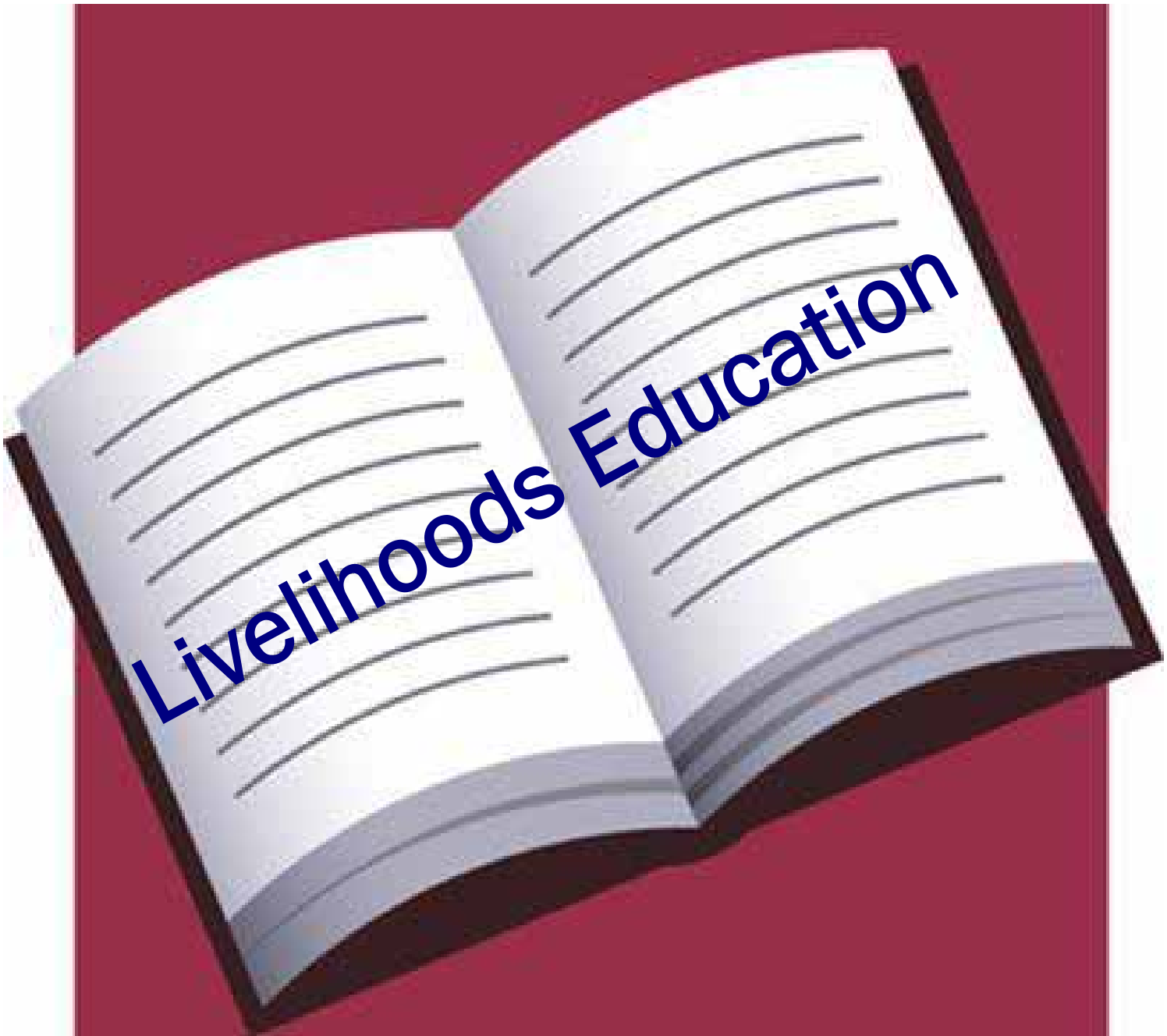


livelihoods

today and tomorrow

January 2011



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Seed Production in India-24



Happy Makara Sankranti, Pongal and Uttarayan! Happy Republic Day!

Let Vivekaananda inspire our youth to work towards reducing poverty! Let Mahatma inspire us to reach the unreached!

Sachin is too young to receive Bharat Ratna!

Srikrishna Committee has submitted its report outlining six options. The ball has moved back into political domain. However, this resolution cannot be dodged causing huge loss to the country and to the poor in the state in general and Telangana in particular.

Malegam Committee has also submitted its report. AP Government goes forward with the MFI Bill. Crisis persists!

Manmohan shuffles his Cabinet. Vilasrao Deshmukh takes charge of about Rs.80,000 Crore per year Rural Development! Together with budgets in the states and other investments into development, we are talking about more than Rs.2.0 lakh Crores per year. We need the best professional hands and minds for supporting the management of this effort at various levels in a variety of themes.

The effort towards reducing poverty, supporting the poor to transit into prosperity and preventing them falling back into poverty is pursued on the foundation of organizing the poor into their institutions, providing sensitive support and bringing the services accessible to them. This effort requires human resources at various levels. While community leaders, resource persons, volunteers and paraprofessionals from within the community constitute the primary tier, the grassroots workers and professionals working directly with the poor individuals, households, groups, village level primary federations/collectives and the community human resource working with them constitute the secondary tier. The next tier, the tertiary tier, of professionals and workers works with the federal institutions of the poor, collectives at sub-district and beyond, support structures and other support organizations at this level and beyond collectives. Some of these primary, secondary and tertiary tier workers and human resource are specialized in some theme or the other like social mobilization, accounting, book-keeping, governance, gender, planning, livelihoods assessment, micro-credit planning, marketing, dairying, collective institution building, best practitioners, agriculture extension, veterinary care, craft skill provision, coordination, integration, systems, advocacy, information and knowledge work, process documentation, social audit, procurement, local value-addition, vigilance, environment, enterprise development, insurance, teaching, education, health, geriatric care, conflict resolution, ICT services, financial management, repayment agents, research assistance, counselling, intelligence etc. Thus, the range is wide. It is as wide as the services and themes in the non-poor domain. Therefore, there is need for identifying human resources for various levels/layers and themes and augmenting their capacities in terms of attitude/orientation, knowledge and skills. The role of the tertiary tier is limited but crucial in building the secondary and primary tiers of human resources and providing guidance and mentoring. The tertiary tier comes from a variety of ways including dedicated streams/institutes. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'livelihoods/development education (management)'.

Nanaji Deshmukh founded India's First Rural University at Chitrakoot and brought village development into academia on scale. Livelihoods Associates' Learning Programme shows a way to induct tertiary tier professionals on scale. Ubiquitous vending of the newspapers and magazines is an long-serving information dissemination enterprise. Gandhigram Rural Institute, a University, builds professionals in rural development on scale for Tamilnadu and outside. Joe Mediath has founded and continues to lead Gram Vikas in tribal and other remote areas in Orissa. Yunus's 'Building Social Business ...' discusses the concept of emerging social enterprise providing products and services to the poor.

With the understanding that oriented and committed human resources are the key to poverty reduction on scale, I remain thinking of ways to getting more of them for being useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Muralidhar'.

G Muralidhar

the 'livelihoods' team

‘livelihoods’ team

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Cover Story– Livelihoods Education 10

Development/ livelihoods education in the country has undergone many changes and covers a whole gamut of pedagogy from informal trainings, workshops and knowledge sharing to a rigorous academic course. “livelihoods” explored the scenario of development/ livelihoods education in the country and the changes emerging in the praxis - courses, pedagogy and practice.

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Maha Pandit ‘Rahul Sankrityayan’ 27

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Response



I am a regular reader of "livelihoods" and very much impressed with the quality of the content in December issue. The articles presented in "livelihoods" provides a good analysis of the concerned subjects and highlights the issues therein. However, it would be better if you can provide alternative solutions to the problems of rural development.

M. Vijay Babu

राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY



24 January– National Girl Child Day

Female foeticide, female infanticide and discrimination in matters of health, education and opportunities are still a part of Indian society.

Girl child is the future of every nation and India is no exception. A little amount of care, a handful of warmth and a heart full of love for a girl child can make a big difference. .

GM Rubber MoEF Proposes Field Trials for 14 Years:

Field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) rubber will be held in “designated experimental sites inside research farms” of the Rubber Research Institute of India in Kerala and Maharashtra for around 14 years, according to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. The trials will not be done in commercially cultivated holdings and the growth of the GM rubber plants will be closely monitored by a multi-disciplinary team of scientists. Without field trials, it would not be possible to state whether there will be any adverse effects to the ecosystem from GM rubber.

MoEF Notification Upsets

Fishermen: The National Fishermen's Federation (NFF) has expressed displeasure over the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (CRZ), 2011, in its present form, and accused Union Minister of Environment and Forests (MoEF) of having taken the organisation for a ride by not incorporating some of the provisions that had been agreed upon in the talks between the Ministry and NFF representatives ahead of the notification. The chairman of the NFF, recently addressed a letter to the Minister, expressing great shock over some of the provisions of the CRZ 2011. He warned that the NFF may be compelled to re-think its decision to hold back agitation if the Minister failed to respond to their queries and explain the lapses.

World Bank Agrees To Support National Program To Mitigate Cyclone Impact:

More relief is on the way for the over one million people living in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, who face the wrath of cyclones year after year. India and World Bank recently signed an agreement through which the latter will provide a credit of \$255 million for the first phase of the national program

to mitigate the impact of cyclones. The programme, which would ultimately cover all the vulnerable areas along the eastern and western coasts of the country, is slated to begin with Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Paddy Procurement Norms

Relaxed: The Centre has further relaxed the specifications for purchase of paddy government agencies and rice millers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The relaxation will be subject to the State government, utilising the milled rice on overriding priority for TPDS and other welfare schemes within the State only and the FCI will not move this rice to other States. As per the relaxed norms, paddy having damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevil led grains up to a maximum limit of 10 p.c. may be procured against relaxed limit of seven p.c. in respect of both grade A and common, subject to the condition that damaged, sprouted and weevil led grains together do not exceed five p.c. without value cut. The percentage of discoloured grains in raw rice is relaxed up to seven per cent against the existing limit of three per cent for custom milled and levy rice.

World Bank Announces Loans for

India: The World Bank recently announced USD 1.73 billion in loans to India, including USD 1.5 billion to fund a state project to build 24,000 kilometres of rural roads across seven states. The funding that underscores the growing partnership between the multilateral lender and the world's second fastest growing major economy, was announced as the World Bank attributed high inflation in India to supply bottlenecks. The World Bank has offered to lend USD 1.5 billion to build and develop 24,000 kilometers of rural roads in India, poor quality of which are often blamed for hurting economic growth and adding to inflationary pressure on the country

as fruits and vegetables rot on their way to markets.

7,936 MoUs, Rs20.83 L crore, 52

lakh jobs at Vibrant Gujarat: The fifth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit concluded recently, registering MoUs for highest ever amount in the Vibrant summits. During the valedictory Chief Minister Narendra Modi announced a program called Mission Mangalam. All those below poverty line (BPL) youth and women will get opportunities to learn and work through this program. Top most 34 MNCs, corporate houses, signed MoU with Gujarat government for Rs20,000 crore through Mission Mangalam. More than 15 lakh women will get training and jobs in the coming years.

World Bank approves \$162 mn loan to Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods

Project: The World Bank approved a \$162.7 million (about Rs 730 crore) loan to Rajasthan to help improve livelihood opportunities in 17 districts of the state. The funding for the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Project will help improve economic opportunities for rural communities, especially women and marginal groups, in 9000 villages of the state, the World Bank said in a statement. The project aims to help the state government raise income levels for some 400,000 rural poor households in Rajasthan. It will channel funds for income-generating activities through some 33,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs), link selected SHGs to markets and also help develop skills for unemployed rural youth.

