

Chinnara Angala – A Course to the Mainstream :

The Chinnara Angala Summer Course Programme is aimed at bringing back out-of-school children into schools. The out-of-school children fall into two categories: a) those who were never enrolled in school, and b) those who have dropped out of school at either the Lower Primary level or the Upper Primary level. The Chinnara Angala intends to enable these children in the age group of 6–14 years to enroll themselves into regular schools.

A para-teacher appointed from amongst the village youth teaches the children. An intensive, condensed form of the curriculum is taught, at the end of which the children are enrolled in the appropriate regular classes. The duration of the intervention was initially proposed to be of 60 days. Later it was decided that it would continue till all children were enrolled into formal school.



Chinnara Angala – A spark of hope for child labour

When first started in 10 programme blocks, 3,100 children were enrolled in the course, and as many as 2,600 children from amongst them were enabled to join the mainstream formal schools. It shows acceptance of the intervention by the community. This also indicates growing awareness among people about the need for education. In the beginning the programme personnel spent considerable time convincing people about the benefits of the interventions, which was crucial for the success of this intervention.

During 2003 over 4,800 Chinnara Angala centres were opened so as to generate school preparedness among 407,000 out-of-school children. 127,000 children, including 50,000 child labourers, participated in this programme

The Akshara Foundation has been very active in running this programme in Bangalore. All the existing 194 Chinnara Angala learning centres reaching out to 4,600 children in the city have been coordinated by the Foundation with the help of other NGOs like MAYA, Mobility India, APSA, REDS and Rashthrothana Parishat.