



Children shouting slogans at Addaroad



Hon'ble minister Mr.Mallikarjun Karge and Dr.Guido falkenberg at the final event in chennai



CMCJ members forming a human chain at kavali



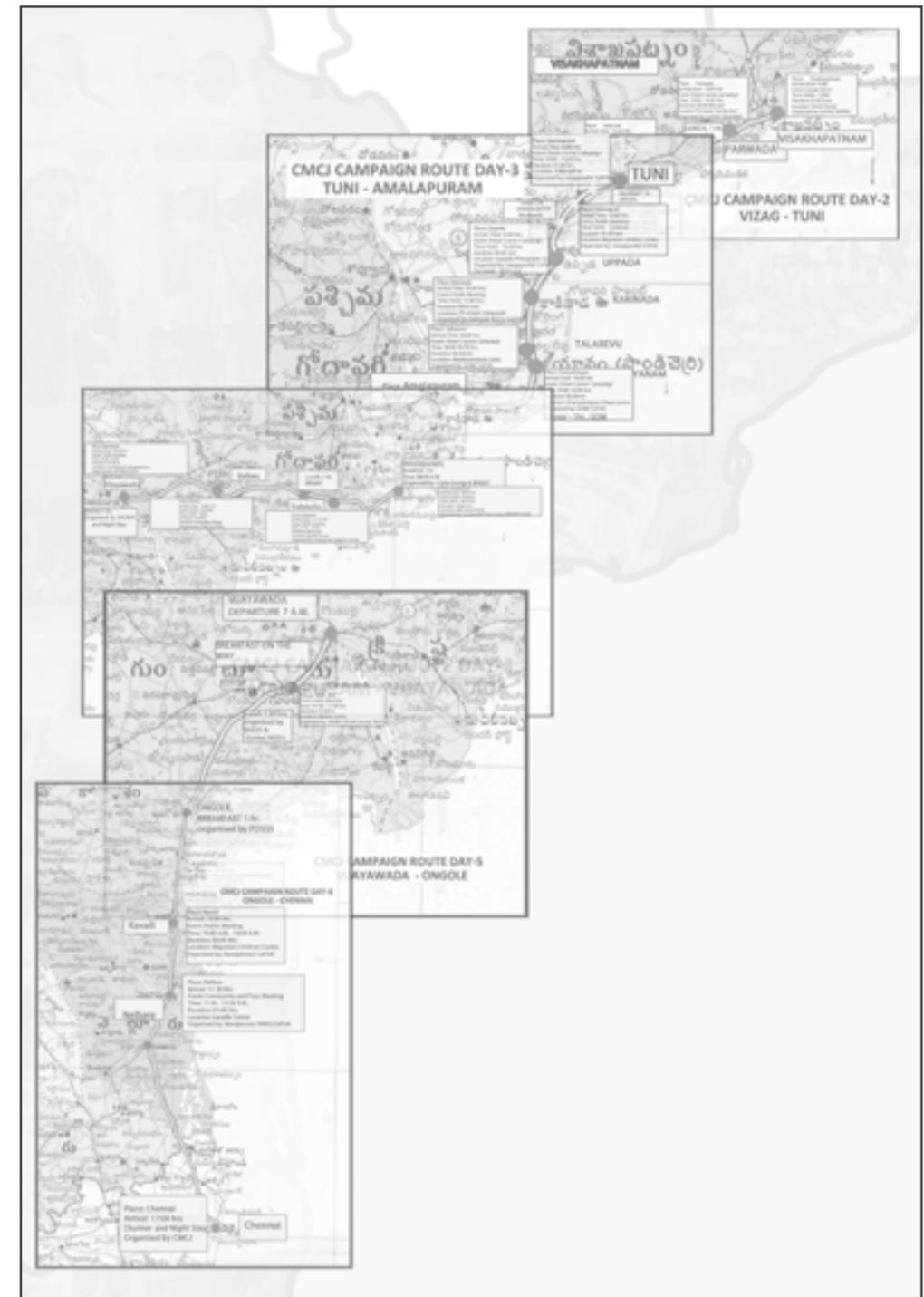
Children from Vijayawada perform an unique skit on climate change



CMCJ members in Ongole



CMCJ members in Palakollu



CHILDREN MOVEMENT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE YATRA REPORT ON AP, ODISHA AND KARNATAKA CHAPTER

Acknowledgement

We would like to sincerely thank Dr. Guido Falkenberg and KNH Germany for supporting the Yatra as it proved to be very effective, Mr. Sathish Samuel for his guidance, understanding, patience, and most importantly, his trust in us during the Yatra, Mr. Stanley D' Silva of KNH India for having travelled along with the children right from the beginning and accompanying till the last destination.

We would like to thank the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, for supporting the inaugural event, SPANDANA of Parwada, Janajagruthi, BRIGHT of Tuni, Sarva Siksha Abhijan of Kakinada, Rev. Johnson of Tallarevu and Sunil Kumar of Kakinada, Snehitha of Amalapuram, Sneha of Vijayawada, APCRAF of Vijayawada, SEEDS of Guntur, Father Hrudayaraj of Ongole, Navajeevan and RRDS of Nellore, for Hosting the Yatra team and sponsoring many necessary elements for the children, without the support of the Directors and Coordinators of all the above mentioned organisations it would have been very difficult to achieve this kind of success.

It requires a special mention about the children representing various villages have stubbornly faced the brunt of the heat in summer during the travel without any complaints. Hats off to their commitment in the context of Climate Change and Child right issues.

We would especially express our token of Gratitude to all the officials who were a part of the Yatra and addressed so many vital issues in the current dilemma of destruction in the name of progressive development.

The Organising team, Staff of respective organisations and Drivers for the Yathra all require a very special Thank You, for their support through out the Yatra.

Co Convenor, Dr. SasiPrabha:

As a part of KNH, we have tried to structure our activities and programs for children and marginalised sectors with due reference and importance to the cause of issues that negate the poor and the children proper livelihood options. With reference to this we have realised that Climate plays a major role impacting the lives of many marginalised communities and with this a large scale distress and pressure on natural resources is predicted, and this would disturb the right to live for the children in the future. CMCJ with reference to the climate crisis have risen to the occasion to try and reverse the fortunes of the children in future.

Apart from this many an international meetings have been conducted but never a child representative was invited, it is very disturbing to understand the consequences the children may face in future due to climate crisis. This is with a strong reference to the contenscious effort of these children that they should stand a chance to represent many counterparts of theirs in this fight for climate justice and voice out their stance at many international conventions.

It is very heartening to see that the children are ready to get united and fight for the future cause of climate and its justice related issues. CMCJ being identified as a separate partner by KNH is major milestone since the inception of this Children Organisation which unites children from various geographical specific regions, different communities and cultures. We look at CMCJ as a spirited unit ready to take on many individuals, associations, and even state policies for a better living habitat in the future.

We would like to acknowledge the effort of the spirited children, NGO's who have lend their support enroute Chennai and KNH for suporting this kind of Advocacy related activities. In the future we hope the children really step into the shoes and be leaders for generating awareness on the issues that deny children their ecological child rights.

Sasi Prabha.



KNH and its Initiative

"Kindernothilfe (KNH) has been working since 1959 in the area of development cooperation, providing basic school education and Vocational Education and Training, good nutrition and health care for children, as well as community oriented support to the families of the children. KNH is committed to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which forms the basis for its work. Over the years, KNH has become one of the largest child aid organisations in Europe. Today, it supports more than 1,075 projects and more than 566,000 children and young people in 28 countries across the world.

KNH sees its activities in the area of global learning in Germany as part of its development policy. It strives to be a partner to German schools in the support of children in their learning processes for a world with a future. Its service to schools includes providing a wide range of educational material, organising action campaigns and further education courses. Campaigns are carried out in cooperation with other NGOs or alone. In 2008, the KNH carried out awareness campaigns for children and young people in Germany for Education for All (Global Campaign for Education), climate change ("Hot times – take the climate in hand"), and HIV/Aids in developing countries ("Act positive – Aids affects us all")."

**Source: http://www.bneportal.de/coremedia/generator/unesco/en/04__The_20UN_20Decade_20in_20Germany/01__Coordinating_20bodies/02__Round_20Table/Kindernothilfe.html*

KNH and their partners' – Powering the Children Community to address Climate Change

KNH has in a way triggered past the senses of children and urged them to march forward in an unique intervention of saving earth and preserving habitable environment. KNH as told in the official webpage has definitely encouraged children from various states in India to associate them onto a common platform and called it as "Children Movement for Climate Justice". This platform called for children representations from various states among India to voice out their opinion in the context of Climate Change.

In an over-due period of economic crisis, it is very difficult to contemplate with the increased demands and decreased supplies at a global level. This in fact, has risen to be the common outcome of climate change. KNH in this regard has taken an in-depth initiative by supporting and encouraging the children networks in the rural areas to take up activities addressing the grass-root issues in line with the climate change chaos. The children are being victimised.

Introduction:

In the Past Present and Future there has been a lot of hue and cry on the topic "CLIMATE" and its pattern of change. As Human beings we are responsible for the adverse impacts that the climate has transformed into, for the enormous health vindications, for the tremendous increase in the rate of poverty and ultimately the irreparable deterioration of the climate. This has been the hot topic in the international arena with various conferences and meetings. We are definitely pushing ourselves and the children in to a terribly unsafe, unclean and non -livable environment. It's high time that the children of the globe join hands together and oppose the complications that have been complied on by the so called "intellectual and decision making adults".

