

# Thulir

## Newsletter – May 04

### **Greetings from Sittilingi.**

On Tamil New Years day, April 13th, we had a simple function to mark the inauguration of Thulir. All the Hospital staff, the field Health Staff from the 22 villages in which THI works, a few villagers and their children attended. The women sang traditional songs, a child from the village lit a lamp and sweets were distributed.



From 14th April, children started coming. By the third day, we had 55 children attending, with a few more on the rolls. For the purpose of having meaningful interaction, we divided them into 3 groups: ages 5 to 8, 9-10, 11-15. We now have about 20 children in each session. But there are overlaps of age groups as children tend to come with their siblings. As most children are from disadvantaged homes, and have never had access to books or art materials they show a great interest to handle our materials. The interest shown by them towards learning is a revelation even to us. We hope to respond to this adequately. The children repeatedly request us to teach them English. With the summer holidays beginning this week, children are pressing us to have longer sessions during the day also. We are considering this seriously.

This week we managed to get a bulldozer and level the ground next to Thulir, so we now have a small playground. Some of the children have never handled a ball in their lives, and so there is great excitement.

One of THI's donor agencies, CVI, has donated a solar PV system to Thulir. So we now have adequate lighting for our evening sessions. We are also able to run our PC for a couple of hours daily on this system.



We have compiled a draft report on our field visits to the villages to study the educational facilities. We will send it to you as soon as the final editing is over.

We have put off our proposed identification and training of village volunteer-teachers. As we would like to spend more time directly with the children and gain some experience and insights into what is needed here first. However, young parents, in the THI staff meeting, expressed some interest to have sessions on children and learning. We might conduct these sessions this month.

Anu and Krishna