Additional Finance by World Bank to Uttarakhand Watershed

Development Project: The World Bank has approved \$7.98 million additional finance for an ongoing watershed development project in Uttarakhand that will help rural communities increase agriculture

productivity as well as rural incomes through a decentralized watershed management approach.

Unemployment level dips marginally in South Asia- ILO:

South Asian countries registered a rapid economic growth in 2010 and their unemployment rates dipped marginally from the previous year, says the latest annual Global Employment Trends (GET) report of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Globally, however, it was a bad year for jobs for the third successive year. The annual employment trends survey points to a highly differentiated recovery in labour markets, with persistently high levels of unemployment in developed countries and employment growth coupled with continuing high levels of vulnerable employment and working poverty in developing regions. These trends set a stark contrast, with the recovery seen in several key macroeconomic indicators: Global GDP, private consumption, investment, and global trade and equity markets all recovered in 2010, surpassing pre-crisis levels, ILO said in its statement on the report.

It's a long wait for BPL health cover:

The beneficiaries of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana in 17 districts of the state of Delhi— the people below poverty line — will have to wait for another month for their insurance cards. The procedure is already delayed by two months, with over 21.58 lakh BPL families waiting for health insurance under the scheme. The reason is the slow progress of making the cards by the insurance company.

Assocham study finds scope for 14 new clusters in Kerala:

The industry body Assocham has appealed the Kerala government to set up 14 new industrial clusters under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to provide investment and employment

opportunities in the state. There are more than 6,500 clusters running pan India but out of these around 450 clusters have got recognition and support of the Government of India. Only 40 recognized clusters out of these

operate in Kerala. Out of the 40 existing and recognized clusters, around 5 clusters are dedicated to food processing, 2 to rice milling, 2 to agricultural implements and 1 each to tuna fish and natural fibre. The rest are non-food related industrial clusters. Assocham has strongly advocated that there is an urgent need to increase the number of such clusters in the state as well as to expand the size of existing clusters which have enormous potential to reach the next level of sustainable growth.

AP Announces Loan Waiver for Weavers:

The Andhra Pradesh State Government has announced waiver of all outstanding loans taken by weavers and their cooperative societies in the State before March 31, 2010 from commercial, cooperative and grameena banks to carry on their profession. The welfare measure, for which a sum of Rs 312 crore was earmarked in the current year's budget, is expected to benefit over one lakh weavers, whether they are continuing the profession individually or as members of a cooperative society. Extension of the benefit to power loom sector would be possible as "some balance" would be remaining in the budget after implementation of the loan waiver for hand loom sector.

PM Favours Hike in MNREGA Wages:

The battle for statutory minimum wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment



Guarantee Act (MNREGA) seems to be on a slippery ground with Prime Minister indicating that the government could at best cover inflation-induced erosion of wages. PM has turned down the proposal of National Advisory Council chairperson Sonia Gandhi to pay MNREGA workers the minimum wages statutorily notified by different States. Responding to her letter, the Prime Minister has instead offered to link the wage rate with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPIAL) and implement it with effect from January 1, 2011.

Centre Keen on Development of Infrastructure in Fast Track:

The Centre is keen on putting development of roads, communications, irrigation, electricity and housing on fast track in the coming months, Union Minister of State for Textiles said. The Bharat Nirman programme is engine that is driving development in the country, the Minister said after inaugurating the three-day Bharat Nirman-Public Information Campaign recently. Explaining salient features of the programme, the Minister said that so far 2.3 crore house holds in 1.25 lakh villages had been electrified, 2.24 lakh houses were constructed under Indira Awas Yojana, 65,822 villages in the country have been provided telephone facility, irrigation facilities were provided to 70 lakh hectares and 58,627 habitations have been provided drinking water facilities. ❖

Chitrakoot ‘Nanaji’

Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh who is popularly known as Nanaji Deshmukh has done exemplary work in the fields of education, health and rural self-reliance. He established India's first Rural University at Chitrakoot and developed a model for the development of rural areas on the basis of integral humanism.

Nanaji Deshmukh was born on October 11th, 1916 in Kadoli, a small town in the Parbhani district of Maharashtra. Though losing his parents at a very early age and confronted severe poverty, he acquired education with many difficulties. He got his higher education at the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani. Nanaji was deeply inspired by Lokamanya Tilak and his nationalist ideology. He showed keen interest in social service activities. He established India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950. It reflects Nanaji's love for education and knowledge.

Inspired by Lok manya Tilak, Nanaji acquired interest in social service and activities. Deshmukh actively participated in Bhoodan movement started by Vinoba Bhave. When Jai Prakash Narayan gave the call for "Total Revolution", he responded by giving total support to this movement. When the Janata Party was formed Nanaji was one of its main architects. Janata Party stormed into power by sweeping off the Congress and Nanaji was elected from Balrampur parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. When he was offered ministerial berth by the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarjee Desai he politely refused it. For him politics was never a career but a mission. He was not the person who would stick to politics or office come what may. Of his own volition he announced his retirement from politics in presence of Jai Parakash Narayan and since then never looked back. By spending 2 months with Vinoba, he was inspired by the success and appeal of the movement.

After retirement from active politics in 1972, Deshmukh then founded Deendayal Research Institute to validate the philosophy of integral humanism profounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Deshmukh developed a model for the development of rural areas on the basis of integral humanism. Integral Humanism gave a vision for Bharat that, with an approach to man and his relationship to society that is integral and complementary, could transform Bharat into a self-reliant and compassionate example for the world to follow. Nanaji implemented the philosophy of integral humanism to improve the living standard of more than 150 villages of bundelkhand.

Nanaji did pioneering work towards the anti-poverty and minimum needs programme. Other areas of his work were agriculture and cottage industry, rural health and rural

education. Deshmukh assumed chairmanship of the institute after relinquishing politics and devoted all his time to building up the institute. He was also instrumental in carrying out social restructuring programme in over 500 villages of both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states of India.[1] He also published the journal "Manthan" (introspection) which was edited by K.R. Malkani for many years.



In 1977, Nanaji moved to Chitrakoot, a remote village in Madhya Pradesh with a mission to create a prototype of self sustaining model of development based on the concept of 'Gram Swaraj'. After initial experiments in Gonda (UP) and Beed (Maharashtra), Nanaji finally fine-tuned an integrated program for the development of rural areas that covers health, hygiene, education, agriculture, income generation, conservation of resources and social conscience that is both sustainable and replicable with the aim of achieving self reliance for these villages. Many of the hundreds of villages that have come under what is now popularly known as "Chitrakoot project", generate their own electricity through the Bio-energy and solar energy plants. The villages which always faced water shortage today have a variety of rain harvesting and water conservation methods. Organic farming is not just for experimentation but a way of life and Chemical fertilizers are no more an inevitability. Women entrepreneurs today, help run many small scale industries which produce quality goods. All of this with very little support from the Government.

Later, Nanaji established *Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalata*, India's first rural University, in Chitrakoot. For suitably running these projects, he developed couples inclined towards social service into *SamajShilpis* (sculptors of society). These *SamajShilpis* are devotedly handling the projects and executing them correctly and in good speed.

Nanaji was also the first chancellor of Chitrakoot University. The University is currently being run by Chitrakoot University. The Government of India bestowed on him the *PadmaVibhushan* for his outstanding lifetime work in social service.

After living a long and inspiring life of a social entrepreneur, Nanaji Deshmukh breathed his last on 27th February 2010 at the premises of Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya. He is remembered by the country as a great leader, a social activist, an educationist and also as an inspiring social entrepreneur. ❖

Induction Program of SERP

The Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) of Andhra Pradesh, which is the implementing agency of the AP Rural Poverty Reduction Project, has inducted its cadre of livelihoods professionals called Livelihoods Associates in a unique way. Critically the Livelihoods Associates play the roles of training the village livelihood activists; train and support the Community Coordinator in Livelihood Framework-Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan-Value chain analysis and converting them into sub projects; direct marketing/ sub-sector activities including market intelligence and linkages, marketing infrastructure; new livelihood opportunity identification; community hand-holding; cooperative development and entrepreneur development.

Keeping in mind the overall inputs that the Livelihood Associate would require to play her/ his roles effectively and efficiently, the learning program has been designed/ planned to give four different kinds of inputs (theory& concepts, skills, inspiration& motivation and sensitization to various issues in livelihoods in particular and the development sector in general). These inputs have then been divided into five Class Room Segments (CRS: Modules) spread over about three months, interspersed with four Field Work/ Market Segments (FWS) related to the theoretical background built in the preceding CRS and reviewed/ shared for learning in the succeeding CRS.

The induction training program was conducted over a period of 95 days in nine modules. The specific objectives of the Livelihoods Associates Learning Program (LALP) were to expose the Livelihood Associates to the vastness of the development issues, programs, strategies and organizations addressing these issues; to provide basic concepts related to poor, poverty, development, environment and livelihoods; to improve their understanding of villages from various dimensions; to impart the basic skills of research, tools and techniques to be used in their fieldwork and thereafter for understanding various aspects of poverty and livelihoods of the poor and possible intervention areas etc. In addition, LALP has been set around a certain key central messages such as multidimensionality of the development issues and livelihoods; multiple approaches to development and livelihood interventions; people first and tools next; existing first and new next; development begins from within and poor deserve serious, rigorous and hard work from the professionals etc.

The program has a mix of male and female participants as well as young and experienced. The rigorous class room and field work segments designed for the program has utilized this mix to provide enough opportunity for the inexperienced and the young learners to share and gain the knowledge and exposure from the experienced and the experienced learners to pick up the enthusiasm and

curiosity from the young. Inter learning among the professionally qualified and not so professionally qualified has also occurred. A learning of this program is that a good mix of the learners is very important to maximize the outcome of the program.

The class room segments (CRS) of the program aimed at providing theoretical inputs regarding various rural development/ livelihoods issues while the field work segments (FWS) were dedicated to apply those theories in the field and to gain practical experience. The course is designed in such a way that the field work segments flow from CRS and CRS flow from FWS logically.

Apart from the assignments, the learners have also to review books in groups. The books have to be chosen on the first day of each of the CRS. Towards the end of the CRS, each group has presented the review to the entire batch. This has helped the learners to learn from at least 40 books reviewed by them and others, in addition to learning that there are books from which one can learn, get inspired from and draw insights from and refer to.

Further eminent development workers from SERP and other NGOs interacted and inspired during the sessions. Individual level interactions and mentoring, assignments, preparations for the presentations, reading the books and material, revising the class notes, intra batch interactions and discussions, daily report writing, cultural get-togethers, news round ups for the newsletters and reflection consumed most in the session. A combination of variety of methods has been used for the purpose of evaluation of the participants. Evaluation process held in various methods like surprise quizzes, assignments and presentations, tests, book review, class room participation and all. Every method of examination is evaluated in the form of grades. There were five grades and each grade carries different grade points, and covers certain range of points.

The most important part of the induction program is after LALP, the participants were sent to a village stay for one month where they were attached to a Community Coordinator working in that area. During the village stay and CC attachment, the learners have done a checklist based study in their respective villages. After completion of the village stay and cc attachment, the review and analysis of these components provided for cross learning among the participants. The reports and case studies that came at the end of these components were perused seriously and the feedback was provided to the learners.

This rigorous, both theory and practical based training has become quite successful in creating a committed, dedicated and skilled cadre of community professionals who played a key role in the success of the AP Rural Poverty Reduction Project implemented by SERP. ❖

Learning to Share Learning!

Happy Pongal! Happy Republic!

KG Kannabiran – may his soul rest in peace!

