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To Whom It May Concern  
Support letter for BREDS

My name is Jeyaletchmi and I have a Master of Social Work degree and I am currently a professional member of the Australian Association of Social Workers. As part of my Master of Social work degree in 2015, I had the opportunity to do my professional placement in BREDS with 3 other graduating Australian social workers. During our placement, we lived with the local community and travelled between the local area of Srikakulam District and Visakhapatnam. We had extensive experience how BREDS works with the marginalised and vulnerable people.

BREDS work with the local farming and communities living in slum areas based on strength based and empowerment models. During our time, we observed that the local people are encouraged and motivated so that they are enable to take more control over the lives and secure a better livelihood with ownership and control of productive assets. There are a lot of local mobilisation via talks and meetings at communal halls so that local people are aware of government projects and incentives. We attended local community halls and observe how the Self Help Women group come together on a regular basis and discuss plans and to improve various aspects of living, both economic and non-economic. We talk to the locals who were in charge of Project Sustenance, people who took pride and responsibility to cultivate and protect indigenous plants.

In my personal opinion, I would recommend that BREDS would further benefit from your support. BREDS staff are dedicated and accountable for their actions which is exemplified by their Secretary/CEO, Mr Ramakrishna Raju. I have noted a number of female staff given opportunities to work and lead the staff meeting. Mr Raju is a dedicated person who is passionate about the vision for BREDS to work on sustainable livelihoods for the local communities.

BREDS would continue to work in terms of social justice, gender equality and community empowerment. In addition, the Women Self Help Groups would continue to advocate and support women in domestic violence situations. We listened as women shared their personal stories of family violence and how BREDS supported them and now living independently and having their own economic livelihood.

Please feel to contact me if you have any further queries

Thank you

Regards

*Jeyaletchmi Arumugam*

Jeyaletchmi Arumugam (Ms)