

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

February 2013

Community Animation





Happy Maha Kumbh! A 100 million event!

Transition to Vasant has begun.

Pope Benedict retires and has set a new trend.

Budget is presented. It does not appear to be big and bold. It is also not so populist either.

For the people who have been blessed with the competencies of survival in difficult circumstances, the support would be required in terms of their own institutions, their own internal animators and their friends – external facilitators. The Internal Animators are the ones who sustain the institutions and ensure their continued relevance to the communities. They may be reluctant in the beginning, once on board, they drive the entire community movement. The leaders, the volunteers, the bookkeepers, the people who get people to meetings, the trainers, the best practitioners, the entrepreneurs, early birds, auditors, monitors, service providers, paraprofessionals, resource persons, hosts, staff in the community institutions on full-time/part-time, members in the committees, watchful eyes, inspirers, supporters and silent articulators etc., constitute this vast internal community animation architecture. About 10-15% of the community would don these roles and take up these tasks. It is ever evolving. Its capacities are ever improving dynamically. It supports the seeding of the community mobilization movement and nurtures it. In its absence, external facilitators would not go far. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Community Animation'.

Dr H Sudarshan, a Right Livelihood award winner, leads more famous Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra in BR Hills of Karnataka. 'Sarvodaya' movement needs no introduction. 'Kshetram' discusses the livelihoods in Tripura and 'sukshetram' discusses Bamboo. 'Tool' introduces Education and Health Ranking Tool. 'Context' presents 'Street Vendors Bill 2012'. The Third Wave, by Alvin Toffler, is still relevant. 'How to' supplement discusses 'How to Form And Run Collective Enterprise?'

As usual, we present e-links for a video, book, LEAP, value-chain and subsector, apart from second of the 12 issues of e-livelihoods learning course.

With the faith and hope that we budget and spend time to (un)learn and share, we remain.

the 'livelihoods' team

Livestock employs at least 1.3 billion people globally and directly support the livelihoods of 600 million poor smallholder farmers in the developing world.



Collectives of different disabled persons are a possibility.

'livelihoods' team	Focus: Community Animation	10
	Editor-in-Chief G Muralidhar	
Working Editors B Ramya T Venkateshwarlu	Open Page	Food a Global Concern and Problem 21
	Edit Associates T Aparna Gayathri P Kishore S Laxman Nilendu Mukherjee P Madhusudan K Ramesh M Siddhartha	Every Month.....
walked/ walking with us	Response	4
	K Bharathi V Muralidhar	News 5
G Bhargava D Narasimha Reddy	On Ground	6
Bhima Shankar Naval Shaini	Kshetram Tripura	7
Chandranshu Gupta T Nirmala	Sukshetram Bamboo	7
Dharmendhar LB Prakash	Legend Dr. Hanumappa Sudarshan	8
Glen Shewcheck M Raja Srinivas	Legendary Effort Sarvodaya	8
Krishna Murari S Rekha	Perspectives Livelihoods Management Universities!	9
M Lavanya B Sai Srinivas	Direction Messengers of Change, Hygiene Woes, Rural Tourism	23
B Madhusudhan K Sridevi	People Kovel Chairman, CRP, MBK	23
G Madhu Vamsi M Vijaybhasker	Collective Action Working on Issues	24
P Mahesh K Visweswar Rao	Convergence SRI Paddy Consortium	24
Mansi Koushik	Vulnerable People People with HIV/AIDS, Sexual Minorities	25
	Vulnerabilities Malnourished Children, Marble Miners	25
	Enterprises Individual, Collective, Social, Public	26
	Common Person Interview I Hope I Will be Able	27
	Grassroots Activist Interview I Serve Poor ...	27
	Tool Education and Health Ranking	28
	Development in Action TRIBAC, SPACE, DSO	29
For Private Circulation only	Context Street Vendors Bill 2012	30
	Books The Third Wave	31
	Trends GER in Secondary Education	32
	Case Studies Out Poverty, Into Poverty	33
	Into Employment, Out of Employment	
	Contrasts Pisciculture, Cotton Candy Selling	34
	Story Myopic Researchers!	34
	'Yoga'kshemam	35
	e-Links	LEAP : Revanpally LEAP 31
		VCA : Paddy Value Chain Analysis
		Sub-sector : Handloom
		e-book ; The Origins and Practice of Participatory Rural Appraisal by Robert Chambers
		v-book : Livelihoods: Rural to Urban Migration
	e- Course	Understanding Livelihoods: Framework and Leap 31
	'How to' Supplement :How to Form And Run a Collective Enterprise? http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/182-supplement-how-to-form-and-run-a-collective-enterprise-february-2013-	

For enquiries contact:

AKSHARA Network for Development
Support Services,

HIG II B-25 F-6, APHB Colony,
Baghlingampally, Hyderabad - 500044

Mobile: 09951819345

www.aksharakriti.org

www.livelihoods.net.in

aksharakriti@gmail.com

Response

livelihoods
today and tomorrow

January 2013



Many thanks for sharing the documents. I think it will be very useful for all the NGOs especially small NGOs. We can share in MF Community and Work and Employment Community. We can send a special 'For Info' for the benefit of the members.

Navin

Thanks for the mail and Livelihood magazine. Good information and it is of great information and reading.

Felix.

The E-course on learning about Village and slums is really wonderful. Thank you and all the team who have put this document together.

Dr. Jayashree Sr.Principal Manager - Talent Management | SKS Microfinance Ltd,

Sir, I am regular reader of Livelihoods Magazine (e-magazine). Really your efforts are excellent. This magazine really helps our knowledge in developmental activities. It helps me to improve my knowledge and learning levels. Your supplements also very useful for the NGOs I suggest you to kindly publish a special issue on primary education. I am resource person in education.

Srinivas Chavali , Srikakulam

thanks for ur remembrance . this month book is very useful me. once again thanks for ur cooperation.

Srinivas Surendra, Vishakapatnam

I received 'livelihoods' January 2013. Collective action article and supplement ' How to Maintain Accounts for NGOs' are good and informative. We are also doing food security program in our area.

Mahendar , ASSMA, Kondapaka Medak

I strongly recommend you to subscribe this E-Magazine published by Akshara Network, Hyderabad. They may have previous issues also in the site. The magazine discusses mostly livelihood issues. Akshara is one of the best pvt. NGOs/institutes for Livelihoods in south India. I had an opportunity in 2006 to undergo a one week training there.

Ajith Chacko

Livelihoods Management Programme

Akshara Network is introducing the Livelihoods Management Programme (LPM) starting January 2013. This e-course, spanning twelve months aims at helping livelihoods/development professionals in gaining an understanding of livelihoods and managing livelihoods interventions.

The Programme is open to all and can be accessed on our web portal - livelihoods.net.in and website aksharakriti.org. A test would be conducted at the end of the course (December 2013). A certificate would be given on successful completion of the Programme.

Further, participants who are interested/are able to dedicate considerable time can join us in a co-learning process. These participants would receive additional inputs and guidance from the 'livelihoods' team. Twenty-five participants would be included in this group on a first-come-first-serve basis. Those interested can send in their details to livelihoods07@gmail.com by 15 Feb 2013.

Register Now!

You can access Capsule II: Livelihoods Theory and Practice

NABARD Official Reviews Maa Thota, Andhra Pradesh: Assistant General Manager of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development said Maa Thota programme was providing livelihood and respectable life for the tribal people of Srikakulam district. He reviewed the Maa Thota programme being implemented with the support of non-governmental organization Action in Rural Technology and Service (ARTS) in Seethampeta mandal. ARTS representatives said that the programme was being taken up in 1000 acres of 42 villages. The scheme was providing livelihood to 1034 tribal farmers.

Rs 7,000-cr NABARD Credit Plan Released: District Collector released the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The NABARD has prepared a PLP for Krishna district for 2013-14 with an outlay of Rs. 7,026.78 crore, 33 per cent more than the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) for 2012-13. He also reviewed the plan implementation of welfare schemes at the District Level Review Committee of bankers at the Sub-Collector's office here. The PLP envisages a credit projection of Rs. 3,100.05 crore (44 pc) for crop loans, Rs. 1426.11 crore (20 pc) for investment credit for agriculture and allied activities, Rs. 1023.11 crore (15 pc) for non-farm sector and Rs. 1,477.50 crore (21pc) for other priority sectors including SHGs.

5,470 Habitations to Get Road Connectivity, Andhra Pradesh: The Centre has decided to provide road connectivity to 5,470 habitations in Andhra Pradesh under Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna. Union Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh conveyed this decision to Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy. A road length of 6,597 km would be covered under this plan that will involve an expenditure of Rs. 3,570 crore.

Two Haryana Districts Get Benefit of New Central Scheme, New Delhi: Haryana launched the UPA's "game-changer" Direct Benefits Transfer scheme in two districts, Ambala and Sonapat, transferring cash subsidies to beneficiary accounts for seven Central schemes. Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda launched the scheme by sending an e-mail to the Deputy Commissioners of the two districts, followed by disbursement of cash subsidies to the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of 3,338 beneficiaries. With this, Haryana became the leading State to account for the maximum of 25 per cent of total beneficiaries in the country.

Job Scheme Beneficiaries to Assess Its Works, National: Beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) are going to be involved in carrying out social audit of works of the MGNREGS from April 1. To ensure that there is no conflict of interest, they will be engaged in the audit of village panchayats other than theirs. For each village panchayat, five persons will function as village-level resource persons and they should have qualified eighth standard. In total, there will be 62,620 such resource persons.

Rural Electrification Scheme Norms To Be Relaxed, New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Power has praised the implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in Rajasthan. He accepted the State's demand for inclusion of villages and hamlets with a population of less than 300 in the scheme for release of domestic power connections.

Education Sector Gets the Most After Agriculture, Karnataka: The highest allocation in this Budget, after agriculture, goes to the Education Department — Rs. 18,666 crore of which Rs. 15,599 crore is for primary and secondary education and Rs. 3,067 crore higher education. Incentives promised for students have been upgraded. (Source: The Hindu)



'Green Revolution 2.0' Will Improve Our Livelihoods: Entering the 21st century, agriculture faces many challenges. The world is full of hungry and malnourished people, environmental concerns plague farmers and their use of pesticides and herbicides, and agriculturalists are pushed to utilize more sustainable practices. "Green Revolution 2.0" — the second green revolution. The first green revolution, while it allowed for much greater yields and for farmers to control pests and weeds like never before, has not met the hunger and nourishment needs of the evolving world. Agriculture will have to adapt and transform — as it has in the past — if it is to meet these new needs of the world. And it begins in the second green revolution.

Japan Grants Rs.90 Million To Uplift Livelihoods Of Returnees In Northern And Eastern Sri Lanka: The Government of Japan has extended US\$723,568 (approximately Rs. 90 million) to a Japanese Non-Governmental Organization working on uplifting the lives of returnees in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. The funds from the Government of Japan are granted to the Japanese NGO, JEN under the Japan-NGO cooperation Grant scheme for a "Project on Livelihood Assistance for Returnees in the North and East of Sri Lanka" to improve the livelihood of the resettled communities in the North and East. The project will support to rehabilitate and uplift livelihood of the people through constructing agro-wells and providing necessary tools such as water pumps, and seeds and plants as well as workshops. ♦

Youth-led Development

Jana Chaithanya Yuvajana Sangam (JCYS) was established in 1992 in Dharmapeta slum, Kurnool town. Most people in the slum work as construction labourers. So far, JCYS has focused on ensuring basic amenities are available and accessed by all in the community.