Of course, we remembered Swami Vivekananda (12 January) and we will remember Mahatma Gandhi (30 January). World Religion Day (Third Sunday of January – 15 January this year), and National Girl Child Day (24 January) went by. 2011 is also the year to celebrate life beyond human beings - the International Year of Forests and World Veterinary Year.

Government has announced Padma awards for the year. There are Padma Vibhushans, Padma Bhushans and Padma Sris in the domain of public affairs, social work, education, and health too. Some of the prominent development workers in the list include – LC Jain, Vijay Kelkar, RM Pai, Sankhar Ghosh, Darshan Shankar, Nomita Chandy, Sheela Patel, Krishna Kumar, and Gulshan Nanda. A weaver, Gajam Goverdhana, is a surprising entry.

The month that went by continued to explore rolling-out livelihoods agenda in various contexts across the length and breadth of the country. Continuums and Commons cannot be ignored. President, Pratibha Patil, in her Republic Day address, sought national consensus on critical goals - eradication of poverty, food security and dry-land agriculture-based second green revolution, collectives, empowerment of women, access to quality education and affordable health facilities, civic discipline, the readiness of people to work with dedication and integrity.

Malegam Report on MFIs recommends regulation treating the MFIs as NBFC-MFIs with interest caps on lending (24% to individuals), multiple lending, no lending by more than two MFIs, no coercive recovery, transparent charges etc. Other recommendations include – lending be limited to families with incomes below Rs.50,000 per annum; Maximum loan amount to a member is Rs.25000; 75% loans for productive purposes; lending to MFIs should be treated as Priority Sector Lending; MFIs should be exempted from the provisions of the Money-lending Acts; smaller MFIs do not require to be registered with regulator; and MFIs cannot be doing thrift services.

Ramanjaneyulu has been arguing for Pay Commission for Farmers a la for Staff in Governments. Organized sector aligns itself with the Pay Commissions in any case. That leaves farmers, traditional occupations and self-employed out of this. Yes, we need to do something about them.

We are an enterprise country. Most of us are self-employed and/or entrepreneurs. We are not trained. We go by trial and error. I understand, it is not easy to teach entrepreneurship. However some tips can help. Alex Tausig has listed 15 mistakes we make –

#15: trapped in "college bubble" – *grow out of micro-context*

#14: no prototype; or irrelevant users – *test with real users*

#13: didn't research competition – *it is all around*

#12: haven't talked to customers – *listen to customers*

#11: customer acquisition strategy is not repeatable – *costs*

and feasibility can come in the way

#10: paying for things that could be free – *know that free support is available*

#9: didn't practice the pitch – *practice, practice and practice*

#8: no good story – *a story to appreciate the issue matters*

#7: no idea about the investors across the table – *research*

#6: make stuff up instead of saying "I don't know." – *be honest about what is known and not known*

#5: don't seek disconfirming evidence – *it helps to improve*

#4: pick easily accessible not particularly relevant advisors – *look around to find ones who can make a difference*

#3: hire for short-term needs, not long-term fit – *double check suitability for long-term association*

#2: treat fundraising like an end, not a means – *idea/plan is the key, funds are required to support the plan*

#1: do more than one business plan competition – *once may be fine. Focus on getting to work the plan*

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Learning has to come centre-stage. Learning should be a national agenda. However, it should not be limited to knowing or getting a certificate but it should include applying. Hard work, knowing inside-out and practice, practice

and practice is the key in the learning. Being a learner matters more than anything else. Real world is much bigger and more diverse than the class room. Learn first, usefulness will come. **We are in the business of learning and influencing, nothing else, if you really care to see deep.**

We learn to learn that teachers are learners and learners are teachers; learning need love and when in love it shows; 'I understand' makes the learner's day; If we can't help, we can at least pray; friends help in learning; support in crisis helps in learning; caring helps in learning; learning does not happen uniformly over time, across people, issues and skills; we learn by seeking learning, both what we seek and what we have not sought; learning is in the small things in daily life; everyone needs appreciation and love so that they are on the learning curve; facts do not change because we do not learn; learning is to get going without getting stuck with petty minds and quarrels; more than the time, learning to love heals all life; learning accelerates by living in an environment of learning; all life is great and needs to be warm with for learning to flow; nothing is right or simple, till you learn; learning is an opportunity we cannot miss; bitterness and frustration stunts learning; All joy and happiness is in learning; learning is faster when we have less time; smiling face looks better and learns faster; being grateful hastens learning; and remembering that know very little is the foundation of our learning.

Let each one of us be committed to sharing our learning as it challenges us to learn and share. Let us begin the movement of 10,000 hours of learning and sharing our learning. ❖

Livelihoods Education

People /Human capital available for and involved in development work has seen a sea change. Earlier, 'social worker' was seen only as one with a self-sacrificing outlook to social change but today there is a realization that professional service at a fee ensures quality work. In relation to this development/ livelihoods education too has undergone many changes and covers a whole gamut of pedagogy from informal trainings, workshops and knowledge sharing to a rigorous academic course. "livelihoods" explored the scenario of development/livelihoods education in the country and the changes emerging in the praxis - courses, pedagogy and practice.



People /Human capital available for and involved in development work has seen a sea change. Beginning from volunteering for no personal material gain to offering professional services for a fee i.e. volunteers, Para-professionals to development professionals. Earlier, 'social worker' was seen only as one with a self-sacrificing outlook to social change but today there is a realization that professional service at a fee ensures quality work. In relation to this development education too has undergone many changes and covers a whole gamut of pedagogy from informal trainings, workshops and knowledge sharing to a rigorous academic course.

Social work was seen more as a virtue previously. Philanthropy and individual acts of social service have, historically, been the main forms of voluntary activity. Social work included wide variety of activities to comprise sharing knowledge and skill, contributing labour for no fee, nursing old and diseased, providing food and shelter to poor students, old and deserted. It also included putting up infrastructures like digging wells, travel houses, schools, orphanages and others. There were also collective activities driven by people's movements. The nature of work done was determined by what the person intending to contribute possessed or felt would be apt. What was considered important was the interest or passion to be involved in such activities without expecting any kind of monetary contribution. There was no comprehensive plan or strategy to it. Therefore need for focused training to get involved in such activities was not important.

India has a rich tradition of voluntary action and a very vibrant civil society. Voluntary action in India has been shaped by two major influences: one rooted in indigenous traditions and value systems rooted in religion that prescribes a code of ethics to individual and also principles governing social life and the other a product of interface between the Indian society and the western world. A noteworthy feature of all major religions has been the emphasis they place on charity and sharing wealth with others, especially the poor. In Hinduism serving the poor is considered equivalent to serving God.

Institutionalized social service activities existed largely within the domain of religious institutions: Ashramas and Maths among Hindus, Waqfs and Khanqahs among Muslims and Gurudwaras and Deras among Sikhs. Throughout the ancient and medieval periods, voluntary activity – whether individual inspired or state supported – found its natural expression through religious institutions. The concept of secular voluntary activity accelerated with the advent of western, mainly British, influence in India. The work of Christian missionaries in the field of education and health care, especially in remote tribal areas, stood out as examples of dedicated service to the poor. This inspired



formation of organizations like the Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj and the Ramakrishna Mission.

The spirit of volunteerism reached its peak during independence struggle when people voluntarily gave away the wealth and came in huge numbers to join the movement. Such people were revered for the sacrifices made. Before Independence, Voluntary Organizations imbued with the Gandhian philosophy played significant role mainly in social welfare activities.

NGOs now play a key role because of two reasons: non-delivery by government and the rapid disintegration of social support structures. Some of the reasons put forward for increase in the number and activities of Voluntary Organizations are the decline of socialism and an increased national and international funding for voluntary sector. In a number of developmental activities, these Voluntary Organizations are working as supplements or complements to the governmental efforts.

The transformation of the voluntary sector into greater professionalism has been termed as a change 'from volunteerism to professional voluntarism'. The change occurred during the 1970s and 1980s due to two main reasons: geographical expansion in the coverage area of a number of NGOs, and the origin of a more specialized technical type of intervention.

One of the first specialized NGOs established during this time was the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), to rehabilitate Tibetan refugees. Many NGOs such as ASSEFA, AWARE, Seva Mandir and Gram Vikas have not only started their activities but also began to expand their work to multiple districts and states. New NGOs came to be established by people with higher educational and professional backgrounds, who wished to explore alternatives in social action.

Many support NGOs with technical specialization such as Action for Food Production (AFPRO) for water resources and animal husbandry, Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) for cattle/ rural development, Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) for primary health, PRADAN for providing technical and management assistance to

voluntary agencies, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) for training and research etc came up.

Globally, the development sector has grown to become a valid third sector. Today, awareness and consciousness about human development issues concerning the country is gaining increasing significance. More so, with the increasing 'professionalization' of this sector, there are unprecedented levels of interest from professionals from the mainstream corporate sector to come in, join and contribute. Since the scope of this role is constantly broadening, there is an increase in the number of organizations and the demand for professionals.

Like any other sector, development sector offers a range of employment opportunities in the field of development support, strategic planning, communications, marketing, production, teaching, fundraising, finance, HR, research, administration and IT departments. The development sector today gives opportunity to not only contribute towards the betterment of the society but also allows aspirants to explore the various career prospects and who believe in making a difference.

Like any other sector, development work, too, involves qualities that help people move ahead, including the drive to excel. The only difference is that in this sector your goal to excel impacts a much larger audience and is more meaningful, for example, removing poverty and injustice.

It is now widely accepted that along with a good intent one also needs skills that are necessary to work effectively in the development sector. Since the focus of an NGO is development work, there is a requirement for people with qualifications and experience in social sciences — political science, history, anthropology, sociology, social work, and so on. The qualification also depends on the project

assigned to him/her. For example, a person working on a social work project needs to have a Masters in Social Work as a mandatory qualification but on the other hand, the person being hired for a marketing project needs to have a Masters in Business Administration degree. There is also a demand for technical qualifications in environment, medicine and other areas depending on the objective of the NGO. Beyond skills and expertise, what is especially important is identification with the values that the organization believes in.

In response to this need, Education and Skill Development of people wanting to work in development has gained

priority. Learning here happens in informal spaces and non academic organizations like CBOs and NGOs as well as in recognized academic institutions. Both sites are distinct in what they offer and both are unique in their contributions.

Most of the people undergoing training or skill development in non academic learning spaces are adult illiterate, semiliterate and literate with basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Most of these courses are designed in the form of training programs, workshops, exposure visits or fellowship programs.

Even the government departments involved in development activities like CAPART has adopted a scheme to induct young professionals. The focus of education here is very customized and specific to the activities and issues one is currently involved in. Such trainings have been successful in developing a number of para professionals like para legals, barefoot engineers, health care professionals to name a few.

Many academic institutes have come up which provide specialized training to young professionals who wish to join the voluntary sector. Emergence of development studies as an academic discipline began in the west due to increased concern about economic prospects for the third world countries following colonial rule. The focus was more on improving economic conditions but soon it was realized that economics alone could not fully address issues such as political and cultural inequalities. Development studies arose as a result of this, initially aiming to integrate these aspects. Since then it has become an increasingly inter- and multi-disciplinary subject, encompassing a variety of discipline in social sciences.

There are many institutions regional, national and at

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international levels with offer courses from basic under graduation course to post graduation and doctorate. In India almost all major universities are offering two year post graduation programs in social work such as Masters in Social Work (MSW), MA (Social Work), MA (Rural development) etc. At the graduation level also there are courses such as BSW, BA (Social work) etc that are offered by many universities across the country. These courses also offer specializations that build perspective, theoretical knowledge and exposure to issues, concerns and strategies unique to that subject. Apart from these there are many short term courses that offer space for dedicating learning for working professionals and students. As development is an inter disciplinary issue many professional courses like law and medicine offer specialized optional subjects that prepare these professional to work in the unique contexts and challenges that development sector offers them.

