of carbohydrates, fats and proteins along with all essential vitamins and minerals needed for growth and development.

Ms. Vismitha, a nutrition expert from Pristine Organics travelled to Haliyal to train the women on the hygienic preparation and storage of the laddoos. The new version of the snack is delicious and is much welcomed by the Shiksha children.



Refreshed libraries at CherYsh Shikshas

The libraries in all Shikshas got a new stock of story books. This includes Kannada, English and bi-lingual books at four different reading levels, published by Pratham books

Meeting with District Collector of Uttara Kannada

CherYsh team met the District collector of Uttara Kannada, Mr. SS Nakul IAS and presented CherYsh's work in the villages of Haliyal. The District Collector showed keen interest in our projects and promised to explore the possibilities to support our

activities through government schemes. CherYsh is looking forward to scale up our work with the backing from Government

Kannada Rajyotsava and Children's Day celebrations.

All the Learning Facilitators, gathered at CherYsh Resource Office to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava on the 1st of November. Beautiful rangolis (Indian floor art) were made to mark the auspicious day. On November 14th celebrations were conducted in the village school and children were treated to sweets to share the joy of Children's day.



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