

Annual Report – 2018 -19



Community Renovation and Organisation Advancement Trust (COROAT)

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Introduction

Community Renovation and Organisation Advancement Trust is a woman headed organisation initiated by Mrs. M. Padmavathi, a highly spirited woman who want to promote the lives of women and children from marginalized sections in the society. COROAT got registered under Indian Trust Act 1882, on 6.4.2009. The registration number is 351/2009 and it has received income tax exemption under Income Tax Act sec 12AA and 80G. COROAT has received approval under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 in October 2013. The year 2018-19 has also provided were multiple level of experience for COROAT and the activities of the previous year continued with the same community with the support of The Hans Foundation, New Delhi.

Vision of the organization

“Building a gender just, non-discriminatory, democratic, and humane society for women and children, and disadvantaged people of the society and ensure equal access to resources and sustainable livelihood for them.”

Mission of the Organisation

- Mobilising the marginalized community together as community forums / groups / federations for collective bargaining for enforcing their rights.
- Capacity building of marginalized community to understand the role of different stakeholders in protecting their rights.
- Advocacy and lobby with bureaucrats and duty bearers for protecting the rights of marginalized community especially women and children.

Core values

- In Indian economy 93% of workforce is unorganized workers. Empowerment of marginalized workforce brings generational transformation in the society.
- Children, being the national asset, are the centre of all development and rights based intervention of COROAT.
- The children of coolie labourers should not become a coolie labourer – establishing generational change in the lives of coolie labourers and their children.

Broad Strategic framework

- COROAT function for the right to development, protection and participation of the children from the vulnerable / marginalized communities.
- COROAT function for the right to decent livelihood, non-discrimination and exploitation of the unorganized workers.

Sectors of intervention

- Human rights of labourers, women and children
- Education and development of vulnerable children
- Promotion of child friendly environment with people participation.
- Research studies and evaluation of child rights project

Objectives of the Organisation

- To eradicate poverty and indebtedness of excluded communities.
- To promote sustainable livelihood of traditional artisans through improved access to resources.
- To promote the competence and skills of traditional artisans to face the challenges in the economy due to mechanization and globalization.
- To promote Community Based Organisations of vulnerable communities and improve their capacities to live with unity.
- To promote the educational status of the children from most vulnerable and deprived communities.
- To promote the opportunities for the children to go for higher education and develop their career.
- To promote the health and hygiene practices of the children from the deprived communities.
- To promote the health status of the deprived community against occupational hazards.
- To promote the socio and economic status of the women from deprived community against social evils and violence against women.
- To promote skills of the women and youth towards alternative employment and sustainable livelihood.
- To network with like-minded organization, government department for the attainment of the vision of the organization.

Core programmes

1. Promotion of
Right to
development of
Children

2. Promotion of
right to
protection of
children.

3. Promotion of
right to
participation of
children

1. Promotion of right to development of children :

COROAT has been working for the empowerment of traditional artisans / coolie labourers as the primary target community. COROAT has contributed for the right to development of children from the coolie labourer families in Tiruchirapalli City Corporation area, Tamil Nadu. The interventions were designed based on the needs of the target community

1.1 Evening Study Centre

COROAT has been supporting children by providing coaching to the children in the evening through study centers. Children from ward number 13 and 20 of Tiruchirapalli City Corporation benefited from five study centers. Children were given a schedule for their regular class in the study center. 5 Child mentors were appointed to facilitate the study centers. Monthly tests were conducted

in the study centers to prepare the children to appear for their examination. The details of children benefited from the study center were as follows:

Salient features of the centre :

- The child mentors and supplementary teachers support the children to finish their homework.
- Each day of the week was allocated for one subject, for example, Monday they study Tamil, Tuesday English and so on. Saturday was meant for talent day and life skill education.
- Monthly tests were conducted regularly on all subjects and the parents were met every month during parents meeting to inform the progress of their children.
- Nutrition food was provided to all the children on alternate days just to motivate the children to frequently come to the centre and also to inculcate the habit of eating nutritious food.