Management of development projects is considered as different from the regular management practices and therefore certain universities have come up to offer specialized courses related to the management of NGOs. For example The Institute of Rural Management came up at Anand and along with some schools of social work established earlier, such as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay and the Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi, it provided a steady supply of young professionals to the voluntary sector. These courses offer combination of both class room segments and field work segments.

Institutions like Institute of Rural Management, Anand offer specialized courses, both long term and short term, on development management. It offers two years post graduation program in rural management which is considered as the best course so far in the sector. The



participants of this programme are highly valued in local, national and international co-operatives, NGOs, development organizations, and funding agencies. The institute has recently started a fellow program in rural management which is a doctoral program that has duration of three to six years. It is meant for students and professionals seeking careers in Research, Teaching and specialized knowledge-based positions in Rural Management Institutions.

Another institution that nurtures top class professionals for development sector is Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The institute offers a BA (honours) in social work program with specialization in Rural Development. Further, it offers MA in Social work, MPhil and Phd programs. The Xavier Institute of Social Service which is located at Ranchi also offers post graduate program in rural development which is also highly valued across the sector. Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) offers Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Development Studies) which is a two year full time program.

Further to the post graduation and graduation courses in general rural management subjects, some institutes offer specialized courses on specific subjects related to the development/ livelihoods sector. For example Institute of Rural Management, Anand offers a diploma program in dairy management. TISS offers Masters Programs in many such specializations such as women studies, disaster management, disability studies and action, social entrepreneurship etc. Enoma, a Mumbai based organization, offers certificate courses in social work and counseling. This institute is recognized well for its online counseling courses.

Further to this, some NGOs promoted certain institutions that offer short term and long term courses related to development/ livelihoods sector. BASIX, a Non-Banking Financial Corporation, runs a livelihoods school that offers long term courses such as Program in Livelihood





Promotion (PLP) which aims at building a perspective and skill relevant to livelihood promotion. The school also offers customized programs for the people who are already working in different NGOs. Similarly Akshara Network for Development Support Services has also promoted a school called Akshara Gurukulam which offers livelihoods education not only for the aspirants who want to join the sector but also to the employees of different NGOs who want to have a livelihoods orientation.

There are certain specialized institutes that offer specific livelihoods related courses such as diploma in leather technology, dairy technology, food processing technology etc that are training people who can serve the rural poor in a more professional manner. The response to these various development/ livelihoods programs and also the increasing need for professionals in the sector is facilitating many other organizations and educational institutions to launch programs on diverse rural development issues. The programs, with their practical orientation, are expected to meet the need of the sector for committed and competent professionals as well as providing a strong career opportunity for the youth.

Many universities are also offering courses related to development education in a distance mode. Annamalai, Bharathidasan and Madurai Kamaraj Universities are offering Post Graduation courses in rural development management through distance mode.

Indira Gandhi National Open University is offering a certificate course in NGO management which has a duration of 6 months in collaboration with UN AIDS. This course is open for 10+2 pass outs and the students can complete course over a span of two years. Further, IGNOU offers certificate courses in rural development and disaster management etc. Recently it launched a one year diploma program in Watershed management keeping in view the need of NGOs for people with thorough knowledge in the

issues related to watershed management.

The School of Agriculture of IGNOU offers a wide range of job based agriculture related courses for the rural youth. Ranging from certificate courses to doctoral courses, the institute offers programs on varied subjects related to agriculture and extension such as dairy technology, plantation management, food safety and quality management, fish products technology, meat technology, value added products from cereals, pulses and oil seeds, poultry farming, bee keeping and organic farming etc.

Keeping in view the increasing need for the professionals in livelihoods/ development sector, the Ministry of Rural Development has also started offering a one year PG Diploma in Rural Development Management through its National Institute of Rural Development. The aim of this program is to develop a committed and competent cadre of rural development professionals in the country. Combined with both class room and field work segments, the course provides students with core development and management insights and imparts analytical skills for planning and managing rural development programs.

The institute also launched a PG Diploma program in Sustainable Rural Development through distance mode along with the University of Hyderabad. The objective of this program is to prepare competent rural development professionals by offering them a strong perspective and technical capability for developing and managing rural development projects.

Due to its very nature of providing capable professionals to fast changing development sector, there is demand on the institutions offering these courses to keep pace with the changes. This is potentially problematic, as development is a topic that is difficult, wide-spread, and scattered. Most importantly, it's about people's fragile, constantly changing lives. This inherent difficulty, coupled with the fast moving pace of events in the development field and the study of dated material may leave people short on key skills and knowledge as they enter professional situations.

Offering up-to-date case studies, broader canvas and deeper specialization simultaneously, and skills to handle micro to mega projects in line with the changing strategies is a big challenge to these courses in being relevant to current and future needs. Development education, therefore, should offer not only the skills required for the sector now but also the meta skills that help a development professional to understand the changes that are happening around and mould her/himself accordingly. Certain efforts are already initiated in this direction. But more than being an exception, this should become the norm. ❖

Books and News Papers Shop

Anjaneyulu runs a small book shop located at the opposite side of the road from Ambedkar Degree College. Precisely, it is located in government quarters in the Baghlingampally centre of Hyderabad. He used to sell newspapers, along with monthly and weekly magazines. He hails from a village named Toopran in the Medak district. Anjaneyulu belongs to the toddy topper community. He used to sell newspapers in the village, for which he used get Rs.20- Rs30 per day. After his marriage twenty years ago, he migrated from his native village Toopran to Hyderabad. He started selling newspapers in Baghlingampally, RTC X Roads, and other nearby areas. He worked for five years in this manner. He earned 2-3 thousand rupees per month from the business.

After 5 years of his paper selling occupation, Anjaneyulu thought of establishing a book shop in the Baghlingampally area. He took suggestions from his friends, neighbors, and newspapers readers regarding the same. He thought that a shop would be more suitable because of the surrounding areas that were filled with colleges, schools, bus stops, and hospitals. Before opening his own shop, he thought it would be wise to gain some experience first. During that time, Anjaneyulu went to many book shops and discussed about its patterns of business. He invested 50 thousand rupees from his savings to buy furniture and material. His experience in selling newspapers and books came in handy for the new business.

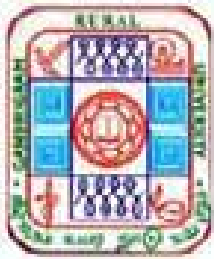
In the shop he kept an inventory of all English and Telugu newspapers. Along with newspapers, he also kept Telugu and English magazines, and story books. So, the sales of the newspapers and magazines increased. In addition to newspapers and magazines, he also started selling cool drinks, biscuits and chocolates in the shop. The economics of his enterprise are as follows.

Details	Rs.
Investment:	
Furniture, Refrigerator etc.	50000
Expenditure:	
All Daily Newspapers (1500x30=45000)	45000
Cool drinks (500x30=15000)	15000
All Magazines, cinema magazines, competition magazines etc. (5000x3 =15000)	15000
Biscuits, chocolates and general things once in 15 days (3000x2=6000)	6000
Shop rent + Current Bill + Other expenditure	6000
Total monthly expenditure	87000
Income:	
On All newspapers (each one news paper will get commission 30ps to 50ps) (1800x30 =54000)	54000
On All cool drinks (each one cool drink will get commission Rs. 1-50) (700x30 =21000)	21000
On biscuits, chocolates and other things (4000x2 =8000)	8000
On all magazines, story books, competitions magazines, cinema magazines etc. (each magazine will get commission Rs. 3.00) (6500x3 =15000)	15000
Total Monthly Income:	102500
Total Monthly Expenditure	87000
Total Monthly Profit:	15500

Anjaneyulu has been running the shop for the last 15 years. He says that the shop receives about 200 customers per day. According to him, 65% of them come for newspapers and magazines, whereas the remaining 35% of them come for cool drinks, biscuits and chocolates. Now, Anjaneyulu's business is stabilized, but he's facing severe competition from other newspaper shops which are located close by. With the increased competition, he is forced to reduce his prices which results to reduce his profits. The strikes, bandhs, agitations, etc also affect his business. However, he is adopting suitable measures in accordance to the regular needs of the customers. His relatively high working hours and his polite nature allow him to keep his business competitive with the others. ❖

Gandhigram Rural University

With undying faith and deep devotion to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary concept of 'Nai Talim' (Basic Education) system of education, Gandhigram Rural University (Previously Gandhigram Rural Institute) has developed academic programmes in Rural Development, Rural Economics and Extension Education, Rural Oriented Sciences, Cooperation, Development Administration and Rural Sociology etc. Students who emerge from its portals tend to meet the personnel needs for rural development under various governmental and non-governmental schemes.



Gandhigram was founded in 1947 by a team of dedicated Gandhians led by Dr.T.S.Soundaram and Dr.G.Ramachandran. In 1956 the Gandhigram Rural Institute was started as one of the premier rural institutes administered by the National Council for Rural Higher

Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India. It is nestled in the enclaves of the beautiful Sirumalai range of Tamil Nadu.

To transform Gandhiji's concept of Nai Taleem system of education into social action is the main motive of the institution. The main objectives of the institution are to provide instruction and training in such branches of learning that will promote a classless and casteless society, to carry out research and disseminate knowledge and to function as a centre for extension work leading to integrated rural development.

Started in a small way, the institute has developed into a big educational complex, comprising seven different faculties, offering in all about 50 different programs. It has developed academic programs in rural development, rural economics and extension education, rural oriental sciences, cooperation development administration, rural sociology, English and communicative studies and Tamil and Indian languages.

Since its inception, Gandhigram Rural Institute concentrated on the creation of a new cadre of rural professionals, action leaders capable of handling modern day intricacies of socio technical and administrative aspects of the rural sector. To teaching was added, the dimensions of research and extension in course of time. This three-dimensional approach became a pioneering model which earned appreciation from all over the country.

On 3rd August, 1976 based on its academic excellence

and service to the nation in the field of rural development, Gandhigram rural institute was conferred the status of a deemed university on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) under section(3) of the UGC act of 1956. The national assessment and accreditation council conferred five star status for its excellence in education through extensions.

Gandhigram Rural University (GRU) offers courses at various levels viz. Doctoral, Master's and Bachelor's Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates through its seven academic faculties. It offers all the requisite facilities that are necessary for higher education and research activities. In the recent years the institute has started offering various courses under distance education mode. The distance education centre of GRI was established in January 2003 to offer learner centred and socially relevant programs to meet the needs and aspirations of the needy and the unreached sections of the society.

The programs offered by GRI are training based and job-oriented. Certificate and Diploma programs are offered as a concurrent programs also students of this university and outside colleges/institutions can register for these programs along with their regular graduate/post graduate programs.

The rich experience and unique experiments of GRU, especially in the field of rural development earned national attention. It has become a nationally and internationally recognized institute today so much so that the New Education Policy of the Nation reflects the principles evolved here in developing the rural university concept.

At present the Institute is a huge educational complex comprising of 7 fully fledged faculties, 20 departments, 20 centers/extension outfits and 59 different campus programmes and 40 Distance Learning People's Education Programmes, awarding Doctorates, Master's and Bachelor's Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates. With 3000 students, 125 teachers and 250 non-teaching staff, thousands of government personnel and NGO volunteers benefiting from its cadre training programmes, the Institute continues to develop and grow, attracting students from all over the country and abroad.

In the first phase, spanning a period of two decades up to 1976, the Institute concentrated on community development After being made a Deemed University in 1976, the Institute entered its second phase in which the accent was shifted to integrated rural development. Now, it is entering its third phase with a mission to provide knowledge support to the rural sector to usher in a self-reliant, self-sufficient and self-governed community with a capability to engage the emerging globalism. ❖

We Can't Survive Without Multiple Works

Bibi, a 48 year old lady belongs to Hyderabad, does multiple works to support her husband in leading their family consists of these two and five daughters. 'livelihoods' interviews Bibi to know about her journey life..

