

ANNUAL REPORT



RURAL LITERACY AND HEALTH PROGRAMME (RLHP)



APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



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FOREWORD

It gives immense pleasure to present the 41st Annual Report of the society for Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) for the financial year ended on 31st March 2025. We hope to share a glimpse of those moments which we sought, recognized, embraced and those that shaped the destiny of the marginalized people in four districts of Karnataka- Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kalaburagi and Bidar.

Since children's development is the core area of RLHP's interventions the annual report extensively deals with the implementation of children focused projects. It also recapitulates the story of people's transformation that was achieved through effectively implemented programs on education, health and livelihood. Climate crisis, gender inequality and health issues being the major thrust in the reporting year, the emphasis has been on empowerment of adolescent girls, youth engagement in nature-based solutions and community driven health initiatives.

With a happy note we would like to share that our efforts have been recognized by Karnataka Government, Department of Kannada and Culture by conferring 'Shri. Nalwadi Krishnaraja award 2025' for the Community Development work in Mysuru region.

We acknowledge that the donors who stood with us throughout our journey and who have been so supportive enabled us to make tangible difference in the lives of people who are deeply disadvantaged. We thank our partners - Wipro Cares, Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative (APPI), Kluber Lubrications Pvt. Ltd. (Chem Trend Chemicals) Green Hotel, TDH(G)-BMZ, ChildFund International, Mission Inde and many more individual donors. We look forward to their continued patronage.

The entire RLHP team at RLHP worked very hard. Thanks to all members of the Governing Board and Annual General Body, Advisors, Director and staff, volunteers, consultants, resource persons, trainers and officials of various government departments who have been travelling with RLHP and sharing its vision throughout the journey.

Prof. Jose V.K
Secretary, RLHP, Mysuru.

INTRODUCTION

For over 41 years, the Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) has been committed to improving the lives of marginalized and vulnerable communities by building a just, equitable, and sustainable society. RLHP adopts a child-centered, integrated community development model, emphasizing active community engagement and strong collaboration with government departments.

Over the past year, the organization has reached more than 3.5 lakh individuals across eight districts in Southern and Northern Karnataka. RLHP is currently operational in four districts: Mysuru, Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Chamarajanagar. The head office, located in Mysuru, serves as the central office for planning, coordination, and management of programme activities across all four district project offices.

This approach continues to foster sustainable development and improved well-being for children and marginalized communities through participatory, community-driven initiatives. The project's work spans the empowerment and development of children, adolescents, youth, women, and disadvantaged groups in both rural and urban areas. Key initiatives have included protection and care for street-involved children, mainstreaming child laborers into formal

education, and vocational training and life skills for adolescent girls, and capacity-building workshops for women on socio-economic issues.

Livelihood programs for marginalized families and smallholder farmers, along with health interventions for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and malnourished children, have further strengthened community well-being.

At the grassroots level, RLHP has empowered Community-Based Organizations such as Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs), School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Women Child Protection Committees (WCPCs) to effectively access and monitor government schemes related to health, education, and livelihoods.

RLHP has also deepened partnerships with like-minded organizations including CACL, Mythri, FEVORD-K, MSDF, and DWANI, enabling knowledge sharing and collective action on child rights and community development. Together, these integrated, multi-sectoral efforts highlight RLHP's enduring commitment to inclusive growth, social justice, and community empowerment.



1. CHILD DEVELOPMENT

1.1 CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES – (Asha Bhavana & Asha Kirana)

As part of its commitment to protecting and empowering vulnerable children, the Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) operates two residential shelter homes in Mysuru that provide safe, supportive, and development-oriented environments for the children who need care and protection. These shelters not only meet the basic needs of children but also focus on their education, emotional well-being, and long-term rehabilitation through a child-centered, rights-based approach.

In the reporting period, RLHP's residential shelters in Mysuru provided comprehensive care and protection to 32 vulnerable children. These shelters offered a safe, nurturing, and child-friendly environment where children received nutritious food, education, shelter, clothing



and healthcare support. Emphasizing a child-centered approach, RLHP promoted holistic development through education, life skills, physical well-being, and cultural exposure. Daily routines included Yoga, Zumba, Karate, Aerobics, Meditation, and reading newspapers, while traditional art forms like Charkha Craft, Kamsale, Dollu, and Bharatanatyam were introduced during holidays to foster creativity and cultural connection. Children actively participated in school events, talent shows, and competitions, earning awards and recognition.



