



NEWS-CHIT MAY 06

There is a new spirit of hope and optimism in Bapatla and Nidamarru!



Director Rahelu Rani

Since the December News CHIT funds from UK, together with some money Rajasekhara Babu raised in the USA last summer, have cleared the homes' debts, including 4 months of back pay for the teachers, and kept the homes running at a basic level until the end of March.

The money our delegation of trustees left in India in November bought new clothes for the children – the first in 2 years – which were a great boost to morale. A new tailor-made dress only costs £2.50! With a special gift from Kenilworth we were also able to provide blankets for them during a cold spell before Christmas. And with the proceeds of the Ministry of Defence Carol Service in Bath Abbey we have provided for a resident nurse who will be recruited in

August. Not everything has gone so well. Sadly one of the House Mothers, who had been ill for a long time, died at Christmas. There have also been illnesses among the children, and a leaking water tank.

The most recent report from India reads: “The 10th standard [16 years old] and College children have completed their pre-final exams and are preparing for final exams. As usual we are providing multi-vitamin tablets and milk for them. All the children are well except N Anani and S Nagamalleswari from 9th class who had a severe asthma attack in the Bapatla home. We had them admitted to hospital and are now providing a special diet and medicines.



Janaki Ram

Two of our old students visited us in Feb 06. Janaki Ram is now a Vet. He completed his 4 years training and got a government job within 2 months. The other is D Mariyamma who completed her Bible Training and Tailoring courses. We presented her with a sewing machine. Both these old Students expressed their heart-felt thanks for all the help they had from their sponsors and our homes.

Please continue to pray for all the children in our care, and all our dedicated staff.”

Management news. Rahelu Rani (top) has been confirmed as the new Director. At 42, she comes with a degree in Women and Child Development and 10 years' experience in family counselling. Each senior member of staff now has a detailed job description, and the proposed changes agreed at the joint Trust Meeting in November are being implemented. The independent advisor on child protection and health and safety has been appointed – Major T Elia, a retired Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army.

Infrastructure and equipment. We have three pressing needs:

- The big water tank on top of the main building in Bapatla has developed cracks and is leaking. Major repairs are required.
- For over a year the boys' toilets have been out of action, having collapsed in a storm, and the boys have been using the nearby school facilities. We are sure that building a new block, together with showers, will be good investment, and have received the plans and budget.
- The soaring price of gas has significantly increased the cost of cooking, and it is important to find ways of reducing consumption. We plan to switch to “steam cooking” and to pre-heat the water with solar heaters.



Cracks in the water tank

Fundraising. The Chairman writes: It seemed to me necessary to ask sympathizers to dig deep so that it would be clear to all concerned that we could and would meet the challenge of supporting 239 children, 30 staff and a school. When you are presented with a seemingly impossible task it is no good moaning. I took the simple view that if God wanted CHIT to succeed, it would. My job was a bit like the man in St Luke's gospel who had to wake up his neighbour to beg some bread for unexpected visitors. Faith and persistence won the day.



Boys WC block in 2000



Boys WC block now

Our first report to the Charity Commissioners will show that CHIT is healthy and safe. After 5 months we have 100 supporters. The majority have committed to sponsor. This is invaluable because reliable income is vital. Thank you all. If you are less than happy with your feed-back please tell us. Added to that core we have to express special thanks for a dozen people who have come up with substantial lump sums. One Church needs a special mention: St Johns Kenilworth. To find their new vicar as supportive as his predecessor, our president, was the confirmation I needed that we were in the Lord's will. The support and prayer coming from that church (already heavily committed in other directions) has been hugely uplifting.

We now need to double the number of regular supporters. We have 100 children without sponsors and room in our homes for many more waifs and strays needing a chance in life.

Budget. We have received the Indian budget for the basic running cost of the homes for the next year. At 37,50,182 rupees, that is about £50,000. It is broken down according to the pie chart shown. The Trustees have increased this by 10% to cover price increases (eg gas) and long overdue salary increases for teachers, and the appointment of a full time nurse.

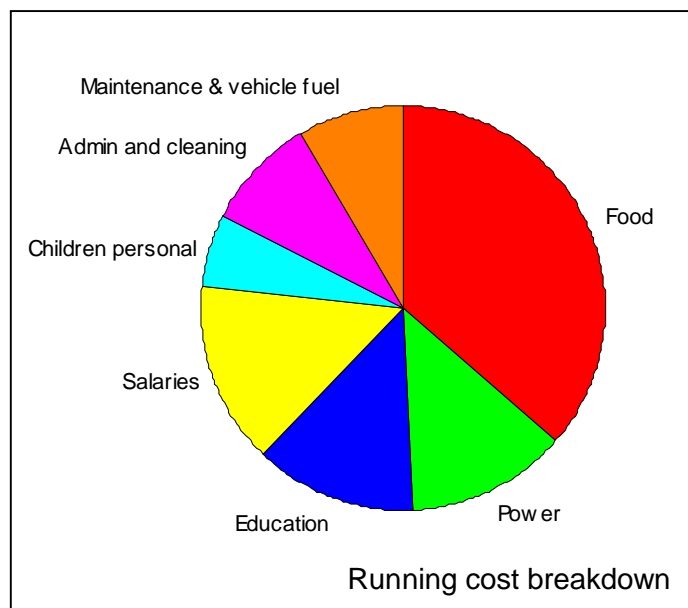
Additionally, the Trustees intend to raise a further £10,000 for the following:

- £1500 Repair or rebuild of the water tank
- £2000 Steam cooking equipment
- £5500 Boys toilets & showers
- £1000 Security Gate & New sickbay

Help with fundraising for these projects would be greatly appreciated.

We will also start planning with the Indian management for three longer term projects:

- Introduction of solar power
- A computer training facility
- Enhanced English teaching



The Annual report and Financial Statements will be published on our website in June.

For more information, including details on the budget and building/equipment projects, please refer to our website www.chitonline.co.uk or Ring George: 01225 863124 or write to Howard: 9 Hensley Road, Bath BA2 2DR.