

Vimukti Trust: Annual Report : 2005 – 2006

Introduction: An Overview

The year was a very critical year for Vimukti Trust. Financial support for the greater part of the regular activities was available only till the end of June 2005. Efforts at mobilising the required support after that period were not successful. The activists, all of them from very poor economic background and also dalits, were faced with a challenging situation. The ongoing activities on bonded labour could not be given up easily. The various union members would solicit their services now and then. Yet they had to maintain themselves and their families. Even then, they carried out the various programmes on bonded labour and related issues as is amply indicated by the following report.

However, support was secured from **Anti Slavery International, London** for two new sets of activities of one and two years' duration. One was to promote legal action on Bonded Labour. It was entitled, "**Rights and Opportunities of Bonded Labourers.**" It is a two year project and started from March 2005. Apart from strengthening the legal action on Bonded Labour by Vimukti Trust, it aims at strengthening the Union of Bonded Labourers and Agricultural Workers promoted by Vimukti Trust, in an effort at ensuring the activities on bonded labour are sustained even when funding is withdrawn (See Annexure-2). The other was a one year project from April 2005 to support the **Capacity Building Processes** within Vimukti Trust (See Annexure-3).

Asha for Education, London continued to support the **residential bridge course for bonded and other working girls in Malur** for another year from July 2005 (See Annexure-4). The other **residential bridge course in Malur for boys has been supported by the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP)**. Though the funding from NCLP was only for a day course, VT carried out the programme as a residential one by mobilising the extra funds required. **The residential bridge course for bonded and other working boys in Anekal was carried out with the assurance of support from Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (MZF), Bonn** (See Annexure-5).

Action Aid, New Delhi came forward to support from September 2005 the regular activities of VT in only one of the twenty taluks, where activities on bonded labour are taken up intensively, viz, **H.D. Kote** (See Annexure-6). Action Aid also sanctioned another new one year project from December 2005. It was to **support the reconstitution of Vigilance Committees in all the 27 districts and 52 sub-divisions in Karnataka** with dalit leaders and organisations who are actively involved on the issue of bonded labour being nominated as non-governmental members (See Annexure-7).

Vimukti Trust has actively supported the promotion of **three new networks** of the marginalised people in Karnataka. The one was "**Federation for the Empowerment of Dalits (FFD)**," a network of organisations headed by dalits and those fully supporting the cause of dalits. Various activities were drawn up to be implemented by the member organisations from January 2006. IGSS, Bangalore mobilised the required finances. The second was the formation of **South Indian Forum for National Dalit Policy** in August 2005 at ISI, Bangalore. Its purpose is to campaign for a National Dalit Policy by the Central Government. The third was **The African Diaspora in Asia (TADIA)**, an international network of academicians and activists involved with African diaspora in all the countries in Asia. As part of this effort, "The Tadia Society," short for "The Society for the Promotion of

Research, Education, Culture and Development” was registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act on 19 September 2005. Vimukti Trust has allowed the Tadia Society to use its training centre at Nagarabhavi, Bangalore for its office and the current secretary of the Trust was prevailed upon to take up the responsibility of being its secretary. A major activity carried out during the year by the Tadia Society was the International Conference on TADIA in Goa from 9 to 15 January 2006 (See Annexure-8).

VT trust collaborated with CEC, New Delhi in organising various activities in Karnataka for **Global Week of Action, 10 to 16 April 2005**, against unjust international trade policies (See Annexur-9).

In another process of networking, the secretary of VT was invited in January 2006 by a **network of dalit organisations in South India promoted by CCFD, Paris** to speak on Bonded Labour. CCFD also promised to consider supporting the activities of VT from the following year.

VT also collaborated with **IWID (Initiatives for Women in Development), Chennai to undertake a collaborative study of the impact of WB funded projects on health**. The programme started in December 2005. VT was to study the projects in Karnataka.

