

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

August 2008

Nomadic 'livelihoods'



Opportunities for the Poor?!? - 10

Handlooms Value-Chain - 18

Social Map - 20



As the 61st Independence Day Celebrations pass, inflation seems to have settled at a 13-year high of 12%+ and the food prices appear to have stabilized at their higher level.

Monsoons aided by low pressure in Bay of Bengal, have become aggressive and many parts of the country have witnessed floods and water logging while some others continued to be dry. Many lives, livelihoods, crops and loom pits have been casualties. As the down pour continued, the power cuts have come down.

While some people are suffering from power cuts in their houses, many others, without houses of their own, have become nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and communities. As the time elapsed, many of them stopped displaying the character of a nomadic. At the same time, many non-nomads, have started to migrate in search of business, employment and livelihoods opportunities. These are 'nomads' with opportunities. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored the livelihoods of the traditional nomads. In the course of globalization, liberalization, privatization and marketization, in the course of increasing pace of life and life styles, there are a large number of livelihoods that are disappearing and losing relevance. Many of these declining livelihoods are the traditional livelihoods of these nomads. Many of these livelihoods, like the tribal livelihoods, are intimately linked to the nature, forests and common lands and waters. Some are around livestock. Some are artisans and craftsmen. Some are service providers. Some are dependent (asrita) livelihoods. While a few could get recognition as Scheduled Tribe, most others are reckoned as Backward Communities. They number more than 100 million in the country! They need to come together for their solidarity, show of strength and gaining attention and recognition they richly deserve, like other marginalized and vulnerable communities and groups. They need to strengthen their livelihoods that remained and they need to find new livelihoods in which they can enter in huge numbers.

New 'nomad's, most of the development workers, business managers and other nomads with opportunities, need a separate understanding and appreciation. Let us reserve it for some other time.

Kamaladevi Chattopdhyay, a legend, has built and sustained a number of national organizations in the handlooms and handicrafts domain and women empowerment, including All India Women's Conference, Indian Cooperative Union, Handicrafts Museums, National School of Drama, etc., apart from her direct work in handlooms and handicrafts.

Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed is a must for any serious development worker.

As we have begun to race towards services sector, the National Skill Development Policy, Mission and Corporation are a necessary step in that direction to offer people knowledge, skills and tools to tap the emerging opportunities in the sector. While National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides/guarantees 100 days of the employment to the poor, this Mission has the potential increase incomes of the poor if it facilitates them to enter the emerging sub-sectors. When we just have formal skill training in about 200 vocations, we need to step this up to at least 3000, as much as in Germany – less diverse country.

Kovel Foundation is an example of the tribal non-timber forest produce collectors in the agency and tribal sub-plan area coming together to improve their knowledge, skills and practices so that they derive better % of the consumer rupee on a sustainable basis. It also helps them to conserve, regenerate and augment their forest resources.

Sheelu Francis, a gender activist and an internationally recognized trainer in participatory processes, leads Women's Collective and its 1.5 lakh members towards asserting their rights and occupying their rightful socio-economic and political space. We learn from their way of working with children now with an understanding that they become women in a few years.

When a majority of more than 10000 lift irrigation schemes in the country have stopped functioning primarily due to the absence of or weak community organization, 'Prerana' has shown that reviving these can be attempted with less than 10% of the investment into them and dramatically have irrigation to lakhs of acres. Similar effort is plausible with a large number of tanks and their cascades in the country.

Your cooperation, support, critique and encouragement has helped us to move ahead in the path of 'livelihoods'. You may not realize what difference you are making to 'livelihoods'. You have allowed us to grow with you. Let us get going.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. G.', with a horizontal line underneath.

G. Muralidhar
the 'livelihoods' team

‘livelihoods’ team

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India’s 61 st Independence Day	7
World Population Day 2008 - July 11	

Cover Story 12

Nomadic Livelihoods!

Not too long ago, the diversity of nomadic livelihoods made the Indian villages vibrant. But today they are losing out in changing India. ‘livelihoods’ team attempts to understand the plight of nomadic lives and livelihoods...

Independence Day Livelihoods	16
Social Map	20
Coastal Management Zones	24
Volunteers From Grassroots	27

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Responses		4
News		5
Legend	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay	8
Intervention	Reviving Lift Irrigation	9
Perspectives	Opportunities for the Poor !?!	10
Interview	Only if Everyone Work s...	17
Value Chain	Handlooms	18
Organization	Kovel Foundation	22
Policy	National Skill Development Policy	26
The Contrasts	Surging English Medium Teachers!	28
	Vanishing Cycles for Rent!	28
Worker	The ‘Collective’ Women Sheelu	29
Books	Pedagogy of the Oppressed - Paulo Freire	30
Resources	Vocational Training Centers in Tribal Areas	31
Story	Being of the ‘Nothing’!	32
Trends	Food & Calorie Consumption	33
Case studies	Journey from Coconuts to Call Center Caught in Spider Weave	34
‘Yoga’kshemam		35

Response

Congratulations for bringing the edition. I always find it interesting to read. July issue on dry land farming is particularly interesting because it talks about the rising problem in our country. If possible also include a section on convergence to benefit the farmers and others on low cost technologies which are basically the innovations of the farmers themselves.

Neeta

July 2008 edition of 'livelihoods' is very informative and colourful. The increase in the readership for the magazine does not surprise me. I convey my deep sense of appreciation to the entire team for their efforts and wish them all the best.

Ramesh V Babu

We at IRFT have found the red gram value chain analysis in July issue very interesting. It has lot of details and made up a interesting presentation. We want to know if it is possible to for you to present cotton value chain.

Nirav

I am in the field of rural development particularly involved in promotion of livelihoods through formation and stabilization of community institutions and your magazine always adds new learnings to me. Thanks for the continuous send.

Mukesh Kumar

Contributions Solicited

If you would like to contribute an article or have something interesting to share, email or mail it to us. If it contains pictures or files please remember to attach them to the email. Please include your name, email, contact information such as phone number, location (nation) and area of expertise. If your article is accepted an editor will prepare the article for publication and may edit it for accuracy, grammar, style, and length.

Email address is akshara@aksharakriti.org ; please include "livelihoods Contribution" in the subject line .

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Consciously or unconsciously, every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of doing this service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make, not only our own happiness, but that of the world at large.

Merging Job Schemes In The Pipeline

- Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Program may fuse into Prime Minister's Employment Guarantee Program (PMEGP). This new scheme will benefit people from both rural and urban areas. PMEGP will be implemented in the Eleventh Five Year Plan and shall be in force for four years.

Good Nutrition Antidote To Fluorosis

- A case from Midland City in USA reveals that diet rich in calcium, magnesium and vitamin C can cripple the debilitating effects of high fluoride content. In Midland fluoride content ranges from 2.6 to 4.6 parts per million but there is not a single case of fluorosis. The WHO report also reiterates that proper diet can be vital check on fluorosis. Fluorosis in many parts of India particularly in the Deccan Plateau manifests itself as skeletal fluorosis. Individuals are crippled at very early age thus impacting their productive years in life.

108 Will Scale Up - The state government of Andhra Pradesh is scaling up ambulance services to all the mandals in the state. The 108 ambulance service is a part of the Emergency Management Research Institute and has been operational since 2005. Currently there are about 650 108 ambulances in service. The average time for an ambulance to reach the emergency spot is 18 minutes in the rural areas and 13.5 in the cities. Efforts are on to reduce this time to around ten minutes.

National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning

- Virtual IIT education is on its way. Its now possible to get IIT education online. The National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning has 129 courses available on the website - <http://nptel.iitm.ac.in> in HTML and PDF formats. There are 110 video courses that are regularly broadcast on DD Eklavya. Thanks of efforts from IIT-Madras. NPTEL is a joint venture between seven IITs and the IISC. Funding is done by the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development. In the last 5 years NPTEL has created material for 239 courses in various

disciplines including mechanical, civil, computer science, electrical and electronics and communication engineering. All these are available online in video format. In 2008 NPTEL is making 110 courses available on YouTube - www.youtube.com/iit. Going forward the plan is to be able to start virtual degree programs. There is need for at least 1,50,000 teachers for 2.3 million engineers in India as against the current availability of just about 10000 teachers. Virtual learning can fill this gap.

Livelihoods Training For Rural Youth

- The state government of Andhra Pradesh through Employment Guarantee and Marketing Mission (EGMM) has entered into agreement with 13 firms to train one lakh rural youth in various livelihoods like telecom sales, BPO tech, data entry and computer maintenance, diamond cutting and polishing and jewellery manufacturing, construction, financial accounting, customer services, hotel management, nursing assistants, hardware, networking, call center and Auto CAD. The EGMM has its own Rural Retail Academy, English, Soft skills and computer academy and security academy imparting free trainings.

Safe Drinking Water For Haryana

- Nandi, Andhra Pradesh based Foundation will be setting up water purification plants in 100 villages of Haryana under its Community-based Safe Drinking Water program. This will initially cover a population of about 5 lakhs. Nandi will use reverse osmosis technology and its partner will be TATA Projects. Panchayats will take up part of the plant costs. Users will pay 10 paisa per litre of water. The money collected will be used from plant's maintenance. The water contamination levels in the chosen districts - Mewat, Mahendragarh, Jhanjhar and Kaithal is very high currently.

Mukhya Mantri Kanya Suraksha Yojana For Girl Child

- This yojana was inaugurated in Bihar to ensure security for girl child. Under this program the new born girl of the BPL family of the state would be participating in the equity through mutual fund. The government will invest Rs.2000 in the name of every

new born baby girl under the Children Carrier Balanced Fund of the UTI Mutual Fund. After attaining the age of 18 the girl would be getting Rs.24,751.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

- This health insurance scheme for the poor by the central government of India aims to cover 60 million households across the country in the next five years. Under the scheme smart cards are given to BPL families. These cards will enable beneficiaries and their family members to access healthcare worth Rs. 30000 a year from listed public and private hospitals. The yearly premium is Rs.30. The system also keeps migrants in mind by making the smart cards portable. The business model behind the programme obliges the insurance companies to distribute as many smart cards as possible because it is these cards that determine their income. So far Oriental Insurance, National Insurance, United India Insurance, ICICI Lombard, New India Assurance and Cholamandalam MS General Insurance have accepted the deal in 12 states.

Edible Oil To Cost Less Through PDS

- All ration card-holders will now be able to get edible oil at Rs.15 a kilo through PDS. Each card holder will be eligible to get only one kilo a month. This might give some relief in these times of soaring prices.

Hunar For Muslim Girls

- A scheme called Hunar for providing vocational training to Muslim girls is launched in Bihar. In the first phase about 1200 Muslim girls are likely to benefit and the second phase will be expanded to include 50000 girls. The scheme was devised by the National Open School in collaboration with the Bihar Education Project Council. It was launched jointly by the central government and the state government. Under the scheme, the girls will be trained in seven courses including jute production, cutting and tailoring, early childhood care and education and beauty culture. Bihar is home to more than 10 million Muslim population and only 36 per cent of the Muslims in this state are literate.

Kerala Levies on Retain Chains

- Kerala is the first state in India that slapped a 10 per cent surcharge on big

retail chains. The surcharge would be applicable to retail chains including direct marketing chains, which import at least 50 per cent of their stock from outside the state. Also commercial ventures whose 75 per cent of the total business is in retail space and total turnover exceeds Rs.5 crore a year would come under the purview of the surcharge. The retail chains run by the state and those in the cooperative sector are exempted.

Expanding Formal Financial Sector Base - According to a Boston Consulting Group report, by 2010, three crore new households will come into the formal financial sector fold and this base of new consumers has the potential to contribute Rs 10,000 crore to the revenues of banks and Rs 20,000 crore to that of insurance firms.

More Tourist Spots In AP - The state of Andhra Pradesh is executing 14 central-assisted tourism projects. This will cost over Rs.150 crore. In addition to this the state government is undertaking tourism projects worth Rs.4.5 crore. It is expected that the tourism sector is boost employment and contributes to economic growth including development of tourist regions. Official statistics indicate that about 6 lakh international tourists visited the state last year.

Legal Training For PRI Personnel - Bihar state government will provide legal training to elected sarpanch and panch of the Gram Panchayats so that they can settle petty disputes in the area of their jurisdiction more efficiently and effectively. The help of judiciary will be taken in imparting the training.

Jute Park In AP - Andhra Pradesh Jute Development Centre Limited (APJDCL) will be setting up a jute park in Visakhapatnam district. The outlay for this is Rs.100 crore. APJDCL is recently formed by the jute industrialists in the state. The proposed park will come in 150 acre land and will have four integrated mills. These mills will bring out fine yarn, textiles and fabric. Diversified jute products will be manufactured by 90 small and medium enterprises. This park in Visakhapatnam will be one of the six being established in the country. Currently the state has about 2 lakh acres under mesta jute crop in the

two districts of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

Digital Map For Orissa - Six towns in Orissa will have digital maps and Geographic Information System (GIS) database of their areas to check disorderly growth and help in better urban planning. This facility will be provided under the National Urban Information System aimed at achieving better planning and management of urban settlements. The scheme with a outlay of Rs.66.68 crore will cover Cuttack, Rourkela, Balasore, Baripada, Berhampur, and Sambalpur. The information system would consist of urban land use, soil, groundwater, surface water, vacant zones, green zones, transport system and satellite towns/villages in the neighborhood.