It has solved the water problem by connecting the slum to the main water pipeline through four taps. JCYS runs an adults' night school

for construction labourers. JCYS has conducted awareness campaigns on health and education. It conducts a clean-up drive in the slum every six months.

People living in the slum seek help from JCYS to get government entitlements such as old age pensions, ration cards, etc. Some also come with problems at workplace and issues like domestic violence.

JCYS has an Executive Committee (EC) with 12 members of which 5 members are selected as Office Bearers. The EC meets once a month to discuss problems in the locality and plans to solve the problems.

It has setup a committee of 4-5 elders to look after elders' problems in the slum. Every Sunday the committee meets to solve disputes involving elders. They

reprimand the harassing party and also ask them to compensate in monetary terms. ❖

Youth organization activities

Night school for construction workers

Awareness campaigns on health and education

Ensuring basic amenities

Forming elders committee to solve local disputes

Facility

Scheme/Programme

PDS Outlet

Housing for Urban Poor

The Public Distribution System (PDS) outlet in Chetmallapuram, Kurnool district caters to the needs of 300 people. The outlet supplies rice grain, kerosene and sugar once a month.

The PDS dealer submits a Demand Draft (DD) to the Mandal Revenue Office (MRO) on 15th of every month to procure rice, kerosene and sugar. The Revenue Inspector (RI) provides a receipt which the dealer takes to the Civil Supply Office (CSO) to get the supply of rice, kerosene and sugar.

On an average, the dealer takes 50 quintals of rice, 700 liters of kerosene and 4 quintals of sugar. The dealer then notifies the community by displaying the list of available items on the village notice board. The outlet is open from 9.30 am to 6 pm every day.

BPL (referred to as white card) card holders, beneficiaries of Antyodaya and Annapurna schemes as well as APL families purchase ration supplies from the outlet. BPL card holders can avail a minimum of 4 Kg and a maximum of 20 Kg rice, depending on the family size. The outlet sells 4 Kg of rice for Re.1. BPL families are also eligible to get up to 2 Kg sugar. Beneficiaries of Antyodaya get Rs. 35 Kg of rice at Re.1 while Annapurna beneficiaries get 5-10 Kg rice free of cost.

The dealer earns a commission of 50 paise per kg of rice, 50 paise per liter of kerosene and 25 paise per kg of sugar. The dealer submits a sales statement to the MRO every month. ❖

The Rajiv Gruhkalpa scheme was launched in 2006 to provide affordable housing to urban poor. The scheme estimates the cost of constructing a new house at Rs. 70,000 of which 90% would be mobilized by the government through loans while the remaining 10% would be mobilized by the beneficiaries themselves.

In Mahabubnagar town, the scheme is implemented by the Urban Poverty Alleviation Cell (UPAC) in coordination with Andhra Pradesh Housing Corporation, banks and Municipal Department.

The UPAC uses the SHG network in the town to pass on the information regarding the scheme. Those who are interested in the scheme are asked to fill an application and deposit Rs. 7000.

The Municipal Commissioner then holds a meeting with bankers to organize the funds. The bank selects beneficiaries on the basis of their past record. The UPAC facilitates the construction of the house.

So far, the scheme has benefitted 900 poor persons in the town. ❖

Tripura—small wonder

With a maximum extent of 184 km (south to north) and 113 km (east to west), Tripura is the third smallest state in India. It is bordered by Bangladesh on south, Assam on the east and Mizoram on west. Tripura's landscape is characterised by hill ranges and plains. There five hill ranges in the state, namely Boromura, Athamura, Longtharai, Shakhan and Jampui hills. BeltinShing is the highest point in the state. The hills have laterite soil while the plains have alluvial soil. Tripura's plains are drained by 8 small rivers that flow into Bangladesh, onwards to the Bay of Bengal. The state witnesses heavy rainfalls that inundate the terrain causing floods. The hill slopes and river banks are populated by dense evergreen and deciduous forests. These forests are biodiversity havens and harbour 90 species of mammals and over 300 bird species. Sal, cane and bamboo are endemic to the state.

According to the 2011 census, Tripura has a population of 36.7 lakhs. Of these, 30% are Scheduled Tribes. 85% of the population follows Hinduism, while Islam, Christianity and Buddhism are also popular. People from diverse ethno-linguistic groups reside in the state, lending its culture a composite touch. Bengalis are the dominant ethno-linguistic group while the different tribal communities have their own culture.

In 2010-11 its GDP amounted to Rs. 12,947 crore and experienced a growth of 51%. Though only 27% of the land in Tripura is cultivable, agriculture and allied activities are the most commonly practiced livelihoods in the state. Rice, potato, jute, sugarcane are the major crops cultivated in the state. Most of the tribal people follow the jhum or shifting cultivation. Rubber and tea are significant cash crops. Tripura is also famous for its bamboo craft, wood, timber and cotton products.

The industrial sector in the state is yet to realise its full potential. Tripura's remote location and hilly terrain make it a less preferred destination for investors. Brickfields, tea and rubber industries are the only organised sectors in the state. The Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) estimates that Tripura has 400 billion cubic meter reserves of natural gas. Tourism is a growing industry in the state.

Tripura is ranked 18 in the HDI in the country. A state government survey revealed that 55% rural population is BPL. Poor transport, communication and infrastructure are prohibiting the state from attaining higher levels of development. It is connected with one highway, rail and airport to the rest of the country. Despite its challenges, It is one of the best governed states in the country. ❖

Poor Man's Timber

Bamboo is dubbed as the 'poor man's timber' or 'green gold', thanks to its versatility and economic potential. It is estimated that 147 million people in the country depend on Bamboo for their livelihood. Scientifically recognised as a grass, bamboo is said to have 1500 uses, including as building material, tools, musical instruments, bags, baskets, etc. Bamboo is particularly popular in forest areas and the Northeast, where it is found in abundance.

India is home to 45% of bamboo forests in the world, but it has only 4% of the world market share. 136 different species of bamboo are found in the country. In monetary terms, it has a value of Rs. 500 billion and can produce up to 20 million tonnes of varied products. The government hopes to expand India's bamboo market to \$ 5.5 billion. This is just the production of bamboo, the size of the industry would be exponentially higher if bamboo based products are taken into account.

Bamboo has a short growth cycle of just 10-20 years. Bamboo cultivation for commercial purposes is believed to take an even shorter duration of 4-5 years to harvest. Different parts of the grass are used for different purposes. The shoots of some bamboo species are edible and are an integral part of Northeast cuisine. It is hard, light and flexible, often used as a substitute for wood. Its biological composition allows it to reduce carbon dioxide and retain soil health.

Despite its potential, bamboo continues to be perceived as secondary to timber. The industry is plagued with lack of proper marketing, updated cultivation practices, lack of use of technology, etc. Issues faced by the bamboo industry in India include -

- * Lack of scientific methods for propagation and cultivation
- * Lack of post harvest treatment and technology for product development
- * Inadequate trained manpower
- * Inadequate infrastructure for large scale harvesting in the event of gregarious flowering

In 2002, the government introduced the National Bamboo Mission with the objectives of:

- * To use Bamboo as a means to reclaim degraded land, conserve soil, improve environment, carry out drought proofing
- * To expand area under Bamboo plantation
- * To improve, yield and stabilize the existing bamboo plantation
- * To diversify, modernize and expand the bamboo based industries and handicrafts
- * To use Bamboo development as an instrument of poverty alleviation and employment generation particularly in rural sector

The omnipotence of bamboo still remains largely unexplored. Rising consciousness about environment is opening up new avenues for the bamboo industry. Tapping these opportunities in time and efficiently could bring better returns to millions of poor who depend on this grass. ❖

Hanumappa Sudarshan

Dr. Hanumappa Sudarshan is an inspirational figure in the realm of tribal development. He was conferred the Right Livelihood Award and the Padma Shri as a recognition of his contribution to development of tribal people in the BR hills region of Karnataka. Dr. Hanumappa was born in Yemalur, Karnataka, 1952. He decided to become a doctor at the tender age of 12, after his father expired due to lack of proper medical facilities at their village to cure his illness. Swami Vivekananda's teachings left a lasting impression on Dr. Hanumappa, as did the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr. Hanumappa went on to complete his MBBS from Bangalore Medical College between 1975 and 1979. He served as a doctor with the Ramakrishna Mission Health Institutions for a year, after which he left a promising career as a doctor to start the Vivekananda Girijan Kalyana Kendra (VGKK) as an Integrated Tribal Development Project in B.R. Hills. He setup a hospital in a small hut to provide health services to the locals. Initially, the locals were hostile and refused to consult him. Over time, Dr. Hanumappa won over the locals' trust with his effective and timely treatment. Soon, word of VGKK's clinic spread in neighbouring villages and locals thronged to Dr. Hanumappa for treatment. Dr. Hanumappa cashed in on this goodwill and established a school, vocational training centres that teach 16 different crafts. VGKK has also started a cooperatives that provide employment to the locals. As a result of these efforts, tribal people in the

region get at least 300 days of employment in a year.

Dr. Hanumappa expanded VGKK's activities into other regions of Karnataka and even other states. VGKK supports livelihoods and education of tribal people in Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

To ensure that VGKK remains an agent of tribal empowerment, Dr. Hanumappa made it mandatory for a tribal youth to be its President. Dr. Hanumappa also supported some tribal youth to continue their education up to the Ph.D level. These tribal youth have returned to serve their communities. Thus, Dr. Hanumappa has also been instrumental in creating valuable skilled human capital for tribal communities.

In 1988, Dr. Hanumappa led a struggle for land rights against the state government which had encroached on tribal land. Though he was arrested for this agitation, Dr. Hanumappa continued his fight against arbitrary land grab. The protest finally yielded results when in 2010 1519 tribal families were granted land rights and 25 forest committees won the rights to conserve and manage the forest.

Dr. Hanumappa continues to work tirelessly towards tribal development and empowerment. He derives his inspiration from the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. Over the years, Dr. Hanumappa has strongly advocated adopting a tribal way of life. ❖

Sarvodaya Movement

Sarvodaya, meaning development of all, was a term first coined by Mahatma Gandhi who used it as the ideal of his political philosophy. After his death, many of Gandhi's followers turned exponents of the Sarvodaya philosophy. The Sarvodaya movement which was popular in the immediate years after independence (50s and 60s) encompasses a number of movements across the country. The Bhoodan-Gramdan movement of Vinoba Bhave, Bihar Movement of J.P. Narayan all fell under the umbrella of Sarvodaya.

In 1951, Vinoba Bhave introduced the idea of 'bhoodan' which translates to land gift. In this scheme, rich landowners were encouraged to distribute some of their land to poor peasants. The idea took the rural landscape by storm and thousands of peasants benefitted. In some places, entire villages were donated to peasants.

In the late 50s, volunteers from across the country responded on an unprecedented scale to J P Narayan's call for rescue operations in the aftermath of a massive flood in Bihar. J P encouraged many volunteers to start small, village-level initiatives to realise the ideal of Sarvodaya.

There are many more leaders of the Sarvodaya movement in the country. The main aim of Sarvodaya is to attain the maximum good for all. It seeks to establish a society which is based on equality. It believes in the primacy of a human's capacity to change. Truth and non-violence are two basic tenets of the philosophy and also propounds them as the basis of a morally sound and egalitarian society. ❖



Livelihoods Management Universities!

Happy Maha Kumbh, the largest congregation of the world!

Azim Premji commits Rs.12,000 Crore irrevocably to his Foundation.