VT continues its membership with Social Action Network (SAN), South India. Some of its cultural activities are supported through this network.

In spite of the financial crunch, VT organised **a few great events during this year**. They were: **1) The Three Yearly gathering of the Union** in Pavagada in June 2005; **2) Jeevika Day** on 16 September 2005; **3) a training on ‘tamate’ beats** in October 2005 and **4) “Minchu”, the second Dalit Cultural Festival** on 13 December 2005 in H.D. Kote. These were carried out largely by mobilising public contributions.

Some Individuals also came forward to support the activities of VT. They were Mr. Ric Allen from Australia with a grant of Rs. Five lacs and Mr. And Mrs. Mary Good from Australia with a grant of nearly Rs. 30,000.

A picture of the ongoing and regular activities is given below:

1. Release and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers:

In H.D. Kote taluk, 484 bonded labourers got rehabilitation grant and they are living an independent life now. Government officials, different organisations & people have good opinion about Jeevika. 303 bonded labourers have got rehabilitation grants in Pavagada taluk. 10 people from Palavalli village in Pavagada taluk have each got 2 acres of land from the SC & ST Development Corporation. People from different villages in Pavagada taluk were inviting Jeevika activists to give street theatre performances. In Madugiri taluk, 52 bonded labourers got rehabilitation grants and they are now living independently.

In Chennapatna taluk, bonded labourers were coming out of bonded service on their own. In Shidlaghatta taluk, 94 bonded labourers were identified initially but only six out of them got rehabilitation grants. In Magadi taluk, 30 bonded labourers Rs 30,000 each as rehabilitation grants and they bought sheep and cows out of them. They are living happily now. In Hosakote taluk, 64 bonded labourers were released from bondage.

In Bagarpete taluk, 47 bonded labourers got rehabilitation grants and they are living happily and independently. In Chintamani taluk, 11 bonded labourers got rehabilitation grants. In Bagepalli taluk, 186 bonded labourers rehabilitation grants. Government officials were participating in all the Jeevika programmes. In Gudibande taluk, six bonded labourers were released from bondage and were given rehabilitation grants. In Gowribidanur, nine bonded labourers got rehabilitation grants and they are living an independent life. In Chikballapura taluk, 37 bonded labourers got rehabilitation grants.

In Yadgir, 10 bonded labourers were released in March 2005 and each one got Rs 1,000 as immediate subsistence allowance and are entitled to get Rs. 300 every month for up to two years from the newly introduced scheme of the Karnataka Government called "Bonded Labour Assistance Scheme."

2. Savings:-

In H.D. Kote, women SHGs have got loans of Rs. 3 lacs 90 thousand from different banks. Out of the loan amount, they have bought sheep and cows. In Bagepalli taluk, there are 23 women SHGs. Out of them, 20 SHGs have got loans of Rs. 8 lacs from banks. Women have improved the financial situation of their families remarkably. The women SHG in Kottur village in Pavagada taluk got a loan of Rs. 60,000/- from the bank. 240 women SHG group members got loans from banks to buy sheep, goats and cows. In Yadgir women SHGs got loans of Rs. 2.60 lacs through SGSY. In Chennapatna taluk, there are 22 women SHGs. Out of them, 19 women SHGs with 260 members got loans of 13,75,00/- from banks. In Shidlaghatta taluk, women SHG members were meeting every week and discussing about society and status of women. In Madhugiri, one woman SHG has got a grant Rs. 10,000/- from T.P.S. and another a loan of Rs. 15,000/- from a bank.