Targeted Rural Initiative For Poverty Termination And Infrastructure - The state government of Orissa is launching World Bank funded Targeted Rural Initiative For Poverty Termination And Infrastructure (Tripti) in 8369 underdeveloped villages of 10 coastal districts of Orissa. The districts included are Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak and Angul. An estimated 12.55 lakh rural families would be benefitted by the project. Of these more than 6 per cent belong to ST and more than 20 per cent belong to SC communities. Under the project a permanent physical infrastructure would be built up in rural areas and income generating assets would be created. Self-sustained and community-managed institutions will be developed. The project would enable the rural poor and entrepreneurs to develop their organization and provide access to better services, credit and assets from the public and private sector agencies and financial institutions. The project will also invest in the capacity building of public and private service providers and promoting microfinance and agri-business sectors.

US Faculty to Shillong IIM - The IIM in Shillong, officially called the Rajiv Gandhi IIM, will be first premier B-School to hire foreign faculty to boost its brand value. The foreign faculty includes both NRIs and American nationals.

Ramon Magsaysay For Amte Couple

- The 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership goes to the Amte couple - Prakash Amte and Mandakini

Amte. The award goes for their efforts in enhancing the capacity of the Madia Gonds to



adapt positively in today's India, through healing and teaching and other compassionate interventions. Prakash Amte is the son of renowned Gandhian humanitarian Baba Amte. Soon after completing his medicine Prakash joined his father to work among the Madia Gonds. He and his wife abandoned their urban practice and move to remote Hemalkasa. Here with the help of Swissaid they set up hospital and treated patients free of charge. Today the hospital treats about 40000 patients a year. They also established a school for both academic and vocational education. The school today is home to 600 students. The school was also leveraged to introduce settled agriculture to Madia Gonds.

SAARC Food Bank - To strengthen food security SAARC eight member countries have decided to establish a regional food bank. Decision was also made to jointly carry agricultural research and share technology to augment food production. Under the agreement the bank would act as a regional food security reserve for SAARC member countries during food shortages and emergencies as well as provide regional support to national food security efforts, foster inter-country partnerships and regional integration and solve regional food shortages through collective action. The bank would hold 241,580 MT in rice and wheat reserves contributed by each SAARC member. The reserves would remain the property of individual member country. New food warehouses will be constructed in the member countries and logistics relating to local procurement and international purchase of extra food grains will be worked out. An administrative system and distribution network will be developed. ☺

India's 61st Independence Day

This year India completes 61 years of its existence as an independent democracy. The country held itself together. The people of India importantly the poor of India held themselves together with a hope. The poor and the marginalized have long waited with patience for the country to deliver. They waited for 'Equitable Distribution of Wealth' to bear fruit, for 'Garibhi Hatao' to remove poverty and now they are listening to the new music – 'Globalization'. The dream to have a country free from social and economic inequalities seems to be withering!

Today we have a divided country – the shining India and the suffering Bharat. The former comprise the big players – investors, realtors and their crew, professionals, bankers & insurers all thriving on 'corporate culture'. They live in cosmos, metros, speak English and make anywhere between rupees 50,000 to 25 crore for their living. Their lifestyles are easily comparable to those of the developed countries. This division is India!

The other division is the voiceless majority. They comprise workers in the unorganized sector, farmers, artisans, small entrepreneurs, dalits, adivasis, nomadic and those practicing livelihoods that hardly come to the mainstream reckoning. These people make rupees 1000 to 5000 to eke out a living. They spend about 70 per cent of their income on food, thanks to the rising food prices that pushed this percentage even higher. They have no livelihoods security. They dwell in places with minimal to no infrastructure facilities. This division is Bharat!

India is emerging rapidly with a growth rate of about 9 per

cent. Wealth is accumulating in the hands of top few. The exploitation of natural resources to propel the growth knows no bounds. 'Jal, Jameen, Jungle Hamara' (water, land and forest is ours) cries of the poor and the marginalized are faintly heard. In the name of development food producing lands are giving room to infrastructure development. New world industry – 'Tourism' is embracing villages promising development. The fine prints are ignored for now! The country is racing to convert more and more people into wage labour, thanks to malls, retail chains that successfully gobble down small entrepreneurs. For long India was referred to as the 'sleeping elephant'. The elephant is now out of slumber and trampling the poor mans' life and livelihoods to forge ahead! The poor remain hapless audience to all this.

Development is needed. Wealth needs to be created but everyone needs to have the rights and opportunities to access and use this wealth. The producers should be the owners. Today our farmer is languishing in poverty! He/she is reduced to being a food producing machine while someone unknown down the value chain is reaping the fruit. What does 61 years of independence mean to the poor farmer?

The poor are producers, they are consumers, they do business, they are entrepreneurs, they are managers, they are leaders; they need opportunities to unleash their potential, they need skills. It is imperative for all stakeholders particularly the development worker to understand this reality and work with the poor on these lines. The poor hold a promise, they cannot be ignored! ☹

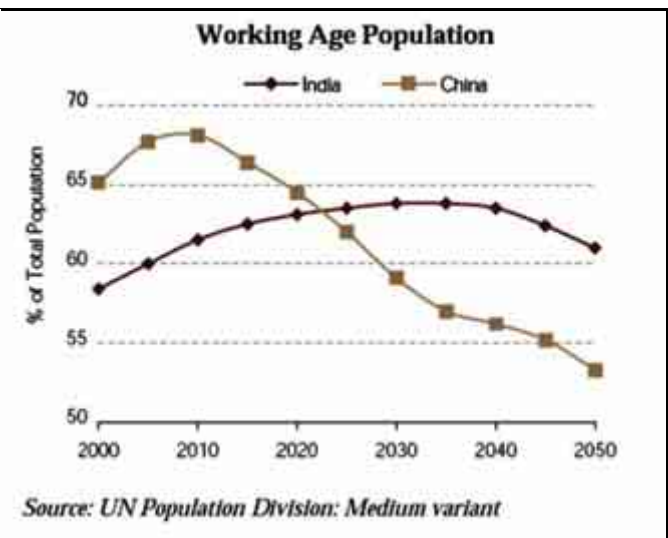
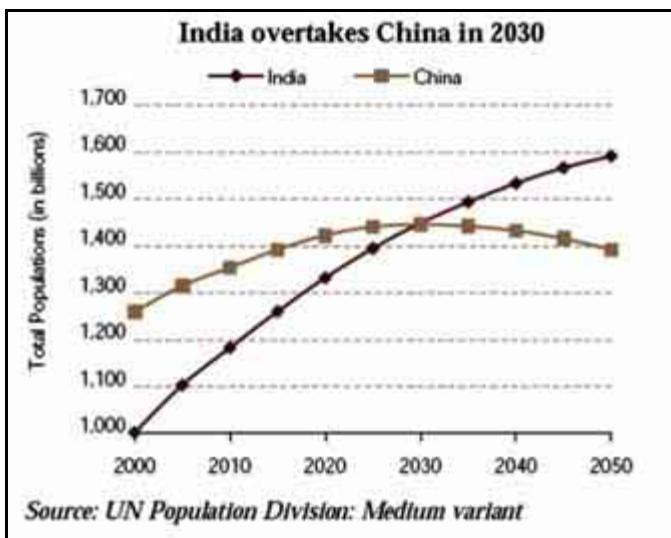
World Population Day 2008 - July 11

As of July 2008 the world's population is estimated to be over 6.6 billion and at its current growth rate, this number is expected to touch 9 billion by the year 2042. India and China together account for more than a third of the world's population.

More than 140 countries observed World Population Day this year. The theme of World Population Day 2008 is "**Family Planning: It's a Right; Let's Make it Real**". The objective is to raise awareness of the many benefits of family planning

including its vital role in enhancing maternal health, gender equality and poverty reduction.

India's population is slated to rise by almost 350 million over the next quarter century, twice as fast as the US, Western Europe and China combined. India's urban population is projected to rise from 29 per cent of total population in 2005 to 41 per cent by 2030. About 188 million couple in India require contraceptive coverage but about 50 % of them have either no knowledge or access to contraceptives. ☹



Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

A Gandhian, a freedom fighter, a social reformer, a trade unionist, a patron of arts and a revolutionary of her times, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay will be long remembered for her enormous efforts in organizing women around various causes and for working towards improving the lives and livelihoods of the artisans of the country.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was born to Ananthaya Dhareshwar and Girijabai on April 3rd, 1903. They were an aristocratic family from Mangalore. Kamaladevi lost her father at a very young age and was brought up by her mother.

Kamaladevi was a bright student. She studied Sanskrit drama tradition of Kerala – Kutivattam during school. In 1917, at the age of 14 she got married but continued her education. However within two years she was widowed. Defying the orthodox rules, Kamaladevi moved to Chennai and continued her education. There she met a well-known poet, play writer and actor and brother of Sarojini Naidu, Harindranath Chattopadhyay and married him. The couple had one son.

Shortly after marriage, Kamaladevi accompanied her husband to London where she received diploma in Sociology from University of London. It was during this time Kamaladevi heard about Gandhi and his non-cooperation movement. She returned to India and joined Gandhi's Seva Dal to work for social upliftment. As incharge of the women's section she involved in recruiting, training and organizing girls and women of all ages across India to become voluntary workers. Kamaladevi soon became an active organizer of the women and youth wing of the Indian National Congress. She truly represented the changing face of 20th century Indian women. Kamaladevi was the first woman to run for a Legislative seat in India.

Kamaladevi founded All India Women's Conference which soon became a reputed national organization working for legislative reforms. She travelled to many European nations during this time and got inspired to establish educational institutions run for and by women. Lady Irwin College for Home Sciences in New Delhi thus came into existence apart for many others.

Kamaladevi took part in Salt Satyagraha and was arrested in Bombay and spent an year in prison. In 1936, she became president of the Congress Socialist Party. When World War II broke out, Kamaladevi toured the world to drum up support for India's independence.

In post-independent India, Kamaladevi worked relentlessly with more than 50,000 refugees in establishing new homes, health facilities and new professions. The refugees received training in new skills. She set up Indian Co-operative Union and self-employment schemes.

Kamaladevi went on to rejuvenate the traditional industries like weaving, and handicrafts. As chief of the Board of



Handicrafts, she started pension system for the craftsmen. She set up a series of crafts museums like the Theatre Crafts Museum in Delhi, to promote India's indigenous arts and crafts and serve as a storehouse for indigenous knowledge. Kamaladevi instituted the National Awards for Master Craftsmen and a culmination of her enterprising spirit lead to the setting up Central Cottage Industries Emporia, through out the nation to cater to the tastes of a nation, rising to its ancient glory.

In 1964 Kamaladevi started the Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography (NIKC), Bangalore, under the aegis of Bharatiya Natya Sangh, affiliated to the UNESCO. She was instrumental in setting up the All India Handicrafts Board, and The Crafts Council of India. She was the first president of the World Crafts Council, Asia Pacific Region. She also set up the National School of Drama and later headed the Sangeet Natak Academy and went on to become a member of UNESCO.

The Government of India conferred on Kamaladevi, Padma Bhushan in 1955 and Padma Vibhushan in 1987. She also received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1966) for Community Leadership. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Academy Fellowship, Ratna Sadhya, in 1974. UNESCO honoured her with an award in 1977 for her contribution towards the promotion of handicrafts. Shanthinikethan honoured her with the Desikottama, its highest award. UNIMA (Union Internationales de la Marlonette), International Puppetry organization, also made her their Member of Honour.

Today, the World Crafts Council gives two awards in her memory, the Kamaladevi Awards and the Kamala Sammaan, for exceptional craft persons or to individuals for their outstanding contribution to the field of Crafts. Apart from that the Crafts Council of Karnataka, also gives Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Vishwakarma Awards each year to noteworthy crafts persons. For over three decades now, Bhartiya Natya Sangha has been awarding the 'Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya Award' for the best play of the year.

Kamaladevi is an accomplished writer. Some of her books include The Awakening of Indian women, Everyman's Press, Socialism and Society, Chetana and Traditions of Indian Folk Dance. Her autobiography Inner Recesses and Outer Spaces: Memoir became very famous.

Kamaladevi's immense contribution in organizing and working with women, refugees and artisans will continue to inspire us. She was truly a women ahead of her times! 🌟

Reviving Lift Irrigation

Irrigation systems are the life lines of agriculture across. About 40 per cent of the cultivable land in India is irrigated by rivers, canals, tanks, bore wells or other means. Irrigated lands are instrumental in producing the food grains of the country.