During the reporting period, RLHP renovated and constructed child friendly new toilets and wash facilities for Asha Kirana Boys home.

In 2024–2025, significant educational and employment achievements were recorded among RLHP-supported children. One boy successfully passed the SSLC examination with an impressive score of 488 out of 625 and ten students made remarkable progress during the year six girls are pursuing paramedical studies, three girls are now employed in laboratories, and four boys who completed vocational training have secured jobs and are earning between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month and are leading independent and dignified lives.

Through this integrated model, RLHP remains committed to empowering vulnerable children, supporting overall development toward a self-reliant and dignified future in mainstream society.



Darshan's Journey of Strength

Darshan L, a 17-year-old child currently studying in 1st PUC at Varuna PU College, Mysuru, is a determined and soft-natured youth from Kyathamaranahalli, 1st Stage, Mysuru. After losing both his parents at a young age, Darshan and his younger brother were left without care. While studying in 7th standard and working part-time at a tea shop, he was admitted to Asha Kirana Shelter Home under the direction of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Initially affected by emotional stress and disinterest in studies, Darshan also struggled with health issues, including TB and asthma. With proper treatment, nutritious food, and emotional support from his peers and caregivers at Asha Kirana, he gradually recovered both physically and mentally. He developed a strong interest in academics and drawing as a creative outlet. In the academic year 2024–25, Darshan passed his SSLC with 448 out of 625 marks and continues to inspire others through his dedication and positivity. He dreams of becoming a nurse to care for the poor and sick, turning his hardships into a mission of service.

1.2 CHILDREN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Aiming at the holistic development of marginalized children from deprived sections, the primary focus was placed on improving the quality of education and healthcare, promoting participation, and ensuring the overall well-being of the children.

Child Rights Clubs (CRCs) have become effective platforms for promoting child-led awareness and participation in communities, currently RLHP has 145 children clubs and more than 5,000 active child members. Through regular trainings and workshops on key frameworks like the UNCRC, POCSO Act, JJ Act, and RTE Act, children have gained awareness of their rights and developed the confidence to engage in civic processes. Over the past year, CRC members have actively participated in school programs, panchayat meetings, community events, and district-level forums. Their involvement in initiatives such

as Children's Grama Sabhas, awareness drives, press meets, SDMC meetings, summer camps, and Anti-Child Labour Day events highlights their leadership role as informed and responsible citizens.

RLHP made remarkable progress in its mission to eliminate child labour in agriculture sectors in backward districts of Chincholi and Basavakalyana. A total of 70 out of 80 villages were officially declared child labour-free with the support of local Panchayat and Women and Child Protection Committees and 1,069 child workers are into formal education. Through sustained community awareness campaigns, capacity-building efforts, and close collaboration with local stakeholders, RLHP has encouraged safer and more inclusive environments for children. The initiative continues to make significant strides in reducing instances of child labour and promoting education as a fundamental right for every child.



Anjali's Path to Education

Anjali, 8 years old, lives in Dhanurvadi village with her family who migrated from near Mumbai for work. As the eldest child, she was not attending school regularly because she had to take care of her three younger sisters while her parents worked as daily wage laborers. RLHP identified Anjali and after several visits, she convinced her parents to send her to the Child Labour Learning Centre. There, she enjoyed joyful learning activities that increased her interest in education and prepared her for formal schooling. In July 2024, Anjali re-enrolled in 5th grade, and her younger sisters joined 1st and 2nd grades. RLHP also linked the family with a ration card, Ayushman card, job card and other social security schemes. Her father now works as a tractor driver, and her mother receives health and nutrition support. Anjali is happily continuing her education with her sisters, building a brighter future.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL GRAMA SABHAS

With the active involvement of Children's Clubs and the continuous support of RLHP, several Grama Panchayats this year took a progressive step by organizing Special Grama Sabhas exclusively for children. These forums created a platform for children to express their concerns and issues related to their schools directly in front of government officials and elected representatives.