Climate change is a crisis, which challenges all levels of humanity and existing ecosystems. It has also affected agriculture & livelihood patterns, sustaining the earth has been questioned due to the ambitious activities of the most formidable animal – The Humans on the earth. Children are most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. There are more than 200 million children living in vulnerable circumstances with reference to food insecurity and ill health.

The Process of combating this global crisis - climate change is as always been challenging and the CMCJ network the children need to persevere hard enough so that they do not repeat the same mistakes again but amicably strike a balance to grow with the nature instead.



Background on Children Movement for Climate Justice:

Children from marginalized and poor farming & non farming families of Kotauratla Mandal in Visakhapatnam district, Semiliguda block of Koraput district, Besthatvaripeta block of Prakasam District and from Karnataka between the age group of 8 to 18 united with commitment to protect the natural resources, ecosystems and planet earth.

The team has strategically planned to move forward and generate consciousness in the local area involving the schools, child centre members and eco club members in respective geographically specific areas. The children have further strengthened their ideologies by exchanging their experiences with the CMCJ network of Tamil Nadu. The exposure visits has helped the children realize that children not only suffer because of issues in that area but its an issue PAN – India with different kinds of problems, questioning the basic right of survival for the children.

Since then the children across adopted various strategies to address the specific issues concerning to climate justice. Role plays, street theatre, communication programs, public meetings, awareness camps, rallies, raising nurseries, plantation, study on local resources of biodiversity and model demonstration plots.

The Main Activities of CMCJ are

- Child Rights; Care & protection
- Ecological Child Rights
- Biodiversity study project implementation
- Seed Collection, Nursery & Plantation at Villages & Panchayat Office & Schools
- Millet Development in Agri- Biodiversity Demonstration Plot
- Advocacy campaigns / Yatra /Public meet
- Submission of the Memorandum to higher officials

Children now have joined hands with other university students as well as child group members of NGOs from different states,. Around 600 children and 120 adults turned out to take part in the environment campaign, through which the children spoke on global warming and climate justice . The officials, elected representatives, officers from NGOs and friends from other CBOs took part in the campaign on demand for their ecological rights.

National Yatra

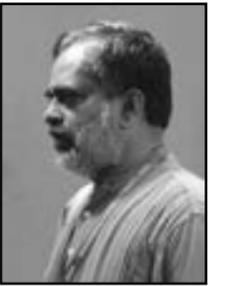
The CMCJ members of Odisha, Jharkhand Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu planned another Yatra in the month of May2012 with a much broader goal “To improve the quality of life with dignity through optimal use of natural resources on an equitable basis, and to protect the environment and the rights of children whose future is at stake due to climate crisis”

Specific objective:

- To create mass awareness on environment, climate change and ecological rights of children
- To strengthen participatory rights of children, to make joint learning and reflect on practical appropriate adaptation and mitigation.

Sathish Samuel of KNH India shares,

It is indeed a very happy feeling to witness the successful end of the Yatra. 400 children have participated in the Yatra travelling from Kanyakumari till Chennai and 100 Children travelled from A.P., Odisha, Karnataka all the way till Chennai, every one spoke about climate change and the dreadful impacts it has on the humans and it would be really nice to know the experiences of the children enroute to the final venue in Chennai. The memorandum and demand submitted to the government should also be shared in the villages. The message has to reach the local community based organisations, women group, self help groups and federations. It is very important to look ahead and have a concrete plan of action on the activities. It is very important to recognising John Devavaram, (National Convenor, CMCJ Yatra) and Sasiprabha for their tireless efforts as well. He thanks Guido for travelling all the way from Germany for the purpose of this Yatra. It was really good to see the children performing so enthusiastically and voicing out strong conceptual statements.



Guido Falkenberg's View



After a long process of sincere discussions it is very satisfying to witness the outcome of the Yatra, Extends his thanks to Dr. John Devavaram for not only playing a key organiser's role but being a spiritual mentor of the Yatra. Protection of environment is a global issue no matter if we live in India, Asia, Germany or else where. From the perspective of KNH there is a lot of respect for the children as they have learnt the concept, dynamics , theory of climate change and internalised the concepts pertaining to child rights. The children are the real experts to protect the Mother Earth. From this Yatra a very strong message has been sent to Germany and many other countries to join hands and protect our Mother Earth. It is very heartening to visually see the powerful ambassador for the environment within every child present here. It is now proved that the children though young in age they can influence the decision making process in villages and if need be at a higher level as well. It is very necessary that the children donot stop the efforts after the Yatra but take up awareness programs, environment related activities and child rights related issues this will help India to shine.

Conceptual Framework of a Large scale Awareness Yatra

Climate change has been a major reason of despair for many, in India the bulk of the population suffer due to the direct or indirect impacts of climate change. The members of the CMCJ network come forward representing the struggle groups in the respective areas and voicing out the hardships they would face in the context of climate change.

CMCJ Network is a movement which associates itself to many issue based struggles. Each geographical area carves a niche of issues for itself. Most of the struggle groups come from Rural parts of the so called “Shining India”. The policy making bodies and the state donot agree upon to a consensus on their development strategies with the people who live amidst these struggle prone areas. This has obviously put the human population of Rural India in a very precarious position, even more affected are the children.

The children now understand the dynamics of climate change and global warming, it is clear to them that children all over the country and the globe face the threat of living in a unhealthy, unclean and polluted environment. This is why the CMCJ members have risen up to the occasion to atleast contain and limit the environment degradation activities that take place at the village levels. The children have ideologically understood that the major contributors for the issue of climate change are the macro issues that prevail in the respective areas they belong to. Mainstream development according to the children may not be the solution for the dying economy alone, it would be the balance of alternative development strategies and mainstream strategies that could bring constructive solutions for the Nation as well as the environment.

Children now have realised that they need to step up and refrain from the policies that have been followed for so long, they feel that they need to slowly rebuild the mind-sets and work towards a perspective that could revitalise the depleting nature and reduce the crisis due to climate change. The CMCJ members have taken concrete steps and also have practised it at their level and have altered the mind-sets of people with whom they live in the villages.

CeFHA- Stepping forward to Coordinate Children Networks from Orissa and Andhra Pradesh

After the KNH partners' meeting at Visakhapatnam, the children and partners from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa also felt that it would be good if there was a representation in Chennai by the children group/CMCJ members from these two states as well. Dr. Sasiprabha, Director of CeFHA has taken the responsibility to coordinate the Yatra of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha chapter.

Press meet

19th May, 2012 the CMCJ members along with the organizing lead for the Yatra from AP and Odisha, CeFHA team have addressed the press. Different print and visual media were present to learn the work of CMCJ and the purpose of Yatra.

To begin with Sasi Prabha (Director CeFHA and Co-Convenor for CMCJ Yatra) introduced the members and shared that CMCJ was a children network which begun in the year 2008, it was an assimilated effort from various partners of KNH to work for a just and safe environment for the children. The network has members of 5 different states (A.P., Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Jharkhand). The major purpose of Yatra was to aware people at different places on climate change.

The yatra would begin simultaneously at two places Kanyakumari and Semiliguda the members would converge at Chennai to submit a memorandum to Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge. The memorandum would insist the state and central governments to re-enforce stringent implementable policies to regulate the various polluting agencies, individuals and industries.

The present section of Yatra would begin from Semiliguda, Odisha and then with an inaugural event at Youth hostel, Visakhapatnam the team would move to Parwada, Addu Road, Tuni, Uppada, Kakinada, Yanam, Amalapuram, Pallakollu, Bheemavaram, Kolleru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Ongole, Kavali, and Chennai.

Ananta Lakshmi,

Ananta Lakshmi spoke about the importance of environment and how human beings have contributed towards polluting the most important resources land, air and water. She says that one can witness the plight of people living in the vicinity of industries and their sufferings due to the hazardous elements that have been released into the atmosphere. Ananta Lakshmi reflects on the attitude of parents saying that these days people are more keen to give children more wealth instead of giving them a safe climate to live on. As declared by WHO, 85% of the diseases are due to pollution and its high time stringent measures be taken against polluting industries and other sources.

Hemalatha,

Hema shares on the importance of trees and how it helps to sequester the carbon emissions. Plants and trees are not only the source of oxygen but they also are the sources of livelihood to many.



Ananta Lakshmi and Sasi Prabha Addressing the Press on 19th May for the Press Meet



22nd May 2012

Inaugural Event - Visakhapatnam



Flag Off by Shri Purna Chandra Rao, District Police Commissioner

The Yatra commenced with the inaugural event at "Youth Hostel" Visakhapatnam. The event begun with a welcome message by Lalitha (CMCJ Representative) and she invited the dignitaries to stage. The following were invited on stage, Anantalaxmi (Secretary of Green Ambassadors and CMCJ member), Shri Purna Chandra Rao (Police Commissioner Visakhapatnam), Shri Venkateshwara Rao (Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board) Shri Sathyanarayana (Auditor of CeFHA), Prof. M.K. Raju (Psychology Department, AU), Prof. Rajasekhar and Prof. E.U.B Reddy (Environmental Sciences Dept., A. U.)

Sasiprabha followed it up with a brief up on the purpose of the yatra in the context of climate change. She requested Shri Sathyanarayana to chair the session. The session followed up with short speeches from the children as well as from the dignitaries.

Shri Purna Chandra Rao: (Commissioner of Police):

His excellence The Commissioner of Police, Vishakapatnam District has appreciated the efforts of the children and explained many facts as to how the human beings were exploiting the existing resources and he said if we continue to exploit the resources there would be a triggered effect on the environment and on the climate as well. He also explained that this was the reason why there is a marked difference in the climate from the past.