Most commonly it is assumed that with a large enough water body close by, the lands get adequately irrigated. However this is not true in the case of fields that are situated higher than that of the source of water. In earlier days such fields were irrigated by lifting water manually or with the use of bullocks. The advent of lift irrigation eased this situation and water is now made available to larger highland areas. Lift irrigation helped reduce avoid drought conditions and also helped provide for drinking water. It not only triggered increase in food production but also increase in the employment days.

Under lift irrigation system water is pumped from the source to the main delivery chamber which is situated at the top most point in the command area. This water gets distributed to the fields of the beneficiary farmers through a suitable and proper distribution system. The distribution system has its own challenges like the design of the gravity pipelines, scattered and varying topography, differences in the area of individual farmers, the diameter of the pipe carrying more water to lower level fields, control by valves based on time schedule etc. These challenges gave room for farmers apathy, disputes and caused some systems to go defunct.

In India there are more than 1400 lift irrigation systems most of them financed by NABARD. These systems cover more 22000 hectares of land. India's biggest lift irrigation project, Devadula in the state of AP, became operational this year. Water will be lifted from Godavari to higher contours with the help of lifts. The project will lift five tmcft of water in the first phase to irrigate 60000 acres.

In the state of AP, there are about 1068 lift irrigation schemes of which about 50 per cent have gone defunct and the rest are performing poorly. To improve their performance



the government decided to handover the management to the beneficiary farmers. But this approach failed. Prerana, an NGO from Karnataka was asked to do root cause analysis. The study included 14 defunct and 2 working lift irrigation systems. The study thus conducted, stated institutional, financial and technical gaps that were not addressed before handing over to farmers. Lack of effective farmers committees, leaders, cooperation and participation of farmers, conflict resolution mechanisms, procedural systems, lack of awareness about participatory methods etc were identified. The design of the scheme was flawed in some cases, frequent motor repairs, low voltage etc contributed to technical failures. Non payment or irregular of water tax by farmers jeopardized the sustainability of the schemes. Prerana therefore suggested that a multi-pronged approach of stakeholder capacity building in institutional, technical and financial aspects is necessary including active coordination between different governmental agencies and with farmers institutions. The NGOs should be given a proactive role in strengthening the farmers committees and to act as an interface between them and the government.

Prerana's interventions in the area of lift irrigation are commendable. The focus of Prerana was to develop irrigation facilities for small farmers. Accordingly 250 lift irrigation systems were established, covering 600 families in Raichur district of Karnataka on the banks of the river Krishna. Prerana organized farmers groups and facilitated their capacity building, extended handholding support, made the projects bankable and mobilized funds of more than one crore from government, banks and organizations. The organization also revitalized 4 lift irrigation systems in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

Prerana's interventions reiterates the importance of adopting community participatory methods at various stages including the design and implementation without which the target group can easily get alienated from the project. Prerana also undertook other initiatives like promoting SHGs, non-formal schools, etc in the project area. 🌟



Opportunities for the Poor!?!?

It is pouring all over now. It is compensating more than the drought of monsoon in South in June and July! Another disaster struck!

The month that has gone by included our endless interactions with farmers, weavers, workers, consumers, students and people who work with them. We continued our engagement with the community organizations to look at livelihoods interventions as their projects.

We have begun to work with NIRD in offering their one-year program in rural development management. We are involved in offering the course - Rural Development Management – Principles and Practices - that introduces the entire program and the other course – Rural Organizations – so that we are able to introduce the elements, concepts, principles, tools and practices of Livelihoods Management that are relevant to Rural Development Management, to the new young professionals. It is heartening to note that Government of India is investing to produce development management professionals directly. It endorses our belief that we need more and more bright minds have to come into this development and livelihoods domain. I hope, taking the cue, more and more players enter the ground to produce more and more professionals. Conservatively estimated, we may need 50000-60000 professionals servicing the poor even if we provide one professional per 1000 poor families. We are no where near this figure.

We continued to receive demand for self-learning livelihoods programs. This demand can not be ignored. We need investors; we need volunteers; we need support providers; so on so forth.

Since two years, there is an upward trend in the prices of various agricultural commodities. The increase is more pronounced since January 2008. The spurt in food prices has the potential to precipitate into a crisis exacerbating poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In this context, our survey in AP has revealed that there is an increase in the income of all the households during the past two years. NREGA, that provided 100 days of employment, is the main contributing factor to the increase in income of the poor in rural areas. The general increase in the services and the boom in the construction sector appear to have contributed to the increase in income of the urban poor. All the households are spending more on food now, vis-à-vis spending on food two years ago.

The acreage under paddy is decreasing. The fertile and irrigated lands are getting diverted away from paddy; and new irrigation areas are coming under paddy. Diversion of paddy fields is towards commercial crops like tobacco in Guntur and Prakasam, and horticultural crops across the state. Government is also discouraging water intense crops like rice. Additionally, areas near the cities and towns are



being converted into real estate. A contributing factor for increase in food prices is the decrease in the number of farmers growing paddy for self-provisioning, which resulted in an increase in the number of purchasers of paddy; and thus, demand.

Perspectives

G. Muralidhar

An overwhelming majority of the respondents feel that the government has not made any serious effort to reduce the increase in food prices. There is a popular perception that the government is giving small benefits in the form of including Rs.2/kg rice, red gram and oil in the PDS while fleecing the people by (a) increasing the prices of other items like diesel, fertilizers, etc., and (b) not regulating the trade that is increasing the prices of other items like seeds, and other essential commodities.

The two shifts - a. from security in 'having a stock of grain at home' to 'having ready cash'; and b. from eating 'coarse cereals and local varieties' to 'eating rice and processed foods' - are resulting in more farmer households having to depend on the market for their food needs; and sub-optimal use of the dry lands that are otherwise good for the production of coarse cereals. As the local varieties are not being consumed, the food is having to be transported over longer distances. With an increase in the cost of transportation, the food prices are also increasing. In the quest for cash crops, the acreage under food crops is declining.

It is heartening to note that the decisions on the food to be brought and prepared are taken by the woman in most of the households. However, the impact of food prices is felt by the women, with cutting down on travel and other expenditure, decrease in the intake of nutrition, decrease in consumption of alcohol, reduced expenditure on festivals/celebrations, etc., and some women joined the workforce to earn the extra-income required to support the family. The lower middle class is shifting from the finer varieties to normal varieties of rice. The urban poor and small service providers, who have more or less a constant income, are badly affected

by the rise in the food prices. The worst affected appear to be the migrant labor, who have no identity of their own, at the place of migration. They do not have access to PDS and suffer the full impact of the rise in the prices of food items.

Most of the increase in food prices is only in the marketing channels. The benefits of the price rise are not accruing to the end channel partners – farmers or consumers.

Regulating market channels, converting indirect subsidies to direct subsidies to the farmers (like MSP), reducing the length of the market channels by collectivising consumers (like APNA Bazar) and producers, need to be encouraged and supported.

Amidst the international food crisis and increased food prices in the country, with inflation little over 12%, Indian Government makes definitive steps on Nuclear Deal after winning the confidence vote. Beijing Olympics 2008 (29th Olympics) has begun with a most spectacular inauguration



beyond any one's imagination on 08 August 2008 at 08.08 PM. It is estimated that more than US\$ 43 billions have gone into it, three times the investment in the previous Olympics. About 15000 performers with 6-12 months practice time have welcomed 10000+ players from 205 countries. It is any body's guess, a million livelihoods for this year might have been made by this Olympics, with substantial incomes. The inaugural investment alone would provide for 20 lakh poor families!

Despite economic slow down, some sectors are doing well, according to International Business Report 2008 of Grant Thornton International. 30% of worldwide net increase in employment of 140+ million new jobs by 2020 will be in India. These include – Retail (frontline sales staff – about a lakh per year for 3-4 years, retail management graduates and MBAs for merchandising, supply chain management etc.); Real Estate/Infrastructure (1.5 lakh+ engineers, real estate brokers, appraisers, managers and consultants); Healthcare/Pharma (75000+ doctors, other healthcare professionals, scientists and pharma documentationists); Financial services (1 lakh+ portfolio managers, insurance and retail financial services); Hospitality/Facilities management (2 lakh+ hotel-related and other hospitality jobs, technical maintenance people for facilities); Consulting services (0.5 lakh+ HR and start-up specialists, business strategists); Entertainment (10000+ people in channels); IT

(10 lakh+ multitasking professionals per year in IT, ITES and ITES-BPOs); Customer services (1.5 lakh+ customer service technicians/managers); and Telecom (2 lakh+ professionals). Importantly, **there is an increasing demand for people who have a blend of two functional skills**, like a financial services person with business and marketing skills. Thus, middle class will continue to grow. What are the alternatives for employment for the poor who want to or who are forced to get out of the over crowded farm and traditional occupational sectors? How do we increase the incomes for the poor who continue in declining sectors? What are the items that can be added in their portfolios of livelihoods?

Monsoon affects people differently. Good monsoon is what farmers look forward to. Bad monsoon can ruin their fortune. The definition of 'bad' monsoon varies from place to place and time to time. Road users have difficulty when it pours, so on so forth. The people without roof over their heads get affected badly with rains, particularly if they are incessant. Some of these people are migrants. Some others are nomadic and semi-nomadic. They did not have the constitutional protection available to the Scheduled Tribes; they did not have the security and access like the resident communities. They number more than ten million families all over the country. They face extinction of their livelihoods patterns. They need to adapt to the new opportunities and face new challenges emerging from the changing face of the technology, entertainment, and environment. Will they? Who will help them? When we do not even know how many are there exactly, when some of them are not in the reckoning at all, when we do not have a clear account of the ways of their lives, how do we proceed? How do we organize them? How do we collectivize them?

Interesting issues and interesting livelihoods! There are a lot of people who make rakhis (raksha bandhans) and live. There are some others engaged in making Ganeshas for the Ganesh festival. Some of them are made with plaster of Paris. Can we think of them making with clay, like in the olden days? This looks feasible, and my colleagues are making a small attempt at Pochampally. The Independence Day Celebrations offers livelihoods to significant numbers in making flags, poles, photos, garlands, fireworks, campaigns and parades.

With incessant rains and heavy downpour, life halts. Meetings get postponed and/or cancelled. Water logging and overflowing streams halt travel. Drinking water runs out. With water in the pits of the looms, weavers get out of business. Farm works gets halted. Lives, Crops and Livelihoods are lost. Some in agency areas become sick. In the ultimate analysis, what matters the most for life is air, water and food. The rest is a matter of opinion really.

An informed debate on what matters the most for life on this planet or for that matter a human being is to be pursued in this hour of changing times, climates and priorities. I invite more and more people to pursue this, wherever they are, in their own way and contribute to this debate in a big way. ☺

Nomadic ‘livelihoods’

Comprising about 7 per cent of the population, the lives and livelihoods of the nomadic communities in India are in dire straits. Changing villages and consequent loss of patronage to their products and services, changing laws encroaching upon their traditional rights to resources, lack of permanent residence, lack of any asset base, extreme poverty and subhuman conditions, high illiteracy, lack of exposure to new skills and faint or no knowledge of changing livelihoods characterize the lives of the nomadic communities in the country today. They occupy the lowest rungs of social and economic ladder and are the most vulnerable. Many are not registered voters and face neglect. Worse, some nomadic communities continue to languish under the perils of Habitual Offenders Act of 1959.



Villages across the country were often frequented by members of nomadic communities. Indian villagers woke up to the melody of the conch shells of the wandering drummers and ballad singers. The women of the villages longed to hear the tinkling sounds of the bangles brought in by the wandering gypsies. People thronged around those selling beads, threads, ribbons, pins, perfumes and artificial hair.

The lohars or the blacksmiths arrive at the beginning of the agricultural season to repair and sell agricultural tools and implements while pastoral groups, like the Rabaris, were allowed to build temporary shelters on agricultural lands where the dung from their livestock helps fertilize the fields. There were the Ghatiya Jogis or the makers of grinding stones for household use, the Nandiwallahs who were welcomed by farmers for the manure their cattle provided to the fields, the Hakkipikkis of southern India who made a living from hunting or selling wild animals or the Vaidus or traditional healers who made medicines from forest plants. Where there were no roads, trucks and big markets, the Banjaras became the mobile meat transporters.

—◆
We have people and organizations shouting on behalf of many underprivileged like farmers, dalits, women, adivasis....But very few are rallying around the issues and travails of nomadic communities.

◆—
Some nomadic tribes like Piccukaguntlu, Gollasuddulu, Davaluru, Jangamulu in South India were favoured by particular castes for maintaining their family records and singing their past glory. The villagers were entertained by the acrobatic feats and monkey shows of Dommari and by snake charmers. Puppet shows were incredible. The Gondhals roam the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and MP, singing songs for food. The list goes on and on!

The sheer diversity of the livelihoods of each of these nomadic communities made the villages they visited vibrant. Each community occupied a particular socio-economic niche, fulfilling a specific need of village or sedentary communities. The nomadic communities established a symbiotic relationship with the villages they visited. By being on the move the nomads were able to tap into wider markets for the products and services they provide.

