



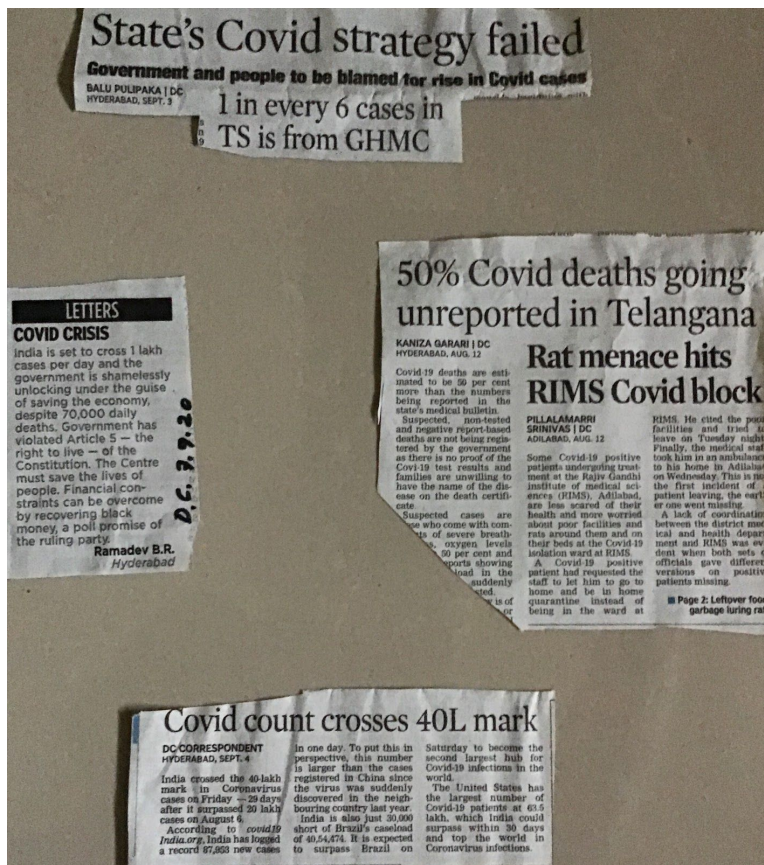
MARICA NEWSLETTER

VOL. III

Love Peace Harmony

15.10.2020

Dear friends and well wishers,



In this unprecedented situation, the school has to continue service to the rural population if we do not want them to be the 'drop out' of the national economy. Thanks to your generous support we could help the sponsored children and quite a number along with them as the school did not run in the usual premises.

The city school reopened on April 1, 2020 as usual, with all classes online. After a period of adaptation, training of teachers, parents and children, appointment of fresh university graduates, a routine set in which parents, children, school and academy found a platform of efficiency and

performance and interest for the children, even the youngest and most differently abled children. The objective was to integrate technologies to

The Kesaram rural school re opened on June 12, 2020 on the same mode. All the teachers remained with us, even without any promise of salary, as not a single family paid any fees for the present year.

In July, we received the results of class X public exam : At Marica Tolichowki, one student failed.

At Kesaram all 9 students passed. The latter children set up an example in their families and their remote villages. Education in English is possible. Discipline, hard work and joyful efforts to learn and discover together yield results and bring access to employment or entrepreneurship. They have all enrolled in a private junior college and all of them keep Maths and/or Sciences in their studies. How wonderful!



For the younger ones of the secondary school, learning online has become a bleak dream : Among our families, only 40 % own a smartphone. Fathers allow their children to use it between 6.30 a.m. And 9.00 a.m. And again the same in the evening, So the school had to adjust the teaching timings to the conditions set by the families. Some tablets were purchased, some were donated by friends and well wishers. Altogether 40 tablets 'hotspot' and wifi were strategically distributed to students so that study points could be created in all villages. Each point would be time shared by a group of 10 students minimum. Any child of the village, even if he was not a Marica student, could join the group and learn at least two subjects daily. A parent or a teacher would supervise the group as they would come and sit around the tablet. We estimate that over 400 children were benefited by this system.