Shri Venkateshwara Rao:

Joint Chief Environmental Engineer did speak about the importance of awareness and should reach the masses at the earliest to address the issues of the ongoing climate crisis. He also shared the existing issues and cited some of the important examples in this context at the global level. Apart from that he also congratulated the green ambassadors and CeFHA for taking

Ananta Lakshmi,

Most important resources for life on earth are air water and land. But what would happen if all the basic supporting units of Life are destroyed due to pollution

One can witness the plight of people living in the vicinity of industries and their sufferings due to the hazardous elements that have been released into the atmosphere. Ananta Lakshmi reflects on the attitude of parents saying that these days' people are more keen to give children more wealth, education and other material comforts instead of giving them a safe climate to live in. As declared by WHO, 85% of the diseases are due to pollution and its high time stringent measures be taken against polluting industries and other sources. 1,35,00000 people die every year due to pollution related health hazards.

Ananta laxmi questioned the current lifestyle methods in the purview of climate change. She spoke about the disturbance caused to ecological balance due to severe loss on biodiversity and its components. It has been development at its helm with deterioration at its best. The particples of life and their co-existence within the context of climate and its changes have to be derived to support life on earth. She shared her experience at Youth Hostel in Visakhapatnam saying that the drainage systems were directly routed to sea, which was a huge issue as we poison the habitat of aquatic animals.

There have been stringent laws that protect the environment right from the inception of our constitution. Some of them could be summarised as Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974; the Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Cess Act, 1977; the Air Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1981; the Environment Protection Act, 1986; Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997; the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. She invites the adult community, youth, government and other agencies to join hands with the CMCJ network and work together for a safe and secure environment.

up such an event that could bring in a great level of awareness in the greater interest of people.

Ananta Laxmi:

Ananta Laxmi questioned the current lifestyle methods in the purview of climate change. She spoke about the disturbance caused to ecological balance due to severe loss on biodiversity and its components. It has been development at its helm with deterioration at its best. She questioned the principles of life and their existence within the context of climate and its changes.

Prof. Rajasekhar, E.U.B. Reddy and Venkaiah:

The faculty members of Andhra University, Visakhapatnam shared their views on climate chaos, and said that it's very important to address the issue at the earliest. Maintaining ecological balance and preserving biodiversity are also equally important to maintain the life cycles of many species. Professors have urged the children to take up these issues in their communities and start disseminating knowledge from programs such as these.

The rally was flagged off by Shri Purnachandra Rao and the bus proceeded towards Parwada for the next meeting.

Parwada

Reaching Parwada at 2:30, the second destination

CeFHA had mobilised lunch to be offered by Mr. Ishmail director SPANDANA. After the lunch there was a rally from the office to zilla parishad school. On behalf of CMCJ, Ananta Laxmi welcomed the people and also chaired the session, The chief speakers were

Bimal Tadingi, shared on displacement and the growth of industries, vehicles in his area. Bimal says it's very pathetic to see all the natural reserves being destroyed in a very unsustainable manner, due to which the poor and marginalised are facing the plight of climate change.

Pawan Kumar: He spoke about various steps that are required to combat air pollution, he also shared about the usage of excessive vehicles, refrigerators and AC's which are the prime reason for ozone depletion.

Lalitha shared on the activities of CMCJ and Green Ambassadors. The various steps the children have taken to promote a green ecological zone in the areas they belong to. The following were a few important

Activities taken up by them,

- Management of plastic
- Large scale plantation drive
- Developing organic farming models
- Awareness campaigns
- Study on local biodiversity resources.

Ananta Lakshmi, spoke on various learnings from CMCJ- Green ambassadors and shared on how important a safe environment is for human beings.

Hemalatha explained the concepts of global warming and climate change.

Pawan Kumar said water was as important as land and air and it's our duty to protect the water from being polluted.



Adda Road, street corner meeting



Adda road, the team arrived at 3:45 and organised a small street corner meeting, there were anxious by passers who came and listened to what the children were speaking. In the meeting Ananta Lakshmi, Rajni Tading and Pawan Kumar spoke on

climate change and its impact on humans. The children also suggested the importance of changing the existing pattern of lifestyle that could help to negate the harsh effects of climate related issues. The groups sang songs on climate adversity and also on child rights, after which Ananta Lakshmi sensibly brought out the sync between climate justice and child rights.

Tuni



The team reached Tuni at 5:45 P.M.

As soon as the team reached Tuni there was a public meeting at Gollaparao centre. The meeting started with cultural dances from CMCJ children.

In the public Anantalakshmi, hemalatha and lalitha of Kotauratla region shared their views on the disastrous impacts people were facing due to climate change.

After the public meet at Gollappa rao centre, BRIGHT team had organised a panel discussion program with the local Judges. CMCJ members from Semiliguda area and Kotauratla area have actively participated in the discussions.

Sasiprabha shared the plan and purpose of yatra in brief. She welcomed the participants and greeted the magistrate and judges for being present on this occasion. She also shared about the international climate convention being held every year at different places called as conference of parties. The children were invited to speak on various issues they face in their respective regions.

Anantalakshmi and Pawan of Andhra shared on environmental issues like excessive usage of plastics, climate change issues pertaining to food security and livelihood sustenance. Prabhat Jani of Orissa spoke on behalf of tribal communities in Orissa on the various problems face due to climate change. He spoke on how erratic rainfall had an impact on productivity of

Hemalatha

Hemalatha with the experiences from her dedicated effort towards plantation said, plantation is an important step and can effectively help in offsetting carbon dioxide and its equivalent gases. She explained that there were many scientific agencies, legal bodies and environment related organisations were tirelessly working on steps to mitigate climate change and the most important activity as they mention was plantation. As trees help convert the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to useful oxygen, which supports life on earth also helps as an important source of carbon source. People often think about temporary benefits of cutting a tree as the all important benefits are never visible and people are not bothered. She urges everyone to plant a tree and help the cause of climate change.

Prasad

Prasad from Kotauratla spoke on the harsh effects of plastic. Plastic has been an automatic choice of utility since the two decades and the usage has been widespread. The issue with plastic is that the wastage is more than the usage and it is not degradable and stays in the soil for millions of years, this has a very bad effect on the seepage system of water table in the soil, critical loss of moisture which in turn results in elimination of useful microorganisms in the soil, ultimately making the soil unproductive. It's not only that, plastic usage is a proven menace in drainage systems creating water clogged conditions in the urban areas and worsening flooded conditions. Prasad thus, urges every one to reduce the usage of plastic and support the cause for climate justice.

crop during the last year. Hemalatha spoke on different laws being created for the environment. Some of the valid questions the children asked the Judge can be summarised as follows,

- Are these laws for legal action or is it a property to be remained sealed within a book?
- There have been environment laws since the past two decades but who is following them and who is taking responsibility to punish the illegal practices of destroying the environment.
- Is law going to be so weak creating opportunities to continue exploiting the environment and natural resources?

District Magistrate



The above questions were appreciated by the District Magistrate, Tuni Region and said he completely accepts the questions raised by the children. He first of all congratulated KNH Germany and India team, CeFHA and other local organisers for organising this event. He said that climate change has been a very serious issue; he also accepted the fact that legal acts have been made but there has been no right implementation steps taken. He also said that due to the humans exploiting the resources there have been many species that have become extinct. Many other species, have been struggling as well due to the irresponsible behaviour of human race on the face of the earth.

gling as well due to the irresponsible behaviour of human race on the face of the earth.

Stanley d' Silva (KNH- India team)

Stanley d' Silva conveys greetings from KNH India team to all the members present in the meeting. He said children and climate change is a very sensitive issue, people face a variety of problems and solutions for them need to be provided very soon. From his experience of work he observed that children these days speak on vermicompost, panchakavya, organic farming. Children in these areas do not look for icecreams or chocolates instead are very happy if good food was provided. Food security has been an issue and good nutritious food was available only once in 2 -3 days. With all the steps being taken on the climate front by the CMCJ members, he feels very encouraged and wishes all the very best.

Venkateshwarulu expressed his concern on the climate issues and the future of children. He also shared that the children need to be aware on climate change, it is very necessary for them to know and be prepared for the future.

The children had their Dinner at the Centre and took rest for the night.

23rd MAY 2012

Danavayipeta



Day started journey towards Danavayipeta, Tonding Mandalam. The team arrived there at 11:30 A.M.

Chief guest for the meeting at Danavayipeta was Satyanarayana Rao, (MRO, Tonding Mandalam). The public gathering commenced with welcoming the participants by Chakra Rao, There were many children participating in the event however Ananta-lakshmi of CMCJ chaired the event and invited Lalitha, Hemalatha, Prasad, and Bimal to share on the climate issues in respective regions where they belong to.

Ms. Lalitha shared on plastic and the menace it had been creating world wide. Hemalatha shared her view on biodiversity

and spoke on the results they found out through the study which the green ambassadors have done. Bimal shared the story of Orissa tribals and their view on climate change. Which was followed by Stanley d' silva's

message on children and climate change.

Reddy, a representative from aid et action spoke in brief on the global crisis due to climate change. He appreciated the children initiative towards a safer climate. He also emphasised on the importance of biodiversity and the ways to preserve it.

Sasiprabha shared her experiences in COPs, and also said it's very important for the children to step up to fight the causes of climate change before it gets out of our hands.

Satyanarayana , MRO (Tonding Mandalam) conveyed a message to children on the various ways climate should be protected.