There are more than 500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in India comprising more than 10 per cent of the country's population including some left out of any official estimates. Among these communities while about 470 are placed in the SC, ST and OBC categories, the rest have no benefits at all.

The villages of India are undergoing rapid transformations since couple of decades. The forces of change have not left

anything untouched. Agriculture transitioned from subsistence cultivation depending on local economy to being impacted by global markets. The needs, tastes and fashions of the villagers are rapidly getting urbanized. The retail chains are now eyeing the rural areas for expanding their customer base. Science and



technology found deep inroads into the rural areas. Cell phones are everywhere. Villages are no longer living in isolation. All these changes have greatly diminished the patronage and demand for the products and services of the nomadic communities. These changes swept away the traditional mutually beneficial relationship that prevailed between the nomadic and sedentary communities of the Indian villages. The nomadic village visitors, who were once looked forward to, are now looked down upon. They occupy the bottom rungs of the economic ladder. Without any ostensible means of livelihoods they live in subhuman conditions.

Many nomadic communities do not own ration cards. They do not feature on voters' lists. They do not get subsidized homes or other such sops from the government that regularly hands these out to the underprivileged.

When people across are coming together on caste or tribe or regional basis and demanding economic and political rights, the nomadic communities being highly unorganized are not in any kind of reckoning. They face severe identity crisis. Today in India, we have people and organizations shouting on behalf of

farmers, some are shouting about Dalit rights and women issues have come to some limelight. Even issues associated with settled adivasis are finding room in variety of platforms, discussions, forums and panels. The only ones that remain orphaned are the nomadic communities. There



are very few rallying for their rights, for their livelihoods. in addition they are not even organized

There are about 120 million people in India belonging to Denotified Tribes (DNTs). They are the worst victims of neglect and oppression. Denotified Tribes include various tribes which were unjustly notified as 'criminal tribes' under the Criminal Tribes Act 1871 (or its amendments) during the years of British rule. Members of these communities were seen to be "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences". The Act required that these members be registered, their mobility was restricted and in the name of 'reform' they were confined to special camps where low-paid work could be extracted from them. Following independence this Act got repealed in 1952 but these tribes continue to face discrimination in the society and at the hands of the police. Some of them are not even recognized as STs and their status differs from state to state. In 1959, Habitual Offenders Act was introduced in various states that retained many of the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act. The National Human Rights Commission and most recently the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that the Habitual Offenders Act be repealed. But the Act continues to remain in force.

The forest laws formulated in pre and post-independent India deprived numerous pastoral nomadic communities of grazing land and most foragers lost free access to forests. Acts like the Wildlife Protection Act, the Act for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Act for Prevention of Magic and Drugs have disrupted the traditional livelihood supports of many nomadic communities. Not much thought went into providing any alternative means of livelihood for them. They are left in a state of limbo.

Nomadic communities to a large extent are becoming 'erstwhile' in terms of mobility. They have adapted or are in the process of adapting settled livelihoods. Some like Bhat tribe that specialize in puppet shows have adapted to playing drums at marriages to suit urban tastes. Some communities are migrating to cities and taking up urban livelihoods like driving auto rickshaws. Some are migrating temporarily to sell seasonal fruits. However many nomadic communities are becoming cheap unskilled labour in both urban and rural



National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes

A National Commission was constituted in 2006 to look into the development issues and development possibilities associated with Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes. Some of the findings and recommendations of the Commission include -

- ♦ Many nomadic communities are not receiving any benefits of freedom and social justice even though they are classified as ST, ST or OBC
- ♦ Several nomadic communities continue to dwell in temporary shelters. They have no permanent address and thereby missed out on land allocations for housing, ration cards, voter list, BPL list etc
- ♦ Some do not have caste certificates issued to them and therefore cannot avail government welfare and development schemes
- ♦ Low or no participation in Gram Panchayats
- ♦ No property laws or laws relating to dignity of women have no relevance in these communities and therefore women are abused
- ♦ Even though communities are denotified they continue to suffer harassment in the hands of society and state machinery
- ♦ Many have taken to begging and subjected to harassment under laws like Prevention of Beggary Act
- ♦ Those willing to earn livelihood by selling vegetables, fruits, dates, second hand clothes etc have difficulties getting licenses from local bodies
- ♦ Essential facilities for the settlements of DNTs and land to landless can be given
- ♦ Listing of the denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes by States/UTs is important
- ♦ Special campaign by Election Commission to include them in the voters list can be made
- ♦ A National Commission by an Act of Parliament on the lines of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes can be created to assist the Union and State governments to review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes

areas. The discrimination meted out against the Denotified Tribes continue to hamper their employment opportunities.

For communities that are not used to sedentary lives and livelihoods, their needs are different. Their contexts are different. Some of their problems are unique. Any plans for development of these nomadic communities should understand this reality and incorporate appropriate measures/interventions.

By being on the move, the nomadic communities have taken into their fold. different experiences and expertise. This is their great asset and can be leveraged. They can be given new and marketable skills. For instance those having the traditional skill set of brazing bronze vessels can be trained in welding skills. Similarly those with acrobat skills can be given required resources to take up jobs as physical education trainers.

Permanent housing for the nomadic communities is needed. There are arguments for and against permanent houses for mobile communities. Those that oppose argue that any permanent establishments will disturb the very basic mobile nature of these communities. But one has to look at the reality and understand that many of these communities are gradually moving towards settled life and livelihoods. They need houses to live; they need permanent address to be enlisted in PDS, as voters, as target group for any government schemes; they need opportunities to build their



asset base, their children need access to education, they need capital to set up small shops. In some states efforts were made to provide permanent houses to the nomadic communities. But without associated interventions in the area of livelihoods these efforts met with failure.

Any inclusive growth excluding nomadic population will be inconclusive. Various stakeholders at different levels can work with the nomadic communities to restore the dignity of life and livelihoods of the later. Establishment of the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic communities is a good beginning. Much more needs to be done to bring them into development path. ☺

Independence Day Livelihoods



Only if Everyone Works...

The voice of the majority is heard. The castes and tribes with significant population are the foremost beneficiaries of government programs. The voice of the minorities is seldom heard. They do not come into any government reckoning. Their livelihoods are faring poorly. They are struggling hard to make ends meet. They are neither able to practice their traditional livelihoods nor do they have required skills to take up new livelihoods. Sri P Narasimha hails from one such minority group. He belongs to a nomadic community in Andhra Pradesh. Narasimha talks to **Chinna Koteswararao** for 'livelihoods'

Question: What is your full name?

Answer : Pastam Narasimha

Question: Where do you live?

Answer: I was born and raised in Chikkadapally in Hyderabad. Even my grandparents and parents lived around here. We had a small piece of land in which we lived in a small hut. Later we sold the hut and moved to live in Azamabad.

Q: Please tell us about your family?

A: We are total 5 in our family. I have a wife, two sons and one daughter.

Q: Are you educating your children? If yes, what are they studying now?

A: Elder son passed 10th class. Younger son is studying 6th class. And my daughter stopped her education after 9th. We are in search of groom for her.

Q:Tell us about your traditional community occupation?

A: We belong to Jangala community depending primarily on begging for our livelihood. Every morning my grandfather used to go house to house blowing his conch and seeking alms.

Q:Did your grandfather not insist your father to take up the traditional occupation?

A:No. My father raised us by pulling rickshaw. We are a total of 4 children for our parents - 4 male and 1 female. None of us are engaged in our traditional occupation. Those following the traditional Jangala occupation are facing severe difficulties.

Q: What do you and your sibling do to make a living?

A: We are all married and live with our families independently. Three of us are involved in centering works. Our wives are in the business of exchanging steel vessels for used clothes. Some are also working as servant maids. One of my brother's-in-law collects household garbage in municipality rickshaw.



Q: What are the difficulties faced by your community? Can you tell us?

A: Most of our people do not have caste certificates and birth certificates. We cannot afford to send our children to study in private school. Our children are studying in government schools. They are not getting any kind of scholarships. We are shouldering the entire burden of their education including fee, books etc.

Q: Are you receiving any kind of support from the government?

A: In 2000, due to lot of rain, Azamabad slum got inundated with water. Then the government gave Rs.1000 in case and 20 kilograms of rice. Beyond this we never received any kind of help from the government. To avail any of the government schemes or programs we need our birth and caste certificates. However none of us have these including my children. As far as the government is concerned we have no identities. No one cares for us when we visit government offices.

Q: So, what do you think would solve your problems?

A: Government should recognize our community. They should resolve our problems. In Jangalu community many of us do not have stable livelihoods. Most of the works we do involve lot of physical labour and are less remunerative. Government should support us by giving us skills and improve our opportunities to enhance existing livelihoods or embrace new livelihoods. We need reservations if our children have to do better in education. Our children need scholarships. Special schemes should be formulated for communities like us.

Q:How do you like to sum up?

A:Every member of the family should work hard to make ends meet. I am involved in carpentry and my wife sells steel vessels in exchange of used clothes. If the government can extend some help we will be able to educate our children better. 🔄

Handlooms

After agriculture, handloom is the largest employment provider in India. It is estimated to provide employment to 12.5 million people in the country. More than 40 per cent are women weavers. Our country is home to 84 per cent of the handlooms in the world producing an average of 54,000 sq km cloth per year.

Broadly cloth in India gets produced in one of the three following ways - handlooms, power looms and mills. Of these, handlooms is the traditional way of production and continues to contribute to more than 16 per cent of the cloth production in the country.

30% of the total export income in India is generated by textile alone. The handloom industry mainly exports fabrics, bed linen, table linen, toilet and kitchen linen, towels, curtains, cushions, pads, tapestries and upholstery's, carpets and floor coverings.

There are several handloom clusters in India each specialized in the craft in its own way. For instance we have Madras checks from Tamil Nadu, Ikats from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, Tie and Dye from Gujarat and Rajasthan, Brocades from Banaras, Jacquards from Uttar Pradesh, Daccai from West Bengal, Phulkari from Punjab, Tanchoi from Surat etc. Kashmir weaver is world renowned for Pashmina and Shahtoosh shawls.

There are exclusive silk weavers, exclusive cotton weavers and also sico (silk + cotton) weavers in the industry.

The states of Kashmir and Karnataka in India are known for their mulberry silk. India is the only country in the world that produces all four commercially known silks - mulberry, tasser, eri and muga. Assam is the



home for eri and muga silk.

Handloom sector in India is highly decentralized and dispersed. Handloom weavers can be found in over 400 clusters in India. The plight of handloom weavers in many of these clusters is in dire straits. The middle players in the value chain like master weavers, traders have reduced the share of the handloom weaver drastically. Many weavers are highly dependent on the master weaver/trader for information on the end market, for credit to buy inputs, for loans towards consumption etc. Unfair competition from power looms has added to their woes.

There are different types of weavers - independent weavers who own loom. They buy inputs on their own and produce according to the needs of the market and sell the end product to the master weavers or traders.

Value-chain of Handloom

Inputs	Pre Production	Production	Value Addition	Marketing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Yarn * Dyes * Water * Fuel * Loom (jacquard, dabi, standing, pit, frame etc) * Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Processing the yarn * Dying the yarn * Drying the yarn * Placing the yarn on the loom after going to multiple smalls steps * Making spindles * Adjusting the warp and weft * Applying starch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weaving * Cutting and removing the fabric from the loom * Folding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Buta, hand embroideries, block prints on sarees and dress material * Cushion covers, dewaan sets, bed sheets and bed spreads, towels, hand kerchiefs * Making ready made cloths * Making bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Delivering to master weaver * Selling to commission agent * Giving to cooperative society * Selling to one principal person/shop in the market * Direct sales to consumers

There are coolie weavers that own the loom but receive a wage for the cloth produced from the master weaver or weavers co-operatives. The third kind is shed weavers who weave for master weavers alone and receive wages. They do no own loom. Master weavers are those that may do weaving themselves and also provide work to other weavers. Many handloom labours, wage labour and shed labour lives are in pathetic condition. Their earnings range anywhere between 35 – 90 rupees a day less than what people are making from NREGA works. Many a time the entire family is involved in the weaving activity.

Handloom products are still revered in India and world wide. Handloom silk has an important place in marriages, festivals and other functions in India. But this demand is not translating into better lives for the weavers. They are struggling across and steadily moving out of the sector.