3. Trainings:-

From Bagepalli taluk, leaders of bonded labourers and agricultural workers participated in a 10 day training on social analysis and law at I.S.I. Yellappa, a Gram Panchayat member from Pavagada after a training on Panchayat Raj, managed to procure Rs. 4 lacs for a building of the

anganavadi in his village. 20 people from Ganjoor village in Chinthamani taluk participated in a training on SHG at Mysore Tarabeti Kendra and managing to live an independent life after that. In Yadgir taluk, the SC /ST members of GPs after a training on Panchayat Raj are making efforts to see that their GPs function effectively. In Chennapatna taluk, after a training on Panchayat Raj, the SC / ST GP members are procuring various facilities meant for the SCs and the STs from their GPs. In Gudibande, men and women members of the Union and the SHGs have participated in the trainings on social analysis and Panchayat Raj and they are dealing with government officials courageously. After the social analysis trainings in Chikaballapur, many youth have given up superstitious practices. 120 SC / ST GP members from Hosakote taluk participated in the trainings on Panchayat Raj and as a result they were effectively carrying out their roles in their GPs.

4. **Meetings:-** In Bagepalli, Chennapatna, Madhugiri and other taluks, the members of village level Union samitis were meeting every week and discussing about problems of their villages. Quite a few of them have become courageous leaders.

5. **Street Theatre:-** After watching street theatre performances, people of different villages in Bagepalli, Pavagada, Shidlaghatta and Hosakote have stopped following superstitious practices; they are sending their children to schools and are cooperating with each other.

6. **Protests:-** In H.D. Kote, three people have acquired government lands as a result of group action. In Chintaganahalli from Bangarapete, members of two women SHGs locked their GP office for procuring drinking water facilities, an approach road and an Anganavadi centre and managed to get all those facilities sanctioned immediately.

7. **Networking:-** In Chennapatna, the members of DSS and the Raitha Sanga participated in the programmes of Jeevika. In Madhugiri, organisations like DSS, HRFDI-K, Dalit Panchayath and KRDS were participating and cooperating in the programmes of Jeevika.

8. **Benefits Procured from Various Government Schemes:** Table IV in Annexure-1 gives the details of the different benefits received from the various poverty alleviation schemes of the government. 221 members of the Union have got houses sanctioned for them. The total monetary value for the houses and for other housing materials like tiles, walls, roofs, electricity and toilets comes to Rs. 54,20,000. Various pensions like Old Age, Disability, Window and Maternity benefits procured amount to Rs. 5,54,430 per month. Various facilities received for developing one's assets amount to Rs. 51,03,650. Rs. 7,45,000 worth of community assets like, street lights, roads, drainage, community centers, school have also been procured in various villages. Three couples who married across the castes were helped to procure the grants given by the government for such marriages.

Table I: Union of Bonbed Laoubrrers and Agricultural Workers in Karnataka

S.I	Taluks	Villages Samitis	Bonded labourers	Agricultura l laborers	Total
1	Anekal	-	-	-	-
2	Hosakote	63	73	881	954
3	Magadi				
4	Chennapatna	42	65	765	830
5	Madduru	53	294	497	791
6	Bangarpete	45	31	494	525
7	Chikkballapura	63	50	700	750
8	Gudibande	48	38	636	674
9	Gowribidanuru	50	130	930	1060
10	Bagepalli	65	73	1130	1263
11	Chinthamani	49	151	1197	1348
12	Shidlaghatta	50	55	550	605
13	H.D.Kote	78	735	1024	1759
14	Madhugiri	58	180	1080	1260
15	Pavagada	65	303	630	933
16	Yadagiri	29	37	488	525
17	Bailahongal				
	Total	758	2215	11002	13277