1.2. Summer camp during May 2018 :

Mrs. Padmavathi has developed 10 sessions of life skill modules for children to learn essential life skills along with reading skill enhancement programme. The following themes were covered as part of life skill programme:

1. Developing code of conduct for the children.
2. Developing mutual faith and support among children
3. Understanding self through SWOT analysis
4. Significance of communication
5. Developing self-esteem and attitudes among children
6. Developing leadership qualities.
7. Self-hygiene
8. Understanding Gender discrimination and sexuality
9. Testing the memory skills of the children
10. Health and nutrition using My body exercise.



Every day, children were engaged to do participatory game based activity to understand the above life skills and values within them and developing good coping skills with others. After the life skill concepts, activities for improving the reading skills in Tamil Language and doing simple arithmetic operations were conducted.

1.3. Remedial classes on Tamil and Mathematics

COROAT has been involved in the process of improving the learning skills of children in government / aided schools in Tiruchirapalli district. COROAT has entered into an agreement with Pratham Education Foundation, Tamil Nadu for rendering technical support by way of training COROAT teachers and sharing the training modules and tools. This activity was initiated from previous academic year. During the year 2018-19 COROAT has covered 10 schools from urban and rural areas of Thiruverambur block. The progress of children in Tamil, English and Maths is given below.

Assessment levels	Status of Tamil remedial intervention					
	Beginner	Letter	Word	Sentence	Story	Total
Pre assessment	19	34	58	61	69	241
Post assessment	1	0	19	38	183	241
Improvement level	-18	-34	-39	-23	114	

Particulars	Status of Maths remedial intervention							
	Beginner	0-9	10-99	100-999	Addition	Subtraction	Multiplication	Division
Pre assessment	3	7	74	157	199	139	64	27
Post assessment	0	0	3	238	239	235	215	180
Improvement level	-3	-7	-71	81	40	96	151	153

Assessment levels	Status of English remedial intervention					
	Beginner	Letter	Word	Sentence	Story	Total
Pre assessment	27	128	66	20	1	242
Post assessment	1	23	78	97	43	242
Improvement level	-26	-105	12	77	42	0

242 children got benefited through the remedial intervention in 10 schools of Thiruchirapalli district.



1.4. Competition for school children

Two competitions were conducted in lieu of International girl child day (October 10) and Children's day (November 14) in 10 schools under interventions. Initial communication to the respective BEOs

were provided and then it was forwarded to the Head mistress for permission to conduct the programme. The school management and BEOs were very co-operative and they supported the initiative. Drawing competitions, oratorical competition and essay competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed to the children.

Children were provided drawing books, story books and general knowledge books as prizes for the winners.



1.5. Exposure visit of children :

Children were taken to post office, Gandhi market branch to get exposed to the different activities and schemes in post office. Formal letter of communication was given to post master and their date of convenience, during the term end exam holiday was requested. Children were taken to exposure visit at the end of September 2018. They were explained about how to write a post card, savings schemes for the children and recurring deposits. Parents and children were very happy over the visit of post office. Children from slums did not have an opportunity to get connected with the institutions around them. The effort of COROAT was much welcome by the community members.



1.6. Training of teachers on child rights and child psychology :

One day training of teachers on Child Psychology was conducted on 28.09.2018. Mr. Aravind, Director of Athma Foundation working for the mental health of the people provided the training to



the staff members. All the staff members participated in the training programme. He explained about different state of mind of the human in general. Ed, Ego and super ego state of mind, what are the attitudes and behaviours of the people in these 3 states of mind were explained. Learning of the children from the environment was clearly explained during the training programme. Teachers raised questions over aggressive behavior of some children and how it emerges. The trainer explained the initial triangular reflection of thought, feeling and behavior. The training was highly useful for the teachers in rendering their services to the children.