Some of the issues ailing handlooms in our country include -

- ♦ Riddled with corruption and political interference, the Handloom Cooperatives are almost all defunct.
- ♦ Scarcity of yarn, steady increase in yarn prices, government policies of exporting yarn placed lot of uncertainty on the supply of inputs. Hank yarn is tax free and enjoys subsidies but much of it is diverted to power looms and mills. The prices of dyes are also on the raise.
- ♦ The designs in handlooms are not in line with the market tastes in many cases. Though the weaver is amenable to change and is willing to weave newer designs, the traders are unwilling to take risk and provide any kind of incentive for the weaver.
- ♦ Weavers have faint knowledge of laws like Handloom Reservation Act and others that protect them and their sector.
- ♦ With the advent of synthetic products and variety from mills the handloom products are cornered to niche markets.
- ♦ Over the past few years the budget allocations to handlooms is steadily declining.
- ♦ Tied relations of the weavers with master weavers and traders is placing the weavers in the vicious

Year	% of allocation
1997-98	27.5
1998-99	15.3
1999-00	13.7
2000-01	13.6
2001-02	11.9
2002-03	9.63
2003-04	14.9
2004-05	14.1
2005-06	9.7
2006-07	7.9

cycle of debt and poverty.

- ♦ Weaver is highly cut off from the end market.
- ♦ Not many organizations are working with the handloom laborers. Where interventions have been made they are more piece meal in nature rather than providing end-to-end support.
- ♦ In many places weavers do not have any alternative livelihoods. Their asset base is confined to loom.
- ♦ Handloom is highly dispersed. There are no leaders in the sector that can fight for the rights of the weavers with integrity.

What can be possibly done?

- ⇒ Efforts should be made to revive the existing weavers cooperatives and link them up with various marketing channels.
- ⇒ There need to be more support for experimentation and innovation in designs based on the changes in the market
- ⇒ There are several instances where the Handloom Reservation Act is violated. This needs to be checked.
- ⇒ Efforts should be made by various stakeholders including development organizations and government to reduce the number of players in the handloom value chain between the weaver and the end customer.
- ⇒ There is need to set up weavers collectives for bulk procurement of inputs and for marketing the finished products.
- ⇒ Handloom outlets with weavers as important stakeholders can be tried.
- ⇒ Creating strong institutions and facilitating bank linkages and other credit inflow mechanisms is important
- ⇒ Strong advocacy organizations influencing government policies and allocations at various levels and across the country can make a difference. These organizations can also build leaders among the weaving communities.

Thus, weavers need support in different ways. They need to be organized, they need leaders fighting for their cause, they need opportunities to tap deeper and wider into the markets, they need credit - for production, for marketing, for consumption. Like agriculture, handloom is overpopulated. So they need alternative marketable skills to tap into the emerging opportunities outside the weaving sector. They need education and skills like many others. ✪

Value chain analysis is examination of different stages in a good or service till it reaches the customer. In the value chain analysis, backward and forward linkages are studied for appropriate interventions. The idea is to identify gaps and possible

Social Map

Social Map is a significant LEAP (Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan) tool that enables understanding the village through first hand information directly from the residents of the village. The process is completely participatory and the community actually gets into active dialogue and draws the map.

The social map gives insights into geographical information of the village including its access to roads, markets and other infrastructure. The social map presents information on the housing structure and layout in the village, access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, electricity, village institutional infrastructure like health centers, schools, community centers, religious institutions, community based organizations, federations, cooperatives etc. Information relating to the presence and functioning of government programs is also captured. The demographic details of the village including information on the number of children, women, disabled, youth, working population, aged etc is also shown in the map. The location of the households belonging to different castes, economic and other groups can be studied to understand the inter group social relations.

Social map also provides information on the different kinds of livelihoods practiced. While the primary data is obtained directly from the villagers through participatory approach, the secondary data is obtained from relevant government documents.

A LEAP done in Mudireddypally village in Mahaboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh gives the following details -

Mudireddypally village has 246 families, comprising backward castes and scheduled castes majorly. Families belonging to other castes and minorities are very few in number.

Caste	Number of Families
Scheduled Castes	25
Backward Classes	182
Other Castes	39
Total number of families	246

The village has a polyethylene bag-making unit, which employs workers from other places. Therefore, apart from the resident families, this village is also home to people from neighbouring villages and the state of Orissa.

There has been no significant change in the composition of the village on the basis of caste. It is observed that the scheduled caste community resides as a unit in the village. Mudiraj community in this village plays a dominant role in the village politics and village economy. Various castes in the village are dependant on different and specific livelihoods.



The following are the major caste wise livelihoods.

OCs – Agriculture

BCs –

Vaddera: Stone cutting

Gouds: Toddy tapping & Toddy selling

Mudiraj: Agriculture, Agriculture Labour & Casual Labour

SCs – Agriculture, Casual labour & Agriculture labour.

Minorities – Petty business and Driving

There are two families engaged in carpentry, gold smithy respectively. There is also one barber family in the village.

Of the adults in the village 247 are male of which 108 are literate. There are 256 females and 90 of them are literate. There are 52 male youth and only 37 are literate. Female youth are 31 in number and 24 of them are literate. The village has 37 male child labour and 27 female child labour.

In many households men are the head of the family. But the village has some households headed by females.

Housing in the village includes slab, hut and asbestos houses. There are two thatched roof houses. The houses vary depending on the caste. It is observed that the OCs, BCs and minorities live in RCC slab houses while SCs have sloped roofs of Mangalore tiles. 26 houses have been





constructed under the Indira Awaas Yojana and RPH schemes.

Three families belonging to OCs have migrated permanently to Hyderabad and presently are engaged in cotton mills, work in movie theatre and petrol stations. These families were engaged in agriculture earlier prior to migration. Partial migration is seen among youth. They migrate to Jadcharla and Hyderabad in search of employment as casual labour. There are no incidences of distress migration in Mudireddypally.

There is no evident relation between livestock, caste and

Livestock	Number	Purpose
Small Livestock	86	Meat
Milch Animals	110	Milk
Bulls	96	Draught
Total	292	

livelihoods. However, BC families (Boyas) are dependant on livestock for their major livelihoods. There is a significant change in the population of livestock over the last ten years. The number of milch & draught animals in the village has fallen drastically. Lack of grazing lands, drought conditions and absence of a person to rear the animals are the reasons attributed to the fall in population of these animals.

In terms of basic infrastructure the village has 60 private water taps, 100 individual toilets. There is no soak pit. The

village has 3 bore wells and 5 public taps and protected drinking water supply plant was under construction at the time of the mapping. The drainages are partially covered. There is one school in the village. 150 families have electricity and there are 15 street lights. There is one Panchayati office and one Anganwadi center. The village has not medical center/hospital, no veterinary hospital. However there is one RMP practitioner in the village.

There is no community hall in the village. There is no drying platform or community godown in the village. There is one ration shop in the village.

11 people in the village receive pension from railways. 3 destitute people receive pension as well. 32 old age people receive old age pension in the village. Under the government schemes 10 families got benefitted under drought programs, and 10 families under DAP program. 13 families are covered under Antyodaya scheme and 25 families have Annapurna cards.

Other government development programs in place in Mudireddypally village include -

- ⇒ A revolving fund of Rs. 50000 was given by the BC Corporation.
- ⇒ Twenty-Nine houses were sanctioned under IAY and RPH during year 2001 and eight houses were sanctioned later under IAY.
- ⇒ 11 SHGs are supported through Indira Kranthi Patham (Velugu) for purchase of milch animals.

Along with other tools, Social Map adapted to understanding livelihoods can give insights for identifying livelihoods gaps and opportunities. ☺

Kovel Foundation

According to 2001 census tribes/adivasis of India constitute 8.3 percent of the population. This means about 84 million people. There are more than 630 adivasi groups in the country. Tribes in India are present in almost all states. Their concentration however varies. Some of the largest tribal populations are found in the states of Chhattisgarh, MP, Orissa and AP. Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFP) constitutes an important source of livelihood for the tribals. In India about 50 million people depend on NTFP for subsistence and cash income. Gum karaya is an important source of NTFP. Kovel Foundation (*A Trust By the Indigenous People for Research on Sustainable Technologies*) works with the tribals of Andhra Pradesh towards scientific tapping, processing, value addition, regeneration and marketing aspects of Gum Karaya.

There are more than 33 adivasi groups in AP, spread in the Agency and Sub-plan areas in Coastal, Telangana and Rayalaseema regions. They depend on agriculture, collection and selling of NTFP, daily wage labour etc for their livelihoods. They also practice settled and shifting cultivation by growing paddy, redgram, jowar, millets etc. Among the NTFPs collected gum and resins, oil seeds, barks, seeds, medicinal plants significant portion. They fulfill the needs of nutrition, health care, consumption, cosmetics for the adivasis besides generating cash income.

Kovel Foundation came into formal existence in 1994 under Indian Trust Act to work for economic empowerment of NTFP dependent communities. Kovel Foundation is an offshoot of Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) Limited, a unit of AP government in Visakhapatnam. GCC is engaged in procuring and marketing of minor forest produce from the tribals. Gum Karaya (*Sterculia urens Roxb*) is an important produce that generates significant revenue. More than 10000 families are engaged in gum picking in these areas.

To streamline Gum Karaya quality control and marketing, GCC organized 8500 gum pickers into 250 Girijan Gum Pickers Associations (GGPAs). The GGPAs are spread over

15 districts of Andhra Pradesh. The members of GGPAs received trainings on scientific tapping of gum. Tool kits were provided free of cost. These interventions resulted in improved quality of gum. Inspired by the success the GGAPs after intense brainstorming sessions came forward to federate into a Trust and thus was born Kovel Foundation.

Kovel is unique in its structure where in the elected trustees are the local tribals including the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and the primary stakeholders have contributed share capital. Three trustees were nominated from outside to assist in the management of the trust.

The objectives with which Kovel Foundation came into existence include -

- * To realize higher prices for NTFP through value addition
- * To provide training and extension services to forest produce collectors so as to enhance the quality of the forest produce collected which in turn will increase the incomes and also help conserve forest resources

- * To voice the grievances of the tribals at appropriate forums and act as their spokesperson

Kovel operates in 15 districts of AP including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor and Cuddapah. These districts are grouped into 6 zones and each zone is headed by Zonal Trustee. At the cluster level the leaders of GGPAs are in charge.

The family as a unit is the target of Kovel. The focus is on the poorest of the poor whose whole livelihoods depend



on forest wealth. Kovel generates its financial resources for projects from government and non-government funding. The projects undertaken include community mobilization and organization, capacity building programs, income generation programs, women empowerment, youth empowerment, plantations, sustainable agriculture etc for socio-economic development of the stakeholders. Kovel also extends technical know-how on best practices of harvesting, post-harvesting, value addition, regeneration and marketing aspects to the NTFP dependent families, CBOs, NGOs etc. Kovel takes up consultancy on impact studies, resource studies, baseline surveys, resource material, training modules design and development etc. Further the organization supports in facilitation of CBOs such as NTFP collectives and strategic business plans for income generation schemes.



Kovel's interventions including providing technical and institutional support, imparting trainings and skills led to increase in the quality of gum which is amply reflected in the price realized for the product today. In 1990s the price realized for first grade gum was Rs.30 per kilo and today it shot up to Rs.140 per kilo. Similarly the prices of second grade gum increased from Rs.26 to Rs.100 and third grade gum from Rs. 22 to Rs. 75.

After successful intervention with one produce, Gum Karaya, Kovel has expanded activities to include creating NTFP families database, resource mapping, training programs etc to primary collectors and supporting organizations. NTFP dependent tribal communities are organized into Non Timber Forest Produce Collectors Associations. 2000 NTFP collecting families have been organized into MACS. All these CBOs are controlled and managed by the women members. These organizations undertake collective actions like collective marketing of NTFP and agricultural produce and value addition for potential NTFPs. The plans are on to set up low cost storage cum processing centers in some of the MACS for undertaking income generation activities and higher value additions for direct marketing. It is planned to cover 20 new NTFPs whose potential still remains untapped.

Kovel has attempted to replicate Gum Karaya intervention model in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh state by building a resource team as well as imparting training programs to the gum pickers on scientific tapping of gum. As a result of these interventions and pro-active approach of CGMFP Federation, Raipur, the trained gum pickers were able to obtain increased prices for their gum. Now the training programs are extended to 4 districts of MP. Kovel now works in collaboration with TDCCs of Chhattisgarh, MP and

Maharashtra for gum pickers training programs. It also continuously collaborates with GCC, ITDA and other governmental and non-governmental agencies for implementing various programs.

Other interventions of Kovel include - setting up of low cost gravitational system for providing drinking water, promotion of 56 grain banks for food security, setting up 3 residential bridge camps for boys and girls and mainstream 300 dropout and never enrolled children, imparting technical knowledge on NPM methods of cultivation in 2000 acres, promotion of direct marketing of dry amla, guduchi as natural medicines to Bangalore, providing technical know-how on raising Gum Karaya nurseries etc. Successful intervention in amla value addition benefitted about 1000 families and generated about Rs.6.5 lakh income. Kovel supports cultivation of medicinal plants and biofuels on a commercial basis in the degraded and wastelands of tribal areas by arranging forward and backward linkages. This has been done in about 5000 acres so far.

Kovel has gained a national recognition as Research cum Training organization on NTFPs especially Gum Karaya. The organization today works with 250 GGPAs having a clientele of 8500 and 300 SHGs and 7 MACS having 5500 women members.

