

## The TRUST Schools in India

The emphasis on globalization and its increasing political, social, and economic dimensions have placed India in the world spotlight. Because of its immense population (hence, lucrative world market), and the many resources it contains, it has been looked to as a future major player on the world stage.

However, one of the concerns about globalization and its effects on the world economy has to do with labor conditions in India, specifically, the continuing presence of child labor.



In 2003, I traveled to India through a Fulbright Group Project Award grant and visited the **Trust for Rural Upliftment Strategies (TRUST)**, a voluntary NGO (Non-Governmental) organization that was begun in early 1997 and, according to their own overview, “registered as a Public Charitable Trust with the Sub-Registrar of Bangalore South of Govt. of Karnataka on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1997. **TRUST** is also

registered under the Indian Income Tax Act and Foreign Contributions Regulation (Act), 1976.”

**TRUST** works with the socially and economically vulnerable sections of society. Basically, it helps children, women, and communities to overcome poverty, make lasting improvement in the quality of their lives, and facilitate their empowerment in the process of social development. **TRUST** is at present working in Bangalore, a city (really a metropolis) located in the southeastern portion of the state of Karnataka on the Deccan plateau, where these pictures of the program were taken.



It is ironic that many people think of India more and more these days as a travel destination. Undoubtedly, there are many things to see (in fact, marvel, at) there, not the least of which is, most probably, one of the most well-known architectural monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal.



Also ironic is the fact that the **TRUST** school is located in the middle of one of most prosperous and modern parts of India, the city of Bangalore, called by many India’s Silicon Valley. In Bangalore, you can find such corporations as Infosys, Applied Materials, Wipro, and United Breweries, all with modern “technology parks” for their employees.

However, the downside of India's sprint into prosperity is resultant child labor problems, where children are forced into labor at early ages, often as a means to help overcome the extreme poverty that plague many families in India.

It is estimated that over 12 million children are involved in child labor in India (the "official"



figure—in reality, the number may be as high as 60 million: source-[National Geographic](#)). The **TRUST** School in Bangalore works to persuade parents not to send children into child labor at an early



age. It gives them an opportunity to have their children receive an education, offers them periodic health exams, brings them on field trips, introduces them to the arts, and, most importantly, keeps them safe. At present, they are also running two Residential Rehabilitation Schools for Girls and three non-Residential Schools for the child laborers engaged in differential hazardous works.

As an example of the attention they give to the health needs of children, **TRUST** has implemented a project titled, *Propagation of Indian System of Medicine (Ayurveda)* with Grant-in-Aid assistance from the *Department of ISM &H, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi*. Four Ayurvedic Health Camps were successfully organized covering five project villages. Community Awareness Meetings are conducted every month in different project villages and trainings organized for Ayurvedic Doctors/Medical Practitioners as part of the activities available under the project.

Assistance also reaches out into the larger community. **TRUST** engages in **Community Organization** and **SHG promotion** activities. The community is being educated on the advantages of group formation such as self-help groups for women. They conduct Community Awareness Meetings at periodic intervals to educate women on the need and importance of Health & Nutrition, Child Care, Children's Education, Environment, HIV Virus/Aids Prevention & Control, Personal Hygiene, Small Family Norms, Savings Mobilization, Bank/Credit Linkages, Gender Equality, Decision Making, Leadership Qualities, and Income Generating Programs.





As one example of the activities they plan for children to make them better global citizens, this is taken from their own materials.



“**TRUST** is also actively participating in the **National Environment Awareness Campaigns** since during the last couple of years with financial support from the **Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India**. **TRUST** observes the World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June every year by holding **Drawing/Painting Competition** for children studying between classes 1 and 7 and an **Essay Writing competition** for students of classes 8 to 10. More than 5000 students spread over 50 schools across Bangalore City takes part in the two competitions. Prizes, Mementos.”

The schools In Bangalore that are involved with TRUST need infrastructure development support including:



1. Education/Learning Materials for children (School Textbooks, Student Notebooks, Drawing Papers, Pens, Pencils, Sketch Pens, Stationery, etc.)
2. Audio-visual equipments (MP5, Television, CD ROMs, DVDs, etc.)
3. School Desks (Reading and Writing desks)
4. Library (purchase of reading/reference books, book shelves, cup board, etc.)
5. Personal Computer (PC) and Printer (for documentation).

TRUST has also outlined a plan of action for the setting up of a Multi-level Education Center in and around their project area. This centre will house a formal school, a vocational training centre and a Rehabilitation Center for child laborers, and socially and economically marginalized mothers, who are victims of abuse and discard. The project requires a large land space of at least 5000 to 6000 square feet for the constructing of school buildings, vocational training centers and rehabilitation centers.





The objective of this multi-level Education Center is to sustain quality continuing education for the child labor children and provide skill development training in selected trades to the child labor children, who are not interested to pursue education in formal schools. Vocational education is also important as it helps children to pursue independent career in the chosen field either on their own (as a small enterprise). The Rehabilitation Center is designed for to the educational and shelter needs and aspirations of the child labor children and the women, who are victims of abuse, discard and neglect.

If you are interested in communicating with the Director of the Program, **Madhusudhan Narasingha Rao**, here is some contact information:



***Trust for Rural Upliftment Strategies***

Registered under the Indian Trust Act and Recognised u/s 12A, 80G & FCRA

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**TRUST**

**List of Educational, Vocational and Sports Materials required for the new Special Residential Rehabilitation School for Girl Child Laborers, at Hommadevanahalli, Bannerughatta Road, Bangalore 560 083 INDIA**

	<b><i>PRODUCT PROFILE</i></b>	<b><i>QUANTITY</i></b>
	<b><i>KITCHEN NEEDS</i></b>	
1.	Cooking Utensils(large, small and medium), Plastic Storage cans to store rice and groceries)	
2.	Meals Plates and Tumblers	200 Nos.
3.	Water Purifier	8 Nos.
4.	Refrigerator (large)	2 No.
	<i>Beds &amp; Beddings (Mats, Bed sheets, blankets, etc.) for 100 girl children</i>	
	<b><i>TEACHING/TRAINING MATERIALS</i></b>	
1.	White & Black Board	5 each
2.	Marker Pens(All colors)	5 Sets
3.	Education/Health Charts	5 Sets
4.	Globe/Maps	5
	<b><i>EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS/STATIONERY</i></b>	



1.	Student Note Books – 200 pages	300
2.	Drawing Books	300
3.	Sketch Pens/Crayons	300 Packets
4.	Pens/Pencil	300 Packets
5.	Flat Files to file papers, progress cards	250
6.	Filing Racks/Filing Cabinet	5
<b><i>CHILDREN'S LIBRARY</i></b>		
1.	Steel Book Case with 4 sliding doors	5
2.	Books, Magazines, Short Story Books, GK, Quiz Books, etc. (Kannada/English)	
3.	Plain Steel Tubular Table + Chairs	5 + 15
<b><i>VOCATIONAL/COMPUTER EDUCATION</i></b>		
1.	Sewing Machine with Fashion Maker	5
<b><i>SPORTS/GAMES MATERIALS</i></b>		
	Rings, Skipping Ropes, Carom Boards with Pawns, Chess Boards with Pawns, Volley Ball, Basket Ball, Cricket Bats, Cricket Balls, Swings, etc.	