North-east Election results are out: Tripura – CPI(M); Nagaland – NPF; and Meghalaya – INC.

Annual letter of Bill Gates articulates that the lives of the poorest have improved rapidly in the last 15 years and hopes that the improvement would be better in the coming years. Setting clear goals, picking the right approach, implementing, measuring results and refine the approach continually is the way forward. His articulation is so right!

National Income estimates suggest an increase 11.7% increase in the per capita annual income in Indian and is pegged at Rs.68,747 in 2012-13 at current prices. This is slightly higher than the inflation. Prices have been rising for essential items of the poor. Coupled with 'increased gulf between the poor and non-poor, the situation of the poor does not seem to have improved!

Bansal presents Railway Budget. Chidambaram presents Annual Budget of Rs.17 lakh Crore that aims at higher but inclusive growth rate, with sustainable development. PC promises –

- * Nirbhaya Fund
- * National Bank for Women by October
- * skills for 10 lakh youth
- * Concessional 6% interest loans to weavers
- * RSBY is extended to rickshaw pullers, and auto and taxi drivers
- * Direct Benefit Transfer roll-out in the country
- * Post Offices to be into core banking
- * 4.8% Fiscal Deficit
- * Increase allocation to Rural Development (46%) – Rs.80,194 Crore – MGNREGS gets Rs.33,000 Crore
- * Farm Credit Target – Rs.7 lakh Crore
- * National Food Security – Rs.10,000 Crore
- * Agriculture – Rs.27,000 Crore
- * Education – Rs.65,867 Crore
- * ICDS – Rs.17,700 Crore
- * Drinking Water and Sanitation – Rs.15,260 Crore

* Health – Rs.37,330

* JNNURM – Rs.14,873

* Sub-plan Funds – SCs – Rs.41,561 Crore; STs – Rs.24,598 Crore; Gender – Rs.97,134 Crore; Child – Rs.77,236 Crore

* 10% Surcharge on taxable income above Rs.1 Crore

Let us discuss more of the budget implications for the poor later, may be next month. However, it appears not so big and bold as media talked.

Amidst economic slowdown over the last 2 years, we notice the growth of the middle class nevertheless. We also notice the empowered lower middle class with technology. Together they constitute may be half of India. Does that offer hope? Yes, if we see One Billion Rising. Yes, if we see increased solidarity for rights and entitlements. Yes, if we see increased number of people making a choice to work with the poor.

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Looking at the professionals available in the development is troubling us. While the capacities are about average, the egos and expectations are huge. We need to

increase the qualified competent passionate professionals in the sector. We need them in huge numbers. IIMs, IITs, IRMAs, TISSs, XIs, NIRDs need to work further to inculcate the spirit in the students to opt to work with the poor, increase more sections, increase more campuses, incubate more institutions and devise various franchisee, virtual and distance models. Then only we can meet the need. The courses need to be more in sync with the needs of the sector. They need to discuss more examples relevant from the sector. A new discipline needs to be nurtured – livelihoods management!

WE may not be able to stop at this. We need similarly the professionals from within the communities to meet their local needs. We need trainers are in large numbers to work with them. They need to train the community leaders, community cadres, community service providers, community resource persons, community trainers, and community institutions. We need professionals to work in these institutions.

To service 100 million families, we may need 10 million people. We need a million each year. This would mean we need Community Livelihoods University(ies). These have to be started, established and nurtured. Now. Hope someone there is taking note and is going to respond. ❖

Community Animation

Development is sustainable when it is a democratic process that involves the participation of the locals. In the 1970s, popular participation emerged as the answer to the inefficiency and inequities of the development process.

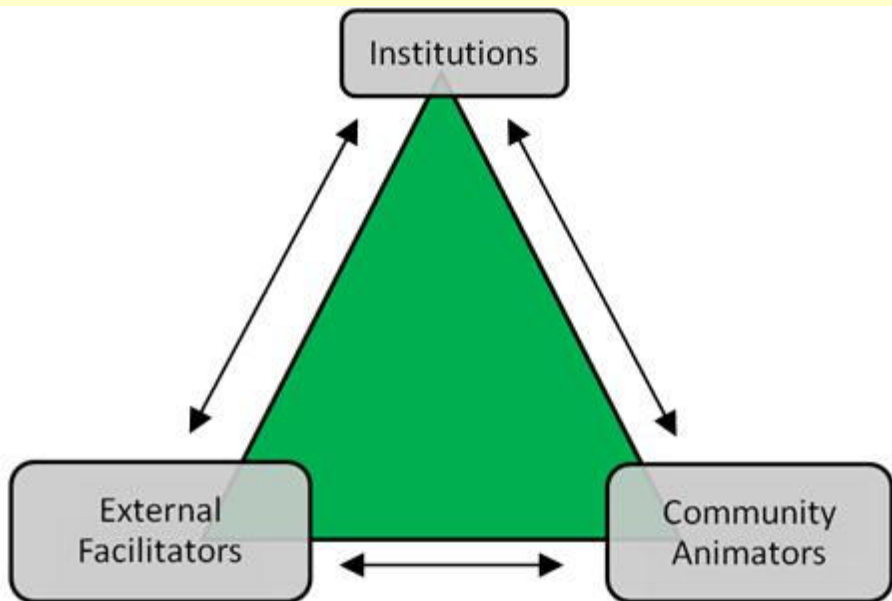


Development is sustainable when it is a democratic process that involves the participation of the locals. In the 1970s, popular participation emerged as the answer to the inefficiency and inequities of the development process.

As development interventions across the country started

using local volunteers in implementation, community animators became a permanent fixture in every intervention. Community volunteers came as a revelation for many. They had a better knowledge of the community and were likely strike a better chord with the locals vis-à-vis external facilitators.

Community animators are thought to be one of the three key agents of a successful development intervention besides institutions and external facilitators. These three agents together bring about change in the community. Institutions are organizations that work towards the development of the community. These are managed by external



facilitators who initiate activities for development. Conventionally, community animators were used for last mile delivery of services.

However, as experience of the past 2 decades has shown, the role of external facilitators is diminishing while community animators are gaining ground in implementation. The emergence of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) such as SHGs/CIGs and their federations is catalyzing this process. As a result, the very nature and perception of community animators or barefoot workers is undergoing a change.

In a sense, community animators have always existed in Indian villages. For instance, traditional healers are akin to today's Rural Medical Practitioners (RMPs). When one looks at it through this lens, community animators/barefoot workers can be defined as service providers at the community level.

The roles and responsibilities of community animators are derived from the unmet needs of local community and the major objectives of the development project. The implementing agency equips the community animators with relevant





as important stakeholders in building community ownership of the institutions of the poor. For this, the Framework specifies the need for skilling community professionals to equip them with the necessary managerial skills. Further, the Mission envisages that the role of the external support structure would reduce over time and an internal support structure (of community professionals would take over).

Identifying and Inducting Community Animators

skills and motivation to meet the specialised needs of the community. As a result, there is no uniformity in their selection process, roles, payment across the country.

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) takes note of the potential of community animators in enhancing implementation. The NRLM Framework for Implementations states “NRLM would invest in creating a large pool of *'social capital'* i.e. institutions of the poor, their members and office bearers, community resource persons, community professionals (book keepers, accountants, community animators/facilitators, customer relationship managers in banks etc), to support poor communities.”

In fact, the Framework calls this strategy to its success and scaling up. It refers to the CRPs as dynamic drivers for horizontal scaling up of the mission while community professionals—paraprofessionals, community activists are vital in deepening the processes and sustaining them in a given area.

Community animators are recognized

The implementing agency adopts various methods to identify barefoot workers. One is to observe the amount of interest shown by individuals during meetings, interactions, etc. This is followed by informal/ formal interviews of the identified person to judge their skill and aptitude.

It is important that the identified person enjoys the trust/credibility of the community. The implementing agency takes the community into confidence during the identification process of the barefoot workers, for better acceptability. The agency also facilitates and monitors the services provided by the barefoot



workers.

The training and induction is tailored to the kind of services provided by barefoot workers. For e.g., the livelihoods-support para-professionals are trained in the specific areas in which they work (livestock/ poultry/ agriculture, etc). The general resource persons are trained in using computer software, book-keeping, community mobilization, sensitization in key social issues etc. Besides the required skill-related trainings, the community animators also get exposed to the larger perspective of development and change-oriented aspects.

The training usually lasts for 5-15 days depending on the expected roles and responsibilities. Half-yearly follow-up workshops are necessary to upgrade the skills of community animators with new techniques in implementation. These workshops serve as platforms for dissemination of best practices/ experience sharing among barefoot workers. These workshops are held at the district level so that the community animators receive wide exposure. Customised training modules are developed by the implementing agency to train the barefoot workers. Modules developed by government departments or



other agencies are also utilized.

Monitoring of the community animators is carried out on a regular basis by the staff of the implementing agency at the block level. The community animators are also monitored by the community/CBO leaders on a monthly basis. Some parameters used to assess the performance of community animators are -

- * Availability of worker in time of need;
- * Response to emergencies;
- * General rapport with the community;
- * Ability to inspire other youth to take up similar roles, etc.

The barefoot worker's service fee depends on the kind of roles and responsibilities handled. Though there is no standardized pattern for the payment of

remuneration, some implementing agencies pay directly while others facilitate payment from the community.

The implementing agency establishes appropriate payment system, specific to the context for the services of barefoot workers, before transferring the responsibility to community.

Types of Community Animators

Some community animators



are also paid on the basis of their services. They are trained in certain skill, say veterinary services by the implementing agency. The community animators then take these skills to the community and offer their services. The beneficiaries pay for the services rendered by the barefoot workers.

In some cases, community animators are fulltime service providers (like book keeper/ SHG auditor). In some cases, community animators work part-time with the community and provide services on need basis (like para-vets). In some other cases,

community animators are pure service providers, paid for the service provided.

In some cases, this cadre of community animators limit just not to the local community but also visit new and distant locations to motivate/mobilize/train the communities. The type of service can also define the type of relationship – some community animators can be ‘best practitioners’ providing specialised livelihood advice, while another set can be ‘community resource persons’, providing standardized interventions.

The emergence and of the cooperative movement and the self-help movement has given rise to a new crop of community leaders. In most CBOs, the leaders are elected by the members. These leaders hold posts such as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc. Unlike earlier leaders, they are trained in management and leadership skills.

Based on these differences, community animators can be broadly categorized as:

1. Community Activists



2. Paraprofessionals

3. Community Resource Persons

These three cadres differ in their association with a project, selection process, pay, monitoring and other factors. Further, these categories are not watertight. Some barefoot workers can double or triple up in these roles. There are also some barefoot workers who fall in between these categories. As the role of community agents grows, new facets of community animation are

Farmer Spearheaded Trainings

Development Service Centre (DSC) is a resource organisation in the field of natural resource management based in Gujarat. Farmer Spearheaded Training (FSHT) centre has been conceptualised by the DSC to coach and prepare farmers as trainers, so that they can train other farmers. This has proved to be a less time-consuming and a more effective method of organizing and advancing project objectives. Farmers learn from fellow farmers more easily since they relate to their environment, background, experiences, language etc. Affinity and proximity play a significant role in convincing them about altering their practices.

Training modules designed and conducted by farmers greatly enrich the development literature. Involvement of the beneficiaries and stakeholders in decision making roles from the beginning plays a key role as their local knowledge and experiences help in faster progress. It is important to give a free hand to farmers with ample time to settle.

