

Website: karunatrust.org

Karuna Trust: An Introduction

Background

Karuna Trust, instituted in 1986, is a public charitable trust, affiliated to the Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, BR Hills. VGKK is committed to the holistic, sustainable development of tribal people, keeping in mind their socio-cultural background and their rights. VGKK now has 28 years of developmental experiences with the Soligas and other tribes in Chamarajanagar and Mysore districts of Karnataka and subsequent experiences with tribals in Tamil Nadu, and Arunachal Pradesh. This experience has resulted in an integrated approach to tribal development with Health, Education, Livelihoods, and Biodiversity conservation as the means to sustainable development and empowerment.

Karuna Trust began as a response to the high prevalence of leprosy (21.4/1000 population) in Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagar district, to undertake rural health services in that Taluk.. Prevalence of leprosy is now 0.28/1000 population. From leprosy control, Karuna Trust diversified into epilepsy, mental health, tuberculosis, eye care and eventually, management of the PHC in Gumballi. Over the years, the scope of the trust's work has grown to include various other health issues and integrated rural development. The main focus areas are health, education and livelihoods, with public-private partnership (NGO model) initiatives, in addition to implementing replicable and innovative models in these areas.

Vision of the trust is for a society in which, we strive to provide an equitable and integrated model of health care, education and livelihood by empowering marginalized people to become self-reliant.

Our mission is to develop a dedicated service minded team that enables holistic development of marginalized people through innovative replicable models, with a passion for excellence.

The Core objectives of the Trust are:-

1. To Provide integrated development of the poor and marginalized people (Tribal, Rural and Urban poor) through health, education and training for livelihood
2. To empower rural people to organize themselves and work towards achievement of a self-reliant community.
3. To have a public-private partnership for innovative, replicable, sustainable, models for integrated development of marginalized people.