

Shut for a year, govt. school in Karnataka reopens with initiative from village residents



The people of Channarayapatna motivated parents to enrol children in school

A government higher primary school, which was closed last year with no admissions, is now open, thanks to residents of Baralu village in Channarayapatna taluk.

So far six children have enrolled themselves and many more are expected to join soon, ensuring the reopening of the school for the current academic year.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) took the decision to close the school (first opened in 1936) in

2018-19 as there were no students and the teachers were transferred out. The parents in the village had preferred private schools close to the village.

However, about three months ago, a few village residents, began efforts to reopen it. They visited all families in Baralu and neighbouring villages and urged parents to send their children to the school. The DPI also responded to the initiative by posting three teachers to the school.

“The villagers have also come forward to contribute money towards salary of two more teachers,” said S.T. Savithramma, a social worker who worked hard to reopen the school. Under the banner of Kalpataru Rural Development and Training Organisation, the villagers conducted a summer camp for children. “On May 6 alone, six children enrolled in the school. Many more are expected to join. Many parents have decided to cancel their children’s admission in private schools. Farmers send their children to private schools and spend a lot on the education. This is one of the factors that make the farming community debt-ridden,” she said. The villagers are hopeful of increasing the student strength to 40 this year. “This school is an old one and old students have come forward to contribute funds and material. We are planning to hire a dance teacher and organise a spoken English camp for the students well before the regular classes start,” Savithramma said.