The FSHT offers some non-paid work -

Arranging exposure visit to the trainer's villages

- * Training as a source of revenue generation
- * Conducting village meetings
- * Technical input for formation of WUA (resources and training, role of WUA)
- * Joint walk through the canal
- * First training for water distribution

FSHT offers some paid work -

- * Every extra training on account keeping and canal operation
- * Audit
- * Refresher course for new office bearers' who conduct training and bear the costs
- * Hosting exposure visit from other states
- * Any other training/ guest lecture

The intervention has covered 42000 farmers till now.

DSC started with a group of eleven farmers from one village to train other farmers. They formed a group and took up varied topics relating to organizing irrigation cooperatives, e.g., community organizing, conflict resolution, accounts, infrastructure, maintenance etc. There were primarily two parts in this program – institution-building and the technical capacity building. DSC organised Training of Trainers (ToT) specifically focused on the farmers and their learning aptitude.

The farmers training group travels to new villages. They initially stay there for a couple of days and try to understand the issues in the village. They gradually make acquaintances with the people and find out what people think about canal water and the state of the canals and their management. They start discussions and meetings about the importance of managing the canals and forming WUAs. There is an easy acceptance of the farmers by other farmers because of their experience. Factors like affinity, caste and class groups play an important role in establishing rapport with the community. The trainers' group visits the villages once in a week at the beginning and then visits according to the need.

In MGNREGS, a Technical Assistant (T.A.) is as functionary at the cluster level to provide technical support to Field Assistants in implementing the scheme. There are 2 -3 TAs in a mandal, depending upon the number of villages in the mandal. The TA is a resident/native of the District with a minimum qualification of a Diploma in Civil engineering/ Agriculture/Horticulture or a Degree in Science or ITI Civil/Intermediate. They should be at least 35 years old (for SC/ST/BCs the criterion is relaxed till 40 years). In Scheduled areas under ITDAs, only ST candidates are considered for the post.

The responsibilities of a TA include identifying projects as per the gram sabha resolution, preparing estimates for projects up to five lakhs, capturing measurements (including the e-measurement through mobiles) on a weekly basis for all the projects, building technical capacities of the mates and the field assistants.



Field Assistant in MGNREGS

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is

being implemented in rural areas since the past 8 years. Field Assistants (FAs) are key functionaries in implementing the program. Candidates belonging to the Gram Panchayats, Intermediate pass and those in the age group 18 to 35 years are considered for the post. FA's responsibilities are as follows: Works

It fulfils the aim of building social capital that will remain with the community for a long period. Often, management in development projects is done by professionals who are distanced from the realities of the community but are inclined towards working with the community.

The LLIs undergo a 3-4 days orientation at NGOs such as DSC and AKRSP. The orientation includes training on aspects such as capacity building, livelihoods enhancement, project planning, project management, etc. Upon induction into implementing agency, the LLIs make their monthly plans. Their remuneration is performance based with a fixed monthly stipend of INR 10,000.

identification with Panchayat Writing muster rolls and assigning and measuring the earth works Coordinating Srama Shakti Sangalu t Taking attendance of labours every day at work site Ensuring the output from labours, attending all review meetings Ensuring worksite facilities Facilitating Gram Sabha meeting .

Under NREGS, a 'mate' is assigned for each work-site or for every fifty workers. mate should be literate and should have worked in MGNREGS for a reasonable period of time. They are trained and their skills are enhanced in a phased manner so that they can function as certified barefoot engineers capable of initial measurement of works. The remuneration of mates is based on person days of his/her work, calculated at a wage rate equal to that of semi-skilled labour.

Responsibilities of Mates include supervising work-sites, recording attendance in muster roll, giving daily

mark-outs to labour groups and record weekly measurements, facilitate applications for job-cards and submit them to the Gram Panchayat, facilitating demand for work from individual workers or labour groups, submit them to gram panchayat and obtain dated receipt as acknowledgement, facilitating participatory identification of works in the GP, ensuring there is no free-riding within his/her group of workers, ensuring timely attendance of workers, Record weekly measurements of his/her groups, submit filled out muster rolls to Gram Rozgar Sevak, providing first aid, helping illiterate labourers in his group to learn to sign and to calculate wages earned, creating awareness about rights and entitlements under the MGNREGA.

Local Livelihoods Interns:

LLIs are graduates in the local area who are recruited and trained by ARAVALI and its Partners to take up managerial roles in social development interventions. With this, ARAVALI has sought to alter the widely-accepted definition of barefoot workers by engaging local persons in the management aspects of development projects. This is a step ahead in the belief that the community is capable of handling its own institutions.

It fulfils the aim of building social capital that will remain with the community for a long period. Often, management in development projects is done by professionals who are distanced from the realities of the community but are inclined towards working with the community.

LLI fellowship extends for three years and thereafter the graduates take up their own agenda in the field of rural and livelihoods development locally. The objectives behind creation of this pool of LLIs are:

- * To facilitate the NGOs to follow a focused approach towards livelihood enhancement (in both farm and non-farm activities) with special attention on resource poor families.
- * To place quality human resources at the field level to enable NGOs to implement livelihood enhancement activities and simultaneously build the knowledge base of local staff in the area; &
- * To effectively implement, demonstrate and facilitate the generation of knowledge on livelihood promotion and facilitate replication by other NGOs in the state.

The LLIs undergo a 3-4 days orientation at NGOs such as DSC and AKRSP. The orientation includes training on aspects such as capacity building, livelihoods enhancement, project planning, project management, etc. Upon induction into implementing agency, the LLIs make their monthly plans. Their remuneration is performance based with a fixed monthly stipend of INR 10,000.

Community Resource Person Strategy—SERP/IKP:

Under IKP/SERP, Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are members of the community who successfully graduated out poverty by being members of the SHGs and practiced the cardinal principles of Self-Help. CRPs over the years have evolved as functional specialists with each one having their own strengths in specific areas like social mobilization, gender, financial management, book keeping, marketing, health, gender, paralegal assistants and so on. They act as guides and role models for other poor individuals and other institutions. They provide capacity building support to newer groups and act as consultants to each other to successfully implement their plans to come out of poverty. Moreover the Community Resource Persons have been invited as a consultant for other States in the country to share their learning's and train poor women in their States. Today the programme can count over 20,000 qualified individuals as Community Resource Persons and Para Professionals, who can guide, assist and implement such programmes anywhere.

Since 2004-05, the Project has been adopting the VORT CRP strategy for strengthening of SHGs and

promoting "Sapta Sutralu". As part of this strategy, a four member CRP team stays in each village for 15 days, forms new groups with , train a minimum of 8-9 SHGs, update SHG account books, identify and train SHG bookkeepers and Community Activists, facilitate 2-3 SHGs for preparation of Micro Credit Plans and identify internal CRPs. Each team visits one mandal and take up trainings on SHG management, Bookkeeper and Micro Credit Plan preparation, working 15 days per month in each village for 10 Months in a year

Community Resource Persons are active community leaders selected from the members of mature SHGs, VOs and MS. They are women who faced abject poverty and came out of with the active support, guidance and assistance provided by the SHGs, VOs and MS. They should have accessed multiple doses of loans and improved their

Community Resource Persons are active community leaders selected from the members of mature SHGs, VOs and MS. They are women who faced abject poverty and came out of with the active support, guidance and assistance provided by the SHGs, VOs and MS

livelihood base and standard of living. They are recognized as role models in their SHGs, VOs and MS. Their SHGs, VOs, MS should have a good management and should have addressed social issues successfully. They should have good communications skills.

They should have knowledge and experience on SHG concept, group management norms, SHG meeting process, clarity on the need of Bookkeeping and role of Bookkeeper, MCP –7 Step process VO meeting process, Agenda fixation, various functions of VO and VO committees, clarity on the role and function of Community Activist with SHGs and VOs. They should have the skills to conduct trainings to the community on the best practices of their SHGs, VOs and MS. They document their SHGs and VOs profiles, institutional progress best practices and adopted them as training material in the trainings and facilitation.

Senior CRPs

Sr.CRP is the member of mature SHG, who has come out of poverty with the support of her SHG/VO and MS. The Sr.CRP shall have the experience of running a MS with a capacity of Office bearers for at least 2 years. They should have clarity and articulation skills about the group concept, role of VO / MS and best practices in IB, MF and CIF.

Types pf CRPs

Registration CRPs

SERP's primary mandate is to promote and strengthen self-managed and self-reliant sustainable institutions of the Poorest of the poor and poor. Members having in-depth knowledge on their bye-laws, managing institutions as per their bye-laws and act and on-time fulfilment of legal compliances is integral part of sustainability of the CBOs. In this connection, SERP has decided to identify ZS/MS level Registration CRPs from among the experienced CBO leaders and utilize their services to create awareness among the members and provide hand-holding support to MSs and VOs.

- * To create awareness among all SHG members on their rights and entitlements, their VO & MS Bye-laws and Registration process etc
- * To build the capacities of VOs and MSs in managing their institutions as per their bye-laws and in

fulfilment of legal compliances etc.

- * To provide need based support to ZS in inter and intra institutional problem solving and conflict resolutions at VOs and MSs Level

Auditing CRPs

The work of the auditing CRP is to support and create awareness among CBOs, maintenance of books of accounts, best financial management practices and self-regulation of CBOs the Auditing/ External Community Resource Persons Strategy for Financial Management & Auditing has been developed.

CRPs in IKP – EGS Convergence

The CRPs in IKP-EGS convergence are primarily wage-seekers under EGS programme or have come from a family dependent on that EGS works. Their main role in the programme is to identify the households in the allotted panchayat who are dependent on EGS works and then ensure that each household adopted by VO achieves 100 days of employment in this financial year. Each CRP team spends 15 days in the allotted panchayat every month monitoring each of the adopted households.

Gender CRPs

Gender CRP's ensures gender agends in SHG and VO meetings. She trains the members on gender issues. She should form adolescent girl group. She should form social action committees and create gender fund. One of the major duties is to establish family counselling centre and train gender committees on identifying and resolving issues.

Marketing CRPs

CRPs are selected from among the members of the SHGs who work in the VOs on Marketing component of the project in 1 to 4 mandals and in some places more. They are willing workers having concern to the



problems of the poor farmers and work for their betterment.

State Resource Persons – Marketing

Regional training programs will be held whenever SRPs are to be selected. Project Directors, DRDA and Zilla Samakhya will be requested to identify the members of the SHGs having following

- Should be member of SHG
- Minimum education standard
- Good Communication Skills
- Previous experience if any in working as member of Procurement Committee / or in marketing.
- Good grasping capacity
- Concern for the poor
- In a position to travel extensively within and outside the districts
- Capacity to train others

NPM CRPs (CRP strategy in Sustainable agriculture)

The duties of the NPM CRP's is to motivate farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural methods. Establish 36*36 models; poly cropping models, nadep compost pits, cattle shed lining, bund plantation, SRI paddy, deep furrows, registration fee collection etc.

Comprehensive Rural Health Project—Jamkhed

Comprehensive Rural Health Project's (CRHP) approach to development, recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Jamkhed Model. The model is composed of three mutually supportive components—community, mobile health team and a hospital.

Upon entering a village, CRHP works with villages to conduct a baseline survey to address needs and solutions. A Village Health Worker (VHW) (the *first component*) is selected at this time by her village to undergo initial and ongoing education with CRHP to provide primary healthcare and promote health education in her village. The VHW is key to the formation of Community Groups, such as the Farmers' Clubs, Women's Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Adolescent Programs. These groups provide villagers an outlet with which to identify socioeconomic and healthcare barriers, thereby defining the parameters for applicable solutions. The *second component* CRHP's Mobile Health Team (MHT), which acts as a liaison between each project village and CRHP.

