

*As documented by M. Bhakthar Vali, WASSAN Foundation — November 2016
Edited & adapted for Mahavatar Babaji TadEkam Foundation*

TadEkam — That One, in Every One

Grameen Abhivridhilo Mamekam

(In the Growth of the Village, I Am One)

There is a village that most people have never heard of. It does not appear on popular maps. It has no famous temple, no bustling market, no celebrated name. It sits quietly near the edge of the Nallamala Forest, on the border where Andhra Pradesh meets Telangana, cradled between the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and the small town of Macherla — fifteen kilometres from each, as if deliberately placed beyond easy reach.

Its original name was Kitchareddypalem. Some years ago, it was renamed Kotturu. And then, in July 2015, something else changed in Kotturu. Something invisible. Something that cannot be measured in rupees or recorded in government reports.

Guruji Naushir — a Pune-based spiritual guide and disciple of Mahavatar Babaji, the deathless Himalayan Mahayogi — had seen this village. Not on a field visit. Not through a government report. He found it on Google Maps. No one knows exactly why his gaze fell on this particular cluster of 510 households in a remote corner of Guntur District. His disciples did not ask. They never do.

“Guruji suggested Kotturu to be developed as a smart village. We did not know where the village was. We found it on Google Maps and visited. It is a very remote village near the Nallamala Forest. We do not know why or how he chose this village — and we do not want to know either. We just try to contribute to our level best. It gives us immense pleasure to visit this village.”

— Sri B. Krishna Manohara Rao, TadEkam sevaka

This is the TadEkam way. No elaborate plans. No grand announcements. A quiet inner call, a willing heart, and then — one step at a time into the unknown.

A Village Holding Its Breath

When Sri B. Krishna Manohara Rao, his wife Smt. B. Lakshmi Tulasi, his daughter Smt. M. Madhavi, and their relative Smt. K. Sai Sudha first arrived in Kotturu in July 2015, what they found was a village quietly suffocating under the weight of neglect. The people predominantly belonged to the Lambada Tribal community. The other surnames were: Reddy, Yadava, and Madiga — all small and marginal farmers working tiny plots of land, surviving on agriculture and daily labour, clinging to a place that the rest of the world had largely forgotten.

The cruellest irony: Kotturu sat between the Krishna River on one side and the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Branch Canal on the other — and yet it had no reliable water supply. The village sits at a higher elevation, making water access difficult. Hundreds of families who once lived in the Tanda Village below had been displaced when Nagarjuna Sagar Dam was built. The government resettled them — but only ten families stayed. The rest drifted away, scattered across the state, leaving the village half-empty and heavy with the memory of loss.

The school — the first thing the sevakas stopped at when they entered the village — told the whole story. Two buildings had collapsed. There was no compound wall. Children sat on the bare floor. Teachers laboured in isolation, without parental cooperation, without resources, without hope. Girls who completed Class 8 had nowhere left to go: the next school was in Macherla, fifteen kilometres away, and no parent felt safe sending their daughter that far alone. So, girls stopped studying. And then they were married off — early, quietly, without anyone recording the dreams that were buried alongside.

They Did Not Come with a Plan. They Came with Their Hearts.

“We do not have any plan. We do not know what to do. But we just respond to the situation.”

— Sri B. Krishna Manohara Rao

This is perhaps the most profound thing about TadEkam’s sewa: it is not project-driven. It is love-driven. The sevakas did not arrive with spreadsheets and timelines. They arrived with open eyes and open hands, and they let the village show them what it needed.

The school called to them first. They repaired the collapsed buildings and built a proper compound wall with a gate — spending ₹ 4.30 lakh. A second building was restored for ₹ 2.20 lakh. They brought two English teachers and a computer science teacher, each paid ₹ 7,500 per month from TadEkam’s own funds. They installed three computers. They planted trees in the school courtyard. They laid benches. They repaired the borewell, installed an RO water plant, and rebuilt the midday meal cooking space.