The children's active participation in children Grama Sabhas and well-articulated demands brought real change. As a result, various government departments and panchayats initiated significant improvements. School buildings were renovated, and new kitchens for mid-day meals were constructed to ensure hygienic food preparation. Drinking water facilities were installed in few schools and

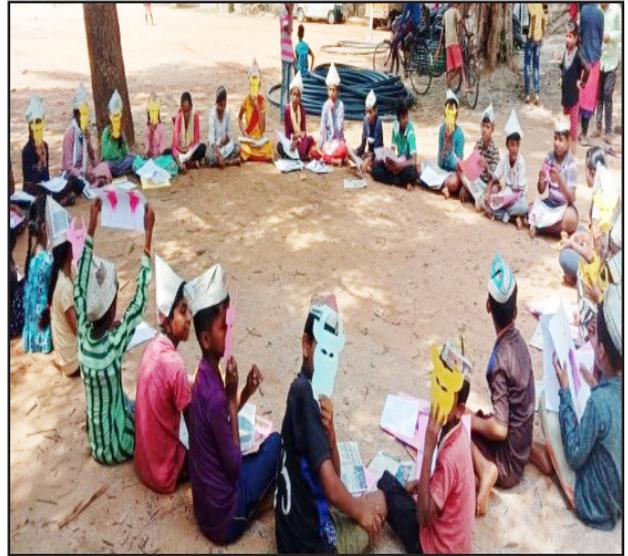


transportation services were made available for children in remote areas to improve access to school. Additionally, electricity connections were provided to schools, and other infrastructure enhancements such as playgrounds, compound walls, clean sanitation facilities, libraries, benches, desks, and dining plates. And also, to ensure quality education for children in few villages new guest teachers, including subject wise teachers for government schools were appointed. These Special Grama Sabhas not only empowered children to participate in local governance but also demonstrated how their voices can lead to tangible improvements. It highlights the importance of child participation in decision-making processes and how grassroots-level engagement can create a more inclusive and child-friendly community.



SUMMER CAMPS

To prevent child labor and school dropouts during the summer holidays, RLHP conducted summer camps for children in rural and urban areas. The camps featured a variety of creative and educational activities such as, drawing, painting, mask-making, paper crafts, action songs, street play, and educational awareness on civic sense, health and sanitation, environment protection and also promoted children to exhibit their hidden talent through sports and cultural activities. More than 10,000 children are benefited from these camps during the reporting period.



MODEL RURAL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS WITH CHILD FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

In 2024–25, RLHP, with the support of CSR, implemented several initiatives aimed at creating a more child-friendly learning environment in government schools within its intervention areas. To enhance the quality of education and improve infrastructure, RLHP provided essential educational materials such as books, school bags, and stationery. Additionally, a Reading and Writing Enhancement Program was introduced, along with the establishment of smart classrooms to encourage interactive learning. Infrastructure improvements included the installation of drinking water facilities and the construction of child-friendly washrooms and toilet facilities in four government schools located in Hanchya, Sathgalli, Ambedkar Nagara, and Ningrajkatte. RLHP also extended full support to over 500 students in preparation for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Examination, carried out in close collaboration with the Department of Education to ensure students were well-prepared and motivated to participate.

As a result of these efforts, more than 2,000

children are benefited from these facilities and enrollment in these government schools has increased, the quality of education has improved, and students have gained better access to digital learning and computer literacy. These interventions have also contributed to a reduction in school dropouts, child labour, and early child marriages, encouraging more children to complete their education.



1.3 ENAGAGING CHILDREN FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (GREEN TEAM)



RLHP continues its initiatives and engagement with children and youth in environmental protection. Through this initiative, RLHP formed and strengthened Green Teams in schools

providing trainings and using demonstrative methodology such as segregating solid waste management, conserving water, kitchen gardening at schools, utilizing vegetables and fruits for their mid-day meals and making eco-friendly choices in their daily lives. The program aimed to educate and empower young learners to adopt environmentally conscious habits and become active contributors to sustainable natural resource management. Overall, these programs have contributed significantly to raising environmental awareness, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable habits among children and their communities.

1.4 MYSURU CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) Mysuru, under the Mysore Child Development Programme (MCDP), is actively working across 17 locations within the Mysuru Urban Slums. The initiative currently reaches 1,184 children and benefits a total population of 311,836. MCDP adopts child centered, integrated community approach with a focus on health, education, livelihood, and child protection.

During the financial year 2024–25, several impactful community-based activities were implemented. These included events such as Child Clubs, Youth Clubs, Yuva Mahotsava, and observances of World Cancer Day,

Breastfeeding Day, and International Women's Day, along with capacity-building initiatives such as teacher and health worker training, and youth engagement programs. Regular meetings of local groups Lead Mothers' Clubs, Adolescent Clubs, were conducted to strengthen community participation and encourage local ownership of child development initiatives. These activities reflect RLHP's strong commitment to holistic child development through active community engagement, empowerment, and collaboration with government.

