



## MAKKALA jaagruthi....

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“There is no other platform greater than Makkala Raaga to bring out the talents of children and help realise their dreams”, said Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary of the Department of Education, Government of Karnataka.

Addressing the gathering at the Chowdiah Memorial Hall today, witnesses to a spectacular show ‘Makkala Raaga’, a dance drama musical showcased by nearly 500 children from marginalized communities, she appreciated the efforts of Makkala Jagriti, an NGO that works with marginalized children and youth, in bringing out the talents of the children. ‘Makkala Jagriti is doing a commendable job in collaboration with the Department of Education, in Government schools and in urban poor communities. There could be no other platform greater than this to bring out the talents of children and help realise their dreams, she said.

The children, who hail from more than 12 Makkala Jagriti learning centres established in Government schools, Government homes for children, urban poor communities and youth development centres, staged an hour long breathtaking dance drama musical, showcasing the rich cultural, philosophical and geographical heritage of the state of Karnataka. They showcased the glory of many ancient kings, philosophers and pioneers of the state and the rich cultural heritage, the rich flora and fauna of the state through a captivating narrative of dance and drama.

Janardhan Raj Urs, artistic director of the Natya STEM Dance Kampni and choreographer of the production said, ‘I am really overwhelmed today, being witness to this performance put together by children who come from very difficult backgrounds. Dance transcends several socio – cultural barriers that these children are subject to, by bringing them together on a single platform. This platform has truly enabled the children to dream bigger and aspire to achieve higher in their lives’, he said.

Chaitra, from the Government Higher Primary School, Aduodi who performed at the event,

said 'I never thought I would be able to perform in front of such a huge audience and bring out the talents in me. I hope more children can bring out their talents just like I got this opportunity!' Meenakshi, from the Government Telugu Higher Primary School, said, "I am really happy to be performing on such a huge platform in front of such an august audience! I request my teachers and school to provide such opportunities to children in more schools and help them bring out their talents."

Murali M, Chief Functionary of Makkala Jagriti, said, "Makkala Raaga, will provide a huge platform for children from the marginalized communities, who have been deprived of many opportunities to bring out their talents. The children have been training hard for more than a month and are really excited to be a part of the event", he said.