

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

April 2011



Civil Society

Movement of Giving! -9 Vegetable-17 Experiences of Shodh Yatra -26



Happy Sri Rama Navami! Happy Vishu/Baisakhi! Happy Mahavir Jayanthi! Happy Easter!

Happy Ambedkar Jayanthi! Happy Bhoodan Day! Happy May Day!

Let us care for our health and well-being. Let there be no street children. Let us not forget to be in harmony with knowledge, animal, plant and material orders and work in tandem with the five elements - Panchabhutas – water, earth, air, space and energy. Let us celebrate enterprise, creativity, and innovation. Let us protect the intellectual/ knowledge commons of the people. Let there be free reach to information and knowledge, through channels and books, e/a/v-books.

Let us practice love like a dancer practices dance. Relentlessly! With faith, hope and love of a mother and Buddha, we move forward together. Let us make time – for a smile, for a minute, for a relationship, for a friend, for our own people, for some sleep, for some crying, for some emotions, for some rest, for a dream and passion, and for living and enjoying life.

Development of the people is a function of the work pulls and pushes of the State, Market and Civil Society. State regulates. Market responds to the demand. Civil Society that includes Community Collectives remind and pull the State and Market to be responsive to the needs of the people. This is the famous Development Triangle. Together, state, market and civil society constitute the entirety of a society, and the relations between these three components determine the character of a society and its structure. Civil Society includes groups or individuals either performing certain services or trying to influence and improve society, state and market as a whole. A spectrum of organisations from part of these – community organizations, civic groups, trade unions, activist groups, academia, clubs/ associations, cooperatives, SHGs, religious organizations, social enterprises, NGOs, training and research organizations, support organizations, trusts/foundations and other voluntary organizations etc. Major categories include NGOs (public benefit), people's organizations (mutual benefit), Their roles vary but include innovation, piloting, ideation, mobilization, institution building, capacity building, skilling, advocacy, contracting in, service delivery, networking, facilitation, welfare, relief and rehabilitation, resource mobilization, countervailing to state and market, public voice, policy influence, communication and articulation etc.

The history of civil society is ancient. The king and the philanthropy shared the responsibility of welfare of the common citizen. Of late, state is doubling as civil society and terms like GONGO have become popular. Corporate Social Responsibility by the Business is also increasing. Large community organizations are taking up mobilization and facilitation into their hands. The roles of the civil society are changing dynamically. E-civil society is also emerging. The tax regime is changing. Donor perceptions are changing. Social enterprises are gaining prominence. MFI crisis may be an exception! State's regulation on civil society is also changing. Some facilitation in terms of more self-reliant collective laws, some control in terms of treatment of charity, income and foreign contribution and reporting requirements. Private wealth is supporting public gain led by 'giving' efforts. Of course, we also hear about public wealth supporting private gain. While open knowledge, skills and resources is the articulated way of the civil society, we see extreme ways within them. We also see the conflicts and networking within civil society. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'civil society'.

Rama Reddy's religion has been protecting and nurturing the characteristics of cooperatives, societies and local governments. Jan Shiksha evam Vidya Sanstha/JSVS/PEDO and Devilal Vyas show a way of working long-term with tribal communities in Durgapur. Ubiquitous integrated data centres (STD phone booths à internet centres à integrated centres) are thriving enterprises. 'Civil Society' by Michael Edwards introduces the voluntary citizen action for bettering the conditions of the community at large and the poor in particular.

It is already 42 months since we began 'livelihoods' and we are reviewing the entire effort, process, content, columns etc. Your feedback will go a long way in this transition.

With the appreciation that civil society includes community, their organizations, their support organizations and the staff with/within them and the society constitutes state, market and civil society, I remain thinking of ways to their working together without they being co-opted into each others' roles/businesses.

G Muralidhar
the 'livelihoods' team

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Civil Society

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Civil Society has been playing an influential role in shaping the socio-economic, political, cultural, ecological, and technological contexts of various countries and their settings. In fact, it would not amount to exaggeration to state that today there is hardly any aspect of a society that remains untouched by the work of the Civil Society Organizations. Their footprints are more prominently seen in developing and less developed countries due to the contexts in which these countries operate

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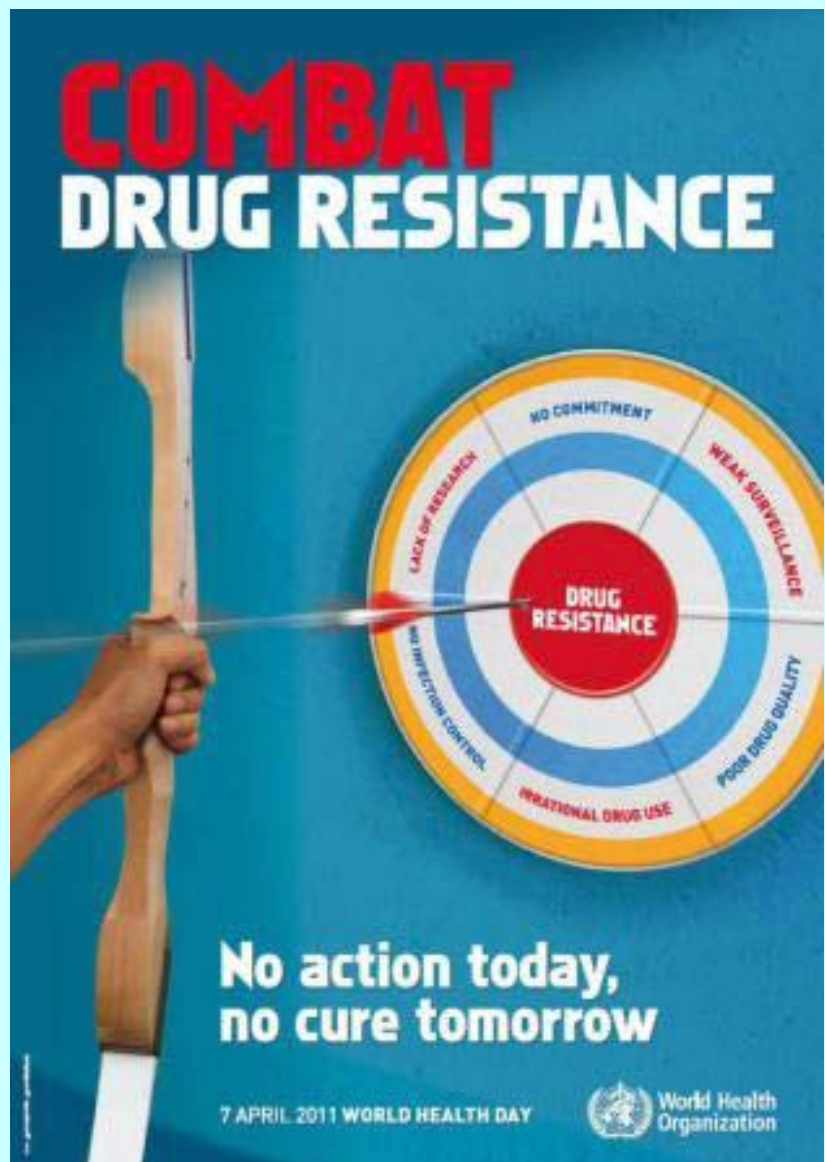


Dear Editor,

I received livelihoods March 2011. Thanks for sending magazine. It is very informative.

Visweswara Rao K
Hyderabad.

World Health Day 7 April



Significant Rise in Literacy Level:

New Delhi, The provisional data of the 2011 census gave the country good tidings on the literacy front, as the literacy level has increased by 9.21 percentage points in the past decade to touch 74.04 per cent. Significantly, the female literacy level saw a significant jump as compared to males. The female literacy in 2001 was 53.67 per cent and it has gone up to 65.46 per cent in 2011. The male literacy, in comparison, rose from 75.26 to 82.14 per cent. Kerala, with 93.91 per cent, continues to occupy the top position among States as far as literacy is concerned, while Mizoram's Serchhip district (98.76 per cent) and Aizawl (98.50 per cent) recorded the highest literacy rates among districts. Madhya Pradesh's Alirajpur district has the lowest literacy rate of 37.22 per cent as also the naxalite-affected Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, where the literacy rate is 41.58 per cent. Lakshadweep followed Kerala with a literacy level of 92.28 per cent, while Bihar remained at the bottom of the ladder at 63.82 per cent, followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 66.95 per cent. Ten States and Union Territories, including Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Tripura, Goa, Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Chandigarh, NCT of Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands achieved a literacy rate of above 85 per cent, which met the Planning Commission's target set to be achieved by 2011-12.

Prepare for Long-term Climate Change Impacts on Food Production, FAO:

NEW DELHI: "Potentially catastrophic" impacts on food production from slow-onset climate changes are expected to increasingly hit the developing world in the future, and action is required now to prepare for those impacts, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned in a report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Food production systems and the ecosystems they depended on were highly sensitive to climate variability and change. Changes in temperature, precipitation and related outbreaks of pest and diseases could reduce production. Poor people in countries that depended on food imports were

particularly vulnerable to such effects, the FAO said. "Currently the world is focussed on dealing with shorter-term climate impacts caused mainly by extreme weather events that is absolutely necessary," said FAO Assistant Director-General for Natural Resources. But, he, the 'slow-onset' impacts were expected to bring about deeper changes that would challenge the ecosystem services needed for agriculture, with potentially disastrous impacts on food security during the period from 2050 to 2100. "Coping with long-term changes after the fact doesn't make much sense. We must already today support agriculture in the developing world to become more resilient," he said.

State Gets Third Largest Loan Component from NABARD:

HYDERABAD: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned Rs.1,237 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to the State during 2010-11. The State occupied third position in the country in terms of assistance sanctioned under RIDF during the year after Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Meanwhile a loan of Rs.137.02 crore was sanctioned to the State government for construction of 110 rural roads and 52 rural bridges by the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department at a total outlay of Rs.173.09 crore and the balance Rs.36.07 crore will be released by the State. The major departments which accessed funds from NABARD under RIDF during the year included the Horticulture Department which got Rs.372.72 crore for financing Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP) to cover 1,50,000 hectares under drip and micro irrigation, four horticulture projects and four polytechnics. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department was sanctioned Rs.237.17 crore for providing drinking water to 12 lakh population and designed to benefit 15 lakh people by the year 2032. The other departments that got funds under the RIDF are Panchayat Raj and Roads and Buildings- Rs.202.13 crore, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department- Rs.209.85 crore, Rs.75.3 crore for construction of 347 roads and 69 bridges through Roads and Buildings, Women Development and

Child Welfare Department- Rs.50 crore for setting up 1,384 anganwadi centres in 22 districts. Since inception of RIDF in 1995-96, NABARD sanctioned 25,845 projects with a loan component of Rs.13,274.76 crore to the State, according to P.Mohanaiah, Chief General Manager, NABARD.

Farm Inputs to be Supplied by May 15:

Bangalore: The State Government has set a target of 73 lakh hectares to be covered during the coming kharif season and taken steps to supply eight lakh quintals of seeds at subsidised prices. The food grain production target for 2011-12 has been set at 140 lakh tonnes. Production was 128 lakh tonnes in 2010-11, while the target was 125 lakh tonnes. Minister for Agriculture, said arrangements had been made to supply seeds and fertilizers to all taluk headquarters by May 15. The State had a buffer stock of 4.5 lakh tonnes of various fertilizers. The fertilizer requirement for 2011-12 was estimated at 29 lakh tonnes, he said. Certified and hybrid seeds will be distributed through Raitha Samparka Kedras at subsidised prices. While 50 per cent subsidy has been fixed for certified seeds, it is 25 per cent for hybrid seeds. About 12 lakh quintals of seeds will be distributed to farmers during the kharif and rabi seasons.

All-time High Food Grains output Anticipated for 2010-11:

NEW DELHI: The country has achieved an all-time high production of food grains, estimated at 235.88 million tonnes in 2010-11, Agriculture Minister said that, this came on the strength of a record output of wheat and pulses. The highest output of food grains, so far, has been the 234.47 million tonnes produced in 2008-09. Speaking at the National Conference on Kharif Strategies, he said: "The third advance estimate figures [for the crop year July 2010 to June 2011] are available with me, which show an all-time record production of food grains at 235.88 million tonnes. Wheat at 84.27 million tonnes and pulses at 17.29 million tonnes are also the highest recorded production ever since 1947." He said the third advance estimates were "the most important one". The total output stood at 232.07 million tonnes in the second advance estimates released in

February. The third advance estimates show an increase of 3.37 million tonnes in wheat over the last year, 6.66 million tonnes in coarse cereals and 2.63 million tonnes in pulses. Thanking the farmers, the States and officials in his department, Mr. Pawar said the strategies for rejuvenating the agriculture sector, aimed at achieving a four per cent growth rate, had borne results and an estimated growth rate of 5.4 per cent was achieved this year. Earlier, at the conference, Agriculture Commissioner Gurbachan Singh presented strategies to deal with different monsoon scenarios.

New GO Empowers Gram Sabhas: HYDERABAD: A path-breaking order has been issued by the government ushering in sweeping changes in rules, to make gram panchayats/gram sabhas in the Scheduled (Girijan) Areas (SA) the ultimate authorities over land, water, and other assets in these areas. At the same time, these bodies have been empowered to protect and preserve traditions and customs of tribal people, their cultural identity, community resources, customary modes of dispute-settlement, and ownership of minor forest produce. The rules, altered through the order (GO Ms no. 66) have made the approval of the local bodies mandatory for acquisition of any land in the SA for a project and for any rehabilitation and resettlement plan.

