



**GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT  
ANIMANANDA ASHRAM  
MADLUR P.O, SAUDATTI Tq, - 591117  
BELAGAVI DISTRICT, KARNATAKA**

*"We need to uphold the equal rights, voices and influence of girls in our families, communities and nations. Girls can be powerful agents of change, and nothing should keep them from participating fully in all areas of life."*

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres

## 2019 Theme — Girl Force: Unscripted and Unstoppable

International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations. October 11, 2012, was the first day of the Girl Child. The observance supports more opportunity for girls and increase awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we informed the women of Self Help Groups and the children in the tuition centers, about the International Day of the Girl Child and the information of the event was given. The theme and the purpose of the event was also explained to them.

The daily happenings in their own house were put forth to the women to think and reflect how the girls and women are treated today especially the differences that are made between the girls and boys.

The women contributed effectively by sharing the situations of their own families and villages. We also took them forward to think how women themselves are part of ill-treating girls and women. How are they training their own male children to dominate the women in future.

Finally we all agreed to take an initiative to celebrate this great event.

# International Day of the Girl Child – 2019

## Good Shepherd Mission, Madlur

The celebration began by invoking God's presence. All were invited to close their eyes and feel the presence of God in whom each one believes. We thanked God for the wonderful creation of woman and creating us as a girl/woman. After pausing for a while an awareness song (hennendigu abaleyalla nijavamma) was sung.



Sr. Japamale Rani conducted an exercise for the group in which they were asked to close their eyes and to imagine the world without women. After the exercise they were asked to share and some of the responses were: it's darkness, incomplete and meaningless.

They were also asked to imagine their own house without them. After which the children enacted a play in which they highlighted 'the importance of women in the family'. (Trained by Sr.Ramya)



The story of 'An angel asking God, why God was taking more time to create a woman', was shared and explained how strong a woman is. Some of the practical events were brought to their notice to think. They were, difference in daily wages, a reason for a man to drink is - he is tired after the work, man re-marries after the death of his wife because he is unable to bring up the children, etc.

Lighting a lamp is an auspicious vocation in our tradition. After a day of work women light lamps in their houses. As a light dispels the darkness in the house so also a girl/woman dispels the darkness in a home. A girl/woman makes a home complete. With this reflection we had a



procession with candle lit in our hands and the girls and women were asked to look at the candle as their own reflection. It was a touching experience where tears rolled in the eyes of women.

After the procession they shared their experiences.

The gist of it was : it is a great event that we had in our life. We never knew that there is such a day existing. Through this event we realised our strength and our importance in our family, village, society and the world at large. We acknowledge our mistake of showing differences between girls and boys in bringing up our children. We do realize by doing this we are training the men to dominate and illtreat us. We try our best to bring up our children equally. The girl

said : I am glad that we are all girls in our family and we are brought up well and getting good education. I will be happy if all girls are given opportunities like me.



Last but not the least, our male staff Mr.Rudrappa shared his experience of the event and also how he and his brothers are brought up being all 4 boys in the family. He feels very happy to work for the upliftment of women.



Thank You