The MHT is a team of social workers and medical staff that conduct village visits to assist VHWs in more complicated matters, as well as collect vital statistics for healthcare monitoring. The social workers advise on social and economic initiatives led by the Women's SHG, and meet regularly with Farmers' Clubs, and Adolescent groups.

The *third component* the hospital and training centre located on CRHP's Jamkhed compound. The on-campus Julia Hospital and Training Center connect the communities with CRHP's campus. The hospital provides affordable healthcare to an underserved rural population of over 500,000 annually using a sliding scale fee structure. The Training Center hosts domestic and international grassroots workers to demonstrate the effectiveness of CRHP's approach to development in an applicable and scalable manner. CRHP currently works with 45 Project Villages and 55 Village Health Workers. CRHP has worked with over 300 villages since it was founded.

Health CRP strategy

Health CRPs are best practitioners who are trained to assess and analyse community health problems, build awareness among people on key health issues, prepare a health and nutrition plan for the village, lend support to SHG members in the execution of the plan, monitor and evaluate progress on participatory lines.

Book Keepers

Book keeping is one of the *sapta sutras* of SHGs. It implies keeping a record of all the transactions and activities of the group, both internal and external. The group selects a bookkeeper to carry out all these activities. The bookkeeper could be one of the

members, or related/known to the members. The bookkeeper should know how to read and write and have the basic arithmetic skills. She/he usually writes books for more than one group and is paid a fee by the group. The payment ranges between Rs 50 and 200. The group pays either from the corpus fund or the members give the fee amount along with the weekly savings amount. Book keeper has to attend group meetings which may be weekly, fortnightly and monthly. The book keeper records the minutes of the meeting, financial transactions and writes loan applications or promissory notes at the time of internal lending. The fundamental function of the bookkeeper is to ensure financial transparency in the group. ❖

Food: A Global Concern And Problem

Countries around the globe are struggling to meet demand for food. Numerous efforts are underway at various levels by launching programmes and schemes like 'food for all' and 'food for poor'. Still, it is a bitter irony that there are many stomachs which go empty to sleep.

Each country differs in number of aspects which contour their policy environment. There is a big schism in the budgetary resources available to the developed countries compared to developing ones

Food security can only be guaranteed when all people, at all times, have access economically, socially, and physically to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that satisfies their nutritional needs and their dietary preferences, allowing them to lead active and healthy lives. Food security of the households corresponds to the application of this concept on the family level especially the women of the household. With the centre of attention focusing on the individuals making up the household opines FAO in its report. When the available food resources are adequate to guarantee that an individual will be able to lead a lively and healthy life then it can be deemed that the individual is in a condition of food security. This maxim is applicable to the complete populace irrespective of location, gender, class and age.

A domestic unit is food secure when it has a steady livelihood and comfortable surroundings. The domestic milieu should have ample stock of food and a regular influx of foodstuff and purchasing power to satisfy the fundamental needs. Food security also takes cognizance of number of activities related to farming and non-farming. These chores actually contribute to an array of supply of income avenues.

Escalating food costs and recession has created unrest across the globe. Poverty and unemployment forces many to remain hungry, undernourished and malnourished. It is not the deadly life threatening diseases that snuff out a life but lack of safe and healthy food that is a menace.

According to FAO Food security means that all individuals have secure "access to adequate safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy life. Programmes and policies have direct and indirect effects on household food security.

The UN and the FAI in tandem with various Governments and NGOs need to take cognizance of this issue of food, food safety and poor. It is opined by experts that a lot of money is required to be put into production of food so that the developing countries can feed more than 10 crores of its hungry for which more than 10 billion dollars is required to

satisfy the hunger worldwide. A whopping number no doubt, On the other hand a curb is required to be put on the developed countries on wasting food. An alarming situation of elephantine proportions. Common man spends a sizeable chunk of his income on food stuff due to the increase in the price of food grains. Investing in agricultural research and development will apparently contribute to an increase in the food production and then prices may dip down. Hence it is imperative that authorities at the helm of affairs help in promoting research and development and adopt new technologies in agriculture

Developed countries have been severely criticized for wasting food, their children eating wrong food raising various medical issues of obesity, junk food and related diseases. The food wasted by them can possibly feed a sizable sum of poor and hungry children in developing countries. Tall claims of holistic development home and elsewhere neither tackled and focused on the issue nor found any suitable solution. There is a continuous advent of food chains like MacDonald's and KFC in India. When we dine there we pay an exorbitant price for consuming the humble potato grown in our own fields. But the poor farmer never gets his due. The cost of food cost increases manifold by the time it reaches the consumer. The value added products of wheat and rice carry exorbitant price tags. The companies dealing with food grains have made profits due to the liberalization policies especially after the 90s when the policies of ITO have rendered export mandatory even when not required. The prices of fruits and vegetables have also increased due to inflation. Tonnes of grains, fruits and vegetables are produced but lack of infrastructure for storage rots almost 40% of the produce. An improvement in the infrastructure storage facilities and godowns would save 80 to 90 crores. We are among the top 12 nations producing good quantity of fruits and vegetables. And further growth is expected in the coming 2013 -2014. Therefore, the need of the hour is to formulate schemes which favour the poor and their nutrition quotient. Ironically our poverty alleviation programmes have been favouring those farmers with surplus land and imminent produce. In spite of having sufficient food for all, the faulty distribution of food and black marketeering has compounded the issue. Focus on alternate food grains other than wheat and rice apparently will shift the concern and solve the issue of hunger. Therefore, the focus of PDS needs to be shifted to the alternate grains like millets, bajra sorghum etc. The alternate grains are grown in the rain-fed areas and the semi-arid tracts and the poorest in the India has been consuming it since generations. PDS should

therefore focus on it. These grains possess high nutritional value and people consume it along with local and area specific vegetables and pulses.

As an integral part of intervention to increase the level of food acquisition number of efforts need to be initiated to allow women to acquire assets such as a grocery shop, tending livestock, cottage industries, vegetable garden etc which will help augment a higher percentage of food inflow.

Focus on proper health care for women and emphasis on education will pave for a direction towards women's management over income and spending of the household.

Trivia----Few roadside restaurants have priced the dishes at two levels---- if the diner agrees to feed a hungry child, he pays a little more for the meal. Definitely a positive initiative. ❖

Ratna Madhavi



2 February World Wetlands Day

Direction	Idea	Innovation	Emerging Livelihood
Messengers of Change	Hygiene Woes		Rural Tourism
<p>The staff members at Mirakle Couriers are dispelling myths associated with the hearing impaired one consignment at a time. Started in 2009, Mirakle Couriers is a Mumbai-based for-profit company that hires only hearing impaired persons as courier agents. The company employs 64 hearing-impaired persons of whom 20 are women. The women handle the back office including sorting, consignment tracking, packing, etc. The other 44 employees, all male criss-cross the city delivering consignments. They use public transport, memorise maps and remember roads to make their way around the city.</p> <p>The company also employs 4 non-hearing-impaired staff to communicate with clients. However, interaction among employees is only in Indian Sign Language (ISL) which was taught to the 4 non-hearing-impaired employees as well. e-Mail, SMSes and other such visual forms of communication have come in handy. ❖</p>	<p>Arunachalam Murugantham of Tamil Nadu designed an innovation to put an end to the menstrual hygiene woes of millions women across country. Use of cloth instead of sanitary napkins is a common practice in rural India where many poor women cannot afford sanitary napkins. He decided to solve this problem by creating low-cost sanitary napkins. He learned that sanitary napkins manufactured by MNCs were made of cellulose, instead of cotton and manufacture these napkins were expensive. Realising that lending some manual labour to the napkin assembling system would reduce the role of the machine and therefore its cost, he built a low cost machine that could produce 2 napkins in a minute. The machine costs about Rs.65, 000 and it takes a team of four persons to produce the napkin. He first introduced the product for women in his own village, who found it very useful. Soon, women across the state started buying the machine and started their own enterprise. So far, 7,000 rural women have gained employment through this and 2.5 million women have shifted to better practices in menstrual hygiene due to this innovation. ❖</p>		<p>Tourism in rural areas is an upcoming industry in the country. Rural tourism could relate to agri-tourism, ecotourism or to a historical or cultural monument located in the area. The advantages of rural tourism are many. Tourism brings with a portfolio of livelihoods – housekeeping, local transport, souvenir/handicrafts selling, tour guides, etc., thereby creating employment locally. It also leads to developing better infrastructure and revival of traditional culture, maintenance of local monuments, etc. Most important of all, since rural tourism emphasises on using local resources, it ensures that the income does not go out of the local economy. Studies show that one hotel room generates direct employment to 3 persons and indirect employment to 8 persons. While most are run by private players as a social enterprise, new models involving PPP and community managed institutions are also on the rise. ❖</p>
People	Leader	Community Worker	Volunteer/ professional
Kovel Chairman	Community Resource Person		Master Book keeper
<p>Kovel Foundation works with tribal NTFP pickers in Andhra Pradesh. The Board of Trustees of the organisation consists of 9 members including 6 elected tribal representatives. These 6 members represent each of the zones where Kovel has presence. Once elected, the Board members elect a Chairman from among the elected members.</p> <p>The Chairman holds the post for five years. During this time, she is in charge of taking important policy decisions for the organisation. She acts as a bridge between the community and Kovel's management.</p> <p>The Chairman is assisted by other Board members in her functioning. A meeting for the Kovel general body is held once a year. This meeting is convened by the Chairman. ❖</p>	<p>The Community Resource Person (CRP) strategy under the Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP) is a community to community cross learning approach. CRPs are usually women who have successfully graduated out of extreme poverty and have held members Self Help Groups. These women serve as role models and inspire others to join and form SHGs as the first step towards a life without poverty. This strategy helps IKP reach out to a larger number of poor in a short span.</p> <p>CRPs are paid by the Village Organisation (VO) IKP has implemented the strategy in various interventions, including bank linkages, marketing, sustainable agriculture, Health and Nutrition, Gender, etc. CRPs are also classified according to their area and method of operation as external CRPs, internal CRPs, State CRPs and ToT CRPs. Potential CRPs are identified by the VO shortlisted by the Mandal Samakhya and Selected by the Zilla Samakhya/SERP. CRPs are trained to by SERP. CRPs visit villages, assess the SHGs there, identify gaps and develop an action plan to improve performance. ❖</p>		<p>Master Bookkeepers (MBKs) under the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Andhra Pradesh are posted at the mandal (sub-district) level. Each MBK is given the charge of a cluster where she/he is responsible for implementing all of SERP's initiatives. MBKs' main responsibility is to identify and train SHG and VO bookkeepers in the cluster. The MBKs visit the VOs and SHGs once meet to audit their accounts and ensure that they are being properly maintained. The MBKs also provide support to SHG and VO bookkeepers if required.</p> <p>MBKs are selected by District Project Directors of SERP on the basis of their education qualifications. For the initial batches of MBKs, the minimum qualification was class 10 pass. The rules were revised and the minimum qualification was raised to graduation. MBKs are paid Rs. 6000 per month. Their work is monitored by Area Project Manager once a week and by the Area Coordinator/Area Project Director once a month. ❖</p>

Working on Issues

Ambedkar farmers group members in Konaipally village, Medak district face water problem for irrigation due to decrease level of ground water. Members discussed about this problem and submitted application to APMIP. APMIP provide free drip irrigation services to 1 hectore agriculture land for Dalith farmers.