TABLE – II: WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS – 2005 - 06

Sl.No.	Taluks	No. Of Villages	No. Of Groups	No. Of Members	Total Savings	Loans Given	Loans	Loans Outstanding	Bank Loans	Revolving Funds
1	Anekal									
2	Hosakote	12	15	204	204450	165670	114500	48320		
3	Magadi									
4	Chennapatana	14	22	315					13,75,000	
5	Maddur									
6	Bangarpete	14	19	232	198165	123320		1065		
7	Chikkballapura									
8	Gudibande	9	10	135	83050	70400	14000	50388	43000	20000
9	Gowribidanuru	5	5	52	53150	33561	6000	25589		
10	Bagepalli	30	30	400	252929	204026	43226	92129	10000	102000
11	Chinthamani	15	20	274	503056	302830	5990	129507	240000	
12	Shidlaghatta	14	14	122	55350	13400	1450	41807		
13	H.D.Kote	65	65	3256	862100	282150	88168	2643154	845000	
14	Madhugiri	16	18	257	302890	201000	38900	89804	800000	20000
15	Pavagada	5	5	65	46630	76700	39300	7351	60000	10000
16	Yadagiri	19	27	362	362216	250700	107933	106899	260000	
17	Bailahongal									
	Total	218	250	5674	2923986	1723757	459467	3236013	3633000	152000

Table III: Trainings, Programmes, Meetings 2005-2006

SN	No. of Taluks	Trainings to union leaders	Trainings to SHG Leaders- Women + Health Trngs	Cultural Programmes + Tamate trangs	Playback Performances	Trainings to SC/ST GP Members	Protests
1	Anekal						
2	Hosakote	10	5+1			8	5
3	Magadi						
4	Chennapatna	10	20			5	4
5	Madduru	33	4+2			4	3
6	Bangarpete	12	5+6	8		6	2
7	Chikkballapura	22		4			4
8	Gudibande	13	10	4		3	6
9	Gowribidanuru	10	5	3		4	
10	Bagepalli			6	10	4	7
11	Chinthamani	15	11	4		3	11
12	Shidlaghatta	20	15	6	5	4	2
13	H.D.Kote	24	2	13	10	5	3
14	Madhugiri	42	10	13		6	4
15	Pavagada	20	5	7+1		4	2
16	Yadagiri	6	8			6	3
17	Bailahongal						
	Total	237	100+9	68+1	25	62	56