Over Rs. 22 Crore for Punjab Border Areas' Development: Gurdaspur (Punjab): The Centre will spend Rs.22.25 crore for development of border areas in Punjab, a senior official said. Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur are the districts to be included during the current financial year, as part of Rs 900-crore plan to develop border areas all over the country. A team of the Planning Commission led by Dr Indu Patnaik visited border areas of Gurdaspur district including Bamial, Kalanour and Dera Baba Nanak areas. Later Dr. Patnaik said the border villages are still deprived of basic infrastructure including roads, schools and drinking water and the district administration should speed up work on all Centrally-sponsored schemes initiated under Border Area

Development Program. The Central team, which is currently visiting the district at the behest of Minister of State for Planning, who also hails from Gurdaspur, is also expected to apprise the Union Government of the problems being faced by border residents.

6,000-Crore Crop Loans for Farmers: JAIPUR: The Rajasthan Government has set the target for disbursement of crop loans worth Rs.6,000 crore to farmers through village cooperative societies this year. The Apex Cooperative Bank has released targets for its branches in each of the seven divisions in the State. Cooperative Minister said that this would be the biggest-ever disbursement of crop loans in the State. Loans worth Rs.5,500 crore were distributed during the previous year against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's announcement for Rs.5,000 crore in his Budget speech. He said while Mr. Gehlot had projected disbursement of crop loans worth Rs.6,000 crore in this year's Budget speech, the actual release would exceed the target and amount to about Rs.7,000 crore, including Rs.4,000 crore for kharif crops and the remainder for rabi crops. The Minister said different targets had been set for the Central cooperative banks in Udaipur, Kota, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Bharatpur and Ajmer divisions.

Haryana to Set up 11 Centres to Boost Agricultural Output: CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister said that 11 more Centres of Excellence would be set up in the State on the pattern of Centre of Excellence for Vegetables set up with Israeli cooperation at Gharounda in district Karnal. Also, one such centre was being opened in Hisar. The Chief Minister, who returned from Israel this morning after a six-day visit, said that a Working Group had been constituted in cooperation with Israel to review the present status of agriculture in Haryana and form an Action Plan. This Group would also suggest ways and means to further increase agricultural production. He further said that like Israel, Haryana would also use sewage water for agriculture after its recycling. He described his visit as a step forward

to give boost to "agriculture and horticulture" in the State thus benefitting the farmers.

Water first for Agriculture, not Industry, in Maharashtra: Mumbai: In a decision termed "historic" and "revolutionary" by Maharashtra Chief Minister, the State government has changed its policy on water allocation; giving priority to agriculture over industry. He announced the decision in the Legislative Council, where the controversial Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was passed. Reversing its earlier move to divert irrigation water for industrial use, he said that as per the changed order of priority, water would be allocated first for drinking purposes, followed by agriculture and then industry. With this amendment, the Bill would be re-tabled in the Assembly. "Food security and farmers are our top priority.

12th Plan to Target 9-9.5% Growth: NEW DELHI: The full Planning Commission meeting chaired by Prime Minister agreed to work towards a growth target of 9.0-9.5 per cent for the 12th Plan (2012-17). It endorsed the objectives and challenges outlined by the Commission for the five-year period involving special focus on policy and governance reforms and redesigning of government programmes. The Planning Commission gave a presentation on the ongoing 11th Plan and objectives of the 12th Plan which include 100 per cent literacy, inclusive growth and development of physical and social infrastructure within the overall target of fiscal consolidation. In his concluding remarks at the meeting, Prime Minister pointed to the "general agreement" arrived at for focus on policy and governance reforms while working towards the targeted growth rate. "We should also set monitorable targets related to different dimensions of inclusiveness, and then work to achieve these targets by appropriate design of policy and funding of Plan schemes," said. The draft approach to the 12th Plan for discussions with the States, taking into account the day's deliberations and keeping in mind sustainability and low carbon issues. ❖

Cooperation is his Religion

Rama Reddy is synonymous with Cooperative Sector in India. He is the President of Sahavikasa Cooperative Development Foundation (also called Cooperative Development Foundation). He is also President of Indian Cooperatives Union. He worked restlessly on protecting the characters of the Cooperatives. Above 35 years he has been working for cooperatives development in India.

Rama Reddy was elected Rajendra Nagar Samithi President but with the inspiration of cooperatives he resigned his post and joined cooperative movement. He started Sahakara Samakya at Rajendra Nagar. He started Mulkanoor Dairy Cooperative and Paddy Farmers federation. He worked on Mutually Cooperative Act and Thrift Cooperative Act. He conducted advocacy programs at national level for Cooperative Act.

Andhra Pradesh government repeals the MACs Act. He formed Centre for Cooperative Development (CCD) and fought in the Supreme Court against Government decision on MACs Act. He formed various cooperatives in different places in Andhra Pradesh like Mulkanoor and Vardhannapeta. He has been working in Cooperative Development Foundation for 35 years. He took responsibilities at various posts in CDF from Director, Secretary to President.

Cooperative Development Foundation created number of achievements under the leadership of Rama Reddy. CDF is primarily involved with three cooperatives in different areas. One **Thrift Cooperatives**: This allows members (only) to deposit money, borrow money and share in the surpluses of the coop. The surplus (interest on loans made minus interest on deposits other than mandatory deposits, cost of administering deposits and loans) is shared equitably among the members. - There is no interest paid on their mandatory deposits. Borrowers are charged interest from 18% to 12% declining balance depending on how much money has been collectively deposited by the members into the coop. Loans may be used for any cause and range from 12 to 60 months. Currently the Thrift Coops that CDF has facilitated has 150,000 members.

Women's Dairy Cooperatives - CDF has facilitated the formation of two Dairy Cooperatives. The first Dairy, started in 2002 has a capacity of 20,000 liters per day and 110 local milk collection centers which feed this dairy. The second Dairy, started in 2006 has a capacity of 30,000 liters and 70 local milk collection centers which feed it. Each collection center receives milk twice a day from the local dairy farmers, test the milk for fat percentage, weigh the milk and determine how much the milk farmer will be paid for the amount they provide each time. CDF loaned \$9 million to the first dairy who has repaid the loan and is operating at a profit. The second,



newer dairy they loaned \$1.2 million and they are in the process of repaying the loan.

Paddy (Non-Husked Rice) Cooperatives - Paddy is the major crop in Andhra Pradesh (this state) which is considered to be the "rice bowl of India." CDF has facilitated the formation of four Paddy Seed Growers Cooperatives. They loaned \$100,000 to each of these four cooperatives. These loans, at 9 - 12% interest (declining balance) have been repaid by three of the four coops. The seed business has low credibility in the country - they are seen as "sharks". These cooperatives ensure quality of the seed that they produce and market.

Rama Reddy was selected to the National Dairy Cooperative Initiative Panel as convener along with Kurion and N.C. Join. He begins his work on advocacy programs in other states after 1995 MACs Act. He was Co founder of Loksatta Party. In 2005 to 2006 he worked as President to the Indian Cooperative Union (ICU).

Rama Reddy focused on protecting and nurturing the 'characteristics' of the cooperatives. He always forefront in the battle against the government policies which dilute the characteristics of the cooperative. He has also been extending his services to Indira Seva Sadhan Trust and Sangam Laxmibai Education Trust.

As he is reaching 70, he has been withdrawing from public domain and reducing his involvement in the organizations. CDF has been placed in the hands of the women cooperators from the community. This is in sharp contrast with the founders handing them over to their children or close associates.

Rama Reddy, a tireless cooperator and policy advocate of societies and local governments leaves his legacy in his countless mentees, associates and colleagues. ❖

Himalayan mountains are the most dynamic and complex mountain systems in the world. The Himalayan region is called the 'Roof of the World'. The climate changes impact is very high in this region. Because of climate changes the glaciers are rapidly reducing in the Himalayan region. This impact is more on downstream water resources.

The region is the source of ten rivers in Asia. Nearly 100 million people are residing in around this region. The region has great climate variability. The Himalayan Mountains are influencing the strength and timings of Asian monsoon.

While Himalayas are in India, China (mainly Tibet), Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Himalayans in India span across in Kashmir in the West to Arunachal Pradesh in the East.

Traditionally Himalayan Region is classified as Outer Himalayas (Shivaliks), Lower Himalayas (Himachal), Greater Himalayas (Himadri) and Trans-Himalayas (Tibetan) with varying climates and geography offer variety in the lives and livelihoods of the people. The peaks and valleys offer variety within.

The Himalayan people have traditionally practiced integrated agriculture, balancing cultivation, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, Non-timber forest produce (NTFP) collection and forestry. Mountain geography and inaccessibility have helped maintain agro-biodiversity; yet commercial agriculture is not as high-yielding and profitable as in the plains. Here forest is the major land use pattern, which covers over 52% of total area followed by wastelands and agricultural land.

At the present time, it appears that fish are an important 'natural asset' in the livelihoods of people in some parts of the region. This includes the role of aquatic resources food and subsistence fishing, eco-tourism and income from sport fishing and some small-scale aquaculture. It also appears to be a neglected and diminishing 'natural asset'.

The people of the Himalayan region, especially those in the north-east, over the years had adopted traditional practices of replenishment in the region. One such method was Jhum cultivation, which is basically 'rotational bush fallow' agriculture. This traditional tribal practice enabled regeneration of forests before the same land was cultivated again. The Jhum cycle was once considered to be as long as 25 years, but in the recent past, studies have shown that the cycle has shrunk to as short as 4-5 years (Barthakur, 1981). As the Jhum cycle becomes successively shorter, the rate of soil erosion gets accelerated. This is a strong indicator of the deteriorating ecological balance of the region and is also a statement on the increasing human pressure on land and growing food needs.

The multiple tribes inhabiting the region are primarily dependent on agriculture and animal rearing for a living; they also depend on wild resources to a great extent for their food security, as well as for supplementing family income through sale of these in primary or value added forms. These resources are, however, fast depleting with



increasing pressure on land. The growing population is forcing conversion of more and more of the steep, forested slopes to agricultural land, severely affecting the ecosystem balance. The high altitude pastures are also getting degraded due to overgrazing and irresponsible collection of non timber forest products.

The cold deserts of the Himalayas are a unique ecosystem lying in the Greater Himalayan ranges in the rain shadow of the greening monsoons further south. Altitudes of inhabited areas range from 7,000 feet to 16,000 feet. Precipitation is only in the form of snow. Temperatures (in inhabited areas) plummet to -40°C in winters and scale up to 30°C in summers. Wind velocities are high- between 50 & 70 km/hour. Vegetation is limited to shrubs and grasses.

The Himalayan cold deserts in India include large pockets in the Western Indian Himalayas - the regions of Ladakh and northern Himachal Pradesh, spanning four administrative districts of Leh, Kargil, Lahaul & Spiti, and Kinnaur. It covers an area of about 80,000 sq. km. The density of population ranges from 2 per sq. km. in Lahaul & Spiti to 11 per sq. km. in Kinnaur. The indigenous population comprises several different tribes. The economy of the region is at a subsistence level and based on agriculture and cattle rearing.

Over the years, across the Himalayas, with diversity hotspots, the livelihoods patterns and portfolios are changing, particularly in the land-based and animal-based livelihoods. Wild varieties have declined. Fodders have reduced. Horticulture is coming in. Cash crop farming is taking its root. Tourism is gaining ground. Modern life-style dependent livelihoods are growing. Army-dependent economy has taken its root firmly.

Further, small hydro-electric stations are giving way to large dams that threaten the ecology. Gangetic plains are suffering with decreasing water flows in Himalayan rivers. Safe Himalayas guarantee safer Ganga! ❖

Movement of Giving!

Happy Earth Day! Happy Bhoodan Day! Happy May Day!

The chairman of Rs.1000 billion Trust, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, leaves behind the Trust, the University, Super-specialty Hospitals, Water projects, the one-lakh+ volunteers in 1500+ Sathya Sai Centres in 114 countries and three-six crore devotees in 178 countries, the agenda and the 'hope', controversies apart. For starters, Sathya Sai Trust is one of the highest foreign contribution earners in the country.

Jan Lokpal Drafting Committee came into being as 'scamsters' charge-sheeted and went behind the bars, albeit temporarily. Elections are still going on in 5 states with anti-incumbency sentiment all around. Commercial Cricket is going on.

Vijay Mahajan ends his Shodh Yatra at Pochampally.

Some stirrings for World Health Day (7 April) and Earth Day (22 April)! Many International Days just passed by – International Day for Street Children (12 April); World Entrepreneurship Day (16 April); and World Books Day (23 April). Let us await Mothers' Day, Fair Trade Day, Family Day, Information Society Day, Diversity Days and of course, Buddha Purnima.

The sixteen streams of thought and work dominated the month – institutions, employment, capitals, capacities, contexts, continuums, enterprises, livelihoods for the poor and vulnerable, the livelihoods movement, the livelihoods knowledge workers, the poverty reduction perspective plans, knowledge commons, channels, platforms and consortiums, and search.

We know poor have no choice but self-driven. Steve Tobak lists 10 careers for self-driven people – chef, cook, bar tender (hospitality); sales/trade/vendor; executive; marketing; entrepreneur (start-up); investment (cards, funds); agent (trade, retail, telecom, ICT); blog/jockey; brewer; social media/networking. Spiritual shops need to be added to this list. We can add some more – MGNREGS job; dairy; organic farming; readymade; security; transport; eatables; tea; courier; repairs; so on.