1.7. Training of children on child rights and Life skill :

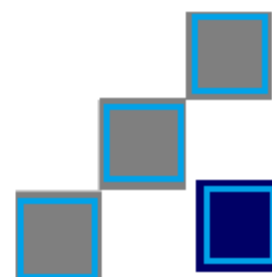
COROAT has provided life skill training and child rights training for 156 children from 3 panchayats namely Navalpattu, Suriyur and Gundur of Thiruverambur block. These trainings provided has paved way for inculgating values, self esteem, knowing themselves, interpersonal communication and rights of children as envisaged in UNCRC.



2. Right Protection of Children

2.1. Child safety Audit in 2 panchayats

Child safety audit (CSA) was conducted in two panchayats namely Navalpattu and Gundur during the months of February 2019 and March 2019.



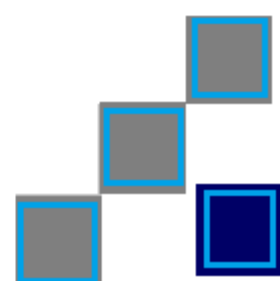
Key issues identified and ranked during Child Safety Audit :

Navalpattu panchayat		Gundur panchayat	
Rank	Key issue	Rank	Key issue
1.	There is no water, electricity, safe door for the Anganwadi center.	1.	No water, toilet facility in the school
2.	No public toilet available in the village. The one available is not in use.	2.	Community at Gundur is using the school premises as cattle shed and drunkard use this place for alcohol consumption.
3.	There is poor garbage management and disposal. Poor drainage facilities causing frequent illness to children.	3.	Youth are using the premises for playing in the evening, so parents consider it as unsafe for girl children.
4.	Vending machine for napkin is not in use	4.	No drainage facility for the entire Gundur panchayat. More pigs and stray dogs are threatening children.
5.	Buses are not stopping properly in the village during school time. So children are forced to walk for 3 km every day to go to school.	5.	Poor garbage management. Garbage is accumulated on the streets creating health issues.
6.	Roof tiles in the schools are very poor causing danger to children. Water purification machine installed in the school is not working. Poor buildings need repair and proper flooring.	6.	School drop-out rate is high.
7.	Park, Library not available for children and some are not in use.	7.	Prevalence of child labour.
8.	Water problem. The Sintex tank in the village is damaged. So no water for some villages.	8.	Children use cigarette and consume alcohol.
9.	No school management committee functional.	9.	Drinking water is not properly supplied by the Panchayats.
10.	Roads are not properly maintained. Children find it difficult to ride cycle.	10.	School premises are not safe. Roof tiles are broken, insufficient class rooms.
11.	Liquor shop is situated close to school.	11.	There is no school management committee functioning in the schools.
12.	No medicines available in government hospital. No subcenter facility in villages.	12.	Few orphan children in need of care and protection are living in the village.
13.	Street lights are not working.	13.	Library is not in use.
14.	Diseased stray dogs threaten to children.	14.	There is no water facility and electricity for Anganwadi centers
15.	No forums for children is present to raise their voice.	15.	
16.	There is no higher secondary school in the village.	16.	
17.	Mentally retarded children are not enrolled in the school.	17.	
18.	School dropout leads to child labour	18.	
19.	Parents and children do not have any awareness on the ill effect of cell phone use by children.	19.	
20.	No community hall in Police colony.	20.	
21.	Thatched huts do not have electricity facility.	21.	

Navalpattu panchayat		Gundur panchayat	
Rank	Key issue	Rank	Key issue
22.	No separate ration shop available in Anna Nagar.	22.	
23.	Roads for public use are encroached by the people.	23.	

These are the issues identified during the child safety audit by the community members including children.

Child safety audit with VCPC and community members :



3. Right to Participation of children

3.1. Awareness generation among community members :

Children organized street play programmes in Kalapayam area to create awareness among the community members on child labour, child marriage and drug abuse. Notice distribution of legal provisions to protect children from child marriage and sexual abuse of children was also made.



3.2. Functioning of children parliament

COROAT has organised 5 children parliament to advocate for the rights of children. This children parliament meets once in a quarter, discuss their issues and forward their petitions to the local body members for appropriate solutions.