Kakinada

The team arrived in Kakinada in the late afternoon, the event began late in the afternoon at around 4 P.M. The event was organised at Sarva Siksha Abhijan, project director of the same was the chief guest.

The program was led by Ananta Lakshmi , She invited the representatives from AP and Orissa to sing a song. Pawan Kumar from AP has sung a song that related to education in the current context of development. The representatives from Orissa also sang a song , which meant safe environment is required for a safe livelihood.

Ananta Lakshmi, Secretary Green Ambassador/ Member CMCJ

Ananta lakshmi spoke on the various hazards the human race face due to the deteriorating effects of climate. She also explained on the changes in times with respect to the performance and efficiency levels of human capacity to work. The dire need according to her was to protect the environment and help preserve the biodiversity for a better and safer tomorrow.

Pawan Kumar, Member - Green Ambassadors and CMCJ

Pawan Kumar spoke about the harsh effects of air pollution, there have been various factors responsible for air pollution amongst them industries and transport machinery form the bulk of pollutants. He also spoke about the CFC's and HCFC's which are a major cause of ozone depletion in the atmosphere. Trees are a major source of carbon sink, and Pawan urged that each one of us on the earth should take the responsibility of planting some trees and taking care of them so that the emitted carbon can be sunk through them.

Sasi Prabha, Director CeFHA/ Co-Convenor CMCJ (AP and Odisha)

Sasiprabha shared on why it was important for the children to talk about climate and its impact on them. It was rightly said by her, that the deterioration of climate is going on at a very high pace and if it continues to do so, earth would be a mass of

Legal Framework

Indian Parliament inserted two Articles, 48A and 51A in the Constitution of India in 1976, Article 48A of the Constitution rightly directs that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of the country. Similarly, clause (g) of Article 51A imposes a duty on every citizen of India, to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, river, and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. The cumulative effect of Articles 48A and 51A (g) seems to be that the 'State' as well as the 'citizens' both are now under constitutional obligation to conserve, perceive, protect and improve the environment. Every generation owes a duty to all succeeding generations to develop and conserve the natural resources of the nation in the best possible way. The phrase 'protect and improve' appearing in both the Articles 48A and 51A (g) seems to contemplate an affirmative government action to improve the quality of environment and not just to preserve the environment in its degraded form.

Apart from the constitutional mandate to protect and improve the environment, there are a plenty of legislations on the subject but more relevant enactments for our purpose are the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977; the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.



“un-livable” substance. The children would be the most hit as they grow up they would be left with polluted air, polluted water and polluted land which is the basic right of a human being. Hence KNH and its partner NGO’s have reinstated the children population to be united and fight for a cause and their voice be heard in International conventions normally where the voice of children is neglected.

Dasa Satyanarayana - Child Rights Coordinator

Satyanarayana appreciated the efforts of Green Ambassadors and CMCJ members taken to protect the environment. He said that the question of children representation at the conference of parties organised by UNFCC was put before the Minister of Environment and Forestry then, Shree Jayaram Ramesh. In his talk he spoke about how a tree was important in every stage of life, every twig and leaf of a tree are very important for us, hence it is very important to know the value of the trees first. As there was an increase in the number of vehicles off late, he urged to think of alternative transport mechanisms which have been well practiced and proved effective in the west like car pooling and public transport systems.

Stanley d’ Silva, KNH-India Team

Stanley introduces KNH and purpose of its work, he shared as it was a child based organisation the next major threat that could be faced by them was ecological issues hence the approach towards ecological child rights was considered very seriously by KNH-Germany. He also shared that KNH worked in tandem to improve food and economic security of the families which is a basic requirement for holistic child development. In his experience of work with the children in India he appreciated the efforts taken by CMCJ members in solving various problems in different areas. Water issues were taken to the sarpanch and were solved, members support the usage of organic farming and traditional seeds, open levitation issues were solved. He also acknowledged Indian children as the most active members working towards a safer climate.

Jaganadham, Program coordinator Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

Jaganadham said 45% of Indian population are children and it is very important for them to understand the impact of climate change, he further urged that all the living human beings on earth should act in accordance with the current scenario of climate change. It is very important for the industries, corporates and other MNC’s to work in accordance with law and take responsible measures to protect the climate.

Ramesh, Project Officer SSA

Appreciating the children initiative on climate change and the activities taken by them he shared, Environment is most talked about issue these days, addressing pollution, climate crisis and current trends of modern development urged every single citizen to take the responsibility to change their lifestyle. There were many deaths due to climate change. Climate change the cause and droughts, flash floods, earthquakes and cyclones being the effects of it. It is very important for the children to understand the climate change phenomenon and act accordingly.

Following the event at the centre there was a rally organised till the town center, shouting slogans on climate change and voicing out their demands. After which the team proceeded towards Tallarevu, a church based event.



Yatra team at collectors bungalow in Guntur



Mr Satish Samuel addressing the CMCJ members in the final event at Chennai



Mamata speaking on environment



Children walking and shouting slogans on climate and its awareness in kavali



Pawan Kumar from kotauratla speaking on pollution



Anantha laxmi from kotauratla speaking on climate change issues



Children on a foot march carrying climate change awareness placards



CMCJ children with the project director and coordinator of sarva siksha abhyaan at kakinada



CMCJ members in the junction at kakinada shouting slogans



Team from CMCJ members from Odisha performing dimsa a traditional dance



Vimal Tading of Odisha talking on climate change and its impact on indigenous communities



The whole CMCJ yatra team at Vijayawada



Kotauratla team performing



Dignitaries flagging off the yatra from Amalapuram



stanley Dsilva of KNH India addressing the people of mangaluru village



CMCJ participation



CMCJ members singing awareness songs



Signature campaign



Children from kotauratla in a street corner meeting



CMCJ children from Besthavaripeta and kotauratla singing environment related songs

Tallarevu

The team after a long tiring journey reached Tallarevu due to time constraints, the group could not spend much time there. There were two child speakers, Ananta Lakshmi from Andhra Pradesh and Rajani Tading from Orissa. Ananta Lakshmi in her short speech shared her experience and activities that Green Ambassadors/ CMCJ children do. Rajani Tading also shared her experience pertaining to climate change from the area she belongs to. The event was organised by Rev. Johnson and Sunil Kumar.

After the quick program the team proceeded towards Dariyalatippa, a village which comes under the jurisdiction of Yanam. Sunday school children and Youth have participated!

Dariyalatippa (Yanam)



It was 20:00 hours by the time the members reached this village,

The event was organised by Rev. Johnson, the evening started with few songs by the CMCJ members on

education, girl child issues and environment. After which, Anantalakshmi invited the elders of the community and people to participate in the meeting.

Anantalakshmi, shared her views on global warming and climate change. She also urged the people around to rethink and revisit their past days when everything was so happy unlike the struggles of survival like today. She shared on how important birds, insects and certain microorganisms were to the human beings, she insisted that the present human race should wake up and also respect the right to live of other species on earth.

Bimal from Orissa, questioned the present strategy of development and said if we continue to live and do what ever we have been doing in the past few years. We would be left with poisoned air, poisoned water, and polluted land. The three basic things required as living beings to survive.

Sasi Prabha, shared her experience with the on-going process of developing children as climate crusaders. She explained on the purpose of Yatra, and why this kind of widespread message on environment is absolutely necessary in the present context of development. She said that protection of environment is not just an activity but it is the responsibility of all as citizens of the earth. In a question to the community, "on what better gift can we give to our children than a safe and healthy

Pawan Kumar

Pawan spoke about air pollution, there are three reasons primarily responsible for air pollution 1. Industries 2. Vehicles and 3. Insecticides and fertilizers of chemical origin. The major polluting gases are carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides etc... are all released as by-products of industries. It is because of the constant chemical reactions these harmful gases are emitted into the atmosphere. Similarly the carbon emissions from the vehicles are in collective very huge which affect the life cycle of many living creatures, finally emissions due to the agriculture are also at a very large level. Ozone layer depletion is also being caused due to the release of chloro fluoro carbons and fluoro chloro carbons, and it is responsible for harmful uv rays to which human beings and other living organisms are getting exposed to. He finally urges children to plant more trees so that considerable amount of carbon dioxide gets sunk and reduce the usage of vehicles where ever it is possible.

Rajani Tading

Rajani Tading from Odisha shared her view on climate change. She shared her personal experiences saying " In the past there was timely rain and the climate was not hot as told by the elders in the villages, but now I realise there is something changing and after being a CMCJ member I understood what climate change was all about? ". She continued to talk on the various development projects which were not in line with the environment norms. The vehicles are increasing day by day and we are being forced to inhale unclean air. issue in our CRPC and Child organisations where we discuss on the issue of climate change regularly.

The major issue according to her is the popularisation of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, because the area she belongs to was never used to fertilizers and traditionally the communities have been practicing organic farming. She feels that the popularity of the fertilizers need to be reduced instead the children of CMCJ network have to focus more on awareness to the people on the harsh effects of climate change.

environment to live on?" has also triggered many positive responses.

Village Leader, said "We should be ashamed of ourselves in the name of development and in the process of becoming economically wealthy we are destroying the existing resources and poisoning ourselves. We need to congratulate the efforts of the children towards protecting the environment and disseminating useful information to many others like us. We on behalf of Dariyalatippa would like to thank the children representing Green Ambassadors and CMCJ members for coming to us and creating awareness on climate change".

After being served with Delicious meal, the team proceeded towards Amalapuram. The night halt was arranged by Snehitha, a voluntary organisation.

