

## **Success story of Sode Ramulamma**

I am **Goram Ramulamma** hailing from an interior tribal village of Alligudem of Chintoor Mandal, of Andhra Pradesh, India. I was found working in the field by Fr Peter Daniel SJ in the year 1999. He had an eye on me and never left me alone till I reached the bridge school run by Loyola Integrated Tribal Development Society (LITDS) at Katukapalli. When I entered the campus with great fear I never thought that I could reach the stage where I am now. I am a professional teacher of Physical Education in the tribal school at present having completed Master's degree in Physical education. How did I reach this stage? Are you interested in listening to my story of transformation? Let me share with you!

Once I reached the bridge school we were asked to play all the time in the grounds without any classes. I enjoyed playing with the other children and really enjoyed my childhood which I lost for the past 12 years. As I was playing with the children the game called "Kabadi" a famous game in India, Fr. Peter Daniel noticed in me a special talent in playing Kabadi. Before I could begin my classes in the bridge school I was recognized as a great Kabadi player. My talent was identified by Fr. Peter Daniel. Hence along with my studies I was given special coaching in that particular game and I was sent for the local government Kabadi matches conducted in our area. In my first game itself I attracted the attention of the government Kabadi coach and I was grabbed by him to be in the Junior Kabadi team of Andhra Pradesh. You imagine how happy I was when I travelled in the train travelling more than 1000 kilometers from the forest to Uttar Pradesh in the North (close to Delhi) to represent my state of Andhra Pradesh in Kabadi. Yes, I played well and came back with the winner's cup along with the team mates. What a drastic change in my life? After returning from the tournament I concentrated on my studies and completed my 10<sup>th</sup> Class government examinations at LITDS, Katukapalli and then entered the sports hostel run by the government for my higher studies. I have completed the master's degree in Physical education and I am a professional physical education teacher in the tribal school of the same area of mine. What journey from the working field in the forest to the professional teacher of games and sports!! My dream is to train the tribal boys and girls to become like me or even to do better than I. I am so grateful to God for guiding me all through my life and brought me up to this stage. Oh! What a wonderful story to tell all my life to the younger generation in order to inspire them and I will do that certainly. Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Sode Ramulamma.