For girls who had crossed Class 8 and still wished to study, TadEkam began depositing ₹ 1,000 per month directly into their bank accounts — a quiet, dignified gesture that told each girl: your future matters to us. When the boys saw this, they asked too — and TadEkam quietly began depositing ₹ 500 per month for them as well. Twenty-three children who walked from other villages to reach this school received cycles so the journey would not defeat them. Enrolment reached 100%. Attendance became full.

“Earlier, cattle used to take shelter in the school in the evenings. Some people used this space for bad activities. Now it is completely different. We have good trees, benches to sit, RO water, and good teachers. Earlier I knew there are computers but didn’t know how they work. Now I can operate one. It looks like there is a new light in our school.”

— G. Jagadish, Class 8 student, Kotturu

When the Rains Did Not Come

Then came the summer of 2016, and with it, a drought that cracked the earth and broke the will of farmers who had already so little. Drinking water became impossible to find. Borewells ran dry. The village fell silent with thirst.

TadEkam did not look for an exit. They hired water tankers and sent water to every household, every single day. The cost: ₹ 1.15 lakh per month. Month after month, as the delayed monsoon refused to arrive, TadEkam kept paying, kept sending water, kept showing up. The sevakas did not worry about the money. They worried about the people.

This is what sewa means in the TadEkam tradition — not the kind that stops when it becomes expensive, or inconvenient, or uncomfortable. The kind that holds the hand of a village through its darkest summer and does not let go.

Every Corner of the Village, Touched

As trust deepened, TadEkam’s sewa spread into every corner of Kotturu’s life. Sixty-five households that had no toilets — despite government schemes that sat unclaimed — were gently supported. TadEkam contributed ₹ 3,000 per household over the government’s grant of ₹ 12,000, and a local volunteer was identified within the community itself to facilitate construction. The village moved toward becoming Open Defecation Free.

Four kilometres of approach road were cleared of thorny overgrowth by a JCB hired at ₹ 1 lakh, making movement safer for the entire community. Internal gravel roads were built. A small culvert was constructed over the village stream. In a poor part of the village, a new borewell was dug, a motor and pipes installed, electricity connected — clean drinking water flowing at last where it had never flowed before, at a cost of ₹ 3.20 lakh. Seventy LED streetlights were installed across the village, at a cost of ₹ 2 lakh, so that for the first time, Kotturu's nights were no longer entirely dark.

A health camp brought nearly 300 spectacles to people who had been squinting at the world for years, not knowing that sight could be restored with something as simple as a pair of glasses.

Six elderly people — those whom time and circumstance had made invisible — began receiving ₹ 1,000 worth of rice, dal, and essential provisions every month. A disabled child received a monthly support of ₹ 500. Three children orphaned by a road accident that had taken their father were each given ₹ 50,000 as a security fund, a quiet promise that they would not face the future entirely alone.

“Our team members helped many underprivileged — including a couple over 75-years-old who had no children to look after them and no house to take shelter in. We constructed a small house for them and supported a toilet too. This gave us satisfaction.”

— Guruji Naushir

When One Light Kindles Many

What TadEkam built in Kotturu was not just infrastructure. It was the atmosphere of possibility — and possibility is contagious.

Mr. Samba Siva Rao, an NRI from Kotturu living in the United States, watched what TadEkam was doing in his home village and was moved. He came forward to donate ₹ 10 lakh for constructing a veterinary hospital — a facility that would serve not just

Kotturu but 28,000 livestock across the surrounding villages. The multipurpose health worker who had long been irregular began attending the sub-centre regularly. The gram panchayat took up avenue plantation under MGNREGA. Energy that had lain dormant in the community began to stir.

Local youth and village elders — Shri Govinda Reddy, Shri Venkata Rama Reddy, Shri Venkateswara Rao, Shri Lakshma Reddy, Shri Thavre Naik, the vice-president of the Gram Panchayat — became active volunteers in their own village's transformation. What had once been a faction-ridden village where crime was spoken of in hushed tones began, quietly, to settle. The numbers showed it. The faces showed it more.

“Yes, I receive phone calls from many school children — and that is the truest indicator of love and affection. A phone call from this village recharges our energy and reminds us of our responsibility.”

