

FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-FEED, SECUNDERABAD-INDIA

Widows Welfare

During the field visits of our Trustees and Volunteers, it was observed that the young widows were facing a number of financial and social problems. We witnessed the pathetic condition of the Young Widows who were having children and no means of income to feed them.

Having lost the bread earner of the family they were found left with no other option except either to live with their parents or to earn their livelihood by working as servant maids or as casual laborers to support their children. Their parents were also found helpless to support these unfortunate sisters since they were also equally poor and earning their living on day to day basis. It was observed that these sisters were finding it very difficult to make both ends meet even though they work hard and their meager income is not sufficient to provide food and other basic amenities to their children. In most of the cases they were not even having shelter and forced to lead their lives in small huts without any security.

The practical problems being faced by them made us to think of taking up a programme which can relieve them from these hardships at least to some extent. Having taken into consideration the helpless condition of these sisters the Trust has started a programme by name **"Young Widows welfare and her kids' education project"**.

Before actual implementation, the Trust has taken up detailed survey of Young Widows having children in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh through its network of field offices available throughout the state. After thorough investigation we have shortlisted **3745** deserving sisters who

fulfill the norms of the trust, and prepared their database with all the required details.

During the year 2011-12 we have interviewed these sisters and distributed cash component of Rs.1500 each as an immediate assistance and also given Rs. 500 to each of the kids of these widows who were studying in Government Schools.

We have encouraged these sisters and also advised them and their care takers to explore the possibilities of remarriage so that they can lead a respectable life in the society. We have assured our support and also offered to give them a wedding kit containing all the required items such as Clothes, Utensils etc, in addition to other items including Cot, Mattresses, Almirah and a cash component of Rs. 5,000/- costing a total amount of Rs. 25,000/- each during their remarriage. We are happy to state that so far **28 widows** were got remarried and they are leading respectable lives. In the years 2011-12 and 2012-13, we have supported **3745** widows by spending **Rs.1.27 Crores** and another **Rs.66 lakhs** was spent towards the educational assistance to their children in the same period. We have received another **400** applications from eligible widows this year (2012-13) and their applications are under process.

In addition to financial assistance, we have distributed Iftar food kits during the month of Ramadan along with Sarees with blouses and also cash payment to these widow sisters.

We have also distributed Zabiha meat during Eid ul Adha in **22** Villages by performing Zabiha of **151** goats exclusively for families of widow sisters and the meat was distributed among **1970** families.

STATISTICS OF YOUNG WIDOWS' WELFARE AND HER KIDS EDUCATION PROJECT

1	Project commencement	August 2011
2	Number of widows identified and short listed after investigation	3745 (Another 400 applications received in 2012-13 are under process).
3	Average age	26 years
4	Zone wise details of Widows enlisted	Costal Andhra zone (9Districts): 809 Rayalseema zone (4 Districts): 687 Telangana zone (10 Districts): 2249 Total Number of Widows : 3745
5	Zone wise details of School going children of Widows	Costal Andhra zone (9 Districts): 956 Rayalseema zone (4 Districts): 539 Telangana zone (10 Districts): 2691 Total Number of children studying: 4186
6	Amount of financial assistance provided to widow families	Upto 2011-12: Rs.82 lakhs In 2012-13: Rs.45 lakhs
7	Amount of scholarship disbursed to school going children of widows	Upto 2011-12: Rs.24 lakhs In 2012-13: Rs.32 lakhs
8	Number of families of widows who were given Zabiha meat during Idul Adha 2012	1970 families (7850 individual beneficiaries)
9	Number of widows remarried till April 2013.	28 widows
10	Amount of assistance given at the time of remarriage of 19 widows	Rs.4,75,000

We are formulating self employment schemes for these sisters so that they can lead their lives with financial freedom and take care of their children without looking for support from others.