Penelope Trunk concludes - some gender differences are natural and we need to be respectful of this rather than worrying about them. *"In general, men have approximately 6.5 times the amount of gray matter related to general intelligence than women, and women have nearly 10 times the amount of white matter related to intelligence than men. Gray matter represents information processing centers in the brain, and white matter represents the networking of—or connections between—these processing centers."* [Richard Haier]. Further, boys, rather than girls, populate the two extreme ends of the bell curve of intelligence. In the middle, that is people, who are decent at math, science and engineering are equally boys and girls. By the same token, may be some gender preferences are

not social constructs, they are the result of evolution.

Stephen Lloyd, co-creator and architect of the form - Community Interest Company [CIC] in UK, argues that markets need to be controlled in order to be effective. CICs have built into them strict controls on the financial rewards that financiers can take out either through share capital or performance related interest. Effectively CICs can only give their investors a bond type rate of return – that is, interest and no capital appreciation. In America, benefit corporations are now being established which are like CICs. Benefit corporations will have to prove through rigorous reporting, etc, that they are delivering their non-financial returns and social impact. This could involve a beefed up role for the regulator. But there are no caps on financial returns.

India can learn from these CICs and Benefit Corporations in regulating the profit-oriented so called social enterprises including MFIs/NBFCs that articulate social purpose and orientation. Producer Company or Community-owned Private Limited Company or Limited Liability Partnership can be alternatives to privately owned Social Enterprises!

Recent media space occupied by Sri Sathya Sai Baba and his Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust due to his prolonged suffering and eventual mahasamdhi has highlighted their spiritual, philanthropic and education activities by the Trust. These include free schools including institutions of higher learning and deemed university, free hospitals including world class super-specialty hospitals, cultural centres across the world, and free water supply schemes to Chennai and drought-prone areas of Andhra Pradesh. Puttaparthi has grown into a centre with metro-facilities – railway station and airport. The Trust based at Puttaparthi is managing Rs.400-1500 billion properties and works across the globe. This is almost the same budget that is contemplated for the entire National Rural Livelihoods Mission over seven years.

It is interesting to note that so much could be pooled, a miraculous achievement! Only a fraction (not even 10%) of the fund application could provide so much relief to the people and popularity to the Trust! While Warren Buffet and Bill Gates give away or pledged to give away more than 90% of their wealth, our rich are still lagging behind. Sathya Sai could show that charity and generosity in a small measure would take one to heights of popularity. All the rich who are accumulating wealth, we hope, would, learn from him. Surely, his blessings are guaranteed!

Let us give. Let us learn and love to give. Let us earn, learn, love and give. Let us give because we carry nothing with us except the name. Let us leave behind the legacy of love and give. Let us build **the movement of giving** towards livelihoods and development. ❖

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Civil Society

Third Sector

Countries around the world have been riding the wave of the third sector – the Civil Society, for a few decades now. This sector made its presence felt during the 80s and since has been playing an influential role in shaping the socio-economic, political, cultural, ecological, and technological contexts of various countries and their settings. In fact, it would not amount to exaggeration to state that today there is hardly any aspect of a society that remains untouched by the work of the Civil Society Organizations. Their footprints are more prominently seen in developing and less developed countries due to the contexts in which these countries operate.



The variety and reach of Civil Society Organizations in these countries is both an interesting and amazing affair. However, in spite of their overarching influence, it seems that Civil Society Organizations are relatively less talked about, less debated and the need for some structured literature that helps understand this third sector is strongly felt. The Civil Society Organizations have in some sense been denied the focus and attention that the nation-states and business which constitute the first and second sectors have got.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) existed even before the formation of nation-states though not in an institutionalized and organized form as we see them today. They were characterized by their informal existence and more localized in nature. But the formation of nation-states and proliferation of market have in many ways helped bring CSOs to the forefront. The civil society is often discussed in contrast to the state and the market. To put in simple terms, the state is concerned with public goods and mobilizing resources through state authority; and the market is concerned with producing private goods and services and mobilizing resources through market exchange. Civil society, by contrast, is concerned with common goods defined by social groups and it mobilizes resources through social visions and values. Civil society organizations operating around very diverse values, norms and beliefs reflect great deal of heterogeneity.



Civil society has been variously defined and conceptualized. The concept has evolved over time period. It is sometimes defined as then sum of individual and collective initiatives directed towards the pursuit of common public good. Civil society organizations include highly institutionalized groups such as religious organizations, trade unions, business associations, international NGOs, think tanks; local organizations such as community associations, farmers' associations, disabled people's organizations (DPOs), local sports clubs, cultural groups, business groups, local NGOs, credit societies, community media outlets; and looser forms of association such as social movements, academia, networks, virtual groups, and citizen groups outside national borders.

Historically the concept of civil society has undergone many changes. Although the idea was present in the ancient times in one form or the other, civil society got more concretized in the Western World in the 17th century. In contemporary literature three approaches to Civil society conceptualization can be located which has emanated from the context in which the civil society has emerged - Civil society emerging out to democratize the state power in erstwhile socialist states which turned authoritarian in nature as well as the collective actions in many parts of the



world against the military regimes; Watchdog of democracy as conceptualized in Western societies; and Third sector, separate from market and the state. The third approach gained strength after the process of liberalization and globalization has begun.

Why civil society? Has the state failed its people? It seems critical to answer these questions to understand the role of CSOs. Optimal development requires the harnessing of a country's assets its capital, human and natural resources to meet demand from its population as comprehensively as possible. The public and private sectors, by themselves, are imperfect in that they cannot meet all demands. Which interest groups are heeded or neglected will be determined by a combination of economic and political considerations. In particular, those whose voice and purchasing



power are weak, and those whose interests are on long term goals rather than immediate needs, are more likely to be neglected. When a government endeavors to give greater weight to reducing poverty, to redressing gender or ethnic biases, to combating environmental degradation or to strengthening the more vulnerable regions, it is likely to find the current development mechanisms inadequate. Economic policy, the provision of services and infrastructure, regulations and market mechanisms are rarely targeted towards vulnerable groups. In this context, it is argued that the third sector may be better placed to articulate the needs of the weak, to provide services and development in remote areas, to encourage the changes in attitudes and practices necessary to curtail discrimination, to identify and redress threats to the environment, and to nurture the productive capacity of the most vulnerable groups such as the disabled or the landless. In some countries like those in the African continent there is constant erosion of the legitimacy and power of the State. These trends have given wider space for CSOs to operate. Strong civil society demands a more democratically accountable and transparent state, and lead to sustainable good governance. Further some governments have embarked on universal policies, programs and solutions resulting from the desire for universalization leading to homogenization of models, approaches, practices, structures and programs. Civil society on the contrary is sensitive to local conditions that require customization of programs and policies. Also civil society operates with participatory approach as its central focus. These features of civil society helped gain popularity among target population.

While the civil society lays pressure on various facets of the governments there are several ways in which the government can influence the operational environment of NGOs. These may include -

Nature and quality of governance (pluralism, accountability, etc.); The legal framework (registration, reporting requirements, etc.); Taxation policies (on imported goods, local philanthropy, etc.); Collaboration with NGOs (partnership); Public consultation and information (policy impact of NGOs); Coordination (role for governments in coordinating NGO activities); Official support (government funding, official contracts).

Some important contributions of CSOs in recent years include –

Mobilizing people and sensitizing people for secular agenda and questioning government failure in communal riots

Advocacy for Enactment of RTI, training and sensitizing communities and people for its use and strong mobilizations against diluting the provisions of the Act.

Right to food has been ensured due to People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) PIL in the Supreme Court demanding reinforcement of state's duty to avoid hunger deaths and adequate arrangements by the state to provide access to food to the poor, particularly the poorest and the most vulnerable

NAREGA, limited employment guarantees has been also possible due to the intense pressure of the CSOs. The important role being played is in dissemination and sensitizing people, social audits and exposing the corruption

demanding action.

In SSA CSOs are also playing important role in innovations in teaching methods for children, bringing out of school children in the mainstream both as partners community mobilization.

Advocacy, policy questioning, participation in policy dialogues with various levels in government youth, women and child policy, tribal and forest policy etc.

Implementation of programs like watershed / innovations on livelihood programs / SGSY/SHGs micro credit

Demanding accountability through public watch reports , social audits and public hearings and budget analysis has important impact on the government functioning

Environment and resettlement / rehabilitation issues making them national and international agenda / sensitizing and dialogues with the government / multilateral funding agencies

PRI strengthening, voter awareness, helping the most unprivileged to come an participate and sensitizing people

NRHM and right to health

Lokpal bill



The civil society movement in India reached its peak in the 80s and 90s. The seeds for community based organizations like women self-help groups, thrift and credit societies, and micro-finance were laid and spread quickly. Donors preferred CSOs to government for routing donations for development work in the developing and less developed countries. Welfare mode with associated donor strings became the norm. With increase in the popularity of the CSOs the governments also leveraged them as vehicles of delivery. However such rush and prominence led to the mushrooming of the CSOs without any sanity and integrity checks. Lack of professional approach to issues for the most part became another lacuna. The country became home to more than 50 lakh CSOs. Therefore this period also saw the blacklisting of some unscrupulous organizations. Late 90s and beyond saw some shift in the CSO movement. The rampant spread of the third sector invited various government regulations. Government once again stepped into development initiatives on a large scale with huge budget allocations. The central and state governments are also increasingly partnering with business on a large scale in development initiatives. The space for smaller CSOs is rapidly shrinking. Shift has occurred from welfare to development mode.





from many sources. But many of them are much less experienced in organizing and managing civil society organizations that grow past the point of informal coordination. Many civil society leaders are amateurs in dealing with the financial, managerial and organizational implications of growth past a very small scale of operation. They may find it difficult to get support for organizational arrangements that will expand or intensify program impacts.

In general, civil society does not have the kind of reliable access to material resources that is commanded by the authority of the state or by success in the market. As it is difficult to generate and sustain civic commitment on a large scale over a long period of time, issues that require long-term attention, widespread mobilization and large financial resources may experience serious resource constraints. When the constituents of civil society activities are relatively poor and powerless, opportunities for expanding the material base are further limited.

Professionalism and corporate norms and standards crept into CSOs. Corporate social responsibility emerged on a large scale influencing the third sector in a big way.

Civil society itself is ridden with significant problems – Civil society is comprised of many diverse groups, each articulating its own core values and serving particular constituencies. The capacity to respond to many different interests is one of the great strengths of an active civil society, providing panoply of avenues for mobilizing resources to respond to special concerns and needs. However, the particularism that underpins this diversity can also be a sectoral weakness in that civil society organizations may be unresponsive to interests outside their narrowly defined constituency. Concentration on narrowly defined groups and problems can blind civil society organizations to the larger picture, including the ramifications of their services for the broader society or the macro-level causes of the problems they seek to solve. A restricted focus may also result in the inefficient use of scarce resources, as many small organizations provide similar services without any of them achieving scale economies.

Amateurism is another drawback of civil society. While voluntarism is a key asset peculiar to civil society, the technical competence of volunteers does not always coincide with program requirements. Development NGOs that depend on voluntary contributions may not be able to attract qualified professionals who might receive higher salaries from government or business organizations. A second common issue of amateurism in civil society organizations affects their leadership. Many founders of successful civil society initiatives are gifted entrepreneurs or visionaries who can mobilize support for their concerns



With government and business indulging in a big way in development, time has come for the CSOs to reorient itself to continuously voice the concerns and interests of the people in general and poor in particular in a loud and big way. Energies can be channelized more towards organizing movements of social, economic and environmental consciousness and also flagging issues that have received minimal attention and/or completely ignored. CSOs can engage in knowledge management/dissemination through various media in a big way including development TV channels and portals. Finally, the strong presence of government and business cannot be ignored. The three sectors have to work in conjunction with each other towards more inclusive and meaningful development. ❖

Communication Centre

Vignesh is the owner of an internet centre at Ramnagar, Hyderabad. He belongs to the town Pochampaly of Nalgonda district. His has a wife and a son. From his qualifications point of view, he completed B.Sc. He's originally from a family of traditional weavers. Until his 10th Class, he was involved in weaving work along with other members of his family. He graduated while he was still involved in this activity. His older brother was into the computer hardware field, who influenced Vignesh to start an internet centre in Hyderabad, which will be profitable. With the support of his brother and friends, he started internet centre at Ramnagar. He initially invested Rs.70, 000 for the business. He purchased several second hand computers necessary for the internet centre. Although he observed a huge competition for internet centre businesses in Hyderabad, he managed to do well because of his good relationships with the customers. His internet

Particulars	Amount
Shop Advance	30,000
Capital: Furniture, 10 computers, Scanner, Printer, Spiral binding machine, Lamination machine.	1,50,000
Expenses:	
Internet connection bill, Telephone bill	2,300
Electricity bill	3,000
Drum repair expenses	600
Cartridge expenses	500
Shop rent	4,000
Paper bundles for prints (15*130=1950)	1950
Spiral binding sheets and wires	500
Total monthly expenses:	12,850
Income:	
Daily 50 customers for 10 systems Net browsing Rs.10/-per hour (Rs.10/-x50x30=15,000)	15,000
Printouts (1 print=1/-)(7500x1/-=7500)	7,500
Spiral bindings (1 sheet=10/-)(10x10x30=3,000)	3,000
Laminations (1 document=10/-)(10x10x30=3000)	3,000
Fax (minimum) (50/-x30=1500)	1,500
Colour prints (per page=12/-)	1,800
Scanning (per copy =6/-)	2,700
Monthly Income	34,500
Total Monthly Income	34,500
Total monthly Expenses	12,850
Profit per month	21,650

(Note:- Not considered investment related expenses.)

centre receives an average of 50 customers per day. The fixed price is Rs10/- per hour for internet access. He also undertakes spiral binding work for project notes and other books, along with lamination work and internet business. He charges Rs.10/- per lamination copy. He offers discounts to regular customers. ❖

Hard Work towards +ve Change

Venkateswarlu lives at Baghlingampally in Hyderabad. He does tailoring work for his profession. 'Livelihoods' interviewed Venkateswarlu to know about his journey...