— Smt. K. Sai Sudha, TadEkam sevaka

Now, It Is Truly Kotturu

“The original name of our village was Kitchareddypalem. A few years ago, it was changed to Kotturu. Now, it is really Kotturu — ‘Kotturu’ means new. Thanks to Guruji and all of them. It is all our good luck.”

— Smt. Venkata Ravamma, Sarpanch, Kotturu

She is right. Kotturu means ‘new’. And Kotturu is new. Not because of any government scheme, not because of any international NGO with foreign funding, not because of any political promise fulfilled. But because a group of ordinary sadhaks — a husband and wife, a daughter, a niece — heard an inner call, found a village on a map, and simply showed up. Again, and again. Season after season. Through drought, through darkness, through doubt.

They came because Guruji Naushir taught them that sewa is not charity. Sewa is Sadhna. Every act of service, done with surrender and love, is an act of inner worship. Every hand that builds a toilet, installs a streetlight, fills a water tanker, or hands a cycle to a child walking five kilometres to school — is a hand folded in prayer to That One, TadEkam, the source of all.

A Call to Future Sevakas

Today, TadEkam’s sewa has expanded far beyond Kotturu. Under the continuing guidance of Mahavatar Babaji and the enduring inspiration of Guruji Naushir, who left his physical form in August 2022 but remains our living North Star, the Foundation has turned its gaze toward the rivers of Bharat — beginning with Maa Godavari, and extending its vision eventually to all 400 rivers of this sacred land.

But the spirit that animates every one of these projects is the same spirit that first drove a small family to a forgotten village on the edge of a forest in Guntur district — the spirit of TadEkam. That One, in all. For all.

If something in this story has stirred something in you — if you have felt even a flicker of recognition, a quiet pull toward something larger than yourself — then perhaps Babaji and Guruji are calling you, as they called the sevakas to Kotturu. Not to a plan. Not to a project. Just to show up, eyes open, hands ready, heart willing.

TadEkam — That One, from which all arises.

Sewa Hi Sadhna. Nadi Sewa Hi Snan.

A Summary of Investment & Impact | Kotturu, 2015–2017

Lives Touched

Toilets for Homes	Sight Restored	Orphans Secured	Elderly Secured	Bicycles Donated	Lives Impacted
65	300	3	6	23	2000

Investment Ledger

Area of Sewa	What Was Done	Investment (₹)
Education — School	Repair of school buildings	6,50,000
	Teachers' salaries for 2 years	5,40,000
	Computers installed (3)	44,600
	RO water plant & borewell repair	80,000
	Midday meal kitchen improvement	65,000
	Tanda Primary School	1,76,000
	23 cycles for students	46,000
	Monthly stipends: girls ₹ 1,000 & boys ₹ 500 (ongoing)	15,00,000
Water Supply	Daily tanker water supply 2016	3,45,000
	Borewells, motors, pipes & electricity for drinking water	3,20,000
Infrastructure	4 km approach road clearance (JCB)	1,00,000
	Internal gravel roads + culvert over stream	1,16,000
	70 LED streetlights across village	2,00,000
Sanitation	65 household toilets (top-up of ₹ 3,000 each)	1,95,000
	House + toilet for elderly couple	70,000
	3 orphans — security fund (₹ 50,000 each)	1,50,000
	6 elderly — monthly rations (₹ 1,000/month, ongoing)	5,00,000
Social Welfare	1 disabled child — monthly support ₹ 500 (ongoing)	1,00,000
	Health camp — ~300 spectacles distributed	Donated
	NRI donor Shri Samba Siva Rao — building for livestock hospital serving 28,000 animals	10,00,000
	Across education, water, roads, sanitation, welfare & health	~1.1 Crore (2015 till date)
Healthcare		
Veterinary		
Hospital		
TOTAL — Investment		

Since 2015, TadEkam has invested over ₹ 8 Crore in sewa across Andhra Pradesh.
 Kotturu is one village of many. Another is Kangundi.
 Bharat has 400 rivers, thousands of villages, and millions of hands to serve.

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