In the primary section, only a number of parents agree to let their child(ren) study. For all those who were interested, the children were offered readers, note books and stationery to continue studies at home under their parents' care. They would receive a worksheet on the family phone and the

mother would encourage the child to do so. The Mylestone readers used at Kesaram are self learning text books and this expensive investment proved to be a boon during Covid. Without knowing English, they could guide their children. The daily conversation with the teacher on a simple phone would complete the guidance offered.

As of October 20, 2020, both schools have adopted a regular routine. The portion of the first term could be taught and practised through zoom and with families' support. The first term exams were written in time.

After 6 months of adaptation, schooling takes another rythm. The teacher's role has totally changed. The child has learnt to learn. This is such a fantastic revolution. Whether the child lives in a village or a town, he has to watch the same film, learn from the same platform, solve the same problems online, submit his work using the phone.

This is the relatively good side of Covid. Surely an evolution was required to bring all in the 21st century. But at what cost ?

Like everywhere, confinement and precautionary measures were imposed to protect the population. However, Telangana has been one of the eight most severely affected states. For three months, there was no or very little activity. Many had to find a different source of living as their income had just vanished. Our three drivers were among this group. This is how they managed :

Shiva opened a shop at the crossing of the main road. He sells children's clothes.

Manikyam has gone back to the fields. It is the time of crops and the work is plenty.

Mahender remains a driver at Marica for the Karadi classes and also works in the fields.

Teachers had to go to the pawn shop to deposit their gold and get some money.

Since August 2020, in spite of the absence of fees, the school continues with less teachers who receive their full salaries. They occasionally come to school for the preparations and returns of work. All sponsorships received help us pay our teachers.

Gradually, the situation eases everywhere as, since September 1, 2020, the government of Telangana has also put one teaching daily per class. So, families can regroup to let their children learn in front of the television.

PROJECT

For the second year, spoken English is taught to any and all in the remote villages of Chevella mandal. Our teaching is based on the dynamic Karadi method. Our teachers, Swathi and Mammata visit villages three days a week and teach level 1 and 2. Many villages are totally and strictly confined for 20 to 40 days, a few for 70 days. Reaching communities is difficult but students

who can come are very enthusiastic and learn with great joy. For some of them, this class is the only one they can have in the day. We can only teach 120 students daily.



VISITORS

Usually, we report about visitors coming to Marica. Today, we are sorry to inform you about the demise of Mr David S. Anscombe. He came in 1996 and participated in the construction of the school. Mainly, he would lead the workers while Marie Christine would bring workers and materials to the site. Later on, Mr David participated in the maintenance and would offer his wise guidance.

Mr David died in his 85th year. He was not a direct victim of covid. We all remember him as the grandpa of Marica Dkk. Pray for him.



SOLIDARITY

The French Consulate of Bangalore donated 31 sets of Karadi books to learn English in rural areas

A couple of chartered accountants donated two tablets, a beautiful collection of Enyd Blyton's books and the English presentation of the "English for all" project.





A group of businessmen value their treks and peak ascensions. They offered 5 tablets to the Kesaram school on the occasion of Independence day. They were distributed in the villages for online learning.



A member of our Marica society shifted her residence to Hyderabad. It was the occasion of bringing books, sports material, games and clothes to the school.

To you all who are walking with us to support the children of Marica, we wish to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your very precious help. Children eat, learn, grow healthily, take a dignified place in society and this is what counts.

With the love of all at Marica.

Marie Christine de Rochemonteix

Founder

Edited at Marica Higher Educational Society, Nizam Colony – Tolichowki – Hyderabad 500008 - India

Amis-marica.fr

[L'anglais pour tous\(facebook\)](#) mcderochemonteix@gmail.com