NTFP has huge potential in the country. Many varieties are yet to be tapped. For those tapped, many NTFP collectors continue to remain at the exploited end of the value chain. For instance a bundle of 50 sal plates is procured at source in Orissa at less than Rs.12 but eventually is exported from Kolkata at Rs.932. End-to-end interventions including organizing, capacity building, handholding, quality control, marketing are critical. In this context, Kovel has demonstrated and inspires people to come together and take up their own development. ☺

Coastal Management Zones

India has a coastline of about 8000 km. Apart from vibrant ecology, Indian coastline also supports the lives and livelihoods of 250 million people living within a range of 50 km. The coastline of India is also home to some of the poor and marginalized sections mainly depending on small scale fishing, fishing labour, salt pans, coir making, shell crafts for their livelihoods. Pollution and unregulated commercial activities along the coast of India are posing grave threat to both the ecology and livelihoods thriving in these areas. The Government of India most recently came up with Coastal Management Zone Draft Notification to protect and promote sustainable development of the coastal stretches.

The beginnings of attempts to protect Indian coastline can be traced back to 1986 when the government passed the Environment Protection Act (EPA). The Act made provisions for protecting and improving the quality of environment and regulating environmental pollution including coastal pollution. Under the provisions of the EPA, in 1991 the government drafted Coastal Regulation Zone Notification to preserve coastal environment particularly ecologically fragile areas. The regulated areas under this notification include the strip of land along the coast extending 500 m inland from the high-tide line and including the areas uncovered by the sea during the low tide. All water bodies influenced by tidal action were also included.

The CRZ though heavily weighed with ecological concerns, recognized the rights of the coastal communities engaged in traditional occupations like fishing and agriculture to continue to use coastal spaces to live and work. However, unfortunately the lackadaisical attitudes of various coastal state governments and also the central government in formulating appropriate plans and checking coastal

regulation violations jeopardized the coastal ecology and coastal livelihoods.

The research conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) under the direction of the Supreme Court of India made some startling revelations including severe destruction of mangrove areas and casuarina plantations and sand dunes. Indiscriminate proliferation of aquaculture farms badly impacted the water bodies and coastal livelihoods on several fronts. Industrial pollutants continue to pollute the waters. The 'no development' zone defined under the CRZ gradually gave room to SEZs, ports, mining, oil exploration etc. Tourism development was allowed within 50 m of the high-tide line.

All these violations forced the government to set up a committee under the chairmanship of Dr M S Swaminathan to review the CRZ regulations. The Committee advocated an integrated approach to Coastal Zone Management with the objective of protecting the coastal zone with people's participation and livelihood security of coastal communities and the ecosystem which sustains the productivity of the

coastal areas while promoting sustainable development. One of the significant recommendations was have a variable coastal zone boundary based on vulnerability of the coastal stretch. Also recommended was to include coastal waters up to 12 km in the purview of coastal management.

Based on the recommendations proposed by Swaminathan Committee the government of India drafted Coastal Zone Management Notification 2008. The stated objective of the Notification is protection and sustainable development of the coastal stretches and marine environment through sustainable coastal zone management practices based



on sound scientific principles taking into account the vulnerability of the coast to natural hazards, sustainable livelihood security for local communities, and conservation of ecologically and culturally significant coastal resources.

The 2008 Notification extended the coastal zone boundaries to 12 nautical miles into the sea from the seaward boundary. The landward boundary will be the administrative boundary of the local body which in the case of ecologically and culturally sensitive areas will go beyond. The set back line will now be defined based on four parameters including - elevation, geo-morphology, sea level trends and erosion. However the set back line is just a guideline and not a mandatory line which means it offers more scope for violation rather than to adherence.

The Notification continues to have the four zones - CMZ I, CMZ II, CMZ III and CMZ IV. One welcome provision is the instruction that the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans (ICZMPs) should keep in mind the safety and livelihood needs of the local coastal communities and essential development when taking up development activities in CMZ I. Further, the CMZ II provisions in the Notification, give significant concessions to fishing.

The Notification has extended the cut-off date for approved existing structures to 2008. This means many illegal structures that have come up seawards will now be legalized.

The CMZ Notification is silent about the kind of punishment that shall be meted out to the violators. It is also silent about defining activities or industries that are to be prohibited in the coastal areas. Instead the state governments are allowed to define what constitute 'economically significant area' and locate industry on it after getting approval from the central

government. There is no mention of traditional rights and customary use of land by local communities in these areas. This in a way, as many NGOs and Civil Society Organizations decry has legalized the violations of CRZ.

An important omission in the CMZ is the land by the side of the inland water bodies with tidal influence which threatens the eco-system of the water bodies.

The new Notification has come under criticism for eliminating 'no development zone' and bringing ecologically sensitive areas under ICZMP.

The important stakeholders, the people depending on coastal livelihoods who are the real owners and protectors of the coast, were not consulted when making the Notification. This is a serious lacuna. The CMZ Notification on the contrary allows many new stakeholders to enter the coast in the name of development. The CMZ falls short of achieving a decent balance between environmental protection, the use of the coast by traditional inhabitants and the entry of new users. If not anything, the CMZ seems to be biased in favour of the new users. There is nothing in the Notification that ensures community-based and participatory coastal management.

The draft Notification is going through consultations currently. This is right time to review and ensure that the intended shift - from just conservation and protection of the coast to sustainable development by allowing economically significant activities and placing it in the hands of the communities concerned - happens. Creating mechanisms for the communities (and their organizations and organizations that support them) for making ICZMPs and implementing them is critical to address both ecological and economic concerns. ☹



National Skill Development Policy

India is a young nation. A large percentage of people comprise productive age group. The economic growth that the country is witnessing has placed huge demand for skilled and semi-skilled labour force. A number of educational institutions with generalist and specialist curriculums are adding up each year. However many of these institutions do not seem to be producing quality human resource with appropriate employable skills. There is a sizable gap between the skills sought by the market and the actual skills available. Large scale skill development to the existing and potential workforce is an imminent imperative. The National Policy on Skill Development assumes critical significance in this context.

Time is ripe for India to increase its base of skilled and knowledge workers. The country is emerging as an important player in the global market and so is the demand for quality skilled labour. Further, many traditional livelihoods like agriculture, handlooms etc are over populated. People particularly the youth are desperately looking for incomes from non-traditional livelihoods. But there is dearth of employable skills and avenues for building skills. As we are progressing towards inclusive growth skill development of persons in the unorganized sector is critical.

The mission of the Skill Development Policy is to empower individuals through improved skills, knowledge and internationally recognized qualifications to enable access to decent employment and promote inclusive growth and ensure India's competitiveness in the global market. The key objectives of the Policy include – creating opportunities for all particularly youth to acquire skills throughout life, promoting stakeholders commitment to invest in skills development, and developing quality skilled workforce relevant to the market needs.

The coverage of the Policy includes – school/institution based training, formal apprenticeship, workplace learning and training by industry, adult learning and retraining, non-formal training and learning, informal apprenticeship, lifelong learning and vocational education and vocational training. It is proposed to have a National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) for overall coordination, as the autonomous apex body. There will be Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) primarily led by industry that will facilitate greater and active participation of the social partners including employers in private and public sectors, training providers, NGOs, CSOs etc. By taking a sectoral approach the SSCs will enable better linkage of skills in demand and in supply in the concerned sectors. To absorb the unorganized workforce a Partnership Development Council will be established. This Council will work towards gradually incorporating the unorganized sector into the SSCs. A National Accreditation Authority to evaluate training providers will be set up. There will Assessment and Certification Bodies to assess and certify the candidates. Labour Market Information Systems and HR Planning Mechanisms will be established to reduce the mismatch between the supply and demand of skills.

The target groups for skill development include more than 450 million labour force both potential and existing. But the current skills development system in the country can only

support about 3.3 million. This demands substantial expansion of the skills development system. It is proposed to expand to 15 million of which 25 per cent would be women, during the 11th Plan. The Policy proposes to lay special focus on socially and economically backward communities and minorities. To ensure participation of the disabled, the Policy aims to double the number of Vocational Rehabilitation Centers. The number of vocations covered for skill building currently is very limited. During the next two Plan periods it is proposed to expand the vocations base to some 4000. For undertaking this massive expansion, innovative delivery models including public private partnership, decentralized delivery, distance learning and computerized vocational learning will be explored.

The government will provide definite budgetary allocation towards skill development. In the 11th Plan the allocation will be 2 per cent of GDP rising progressively going forward. A National Skill Development Fund will be created with funds from various sources including budgetary allocations. National Skill Development Corporation is established to build skills of the people.

The Policy will focus on building quality and relevance of vocational education and training system through various ways like improving the resources of development institutions, improving the quality of teaching and learning process and quality and size of trainer resource etc. To ensure competency the Policy aims to develop National Competency Standards in consultation with the industry. A National Vocational Qualifications Framework will be established to support reforms in the vocational and training system and to meet international standards.

Housing more than 90 per cent of the workforce in the country, the unorganized sector is characterized by low skills, low productivity and poor incomes. The Policy targets at owners, workers and apprentices in the micro enterprises, household workers, casual labor, peripatetic workers and migrant labour, out of school youth, farmers and artisans etc. The Policy lays emphasis on informal apprenticeship, literacy and soft skill development, skill development for self-employment etc to embrace the unorganized sector.

The Skill Development Policy will be reviewed every 5 years to keep current with emerging trends. If executed rightly, the Policy can help in adequately building the people and the country to achieve inclusive growth in the true spirit. ☺

Volunteers from Grassroots

Volunteers play a critical role in the work of a non-profit. The volunteers of all kinds are required for successful execution of programs. In the last two issues, 'livelihoods' looked at volunteers with professional education/achievement. However, more important to the core of the organizational effectiveness of a non-profit are the volunteers who come from among the target communities. Many a time, these volunteers have little formal education or organizational experience. These could be either full-time or part-time. One needs to understand the motivations and be aware of the opportunities to use their time and energy in a fruitful manner lest these volunteers are disillusioned and become a negative force to reckon with. This article deals with the typologies of these volunteers and the issues in managing them.

These volunteers generally are impressed by the leadership offered by the person they come into contact with. In the initial days of the organization, such a person is generally the founder who comes with the passion and energy of a crusader. During later days, the person who inspires volunteers is the development worker. But if the inspiring development worker leaves, the continuation of the volunteer is also doubtful if the organization does not make special efforts to integrate the volunteers into its operations.

In other cases, these volunteers come forward after having liked an idea. For example, a person likes the idea of a road being laid to the village with the active participation of the villagers. She then becomes the champion of this idea and canvasses for its success among all the villagers. She tries to build consensus over the idea. However, there could be several issues on which her skills may be limited like the amount required, the labour days required to lay the road, how would the contribution be arranged, etc. Despite these limitations and ignorance of the nitty-gritty, she would be comfortable in engaging others on the subject and supporting them. We find such volunteers mostly in the case of political campaigns - they like the leader and hence campaign for them voluntarily. The issues in such cases relate to identification of these volunteers as they generally go about canvassing on their own without much motivation from the development worker. Ability to identify these in the early stages of the project, giving them enough information so that they can engage others fruitfully, and supporting their campaign with other campaigns are important in taking advantage of the work of these volunteers.

Generally, some persons from among the target communities are without full time employment. Such persons come forward to work for the non-profit when called, for a fee. These are being called volunteers and not part time paid workers, as these people do not adhere to a schedule. These are empanelled persons without any commitments from either side as to the quantum of work or a retainership

fee. Hence, these people are not obliged to work at the time when the non-profit requests. In a sense, they are most like free economic agents who can say no to a customer at will. For example, the volunteers who form a kalajatha team may not come forward to run a campaign against diarrhoea during onset of the monsoon, if they would otherwise be engaged in farming activities. Hence, these people will have to be managed more like volunteers.

In some cases, a person who got benefit from the non-profit feels indebted to the non-profit and works for it freely in her spare time. Most of the volunteers from the disadvantaged sections, generally come up in this fashion. These voluntarily provide accommodation for meetings or work to make logistic arrangements. In a case, having established a shop in a junction with the non-profit's assistance, the person took the responsibility of collecting the market rate slips from the driver of a public transport bus. He handed over these slips to the students (from various interior villages) who return to the village from their school in the evening. Instead of harnessing the energy of such volunteers, the development worker places unreasonable demands of the beneficiary in lieu of the benefit conferred on her. In one context, the development worker expected a beneficiary of two cross-bred cows to spend the evening in calling others for a meeting. He could not see that the beneficiary was required at her home to take care of the animals she received as a benefit! The extent of the free time available to the volunteer needs to be assessed and the use of such free time needs to be managed for better execution of the program.

A few become volunteers having accepted a responsibility during a meeting (or in public). Some of these volunteers come forward voluntarily expecting a reward or to obtain some mileage at a later time. In other cases, the people thrust the leadership responsibility on a person, who has the required abilities or characteristics. In either cases, these volunteers work to keep the promise and trust.