24th MAY 2012

Amalapuram



A good night's rest put the children back on track for the long day again, The event was organised in the town centre.

Swarnalatha, Director Snehitha welcomed all the members of CMCJ and introduced the Organisation and its activities. She introduced the theme of Yatra, which is Climate Change. Sasiprabha gave a brief input on the current dynamics of climate change. Following which CMCJ members spoke on various issues.

Ananta Lakshmi brought up the issues relating to climate change and the possible effects it could have in the future generation. She also questioned the viability of modern days development progress. Ananta Lakshmi shared that the trees act as a major source of carbon sink and it is very important for the people to start afforestation. Plastic is another major culprit and said we need to regulate our usage on plastic. The other important aspect that she brought out in her talk was about the protection of Biodiversity, as it is the only source which helps to maintain a normal food chain and many symbiotic relations survive due to rich biodiversity. It is very necessary to preserve the biodiversity .

Lalitha Devi in her message to the audience gave a brief report on what CMCJ ambassadors were working on. Pollution a major cause of destroying existing ecosystems had been brought in by the industries and other sources of opting non traditional methods. Land, air and water are very important for our survival and if they are polluted it would put the Human Race in a very dicey situation. She urged the people present to join their hands in this quest for Climate Justice.

Rajani Tading of Odisha

Shri. Sampath Kumar (Rural Development Officer, Amalapuram)

Shri. Sampath Kumar wished and congratulated the children for working on a serious issue like climate change. He also hoped that the Rally becomes a huge success and children take adequate precautions as it is very hot. DSP Thrinadh was also present.

The event was closed and the team proceeded towards Pallakollu.

Pallakollu

The team reached Pallakollu by 11:15 A.M. after which there was a small meeting and slogans were raised on climate change. Due to time constraints the program at pallakollu was cut short and the team proceeded towards Kolleru.

On the way the team had their lunch.

Kolleru (Mongluru)

The team reached the program point at 2:00 P.M.

The program begun with two songs, one song (Telugu) was on protecting trees and helping mother earth smile. The other song was in Oriya depicting the sufferings the tribal communities faced interms of issues like education, environment and industrialisation.

Along with the child representatives, sarpanch and vice sarpanch of the village were requested to take the dias.

Nireekshana Rao (Director – Sneha)

Introduced the floor to the context of which this rally was being organised. He gave a brief explanation on how the existing water sources which were once supposed to be the hubs of biodiversity were destroyed due to mainstream development activities.

Sasi Prabha:

Briefed up on the progress of yatra sofar, she spoke about the requirement of the childrens united voices to be heard at National and International levels as it is the question of survivability, the basic child right which has already been put as a question posing threat to the children in future. She further instigated that child representation is required at these meetings as their opinions have to be given importance because they are going to be the future face.

The CMCJ members, Anantalakshmi share her views on climate change representing the children of AP region and Bimal also shared his views, on large scale development processes that has been impacting the livelihood sources of tribal community.

Stanley D' Silva

In his short talk, said children are the duty bearers and right holders, it is very important that the various committees in the village give an opportunity for child representation.

Sharing by Village Representatives

It was an important session for the children to actually relate to the destruction associated with development projects. One of the Village representative said " In the past when we drop a 50 paise coin in to the lake we could see it glittering till it reached bottom, but now it won't be visible after it passes the first inch of water level such is the condition of once a very beautiful lake".

The village vice president said " Kolleru was a beautiful area with a lot of agriculture land and irrigation facilities but now our situation has changed , people have also begun to lease out their lands for a very meagre price. According to the G.O. Kolleru has 11 acres of cultivable land but now there is not a single cent which can be cultivated. This has forced the people to shift from farm based activities to non farm based activities and as of now they find labour and domesticated cattle as the only source of earning possibilities".

Sundar Singh of Mongluru said Kolleru was completely destroyed by one project after another, the people received package loans to buy domesticated animals so that they have an alternative earning mechanism but the mediators have misplaced the sanctioned loans. Due to which the people here lead a miserable life.

Sampoornama, SHG President said " No doubt environment is a big issue and the children (CMCJ

members) are fighting on it but for us livelihood has become a major issue only if we can live with dignity we can think of environment, hence I request the children to fight on land rights and help us eat.”

The Program came to an end and the team hurriedly moved towards Vijayawada for the program.

On the way there was a small problem as the bus in which the children were travelling was punctured, the program at Vijayawada got delayed.

Vijayawada



There was a large gathering at Vijayawada, which was organised by APCRAF

Francis welcomed the participants and congratulated the CMCJ representatives of different regions for taking up the ever growing issues of climate change. He also gave a brief up on the purpose of the rally and encouraged the children to be more involved in the environment saving activities. He welcomes Ms. Vani to speak a few lines on the issue.

Ms. Vani appreciates the efforts taken up by CMCJ members and explains to other children of Vijayawada on what CMCJ actually means, “children movement for

climate justice”. It is very alarming to see children instead of enjoying the holidays to have come out on a purpose to aware many people on the issue of climate change. Furthermore, definitely there have been unjust practices that have been irresponsibly deteriorating the climate and that is the reason CMCJ representatives want to bring in justice. It is evident that the children would be affected badly by the climate change in the future as already there is scarcity of water, land is being polluted and air is unclean. Plastic usage has been at an increased level and there needs to be proper awareness spread to reduce the usage, chemical fertilizers and pesticides also contribute enormously towards land pollution and proper measures need to be taken to check the pollution. Children are a part of this struggle and as adults many of us need to support their cause.

Thomas Koshy (Krishna District Child Welfare Committee)

Thomas Koshy shares that he feels very special today as children have come forward to speak about climate change. He said the times have changed, today when the tenth class results were out 90% students have passed out that means they have brought a change in their own lives, once only the private school going children were able to pass but now these children showed that even they can change and be counted upon. Similarly, he feels that as responsible citizens it is high time that we all change and safe guard the environment for our children.

Sasi Prabha

Sasi greets everybody and apologises for being late. Environment has been a serious issue and it is not only in India but throughout the globe people face similar kind of environment related issues. During which there have been many international conventions on climate but children are not being invited to such events where they could voice out their opinions, as we all know they would be the most affected. A brief description on the Rally was given by her.

Anantalakshmi, (Secretary, Green Ambassador and CMCJ member)

Anantalakshmi spoke about the purpose of the yatra, she questions the attitude of human beings on the large scale destruction in the name of development. The children now would be the next generation and they would be left with polluted land, water and air so in a collective effort the children need to voice out their opinion to influence the changes. According to an international survey, 1,36,000,000 people lose their lives due to the harsh affects of climate change. Citing different examples she says trees have been cut for the roadways, mining is done for our daily utilities but if we keep utilising it the question of replacement comes into every ones mind. Are we replacing a cut tree with another one? No. Are we recreating forests if a patch of

it has been mined? No, again. We are not destined to suffer but we are putting ourselves in a very critical spot from where we can may be never be back to normal. It is now to take action and she requests all the children to come together and fight for a just climate.

Shiv Shankar

Starting with an example of pickle, he says whenever we have a pickle in our home we also serve that to our children we donot realise that the child struggles because of it being very hot instead we insist him to eat. Similarly as adults we have designed the environment according to our needs and never bothered on what a child wants. As parents, as government institutions, as policy making individuals we all fail to understand the needs of the children and also exclude them from decision making and policy making. We do that because children donot have voice and they are not encouraged to give their opinions.

Pawan Kumar (Green Ambassador/ CMCJ member)

Pawan spoke about air pollution, there are three reasons primarily responsible for air pollution 1. Industries 2. Vehicles and 3. Insecticides and fertilizers of chemical origin. The major polluting gases are carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides etc... are all released as bi-products of industries. It is because of the constant chemical reactions these harmful gases are emitted into the atmosphere. Similarly the carbon emissions from the vehicles are in collective very huge which affect the life cycle of many living creatures, finally emissions due to the agriculture are also at a very large level. Ozone layer depletion is also being caused due to the release of chloro fluoro carbons and fluoro chloro carbons, and it is responsible for harmful uv rays to which human beings and other living organisms are getting exposed to. He finally urges children to plant more trees so that considerable amount of carbon dioxide gets sunk and reduce the usage of vehicles where ever it is possible.

Chaitanya (Kankipadu - Child Parliament member, Vijayawada)

Chaitanya shares his view on climate with respect to child rights. He says in all the villages there are members for the parliament particularly to address child right based issues. In the future, present generation of children would certainly face difficulties because of the deteriorating climate. He urged all the children to be united in this common struggle they are about to face and has questioned the relevancy of the present day development models.

Bimal Tading (CMCJ Member from Odisha)

Bimal speaks about the popularising of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. He says people who were once organic traditional farmers are now slowly getting used to the concept of chemical farming which leads to dependency on the fertilizers. Soil profile has been depleting and we need to bring in changes that could optimise the conditions as soon as possible.

Stanley d silva

Children and CMCJ partners of KNH donot look upto having icecreams and chocolates. Food security is a major issue in the area and children struggle to get two meals a day. Children have understood the threats that may come along with climate change and are now united to fight the causes of it. When asked to some children, Can your Father buy oxygen in the market? Children shook their heads and said No, Can your Mother cook oxygen in the kitchen ? the answer was same “No”. Children said we can get oxygen by planting trees and hence the children with whom KNH is working have taken up extensive plantation activities. Children have witnessed the harsh effects that come with chemical fertilizers and pesticides, they have seen their agriculture production going down and soil fertility being completely dependant on the fertilizers they use. Furthermore, Stanley shares the concept of “3 R’s” with the children, he said each R has something specific to do with the usage of plastic and that is 1. Refuse – Our children say we don’t want to use plastic 2. Reuse – Incase there is some more plastic in house, children say let us reuse the plastic in house 3. Recycle – The existing plastics can be used by recycling. The children are also actively involved in promoting organic methods like Panchagavya in Tamil Nadu and Vermiculture in different places of India.