Table IV: Benefits From Various Government Schemes : 2005:06

S.N	I	II	III	IV	V	Community facilities
2.	Hosakote	B-6 6x25,000=1,50,000 G-3 3x10,000=30,000 E-5 F-4=20,000]=200000	A-4=400 B-10=10,000 C-2=1000 D-3=300 E3-8 E4-10=25,000 F-4]=36700	C-25 D-10 G-12	B-1=1,20,000;C-1=25,000 D1-10=5,000;D2-20=2,000 D6-5=500;D5-1=5,000 E1-1=1,000;E5-10=5,000 D-20=8,000;F2-5=1,50,000 F4-2=30,000;H2-2=6,000	A-4 villages B-2 villages G-4 villages F-2 villages
3.	Magadi	E 6x1000=6000	A-20x100=2000 c- 10x7500=75000 D15x100=1500 E(B)10 E(1)=20;A(7)x500=3500	A-60;B-8 C-55;D-130 H-125	D3-80=40000	
4.	Channapatna	B-53x20,000=10,60,000 B-6x25,000=1,50,000 C-4x10,000=40,000 D-3x2000=6,000]=1256000	A-30x100 Rs C-3x10,000=30,000 (,Ë'sÁUÀä@Që:ä) D-20x100 Rs E-3x500 (Schalorship) 1 st Class; E(3)-4	A-60 C-120 D-80	B-2x60,000=1,20,000 D(5)-2; D(5)-3x50,000 =1,50,000; E(2)-10x25,000 =2,50,000 H=20 computers H(2)-70 x3000=210000	A-10 B-3x15,000=45,000 A(2)-2x5,000=10,000 C-2x2,00,000=4,00,000 F-1x45,000 G-1x85,000
5.	Madhur	B-15x20,000 =3,00,000	A-38 E-6 D-8 B-2 1x100x38 1x6x1000=6000]=9800	A-16 – C-60 – D-54 – E-2 F-8	A 2.2 acres=1,00,000 D,1-18 1x1500x18=90,000 D-3 1x500x9=45,000 F2-12 1x15, 000x12=1,80,000 M2-4 1x4000x4=16,000	M-3.1x25,000x3=75,000
6.	Bangarpete	B-16 16x25,000=4,00,000	A-15x100=1500	C-25	B.2=80,000 D2-1 (100 plants)	
7.	Chikkaballapura	B-6.6x20,000=1,20,000	A-24x100=2400 E3-8	A-9 D-54	(6 acres) A-6 6x40,000=2,40,000 H8-2x3000=6,000	
8.	Gudibande	B-3=3x25,000=75,000	A-22 22x100=2,200		B-2=145,000 E5-5 5x1000=5000 E6-10x500=5,000 D5.5=12,500	
9.	Gowribidanoor	B-28x25,000=7,00,000 C+D-11=55,000 E-8=8,000]=763000	D-8=800 E3-13]=800	C-65 D-33	B-7=1,35,000 G-9=1,35,000 D1-120;D2-120]=270000	
10.	Bagepalli	B-4x25,000=1,00,000 +2x20=40,000]=140000	D-16.100x16=1,600 C-8.1000x8=8,000 B-2x200=400 G-6=1,65,000	C-7 M-4	B-7 7x30=2,10,000 D2-100=400	I-1 25,000
11.	Chintamani	B-7x25000=175000	D-10x100=5000 H-2 40000	G-1 35000 E-3	1-200=200000	
12.	Shidalaghatta	B-12. 12x25,000=3,00,000.	A-20. 100x20=2000 D- 30=30x100=3000=50000	U-200	F-4 4x15,000=60,000; B 20x80,000=16,00,000 D(4)-40x1000=40,000 G4=4x15,000=60,000	
13.	H.D.Kote	[B-4x20,000=80,000 E-5x1,000=5,000]=85000	[A-15x100=1500; C-10x7,500=75000; D-12x100=1200; E(3) 10; E(4) 15]=77700	A-55;B-4; C-60;D-20; E-160;H- 26	F-2x12,000; D(2) 10x5	A-20; B-4x15000=60000
14.	Madhugiri	B-55x25,000=13,75,000 E-20	E3-15 E5-10x1000=10000	C-100 D-100	A-3 3x50=150 B-6=65x6=3,90,000 G-3x1,50,000 E5-1=1,00,000 D1-200=20,000	
15.	Pavagada	B-6 6x25,000=1,50,000	D-8 .8x100=800	C.32 A.5	G-3 3x10,000=30,000 A-2 (4 acres) = 80,000	
16.	Yadagiri	B-3 3x25,000=75,000	A-5=500;E3-16	C.93		
	TOTAL	54,20,000	5,54,430		51,03,650	7,45,000

I. House Facilities (A) House Sites (B) Houses (C) Tiles (D) Walls , Roof (E) Electricity (F) Toilet

II. Pensions & Educational –Medical Facilities (A) Widow Pensions (B) Old age Pensions (C) Facilities for the handicapped (D) Maternity Benefits (E) Educational Facilities (1) Books (2) Clothes (3) Hostel Admissions (4) Merit Scholarship (F) Eye-checkups

III. Certificates (A) Ration Cards (B) Land Records (C) Caste Certificates (D) Income Certificates (E) Birth Certificate

IV. Materials, Facilities & Trainings (A) Land Distributed (Amt. / acres) (B) Irrigation Bore Wells (C) Sheds for Sericulture (D) Plants & Seeds (1) Coconut (2) Mango (3) Lemon (4) Teak wood (5) Ragi Seeds (E) Tools (1) Carpentry (2) Granite Breaking (3) Masonry (4) Musical (5) Agri-Tools (F) Raw Materials & Cattle (1) Bamboos (2) Cows (3) She-Bufferaloes (4) Sheep (G) Loans Rupees (1) Vehicles (2) Rupees (3) Cycle Shop (4) Stores (H) Trainings (1) Fishery (2) Tailoring (3) Agarbathi (4) Basketry (5) Gem-cutting (6) Driving (7) Typing