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

A: My name is Bibi. I am 48 years old.

Q: How many members live in your house?

A: My husband and five daughters live in my house. Three of my daughters are already married. Two of them are still unmarried. Currently, my elder daughter, son-in-law, and their two children all live in the house as well. A total of 8 people live in my house.

Q: Where do you currently reside?

A: We currently reside at Baghlingampally in front of Ambedkar College Street in Hyderabad.

Q: Can you please give an account of your livelihood?

A: I fry fish and sell them from 5:00 PM until 11:00 PM at night. I have a small pan shop and a coin box, which I look after. I also manage household work.

Q: What does your husband do for work?

A: My husband is an auto driver for an auto that he took for rent. He leaves for auto driving early in the morning and comes home at night.

Q: What are your daughters? Are they studying?

A: Except my youngest daughter, the rest of them stay at home. My youngest one is studying intermediate. My four daughters studied up to their 10th standard and dropped out. My fourth daughter currently stitches clothes for others.

Q: What is your elder son-in-law doing?

A: My son-in-law manages a cell repair shop.

Q: How long have you been in the fried fish business?

A: I have been in this business from six months.

Q: What did you do in the past before your current business?

A: I used to wash dishes in other peoples' houses for money. I used to work in four houses.

Q: Now why did you stop that work?

A: Domestic workers are often ill-treated by owners. I am a self respected woman and couldn't bear such type of insults. Thus I decided to work on my own.

Q: How did you choose this business and what are the reasons behind that?

A: Besides my house, there is a wine shop. I observed that the people who come to drink wine in the evening also wanted to buy cigarettes in our pan shop and they bought chilli snacks from a vendor. So at first I decided to start this snacks business but thinking innovatively, I started selling fried fish.

Q: Where do you get fish from?

A: Ramnagar is a place which is close to our house. I get fish from there.

Q: How many kgs of fish you get per day?

A: I get 10 kgs fish per day. In that 2 kgs of fish go waste. I sell the remaining 8 kgs to customers.

Q: How much it costs per kg?

A: I buy fish for Rs 80 rupees per kg.

Q: How much you spend on other things like oil and spices required for the fried fish?

A: I spend Rs 50 rupees worth spices and 2 kgs cooking oil.

Q: How much of kerosene is used per day?

A: I spend 2 liters of kerosene per day.

Q: In how many pieces do you cut the fish?

A: I cut each fish into 8 pieces. I dip them into spicy gravy and I fry them in oil. Hot fish pieces are very tasty; so everybody desires to buy it.

Q: How much does one piece of fish cost?

A: I sell each piece of fish for Rs12 to Rs15.

Q: Does anybody to help you in your work?

A: During the evening times, my son-in-law helps me in my business. In addition, my husband often helps me in my work.

Q: At present what are you doing other than selling fried fish? Do you have any other livelihoods?

A: During the day, my time passes by looking after the pan shop and household work. In the evening times, I'm involved in fish business. These days I added selling egg along with fish. We can't survive without my multiple works.

Q: How much income do you get from all your income sources?

A: I get approximately 10 thousand rupees from my all income sources. I am leading my life happily. ❖

Oilseeds

India is the fourth largest oilseed producing country in the world, next only to USA, China and Brazil, harvesting about 25 million tons of oilseeds against the world production of 250 million tons per annum. Occupying about 14% of the cultivated area, the oilseeds are contributing 6% annually to the GDP of the country. Since 1995, Indian share in world production of oilseeds has been around 10 percent. Further, its share in world production is as high as 27 percent for groundnut, 23 percent for sesame, 16 percent for rapeseed and 66 percent for castor seed. Although, India is a major producer of oilseeds, per capita oil consumption in India is only 10.6 kg/annum which is low compared to 12.5 kg/annum in China, 20.8 kg/annum in Japan, 21.3 kg/annum in Brazil and 48.0 kg/annum in USA.

Many varieties of oilseeds along with tree origin oilseeds are cultivated in India. Among these, the major oilseeds are Soybean, Cottonseed, Groundnut, Sunflower, Rapeseed, Sesame seed, Copra, Linseed, Castor seed and Palm Kernels. India occupies the place of pride as the world's

largest producer of Groundnuts, Sesame seeds, Linseeds and Castor seeds. Three oilseeds: groundnut, soybean and rapeseed/mustard, together account for over 80 per cent of aggregate cultivated oilseeds output.

Oilseeds occupy one-seventh of the total cultivated area in India. In India, oilseeds are grown in an area of nearly 27 million hectares across the length and breadth of the country. Depending on the period of cultivation, the oilseeds are classified as 'Kharif Crop' and 'Rabi Crop'. The Kharif Crop that is dependent on the Monsoon is harvested around October- November each year. On the other hand, the Rabi Crop is harvested around March-April each year. The edible oil industry of the country comprises of 50,000 Expellers, 689 Solvent Extraction Plants, 1000 Vegetable Oil Refineries, and 175 Hydrogenation Plants. The edible oil sector occupies a distinct position in Indian economy as it provides job to millions of people, achieves on an average a domestic turnover of US \$ 10 Billion per annum and earns foreign exchange of US \$ 90 Million per annum.

Oilseeds like groundnuts, soybean, sunflower, sesamum and mustard are consumed directly in various food preparations. Soybean is an important pulse in the traditional areas of its cultivation; and groundnut is used in a large number of confectionary items. Safflower and niger seed are in demand as birdfeed. Leafy parts of legume oilseeds like groundnut, soybean and mustard are important sources of fodder in the areas of their cultivation. Legume oilseeds are also important for sustainability of cropping systems and maintenance of soil health, as they fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, substituting for the costlier chemical fertilizers.

A large number of oilseed crops are grown in different regions under different agro climatic conditions. These crops are among the most widespread in small farm systems throughout India. Groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, sesame and safflower are the traditionally cultivated oilseeds. In the recent years however soybean and sunflower have gained importance. Starting from the late seventies India depended heavily on imports to meet its edible oil demand. This prompted the setting up of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds in 1986, which gave a thrust to the production of oilseeds. Production of oilseeds went up from around 11 million tonnes to around 25 million tonnes towards the late nineties. There was almost a 2 percent growth in yields over the last fifteen years. Most of this growth came from soybeans, rapeseed-mustard and groundnuts.

Though the productivity of oil seeds increased to some extent in recent years, India's productivity is however quite



low, around fifty percent of the world average and even less in the case of soybean. The comparatively lower yields are mainly due to the fact that the quality of the seed varieties is generally poor and oilseeds crops in India are mostly cultivated in unirrigated areas. Less than 25% of cropped area is under irrigation. For the same reason yields are more variable due to weather fluctuations. Other reasons include disease and pest damage, vulnerability to drought, poor dry farming practices, low access to inputs and poor soils.

The three major oil seeds of the country, groundnut, soybean and mustard, collectively account for over 80% of the aggregate cultivated oilseeds output. The production and other details of these three oil seeds are discussed below.

Groundnuts: India ranks second in the world (after China) in groundnut production. The three southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and the western state of Gujarat together account for close to 80% of the annual output in India. About 70-75% of the crop is Kharif, grown during summer rainy season (planted during May-July and harvested in September-mid December). In the Rabi (winter) season planting is during mid September to November and harvesting during March and April. Crop failures occur periodically due to inadequate or excessive rain or unfavorable rainfall distribution. Groundnut ranks among oilseeds with high oil recovery (40%). Around 40 to 50% of the output is used in oil production the rest being used as seed and feed. Regional trends in groundnut production indicate that the recent increase in groundnut yields has mainly occurred in Tamil Nadu due to increased irrigation. Although Tamil Nadu accounts for 12% of the total area under groundnuts, it contributes to 22% of the total production.

Rapeseed-Mustard: India ranks fourth (after China, EU and Canada) in the world in the production of Rapeseed. In the case of Rapeseed mustard there is 33% oil recovery. Almost the entire output (97%) is used in oil production is used in oil production with only 3% used for seed and feed purposes. Almost 40 percent of the rapeseed output comes from the state of Rajasthan. Other major states include Uttar Pradesh (18%), Madhya Pradesh (10%) and Haryana (11%). Yield improvements have taken place in all the major states although Haryana shows the maximum growth in yields in the last two decades. However, variability in yields is also higher for this state. Area under rapeseed-mustard crop gained substantially from the expansion of irrigation. Import of rapeseed/mustard oil peaked during the late 1980s (with imports of around 0.19 million tonnes in 1988-89). These imports reduced drastically with the increase in domestic production of rapeseed/mustard and also due higher world prices of rape oil in recent years as compared to the availability of cheaper imported oils like palm.

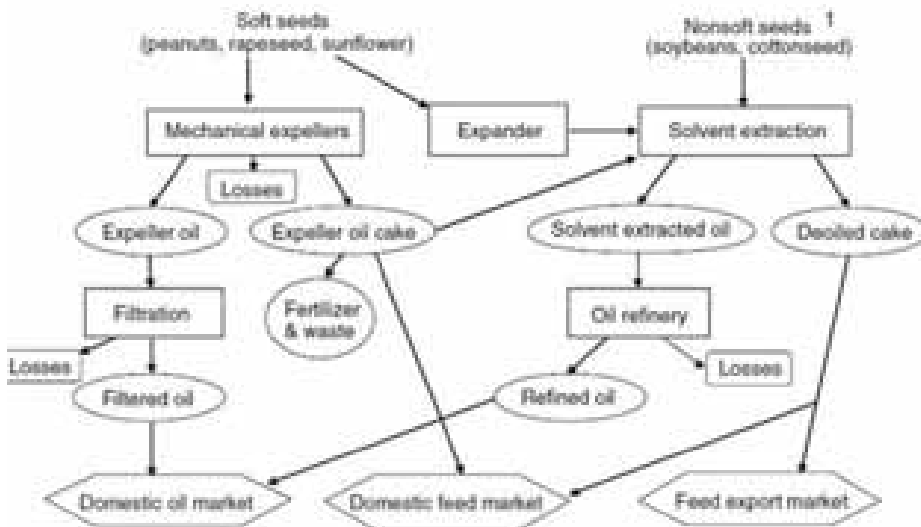
Productivity of Oil Seeds in India and World (in tones/ hectare)

Oil seed	India	World	Highest
Soybean	0.85	2.29	3.28 (EU-15)
Cotton seed	0.59	1.06	2.07(Australia)
Groundnut	0.59	1.02	2.13(China)
Sunflower	0.62	1.18	1.73(EU-15)
Rapeseed/ Mustard	0.75	1.49	2.96(EU-15)

Soybeans: Soybean is predominantly grown in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh grows around 66 percent of the country's soybean output occupying around 70% of the total area under the crop. It is generally grown as a rainy season crop under rainfed situation (sown in June and July and harvested in November and December). Since soybean is cultivated as a rainfed crop, yields are highly variable. Higher and more stable yields are possible through assured minimum irrigation and drought resistance brought about by genetic improvement. Weeds and pests also contribute to yield losses. The crop has exhibited a vast potential as 'Kharif' (monsoon season) crop mainly in the Central India, and is extending its coverage in the Southern parts of the country. Normal period of monsoon for Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat is around mid June. India ranks fifth in the world in area and production of Soybean after USA, Brazil, China and Argentina. In recent years it has become the second most produced oilseed in India. The phenomenal growth in cultivation of soybean can be attributed to the concurrent development of the soy-oil/meal industry, which provided remunerative market to the growers.

