Rural Development Trust (RDT) believes that youth participation in sports is necessary for the growth, self-esteem and confidence of rural children. Through the Anantapur Sports Academy (ASA), it has been undertaking suitable sports initiatives to bring out the hidden talents of children throughout Anantapur.

The ASA, founded in 2000, presently caters to the 8 disciplines of Cricket, Football, Hockey, Tennis, Judo, Special Olympics, Softball & Archery. The ASA ensures the holistic development of the youth of Anantapur, especially those from underprivileged and marginalised backgrounds, by providing them with quality and sustainable access to sports coaching, infrastructure and equipment, along with a focus on education, nutrition and career development. Currently, the ASA caters to a total of 8,571 youth on a weekly basis (40% being girls), with the help of 150 coaches.

About Rural Development Trust (RDT)
RDT is a non-governmental organization, based out of Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, carrying out various need-based welfare and integrated programs of development to improve quality of life of rural poor, especially marginalized and underprivileged sections.
ASA Model

- **Grassroot Programs**: Provides regular and sustainable access to participation in sport, through village clubs, sub-centres and schools. Currently, 116 centres with 7,741 children.
- **Development Centres**: Regional sports centres providing structured support in sports, education, nutrition and career building. Currently, 5 centres with 320 children, including residential centre for Special Olympics.
- **Anantapur Sports Village (ASV)**: Nurtures talented and motivated athletes to succeed by provision of quality sports training, education and support in professional and personal development. Currently, 7 programs (5 residential) with 510 children.

**Football**

- 23 centres with 1,123 children.
- Collaboration with Spanish clubs CF Sant Vicenti & Sant Cugat FC to promote Football among rural youth.
- Partnership with 2nd Division I-league club, Fateh Hyderabad FC, to facilitate regular scouting of players from ASA.
- Partnership with Spanish based international organization, Soccer Services, for the training and development of Football coaches.
- Initiated Anantapur Football League in 2014 for U-14, U-17 & U-20 boys and girls.

**Hockey**

- 35 centres with 1,659 children.
- Collaboration with Spanish NGO, Stick for India, started by Spanish Internationals, Andreu Enrich & Santi Freixa, to promote Hockey among rural youth.
- Hockey India recognized Academy.
- Organise several invitational Hockey tournaments for teams from all over India.

**Judo**

- 38 centres with 3,976 children.
- Partnered with Judo Federation of India (JFI) to open the India’s only 2nd JFI Training Centre at ASV.

**Cricket**

- 14 centres with 781 children.
- Collaboration with Anantapur District Cricket Association & Andhra Cricket Association for technical & operational support.
- Organising a Rural Cricket Tournament since 2000.
- ASV has hosted 16 Ranji Trophy matches since 2004.
- Programs run for physically disabled and speech/hearing impaired youth.

FOCUS SPORTS