The volunteers have a tendency to act as though they represent the non-profit. This is the main issue in the management of volunteers from the community. This tendency needs to be countered by developing more volunteers from the same community and creating different channels of communications. For example, the policy that the leaders of community organizations promoted by the non-profit and the activists need to be different could be of great help. The policy itself may not be so pronounced. But the development worker needs to take care that the volunteers are not becoming formal leaders of the community groups. This separation of powers and functions also helps in building grass roots democratic systems and institutions, where the executive (volunteers) and the community leaders mutually support each other and work under the guidance of each other. ☺

Surging English Medium Teachers!

Education system in India is undergoing swift changes. Every one is seeking English as the medium of education. Most recently the government of Andhra Pradesh announced that English will be the medium of education starting as early as first class in all government schools. While this move comes as a warm

Shining Livelihoods

welcome for teachers knowledgeable in English others are gearing up to acquire new capabilities to be able to teach in English.

The demand of English Teachers is definitely witnessing a new high!

The country is seeing unprecedented urbanization. Mobility of people from one state to another and outside the country for education and employment has

become quite common. One common language that binds the world today is English. People want to join this bandwagon.



There are several instances where the poor families that migrated to cities and are struggling to make both ends meet but still desire to send their children to English medium schools paying a fee of not less than Rs.200 a month.

Spoken English coaching institutes are seen mushrooming all over. Many employers are seeking soft skills and communication in English is ranked high.

There is still dearth of good English teachers in the market. Therefore the market for this profession is witnessing an upward trend and this will continue for longer time. ☺

Vanishing Cycles for Rent!

Bicycle was once upon a time important means of transportation especially when travel was not to so far and wide places as it is today. Children would use it to go to school, vendors would sell

Declining Livelihoods

their products off of bicycles. Bicycles are most naturally opted for in rugged lands with no pucca roads. When looked at from modern value systems they are pollution-free. From economic point of view they are most affordable mode of transport.

Those were the times when bicycles for rent were flourishing. People would rent bicycles for as less as Rupee one a day from morning to evening. Cycles were are rented on an hourly basis.

The government and banks encouraged setting up such shops. Many could establish shops with loans from banks.



But cycles for rent are steadily becoming a thing of the past. Increased and improved transportation facilities even in the interior villages have drastically brought down the use of bicycles. Buses and shared autos have inundated the village roads. Also many people now own cycles and many more own motor bikes. All these changes have put cycles for rent to disuse.

Those who gave cycles for rent earlier are now shifting to establishing repair shops for fixing flat tires etc. Surely the hey day for rental cycles is gone! ☹

The 'Collective' Woman Sheelu

Sheelu Francis, is an outstanding leader of 1.5 lakh strong Women's Collective in the state of Tamil Nadu. She is the elected Executive President of Tamil Nadu Women's Collective (WC) which comprises 37 Federations of Groups of rural and marginalized women. Sheelu is also an international spokesperson on gender issues. She also speaks at various forums about impacts of international trade, debt and activities of transnational corporations on local development, food security and sovereignty.

Sheelu Francis is born in Kerala and spent her childhood and schooling in Kerala. Later on her family moved to Tamil Nadu and settled there. Sheelu holds a Masters in Social Work and also a Masters in Political Science. She also holds a diploma in Gender and Development from University of London. Currently Sheelu is pursuing Phd in Law from Presidency college in Chennai.

Sheelu started her career as a part time teacher in non-formal education school. Later she joined as project director of Don Bosco Social Service Society, a Chennai based NGO working for an Integrated Urban Development (Slum) Project in Chennai and soon went on to assume responsibilities as its head. She got the best social worker award in this project. Sheelu acknowledges that it is in the slums she got her life time experience about the situation of women living in slums.

Sheelu later joined Oxfam as project officer where she learnt more about NGO sector. During her stay at Oxfam, Sheelu was coordinator for the Gender Unit in Asia. Soon Sheelu realized that she is more a field worker and therefore quit Oxfam and with some of her colleagues she started a group to work on women's issues in 1994.

Her realization that there is dearth of women leadership in the country led her to start Women's Collective. The motto is 'strengthen ourselves to strengthen others'. The WC started with 6 full time staff and today it has grown to 250. WC is today home to 1.5 lakh women from 7000 SHGs spread over 2000 villages in 20 district. These SHGs are federated as 37 units.

The WC works for the empowerment of rural and marginalized women and dalits in Tamil Nadu. The group's activities focus on awareness and education, formation of sangams (groups) and savings and credit groups in the villages, networking, campaigns, demonstrations, solidarities, holding women's conference and exposure visits, land development, organizing farming and food security programs among many other activities. According to Sheelu, one of the most innovative economic approaches to village development is TNWC methodology of initiation. The basis is participatory learning. It begins with village mapping, identifying the poor, their needs and their resources, and identifying those who take credit from the moneylenders. Gradually villagers are shown what happens when the

money stays in the village instead of being siphoned away. The key idea is to build economic, political and cultural power within the marginalized, particularly the women. Sheelu says, empowerment as a process is crucial and education for empowerment is the core of the collective's endeavor.

Except for 37 staff salaries which are met by Christian Aid the rest of the 213 staff salaries come from membership fees, service charges from groups and contributions. The support from Christian Aid is now ending and WC is heading to become completely independent by raising funds locally. They have appointed a dedicated person to take care of this.

The members of the WC started contesting in Panchayat elections since 1996 and in 2006 they actually contested under WC banner. More than 200 women got elected of which 78 have become sarpanchs. Due to WC efforts the percentage of voting in villages went up to more than 90 per cent. Women political front has been created and waiting to plunge into state level political system to create alternative political power systems.

Apart from women's issues Sheelu also gives time to develop organic farming. Farmers collectives and seed banks are formed. Innovative farming models including SRI method of cultivation is practiced.

Sheelu has conducted several national and international training workshops and seminars on gender issues, participatory methodology, saving and credit management, watershed, evaluation, project appraisal and Panchayati Raj. She has also organised public hearings and conferences on violence against women and the impact of globalisation on women. Besides being associated with TNWC, Sheelu is also working as a freelance consultant in issues related to women and social development in various states and countries. Sheelu started a Women Staff Association for women working in the NGOs as a platform for solidarity, placement and learning. She is part of National Alliance for Women, Asia Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty and South Against Genetic Engineering.

Sheelu is a recognized international PRI trainer and worked directly with Robert Chambers.

Realization that today's children are future leaders led Sheelu to work with children for the past 3 years. Children Panchayats are organized and they are taught value education. Children are also taught latest trends and the stands they have to take on issues like globalization etc.

Sheelu says the current focus is on unionizing the unorganized sector.

WC inspiration goes beyond Tamil Nadu. Women in Orissa and Chhattisgarh are motivated and collectivising. 🌟

Books

Book Summary

Name: **Pedagogy of the Oppressed**

Author: **Paulo Freire and Myra Bergman Ramos**

Publishers: **Continuum International Publishing Group**

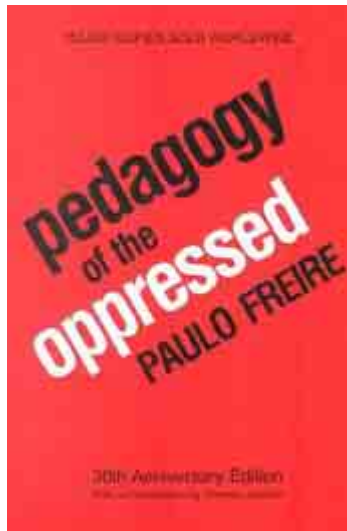
Pedagogy of the Oppressed is the most popular book of educator Paulo Freire. The book is dedicated to the oppressed and to those who suffer with them and fight at their side.

Pedagogy of the Oppressed is for the educators, the people fighting for the freedom of the oppressed. Freire examines the balance of power between the colonizer and the colonized remains relatively stable. He admits that the powerless in society can be frightened of freedom. He writes, freedom is acquired by conquest, not by gift. It must be pursued constantly and responsibly.

Freire argues that reality is an always changing, transitory process with dialogue and critical thinking at its heart. Reality is not motionless, compartmentalized, static or predictable.

Freire states that education is a subversive force. In particular education is both subversive and real when it is liberating. "Education as the exercise of domination stimulates the credulity of students, with the ideological intent of indoctrinating them to adapt to the world of oppression". Whereas, "Liberating education consists in acts of cognition, not transferals of information"

Problem posing education is a form of education which provides a method of finding meaningful



problems and solutions for those receiving the education; not a way to oppress those attempting to gain education. The oppressors basically do not wish for the oppressed to think for themselves; similar to how advertisers attempt to plant ideas in the consumer's subconscious mind and give him/her notions about providing for the ease of things being done for them, pre-made. The oppressors do not want the oppressed to have the education that is based on experiential learning. A pre-made education is one which will keep them oppressed and without freedom.

True education is a practice of freedom and requires that the oppressed apprehend and intervene in reality.

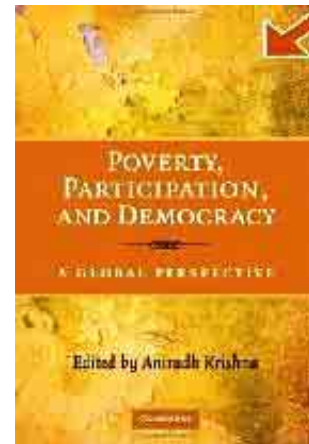
"Unity and organization can enable them to change their weakness into a transforming force with which they can re-create the world and make it more human." This book provides prescriptive evidence about how the oppressed might go about understanding their reality and create ways to overcome oppression, seizing education, true education, as a path to freedom. ☺

New Books

Name: **Poverty Participation and Democracy**

Author: **Anirudh Krishna**

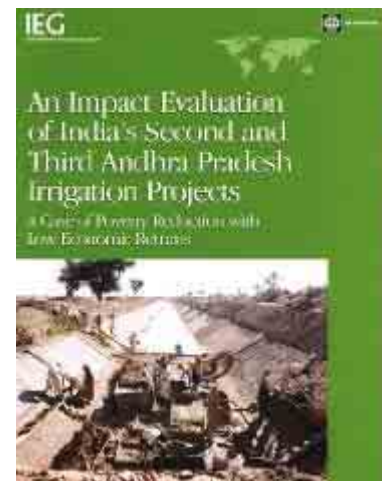
Publishers: **Cambridge University Press**



Name: **An Impact Evaluation of India's Second and Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Projects: A Case of Poverty Reduction With Low Economic Returns**

Author: **World Bank Independent Evaluation Group**

Publishers: **World Bank Publications**



Vocational Training Centers in Tribal Areas

In the face of dwindling forests and others natural resources, the livelihoods of adivasis in India have been facing severe threat. Many of them have switched to agriculture for livelihood. However agriculture in India is reeling under crisis. Increased cost of inputs and decreased productivity and increased distance between the farmer and the end market with multiple players in between has made agriculture an unviable option for many small and marginal farmers. The advent of cash economy in the lives of adivasis greatly influenced their livelihoods. They need non-farm incomes to supplement their meager earnings to eke out a living. They need trainings, they need skills to improve their existing livelihoods and take up space in the upcoming livelihoods. There is a huge need for setting up of vocational centers in tribal areas.

In this context the Government of India provides grants to various players for setting up vocational training institutes for employment of unemployed tribal youth. The eligible players include institutions or organizations set up by the government as autonomous bodies or registered as society, educational efforts by local bodies and cooperative bodies, registered NGOs etc.

Under the scheme

- * 100 per cent central assistance will be given to the States or UTs or NGOs for setting up and running vocational training centers.
- * All expenses towards formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the project including the costs of capacity building of the NGOs will be borne by the Ministry of Welfare.
- * Each implementing agency is expected to submit a detailed project proposal. Upon receipt of the proposal from the agency, 100 per cent grant towards non-recurring expenses and 50 per cent towards recurring expenses will be released in the case of NGOs. Any unutilized grants shall be refunded back to the government.
- * The organization's work shall be periodically visited by the government officers and the accounts of the organization can come under the scrutiny of the C&AG of India.
- * The scheme is strictly for STs and shall provide training for various trades in a particular center depending upon the existing infrastructure and employment potential.
- * Each vocational training center can cater to five



vocational courses in traditional skills depending upon the employment potential of the area.

- * Each tribal boy/girl will be trained in two trades of his/her choice.
- * The course in each trade shall be for a duration of three months. At the end of six months each trainee will be attached to Master craftsman in semi-urban or urban area for a period of six months. This will enable practical experience.
- * The student strength of each vocational training center shall be 100.
- * These centers will also provide residential facilities to maximum of 50 per cent trainees.
- * The agencies running the training centers shall also arrange for loan or subsidy for enabling the successful trainees to take up a new job.
- * Financial assistance will be provided to each center for buying training equipment once every five years.
- * There shall be one Chief Instructor, four Trade Instructors, one Workshop Attendant and other helpers.
- * The trainee will also receive a monthly stipend of Rs.350 and raw material worth Rs.1200 per annum.
- * The agencies running the centers shall engage in marketing the finished products made by the trainees and that money shall be used to becoming sustainable in the long run.