Edible oil consumption in India has been growing steadily over the years. Aggregate consumption increased from around six million tonnes in the early nineties to around 11 million tonnes in recent years. However, per capita consumption of fats and oils in India is far below the world average. Groundnut, Rapeseed/mustard and Soy oil together form around 60% of edible oils consumed in the country. Consumption preferences for different oils vary across different regions in India and also between rural and urban areas. Groundnut and mustard oil together account for 59% and 67% of total edible oil consumption in urban and rural areas respectively. Consumer preferences are influenced by the crops grown in their regions. For example, in most of the southern and western states there is a strong preference for groundnut oil, whereas in the east and 10th the north it is mustard oil.

When it comes to processing of oilseeds, the Indian oilseed processing industry includes three major processing technologies: (1) traditional mechanical crushing, or



Oilseeds Processing Sector in Pictorial Form

expelling, used for oilseeds with relatively high oil content; (2) solvent extraction for processing oilseeds and expeller cake with less than 20 percent oil content; and (3) expander-solvent extraction, a hybrid process used for raw materials with higher oil content. The traditional mechanical crushing industry has two segments: the very small-scale “ghanis” and the small-scale expellers. The processing industry also includes an oil refining sector, which primarily refines domestic solvent- extracted oils and imported crude and solvent-extracted oils, and a “vanaspati” (hydrogenated oil) sector that refines and hydrogenates domestic and imported oils.

When it comes to market, an examination of edible oil prices and oilseed prices would reveal that there does not seem to be any parity between them. This clearly hints at imperfections in marketing and the prevalence of dishonest trade. Most farmers have the option of selling their produce through three principal channels: directly to private traders/consumers, through regulated markets, and/or through cooperative system. A high proportion of the trade bypasses the regulated market. Small traders purchase the produce at farm gate and sell through brokers to oil millers. In many cases millers themselves engage procurers from villages. Often the prices offered in these deals would appear to be slightly higher than those at regulated market yards on account of the potential for tax evasion that these deals bear. In addition, the minimisation of transportation costs and time would prompt the farmers to dispose off the produce at the farm level. Millers/traders occasionally engage in money lending for cultivation purposes and in lieu would demand the sales of the produce to their parties.

In the Initial years of Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO), the National Dairy Development Board built a large network of oilseeds cooperatives with storage and

processing capabilities. It took the initiative to organize market procurement operations which provided price support for oilseed farmers. However, with the substantial expansion of oilseed output and liberal import of edible oil to meet the gap between output and consumption, the supply situations eased and the NDDB withdrew from this function. The initial thrust given by NDDB in its price support operations was a critical factor for the success of the TMO till the mid 1990s.

Brokers and commission agents play a very significant role in oilseeds and edible oil

trade. The transactions between producer of the oilseeds and purchaser of the oilseeds, between purchaser of the oilseeds and oil miller, and between oil miller and wholesaler are largely carried out through brokers or commission agents. As the information on supply, demand, and price is highly imperfect, brokers are expected to assimilate information and gather the interest groups together in lieu of a certain charge or commission. But, in case of oilseeds and edible oils, brokers appear to be the price givers. The interaction of supply and demand is determined by the broker based on his knowledge. His knowledge claims, trustworthiness and the possibility of collusion cannot be ruled out. Further, quite a few brokers/commission agents do trade in the commodity, which certainly influences their role as moderators.

On the other hand, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) were set up by the law to provide for 'fair trading practices'. The apex body of these committees have around 15 representatives from farming community, brokers and other related bodies. Although they provide certain security to the farmers in the form of settlement of disputes, opportunity to withhold the produce in their storage facilities, etc., only between 10 to 15 per cent of the total oilseed production arrives at the market yards. The price support operations that are implemented only at APMCs have no meaning for oilseed growers because the announced support price has usually been much lower than the ruling harvest price in any given year. Unless all these issues are resolved by introducing and implementing appropriate farmer friendly policies, the small farmers continue to remain as losers in the market competition. The issues of productivity and price needs to be addressed so that the farmers can realize their fair share in the consumer rupee. ❖

Civil Liberties Warrior—Kannabiran

The last two years of the civil liberties and human rights movement had witnessed the loss of its two great champions. Balagopal and Kannabiran passed away. Kannabiran the former National President of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), civil liberties leader, human rights activist, writer, leading advocate in Andhra Pradesh and relentless fighter for the rights of the marginalized people passed away on 30th December 2010.

K.G. Kannabiran was a well-known human rights leader in India and prominent High Court lawyer in Andhra Pradesh. He was born on 1929. After emergency rule in 1976, Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan formed People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights (PUCLDR). It is the Forum which defended the civil liberties and human rights of the political workers belonging to different political parties. Kannabiran was the one of the National Executive Member of the organization.

Kannabiran was worked as President of PUCL for 15 years from 1995 to 2005. He worked along with Justice VM Tarkunde, Justice Rajindar Sachar, Justice RB Mehrotra, Surendra Mohan and was for a long time President of the PUCL. For the tremendous amount of work done by him in the field of civil liberties he was considered to be a one man army by his colleagues. He also involved in building and strengthening of Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties (APCLC) for 38 years since its inception.

Kannabiran has fought the cases of human rights violations at the time of emergency and defended each and every major legal case involving activists, sympathizers, singers and poets belonging to revolutionary left politics. He played key role in the case related to the murder of remarkable Trade Union leader and creative organizer Shankar Guha Niyogi. The industrialists involved in the Niyogi murder, made all efforts to come out from the case. He succeeded in getting the murderers convicted and punished in Shankar Guha Niyogi murder case. It is one of the key achievements of Kannabiran. He served on the Tarkunde Committee and the Bhargava Commission, both constituted to inquire into alleged encounters by the State police.

Kannabiran played a key role in initiating peace talks between People's War Naxalites and Andhra Pradesh state government in 2004. A powerful advocacy campaign was launched by Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) for the peace talks. Kannabiran was instrumental in forging this powerful public opinion in favor of peace talks. CCC played the role of mediator in this historic peace talks. His dream was to see that every citizen enjoys equal rights to enhance a decent life. He was aware that as long as normal conditions are not established it becomes impossible for common man to live a peaceful life and pursue their interests in a decent and fruitful manner. It

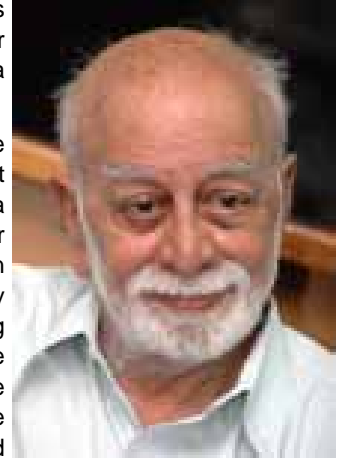
was the main intention behind his relentless efforts to bring both revolutionaries and the state government of Andhra Pradesh to the dialogue table. These efforts led to the beginning of peace talks between People's War Naxalites and Andhra Pradesh government.

Kannabiran had filed more than 400 Public Interest Litigations (PIL). He, being a prominent High Court lawyer never utilized his profession for money. He fought many cases without charging money. Fighting against the illegal onslaught of police and repressive state machinery on marginalized people is not easy thing. In

this civil liberties and human rights struggle his colleagues, prominent human rights leaders like Gopi Rajanna, advocate Narra Prabhakar and Dr. Ramanatham were murdered. Activists like Purushottam and Ajam ali were killed by mysterious out fits carrying the names of "Tigers". He never scared about these things. He and his family members faced threats many times. Defying death was his character and speaking truth fearlessly to the powers that be was his habit. He never minced his words in condemning any human rights violation. He never shirked from the responsibility of telling the truth whatever maybe its consequences.

Kannabiran always argued that every police encounter should be treated as homicide and a case should be registered against the police, so that it can be investigated and brought to trial. He is one of the leading lawyers in Andhra Pradesh, and has taken up the legal cudgels against the state's attempts to suppress the people's movements and curtail the people's right to protest. Kannabiran wrote articles regularly for PUCL bulletin. He wrote number of articles on civil liberties and human rights to various magazine and daily News papers. He wrote many books. "The Wages of Impunity, power, Justice and Human Rights" is the one of the best and most readable book in his writings.

Kannabiran is the heart and soul of the marginalized peoples those who are unable to get liberty and rights in this unjust and repressive world. He strove for the rights of the poor and democratic space for the weaker sections of the society. His death is an irreparable loss to the civil liberties movement and democratic people's movement in the country. A large part nation will remember K.G.Kannabiran as the warrior who fought for the civil liberties and human rights of the most marginalized people of the country. ❖



Food Security and Crop Diversity

Today nation is facing serious food security problem. Sufficient and quality food is not accessible and available to the majority of the poor people. Poor people's expenditure on food is consistently increasing. In order to meet the consumption expenses they are decreasing spending on other important expenditures like health care and education. Though there are many reasons for this problem related to food scarcity to production and to consumption, reduce in crops diversification and increasing dependence on rice consumption are considered to be major problems.

Discussions on these problems particularly explaining the importance of millet crops role in food security and sharing few interventions that are being made in the country to address them was one of the sub theme discussions at the Civil society consultation on "Regenerating natural resources and rural livelihoods in rainfed areas of India: Priorities for the 12th five year plan" a National level consultation held on 15th and 16th of December 2010 at Hyderabad. Important aspects of the discussion and presentations are shared with the readers.

Millets are highly nutritious they require low external inputs and are almost pest free; it saves a lot of water and also provides good fodder. Growing millets can therefore be a



key factor in reviving rain fed agriculture and climate resilient crops. The millets cultivation has been gradually decreasing in the last 4 decades. Sorghum decreased by 54%, Bajra by 18%, Ragi by 47% and other small millets by 75%.

Reasons for such a decline are many; Green revolution by passed the millets, Public Distribution System (PDS) focused only on procuring and distributing rice and wheat, there is no Minimum Support Price (MSP) and no suitable processing facilities for millets. There are no grants to conduct research and extension support to millet

Nutritional Superiority of Millets

Crop	Protein (g)	Carbohydrates (g)	Fat(g)	Fibre(g)	Minerals (g)	Calcium (mg)	Phosphorus (mg)
Wheat	11.8	71.2	1.5	12.9	1.5	41	306
Rice	6.8	78.2	0.5	5.2	0.6	10	160
Sorghum	10.4	72.2	1.9	12	1.6	25	222
Bajra	11.6	67.5	5	16	2.3	42	296
Finger millet	7.3	72	1.3	18.8	2.7	344	283
Proso millet	12.5	70.4	1.1	14.2	1.9	14	206
Foxtail millet	12.3	60.9	4.3	14	3.3	31	290
Kodo millet	8.3	65.9	1.4	15	2.6	27	188
Little millet	8.7	75.7	5.3	12	1.7	17	220
Barnyard millet	11.6	74.3	5.8	13.5	4.7	14	121



The pilot revealed both positive and negative points. On the negative side - People find Rs.6 per kg of millet expensive when compared to subsidized price at which they buy rice. Both children and adults alike prefer to eat rice when compared to millets. There is need to remove the stigma associated with eating millets, as it is considered as food of only the poorest.

On the positive side - Production of Ragi has increased in few project villages. Experiments of processing millets into making Rava and Dalia etc are on. The district administration has scaled up the pilots done by AP-DAI, Rural Development Trust (RDT), APPS Network and Timbaktu Collective to promote millets. Rs.173 lakhs

cultivation This has discouraged farmers who think growing commercial crops are more profitable than millets.

There have been few successful initiatives to promote cultivation of millets. Decentralizing production of millets, procurement and distribution through PDS have been the important focus. Experiences of AP DAI where under pilot project 2500 households covering 20 villages were supplied Millets through PDS. In these villages along with rice, Millets like Ragi (1kg/person), Jowar (1/4 kg/person), and Bajra (Saddalu) (1/2 kg / person) to maximum of 8kgs were distributed at subsidized rates.