As a result, 1,116 children are continuing education through SEL programs and CRC. Over 2,500 families have been successfully



linked to and are benefiting from various social security schemes, including Ayushman Card, ABHA Card, Ration Card, E-Shram Card, Labour Card, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, and other welfare programs. Additionally, 54 mother-headed families received training under the Entrepreneurship Development Scheme, of which 15 women have become self-employed in areas such as rice selling, flower business, and clothing. Vocational training was provided to 5 school dropouts in driving and beautician courses, enabling them to work towards financial independence. Furthermore, 54 youth received computer training, with securing employment

and others continuing their education.

RLHP focuses on the health, education, livelihood, and child protection aspects of exclusive, deprived and vulnerable children and women. Numerous initiatives and awareness campaigns were carried out, and about approximately 3, 00,000 beneficiaries were made aware of social issues and security programmes through various events conducted in working location. With the active involvement of VLCPCs, SDMCs, and other stakeholders, communities are progressing toward self-reliance and dignified lives.

2. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

2.1 TRAINING ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Protecting women from all forms of exploitation and empowering them with dignity, respect, and equality remains a primary focus of the existing women's groups. During the reporting period, Dwani and Belaku Women's Federations facilitated capacity-building programs for women from intervention areas. These trainings covered a wide range of important subjects including: Violence against women and girl children, Reproductive Health and Immunization, Child Marriage Prevention, Importance of Girls Education, Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) training Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Mental Health, Leadership Development, Importance of Women's Groups, MGNREGA, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), 73rd Constitutional Amendment, Gender and Justice, Legal Awareness. These capacity-building initiatives empowered women to actively contribute to restoring family harmony, preventing child abuse and child marriage, improving reproductive health, and achieving



social and economic empowerment. As a result, 16 child marriages prevented by women groups, 27 domestic violence cases were resolved and 26 family disputes were settled by women groups.

RLHP significantly strengthened women's participation in local governance, economic development, and social justice through the formation and support of 250 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Over 12,000 women were linked to various government welfare schemes through targeted training and awareness sessions. Under the Sanjeevini (NRLM) scheme, 75 newly formed SHGs accessed loans totaling Rs. 47.79 lakhs. These funds enabled the launch of successful small-scale businesses, leading to improved household economic conditions. Additionally, more than 5,700 women gained



employment through MGNREGA across four districts. Women's groups also assumed leadership roles, proactively engaging with Gram Panchayats to advocate for essential services such as water, roads, housing, and sanitation. RLHP organized a vibrant and empowering International Women's Day celebration across five working regions: Mysuru Urban, Mysuru Rural, Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Gundlupete. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 1,500 women. The celebrations featured a variety of sports activities, with prizes awarded to the winners, encouraging a spirit of unity, fun, and fitness among participants. A rich cultural programme showcased women's talents through songs, dances, and dramas celebrating their

achievements in all fields. These performances also highlighted the impact of gender stereotypes and emphasized the importance of preserving local culture and folk traditions. An exhibition was also organized as part of the event, providing a platform for women to display and sell their homemade products

RLHP new initiative: RLHP supported Income Generation Programme (IGP) by providing loans for two villages in North Karnataka to promote sustainable livelihoods. As part of this initiative, a cooperative society was registered, consisting of 200 women members. These women collectively established a milk dairy, which is now functioning successfully. The dairy is well-managed by the women themselves, who are earning a stable income. This initiative has significantly improved their household earnings and enabled them to better support their families, including the education of their children

Narasamma Leads Change Through Education and Organic Farming

Narasamma, from the remote village of Chikkalingadalli in Gulbarga district, is a shining example of rural empowerment. Selected by RLHP as a village teacher, she has been conducting joyful learning classes and successfully re-enrolled eight children into formal schools. Beyond teaching, she has formed eight women's self-help groups and actively promotes women's empowerment in her community. Coming from a farming background, Narasamma inspired her father to adopt organic farming after attending RLHP's training sessions. With RLHP's IGP support of Rs. 30,000, she bought cows, began selling milk and used cow dung and urine as organic manure for their land. Her efforts have improved both her family's income and soil fertility. Narasamma proudly credits RLHP for helping her transform her family's future through education, farming, and self-employment.