Q: What is your name? How old are you?

A: My name is D.Venkateswarlu. I am 49 years old.

Q: What is your native place?

A: My native place is Raida village in Gurajala Mandal, Guntur District.

Q: How many children you have?

A: I have 2 children: one daughter and one son. They both got married.

Q: What is your education qualification?

A: I studied only until 2nd class, after which I got into tailoring work.

Q: Why did you come to Hyderabad?

A: I have a loan of Rs.80,000. I could not pay back such an amount with the earnings from my village. So I came to Hyderabad to earn more money and to pay off my loan quicker. I came here in 2007. I've been living here for the past 4 years.

Q: What work did you first do at Hyderabad?

A: Hyderabad was new for me when I first moved. I never came to Hyderabad before, so I worked with a tailor at Narayanaguda for a meager salary to meet my expenses. I worked with him for six months, after which I started to work on my own.

Q: Which profession was you previously involved in?

A: From the age of 12, I have been working as tailor.

Q: What kind of work do you perform?

A: I do alteration work and also stitch new clothes for gents. But most of the time, I do alteration work.

Q: How much money do you earn per month?

A: I earn Rs.9000 per month. I cover all my expenses with Rs.4500. I use the remaining amount to pay back my loan.

Q: Do you have any savings?

A: I don't have any savings. After meeting my expenses, I use the remaining amount to repay my loan. I have cleared Rs.60,000 so far. I'll repay the rest within a year or two.

Q: What is your family condition right now?

A: My daughter got married and she lives in our village. My son got married and he lives with me with my daughter-in-law. He is also involved in tailoring work. It is because of his help that I'm able to clear my loan at a faster pace.



Q: Which season is optimal for your business?

A: There is no special season which is good. My business is always stable.

Q: Which season is dull for your business?

A: My business tends to be dull during the rainy season. Since my shop is beside the road, there is a problem with rain water stagnation. We are often unable to run our business during those times.

Q: What kind of models you stitch for gents?

A: I stitch jeans, bell-bottoms, narrow pants, etc.

Q: What kind of alterations you do?

A: I do jeans alteration, zip change, pant length change, shirt length change, buttons, re-stitching, etc.

Q: What are the charges for alteration works?

A: The minimum charge is Rs.10, zip change costs Rs.25, and length alteration costs Rs.15.

Q: Did you get any health problems in this work?

A: No, I did not get any health problems in this work so far.

Q: Where do you get the raw material for your work?

A: I get the raw material from a wholesaler in Gowliguda.

Q: What is the maintenance cost for your work?

A: In total, the monthly maintenance charge costs me Rs1000 (including rent).

Q: Did you apply for any governments schemes?

A: No, I did not apply for any government schemes so far.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: First, I have to clear all my debts. I will think further only then. I wish to start my own shop, if possible in the next two years. ❖

Vegetables

Vegetable is also used as a literary term for any plant; vegetable matter, vegetable kingdom. It comes from Latin *vegetabilis* (animated) and from *vegetare* (enliven), which is derived from *vegetus* (active), in reference to the process of a plant growing. This in turn derives from the Proto-Indo-European base *weg- or *wog-, which is also the source of the English *wake*, meaning "not sleep". The word *vegetable* was first recorded in print in English in the 14th century. The meaning of "plant grown for food"

Vegetables are so common in human diet that a meal without a vegetable is supposed to be incomplete in any part of the world. India is the second largest producer of vegetables in the world, next to China. These are grown in about 6 million hectares forming 3% of the total cropped area. Though the vegetable requirement is 300g/day/person as recommended by dietician, we are able to meet about 1/9th of that requirement only.

A good number of vegetables in India are an introduction from foreign countries. Therefore, a planned development in the field of vegetable production will not only improve the nutritional requirement for masses but can also meet the challenge of adequate food supply to the growing population in India. The limited cultivable area can be best utilized for growing vegetables which are known to give higher yields per unit area.

Vegetable growing being labor intensive can substantially increase employment avenues too. Our country is gifted with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which enables the production of vegetables throughout the year in one part of the country or the other and then maintaining a continuous supply of fresh vegetables. These off season vegetables are in great demand in home market as well as in the neighboring Gulf countries.

India is the second largest producer of Vegetables in the world (after China). The estimated production is of 67.0 million tonnes grown over about 6.25 million hectare. India also produces 18.3 million tonnes of tubers and root crops annually. It is estimated that requirements of vegetable in the country would be about two to three times more than present production.

The important vegetables grown are potatoes, onions, green peas, cauliflower, okra, cabbage, tomatoes, eggplant, carrots, and green chilies. Many exotics and luxury vegetables like gourds, pumpkins, leeks, mushrooms, asparagus, and cucumbers are also grown. In a small way some organically grown vegetables are also available. In a recent development many technically qualified professionals have adapted to modern methods of



cultivation and mechanized farming. Some glass and playhouses to grow flowers and vegetables are also coming up. Production of vegetables is estimated at 67.0 million tonnes. It exports about 400 thousand tonnes of vegetables valued at Rs. 2200 million.

India ranks first in global production of okra; and second in cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, pea, onion, and tomato; and third for potato. However, yields/ha are not world-ranking, except in the case of tomato (highest in world ranking of yield), okra, and cauliflower (equivalent to world averages). Area under vegetables and annual production vary considerably among states and regions with production highest in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Some production from several states also supplies major cities. Of the states with populations exceeding 2 million, state-wise per capita production is highest in West Bengal, Orissa, and Nagaland, and lowest in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Manipur.

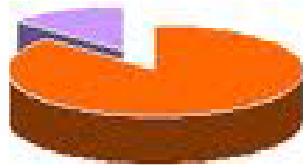
Vegetable Seed: India is one of tropical Asia's major vegetable seed producers and exporters. Seed quality regulation needs improvement. The production and marketing system for certified seed of improved varieties needs to be streamlined and promoted; farmers depend too much on —saved seed (perhaps 2/3 of vegetable production) due to inadequate knowledge of the importance of good seed, and lack of access to good seed. Under the 11th 5-year plan, a Production Scheme to meet breeder requirements for vegetable seeds is proposed, as well as increased attention to the supply of planting material for spices and aromatic and medicinal plants (Working Group

Vegetable Production

India
15%

(71 Million Tons)

Year 2007



World
India

World

85% (473 Million Tons)

on Horticulture, Plantation Crops and Organic Farming, 2007). A new Seed Bill has been under committee in the government and the seed industry has concerns about provisions in relation to seed selling by farmers, regulation of prices, and —regulation of private seed companies.

In recent years, keen interest has developed in vegetable cultivation on large farms that are distantly placed from consuming centers. Various varieties of vegetables have been released in the recent past both for table and processing purposes. Judicious soil water- fertilizer-vegetable crop management techniques have been developed. Vegetable crop calendars involving adjustment of new varieties in different cropping patterns have been formulated. Transplanting techniques of cucurbits for early and increased production and seed-plot-technique for producing virus-free seed of potato in the plains of north India have been developed. Thus, new advances in technology in this sector are leading to an increase in vegetable production in the country. There is a great importance for home gardens in

India. Leafy vegetables and also some varieties are grown in the back side of houses. Now a day's home gardens are encouraged by workshops to grow vegetables in cities and town within limited space.

Cultivation: Vegetable growing being labor intensive can substantially increase employment avenues too. Our country is gifted with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which enables the production of vegetables throughout the year in one part of the country or the other and then maintaining a continuous supply of fresh vegetables.

Vegetable growing is suitable for small and marginal farmers. A number of vegetables can be grown successfully as intercrop along with trees. The cultivation of vegetables in India is generally concentrated around towns and cities, so that they can be harvested and transported to the market immediately and in fresh form. With the increase in transport and communication facilities, vegetable cultivation has spread in interior areas where irrigation facilities are available. This is because growing vegetable crops is more profitable than any other seasonal crop particularly the food grain crop. The spread of vegetable cultivation in rural areas has created new problems, particularly of transport, handling, packing and storage which are still in their formative stage.

Increasing vegetable production and postharvest activities provides an employment benefit for women. Weinberger and Lumpkin (2005) noted estimates of 80 and 124 labor days/ha for production of cereals and vegetables



respectively. When labor access is limiting, or work excessively arduous, greater mechanization will be needed to sustain or improve productivity.

Pesticide use in cultivation: Pesticide use for vegetable production is —alarmingly high, and consumers are relatively unaware of the risks. Progress has been made in the IPM approaches (1.1. million farmers trained in horticulture sector in last seven years) such as pheromone lures for control of shoot-tip borer and other pests in eggplant; the use of a range of bio pesticides; and the development of genetically modified plants with Bt-mediated control of pests in eggplant and breccias; however, GMOs have not yet been



released. Progress is also being made in integrated disease management strategies (multiple resistant cultivars, resistant stock grafting, cultural practices, and bio-fungicides or —soft chemicals)

Fertilizer use in cultivation:

Fertilizers are one of the highest input costs in vegetable production. Usage is imbalanced, and more scientific approaches are needed. Estimated consumption of NPK across all crops was 22.4 million tonnes in 2006-07, up from 20.3 million tonnes in 2005-06, with the Department of Fertilizers coordinating supplies across states to reduce the risk of shortages . Over application of nitrogen fertilizers has resulted in high levels of nitrates in wells near vineyards in Maharashtra and Karnataka states, making the water unfit for irrigation or human consumption. Fertilizer subsidy schemes need to be rationalized, to discourage over-application of nitrogen. Knowledge of micronutrient needs is inadequate, and soil testing, with provision of sound nutrition advice, is needed. Bio fertilizers present a promising alternative to the use of chemical fertilizers, and production and promotion of their use is a priority under the 11th 5-year plan.

Post harvest Losses:

Postharvest losses in India are very high—probably enough to feed at least 20% of the population. According to the Indian Government, US\$ 14.3 billion worth of perishable and durable agri-produce is wasted, while > 200 million people remain underfed, and almost half of the children are underweight. Wastage occurs at various stages due to fragmentation of the supply chain, deficiencies in the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, and inadequate infrastructure

Marketing :

Development of the vegetable industry is constrained by poor marketing arrangements; there is a large gap between farmer and retail prices. There are various types of market are such wholesale, retail, raithu markets, rural market etc.

Wholesale: Wholesalers purchase vegetables from farmers through middleman and pay commission to them. They sit on a mat or gunny bags on mandi ground and perform their business. They do their business up to afternoon only. They sell to local and nearby vegetable vendors which they want less quantity; consumers who want more quantities, some wholesalers sell their vegetables in mandis. Vendors purchase vegetables from farmers through middlemen in mandi and pay commission to them. If they want less quantity then they go to wholesalers. They sell in local vicinity villages, different mandis, markets and colonies.

Rural periodic market: The farmers' market, a village haat that operates on a specific day or days each week, with farmers selling direct to consumers (from a shelter/building, or the open air). There are more than 27,000 rural periodic markets operating. Quantities sold are small, but sales go direct from farmer to customer, so profit share can be reasonable.

Assembly market; These are similar to farmers' markets, except that produce is sold to traders who assemble, consolidate, and transport for sales elsewhere in the city or market. They are especially important in eastern India and in areas of concentrated production. Operations can be informal and involve the use of temporary —collection centers in production areas by traders, transporters. Farmer produce is assembled for transport to a city market, with the payment to farmer depending on the sale price at the regulated market.

Terminal markets; at these markets, produce is sold to consumers or processors, or assembled further for a distant

Market or export: These markets involve well-organized merchants and are located in major cities (Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) currently; the wholesale markets are dominated by a small number of traders. Transactions lack transparency. Grading and handling facilities are poor, and wastage is high due to poor logistics and lack of cool chain facilities.

Although upgrading of government-regulated markets in the fresh produce sector has been proposed by the Indian Government, it will be critical to implement cost efficient systems that optimize delivery of fresh produce to consumers and exporters through supermarkets and other retail outlets.

Retail: Over the last decade, the Indian retail sector has expanded dramatically, with the retail food sector growing at 5% and sales of US\$ 168 billion in 2005. Small independent shops dominate 99% of retail food sales, with the advantage of supplying low-income products that are affordable for most people, with convenient locations, local produce sourcing, and loyal customer followings. By contrast, supermarkets and modern retail stores have until recently occupied only 1% of the market. The emerging supermarket sector wants to cater to the needs of this poorest sector, which constitutes the largest consumer group in the country. Chains operating in India include Food world (98stores), Food Bazaar, Nilgiri's and Spencers (8 hyper marts). In the areas where supermarkets have opened, local vendors (small stalls, peddle carts, pavement sellers) are reputed to be losing 40% of their business. But the change to supermarkets is led by customer demand and will revolutionize produce handling; strategies will be needed to facilitate the transition and minimize the impact of the changes on disadvantaged traders.