These millets are locally procured at farm gate at a prefixed price. Revolving fund was provided to local CBOs for millets procurement. Similar efforts were made to promote distribution of millets through PDS by Deccan Development Society, millet marketing by Timbaktu Collective and millet processing commissioned in Anantapur are prominent.

budget has been exclusively allotted to scale up pilot to 27 more mandals covering 21000 households. The plan is to distribute millets in the form of flour. A total of 4kg Ragi, 2 Kg Jowar and 2 kg Bajra is given to family every month. It is estimated that 810 tonnes ragi, 408 tonnes Jowar and 408 tonnes Bajra has to be procured.

Recommendations made during the consultation included; Brown revolution needed to initiate mission on millets, National level campaign to promote millets consumption, Procurement support for millets with MSP, Include Millets as part of NFSM, introduce distribution of millets in PDS, providing millet based food in mid day meals programs, Credit support and crop insurance to farmers growing millets, Strengthen the grass root initiatives in reviving millets, Production incentives to millets cultivating farmers, Research focus on millet value chains and Incentives / Soft loans to entrepreneurs. ❖

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.

Swami Vivekananda



Seed Production in India

The seed is the most important determinant of agricultural production. The organized seed program in India is four decades old which began with the implementation of 'The Seeds Act, 1966.' A sustained increase in agricultural production and productivity has become dependent on the development of new and improved varieties of crops and an efficient system for supply of quality seeds to farmers. Numerous changes have taken place in the national and international environment since the enactment of the existing seeds legislation. Provision of good quality seeds to the Indian farmer is a key factor in the growth of Indian agriculture.



Two seed systems need to be distinguished:

1. Informal seed system, run and controlled by farmers
2. Formal seed system, run by professional breeders and commercial seed dealers, and supported by well-defined rules and procedures.

The informal system involves farm-saved seed, farmer-to-farmer exchange and informal markets. According to some estimates, this sector accounts for 80% of planting materials worldwide. In developing countries alone, it is estimated that 90% of all seed demand is met by local seed supply. In farmers' seed systems, the selection, production, storage and exchange of seed are integrated within the agronomic and socio-cultural practices of farming communities. It has been shown that informal seed systems often belong to the female domains, with strong taboos to keep men away from seeds in some cultures.

Seed production by farmers is highest in rained systems where food crops make up a substantial part of agricultural production. This is the case for Himalayan regions in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and the north-eastern states, and for semi-arid areas in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Farm-saved seeds are also common in the irrigated rice systems of West

Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where farmers only 'renew', i.e. purchases their rice seeds every two to three years.

The same is true of the Green Revolution wheat varieties grown in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. However, self-production of seeds is extremely low in regions where commercial crops dominate. Cultivators of cotton, sunflower, maize, pearl millet, vegetables and flowers in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh essentially buy hybrid seeds every year from seed dealers. Three types of seeds are present in various regions of India. Each of these has a distinct seed production system.

Farmers' seeds in the case of local varieties (sorghum, pigeon pea, safflower, mustard,

Etc), Farm-saved seeds in the case of improved open-pollinated varieties (rice, black gram, groundnut, etc) and Commercial seeds in the case of hybrids (cotton, maize, sorghum, chillies etc).

In India, seeds can be accessed through six distinct means:

1. Production from one's own farm
2. Gifts or exchanges from neighbors or relatives
3. Seed loans from within the community
4. Grain payments from medium and large landowners
5. Grain earned as part of a share-cropping arrangement
6. Purchase from local dealers (and occasionally from other farmers)

Seed Industry

The formal seed sector is divided into two domains: the public sector, which has been present in India for over 40 years, and the private sector, whose emergence is more recent. The trends in the seed and biotechnology industry influence these two sectors. Seed policies have largely contributed to the growth of the private sector and to the entry of foreign players. Technological development and crop improvement program increased in intensity and scope at the start of the Green Revolution in the 1960s.

Agricultural research was conducted in numerous National Research Centers as well as state agricultural universities throughout the country, with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR, created in 1929) as coordinating body. Hundreds of improved varieties for a wide range of crops, including rice and wheat but also pulses, oilseeds, tobacco, cotton, jute and sugarcane were released. Dry land millets received less attention in plant breeding program because of the emphasis of the Green Revolution on regions with high productivity potential such as irrigated areas. Two national organizations were created

to ensure the transfer of new crop varieties to farmers in the 1960s, the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and the States Farms Corporation of India Limited (SFCL).

For over a decade, the NSC was the sole agency in charge of the production and marketing of commercial seeds. The mandate of the SFCL was to produce breeder, foundation and certified seeds of high-yielding varieties on large mechanized farms in eight states. During the 1970s and 1980s, 13 State Seed Corporations (SSC) were established. These state-managed corporations largely took over the role of the NSC in individual states. In the early stages of the seed industry, therefore, national research institutes and public seed production companies enjoyed a virtual monopoly over the most important staple crops.

It was only when India started to liberalize its economy in the late 1980s and, more importantly, the early 1990s that the private sector and foreign companies began to play a significant role in the seed sector. Seed policies were modified in order to facilitate these changes.

What is Seed Industry?

The seed industry can be considered to consist of all enterprises that produce or distribute seeds.

At a minimum, this involves the following activities:

1. Plant breeding research.

This research seeks to improve the varieties of seed through introduction of exotic varieties, pure-line selection, and hybridization. Plant breeders produce breeder seed of the new varieties. Breeder seed, which embodies the improved genetic characteristics, is the basic input of the seed production process.

2. Seed production and multiplication

A seed enterprise multiplies the breeder seed into commercial seed that will be distributed to farmers. The type of commercial variety depends on how it was bred and produced and can thus be a pure-line, open-pollinated, clonal, or hybrid variety.

3. Processing and storage

The seed that is produced is processed and saved. Processing involves drying, cleaning, treating with chemicals, packaging seeds, and assuring internal quality.

4. Marketing and distribution

Marketing involves promoting the seed produced by the enterprise, and distribution is the physical and logistical exercise of getting the seeds at the right place and the right time.



Global Seed Industry

Ten companies account for about two-thirds (65 percent) of the world's proprietary seed – that is, branded varieties subject to intellectual property protections – for major crops. Economists say that an industry has lost its competitive character when the concentration ratio of to four firms is 40 percent or higher. In seed, the top four firms account for 50 percent of the proprietary market alone, and 43 percent of the commercial market which includes both proprietary and public varieties.

This level of concentration has proven problematic, reducing choice and increasing prices for the average American farmer. Patenting of agricultural biotechnology and other plant products have created unprecedented ownership and control over plant genetic resources over major field crops.

In 2005, the US-based Center for Food Safety released *Monsanto vs. U.S. Farmers*, a Ground breaking report which documents the Monsanto Company's unprecedented use of patents and restrictive licensing agreements to investigate and sue farmers for suspected seed-saving. Monsanto and its hired investigators continue to harass, intimidate and prosecute U.S. farmers, primarily in cases involving the alleged saving and replanting of the company's Roundup Ready.

Recent Decadal developments

A set of seed-related reforms has enabled expansion and globalisation of the private sector. These include foreign investment rules, industrial licensing policies and seed import policies. Encouragement was in the form of:

1. Allowing foreign-owned firms and large Indian conglomerates to enter the seed industry
2. Removing barriers to the import of commercial vegetable

seeds

3. Authorizing the import of commercial seeds of foreign varieties of coarse grain, pulses and oilseeds for a two-year period, provided that seeds are produced on Indian territory after the initial period (imports of wheat, rice and cotton seeds continued to be banned)

4. Facilitating the exchange of germ plasm for research purposes.

The main official arguments for these changes were to enable technology transfer and earning of foreign exchange through cut flower and vegetable exports. In 1991, as a part of the new economic policy of liberalization, restrictions on the role of foreign firms and technology transfer were further reduced.

These policies have enabled the private seed sector to develop into a fully-fledged industry and to gain substantial market shares in sorghum, pearl millet, cotton and vegetable seeds. They have also favoured the entry of industrial groups into the seed sector. Several joint ventures were established between multinational companies and Indian companies throughout the 1990s. The development of biotechnology has driven a number of large national companies to tie-up with private multinational companies.

By 2000, over a third of Indian seed companies had established collaborative linkages with global partners in the seed or biotechnology industry. The first transgenic cotton variety commercialized in India in 2001 resulted from collaboration between Mahyco (Maharashtra Hybrid Company, one of the leaders in cotton hybrids) and Monsanto, a multinational agro-chemical seed firm based in the United States. Subsequently, several other Indian seed companies have entered into licensing agreements with Monsanto in order to distribute genetically modified versions of their best cotton hybrids.

These agreements involve stringent rules restricting autonomous research efforts by the Indian partner on traits or technologies which Monsanto is researching. Commercial seed production has become more and more global in scale, and seeds are increasingly produced hundreds or thousands of miles away from where they will eventually be sown. Vegetable seed production, for instance, is highly international.

Large multinational seed companies work more and more frequently with contractual producers in countries characterized by low labour costs and low environmental standards (especially in Eastern Europe and in South Asia). Seed crops are highly dependent on chemical inputs and mechanization, even though certain operations like cross-pollination are labour-intensive.

The processing component of commercial seeds has

become a highly sophisticated, technology oriented and large-scale activity over the last two decades. Seeds of sorghum, pearl millet, maize and cotton are processed in fully mechanized processing plants owned by large national and multinational seed companies.

In this context government proposed New Draft Seed Bill, 2010 on 13th April 2010. The Bill has clearly set out the morphological and legal criteria, which qualify an extant or new variety for registration. Extant variety includes farmers' variety. Such clarity on eligibility criteria, except prescribed standards on genetic and physical purity, seed health and a priori determined agronomic performance, is not provided in the Seed Bill. The legal eligibility criteria on ownership, and practices followed for accessing parental material used for breeding the variety, are left totally outside the scope of the Seed Bill.

Farmers must be the basis of seed policy. Any effective seed policy must recognize what farmers can and cannot do. Farmers can efficiently reproduce and store seeds of most varieties of self pollinated crops, such as wheat and rice. They can reproduce and store some varieties of open pollinated crops and some clonal varieties. Many farmers will experiment with new varieties on small plots in their fields. They can learn about new varieties from relatives, neighbors, and merchants who sell agricultural inputs.

It is clear that proprietary and patent rights for the multinational companies would constrain farmers, decrease competition, leads to consolidation of markets, decrease in number of corporate companies, arbitrary pricing, higher royalty and trait fees and harassment of farmers. Cost of cultivation is likely to increase tremendously. Farmers would not be able to use saved seeds from their own farms. Seed Bill needs to be reexamined and revamped to preclude growth of anti-competitive conditions in seed sector, prevent monopolization, reduction in the availability of various seeds and seed varieties, control of indiscriminate and unregulated seed imports, monitor and regulate unrestricted rise in seed prices, monitor and penalize 'laissez faire' corporate behavior and increase compensation for farmers.

The mechanism for implementing seed bill should necessarily include State governments and their institutions. State governments should have enhanced powers. A public monitoring process and farmer participation mechanism also needs to be worked out. India's needs to examine and adopt Organization for African Unity (OAU)'s Model Law, 2000, for the protection of the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, and for the regulation of access to biological resources. ❖

Dr. D. Narasimha Reddy

Maha Pandit 'Rahul Sankrityayan'

Rahul Sankrityayan; who knew more than thirty languages, travelled more than tens of thousands of miles (at times on foot), taught at well-known universities without formal education, a freedom fighter who was jailed thrice, and whose published works numbering more than 135 ranged from travelogues, sociology, history, religion, philosophy, autobiography, biography, Tibetology, lexicology, folklore, fiction, science, drama, essays and even pamphleteering; was a great scholar and it was but natural that he was known as *Maha pandit*.