3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

3.1 EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS



During the reporting period, RLHP empowered 4,900 adolescent girls through school and community-based interventions focused on building knowledge, confidence, and leadership. These girls received comprehensive training on menstrual and personal hygiene, reproductive health, teenage pregnancy, nutrition, gender equality, personality development, legal rights (including the POCSO Act and CHILDLINE 1098), and essential life skills. As a result of these efforts, 33 Adolescent Groups (AGs) were formed comprising 1,236 girls across 25 villages. A total of 4,907 girls were trained in life skills, leadership, gender equality, legal awareness, and career guidance. Cultural performances such as Mime (Basavapura), Kamsale (Kalligowdanahalli), Dollu (Kodahalli), Kolata (Mudguru), and street plays were used by the girls to raise awareness in their communities. Over 600 girls challenged gender norms by participating in sports like kabaddi, cricket, volleyball, tug of war, and running races at taluk and district levels, while others excelled in school and college competitions in rugby, theatre, dance, and folk arts.

Significantly, 17 child marriages were prevented after girls themselves filed complaints via CHILDLINE 1098. Sixteen out-of-school girls cleared their SSLC and PUC exams and are now pursuing higher education.

Additionally, 137 adolescent girls and women including school dropouts, widows, and single/divorced women completed vocational training in tailoring, embroidery, beautician courses, computer skills, and driving, with 40% earning between Rs. 5,000 – Rs.12,000 per month. Many trained youth have also enrolled in Nursing, ITI, and Diploma courses. AG members have become active agents of change, successfully petitioning the Gram Panchayat to address electricity issues and securing regular KSRTC bus services in three villages. Today, these girls lead community programmes, mentor peers, and engage in child protection activities, taking a strong stand against child marriage and child labour. Through these sustained efforts, adolescent girls are not only continuing their education but are emerging as confident leaders and advocates for gender equality and women's rights in their communities.



Kavya's Journey to Empowerment

Kavya, a 26-year-old from MC Hundi village in Mysore Taluk, lived with her husband, two children, and in-laws, relying on daily wage labor. After participating in awareness sessions by RLHP, she enrolled in a 6-month tailoring and embroidery course supported by RLHP and JSS, along with 19 other women. Upon completion, she received a sewing machine and secured a tailoring job at Shahi Garments in T. Narasipura, earning Rs. 11,000 per month. Today, Kavya proudly contributes to her family's income and lives with dignity, crediting RLHP for transforming her life and empowering women in her community.

3.2 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE



RLHP's youth climate initiative is creating a ripple effect across Karnataka, with 35 youth groups actively leading the charge toward environmental sustainability. This year, more than 635 youth were educated on climate science, environmental protection, and their role as change-makers through workshops, exposure visits, climate library, campaigns, and leadership programs at district, state, and national levels, including participation in General Comment 26.

Youth-led activities have addressed real-world environmental challenges. In Sangam and T. Narasipura, they organized river clean-up drives; in Mysuru, they conducted climate change awareness campaigns and managed

solid waste initiatives. These efforts were complemented by enthusiastic participation in international observances such as World Environment Day, Earth Day, National Youth Day, and Global Action Month, helping amplify youth voices through education and action.

As part of the Voice for Green Earth campaign, over 650 saplings were planted across the state. Youth also submitted formal proposals to district authorities advocating for sustainable tourism in Mysuru. Other forward-thinking initiatives include protecting biodiversity on Chamundi Hill, transforming Gomala land into a social forest, and setting up a dedicated environmental education library.

Driven by purpose and unity, RLHP's youth are not only breaking stereotypes but also shaping policy through collective advocacy, pushing for stronger environmental laws and a greener, more sustainable Karnataka



RLHP New Initiative: Nature-Based Solution

RLHP has promoted youth-led startups focused on nature-based solutions to protect the environment. One such initiative is the Coconut Oil Project, which aims to encourage organic and healthy eating habits while engaging tourists in Mysuru with locally-produced, natural products. Led by a dedicated team of three members (one girl and two boys), the venture operates from a Panchayat building in a village and a retail shop. Dry coconuts are sourced from nearby farmers, supporting local livelihoods and strengthening the rural economy. The project is gradually improving and shows promising potential for future growth. Looking ahead, the team plans to expand into the production of groundnut and sesame oil. They also aim to actively



promote their products through social media to reach a wider audience. To ensure long-term sustainability, the initiative plans to reinvest future profits, involve youth from neighboring villages, and tap into relevant government support schemes.

4. PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT

4.1 STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY



People's participation plays a crucial role in community development. RLHP empowered individuals to actively address rural and urban issues through their own initiatives, paving the way for social, economic, and cultural empowerment. The organization strengthened the involvement of existing community structures including School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMC), Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNC), Block Resource and Support Social Groups (BRSSG), Women and Child Protection Committees (WCPC), Gram Panchayats, Child

Marriage Prevention Officers, school teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi teachers, and other key stakeholders. These efforts aimed at the holistic development of the community. RLHP conducted numerous awareness programs and capacity-building workshops on key topics such as health, education, livelihood, and relevant laws and schemes. These included the Right to Education Act, Child Marriage Act, Domestic Violence Act, POCSO Act, UNCRC, Panchayat Raj Act, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, and ICDS, among others. Over 4 lakh people participated in and benefited from RLHP's development interventions during the reporting period.



4.2 MASS CONTACT PROGRAMME

The Mass Contact Programme (MCP) is recognized as a best practice by RLHP. It is organized under various names such as Application Melas, Labour Rights Orientation Programmes, AGDS, and CBO Interface Meetings. During the reporting period, MCPs were conducted at both village and taluk levels. The MCP serves as an interface between the community and government officials, enabling access to government schemes and services, especially for those who are typically unreached. It provides a platform for the community to express their issues and concerns related to their day-to-day lives.

RLHP organized Mass Contact Programmes across its intervention areas, with participation from both rural and urban communities. People actively engaged in discussions, interacted with officials, and submitted petitions to the government addressing their problems and needs. Over 20,014 people participated, raising issues related to pensions, Ayushman cards, Aadhaar corrections, PM Vishwakarma scheme, job cards, and other welfare services. Government officials from departments such as Gram and Taluk Panchayats, Labour Department, Health, Education, and Child Development Department addressed these issues directly.

As a result: Housing & Sanitation – 28 families received house construction work



orders, 77 households got toilet construction approvals, and streetlights were installed in 9 villages. Education & Infrastructure – Teachers were appointed in 2 anganwadis, handwashing basins were installed in 3 schools, and renovation and painting were carried out in schools and anganwadis. Social Security & Documents Issued – 260+ labour cards, 2,671 Ayushman cards, 100 PAN cards, 635 health cards, and 12 ration cards were issued; 246 caste and income certificates and 863 mother cards were provided; and 953 women were linked to the Matru Vandana scheme. Employment & Livelihoods – 3,731 families received new job cards under MGNREGA, and pensions for 226 senior citizens were increased from Rs. 800 to Rs.1,200. The MCPs have significantly improved access to government schemes, strengthened community development, and promoted inclusive growth in education, health, sanitation, and livelihoods.



Clean Water, Healthier Lives: A Change in Hosahalli

Hosahalli village, located about 22 km from Mysuru and home to over 150 families, had a clean drinking water unit installed four years ago. However, due to its inconvenient location and non-functionality, the unit remained unused. Even after relocating it near the government school, villagers continued to rely on unsafe tap water, as the system was still not operational. During a women's and community meeting facilitated by RLHP, local residents raised the issue. RLHP immediately took action by writing to the concerned department and initiating discussions with relevant officials. In response, higher authorities visited the village for inspection. The water unit was repaired, and a demonstration was conducted to educate the community on its proper use. Thanks to RLHP's intervention, the villagers now have access to safe drinking water and have reported noticeable improvements in their health. The community expressed their sincere gratitude to RLHP.

5. COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH AND SANITATION

5.1 HEALTH CAMPS AND MEDICAL SERVICE



RLHP continues its efforts to uplift communities through preventive health and development programs. These initiatives aim to raise health awareness among women, children, and the wider community. Trainings cover a range of topics including personal hygiene, community hygiene, seasonal and communicable diseases, immunization, mental health, reproductive and child health, and nutritional care. RLHP also organizes health camps and clinics, and actively promotes adolescent health. Awareness programs are conducted through various mediums such as street plays, video shows, and flashcards.

As a result, more than 3 lakh people have become aware of the importance of health, sanitation, and hygiene. To sustain and enhance

community participation, capacity-building trainings were conducted for Gram Panchayat members, ASHA workers, Anganwadi teachers, and members of the Village Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Committees. These trainings focused on the holistic development of villages, with special attention given to pregnant and lactating mothers, malnourished children, government schemes, basic amenities, sanitation facilities, TB patients, and other health-related issues. With active participation from community members and strong support from the Government Health Department, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj Departments, several positive outcomes were achieved during the reporting period.



