[letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) via [Swarna Latha](https://www.facebook.com/r.swarnalatha?fref=mentions).

**The word needs to spread. Childhood deserves health.**

Dear Sir,

The malnutrition crisis in India is extremely vexing. On the one hand we have bountiful harvests year after year, our godowns are overflowing and food grains are rotting, and on the other, we have shameful numbers of malnourished children and other deprived citizens. One is always left wondering whether the gap between policy and implementation steadily becomes narrower, or is forced wider, in our country's economic march forward.

In this scenario, let us recognise the small interventions by individuals and concerned citizens. I cite here one such intervention, in Paalaguttapalle and a few other villages in southern Andhra Pradesh.

The undernourished children are given milk, with some ayurvedic tonic medicines (Ashwagandhadhi churnam) and an iron compound (loha bhasmam) under a health initiative termed as 'Jeevani Milk Programme'. The intervention is carried out by volunteers, care-givers, teachers and selfless individuals under advice and care-filled directions from Ayurvedic practitioner Dr PLT Girija.

Such local small-scale interventions can indeed go a long way in addressing the malnutrition crisis highlighted recently in your pages.

Details of the related efforts can be accessed here - [http://paalaguttapalle.blogspot.com/…/milk-and-ashwagandhad…](https://paalaguttapalle.blogspot.com/2017/01/milk-and-ashwagandhadhi-and-loha.html)

Regards,  
R Swarnalatha