Ambedkar group conduct meetings every month on MGNREGS works, PDS services, AWC services, Midde meal, Immunization, ANM visits, sanitation, personal hygiene, child labour and other services activities. They will question to particular person if they find problem.

Ambedker famers group got Rs 50000 grant from CWS for livestock like Goats, sheeps and hens and each person get Rs 5000. Group members did not interest to buy to goats, sheeps and hens. Group members

discussed about grant amount in the meeting. They decided to share to Rs 50000 to five needy members for dairy. Benefited members have to pay monthly Rs 500 to group. Group members have to deposit to loan amount under revolving fund. Members have taken resolution on revolving fund.

Ambedkar group conduct meetings every month on MGNREGS works, PDS services, AWC services, Midde meal, Immunization, ANM visits, sanitation, personal hygiene, child labour and other services activities. They will question to particular person if they find problem.

Group members encourage kitchen gardens and distributed 10 types of vegetable seed packets to members. They have to cultivate in organic method. Earlier, these people were going to Kukunoorpally shandy and it is 10kms away from this village. If they miss one shandy they don't have vegetables for cooking.

Group formed to one green bank for food security. They give seed for cultivation and after harvesting people have to give double to green bank. ❖

SRI Paddy Consortium

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) is implementing a SRI Paddy Collaborative Project in four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely Medak, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Khammam. The AP SRI Consortium was formed to monitor the project. Overall, 4000hr of land is covered under this project (1000hr in each district). WASSAN (Watershed support Services and Activities Network) is providing the secretarial support to the AP SRI Consortium. It also extends human resource/field level handholding support.

The Consortium was formed through collective efforts of Acharya N G Ranga Agriculture University (ANGRAU), Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), WALAMTARI, CROPS, NABARD, various civil society organizations along with the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The Commissioner of Agriculture and WASSAN selected NGOs for implementing the project. At present, 13 NGOs, 2 Mandal Mahila Samakhyas (MMS) and 2 Water Users Association (WUAs) are implementing the SRI Paddy

Collaborative Project.

Representatives from the member/implementing organisations participate in project planning and creating awareness, conducting training programmes and monitoring.

Village level trainings were organized for implementation staff. Resource persons for the training were drawn from EEI, DRR, ANGRAU, District officials and WASSAN. Labour groups and weeder groups were formed to help mobilize of labourers for the farmers.

District and state level review meetings for NGOs are regularly conducted. An online knowledge sharing platform was created for the consortium. The Consortium has also piloted a monitoring system though SMS based weekly reports and monitoring visits.

Through the Consortium farmers are gaining knowledge on SRI, pesticide and diseases management, water budgeting and other issues. ❖

People living with HIV/AIDS

The Government of India estimates that about 2.40 million are living with HIV in India (2009-2012). The prevalence rate of HIV among adults is 31% and 3.5% among children (up to the age 14). HIV has an adverse, and often straining socio-economic impact on individuals living with HIV and their households.

Gender inequities worsen the disproportionate impact of this socio-economic burden on women and girls living with HIV or from HIV affected households, by restricting their access to social and economic resources, coping mechanisms, and care and support services. Female headed HIV-affected households are more likely to have limited access to coping mechanisms, including lower levels of asset ownership and higher levels of debts, compared to male headed HIV-affected households. In general, there are lower rates of school attendance and higher rates of dropout and absenteeism among girls, than boys in HIV-affected households, signifying higher incidence of economic and care-giving burden on girls. There have been few efforts by the Government for the betterment of PLHA's livelihoods. Employment assurance, enterprise promotion, entitlement facilitation and strengthening of inclusion and solidarity advocacy should be promoted further. ❖

Vulnerability

Malnourished Children

It is estimated that 40% of the world's malnourished children are living in India. Every year, 32 babies for every 1000 die due to malnutrition.

The most crippling effects of malnutrition among children occur even as the baby is a foetus in the mother's womb and 2 years after child birth. It is necessary to look beyond income levels, economic expansion, conventional poverty levels and food availability, none of which explains in itself the causes of the problem in India. According to the health survey the social status of the women and the education level of the mothers play an important role in malnutrition of the child.

There is a cycle of malnourishment like several factors have been associated with intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) and consequent low birth weight (LBW), including maternal anaemia and under-nutrition, low age at marriage, short inter-pregnancy interval and infections. Lack of awareness regarding nutrition, quality of health care, access to health services are also issues involved in the nutrition cycle. ❖

Sexual Minorities (Sexual Variant)

"Sexual minorities are groups of people whose sexual orientation, gender identity or sexual characteristics are different from the presumed majority of the population, which are male or female heterosexuals". Sexual minorities include lesbians, gays, bisexual and trans-genders, commonly known as LGBTs.

Sexually variant people are victims of social repression and exclusion. Many LGBTs fear discrimination and run away from their families. Gender orientation is formed very early in life, during the adolescent stage.

Incidence of depression, suicidal tendency, violence related stress is high among LGBTs. They get caught up in the contradiction between their sexual orientation and social expectations. This leads to low self-esteem and self-blame.

All these factors hamper their chances of pursuing stable livelihoods. Most employers deny employment to even educationally well-qualified and skilled transgender people. As a result many LGBTs choose to work as sex workers. There are not many schemes that address the issues of LGBTs. In Tamil Nadu, the government has provided land to transgenders, and the Andhra Pradesh government has deemed the transgender community as minorities. This is a sign that things maybe taking a turn for the better for LGBTs. ❖

Marble Miners

In Karauli, Rajasthan, mining has been the major livelihood for many rural poor. It is observed that most of the people working in these marble mines and cutting mills are being diagnosed with silicosis. A report was by National Institute of Miners' Health states that the situation is alarming in Karauli as most of the workers are suffering from TB, silicosis and other respiratory health problems due to inhalation of silicon dust. The workers have been developing "progressive massive fibrosis" in their lungs and the life expectancy level has fallen to 30 to 40 years. In some incidences it was found that during the cremation after the pyre was burnt the lungs of these silicosis patients, due to the heat and the silicon dust in the lungs, would turn into solid rock.

The NHRC ordered the state to conduct a detailed survey of the mining areas and compensation for the miners. According to the reframed mine policy in Rajasthan, Mining projects depend heavily on manual laborers, most of whom are from rural areas and not very well educated. Mining is one of the most hazardous professions because of safety as well as health concerns and hazards. ❖

Bangles and Fancy store

Rajyalaxmi (35) belongs to Gogulapally village, Nellore District. She runs a bangles, sari and fancy store for women since 2006. She sells plastic items useful for household needs and also fancy items for ladies such as imitation jewels, bangles, ladies chapels, stickers, etc. She purchases these items in bulk from a wholesale market in Nellore. She started this shop with support from her brother for purchasing the goods and saris. She runs this business from her house with the help of her family members.

Particulars	Amount
Fixed Investment	20,000
Monthly Expenditure	
Saris and Goods (weekly on-cex3000x4=12000)	12000
Transport charges	1000
Interest on loans	200
Total	13200
Monthly Income from sales	
Income from Fancy Items and Saris	20000
Net Profit	6800

She took a loan of Rs. 20,000 to start her business and later Rs. 10000 from her SHG to expand her business. She purchases saris from Kavali wholesale market. Customers are given the option to buy saris on a monthly instalment basis at an interest of Rs.2/month. In her store, she sells at wholesale rates and fixed rates depending on the quantity of order. She earns Rs.6800 for month. ❖

Social

Provision Business

Laya Elders Self Help Group of Burugupudi Village, East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh runs a small kirana business in the village.

In 2012, the group got a grant of Rs. 12,000 from HelpAge India to start the business. The group sells red gram, black gram, pulses, sugar, wheat and chilli powder at affordable rates to others in the village. It has set up a committee to manage the business.

In 2012, the group got a grant of Rs. 12,000 from HelpAge India to start the business. The group sells red gram, black gram, pulses, sugar, wheat and chilli powder at affordable rates to others in the village.

The committee members visit Rajamundry once a week to get the provisions from the wholesale market. The products are sometimes sold on credit basis, with a maximum of 15 days time to pay. The group earns a profit of Rs. 3,000 a month and the profit is shared by all the members. They hope to expand their business to clothes in the near future. ❖

Public

CCD-Dal Mill

CCD Adilabad, works towards establishing "better social support systems, producer owned enterprises and promoting entrepreneurship among farmers." One of its most successful interventions has been the establishment of a dal mill to give better returns to local farmers.

The total set up cost for the dal mill was 58 lakhs. The dal mill is run by a federation of 38 cooperatives promoted by CCD. The federation comprises of representatives from all the cooperatives, each cooperative has two members representing it. A 12-member governing body – Board of Directors was formed with 76 members. The Board is headed by a president and is assisted by a vice president and general manager.

Dal mill procures pulses from member producers and processes it into dal and markets it. To the members, it pays 50%-70% of the total value at the time of purchase. The rest of the amount and profit is paid to members after the realization of sales and profit by the mill through the federation. Dal mill covers its cost and distributes profit (Last year the turnover was Rs.4cr and the profit was 12 lakh) to producer through federation. After covering its cost which is around Rs.325-Rs.350 per quintal on an average it passes 30% of the profit to the federation and 70% of the profit is distributed among the members producer through their cooperatives. ❖

Choutuppall Sandy

The Choutuppall Gram Panchayat organises a shandy on every Sunday. The Gram Panchayat has been organising this shandy for 30 years now.

All types of items are sold at the Shandy—vegetables, livestock (Buffaloes, Cows, oxen), utensils, clothes, utilities, tools, etc.

About 100 sellers from nearby mandals set up shop there. The Choutuppall Gram

About 100 sellers from nearby mandals set up shop there. The Choutuppall Gram Panchayat collects Rs. 10 from each shop.

Panchayat collects Rs. 10 from each shop.

Approximately, above 10,000 people visit the shandy and purchase goods. This shandy is the biggest sandy in Nalgonda. ❖

I hope I will be able..

I Serve Poor ...

Ramulu, 40, a garbage picker in Hyderabad tells 'livelihoods' about his life after he migrated to the city 20 years ago.

When did you migrate to Hyderabad?

I migrated to Hyderabad 20 years ago. I used to work as a rickshaw puller in my village. It was a difficult life and I heard Hyderabad was a better place to look for employment.

When we arrived here, we used to live in a small hut in a slum. Later, the government helped us build a house by giving us a loan.

Do you think coming to Hyderabad has made your life any better?

At present, what do you do for living?

I collect garbage from five apartment buildings in Baghlingampally. This takes up half of my day. The rest of the day I sort the garbage and sell recyclable materials like empty milk packets, water packets, covers, iron items, news paper and etc.

How much do you earn?

Each apartment's management pays me Rs. 250/month. I earn anything between Rs. 40 and 100/day by selling the scrap.

What about your family?

I am married, have 3 daughters and two sons. Two of my daughters are married while the youngest is studying at my native place, where my eldest daughter lives. My sons work as assistants in shops in Hyderabad. My wife is works as a house-maid in Baghlingampally.

Do you have any assets in your native place?

I had a house in my village but gave it as dowry to my first son-in-law.

Do you have a bank account?

No I do not have a bank account. I deposit Whatever little money I save at the end of the month in a chit fund.

What kind of problems are you facing?

Though we live in a pakka house, the sanitation and water facilities are in a sorry state. I am afraid this would become a breeding ground for disease,

What are your future plans?