Exports: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has oversight of market development for Indian exports. APEDA has developed HACCP certification and pesticide residue monitoring guidelines, and their effective implementation is critical for fresh and processed vegetable export development. The important vegetables exported are potatoes (28%), onions (7.1%), cauliflower and cabbage (4%), okra (3%), others (50%). The exports are limited to Middle East, Europe, U.K. and Singapore etc. India has also been exporting canned and dehydrated vegetables and various other products like pastes, frozen vegetables, ketchup, pickles, juices and powdered vegetables (onion and garlic) mainly to West Asian markets. These markets are receiving only 4.5 per cent of their fresh vegetables from India; so a tremendous potential exists in increasing export to these markets. Among dehydrated vegetables, beans, onion and garlic are important and among frozen vegetables prospects for peas, cauliflower, French beans, baby carrot and okra are bright. Chili oleoresin is another important export item, earning foreign exchange worth Rs 88 crore every year.

Government Role;

The union government has not made any common regulation for the marketing of vegetables applicable all over the country. However, some of the state governments have enacted laws and Acts. The Government should encourage partnerships between research institutions, agricultural and engineering universities, NGOs and private

industries to address constraints and link vegetable farmers to national and international markets. With economic liberalization, globalization, and the WTO, policies should be carefully drafted to see that the private sector, through contract farming and other methods, encourages small-scale farmers to grow quality vegetables. The Government should assist in the development of markets, move forward with vegetable fairs to attract foreign buyers, and create more awareness of the importance of safe vegetables in diets. The ministry of agriculture and the ministry of food processing industries should jointly organize such initiatives.

The Government should assist small-scale units to come up with attractive brands and creative labeling of products with safety assurance, which the international and domestic buyers can rely on. The Government should encourage women entrepreneurs to take up vegetable production, processing and marketing. In its bid to achieve self-sufficiency in vegetable production and promote bio-farming, Agriculture department has decided to facilitate loans at subsidized rates to help those willing to cultivate vegetables on commercial basis. Farmers, who avail a minimum loan of Rs 25,000 from a cooperative bank, would be disbursed money at two per cent interest as recommended by the State Agriculture Department, official sources said.

Problems:

Owing to the highly perishable nature of vegetables, about 25-40 per cent of the produce gets wasted due to lack of adequate post-harvest handling, which cuts down the export quantities and increases competitiveness. Another reason why India has not been very successful in the export market is that most of the produce is purchased from the wholesale market or from contractors. In such conditions the exporter does not have any knowledge about the pre-harvest care during the growth period. Latent infections therefore appear by the time the produce reaches the importing country. This is a big setback to our exports. The only solution to this problem is contact farming under the supervision of exporters. Non-availability of air cargo space and high freight rates are other major constraints in increasing exports.

At times, because of failure of a particular crop in India, increased local demand and restrictions on export lead to uncertainty in the export position of the country. Another problem is domestic demand and prices of vegetables are high, which hinders regular export. There is major competition now from neighboring Asian countries, so India has to honor a minimum export quantity and agreed delivery for a period of 10 years.

Conclusion:

There is a need to establish and promote vegetable processing units, net houses/ protected cultivation for minimum use of insecticides, organic farming, refrigerated vans, cold storage facilities, modern storage and packing centers, more cargo space and pesticide residue testing laboratories. These should be a close linkage between exporters and producers of exportable surplus. Moreover, it is necessary to have a proper survey of foreign markets as to their requirements of quality/types of crops and accordingly enter new markets with suitable varieties. ❖

The World Development Report 2011

Inter-state and civil wars characterized violent conflict in the last century; more pronounced today is violence linked to local disputes, political repression, and organized crime. The World Development Report 2011 underlines the negative impact of persistent conflict on a country's or a region's development prospects, and notes that no low income, conflict-affected state has yet achieved a single Millennium Development Goal.

The World Development Report 2011:

Conflict, Security, and Development looked at conflict as a challenge to economic development. The report notes that at least 1.5 billion people live in countries stricken with frequent violence, where poverty rate is 20 percent higher than that of other countries. The report shows how 21st century organized violence appears to be spurred by a range of domestic and international stresses, such as youth unemployment, income shocks, tensions among ethnic, religious or social groups, and trafficking networks. In citizen surveys done for the report, unemployment was overwhelmingly the most important factor cited for recruitment into gangs and rebel movements. Risks of violence are greater when high stresses combine with weak capacity or lack of legitimacy in key national institutions, as shown by the recent turbulence in the Middle East and North Africa.

The investigation conducted for the purpose of report indicates that none of the fragile low-income countries or violence-stricken countries has achieved any of the Millennium Development Goals. The incidence of child malnutrition in these countries is two times that of other countries and the school dropout rate three times that of other countries. The violent activities in one country may affect neighboring countries and other regions in the world and the whole region's economic development will be hindered. People living in fragile states are twice as likely to be undernourished and 50 percent more likely to be impoverished. And their children are three times as likely to be out of school, the economists found. The poverty rate of countries ridden by prolonged violence is about 20 percent higher than that of other countries.

Capable, legitimate institutions are crucial because they are able to mediate the stresses that otherwise lead to repeated waves of violence and instability: more than 90% of civil wars in the 2000s occurred in countries that already had a civil war in the previous 30 years. Elsewhere, gains made through peace processes are often undermined by high levels of organized crime.

"Stove-piped" government agencies are ill-suited to cope, the report found. Instead integrated international action is

needed on multiple levels. The report offers a five-point roadmap for action, saying establishing institutional legitimacy was key to stability. The bank also called for investment in citizen security, justice and jobs; reform of institutions to make them more responsive; and the adoption of a "layered" approach involving multiple levels in addressing a problem. The fifth point stresses the need for an overarching awareness that the global landscape is changing away from the old model dominated by the rich countries.

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The WDR 2011 draws on the experiences of countries that have successfully managed to transition away from repetitive violence, pointing to a specific need to prioritize actions that build confidence between states and citizens, and develop institutions that can provide security, justice, and jobs. Government capacity is central, but technical competence alone is insufficient: institutions and programs must be accountable to their citizens if they are to acquire legitimacy. Impunity, corruption, and human rights abuses undermine confidence between states and citizens and increase the risks of violence. Building resilient institutions occurs in multiple transitions over a generation, and does not mean converging on western institutional models.

The WDR 2011 advocates a greater focus on continuous preventive action, balancing a sometimes excessive concentration on post-conflict reconstruction. The report is based on new research, case studies, and extensive consultations with leaders and other actors throughout the world. It proposes a toolkit of options for addressing violence that can be adapted to local contexts, as well as new directions for international policy intended to improve support for national reformers and to tackle stresses that emanate from global or regional trends beyond any one country's control.

Breaking cycles of repeated violence is thus a shared challenge demanding urgent action unless which we are going to lag behind in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. ❖

Charity

On 23 November 1926, Sathya Sai Baba (Satyanarayana Raju) was born in a small village called Gollapalli in Ananthapur district, Andhra Pradesh. Eeswaramba and Peda Venkamarju are his parents. He went to schools in Gollapalli, Bukka Patnam and Uravakond upto Class 9. From the childhood, he was spiritual and people were attracted by his spiritual speeches.

In his 14th year, he declared the purpose of his 'Avatar' & then people started calling him as 'Sathya Saibaba'. In 1948 he established "Prashanthi Nilayam". Naturally the money outflow also increased and he formed a trust named "Sathya Sai Trust". Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was registered in 1972 and has been undertaking various developmental activities inspired by Sai Baba. The activities of the Central Trust extend over a wide range like Education, Health and Medicine, and welfare activities like Drinking Water Supply, Disaster Relief, Rehabilitation, Housing etc. At present an estimated six crore people are his devotees in India and abroad across 166 countries.

Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project: One of the unique charitable activities undertaken by the Trust is the provision of drinking water to 30-40 lakh of people in the drought-prone rural areas. The drinking water supply scheme is providing clean drinking water to approximately 800 villages in Anantapur District, similar schemes in Medak and Mahbubnagar Districts and tribal areas of East and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh. The Trust is also providing drinking water to Chennai city. The problem of drinking water in India is acute. Out of 13 lakh habitats, 4 lakh habitats are not have regular source of drinking water. With this rationale, the Trust has taken the initiative for providing safe drinking water through the Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project, which has become a model for other districts in AP and the country.

Health Institutions: A world class Super Specialty Hospital with Rs. 300 crore was established in Puttaparthi in 1990. Mobile hospital is another intervention which is successfully giving medical services to the villages surrounding Puttaparthi. Surgeries are also done in the mobile hospital and the free medicines are given. In 2001, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences was started in Bengaluru. This program is successfully implemented and Karnataka government provided 53 acres of land to Sathya Sai for Higher Medical Hospital. In this hospital cardiac surgeries are done without fee. Food, tests and medicines are entirely given free of cost to patients. Till now 18 lakh people took medical services as out patients. 14 lakh operations were conducted. This is first neuro-navigation system hospital in the country and second in the world.

The Trust has set up Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning as deemed university offering free education. The Trust is running free schools in India and worldwide.

The Trust undertakes various activities, such as providing food, clothing and shelter, for the benefit of the poor on a regular basis. It also conducts mass marriages entirely free of cost for the poor and needy. The Trust has been constructing/renovating community halls, schools, temples in villages around Puttaparthi.

The Trust has also constructed buildings to accommodate patients who come for treatment, doctors, nurses, technicians, and other paramedical staff who come from different parts of the world for rendering services free of cost. Visiting professors, educationists, intellectuals, academicians, etc. who come for delivering lectures at the University, artistes coming for cultural performances are also provided accommodation. The Trust has made suitable arrangements for the convenience of visitors to Prashanthi Nilayam who come to imbibe the moral, ethical, cultural, and human values espoused by Sri Sathya Sai Baba on a continuous basis.

Thus, the Trust activities employ more than 5000 employees in various locations, and provide livelihoods directly or indirectly to a large number of people. More than a lakh volunteers are involved some kind of social service.

The Central Trust is the nodal agency that lays down the policy guidelines for all service activities carried out by the State Trusts all over India and through International Sai Organization across the globe. Sri Sathya Baba was its Chairman till his death on 24 April 2011.

Built on the popularity through 'magic' and 'materialization of objects from thin air, the Trust has grown over the years. However, there controversies about the veracity of the magic and miracles. There are sections of the people who believe this sheer magic and there are others who think it is divinity. He has not agreed for any challenge to prove his divinity by rationalist like Narasimhiah and Abraham Kovoov. Some of his devotees were blessed with 'materialized' gold chains and rings.

His devotees include Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Political Leaders, Secretaries, Police Officers etc. He derived his influence through his powerful devotees. This influence gave him and the Trust the autonomy to run the way he/the Trust wanted to run. Incidentally. Most devotees donated money to the Trust without any pre-conditions. The Trust has also received kind donations. Baba himself moved away from the 'miracles' meanwhile.

Today, the Trust is estimated to have properties worth Rs.40,000 Crore (minimum) and Rs.150,000 Crore (maximum). In fact, there is no valuation available at this point of time. The Trust is in the top recipients of the foreign contribution every year for a long time now. The annual return from these properties and flows is not less than Rs.5000 Crore. Its annual expenditure is not even Rs.500 Crore. With about 10% expenditure of the returns, the kind of popularity, good will and influence is to be seen to be believed. A sanyasi has become a messiah. This is the message. To the rich. In whichever you have become rich, please give. The people at large will remember you. When the state does not respond, at least you should respond to the crying basic needs of the poor. .

Now that Sathya Sai is not at the helm of affairs, the Trust should develop its vision, governance and way forward plans including devolving to local communities. There is enormous scope to take up activities on scale with this kind of budget availability, particularly in the livelihoods and enterprises domain. ❖

PEDO in Rural Development

Jan Shiksha Evam Vikas Sangathan (People's Education and Development Organization PEDO) is a voluntary organization which started functioning in 1980. The organization is actively involved in the field of rural development with poor communities. Self-reliant rural communities striving for sustainable livelihood with value based development orientation is the vision of the organization.

The mission of the organization is to strengthen value based people's institution to utilize existing resources for poverty alleviation and environmental up-gradation. Initially, PEDO established itself as the field branch of Social Work and Research Center, it's functioning independently on its own from 1986. Now it reached more than 5 lakh people.

The organization is presently working with the rural communities of Dungarpur and Banswara district most of who belong to the Bhil tribe. The main operational area of the organization covers five Blocks of Dungarpur district and one tribal block (Kushalgarh) of Banswara district, as well as villages located in adjoining of Udaipur districts. PEDO is involved in community organization and mobilization, identification and promotion of participatory developmental program, establishing the function mechanism including skill enhancement and capacity building of the communities. The organization also provides support mechanism for spread and sustainability of the different actions initiated through various developmental programs.

PEDO PROCESS: PEDO's history has some very clearly marked phases or stages of development as it worked with the local communities in a joint effort to improve the economic and social situation in Dungarpur district. But right from the start, its methodology and strategy carried the seeds of the later more developed programs.

