Concerns Universe Foundation,
Bangalore

September 2013

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from all at Concerns! Wish all is well with you, your families & friends.

On behalf of all at Concerns I am glad to share the news, which has been the result of a collective effort by all at the project. In the newsletter, you will find the latest information and progress in the different areas of our work: Childcare, Community College and Community Health, as well as a new project in computer education, development in skills’ training and our planned new facility.

*Without you, our work could not go on and we always appreciate hearing from you.*
*A word of acknowledgment would be so encouraging and help us to keep going on with our work cheerfully.*

Please all do visit our websites [http://concernsuniversefoundation.org](http://concernsuniversefoundation.org) and [http://concernscommunitycollege.net](http://concernscommunitycollege.net) to share your views and please feel free to communicate with us at cufbangalore@gmail.com. It means so much to hear from you.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement.
With warm wishes from all at Concerns,

Chitra
NEWS LETTER September 2013

Children
- On average
  - 208 children of preschool age attend between all the five Child Care Centres
  - 100 children attend our home work sessions (tuitions)
  - 110 school goers are getting financial support to continue their education
  - 140 teenagers in two schools are covered under a health awareness program.
- Nearly 60 children who have no access to a computer learnt basic computing just before the start of their academic year.
- Through networking with Christel House, a school for the poor, a team is in the process of identifying the most needy children from Concerns childcare services to provide them with quality education free of cost.
- Through Ashwini Trust, 18 children from our community have been provided with the necessary support to continue education in local school.

CHILDREN AT CC IV

Community College
- In April 2013, through Concerns Community College, 32 students completed the course on Early Childhood Care &Education and 16 completed the course on Computing, Accounting & Office Management. Among them 33 are working in various preschools and as office assistants in different firms. Some are yet to settle in available jobs.
- In this academic year 54 students of different age, educational level, language, married and unmarried have enrolled. Among them, 32 are training as preschool teachers and the other 22 as office administrative assistants. Among them, as an initiative of continuing education, 13 have joined 10th level and nine have joined secondary level in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
• Three of the Concerns team and 3 of our former community college students have joined NIOS and two have joined distance education to become graduates.

OLD STUDENTS WORKING AS PRESCHOOL TEACHERS GETTING GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER STUDIES

[Image of women working as preschool teachers]

Present Community College students expressing their talent on 13th July 2013

[Image of students expressing their talent]

Community Health

• The Women’s Health camp by the Health Box team continued and an average of 150 women attended. Around 27 were anaemic; 3 were suspected to have cancer; 34 were diagnosed with hypertension; 29 with diabetes and 30 had infection of the reproductive system. One of our CUF members, Uma, a teacher of CC IV underwent a hysterectomy and is keeping good health now. All of them are getting the right treatment and being followed-up by our community health workers. The documentary shown at the time of camp on these health issues has been a good eye opener, giving advice on how to prevent and handle these health issues.
• Under DOTS\textsuperscript{1}, 17 TB infected have completed the treatment 2 are continuing and 3 have discontinued the treatment since they are alcoholic.
• All our Community College students and the children at the childcare centres underwent a regular health checkup. All were given de-worming and other relevant treatments as well as education to raise health awareness for their health issues.
• 36 children from our tuition classes were vaccinated against hepatitis B.
• Our Concerns team members attended 4 sessions on health organised by the community health team of the Seventh Day Adventists’ hospital.

New DELL/Concern India Foundation (CIF) computer program:

• CIF & DELL together have agreed to support the project “\textit{Enhancing employability through vocational & skill development training for women and adolescent girls and school dropouts}”. A rented premises in Old Bypahalli has been made ready for computer training which will start as soon as the computers arrive. We will do both long and short-term courses for women and children in the Old Bypahalli community.

\textsuperscript{1} DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) is the World Health Organisation recommended control strategy for tuberculosis.
MEETING OF KEY MEMBERS OF CONCERNS

Infra structure:
We really wish we had the Concerns building ready to occupy now. However, the plans are taking shape and we acknowledge gratefully all the committed members who are working hard in this project towards achieving the goal.

Skills training
Having attended National Seminar for Community Colleges in Pondicherry, organised by ICRDCE\(^2\), we have encouraged on scaling up the skill training. With the input of our consultant we would like to utilise the resources of the Government of India, since they have planned to give skill training program for 1.5 million youth before 2015 through NSDC\(^3\).

Visit to the UK and Isle of Man
Formal and informal meetings with supporters encouraged both the supporters and us and built a rapport. It was a good time of sharing ideas and information and the visit has strengthened the relationship with supporters. What’s more some members became familiar with the project and Bangalore and were encouraged to come as volunteers to the project.

Please do not forget to contact us, it will make us very happy!
cufbangalore@gmail.com

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\(^2\) Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education

\(^3\) National Skill Development Corporation