3.3. Advocacy and Lobby with bureaucrats:



On May 1, children parliament has invited Tiruchirapalli corporation commissioner, local counsellors to take part in the children parliament meeting. During the meeting organized by the children, they shared the issues of children with the Assistant commissioner of Tricky City Corporation. The need for Ward level committees was explained with them. As a bureaucrat, Assistant commissioner said that the children should not be corrupted with such a blaming attitude and should

not be taught about ill behaviours. He said that no such bad situation is prevailing in the area, sometimes in any one or few areas which should not be highlighted in the open forums.

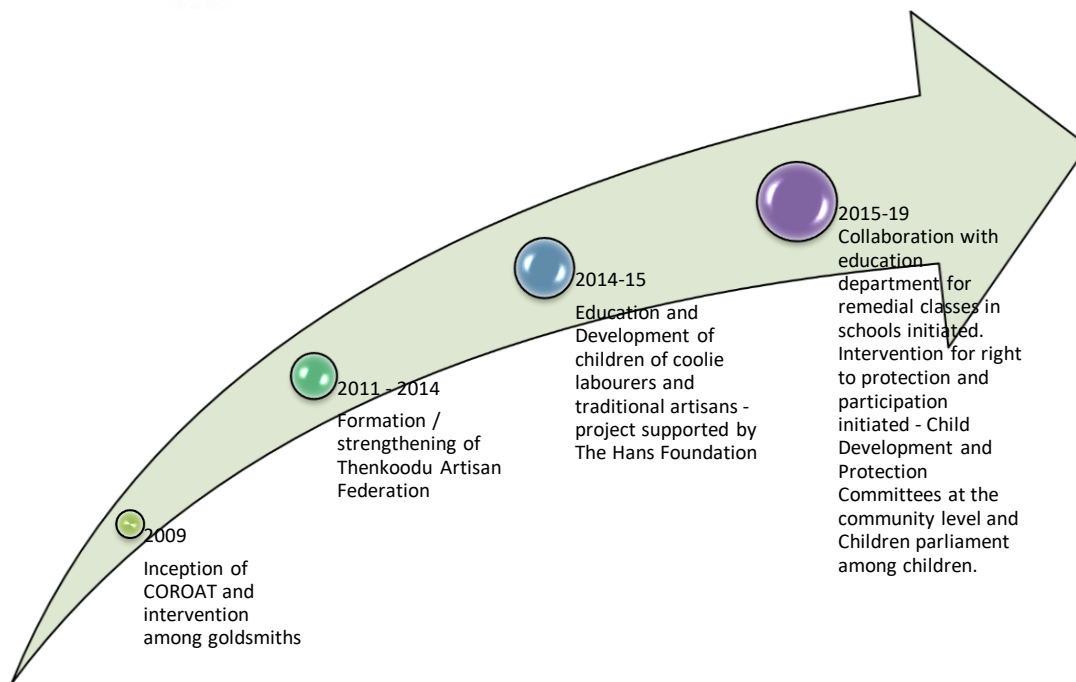
Key Initiatives

- Extending the project intervention in rural areas of Thiruverambur block.
- Conducted child safety audit for the children among two panchayats.