More information can be obtained from <http://india.gov.in/outerwin.htm?id=http://tribal.nic.in/schemevocational.html> ☛

Being of the 'Nothing'!

For many the unknown does not exist. But this is a fallacy. No one person can have all the knowledge and capacities to know the 'whole'. We learn as we go along through direct or indirect experiences, through interactions and many more ways. Learning at times also come the hard way. What is important is to have an open mind to learn and unlearn. Learning is a lifelong phenomenon.

Once upon a time there was a fish. And just because it was a fish, it had lived all its life in the water and knew nothing whatever about anything else but water. And one day as it swam about in the lake where all its days had been spent, it happened to meet a turtle of its acquaintance who had just come back from a little excursion on the land.

"Good day, Mr. Turtle!" said the fish. "I have not seen you for a long time.. Where have you been?"

"Oh", said the turtle, "I have just been for a trip on dry land." "On dry land!" exclaimed the fish.

"What do you mean by on dry land? There is no dry land. I had never seen such a thing. Dry land is nothing."

"Well," said the turtle good-naturedly. "If you want to think so, of course you may; there is no one who can hinder you. But that's where I've been, all the same." "Oh, come," said the

and push my nose through it?"

"No, it is not soft and yielding. You could not swim in it."

"Does it move or flow in streams?"

"No, it neither moves nor flows in streams."

"Does it ever rise up into waves then, with white foams in them?" asked the fish, impatient at this string of Noes.

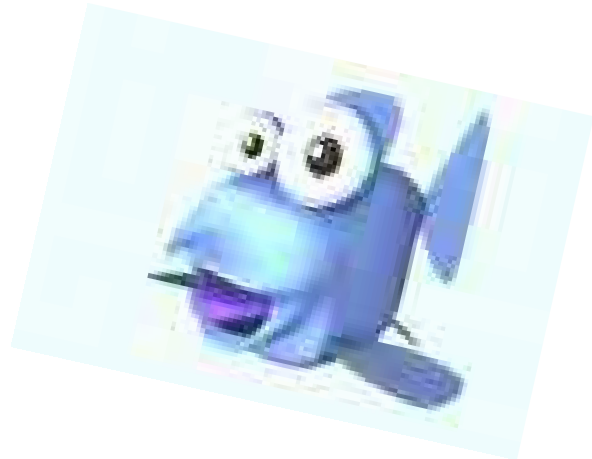
"No!" replied the turtle, truthfully. "It never rises up into waves that I have seen."

"There now," exclaimed the fish triumphantly. "Didn't I tell you that this land of yours was just nothing? I have just asked, and you have answered me that it is neither wet nor cool, not clear nor soft and that it does not flow in streams nor rise up into waves. And if it isn't a single one of these



fish. "Try to talk sense. Just tell me now what is this land of yours like? Is it all wet?" "No, it is not wet," said the turtle. "Is it nice and fresh and cool?" asked the fish. "No, it is not nice and fresh and cool," the turtle replied. "Is it clear so that light can come through it" "No, it is not clear. Light cannot come through it."

"Is it soft and yielding, so that I can move my fins about in it



things what else is it but nothing? Don't tell me."

"Well, well", said the turtle, "If you are determined to think that dry land is nothing, I suppose you must just go on thinking so. But any one who knows what is water and what is land would say you were just a silly fish, for you think that anything you have never known is nothing just because you have never known it."

And with that the turtle turned away and, leaving the fish behind in its little pond of water, set out on another excursion over the dry land that was nothing. 🌀

Percentages of rural households reporting lack of food: India and Major States

State	1983	1993-1994	1999-2000	2004-2005
West Bengal	36.5	14.3	11.3	11.7
Orissa	35.1	14.2	7.8	5.9
Assam	14.9	9.9	7.2	5.5
Bihar	34	6.8	6.3	3.2
Chhattisgarh	--	--	--	2.5
Kerala	17.5	3.2	3.2	2.5
Madhya Pradesh	14.1	3.4	3.4	2.1
Uttar Pradesh	10.7	2.4	2.4	1.9
Maharashtra	13	2.1	2.1	1.1
Andhra Pradesh	14.4	2.2	2.2	0.7
Punjab	2.2	1	1	0.6
Jharkhand	--	--	--	0.6
Uttaranchal	--	--	--	0.5
Karnataka	17.3	3.9	1.1	0.3
Gujarat	3.1	2.2	0.5	0.3
Tamil Nadu	17.2	2.8	1.2	0.1
Rajasthan	4.2	1.5	0.2	0
Haryana	1.8	0.6	1.7	0
Himachal	3.9	0.3	0.2	0
J&K	1.8	0	0.6	0
Total	17.3	5.2	3.6	2.5

Population living in households with per capital calorie consumption below 2100 urban and 2400 rural

Year	Rural	Urban	All-India
1983	66.1	60.5	64.8
1987 - 1988	65.9	57.1	63.9
1993 - 1994	71.1	58.1	67.8
1999 - 2000	74.2	58.2	70.1
2004 - 2005	79.8	63.9	75.8

Source - Study on Nutrition by Daron Acemogol et al.

Journey from Coconuts to Call Center

Bylapati Rangaiah's parents lived in Baghlingampally in Hyderabad. They lived in a very small hut with leaking roofs. Rangaiah's remembers how in his childhood they used to place vessels under the roof to catch rain water. Their life was a struggle.

The age old occupation of Rangaiah's family was begging. However, his parents did not let him take upon begging for livelihood. When Rangaiah was 6 years old his parents put him to work at a coconut shop near Hanuman temple in Koti area. Rangaiah used to peel the fibre off of the coconuts and sell it to the devotees. His master gave him Rs. 20 rupees on a daily basis plus lunch. Rangaiah continued in the same job for 15 years.

The owner of the coconuts also had a sweet shop and a cloth shop. In due course Rangaiah joined the sweet shop as sales person. In this position he worked for 10 years. He also worked in the cloth shop doing

cleaning, arranging the seats, folding the cloths and receiving the customers.

Now Rangaiah is earning rupees 3000 per month. Though his income was less it fulfilled the basic needs of his family. He did diligent planning of the expenditures and savings and this attitude helped him wade through life.

Rangaiah's life partner is Renuka. His elder son has passed intermediate and now he is working in the call centre. Younger son has completed 10th class. His daughter is studying in 10th class now. Rangaiah plans to spend his money on his children's education.

Now Rangaiah is old to work any more. His elder son has taken up his family responsibility. Rangaiah was allotted a house from the housing board.

Rangaiah instead of continuing his traditional occupation, worked with dignity in life. This decision helped him in reaching a good position. ☺

Caught in Spider Weave

The lives of handloom laborers are steadily becoming miserable each day. The life of Challa Sambashivudu reflects us harsh reality.

Sambashivudu lives at Pedana village of Krishna district. His family occupation is weaving. They have entered into agreement with the master weavers. They take yarn from the master weavers and the woven cloth is given back to the master weavers. The wages are calculated per meter of cloth woven by them. They will not have work throughout the year. In rainy season and in peak summer it is difficult to work with the existing poor infrastructural arrangements. With just seven months of work, the income is not sufficient to lead their families. In lean seasons they take money from the master weavers and local money lenders. Every year on an average he takes rupees 5000 and in the last 10 years the loan became 40,000 rupees.

Sambashivudu had to take a loan for his daughter's marriage to the extent of Rs. 40,000. In the mean time master weavers started giving him low quality yarn. Low quality yarn translated into low quality finished

product which in turn translated into lower wages for Sambashivudu.

Added to the existing problems, Sambashivudu's wife became sick. She got bedridden. About rupees 10,000 was spent on her health. Even after spending so much on her she was not cured.

In this context he got married to another woman by paying her some money. Later he started selling the cloths by moving in and around the villages. But, this income was also not sufficient for him to repay the debts and in taking care of the family.

Pressure from money lenders to repay the loans increased. At this juncture, Sambashivudu absconded with his family to another place. After few years he was found working at a social welfare hospital in Machilipatnam cleaning vessels. There he earns Rs. 1500 per month plus food. When money lenders approached him, he convinced them to wait for some more time to repay. Now slowly he is repaying his loans. The lives of many weavers today is ridden with difficulties like Sambashivudu. This is the sad reality of the handloom sector today! ☺

'Yoga'kshemam

As I write this, Beijing Olympics 2008 has just begun to have 10000+ sportsmen in action. 14000+ Chinese performers welcomed them, led by their President, on 08 08 08 at 0808 PM (Chinese Time). A spectacular feat in deed! It shows a Nation has arrived!

It appears that inflation rate has stabilized at 12% and food prices have rested at higher level. Consumers have, more or less, learnt to tighten their belts. Unfortunately, the farmers are living through uncertainties.

Monsoon has caught up in South too, albeit late. North and Godavari ares in floods! Incessant rains all over!

Interactions with farmers, weavers, workers, and consumers, involvement in the new one-year program in rural development management and inducting the development workers in elders for elders movement have marked the month that went by.

Amidst all these, Government found its way on Nuclear Deal. Still there is no respite to common man and the poor!

I have participated in a meeting on developing a framework for taking forward the National Policy on Voluntary Sector 2007 in AP. While we welcome various 'mechanisms' at various levels for augmenting voluntary and non-government efforts towards enhanced

livelihoods and quality of life of the poor, we need to underline the variety in these efforts – some work with poor, some work with organizations that work with poor, some are federations and networks. And some are organizations of the poor themselves. The policy and the framework should create an environment for voluntary sector to thrive all across. The areas of cooperation with government should have different rules and methods for cooperation. No uniform processes will be good for all. The areas of cooperation and collaboration include policy, project design, planning, monitoring, social audit etc., capacity building, support services, piloting, research, knowledge building and dissemination, implementation, funding etc. The framework should enable and facilitate 'independent' voluntary effort, rather than constrain it. It should have a comprehensive database of these efforts. Finally, **we need to realize that Government has to say where it wants to collaborate/partner with voluntary efforts and how, rather than seeking to fit all voluntary efforts into a framework.** There are millions of Community-based organizations, support organizations and their federal entities. What they need is some visioning and some competent human resources at various levels to help them realize their visions.

It appears that Government of India has stepped up its direct efforts to increase the availability of development professionals in the country. Its NIRD has launched a 1-year Rural Development Management Program on 4 August 2008. 52 students are going through the program this year. Many such efforts within and outside the government are needed. Our initial involvement in the program thinking and

acceptance to take a few sessions in this program has helped us to look at Rural Development Management once more. RDM – Principles and Practices – is the one-year program in 30 sessions. It launches Rural Development Management and appreciates its context(s). It explores what it means to be a Development Manager. It introduces Basic Management Concepts and Principles, with an overview of various elements of management. Finally, it introduces select principles and practices in RDM.

A Gallup's recent extensive research on Human Resource Engagement has identified 12 elements that help in great performance – 1. job clarity on results, 2. having materials and tools to realize the outcomes (interestingly many of us do not know what results we need to achieve), 3. matching strengths to jobs and developing the innate talent, 4. recognition and praise (within seven days!), 5. caring about the people you work with, 6. mentoring, 7. valuing opinions and using everybody's brains for solutions for collective good, 8. connecting to a cause (mission/vision), 9. one for all and all for one (performance standards and rewards and punishments for deviants), 10. trust (having a best friend at work!), fairness, dignity and regular personal two-way communication, 11. opportunities to learn and grow (a plan of growth for everyone!), and 12. knowledge and appreciation of the basics of the totality of the business/enterprise. Can we move towards having these elements in our livelihoods organizations?

An unusual Professor at Carnegie Mellon, Randy Pausch, expired due to terminal cancer on 25 July 2008. May his soul rest in peace! His Last Lecture declares that he has done three things in life – building capabilities for pursuing dreams, pursuing dreams, enabling others to realize their dreams. For starters, Randy is the father of computer human interaction. His lessons learnt include – there are lots of people who help us – parents, teachers, mentors, friends, students etc.; keep having fun as there is no other way to be; have childlike wonder – curiosity; loyalty is a two-way street; never give up; we achieve because people help us to achieve; apologize when you mess up; focus on others. These are universal lessons. Aren't they?

Krishna says, if you are tied to the 'purpose', ably facilitated by the guru, you will find your 'marg' – plan of action. In other words, if we are tied to our 'purpose', we will be investing in building our capabilities. Once we have the capabilities, the action takes place on its own.

Building capabilities is a never-ending journey. Let us get going. This is yoga for us - offering our capabilities and enabling others to offer their capabilities – knowledge, skills and resources to the poor, their organizations and the organizations that support them happens on its own.

Join us in the world of yoga – the practice of acquiring abilities and action follows on its own. You will not regret it. ☺

G Muralidhar

61 years of
India's
Independence