Over 48,000 people accessed health services through clinics. 1,670 pregnant and lactating women received reproductive health training and were enrolled in schemes like Matru Vandana and provided Mother Cards. 287 malnourished children were given nutritious supplements including Spirulina chick powder, leading to improved physical and mental health. These children are now attending school and Anganwadi centers regularly. More than 1,200 patients with high blood pressure and

diabetes are now regularly monitored and linked with government departments for consistent medication and care. Over 2,580 patients with various ailments-including kidney stones, uterine conditions, piles, skin diseases, and thyroid issues-were connected to government health services for treatment and follow-up. 172 senior citizens participated in eye check-up camps, and with support from medical institutions, necessary surgeries were also carried out.

5.2 HEALTH AWARENESS

Supporting a High-Risk Pregnancy through RLHP Intervention

Prabha, a 21-year-old woman from a low-income family in Uttanahalli village, experiencing a high-risk first pregnancy complicated by anemia, thyroid issues, high blood pressure, and urinary tract infections. At just three months into her pregnancy, her health was fragile and required close medical monitoring and continuous support. The Rural Literacy and Health Programme (RLHP) played a vital role in her care by helping her obtain a Mother Card to ensure regular health check-ups, supported consistent blood pressure monitoring, and encouraged her to attend Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) training sessions. Through these sessions, Prabha learned about proper nutrition, personal hygiene practices, pregnancy care, and the importance of adequate hydration to prevent infections.

With RLHP's continued guidance and support, Prabha was able to manage her health more effectively and she gave birth to a baby weighing 2.15 kg in April 2025. Although the baby's birth weight was slightly low, both mother and child are stable. Prabha continues to follow the health and hygiene practice advised by RLHP to ensure their ongoing well-being.

6. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

6.1. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR STAFF

The success of RLHP's project implementation is deeply rooted in the dedication and performance of its staff. RLHP prioritizes continuous professional development to ensure that team members are equipped with the necessary knowledge, and skills to deliver impactful work.

Throughout the year, RLHP organized various capacity-building workshops, training sessions, and staff exposure visits. These initiatives focused on enhancing skills in



planning, implementing, and evaluating results-based community activities. Key training areas included: Child rights and protection laws such as the UNCRC, Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, POCSO Act, Child Labour Act,

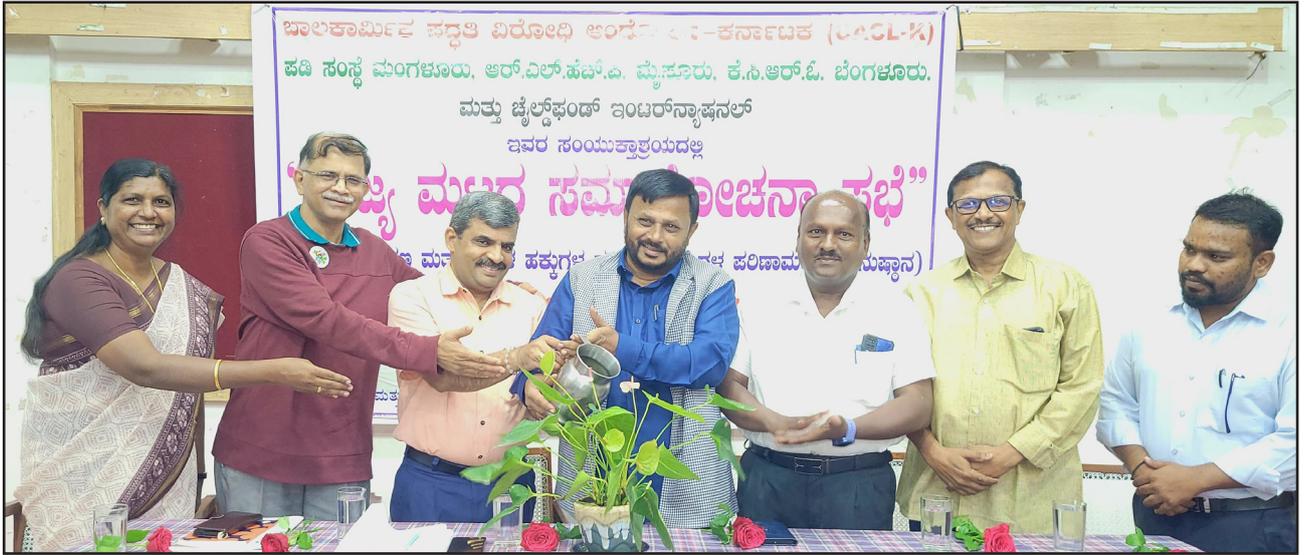
Right to Education Act, and the Panchayati Raj Act; child safeguarding including safe/unsafe touch and online abuse; gender, justice, and the feminist movement; climate change and sustainable agriculture (including Mission Vatsala and MGNREGA); and report writing,



vision building, and leadership development. All sessions were facilitated by expert resource persons from the development sector, offering valuable insights and legal knowledge.