I can't say. I hope I will be able get my children married into good families. ❖

D. Mallesh is a Community Organiser in Balavikassa. He tells 'livelihoods' more about his work.

Since when have you been working as a Community Organiser?

I have been working as a Community Organizer and Agriculture Livelihoods Support Services (COALSS) for Water Users Associations (WUAs) with Balavikasa in Wanaparathy, Mahaboobnagar District under the Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project (APCBTMP) since June 2012.

What are your roles and responsibilities as a COALSS?

I participate in monthly WUAs and Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) meetings where I discuss SRI Cultivation, Horticulture practices, use of vermicompost, manure, NPM methods, corpus building, taxes and other agriculture related issues with farmers. As a COALSS I facilitated the formation of different types of CIGs including those for women, tribal people and agribusiness. Each CIG has 15 members. I also take community feedback about the project, Balavikasa and the WUA.

Did you have to undergo training for the post?

Yes, I participated in training programmes on project awareness, water budget, crop planning, NPM methods and other issues for five days. It was held at KVK-Reddypally, Ananthapuram. I also went for training at WALAMTARI, Hyderabad.

Tell us more about the CIGs?

CIGs have bank accounts. The project gives financial support to the CIGs to start a collective business.

So far, the women's CIG in Gumpanpally, Achampet got Rs. 1,00,000 with which purchased buffaloes to start a dairy.

Who are monitors your work?

State and District level officers, our team leader and the NGO head monitor my work.

What is your previous experience?

Earlier, I have worked as an agriculture coordinator at APCBTM Project in Touch organization and DRDSO at Mahabubnagar district for five years.

What is your plan for the future?

I want to establish a NGO and serve the poor at my village. I want to increase awareness on health, education, nutrition, child labour through the NGO. ❖

Education and Health Ranking

The education and health ranking tool helps to rank status of availability of education and health services in any village/ location.

The tools capture availability of services and distance of the source of services from the village. The resource availability is ranked on a scale of 0 to 10, categorised distance-wise. A score of 10 indicates the availability of the service and a score of 0 indicates lack of the service. Sum of the category-wise scores will give overall score of the village. The

Availability of educational Facilities (N)	In village	> 1km	>3km	>5km	> 7km	10 km+	No Service	Score (S)
Primary	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
Secondary	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
Intermediate	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
Arts/commerce/Science College	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
Engineering/Medical college	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
Computer Centre/Facility	10	8	6	4	2	1	0	
DI (Decision Index) = $\Sigma S/N$								ΣS

Decision Index (DI) is calculated by dividing the total score of the village in all parameters and dividing it by the number of parameters. The DI indicates the overall position of the village in that particular aspect. Higher the DI, better the availability of the service in the village. ❖

Budget 2013-14: Highlights

Tax credit of Rs. 2,000 for income upto Rs. 5 lakh

Surcharge of 10 per cent for taxable incomes above Rs. 1 crore, No review of tax slabs

Excise duty on SUVs to be increased to 30 per cent from 27 per cent, SUVs registered as taxis exempted

Commodities transaction tax levied on non—agriculture commodities futures contracts at 0.01 per cent

Rs 532 crore to make post offices part of core banking

Direct Taxes Code (DTC) bill to be introduced in current Parliament session

Duty-free limits raised to Rs 50000 for men and Rs 1 lakh for women

18% rise in excise duty on Cigarettes, cigars and cheerots

Service tax on all A/C restaurants

Royalty tax hiked from 10% to 25%

Tax Deducted at Source to be fixed at 1% on land deals over Rs 50 lakh

No change in peak custom, excise rates.

5 to 10 per cent surcharge on domestic companies whose taxable income exceeds Rs 10 crore

11 lakh beneficiaries have received benefit under Direct Benefit Transfer scheme. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme to be rolled out throughout the country during the term of UPA Government.

Modified GAAR norms to be introduced from April 1, 2016.

Administration reform commission proposed

Rs 5,87,082 crore to be transferred to states under share of taxes and non plan grants in 2013—14

(Source: The Hindu)

Tripura Bamboo and Cane Development Centre

Tripura Bamboo and Cane Development Centre (TRIBAC) was set up in 2003 with support from the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), China and Centre for Indian Bamboo Resource and Technology (CIBART), New Delhi. TRIBAC is an “autonomous, community-based non-profit organization.”

TRIBAC is a collective of home-based bamboo craftspersons in all four districts of Tripura.

Bamboo craftspersons are facilitated to form SHGs at the villages to avail services like credit, inputs, etc. These SHGs are then federated into Community Enterprise Cluster (CEC) which organises capacity building programmes and

arranges market linkages for the members. At the state level, these CECs come together to form the TRIBAC. TRIBAC is the marketing front for the producers.



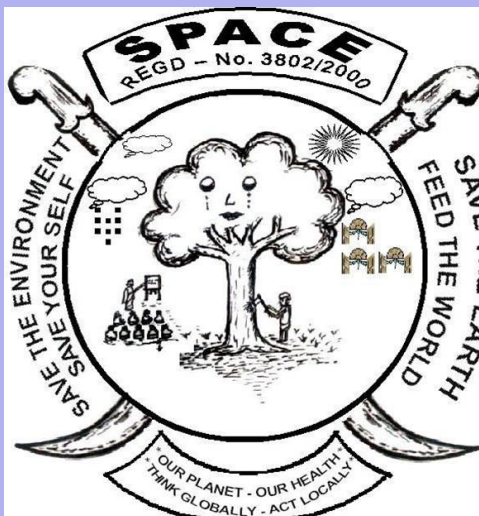
The producers get their bamboo from the Joint Forest Management (JFM) groups in the village. TRIBAC employs professionals to manage the organisation. So far, it has mobilised 4,600 members into 33 SHGs across 33 villages in the state. It has created 1,50,000 jobs. ❖

Support Organization

SPACE

Society for People's Awareness on Children and Environment (SPACE) was established in 2000 and is currently working in 65 villages in Medak and Nizamabad districts of AP. The focus of the organization is on increasing peoples' participation in rural and urban areas thereby leading to their self-sufficiency. It empowers marginalized people through action-reflection, education, health and livelihoods.

SPACE works on themes such as sustainable agriculture, NPM,



Olery, environment, eradication of child labour, awareness campaigns on health & education. It also supports the formation of SHGs, micro planning and community based tank management.

SAPCE works with funding organizations, government departments to support communities, groups and community based organization and initiatives. In the future, SPACE hopes to expand its reach and activities to enhance

Training Organization

horticulture, the life and livelihoods of people. ❖

Development Support Organization

Development Support Organization (DSC) is a resource organization that works in Gujarat and provides knowledge support to NGOs.

It conducts training programmes on agriculture productivity enhancement, watershed management and participatory irrigation management. It conducts long duration courses like Basic Training Course (BTC), a 30-day course on residential programme for the functionaries of watershed implementing agencies along with short duration training on agriculture development on watershed project, women's participation in natural resource development, SHG concept and promotion, Training of Trainers (ToT), Attitude and Behaviour change, Participatory Irrigation Management

(PIM) for Irrigation Department Engineers. DSC also conducts trainings on leadership and management for NGO leaders and government officials working with community. Exposure visits to other states are an integral part of all its courses.

DSC is recognised by Ministry of Rural Development as training institute for natural resource management and Gujarat government recognised it as a training institute for watershed management and agriculture development.

So far, DSC has conducted more than 350 trainings overall and 200+ trainings only in watershed development and management. ❖

The Street Vendors Bill, 2012

There are an estimated 10 million street vendors in the country. These vendors sell kitchen utilities, spices, bangles, electronic items, fashion accessories, clothes and various other items. Street vendors have been a permanent fixture on the Indian market scene, especially in the urban areas. According to the National Association of Street Vendors of India, many of the street vendors migrate to urban areas from rural areas in search of work. They take up street vending as it is a viable self-employment opportunity. Some set up shop on footpaths, outside temples/other religious places, restaurants and some are mobile vendors – they use pushcarts, cycles, etc. They fall under the informal/unorganised sector and have no proper regulations or unions to represent them. Since their goods are not branded or certified, customers often demand the goods be sold at alarmingly low prices.

However, the biggest threat street vendors are face is from government officials and local goons. Extortion and eviction are the most common form of harassment vendors are subjected to by local authorities.

The economic potential of street vendors is not lost to policy makers. In a 1989 judgement, the Supreme Court noted - "if properly regulated... small traders on the sidewalks can considerably add to the comfort and convenience of the general public, by making available ordinary articles of everyday use for a comparatively lesser price... The right to carry on trade or business mentioned in Article 19 (1) g of the Constitution, on street pavements, if properly regulated, cannot be denied on the ground that the streets are meant exclusively for passing or re-passing and no other use."

In 2012, the Government took note of the plight of street vendors and introduced 'The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012' with the purpose of protecting the rights and dignity of street vendors. The Bill defines street vendors as 'any person engaged in vending of articles, goods, food etc or offering services to the general public in a street lane, side walk, footpath, pavement, public park, or any other public or private area.' It includes hawkers, peddlers, and squatters. The Bill calls upon the local government to introduce a scheme towards creating a better environment for street vendors. The scheme would be customised to meet the local requirements but would broadly provide for:

- * Registration of vendors at the Town Vending Committee (TVC); vendors would be given certificates

as proof

- * Only persons above the age of 14 years are eligible to be registered as street vendors
- * Spatial planning for street vendors to determine restriction-free vending zones, restricted vending zones and no-vending zones.
- * Appropriate and adequate rehabilitation/relocation of street vendors if they are evicted
- * Laying down rules and regulations of street vending
- * TVCs would also have the power to suspend and confiscate vendors' license if they violate street vending norms
- * Vendors would have the right to appeal against the verdict of the TVC to the local authorities – the local authority would have redress committee headed by a judicial officer to look into the matters
- * Local authority may also introduce schemes to support the livelihoods of the vendors and for their overall welfare

The Bill gives TVCs considerable power in deciding matters regarding vendors including registration, cancellation of license, rehabilitation, rules and regulations of vending, etc. The TVCs would comprise of representatives of the Municipal Authority, Traffic and Local Police, Public Land Owning Authority, Associations (Market, Traders, Resident Welfare, slum & chawl etc.), associations of street vendors, banks. Though the TVC has space for representatives of vendors, in reality it is managed by local authorities. Activists for the rights of vendors say that reserving 40% of the seats for vendors would ensure fair play by the TVC. Further, activists are also not in favour of leaving schemes to be made at the discretion of the local authorities. They point out that corrupt local authorities are themselves perpetrators of harassment and abuse of street vendors. Concentrating the power to regulate vendors in the hands of these authorities defeats the purpose of the Bill, they say. The Bill also does little to address the fragility of street vending as a livelihood. It does not take note of impending threats such as large malls and supermarkets eating away the space of street vendors. The Bill also fails to address the challenges women street vendors face.

These shortcomings aside, the Bill is definitely a leap ahead from existing perceptions of street vendors. ❖

The Third Wave**Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India****Author : Alvin Toffler**

The 'Third Wave', published in 1980 is a part of author Alvin Toffler's trilogy on the changing dynamics of the world. The book explores the new, emerging civilization as a result of rapid advancements in science and technology.

The author describes how human life would take an unprecedented leap not just in the economy but in society, culture, politics, etc.

The book continues to be on the must-read-list of anyone who wishes to learn of the

way civilization have changed and evolved right from the first wave—agriculture through the second - industrial till the third wave of high speed technology struck.