Phase 1: The Entry Programs: 1980 – 1985

PEDO began work as SWRC Mada, in 1980. The founder and Director, Mr. Devlal Vyas had worked for five years in Tilonia. After that he starts working in Bicchiwara block which is a drought prone tract, with 80% tribal community. It was both socially and economically backward with most of the people practicing subsistence agriculture. The land-holdings were small and marginal, which meant that the agricultural crops could support a farmer's family for barely four months. Most of the people depended on agricultural labor and many had to migrate to other areas in search of work. And also the literacy level was very low in this area.

So the organization started working with local issues, like: Women's program (duri weaving and its marketing facility, smokeless chulla) Educational Program (NFE classes and Bal Shikshan Kendra), Land and water based program (well deepening and community irrigation, leveling of farm

land) .This program increased the outreach among women's and community to the larger part of the block

Phase 2: The Drought Period Program: 1985-1989

During the period 1984-1987, Rajasthan in particular and Dungarpur in particular were hit by a series of droughts with the peak in 1986-87. The Guinea Worm Eradication Program: 1985- 1990, Common Land Plantations: 1985 – 1990 Private Land Plantations: 1989-90, Education (Shiksha Karmi Schools and Mahila Shiksha Karmi Schools) Women's empowerment (Economic reconstruction, and formation of Self Help Groups). This period was also one of major increases in program coverage, both intensive and extensive. This was partly because of the need to respond to the distress caused by the drought program but was only possible because of the strong base set by the earlier work, through linkages with both the local communities and the government. Also organization becomes aware of the need and importance of focused work with women.

Phase 3: Institutional Building Period The PAHAL project marked the transition to the next phase of PEDO strategy where the emphasis was on development through village level institutions. And in the women's' program this was given a further impetus through the SAKHI program. The PAHAL Project: 1992-97 (to contribute the sustainable use of rehabilitation of land and water resources).

The Sakhi Project (Empowerment of women through NRM) Sakhi Phase-1: Women's Forum, HRD formation for women's groups, Physical activities through women's groups. Sakhi Phase-2: Social sustainability through self managed groups, financial viability of the groups and clusters, PEDO as facilitator rather than implementer.

Phase 4: The Replication Phase: 2000: Already by the end of the first year of SAKHI II, it was clear that the program represented a sound strategy for PEDO in the new millennium. The women's empowerment program, which was planted at the Mahila Mela in 1987, during the distress of the drought years, had now grown deep roots and seemed capable of surviving internal and external pressures and was also capable of providing grafts to plant in other areas.

The logical follow-up to the SAKHI II cluster process and the block level federation of women's groups was to develop a district level federation of women's Self Help Groups so as to benefit from economies of scale. In the year 2000, the next step in developing a district level Women's Federation of Micro-Finance under Women's Federation of Micro Finance Project 2000-2003 was initiated in the blocks of Aspur and Simalwara. These had also been part of the project area of the PAHAL project and much of the preparatory work had already been done. PEDO as lead agency in charge of training in PAHAL was also familiar with the area and some of the village level groups in the area.

New programs taken after 2003, PEDO's planning for the

future has grown organically from its experience of the past. It has worked in a number of different sectors with varying methodologies.

1. Women Empowerment through Micro Credit: PEDO has focused on process and developed system for proper functioning of Micro Finance Program. It has adopted SHG bank linkages modal but in 1993 to 1995, when banks were not financing the groups, PEDO has played a mediator role to make available adequate funds to the groups. Gradually, Banks were convinced and a confidence and linkages were developed with local banks and the SHG's. Financial viable and Self- Sustained Model was established thru Seven Federations in the District. Four federations in Bichhiwara, two in Simalwara and one in Aspur has become viable and self sustained. Financial self-sufficiency is one of the biggest achievements of the program.

The Groups and Federation are contributing of all operational as well as Administrative Cost to run the Program. To reach the viability threshold, the number of groups and members had to be increased. Initially, the No. of groups in one cluster were 15 but these were not sufficient to make them financial self-sustainable, so the number of groups were increased up to 20 which was manageable and viable to become Self- Sustainable at Cluster Level. Bank of Boroda has initiated 100% financial inclusions of Dungarpur district to increase CD ratio. A special provision has been initiated by the bank to increase SHG bank linkages in the district and a separate credit fund of Rs.540 million has been allocated to finance PEDO's SHG network in the district for livelihood activities. PEDO has already utilized Rs. 200 million out of the total allocated credit amount.

2. Environment up-gradation through NRM: Land and Water based programs: Initially, this consisted of leveling of farm land, well deepening and community irrigation schemes. The well deepening scheme was partly subsidized and partly by bank loans, which had to be repaid. By 1985, 400 wells had been deepened and 400 acres of land leveled. Several small lift irrigation schemes were also implemented.

Common Land Plantations: 1985 – 1990: Common Lands Program: To develop common lands resources to fulfill community needs for fuel, fodder, small timber, to regenerate common lands through appropriate methods of soil conservation and water harvesting, to create strong village groups capable of joint action for protection and sustainable management of the plantations, to encourage participation women in the management of common lands and to provide employment in a drought period and reduce migration. **Private Land Plantations 1989-90:** The benefits were multiple. Besides the regenerated physical assets, and the consequent economic benefits, the women, many of them for the first time, were the direct project beneficiaries and had to represent the families, even where the men were present. During the project period of 1988-89 almost 500 hectors belonging to 1135 families were treated and 8.8 lakh saplings planted. Equally if not more important, women from 70 villages had been brought into the forefront of a village development activity, not just as the labour component as was usually the case, but as primary implementers.

The PAHAL Project: 1992-97: PAHAL (Participatory Approach to Human and Land Resource Development) Pro-

ject was an innovative program of the Government of Rajasthan and the Swedish International Development Agency. The goal was "to contribute to the sustainable use and rehabilitation of land and water resources" in Dungarpur district. The way to achieve this was through village level institutions as the "main and in most cases, the sole implementing agencies". The Project staff and structure were to work as a service organization, to set up, train and support the village level institutions. And it was designed so that government and NGOs would work in close cooperation, each contributing its own expertise and experience.

3. Irrigation and Agriculture Development: Saram watershed is remotely located in Dungarpur District on the state boundary of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The main objectives of the project are like to develop a replicable model in watershed development for semi-arid and tropical areas of Rajasthan; to strengthen the livelihood system of the rural communities in the project area through watershed development, to develop a sustainable natural resource base within the watershed area through science led technological interventions.

4. Strengthening the Leadership of Women in Local Governance: The project was implemented in two districts – Dungarpur and Banswara in Rajasthan. The main focuses of this project was Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institution and involve community to develop participatory planning for poverty reduction in both districts. The stakeholders in the project were Planning Commission, State Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department and Zila Parishad at district level.

5. Child Rights and Child Education: The beginning of work in the area by PEDO in 1980s, NFE classes were started in two villages. In a short while, other villages asked for classes as well and by 1983 the programme had spread to 9 hamlets and this increased to 20 villages by 1983. Encouraged by this success, PEDO started two day schools for children. Even at this early stage, community participation was a condition for a programme. The village had to build the school building and provide a local teacher before the unit was opened in the village. Once the schools were opened, village level committees were established, to maintain and enhance the community involvement. Linkages with the government school system were also set to get recognition for the children in the classes. After a series of meetings, the department agreed to let children from the project classes appear for the government school exams and to certify the children who passed.

6. Health and Sanitation: Guinea Worm Eradication programs: This was one of the programs that had a major impact on PEDO's development capability. In 1980, SIDA agreed to a project for the eradication of guinea worm in the area and this was later converted into the pilot phase of SWACH, a broader program with government involvement. The program consisted of both preventive and curative components, covering more than 94 villages and was highly successful. As many as 468 hand pumps were installed and 156 step wells were sanitized with 23 new wells being dug. Apart from the immediate (and considerable) health benefits to the area, the project also provided PEDO with an opportunity for in depth involvement with these communities which stood it good stead for its later programs.

When ever we discus about PEDO we have remember Devilal Vyas who was the designer and founder of the PEDO. He is also Director of the PEDO. He completed PG with Economics. After Post Graduation he started working with Bunker Roy who was founder of 'Bare foot Collage'. The 'Bare foot College's' aim is to train 'barefoot professionals' to mean indigenious and traditional knowledge leaders in poor communities. It is both literal and symbolic. Millions of People in India live and work barefoot; but the title is also used as a symbol of respect for the knowledge that the poor have. After Devi Lal went to Mada village, Dungarpur (Rajastan State) and made interaction with local people and Gram Panchayat. GP gave land to set up office there. He used all available local resources. He started to train the local people. Initially they did not believe Devi Lal. He interacted many times with local people and also participated in their Bajans till late night. Slowly he gained the trust of the local people.

Devi Lal established Jana Shiksha Vikas Sangathan (JSVS) at Mada village. In the initial stage he faced lot of hardships. Mada village is situated in a backward region. There are no basic amenities such as electricity and water supply. Agriculture was the only occupation practiced by people at that time but irrigation facilities was not there. And rapid deforestation had made tribal's life more badly. This led to large amount of migration to neighboring state Gujarat (Ahmadabad). Devi Lal concentrated on children education, land development activities, irrigation facilities, common properties resources protection and particularly mobilizing women in Self Help Groups in a sustainable way.

Devi Lal says that CBO`s can be the way forward to eradicate poverty, transparency within the organization, Community acceptance is a must for any development project and use local resources available whenever possible. ❖

World Earth Day - 22 April

Preamble:

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations."

Principles: The four pillars and sixteen principles of the Earth Charter are:

I. Respect and Care for the Community of Life

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity., 2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love. 3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful. 4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

II. Ecological Integrity

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life. 6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach. 7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights and community well-being. 8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

III. Social and Economic Justice

9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative.

10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner: a) Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations. b) Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt. c) Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labour standards. d) Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.

11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care and economic opportunity.

12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenious peoples and minorities.

IV. Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision-making, and access to justice.

14. Integrate into formal education and lifelong learning the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life. 15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration. 16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace. ❖

Experiences of Shodh Yatra

Bhoodan Movement led by Acharya Vinobha Bhave and its significance. It was here at exactly this spot exactly 60 years ago that Acharya Vinoba Bhave launched the Bhoodan Movement on 18th April 1951. Vinoba came to visit the village to understand the situation. He asked them to come to his prayer meeting in the evening. There he said the landless had a justified grievance. He wondered aloud if any landlord would give part of his land to the landless so they could also live with dignity. On hearing this, V Ramachandra Reddy, a landlord who had 1600 acres of land, said he would give part of his land to the landless.

The next morning, Ramachandra Reddy reiterated his pledge and Vinoba then announced that this was the beginning of the Bhoodan Yagna (Land Gift Movement), for which he would undertake a padayatra (walking tour) of India. He then walked without a break for fourteen years, covering over 40,000 kms and collected over 4.2 million acres of land as gift for redistribution among the landless. This was indeed the world's greatest peaceful land reform movement, and a fitting tribute to Gandhi from his foremost disciple.

Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA): By 1969, the year of Gandhiji's birth centenary, many Gandhians felt that something must be done to correct this situation. In Tamilnadu the Sarvodaya Mandal under the leadership of Gandhian leader S Jagannathan, decided to start a project for settling Bhoodan recipients on their land, by digging wells, land levelling, providing plough bullocks and seeds and fertilisers and some working capital. The first such "Sarva Seva Fram" was set up in Sevalur village of Madurai district. The young Gandhian worker who led the effort was S. Loganathan and the he was supported in the financially as well as conceptually by Giovanni Ermiglia, a retired professor of philosophy from San Remo, Italy. By 1979, dozens of Sarva Seva Farms were set up all over Tamil Nadu and the Bhoodan recipients saw a great improvement in their lives as a result.

Many Gandhians from other parts of the country requested Shri Jagannathan to start Sarva Seva farms in states like Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. This led to the birth of the Association for Sarva Seva Farms (ASSEFA), and NGO in 1979. Giovanni helped it to raise donor funds and Loganathan ji managed to mobilise bank loans, and ASSEFA started one project each in Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Unfortunately, the success that was witnessed in Tamilnadu did not get replicated in the northern states and by 1981, the projects were in doldrums. The money was all spent and yet the work was not completed and no benefits had accrued to the Bhoodan recipients. They were in fact burdened with bank loans,

It was in this situation that Loganathan went in search of technical and management assistance. When late Prof Kamla Chowdhry of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, who on retirement became a program advisor with the Ford Foundation, visited ASSEFA, she said she will try to locate some young management graduates for

him, who are committed to rural development. She came back and told a young program officer at the Ford Foundation to check with late Prof Ranjit Gupta of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for some names. Ranjit Gupta suggested my name of a 1981 graduate of IIMA.

Deep Joshi first met me on January 21, 1982 and arranged a meeting between him and Lognathan in March. The three developed a strong, warm relationship around the idea of ural development for poverty alleviation. In August 1982, Vijay joined ASSEFA as its Manager, Technical and Management Services, and started working in the Gaya project in Bihar also acting as Bihar State Projects Coordinator. He managed to turn it around in a year and then set up two new projects in Bihar, while recruiting young people like himself from IIMA to work with ASSEFA elsewhere. In order to attract a larger number of professionals to work in development and in NGOs beyond ASSEFA, with the help of Loganathan and TK Mathew of ASSEFA, Vijay set up Professional Assistance for Development Action or PRADAN (which means to give in return, as against DAN, which means to give in charity).