Smitha (Environment Engineer, Vijayawada Municipality)

Everyone understands the threats associated with climate change but individuals get hesitant to change as they feel as a single person how can we bring a change keeping in view the humongous issue ahead of us. The municipal corporation has been involved in taking up certain activities that could be beneficial to the environment, encouraging children to use toilets instead of defecation. Car pooling needs to be popularised, short distances cycling helps reduce a lot of carbon that is being emitted.

The event was closed with a colourful cultural program of which even the CMCJ children were part of.

25th MAY 2012

Guntur

The children had a comfortable night stay at APCRAF's centre and after the breakfast the team proceeded towards Guntur, In Guntur the team went to District Collector's residence cum office and addressed the media alongside the District Collector of Guntur,



Roshan Kumar (Director SEEDS, Guntur District Forum for Child Rights)

Roshan Kumar introduces the team in brief. In short he also gave an idea of the purpose of Yatra to the Collector.

Ananta Lakshmi shared that due to changes in climate there have been lots of problems and children would be the most affected. In this 21st century we all have learnt that the most common reason for ill health has been climate change, but the children are not allowed to speak out their view on climate crisis in any of the international conventions. Its high time that the children's view be considered by the elite decision makers of the globe.

Pawan Kumar spoke about air pollution and the various ways it has been happening. Children being most affected need to step up now to help the cause of depleting environment.

District Collector (Guntur)

Shri Vishnu appreciated the CMCJ members for being so clear on the purpose of the Yatra. He shared that even in 45 deg C temperature, due to the breeze and trees around its pleasant and such is the importance of plants around. He stated 60% of the worlds population are below 30 years and its very important for the adult population , government and other agencies to work for the right based approach of children. As the children have already spoken about child rights and the relation of it to climate is a very important focal point at this juncture. As children its very heartening to see the level of knowledge and maturity they possess and its also important to know that Government of AP has taken some deliberate steps to provide education for all the children. On the environment front the state has been taken some serious efforts like banning the usage of plastics. Environment is like a mother and we need to take care of it and nurture it like a child. Political will, official will and stakeholder participation are the three important parts which work hand in hand to protect the Environment. He wishes the children all the very best.

District Collector of Guntur, sharing his views on children initiatives

Event at Mahila Vedika Sabha, Guntur

Sasi Prabha,

Sasi welcomes all the participants, government officials and the children. The main objective of the Yatra is to find space for the children to voice out the opinions on the impacts of climate change. There have been many international conferences where the children or their opinions were never considered. This network helps the CMCJ members to voice out the issues

Stanley D' Silva,

Stanley speaks on behalf of KNH, an international child care organisation. In India KNH work with 13 different partners, and work on right based approach for children. The purpose of the Yatra is to understand the harsh effects of climate change and explained that the children with which KNH and its partners work face the issue of food and income security which is directly or indirectly due to the climate change. The children not only talk about the problems but have recently started experimenting with the solutions. The major activities the children have taken up in the villages are reducing the usage plastic bags, shift of attitude towards organic farming, and much more.

Faculty members,

In their talk addressing the participants, Ramadevi, Sharada and Srinivas have appreciated the children for their efforts, They shared that the children are the building blocks of any nation and its great to see these members stand out to fight the most important issue of environment and climate change

Lunch was served at the centre and the team moved towards Ongole.

Ongole



It was 4:30 P.M. when the team reached Ongole, Father Hrudayaraj, the HoTHS team and team from Visthar joined the rest of the CMCJ Network in Centre. After which the whole team proceeded to St. Theresa convent to meet the bishop and hear from him. The team had banners and slogans and voiced them, Bishop appreciates the children's effort to protect the universe and blesses the team wishing them all the very best. After that the team proceeded towards Collector office shouting slogans on climate change, child rights and plantation. Father Hrudayaraj and Nirmala Bai of HoTHS had organised a public meeting opposite to the collectors office

The event begun with songs by children from Prakasam district on climate change and the adverse impacts it has on the humans, following which there were a few skits and songs by children from Odisha and Kotauratla as well.

The children played a skit and beautifully demonstrated the practical reality on the destructive attitude of humans ultimately contributing to the climate chaos. The skits also brought out the concern for children in relation to the environment they are going to live.

Bishop,

Bishop addressed the gathering and spoke on the importance of climate justice and the relevance of the same to the children. He shared that the purpose of the current yatra and the responsibility of the same felt by the children is a very heartening sight, It speaks volumes about the struggle for existence these network members may face in future. He gave a brief idea of what was the situation internationally and the events that shook the whole world due to climate and its change. Tsunami's, cyclones, earth quakes and floods all have been induced due to the human actions and its high time that we correct our attitudes and way of life before we are left with only hope. He congratulated and blessed the Yatra team for their concern on climate change and biodiversity.

There was a delicious meal organised by Father Hrudayaraj and children could have a good nights rest. The next day was supposed to be a very long day as the team had to reach Chennai for the main event the day after.

Kavali

The team began its journey towards Kavali at 8:30 A.M after breakfast, it was 11:30 A.M. by the time the team reached Kavali.

The team received a hearty reception from the local NGO's Navajeevan and RRDS Sahadeviah and Gangi Reddy being the Directors. It was the longest rally the children participated shouting the slogans, Save Mother Earth, Biodiversity our Life, Protect the Child Rights, etc..

The rally was from the town centre till the primary school, the children formed a human chain and demanded climate justice. Later on the children assembled in the primary school to express their views on climate change to others who have been present there. The NGOs present at the venue were Navajeevan, RRDS, CJWS, RRES, Aid Et Action.

The gathering was welcomed by Sahadeviah saying climate justice now is not an issue of adults and select geographical locations but now it's a struggle for children and entire planet. It is very alarming to see the children raise their voice and demand the adult community for climate justice as the human population now lives in a very dicey situation.

Following this Venkateshwarulu of RVDS, sang a song on climate change and pollution. Sasi prabha briefed up the gathering on the main objective of this Yatra being the children representation at the international conferences and climate justice correlates the right to live and this echoes the entire struggle for this Yatra.

The Yatra reaches the last day and children took part in the entire process with discipline, responsibility and maturity. Children spoke on issues like pollution, which undoubtedly is a very widespread issue across our nation.

Ananta Lakshmi,

Ananta Lakshmi gave a brief talk on the various demands that children were about to submit as a memorandum to the minister, Shri. Mallikarjun Kharge.

- Plantation by all.
- Children to be a part of meetings and decision making process,
- Industries and other polluting agencies need to have consensus with the people and children in the area of establishment.
- Plastic usage to be reduced.
- To create school children committee and discuss issues related to school.
- Climate change induced migration has been increasing and it is very necessary to check it.

Rajani Tading,

Rajani comes from Koraput block of Odisha, she expressed her deep concern towards deforestation in the area. Deforestation had been an issue and it has disturbed the livelihood patterns of tribal communities. She felt that it is very necessary that the people realise it as a cause of concern and do something about it. Fertilizers and pesticides were never used in our area but of late people are being tempted to experiment now there is an increased risk of it being practiced as the people in vicinity of urbanise colonies have already started using it.



Mamata (Karnataka)

Mamata spoke on ozone depletion and the various reasons for it. In her short talk in Kannada she made it clear to all the children that there is a very big need to join hands and march towards the clear objective of climate justice.

Poojitha (Besthatvaripeta)

Poojitha expressed the need to aware people from rural areas on climate change. She briefly put across the main purpose of the yatra, educating the unaware masses on climate change and child rights issues. She also said that it was very important that there is a need to change the pattern of agriculture methods and as much as possible we need to make it organic. Using plastic is a proven cause for many issues. In particular she emphasised the pollution created by Singareni mines was a major issue and urged the government to take necessary steps so that the people in the vicinity of mines could be relieved.

Stanley D' Silva

Stanley shared briefly on how CMCJ evolved, three years back people were talking more about climate change and ecological child rights in due course children came up with concrete plans without hypocrisy. As all the children come from a very poor background they are normally hit most because of climate change as the food security is an issue always. He also said that Indian children were the best when it comes to climate change based mitigation activities.

Nirmala Bai,

Nirmala bai in her short talk urged the children to continuously fight for child rights and climate justice. She also said its very important that children from all over come together and fight united to save the mother earth.

Gangi Reddy

In his message to the children he had the following to say, Children have woken up and with a strong message to the adults. It is very necessary for the adults to give an opportunity to the children and help them hand in hand in protecting the mother earth.

The team left from Kavali and reached Chennai at 19:30 hrs in the evening, the accommodation for the children was arranged at MCC high school in Chetpet, Girls stayed at a convent near Vyasarpadi. The team was all prepared for the event the next day.

27th May 2012

Chennai

The meeting at Chennai began with organising things around, children were very enthusiastic meeting and greeting each other from different places. The event started with the Children from TN taking the stage and managing the event.