RLHP has also established a Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Committee which meets quarterly and maintains a robust child safeguarding policy to ensure a safe and child-friendly environment. Staff also benefited from external training programs, regular performance appraisals, and monthly review meetings, which promoted reflection, learning, and motivation.

7. NETWORKING



RLHP continued to actively strengthen and sustain its network with like-minded organizations, government departments, national and international development agencies, and community-based organizations. Notable collaborators include CACL (Campaign Against Child Labour), FEVORD-K (Federation of Voluntary Organizations for Rural Development – Karnataka), DWANI, MYTHRI, Mahila Dowrjanya Virodhi Okkuta, and many others. Throughout the year, RLHP participated in and co-organised state and national-level network-building sessions, which enabled active group

participation and meaningful dialogue and collective action towards shared goals related to education, child rights, and social justice. RLHP is honored to continue serving as the State Convener for CACL (Karnataka) a vital platform working toward the eradication of child labor.

Through this leadership role, RLHP reaffirmed its commitment to policy advocacy, grassroots mobilization, and collaborative efforts to safeguard and promote the rights of every child. In 2024–25, RLHP and partner organizations, significantly strengthened child protection

initiatives through a series of impactful events. A State-Level Consultation on Quality Education and Child Rights Laws, inaugurated Chairperson of KSCPCR, brought together 85+ participants and key stakeholders.

Ahead of the event, a planning meeting was held to finalize the agenda, incorporating expert inputs from child rights leaders. In addition, around 10 virtual meetings were conducted to address issues like school dropouts, CSA, migrant children's education, and child marriage.

These platforms enhanced collaboration and networking among NGOs, activists, and district

convenors across Karnataka.

RLHP also initiated a Youth Employment Job Mela at Chincholi and Basavakalyana taluks in North Karnataka, in collaboration with the District Administration, Employment Department, Zilla Panchayat, and private sector companies. The primary objective was to create employment opportunities for youth trained through RLHP's vocational training programs. Notably, this was the first job fair organized in the history of these two taluks. Around 13 companies participated in the job fair, and more than 400 youth participants of whom 30% were successfully placed in jobs.

8. OTHER EVENTS

RLHP Honored with Chaitanya Shri Award 2024

The Chaitanya Shri Award is a prestigious honor conferred by the Karnataka State Scientific Research Council to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in the fields of science, research, education, innovation, or social development. This award recognizes excellence, leadership, and a strong commitment to societal progress.

RLHP was conferred with the State-Level Chaitanya Shri Award – 2024 during the 4th State-Level Scientific Conference, held on the 28th and 29th of December 2024. This recognition acknowledges RLHP's dedicated efforts and impactful contributions in advancing community development and social well-being. RLHP's work continues to inspire organizations and individuals committed to sustainable and inclusive development.

9. AUDITORS

PHILLIPOS GEORGE & Co, CHARTED ACCOUNTANT

9. CONCLUSION

RLHP has successfully completed another impactful year, deriving immense satisfaction from the positive changes brought about in the lives of children, women, adolescents, youth, and communities across both rural and urban intervention areas. Through our grassroots initiatives, we have continued to reach the unreached and create sustainable, long-lasting impact.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our funding partners and supporters especially our Board members, individuals, friends, resource persons, consultants, and well-wishers for their unwavering trust, guidance, and encouragement throughout the year. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the government departments across all districts for their continued collaboration, without which the achievements of 2024–25 would not have been possible.

During the year, RLHP made significant strides in advancing child rights and participation, empowering women and adolescents, strengthening youth and community development, promoting environmental protection, and encouraging people-led initiatives. The renewed energy and strengthening of our staff team fills us with confidence and optimism as we move forward into the year ahead.

Mrs. Saraswathi
Director, RLHP,
Mysore.