I set up PRADAN NGO in 1983 to recruit, train and deploy young professionals in development, who were to work with NGOs like ASSEFA and later MYRADA, Anand Niketan, Seva Mandir, etc. Aloysius Fernandes of MYRADA was PRADAN's first Board Chairman for many years till Prof Ranjit Gupta took over in 19989.

Some well known PRADAN professionals are Deep Joshi, who joined in 1986 and in 1988 took over as the Executive Director from me, Deep continued in PRADAN till retirement and was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2009. My batch mate from IIMA, Ved Mitra Arya (who after a few years in PRADAN, founded SRIJAN) worked in ASSEFA Maharashtra and so did Pramod Kulkarni, who later founded PRERNA and Saathi. From the next batch of IIMA joined Vasimalai (who after many years in PRADAN, including as its third Executive Director, later founded DHAN Foundation) in Tamil Nadu. From the next batch of IIMA was Guru Charan Naik, who worked for over a decade in PRADAN and now heads The Children's Fund in Srilanka. In 1985, I shifted to start ASSEFA in Guna, Madhya Pradesh, his role as State Project Coordinator in Bihar was taken over by Achintya Ghosh, who was PRADAN's fourth Executive Director and is still in PRADAN. Sankar Datta, now the Dean of The Livelihood School was in PRADAN from 1984 to 1988. Another IIMA graduate, Biswajit Sen, joined in 1986 and worked for several years in Uttar Pradesh along with Vinod Jain of IIT Kharagpur. Biswajit is now Livelihoods Advisor to the World Bank while Vinod runs an NGO in UP. Also from IIT Kharagpur was Subodh Gupta, who later started Safal Solutions. Neelima Khetan wason of the first IRMA graduates to join PRADAN and was with it for only three years as she joined Seva Mandir, from where she has just stepped down after 25 years, including 12 as Executive Director. Girish Godbole from TISS joined in 1985 and

after working with several NGOs in Maharashtra, left after a few years to head Save the Children, Soumen Biswas who joined PRADAN straight from IRMA in 1986, continued to work in Jharkhand and is now the sixth Executive Director of PRADAN. Stalwarts like Dinabandhu Karmakar, Narendranath, Nivedita Narayan, Anish Kumar, Madhu Khetan and Satyabrata Acharya, Anirban Ghose, among others continue in PRADAN, which is arguably one of the most effective grassroots livelihood promotion institution for the poor in India.

PRADAN was registered on Bhoodan Day, April 18, 1983 and since then I have made it a point to register new entities on that day. He left PRADAN in 1991 and after five years of intense study and field work decided to set up a new generation livelihood promotion institution, BASIX. BASICS Ltd, the holding company of the BASIX Group, was also registered on April 18, in 1996. Thus the day has a lot of personal significance for me. The Livelihood School Foundation Day: TLS celebrated its annual day on April 18 every year and today is the 4th annual day, founded by Dr Sankar Datta, a long-term colleague of VM's from PRADAN days. Lamp lighting ceremony was performed followed by a brief presentation of annual report of The School by the Assistant Dean, Ms Gouri. An e-learning module on livelihood promotion was inaugurated on the occasion. Dr Vidya Rao of TISS, Mumbai lighting the lamp, while Dr Sankar Datta and Smt Gouri Krishna look on Microfinance – Study on Suicides in Andhra Pradesh and Discussion: This was followed by a presentation about the study conducted by an independent social science research team headed by Dr Davuluri Venkateswarulu, and his five colleagues. This study was a detailed investigation into suicides in AP which were allegedly caused by MFIs. The AP government had listed 87 cases and the study covered a 50% sample, 44 cases. The findings of the study revealed nearly 40 percent of the reported cases of suicides had no link at all with MFIs. But in the other cases, multiple borrowing from more than one MFI, as well as from SHGs was common. In some cases, suicides took place after recovery visits by the borrower's group

members either by themselves or with the MFI staff. This report is yet to be finalised and will shortly be made available in public domain. Dr Davuluri presenting the highlights of his study

MFIs should offer monetary compensation in those cases where a link was established between a suicide and an MFI's loan recovery practices. He also said strict steps should be taken that no such incidents happen in the future, by training and supervising the field staff and lending only after checking the prior borrowings of a household from a credit bureau.

Conclusion of the Shodh Yatra:

- i) The poor continue to be resilient and improvise in various ways to ensure they have a livelihood. Compared to earlier, there is a high demand and awareness for education;
- ii) Government is doing a difficult job in introducing several initiatives for upliftment of the poor and let us all come together, use this opportunity to help them make this successful through our journey of mission livelihood promotion and Inclusive growth.
- iii) Many remarkable individuals continue to contribute to the nation, to the fellow-beings, to our democracy, so rather than questioning about what others have done and blaming each other, we should take inspiration from them and work.
- iv) BASIX re-dedicates itself to working with the poor in a sustainable manner. All actions will be examined in the light of whether they fulfil our mission of promoting a large number of sustainable livelihoods for the poor. Sustainability is not just financial, it is also environmental and institutional (normative) and the recent lessons from the microfinance sector should be taken into account. ❖

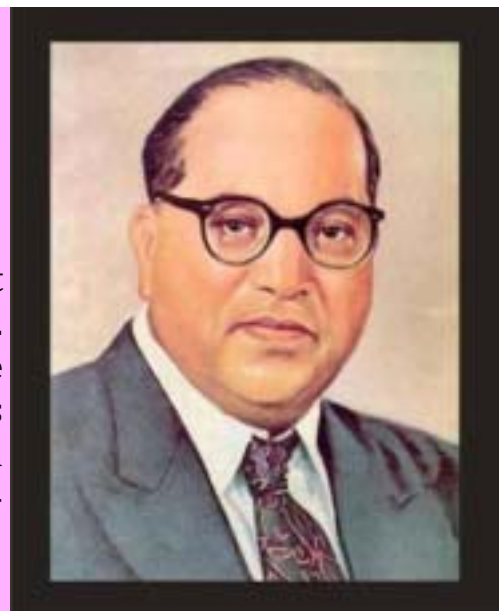
Reference: www.vijaymahajan.wordpress.com

ijay Mahajan - Chairman of BASIX, President of MFIN, and Chairman of Executive Committee of CGAP. - shares his experiences in the 79-day Shodh yatra culminating meeting a on April 18, 2011 at Bhoodan Pochampally, Andhra Pradesh.

14 April

Dr BR Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary

“You must abolish your slavery yourselves. Do not depend for its abolition upon god or a superman. Remember that it is not enough that a people are numerically in the majority. They must be always watchful, strong and self-respecting to attain and maintain success. We must shape our course ourselves and by ourselves.”



IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2011

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) released its Rural Poverty Report 2011. The report is the result of two years of extensive work. IFAD's Rural Poverty Report 2011 'New Realities, new challenges, new opportunities for tomorrow's generation' is an in-depth study in rural poverty. The findings in report are come from the experts of IFAD. The world has change a lot since 2001. Over the decade, the progress has been made towards achieving the millennium goals. But nearly 1.4 billion are suffering with extreme poverty and struggling for survive on less then 1.25 \$ a day. More than two thirds of poor are living in the rural areas in developing countries.

As per IFAD's report, it is estimated that 50% population increase by 2050. This growth is expected in the developing countries. Population in developing countries is still more in rural areas. In rural areas, four families out of every five households are involving in farming activities at various levels.

The report describes that the livelihoods of poor rural households are diverse across regions and countries, and within countries. Livelihoods are derived, to varying degrees, from smallholder farming – including livestock production and artisanal fisheries – agricultural wage labour, wage or self-employment in the rural non-farm economy and migration.

While some households rely primarily on one type of activity, most seek to diversify their livelihood base as a way to reduce risk. Agriculture plays a vital role in most countries, over 80 per cent of rural household's farm to some extent, and typically it is the poorest households that rely most on farming and agricultural labour. However, non-farm income sources are increasingly important across regions, and income gains at the household level are generally associated with a shift towards more non-agricultural wages and self-employment income.

The report analyses that rural poverty results from lack of assets, limited economic opportunities and poor education and capabilities, as well as disadvantages rooted in social and political inequalities. Yet large numbers of households move in and out of poverty repeatedly, emphasis is placed on the crucial role that policies, investments and good governance can play in reducing risk and helping poor rural people to better manage them as a way of opening up opportunities.

However, new forms of collaboration between state and society also need to be cultivated, involving rural people and their organizations, the business sector and a variety of civil society actors. These are crucial for the development of effective tools for risk management and mitigation.

The Report provides an in-depth evaluation of the state of rural poverty and its consequences for people all over the world. It also makes important recommendations on policies and investments that will help rural women and men move out of poverty and in the process, become part of the solution for the global food security challenges of the

next several decades. In the report to eliminate poverty and hunger there are four steps. They are:

- * Helping the rural people to manage risks
- * Increasing agriculture production in a sustainable way
- * Facilitate equitable access in new and changing market places for small farmers
- * Encouraging the growth of non farming sector in rural areas.

The Report argues that for some, this will mean improving their skills, while for others, it will mean access to micro insurance, and for others still it will mean social protection. What is crucial is to create the right environment to make it easier for more rural people to be more entrepreneurial, creating the conditions for a vibrant rural sector which generates locally produced goods and spurs sustainable non-farm employment in services, in agro-processing and in small-scale manufacturing.

The report highlights that sustainable farming practices have improved yields by an average of nearly 80 per cent over four years. It argues that what we need is a systemic approach that uses a variety of innovations, derived from the latest scientific discoveries and from local practices and knowledge to bring agriculture into the forefront of efforts to protect and preserve land, air and water for generations to come. The report concludes that this means complementing conventional approaches to increasing productivity with a much stronger focus on soil and water management, integrated approaches to soil fertility management and overall farm production systems.

At the same time, the report recognizes that there is no blueprint for sustainable intensification. The best practices will be determined by the local context. The challenge is to develop policies and institutions that can make it happen on a massive scale.

The Report says that smallholder farmers and poor rural people must have opportunities to be entrepreneurs, rather than bystanders. To realize their business potential there should be a concerted effort to reduce risk and transaction costs along value chains, supporting rural producers' organizations, expanding financial services into rural areas and ensuring that small farmers have access to the infrastructure, the utilities and information. Investing in good governance is another key ingredient.

The Report suggests that in order to meet the growing needs of a hungry world, agriculture must be a viable and rewarding activity for the large number of people who choose it. But increasingly, it will be one of many choices, not the only choice. This is not a threat to agriculture, but rather a chance to develop a more modern, diversified economy. ❖

Out of Poverty

The Cultivation of Success

This is a success story of Mrs. Parvathi, a widow from Nidanapuram village, Madhira Mandal in Khammam district. Her husband was killed in a road accident ten years ago. Her educational qualifications weren't exceptional either, as she studied only up to 5th class. She has three daughters. They were very young at that time of their father's death. Despite these challenging circumstances, she did not lose her confidence and became the breadwinner of the family. She owned 30 cattle and utilized them for the family livelihood.

By leading such a life, Parvathi understood the value of education. With the motive of providing better opportunities to her daughters, she worked hard and sent all three of them to school. They studied up to 10th class and they became self-reliant. They became assets of the family and started working on their own. Her elder daughter does tailoring work, second daughter works in a computer institute, and youngest one is taking care of household works and goes for labour works in the village. When she has leisure time, she also does embroidery work on sarees.

Parvathi modified her old house with the money earned by her daughters and herself over a period of four years. She was able to get her two daughters' done in a grand manner using the money she earned from the sale of a few goats

and other various sources of income. Now, everybody in the village praises Parvathi for her confidence, hardworking nature, and ability to bring up her three daughters after her husband's death. Recently she performed her Eldest daughter's marriage as well.

She bought an acre of land with the money she got from the sale of her remaining cattle and savings. She cultivates paddy and vegetables on this land

and sustains a stable life with the money earned from the sale of these products. She is living happily with her daughters. Parvathi's life is an ideal example for all the villagers who know about her success story. Although she lost her husband, she did not lose her confidence. Her hard work, determination, and perseverance eventually helped her to win the war against life's challenges. ❖

Name: .Parvathi

Village: Nidanapuram

District: Khammam

Harsh Consequences of Bad Habits

Broken Lives

This is a story of Mr. Dasu from Gulbarga in Karnataka. He studied up to 10th class. He lives with his wife and two sons and is 50 years old. He runs a cloth store in his village as a profession. Dasu's brother and his family also live with him. Over time, Dasu got addicted to alcohol and started neglecting his business. The business fell into losses and the family's financial condition became worse. He had to take loans from his friends and relatives for leading his life. Soon, he had no other choice but to shut down his business.

Dasu's elder son Yadagiri understood the condition of the family and wanted to do something to improve their financial condition. He moved to Hyderabad with his family to work and pay off the debts of his father. He worked in a hotel for a salary of Rs.3000 per month, and his wife worked as house maid. With those earnings, he started paying off the debts in his village. After a few days, Dasu realized the necessity to work. He then started to work with his son but still did not give up the habit of drinking.

One day, while coming from the work after consuming

alcohol, he met with an accident and had to be admitted into a hospital. To meet the hospital expenses, Dasu took a loan of Rs.25,000 from his uncle. In order to repay that, his son had to work for him till the loan was paid off. Yadagiri completely understood his family situation. In order to offer a better life to his young brother, he sent him to school. Yadagiri had to sell his house in the village to pay off his father's debts, and his wife had to continue working as housemaid to meet family expenses.

