



plus  trust  
follow your inner voice



Dear Friends of Plustrust,

We completed one more year of work on 8th May 2012 and it is time to share our happiness about the progress made and our ideas for the future. This year, the Plustrust Day meeting was organized at Hyderabad to mark the publication of the book "*In Search of Kamatham*" a monograph by Gowri Iyer, based on her M A dissertation. Manchi Pustakam of Hyderabad published the book which describes the remnants of the collective farming systems prevalent in the tribal villages of E Godavari district. Professor J P Rao released the book.



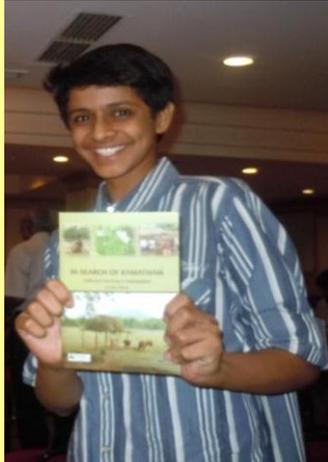
*Prof J P Rao releases Gowri Iyer's book "In search of Kamatham" and Dr Vithal Rajan receives the first copy.*

If you would like your own copy the best way is on [www.flipkart.com](http://www.flipkart.com) by keying in the title (In Search of Kamatham) in the search box.

Dr. Vithal Rajan chaired the evening's discussions and several friends and well-wishers attended the function. Two fellowship holders presented their work and the audience offered their responses and ideas.



We have been able to spread our work a little further this year with more fellowships for inclusive education and scholarships. We have kept in touch with last year's fellows and offered our support to them as needed. Please read on for more details.



*Amartya Yechuri holding up his copy of the book. Well-wishers of the trust, Ms. Pardnya Keskar, Ms. Diya Rajan and young Azad.*



*Some of the guests*



## Fellowships

### *'Meher' A Youth Collective for Vocational Education in Assam*

Shri John Daimalu Basumatary, a Social Entrepreneur trained in TISS Mumbai and hailing from Kokrajhar Assam was supported for his work with the young people of Kakrabari village in Dadgiri. The young people in this remote area do not have access to vocational training and this project is an effort to build skills for local livelihoods. A society MEHER has been registered and training in electrical work, carpentry, and organic farming have been so far organized. It has also helped John to assess the scope for further work and join hands with others engaged in similar efforts in the region. Dr Anjali Daimari has been associated with this project as advisor.



*A carpentry skill building workshop & a photo of John making presentation to village youth.*



### ***Teaching Western Music To Children In A Rural School***

Vinit Alurkar, a musician and teacher of western music in Pune organized a music camp for the children of Senapati Bapat School-MaleMulshi near Pune. We supported this experiment to encourage rural school children and build their confidence in using English by teaching them western music which they do not have regular access to. The children enjoyed the camp tremendously and Vinit now has plans do this more often. The shape of Plustrust engagement with this work is still being discussed.



*Vinit Alurkar teaching and playing drums with rural school children.*

### ***Youth Engagement in Local Governance in Dandakaranya***

Ms. Tejaswini Madabhushi, a believer in Gandhian ideals and the need for peace in Dandakaranya is working to spread the notion of Gram Swaraj in the region through facilitating Youth Engagement in Local Governance. She has been able to mobilize several like-minded people to come together to campaign for gram Swaraj and interest youth in the area in adopting Gandhian ideals. Mr Sashi Kumar of Yugantar has kindly consented to guide her work.



### ***Inclusive Education***

Our review of the progress made in the Gurukulam schools which went through the self-assessment process indicates that it had a positive impact in most cases. All stakeholders could improve on the level of collaboration and children too began to think in a broader way. There were also some improvements in the infrastructure and the training opportunities for staff. However the plans for continued work with the schools did not materialize during this academic year. We continued our association with Kilikili for promoting inclusive play, during this year also. Our Associate Ms.P. Suryajothi has anchored Kilikili's work in the Gayatri Devi Park in Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore.

### ***Animal welfare***

We have continued to encourage the work of Samabhava and CHFA with some donations to help animals in need of shelter. We are committed to support them in shaping their plans for organizing their work on a more formal footing.



*Sandesh Raju with his dedicated team and the shelter in 'Karuna'.*



***Other activities***

Plustrust continues with the scholarships to the student we are supporting. We are happy to report that three students supported with scholarships have been able to do well in the last academic year. Ms Khintu Saud is now in the 12th class is keen to pursue mass communications as her field of study. Ms Sapna is in her second year B.Com. and her brother Mr. Sai Kumar is about to complete his two year vocational education program. We continue to engage with our former fellows listening to them as they describe their challenges and offering them our ideas and moral support. The trustees visited Itarsi to understand the work of Sandeep Mehto and Bharat Calling. We could see first-hand the challenges the students and their families face in accessing education. Similarly one of the trustees met Ms Bhuvaneshwari in Chennai and discussed her progress in establishing herself as an arts based therapist.

***Plans for the future***

We are planning to continue with scholarships and fellowships. We hope to begin a program in schools for promoting the practice of RTE principles of integration and inclusion in primary education.

***Support we need***

In sharing this with you we request you to support us by sharing details about our fellowships with young people working either on inclusive education or animal rights. We are deeply grateful to all of you for your timely guidance and support.

Best wishes

Shanti Yechuri, Smriti Kedia Maroo & Lalitha Iyer

Trustees of Plustrust



PLUSTRUST  
www.plustrust.org  
#004 Skyline Apts,  
548/3 Langford Rd,  
Bangalore 560025  
(M)+919481781804  
(E) lalithaiver13@gmail.com