Honourable Ministers Message

Shri Mallikarjuna Kharge, said he was very happy to see the activities of children on eradication of child labour and protection of environment. The purpose of CMCJ is to promote awareness on climate change and global warming with a focal point of protecting natural resources, but due to the huge population increase the pressure on natural resources was inevitable. Deforestation, encroachment of land



happens mainly due to survival issues and it is very important to understand the situation of many who live in uncertain circumstances. There is evidence that there is a widespread increase in air pollution due to industries and vehicles, steps are being taken to combat pollution due to industries and vehicles. CNG run public transport have been introduced in some cities, tree plantation programs are being launched to improve the forest cover. Shri Kharge congratulates the children for their efforts and says the children have a much bigger role to play. Regarding the administration responsibility of the state on pollution, pollution control boards have been set up in every state. India is one of the signatories at a global level in climate change related organisations. Government of India is conscious to implement all the resolution to protect the environment. He also said that India's commitment on children is as old as the civilization and school happens to be the natural place for child, government has taken this as a serious step and ensures education for all the children in the country.

Children from Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Andaman and Karnataka shared their views. It was a common voice on this huge gathering of children from various states. Children had the intensity and maturity of taking up the issue of climate justice which evades the children their right to live on earth. The children like through out the yatra put across the message loud and clear that they are the most vulnerable and are seriously concerned about the visible changes in the environment.

John Devavaram,

The National convenor for the yatra John shared the main purpose of Yatra being safe childhood participatory right not only for the elite but also for the vulnerable.

There were different cultural events in which children were engaged in and it was followed by Lunch. Departure plans were organised and the children left to their homes.

Critique on Legal systems in India

1. We have more than 200 Central and State legislations which deal with environmental issues. More legislation means more difficulties in enforcement. There is a need to have a comprehensive and an integrated law on environmental protection for a better enforcement.
2. It is not enough to enact the legislations. A positive attitude on the part of everyone in society is essential for effective and efficient enforcement of these legislations.
3. The powers vested to the Pollution Control Boards are not enough to prevent pollution. The Boards do not have power to punish the violators but can launch prosecution against them in the Courts which ultimately defeat the purpose and object of the Environmental Laws due to long delays in deciding the cases. Thus, it is imperatively necessary to give more powers to the Boards.
4. The Environment Protection Laws have failed to bring about the desired results. Consequently, for the purpose of efficient and effective enforcement of these laws, it is necessary to set up the Environment Courts; with one Judge and two technical experts from the field of Environmental Science and Ecology.
5. There is a multiplicity of environment pollution control standards for the same type of industries. However, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 now the power has been conferred upon the Central Government for laying down the standards for the quality of air, water and soil. It is hoped that this will ensure uniformity of standards through out the country.
6. In order to enforce the environmental laws stringently, mere mis-description and technical flaws should be disregarded by the Courts. The creative role of judiciary has been significant and laudable. The jurisdiction of the Courts has been expanded by way of Public Interest Litigation. The Supreme Court of India has played a vital role in giving directions from time to time to the administrative authorities to take necessary steps for improving the environment.
7. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 which provides for mandatory public liability insurance for installation and handling hazardous substance to provide minimum relief to the victims, is a welcome step in the right direction. Such an insurance apart from safeguarding the interests of victims of accident will also provide cover and enable the enterprise to meet its liability.
8. What we need is social awareness from below, not laws from the above. No law works out smoothly unless

the interaction is voluntary. In order to educate people about the environmental issues, there should be exhibition of slides in the regional languages at cinema houses and television free of cost. Further, as directed by the Supreme Court of India, Environment studies shall be made a compulsory subject in school and college levels in graded system so that there should be general growth of awareness.

9. It needs to be appreciated that keeping in view the magnitude of finance required, a judicious mix of incentives, phasing and awareness creating, programmes about costeffective technologies is essential as the first prong of the strategy to control environment degradation.
10. The traditional concept that development and ecology are opposed to each other, is no longer acceptable, since 'sustainable development' is the answer. The Supreme Court has accepted sustainable development as part of the laws of the land and has affirmed the 'precautionary principle' and the 'polluter pays principle' are essential features of sustainable development.
11. The tapping of natural resources must be done with requisite attention and care so that ecology and environment may not be affected in any serious way. A long-term planning must be undertaken by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments to protect and improve the environment and to keep up the national wealth.
12. Finally, protection of the environment and keeping ecological balance unaffected is a task which not only the government but also every individual, association and corporation must undertake. It is a social obligation and fundamental duty enshrined in Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India.

Post Yatra Reflection Meeting to be taken from the Doc

A brief review of post yatra reflections were much needed and hence CMCJ along with NGO representatives, CeFHA taking the lead have organized a reflection meeting. It was very important for the child representatives to regroup and assess their progress in terms of various initiatives and strategizing their existing methods of approaches. This get togetherness would help the children to learn and share their experiences during and after the yatra. KNH, when agreed to identify CMCJ as a separate partner and granting it a status of organized network has definitely helped the children from different spheres of life to be united under one roof and fight for an universal cause i.e. "climate change". It so happens that the children though capable of many things often come under the shadow of adult blankets and are refrained from the kind of freedom that is needed for them to carry forward with their ideas, KNH with such an initiative has helped the children to be more participatory in creating a specific space for them alone. The children were ably supported by the experienced hands of social activists and leaders of various organisations. The following report would necessarily depict the discussions and progress made in the reflection meeting.

Sathish, KNH India Coordinator,

Sathish Samuel wished all the members present, thanked Sasi Prabha, CeFHA Director for inviting him to attend this Reflection Meeting at Visakhapatnam. He expected that this meeting would bring out the experiences and feelings of different participants who attended the Yatra. He also felt this would be an opportunity for CMCJ to plan follow up activities in the future post Yatra.

Sathish apologized for the inconvenience caused to the CMCJ members of Andhra, Odisha and Karnataka on 26th and 27th May, 2012 (Final Event) at Chennai. He shared about Sasi Prabha's dissent through an e-mail to him on 27th May, 2012 night regarding the poor arrangements for the Andhra, Odisha and Karnataka CMCJ members. Sathish told that he also felt very sorry at that time and explained that this problem was due to involvement of different stake holders.

Sathish appreciated and thanked all the stakeholders for making Yatra a great success nation wide. He extended his thanks on behalf of KNH to all the NGOs and other individuals who supported and encouraged CMCJ Yatra on environment and climate change issues. He said he was very happy as the team completed the journey of 4,600 kms from Semiliguda (Odisha) to Visakhapatnam, Visakhapatnam to Chennai and Kanyakumari to Chennai in a safe manner. He thanked God for making Yatra safe and successful without any disasters. He also mentioned about KNH Germany's reasonability by frequently inquiring about Yatra and safety of participants.

Sathish shared Guido's expressions and also read a letter which was published in Germany on the

CMCJ yatra. He also informed that Member of Parliament from Veerudhunagar (Tamilnadu) organized a meeting with Government Officials and appreciated the CMCJ Yatra.

Sathish urged the CMCJ members to be aware that CMCJ network is a partner member of KNH like CeFHA, IRDWSI, HOTHs etc., 2022 is the KNH Partner number of CMCJ, he also said that partner manual will be open in the website with the partner number mentioned. He shared about Muthukadu (Tamilnadu) meeting where 40 members were elected as working group members.

Pavankumar, Prasanth, Bimal shared the ecological activities taken up in their areas towards environment protections. Lalitha in detail gave a powerpoint presentation on the work of Green Ambassadors in their respective areas.

Experiences of the Yatra shared,

The Team from Odisha brought out the following points with reference to the Pre and Post Yatra experiences,

- Parents, teachers, neighbors and friends encouraged us very much to participate in Yatra.
- Children felt it was a good learning experience.
- Children shared that they had less exposure to outside world when compared with adults, and we thought only our area has had the polluting effects of the Factories but in the Yatra we could understand that the problem is not only in the area we live in but it is also the same in many other places of India.
- Sharing Yatra experiences inspired family members, friends and neighboring community. And we felt that the change has to start from the family and then gradually move upto panchayat level or may be even till the state level. Concern towards Environment and Climate Change has gradually been increasing in the villages where we come from.
- We enjoyed the journey from Semiliguda to Chennai, it was a pleasure to travel on the coast of Andhra Pradesh. We also got to know the issues associated with climate in the different places as well.
- We felt a bit left out as there was not enough space for the team from Odisha, as we could not understand Telugu or Tamil. We have come prepared for a cultural program “ A traditional dance performance called Dhemsa- A Dance to the Tribal beat” but we were not allowed to perform, may be due to time constraints.
- The team also requested to organize such events during holidays so that they donot miss classes.

The team from Andhra Pradesh, Kotauratla Mandal shared the following,

- We were very proud to be a part of the just concluded Yatra. It was an experience through which we learnt many things on our environment in relation to ecological child rights. We were appreciated back home by our parents, teachers, friends and many more and we are very happy that the Yatra was successful.
- We were extremely happy to see ourselves in the T.V. and Newspapers. We are proud of being the members of CMCJ.
- It was a good opportunity for us to communicate with children of different places and Community Leaders, Government Officials, District Collectors, Revenue officials, Police Officials of various districts and states
- We felt very happy to travel all the way to Chennai from Visakhapatnam. With the same sprit we want to organize a rally from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad within the state at a possible time.
- We faced problems due to hot summer and some health issues.
- We faced language problems in Chennai, In the meeting we were not able to understand Minister’s message. No respect and no importance for Andhra Team at Chennai meeting. We felt discourage even in culture programs. No one care after meeting, even good food and accommodation not provided.
- Please consider school examination dates while conducting meetings and programs. Please avoid Yatras in hot summer.
- School Academic year starting no leaves will be permitted, especially leave was granted for this Yatra reflection meeting.
- Some of the CMCJ members traveled by train to Chennai, many of the co passengers did learn about Yatra and appreciated Green Ambassadors for taking up a good cause and congratulated them for doing better than adults.