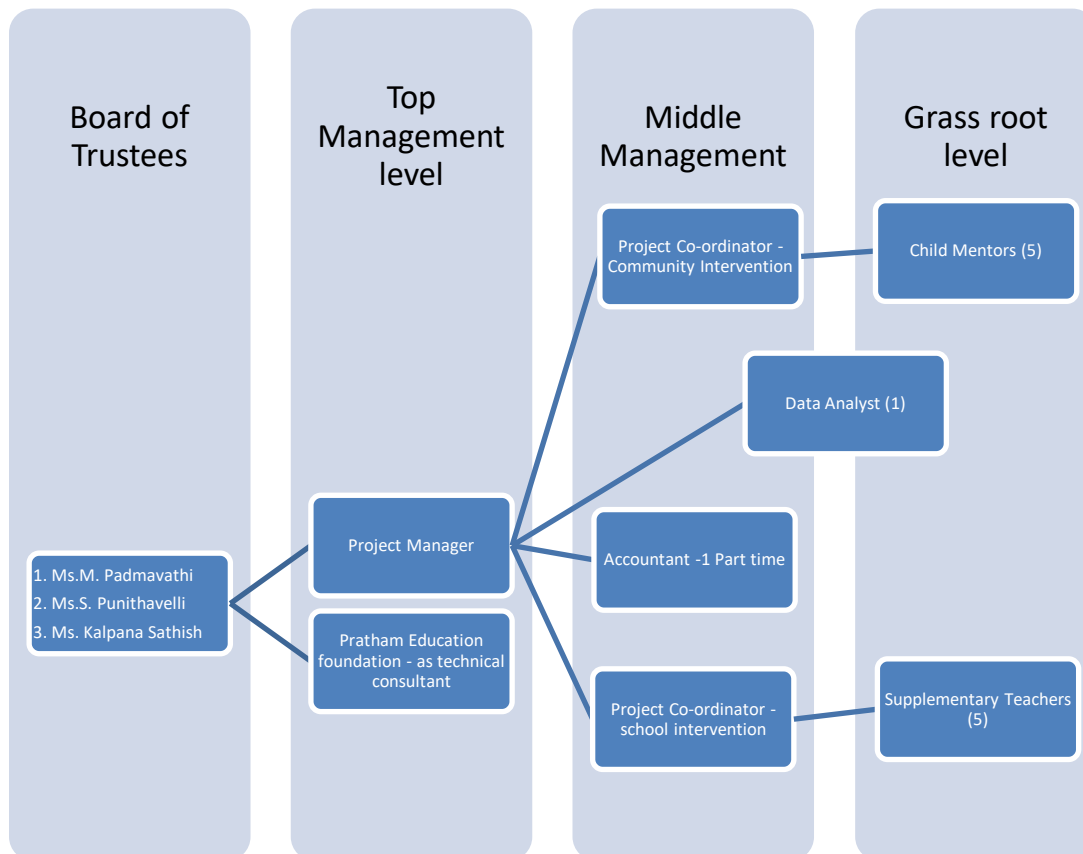
Challenges

- Community members are not disclosing the fact that there is prevalence of child rights issues in the region.
- Bureaucrats are also not ready to accept the prevalence of child rights violation in the locality.
- At the school level of intervention, all schools are not co-operative for the remedial class and the school management is not willing to agree for learning skill deficiency among their children.

Milestones



Governance



COROAT Board Members are not related by blood or marriage. The term of each board member is 3 years. Four board meetings conducted during the year 2018-19

Transparency Disclosures

- No remuneration, sitting fees is paid to any Board member.
- Mrs. M. Padmavathi, is designated as Project Manager of Education and Development of children project, supported by The Hans Foundation. Hence, she is paid professional charges for her support to the project.
- COROAT has not incurred any travel expenses at the national level or international level during the year 2018-19.

Legal Compliances

- COROAT complies with statutory requirements of Income tax Act, 1961 and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010.
- Donor requirement was duly complied with.
- COROAT followed a rigorous audit process. The statutory auditor with a fixed remuneration was appointed in the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Auditor's reports and financial statements are shared at length in the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting.

Salary Distribution as on March 31, 2019

Monthly Salary	Male	Female	Total
<= 5000	1	9	10
5001 > 10000	0	8	8
10001 > 25000	0	1	1
25001 > 50000	0	0	0
> 50001	0	0	0
Total	1	18	19

Out of the 19 staff members 9 of the staff members are full time staff and other 10 staff members are part time staff members.

Way forward

- Intervention for improving the quality of education of the government school going children is a need of the hour, we received more demand for remedial classes for English also.
- Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC) would be formed in 3 panchayats to provide safety and security of the children.
- Child safety audit would be considered as the base document for child rights violations and VCPC would work on addressing the identified issues.