



IND-TFC-NSN-P02, Hyderabad, India  
Reporting Period: October 2019 to March 2020

## Night School for the Neglected

**Budget:** \$27,000. Fully funded.

### The Project:

The rural villages where our partners work in southern India are extremely remote with poor infrastructure, sanitation and economic status. This project is providing education for neglected children, laborers and 'dropouts' in 10 villages surrounding the Gadwai District. The local people work or beg during the day for survival. This project enables access to schooling in the evenings to improve education, literacy and social standing in the community.

### Outcomes and Impact:

- This year our partners have been building trust and relationship with five new communities with low caste issues including child marriage for girls which denies them the opportunity of an education. 75 girls are now studying in the 10 centres this year (along with 125 boys and 10 adult males) which is very encouraging.
- These communities are neglected in terms of education, employment and economic status. The literacy rate is around 35% but they recognise that learning to read and write increases their self-standing and dignity in society.
- Promoting awareness of the importance of education to parents and elders in the village is resulting in changes in attitude, time for children to study after their chores and community cohesiveness.



### COVID19 Update:

At the beginning of the pandemic teaching staff suspended classes and have been involved in reaching out to the poor and needy communities with food packages, essential items and support such as correct information about COVID19 and awareness about good hygiene. Smaller classes over a longer period of time will recommence in July.

Sowmya (above, right) works in the fields with her family every day. She was very excited to join the evening classes when they began in her village. Even though this is an area where education for girls is not encouraged, Sowmya has convinced her family to allow her to pursue her dream to study. Her determination to attend classes every night after work has had a positive impact on her family and friends. Sowmya says, "I cannot go to school because of my family's financial concerns. I am thankful to my teaching staff for starting an evening school in my village. Thank you for the convenient time for me to come and study every day. My friends are happy to see me read Telugu books and write my name and other words. I am also interested now to learn English this year. Thanks for your help."

Thank you for supporting children who live in remote, impoverished villages have a brighter future through education.