V. Community Facilities (A) Street Lights (B) Drinking Water (1) Bore Wells (2) Tanks (3) Taps (C) T.V. (D) Toilets (E) Village Roads (F) Village Gutters (G) Community Centre (H) Anganawadi Centre (I) School (J) Common Simple Marriage

Table V: Audited Financial Statement

**Receipts and Payments Accounts of Vimukti Trust for the Year ended 31 March 2006
(Consolidated)**

Receipts	Amount (Rs.)	Payments	Amount (Rs.)
To Opening Balance	16,24,370.00	By specific Endowment Fund Expenses	
“ Rental Deposit 2,97,000.00		a) Christian Aid UK – Eradication of Bonded Labour Programme Expenses	19,53,055.50
Fixed Deposit 14,00,000.00		b) Action Aid, Bangalore-Eradication of Bonded Labour in HD Kote Expenses	4,85,351.00
Building Lease Deposit(local)28,00,000.00		c) Action Aid, Bangalore-Formation of Vigilance Committees Expenses	3,93,970.00
Programme Advance (local) 8,050.00		d)Prince Claus foundation for International Conference expenses	13,37,501.00
Staff Advance (local) 1,04,285.00	46,09,335.00	e) RIC ALLAN Australia Programme Exp.	2,34,374.00
“Specific Endowment Funds Received from		f) Global Week of Action expenses	8,53,500.00
a) Action Aid, Bangalore		g) Bridge Course Programme expenses- Anekal BSP, MZF	7,58,660.00
1. Eradication of Bonded Labour in HD Kote	3,22,061.00	h) Bridge Course Programme expenses- Malur BSP, Asha Foundation	13,67,680.00
2. Formation of Vigilance Committees	8,75,000.00	i) Anti Slavery International	2,87,303.00
b) Anti Slavery International for Bonded Labour-Rights and Opportunities	15,13,492.00	1. Rights and Opportunities expenses	70,000.00
c) Prince Claus foundation for International Conference	13,37,501.00	2. Small Grants Project	75,000.00
d) Social Action Network	70,000.00	j) Social Action Network expenses- Honorarium paid to cultural coordinator	53,352.00
e) RIC ALLAN Australia	5,00,000.00	k) IWID - Chennai expenses	1,88,077.00
f) Missionszentrale der Franziskaner BONN for Residential Bridge Course, Anekal	7,59,400.00	l) CASA – Asia programme expenses	
g) Asha Foundation for Residential Bridge Malur	5,06,931.00	m) NCLP-Project-Residential Bridge Course Expenses	4,52,751.00
h) Global Week of Action in Karnataka	2,20,223.00	By Other Payments	15,864.00
i) IWID – Chennai	75,000.00	- Jeevika Tarabeti Kendra Expenses	16,623.00
j) CASA – Asia	53,360.00	- Auditing charges	32,82,085.44
k) NCLP – Malur B.S.P.	2,12,251.00	- Advance refunded	
“ Other Receipts		“ Closing Balance	
Jeevika Tarabeti Kendra (Board receipts)	7,08,070.00	Rental Advance	
General Account – Local receipts (Sch ‘O’)	17,39,604.75	(Central Taluk Office-local) 2,97,000.00	
General Contributions (FC)	35,506.00	Building Lease Deposit 28,00,000.00	
“ Bank Interest on S.B. A/c	64,599.09	Programme Advance (local) 8,050.00	
“ Advance taken	72,000.00	Staff Advance (local) 1,04,285.00	
		Programme Advance (kiran) 34,000.00	
		Children Stipend Advance 10,000.00	
Total	1,52,98,704.00		1,52,98,704.00

Place: Bangalore
Date: 28.8.2006

Vide our report of evendate annexed
For Vittal Rao Kaliswaran & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Sd/
(L. Vittal Rao)
Proprietor