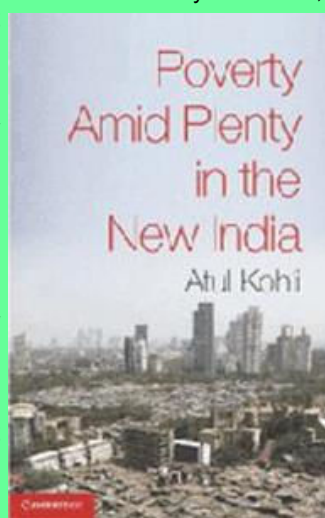
Toffler leaves no aspect of human existence untouched in his analysis. He provides clues to adapt to a rapidly changing world and indicates possible areas of major changes. ❖



Author: Atul Kohli, edited by Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya

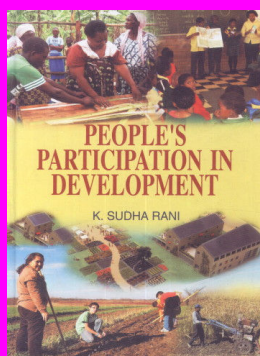
India is a country of contrasts. Of the many contrasts, perhaps the most unfortunate is the gaping rich-poor divide. Atul Kohli, a seasoned commentator on Indian politics and society explores this theme in his 2012 book 'Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India.' In keeping with his specialisation in politics, Kohli attributes this discrepancy on the narrow and fragmented ruling class. The ruling class, Kohli rues, has put economic growth above social equity in its list of priorities. He goes on to dissect how the ruling class, in collaboration with the business houses has deliberately kept the poor poverty and in some cases pushed them further down the socio-economic ladder. He also explains how this strategy has given birth to a new set of political crises such as Left-wing Extremism.

The books also consists of takes by other contributors this issue. Read it to get a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of a much talked about issue in the country. ❖

**Resources****Barefoot Collage:**

The Barefoot College has demystified technologies and decentralised their uses by transferring the access, control, management and ownership of sophisticated technologies to rural men and women, who can barely read and write. The College believes that even uneducated poor have the right to use technologies to improve their life and skills.

Www.barefootcollage.org



Name of the Book:
Peoples Participation
in Development

New Book

LEAP : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/183-leap-revanpally
 VCA : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/184-paddy-value-chain-analysis
 Sub-sector : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/185-subsector-handloom
 e-book : https://entwicklungspolitik.uni-hohenheim.de/uploads/media/Day_4_-_Reading_text_8_02.pdf
 v-book : http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=Ltc_ev4qmjc

e-Resources

e-course: Capsule 2: Livelihoods Management Programme: Understanding Livelihoods: Framework and Leap

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/181-e-course-february-2013-understanding-livelihoods-framework-and-leap

e- Course

GER for Secondary Education

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Secondary Education is a measure of the number of students entering the secondary level education. The table shows the GER for Secondary Education in social groups for the year 2009-10.

GER for Secondary Education by Social Groups (2009-10)				
	SCs	STs	Non-SCs/STs	Overall
Secondary Level				
Boys	71.19	54.24	67.02	66.65
Girls	63.5	44.22	58.97	58.45
Total	67.58	49.41	63.13	62.71
Senior Secondary Level				
Boys	37.42	31.36	39.17	38.31
Girls	33.48	22.32	34.39	33.31
Total	35.6	26.91	36.88	35.92
Both Secondary and Senior Secondary Level				
Boys	54.52	43.45	52.86	52.39
Girls	48.86	38.68	46.54	45.86
Total	51.88	38.7	49.82	49.26

(source: 12th Five Year Plan)

- * The overall GER for the secondary level is 66.7%.
- * It is highest among the SCs (71%), while it is below the overall GER among STs.
- * Boys fare better than girls in all categories. Among STs, only 44.2% of girls enrolled for secondary education. 63.5% girls, the highest, among SCs have enrolled for Secondary education.
- * When it comes to Senior Secondary education, all the social groups register low GER. The overall GER across the groups is 35.9%.
- * It is highest among the non-SC/ST groups. Yet again more the GER for boys is higher than girls. ❖

NREGS to the Rescue

Investment Gone Awry

Teegala Anjaih is married and has two daughters and a son. He has three acres of land on which he used to farm. Three years ago he suffered a huge financial loss after he rigged a bore well on his farm. The bore well proved obsolete in the face of serious power shortages.

He then started to work in MGNREGS works in the village.

Name : Teegala Anjaih (58)

Village : Sadar Shapoor

District : Nalgonda District

There were some works allotted on his land as well. As a result, the barren land got converted into cultivatable land, a drip irrigation system was setup on

the land and he also got 500 Teak plants under the Teak plantation programme.

Now, he cultivates paddy, red gram, millet and vegetables on his land. His wife took a loan of Rs. 1 lakh from the bank through her SHG with which they purchased two buffaloes. They sell the buffalo milk at the dairy in the village. ❖

Anjaiah was a successful farmer who owned about 3 acres of land. Once, Anjaiah met a realtor who suggested that the land be converted into a real estate venture. His family agreed to the idea and started the business.

The venture ran well for a year.

Then, Anjaiah bought 3 more acres to start a new venture.

Unfortunately, the real estate took a downturn and Anjaiah lost a lot of money and the realtor absconded. Anjaiah took loans to meet regular expenses of the family.

After one year, he sold the land for a meagre sum of Rs. 15 lakhs. Now, he has taken 2 acres of land on lease and practices farming. ❖

Name : Anjaih (50)

Village : Modgumpally

District : Nalgonda District

Tiding Over Challenges

Sagar's father is a handloom weaver. His mother passed away when he was in the 10th standard. With the loss of one earning member, Sagar had to do his bit to earn extra income while studying intermediate and graduation. His

Name : K. Sagar (25)

Village : Revanapally

District : Nalgonda District

father and brothers somehow ensured that he continued his education.

After graduation, Sagar worked at a small electronics shop. Once, he met a cousin who was a senior accountant at another shop.

Sagar took a liking to accounts and asked his cousin to arrange for an interview. Sagar got selected as an interview at his cousin's shop. He gets a decent pay now and the family is able to afford a better standard of living. ❖

Madhusudhan used to work at an automobile workshop in a private company in Hyderabad.

Two years ago, he had to take leave for 10 days for his sister's wedding. However, his employers gave him only one week leave.

Madhusudhan could not go back to work immediately as he had to take care of some post-wedding responsibilities.

He finally returned to work 20 days later to find that his employer had found a substitute for him.

He requested his employers to take him back but they did not

agree. With no option left, Madhusudhan returned to his village and could not find another job ever since. Sometimes, he paints buildings to earn some money. ❖

Name : Madhusudhan

Village : Goskonda

District : Nalgonda District

Pisciculture (Fish Farming)

Shining Livelihoods



Story

Cotton Candy Selling

Declining Livelihoods



Myopic Researchers!

Two young students were sent on an educational tour to study the agriculture scenario across the country. The students, who lived in a city all their life, had little exposure to farming, except for three years in their university. They set out on the tour armed with all the research instruments necessary for the study.

In every village that they visited, the students would ask in Hindi – “kiski fasal hai yeh” (lit. whose crop is this?), the farmers would promptly reply – “Rabi ki sab.” They learnt more about the crop and diligently noted down all their findings. By the end of the year, the duo had visited 4-5 states. Satisfied with their effort, they documented their learning and submitted their report to their guide.

The guide, an agriculture scientist was shocked at the findings made by the pair. The report read:

“India is a vast country with an agriculture-based economy. This study explores the patterns in agriculture in the 5 states across the country.

It is a well known fact that more and more farmers are moving out of agriculture and land is getting concentrated in a few hands. It appears that this pattern has taken deep roots in the 5 states studied. The research revealed that all the land in the area is in the hands of two landlords— Ravi and Kharif. The two, who rarely meet the public have devised an interesting system of sharing the land. Mr. Ravi (whom locals call Rabi saab) holds the ownership from November to April and Mr. Kharif holds the land from May to November. The landlords provide no security against the vagaries of weather or market...”

The report went on and on about the monopoly the two have established over the agriculture in the country.

Often development researchers visit villages with prejudiced notions and miss out on the realities. It is important to know local knowledge. ❖

- Nilendu Mukherjee

'Yoga'kshemam

Happy Maha Kumbh!

Some of the alumni of Girijan Cooperative Corporation could get together after about 20 years after our trials for more than a year.

Pope Benedict calls it a day!

I could get endorsement of my reflection of life so far from a 90 year old man that –

- * *Life is not fair at times, but on the overall it has been a blessing*
- * *Keep taking small steps, even if in doubt*
- * *Life is too short and therefore, enjoy it*
- * *When in trouble, your family and friends help you out*
- * *There is no need to win all the arguments*
- * *We can cry; and crying with someone helps healing*
- * *Savings should start early in life*
- * *While eating, do not resist too much or too hard*
- * *Make peace with the past and get going*
- * *It is our unique life and there is no need for any comparison*
- * *Relationships make the life*
- * *Deep breaths calm the mind*
- * *All that is not useful should be disposed off immediately*
- * *Pursue your deep vision/desire till the end*
- * *Today is special*
- * *Be ready and flow*
- * *Choose life whenever you have choice*
- * *Time heals almost everything*
- * *Change is the way of life and miracles do happen*
- * *Life is a precious gift*
- * *All that matters in the end is that we love*

Love is expressed in relationships. This expression begins with mutual exploration, being open, transparent and 'naked', regular pat on the back, improved stamina to engage, be ready to make first move and/or respond quickly, taking time to invest and work, identify points of leverage and activate, changing locations, positions and experimentation, showing responsibility, engaging, talking and occasional/unexpected surprises.

Only thing we could do is managing our time. To manage this better, we need to plan and keep maintaining a to-do

list; we need to set immediate, short-term and long-term goals; we need to prioritize particularly the important and not so urgent; we need to move away from distractions some way; we need to resist the temptation to procrastination; we need to avoid taking more than we can chew – to say no; we need to slow down and take up tasks only that we have to do; we need to budget and provide focused time to the task; we need to take breaks during the day, week, month and year; and we need to schedule suitably based on matching tasks and energy levels.

We also need to find happiness at work where we spend most of our time. Some simple ways include – work environment, flexitime, flexi-place, freedom on means, social group/club, lunch/dinner get togethers/get aways, retreats, holidays etc.

I have been reminded of the posture of IRMA-NDDB days – Do Not Quit –

.... *Rest if you must, but don't you quit*

... *stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,*

It is when things seem worse that you must not quit.

G Muralidhar

May be you take some 'off', change the location of work, you may change the instruments and methods, you may change the points of leverage, but you must not quit.

In these circumstances, mediation is important. As Yogi Mccaw puts, meditation is not painful. Mediation is the end. Mediation may provide a sense of centredness and expanded viewpoint and may lead to a realization to that meditation is our natural state of being. The secret is that meditation is being natural and ordinary.

When you travel with your co-meditators who share and take you forward on the spiritual journey, it is the bliss! Journey is the end.

We journey on responding to the inner voice and losing ourselves. In this relentless pursuit, we become natural and ordinary and be one with nature and universe. This is praktiyogam.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we pursue meditation with all the senses for becoming one with the 'one!' Krishna confirms – the universe communicates with the meditating free soul with devotion and takes it in.

Join us in the world of yoga – for achieving the ability to be natural and ordinary amidst the clutter and chaos, and celebrating oneness with nature – towards mahakumbhaamritayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖



livelihoods

Body and Bone