We observed people not having knowledge on Environment and Climate Change issues did not show

any interest, as a CMCJ member we need to pay special attention and make them aware on the harsh realities they could face. While distributing pamphlets most of the adults commented us as Child laborers, but we responded to it as “we are not child laborers, we are Green Ambassadors” and also asked the adults to be responsible for helping the climates cause.

The team from Besthatvaripeta

- The team from HoTHS of Prakasham District from Andhra Pradesh had the following to be shared,
- On behalf of Adults, Government Representatives, Government Officials and other stakeholders as children we are happy to have taken an initiative to aware community on Environment and Climate Change issues.
 - Our Parents and community appreciated us for organizing a Yatra on Environment, we were happy to meet many Government Officials and Local leaders who also were involved in the discussions on issues.
 - Before going to Yatra our parents said that no one would listen to our words, after Yatra they withdrew their statement by seeing news paper clippings and TV news. After Yatra we got confidence that we could organize programs on our own.
 - We shared our Yatra experiences, observations and future plans to our parents, teachers, friends and other Government officials. We also spoke on the effects of climate change on the children. We got good responses and appreciations from all. Teacher asked us to share on Environment and Climate changes issues to the rest of our friends.
 - After Yatra outer world got the information about us through Newspapers and TV channels and we are happy that we have been recognised.
 - We felt very sad for missing Yatra from Visakhapatnam as we could join only from Ongole. During the Chennai event we faced some minor issues like not understanding the language, occupants on Dias were adults, the stage was covered by media and we could not see any programs. We were most disappointed as we did not get a chance to perform in the event.

Staff of all the Partner Organisation:

- Because of long distance, tight program schedule and hot summer we did face some health issues.
- In public meetings local NGOs, Government officers and leaders gave a good support for the Yatra. We were able to witness different environment issues faced by the communities in different areas.
- During the Yatra children got an opportunity to interact with Government Officials, local leaders, Communities and other Children.
- On 27th meeting, importance was not given to Children. Children felt left out as the limelight was hogged by Minister and children could not see the dias.

Sathish’s Feedback on Presentations:

Sathish shared, that he is really astonished at the mature way of presentation by the children. When compared to staff the children presentations revealed that they own this process unlike the staff who felt they were not a part, and like it was some one’s program. Children should learn to use power point presentations and be capacitated to develop their own presentations. CMCJ children need to take this opportunity and demand lead NGO’s to avail the opportunity for increasing their skills in the computer sciences and internet. Sathish also shared that this would be discussed at KNH as well.

CMCJ is partner of KNH, CMCJ should start programs independently. CMCJ can login into KNH website with partner code with the help of internet. CMCJ can also use social networking sites like face book and load photos, reports etc.. and collect information of other NGOs and networks. Internationally CMCJ work should be recognized. Adults should provide opportunity for children identity on the dais. As adults always have opportunity for many occasions, it is the responsibility of adults to give space for children in children programs. Exchange programs and exposures to other NGOs should be planned as they give an opportunity for the children to relate and reflect accordingly. He stated that CMCJ children should not complaint on Organization for failing his/her exams and any other inconvenience caused due to Organization Programs.

Sathish urged to think about the yatra to Hyderabad that could cover Rayalseema area, he requested Sasiprabha to take the initiative.

In his reflections he shared CeFHA group has covered very good points in their presentation. Parent's perspective before Yatra and after Yatra is the impact of Yatra and Yatra participants becoming a role model in the village is an important impact indicator of the Yatra.

Based on language and geographical situation there is a need for KNH to think about a 2nd Chapter, at National level CMCJ is one as its partner number is 2022. Regarding 2nd Chapter for Andhra and Odisha decision has to be taken in November 2012 meeting. Karnataka may join any one groups. While planning Yatra nobody thought of the heat during summer, as was evident by childrens presentations even in the hot temperature people were eagerly listening to the children speech and this shows the success of Yatra. Many children have developed friendship with other NGO group children and become very close with other state children also, it leads to strong basement for CMCJ networking at National level.

HOTHS for 2 days of Yatra experience came with more reflections, like building relationship with Government people and confidence levels being increased after Yatra. We have worked beyond the boundaries of our working areas and implemented the whole program. Sasiprabha had brought all NGOs together and made them a part of this yatra. Mr. Sathish appreciated all the participants of Yatra for making it a big success and in future he hoped that the children would come up with same spirit and more programs be promoted. For Tamilnadu CMCJ Chapter Dr. John Devavaram is the convener and for Andhra, Odisha and Karnataka CMCJ Chapter we recommend Dr. Sasiprabha Stanley to be the convener.

Team reflections

Future Plan:

- National Yatra with other NGO leaders and Children's. Organizing one meeting with NGOs who are part of Yatra.
- Taking up Alumiya Plaem as Model village which includes Sustainable Agriculture, Good Drinking Water, No Plastic, Developing backyards & optimum utilization of land, Plantation program, Demo Plots, Forest Bio diversity and Green Economy initiatives.
- Raising funds from students to develop school plantation, rising nurseries and safeguarding endanger species.
- Campaigning with Green Ambassadors in the villages on forest degradation. Participating in Panchayath meetings.
- Photo ID for CMCJ / Green Ambassador member. Members should not suffer with hunger. Members should develop personal talents and interest.
- CMCJ / Green Ambassador activities should be documented.

Networking:

- Network should be purposeful, now it is time to form Andhra and Odisha network. Exchange and sharing of information & ideas should take place via media.
- Two meetings in a year should be plan among network in summer and Dasara holidays.
- Ambassador's network membership should rise among friends.
- KNH should take initiative to form child network with help of Yatra supported NGOs.
- Demand for separate CMCJ / Green Ambassadors Chapter for Andhra, Odisha and Karnataka states.

Core team meeting:

- Every child had opportunity to share his/her experience.
- Power Point Presentation by CeFHA is good.
- Children sharing Yatra experience is good.
- Group presentations covered total points.
- Children showing interest in exchange programs and communicating information to other NGO children
- Children participation is good as well as time management and meeting handling is good.
- Children showing very much interest on Computer Education and English education.

Day Three:

- Welcome by Mr. Prasanth and welcome song by Pooja and Pujitha.
- Recap of 21st July 2012 most important points by Mr. Prasanth

- Groups were divided for choosing four main activities as an annual action plan from future activities. Planning
- session for 2012 -13 Annual Plan.

Annual work Plan Presentation:

IRDWSI – Odisha

- Taking up plantation program which shows positive impact on Environment and Climate change.
- Develop concept in CMCJ member where each human being should plant a tree, where one tree is equal to one human being. Develop fruit bearing plants and trees.
- Organizing school awareness campaigns on Environment and Climate Change issues.
- Increase membership with in the area to raise funds.
- Organizing meetings and campaigns in school holidays at Gram Panchayath and Block level.

HOTHS – Andhra Pradesh

- Submit a memorandum to the Government Officials and Leaders on Environment issues.
- Organizing campaigns on Air, water and Land pollution. Campaigning on not to cut trees and impact of chemical fertilizer utilization.
- Organizing seed exhibition at Panchayath and Mandal level.
- Increasing CMCJ membership and fund raising.

CeFHA – Andhra Pradesh

- Sustainable Agriculture: Developing model form at Yasidpalem – developing resource center, which includes food crops, fruit bearing plants & trees, leaf vegetables and producing organic manure which use for cultivation.
- School Bio-diversity: Campaigning in the schools on Environmental issues. Identifying schools in 34 vil-lages of Kotauratla Mandal to take up plantation program of fruit bearing and flowering plants.
- Nursery Development and School Plantation: Collection of organic seeds and raising plants out of nurser-ies and distributing plants to identified villages and schools make them to plant on road side and open place.
- Formation of Network& Exchange programmes and Membership fee and fund raising: It was planned to include new members in the Green Ambassadors Network/ CMCJ and develop exchange programmes ; also collect membership fee from members of CMCJ as well as to raise funds to sustain the activities.

Staff – Andhra & Odisha

- Increasing CMCJ membership and encouraging children in plantation program and village cleanliness.
- School level meetings with children on climate change issues.
- Organizing Capacity building training programs and exposure visits on Climate Change issues.
- Organizing General assembly with CMCJ members on Climate Change issues.

Closing remarks by Partners and KNH India Office:

- Mr. Sathish aware children on their roles and responsibilities as CMCJ members. Differentiate Organization role and CMCJ role.
- Yatra reflections crossed many areas, where as not reflected in action plan.
- Overall presentation CMCJ Odisha came with very practical action plan.
- CMCJ activities should plan activities partly in school holidays. Strong and clear base is needed for plan-ning activities.
- There is no integration of SHG (women groups) in activity planned. Always plan alliance building, network should alive always.
- Always think“who are we”?, don't duplicate NGOs work and activities with CMCJ work. Independent think-ing should be developed within the CMCJ members.
- CMCJ convention is a good idea from staff side and it should be CMCJ priority and NGO priority.
- Plan for computer training and English training programs. Budget and activities should be planned within the group.



struggle group members from kolleru talking about climate led distress



children from Guntur area signing the campaign sheet



Bishop of Ongole diocese blessing the CMCJ yatra



Children from kotauratla performing a cultural event



Deputy Superintendent of Police of Amalapuram addressing the crowd



CMCJ members from all over India

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