Dasu was forced to sell his house, lose his business and to lead a poor life because of his drinking habit. If he had been cautious and given up that bad habit, he would've led a far better life without too many hindrances. Dasu's friends are still in the same business and are leading a much happier life in the same village due to their awareness of the consequences of bad habits such as drinking. Thus, they are able to keep themselves away from it.

Dasu's life is an example for people who get addicted to bad habits and end up losing everything in life. Along with Dasu, his entire family had to face many problems in life which wouldn't have existed if Dasu didn't have such an addiction. It's a significant example of how one must be careful in life and think beyond temporary satisfaction for the sake of a secure future. ❖

Name: Dasu

Village: Gulbarga

District: Gulbarga

It is Great Pleasure to Me.....

Kala lives at Korukonda, Near Rajahmundry. She has been working as Staff Nurse in HelpAge India for the last 3 years. 'Livelihoods' interviewed Kala to know about her journey...

Q: What's your name? Age?

A: My name is Kala. 33 Years

Q: What is your native village?

A: My native village is Amalapuram in West Godavari district.

Q: Tell me about your family?

A: I have two daughters; my husband does business in Vijayanagaram. My mother is lives with me.

Q: What is your educational qualification?

A: I studied a staff nurse course. I completed my education only after my marriage, with my husband's co-operation.

Q: Where do you currently stay?

A: I live at Korukonda in East Godavari district.

Q: Tell about your livelihood?

A: I work as staff nurse for HelpAge India at Korukonda; my husband is involved in fruit juice business in Vijayanagaram.

Q: Where did you do your first job?

A: I worked in Vizianagaram at first. Then, I shifted to Hyderabad to work in a big hospital, so that I could get a higher salary. In Hyderabad, I worked in a hospital at Somajiguda for six months.

Q: How did you get the job in Helpage India?

A: While working in Hyderabad, I came to know about the Helpage India jobs. I was very interested, so I immediately applied and wrote a test. I was selected for the nurse job in Helpage India. We got training in Kerala and from then onwards, I've been working Helpage India, Korukonda.

Q: What kinds of activities are taken up by HelpAge India?

A: HelpAge India works for the causes of elderly people, especially those dealing with health problems due to old age. They provide free medical care in the selected areas to these seniors.

Q: Tell about the programs conducted by your organization these days.

A: Our organization is forming Elderly Self-Help Groups (ESHG's) and is providing various types of training to elderly people who live in the villages.

Q: Tell about your job and the problems that you encounter.

A: It's a great pleasure to work for elderly people and it's

is a great pleasure as it's a noble job. These elderly people should have formed in to groups at the beginning only unlike after one year. Whatever services they are providing now should have been provided one year ago. I am very happy to work in this organization. In my opinion, everything should be planned in advance before starting any work in my opinion, so that it would be easy for the employees to perform their duties efficiently.

Q: Tell about the services provided by your organization?

A: Our organization visits every village once every 15 days and provides medicines through Mobile Medicare Unit (MMU) and Mobile Physiotherapy Unit, which provide electric therapy to old age problems like knee pains. Blood pressure and sugar tests are also conducted. Personal diagnosis is provided to every senior citizen by an expert physician.

Q: What is your opinion about these Non-government organizations?

A: These organizations should consider hiring new people for job opportunities, since there are many enthusiastic members ready to learn and work efficiently. Fresher should be given more opportunities in these jobs. They would be able to work out of passion.

Q: What are the problems you have come across while performing your duties?

A: Initially, visiting villages and talking to people was difficult for me. Later on, by interacting with the villagers regularly I became habituated to these activities. Due to a low number of staff here, it's a bit difficult to perform duties. If we have a sufficient workforce, we would be able to perform our duties in a much more satisfactory manner. So, a sufficient number of human resources are required by any organization to complete its responsibilities properly.

Q: In your opinion, how should these services is extended?

A: In my opinion, these services should be extended to elderly people who don't have people to look after them. In addition, these services should be extended to all the villages in India.

Q: Tell me about the duties you perform in a week?

A: For three days in a week, we provide medicines to elderly people in the villages. For another three days, we monitor the working of the Elderly Self Help Groups (ESHG). Sunday is holiday for us.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: I wish to provide my children with better education. My goal is to make them self reliant. ❖



Books

Book Summary

Book: **Civil Society**

Author: **Michael Edwards**

Publishing: **Polity**

Civil Society has become a standard work of reference for all those who seek to understand the role of voluntary citizen action in the contemporary world. In this thoroughly-revised edition, Michael Edwards updates the arguments and evidence presented in the original and adds major new material on issues such as civil society in Africa and the Middle East, global civil society, information technology and new forms of citizen organizing.

He explains how in the future the pressures of state encroachment, resurgent individualism, and old and familiar forces of nationalism and fundamentalism in new clothes will test and re-shape the practice of citizen action in both positive and negative ways. Civil Society will help readers of all persuasions to navigate these choppy waters with greater understanding, insight and success.

Michael Edwards wrote "A great introduction and addition to the scholarship of civil society. In the first pages of this



book, you get a sense that you are not reading another book about volunteering, or another book about 'doing good'. This is much more than that. It is refreshing, well written and a good critique of scholarship and the civil history of the Western world." There are six contents in this book, those are Introduction about civil society and what is the big idea?, civil society as associational life, civil society as good society, civil society as the public sphere, synthesis – unraveling the civil society puzzle, so what's to be done?. It is Essential reading for understanding the idea of civil society

The book is very use full to various sections of the institutions and people like colleges and universities, foundations and NGOs, public policy-makers, journalists and commissions of inquiry – all have used Edwards's book to understand and strengthen the vital role that civil society can play in deepening democracy, rebuilding community, and addressing poverty, inequality and injustice. This new edition will be required reading for anyone who is interested in creating a better world through citizen action. ❖

New Book

Name: Civil Society, Philanthropy and the Fate of the Commons

Author: Bruce R. Sievers

Publisher: University Press of New England



Resources

NGO Coordinating and Support Bodies:

Association for Voluntary Agencies for Rural

Development (AVARD):

AVARD is an association of more than 650 NGOs engaged in rural development in India. Since 1958, it has promoted voluntary action, planned rural reconstruction with local participation and *panchayati raj* (a decentralized form of government where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of India's political system), thereby addressing issues of poverty reduction, food security, rural technology, and environmental sustainability. Excellent micro planning and strong networking are its strengths.

Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART): CAPART was formed by mandate of the 7th Five-Year Plan in 1986 as a nodal agency for catalyzing and coordinating the emerging partnership between voluntary organizations and the government for sustainable development of rural areas.

Voluntary Action Network India (VANI): Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) is a national apex body of NGOs in India. It is a network that comprises

237 organizations, 2,500 NGOs (in 25 states), 19 network federations, 42 individuals

VANI is a platform for national advocacy on issues and policies confronting the development sector, and for coordination and action to promote and support volunteer involvement. ❖

Nail In the Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His Father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily Gradually dwindled down.

He discovered that it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence & said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence



will ever be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one."

It won't matter how many times you say, "I'm sorry", the wound is still there.

"A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one." Friends are very rare jewels, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share words of praise and they always want to open their hearts to us." ❖

Employment Growth Rate by Sector Wise

Sector	1983-87/88	1987/88-1993/94	1983-1993/94	1993/93-1999/2000
Agriculture	1.77	2.57	2.23	0.02
Industry				
Mining & quarrying	7.35	1	3.68	-1.91
Manufacturing	3.64	1.23	2.26	2.58
Electricity, gas & water supply	2.87	7.19	5.31	-3.55
Construction	12.08	-1.38	4.18	5.21
services				
Trade, Hotels & Restaurant	4.89	2.99	3.8	5.72
Transport, storage & communication	3.21	3.46	3.35	5.53
Financial, insurance, real estate & business services	4.72	4.5	4.6	5.4
Community, social & personal services	3.57	4.6	3.85	-2.08
All sectors	2.89	2.5	2.67	1.07
Source: Govt. of Indian ,Economic Survey (Various years)				

In India, only about 8 to 10% of population is involved in the organized sector. But employment generation in this sector suffered during the 1990s, mainly because of a decline in employment generated by the public sector. However, due to the better performance of the private sector, total employment generated by the organized sector grew marginally in the period 1995-2001. The deceleration in organized sector employment was one of the more disconnecting features of the 1990s, especially since the industrial output manifold and the service sector. In which much organized employment was based, was the most dynamic element in national income growth. So, along with the deceleration of employment generation in the rural areas, urban employment generation also suffered during 1990s. However there was some increase in employment opportunities in certain service sub-sectors such as information technology, communications and entertainment related services. ❖

Carpentry



Shining Livelihoods

Rice Flour Making

Declining Livelihoods



‘Yoga’kshemam

Happy World Cup! Happy Sri Rama Navami! Happy Vishu/Baisakhi! Happy Ambedkar Jayanthi! Happy Mahavir Jayanthi! Happy Bhoodan Day! Happy Easter!

As usual, the International Days passed – World Health Day (7 April); International Day for Street Children (12 April); World Entrepreneurship Day (16 April); World Creativity and Innovation Day (21 April); World Books Day (23 April); World Intellectual Property Day (26 April); and World Dance day (29 April). There is some token activity for Earth Week and Earth day (22 April). We look forward to May Day (1 May), Mothers’ Day (8 May – second Sunday in May), Fair Trade Day (14 May – second Saturday in May). Family Day, Information Society Day, Diversity Days are also coming in May.

We also await Buddha Purnima (17 May).

Back again to institutions, employment, enterprises, livelihoods of the poor, destitute, disabled and elderly! Partnerships and collaborations for identifying and inducting knowledge workers at various levels, and knowledge and learning channels continued to dominate our working space as always, in this month also. Of course, our contribution towards pressing the accelerator of silently picking up momentum of the national livelihoods movement continues in its own small way!

Also, apart from Cricket, entire month’s media space in the country is mostly dominated by Sathya Sai Baba. Sathya

Sai Baba (23 November 1926 – 24 April 2011), a ‘miracle’ worker and spiritual teacher and one of the 100 most spiritually influential people in the world (Watkins Review 2011), leaves behind a Rs.500-1500 billion Satya Sai Central Trust that provides education, health, drinking water in many parts of the country, more than a lakh volunteers across the world and 30 million+ devotees.

Flow and pursuit persists because we are designed for being so, despite mounting deficits in rest and sleep. So be it!

During the month, [tips to gain control and simplify workflow](#) have been gathered – break the work down to manageable small pieces; say no; focus on what really matters and what needs to be done; cut out distractions, particularly minor distractions; move from one piece of task to another on completing the first piece only; plan the workflow and time.

The Hindu’s Code of Editorial Values, adopted this month, has some relevance for all of us who are in the business of influencing through communication and articulation – protect and foster the bond of trust between the articulator and the readers/audience; protect the integrity of the content; founding principles – these include fairness, justice, and faith and hope in the capacity of the people; and core universal editorial values – truth, independence, responsible citizenship, humane, commitment to social good, professionalism and balance.

Vijay Mahajan’s Shodh Yatra (30 January – 18 April 2011) has been captured in his blog ‘[www.vijaymahajan.wordpress.com](#)’. It needs to be published for wider circulation. The blog discusses the journey of search for truth (an extended grassroots enquiry into lives and livelihoods of poor people) after 30 years in leading development agenda and dialogue in the country and beyond. It reminds me of the eleven vows of Gandhi as part of the early morning prayer in my Sarvail Gurukulam – *ahimsa satyam asteya brahmacharyam asangrahaah sareera srama aswaada sarvatrabhayavarjanam sarva dharmasamanata swadeshi sparshabhaavana [non-violence, truth, non-possession, chastity, non-stealing, physical labour, palate control, fearlessness, religious equality, local and touchability]*. It is also autobiographical recounting VM’s journey of 30 years and his various associates and their work. The ABCD of Shodh Yatra presented are: A - atma-shuddhi (to mean enabling self-evolution); B – basics of BASIX and beyond; C – connecting with common citizen; and D – demonstrating the a difference can be made.

His conclusions include – the poor continue to be resilient and improvise for better livelihoods; Government is doing a massive but difficult job towards poverty reduction – we need to work with them to better their acts and initiatives; many continue to contribute, let us take inspiration from them and their work; rededicated BASIX to work with the poor in a sustainable (environmental, institutional and financial) manner. It ends – *‘My Yatra ends in Pochampally, the Shodh continues...’* It reinforced my resolve to see development in action all across and talk to the serious actors, may be over a much longer period. May be I should begin it in Pochampally or from Babu Ghat or from the originating place of a river.

Another reinforcement for ‘shodh’ includes - ‘Madhyastha Darshan’ - The human has a will to live, with happiness which requires knowledge. With knowledge about the self, existence (co-existence) and humane conduct, the human becomes resolved, happy and be in harmony within and without. The human needs to understand this harmony, already in existence, and be in it.

In the confluence of the souls, we are in the ‘jeevanadarshan’ seeking and relishing [saha-astitvarasayogam](#) to understand, resolve and be in harmony with universal co-existence and saha-gamanam.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** Relentless focus on understanding co-existence, for being lost in the harmony of usefulness! Krishna confirms - any free soul that practices and pursues the knowledge of existence and being useful, with devotion and action, is guided for being merged in the viswaatma.

Join us in the world of yoga – for being in harmony with co-existence of the innermost and viswaatama - towards saha-gamanayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar



livelihoods

Body and Behaviour