Born as Kedarnath Pande on April 9, 1893 in an Orthodox Brahmin family in a small village in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, he lost his mother Kulawanti very early. His father Govardhan Pande was a farmer; the boy was brought up by his grandmother. All the formal schooling he got was at the primary school in the village. A restless soul, he ran away from home at the age of nine, to 'see

the world'. He did odd jobs, moved with Sadhus (mendicants) mainly living on alms. After some years came back home briefly and left. He studied Sanskrit at a monastery in the traditional way. He also taught himself various Indian languages and English. He learned photography as well.

He started touring all pilgrim-centers of India. He stayed at Madras, and learnt Tamil. He visited Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and visited Bangalore, Hampi and Bagalkot in present day Karnataka. He returned to monastic life and stayed at Arya Musafir Vidyalaya at Agra and mastered Sanskrit language, and started reading books on Christianity, Islam and various sects of Hinduism. His writing career started in his twenties; he mainly wrote in Sanskrit and Hindi for periodicals. The Jalianwalah Holocaust (1919) turned him into a strong nationalist and he plunged into India's independence struggle. He was arrested for anti British writings and speeches. He was jailed for three years, wherein he translated the Quran into Sanskrit. He studied Pali and Sinhalese languages and started reading Buddhistic texts in the original. He was slowly drawn to Buddhism and changed his name to Rahul (after Buddha's son) Sankrityayan (Assimilator).

After his release, he went to Bihar and worked with Dr. Rajendra Prasad (later President of free India) who became a close friend. In those days social service was part of freedom struggle and he engaged himself in constructive activities laid down by Gandhiji. He became President of Azamgarh District Congress as well. He

actively participated in the freedom struggle, undergoing long terms of imprisonment in 1921, 1931 and 1942. As President of All India Kisan Sabha he led the peasants struggle against the landlords of Bihar in 1939.

But the travel bug never left him. He undertook hazardous journey to the forbidden land of Tibet. Disguised as a Buddhist *bhikku* (mendicant), He entered Tibet via Kashmir, Ladak, Kargil and started his journey on foot.

Rahul's main purpose was to collect lost works in Sanskrit on Indian culture in general and Buddhism in particular. There was general belief among Indian scholars that these were well preserved in Tibetan monasteries, but not explored. With great difficulty, Rahul could salvage some from the ruins of a monastery, which were all in Bhot language and not in Sanskrit. He returned with the valuable manuscripts and some Thanka paintings which are preserved in Patna museum. He again took to travel and visited Sri Lanka (where he taught Sanskrit), Japan, Korea, China, Manchuria and proceeded to Soviet Russia. From there he went to Tehran, Shiraz and Baluchistan and finally came to India.

His writings continued. In spite of profound scholarship, he wrote in very simple Hindi, so that a common man could follow. He wrote books of varied interest. He wrote 146 books, some of which are voluminous. Many works remain unpublished. His most popular work of fiction based on historical facts, "Volga to Ganga" deals with pre-Vedic times to modern India (1944) representing various stages in civilization between the basins of the two great World Rivers. The book is translated in all Indian languages, English and Russian.

Rahul's personal life was also unique and interesting. He was married when very young and never came to know anything of his child-wife. During his stay in Soviet Russia a second time, accepting an invitation for teaching Buddhism at Leningrad University, he came in contact with a Mongolian scholar Lola. She helped him in working on Tibetan- Sanskrit dictionary. Their attachment ended in marriage and birth of son Igor. Mother and son were not allowed to accompany Rahul to India after completion of his assignment. It was Stalin's Russia. Late in life, he married Dr. Kamala, an Indian Nepali lady and had a daughter (Jaya) and a son (Jeta). He accepted a teaching job at a Sri Lankan University, where he fell seriously ill. Diabetes, high blood pressure and a mild stroke struck him. Most tragic happening was the loss of memory. He breathed his last in Darjeeling in on April 14, 1963.

Rahul's life time exploration has enriched the understanding of Indian history. He is remembered forever for his contribution to literature and multi-faceted talent. ❖

Recommendations of Prof. Yashpal Committee

Higher education plays a pivotal role in building the nation. No one can imagine the progress of a country without having a good system of higher education. However, the higher education system of the country is facing several challenges such as losing primacy of Universities, undermining the undergraduate education, growing gap between knowledge areas and universities, deteriorating quality of education and commercialization of education etc. The higher education system has fragmented and compartmentalized over the years by various regulatory bodies. In this context, it is imperative to reform the higher education system of the country.

Realizing this need, the Government of India constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Prof Yash Pal to review and offer recommendation on the existing system of higher education. The committee after consultation with many academicians had prepared the report and submitted it to the Ministry of HRD for follow up action. The HRD Ministry accepted the report submitted by the committee and also agreed to execute the recommendations made by it on the renovation and rejuvenation of higher education.

Prof. Yash Pal Committee has recommended the establishment of a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) as an advisory body responsible for comprehensive and continuous reforms in higher education. This Commission subsumes the existing regulatory bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) and the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The Committee suggests that professional bodies such as the AICTE, the NCTE, the Medical Council of India, the Bar Council of India, the Council of Architecture, and the Pharmacy Council of India should look at whether the people who wish to practice in their respective fields are fit to do so rather than just acting as license giving bodies. The Committee says that the universities should conduct regular qualifying tests to the professionals in their respective fields and should be responsible regarding the academic content of professional courses.

The Committee recommended that the Commission should have five divisions dealing with future directions, accreditation management, funding and development and new institutions. Further, the committee has made the following important recommendations which, if implemented, have a potential to transform the higher education scenario of the country.

All universities must be teaching cum research universities. All research bodies must connect with universities in their vicinity and create teaching opportunities for their

researchers. All syllabi should require teachers and students to apply what they have learnt in their courses, on studying a local situation, issue or problem. There should be sufficient room for the use of local data and resources to make the knowledge covered in the syllabus come alive as experience. Minimum set of occupational exposure to be made compulsory for all students, irrespective of discipline, in the form of summer jobs or internships, with evaluation of the students on this front.

All vocational institutions must also be part of universities. It should be mandatory for all universities to have undergraduate programmes. Urgent measures are needed to attract good people who enjoy teaching and research back to the university and offer them a positive and motivating environment. Resources in terms of libraries, laboratories and research assistance as well as competitive remuneration will need to be provided to retain good people.

Universities must take steps to reduce gender, class and caste asymmetries. There should be no discrimination between Central and State funded universities. All benefits extended to Central Universities must also be extended by State Governments to the state universities and the Centre must incentivize the States to do so.

There are a large number of students who can afford to pay for their education. Absence of differential fees has led to subsidizing students who can actually afford to pay. Those who can afford to pay must pay higher fees for which they will be offered guaranteed student loans. Free education will be provided only to those who cannot afford it. Further, to make the higher education accessible to poor students, the committee recommended providing scholarships and loans to the needy students. The Committee criticized the government's policy of setting up IIMs and IITs in disorganized manner without any understanding of symptoms of poor education. It says that it is mere numerical expansion. It would not help to enhance the quality of the educational institutions. It says that creation of a few excellence institutions and some central universities, without addressing the issue of deprivation of the state-funded universities does not solve the problems of higher education. Further, it sharpens the existing inequalities between the universities.

Prof. Yashpal committee has also recommended to bring all levels of teachers education under the purview of higher education. Implementation of these recommendations will surely be a revolution in the education system of the country. They have the potential to improve the quality of higher education while keeping a check on the profit motive private institutions. ❖

Out of Poverty

Following Market Trends Helps!

Srinu belongs to Bhoodan Pochampally (Village) in Nalgonda district of AP. He lives with his wife, daughter, son and parents. His father was a business man. His father lost all his assets in the business and incurred debts.

Name: Srinu

Age: 36 years

Education: Nil

Occupation: Business

When Srinu grew up instead of assets he inherited debts. Stressed by the financial problem his father fell ill. The conditions at home forced Srinu to give up studies at the age of 16 years and take up

family responsibilities.

He started working at a fast food centre in the village. During this period he learned the techniques of making fast food. This inspired him to start a fast food centre of his own. He sought advices from his friends; upon their encouragement he started a small fast food centre beside his home.

The business was good and gave him good income. In one year he was able to clear of some old debts. In one year that he started the business many such fast food centers came up in the village. Increased competition affected his business and he decided to close the centre.

Srinu joined in a steel company at Hyderabad. He worked there four years. He got married and shifted his family from Ranga Reddy to Sanga Reddy.

In Sanga Reddy he started cement bricks making work. He makes cement bricks, water storage tanks, windows and other materials. The business developed well. Along with brick making he has also started selling marble stones, which is also doing well.

With all this income, Srinu has cleared remaining debts and put his children in a good private school. He also brought his parents from Pochampally Village to his house in Sanga Reddy. He is a happy man now. ❖

Ramulu Caught in Debt Spiral

Broken Lives

Ramulu belongs to Chowtuppal village in Nalgonda district of AP. He lives with his wife, four daughters and one son. He belongs to Padmashaali community; his family is into weaving silk saree which they have been doing from last 20 years. His family was financially in a good position, all children were sent to private school for studies. He performed his elder daughter's marriage into a well to do family. He was elected as secretary to the Silk Sarees Producers Union in the village and elected as Director in Cooperative Bank. He was also involved in local politics and was a prominent person in the village.

As the competition grew the silk saree business declined, and the rates of the raw materials increased. To be in the business he had to borrow loan at very high interest rates and continue with the weaving. In spite of the investment he was unable to sell his goods and make profit. On one side his debts kept on growing and on the other side he underwent heavy loss in the business. In the mean time his wife fell ill and again he had to borrow money for her treatment. He was forced to sell his shop to clear the old debts. His second daughter had to discontinue her education to take care of her sick mother.

Ramulu migrated to Hyderabad with family in search of employment. He took up job of a sales man in a small

shop at Hyderabad. Being an independent worker till then he found it difficult to adjust in his new role. Ultimately when he found he could not stay there further he went back to his native village- Chowtuppal. In the village he took up weaving work as piece worker. This work stabilized his condition a little and he put his children back to school. Within a short while his wife fell sick again forcing him to take one more loan for her treatment.

Ramulu's eldest daughter had to face lot of torture in her in-laws place. With no options to sort out the matter he brought his eldest daughter back home, the matter ended up in the court and she took divorce from her husband. By then his second daughter had to be married. He took more loans to perform the marriage. Worries made his wife's health conditions worst, he had to hospitalize her again and again as she was diagnosed with cancer. In spite of all the treatment his wife died. This made him more depressed and his debts started worrying him. He children stopped studying completely and are doing small jobs in private companies for survival. ❖

Name: Ramulu

Age: 50 years

Education: Nil

Occupation: Weaver

Joe Madiath in 'Gram Vikas'

From the most developed Kerala state to Odisha, one of the least developed states of India, the journey of Joe Madiath is inspiring and the path he had laid to Gram Vikas (Development of village) is followed by many development workers across the country.



Joe Madiath was born on December 1950 at Cheruvally, Kerala, India. Recognizing the poor conditions workers faced on his family farms, Joe Madiath at the age of 12 led a movement to organize them to lobby for better treatment. His confrontational role was met with hostility as his family banished him

to a boarding school 2,500 km away from home. When he returned at age 16, Madiath embarked on a bicycle tour across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka and worked with tribal people along the way to improve their conditions. He completed his studies in English Literature at Madras University. When he was a student, he was elected as the President of the Loyola College Student Union and founded the "Young Students Movement for Development (YSMD) to serve the poor people.

Joe in 1971 led 400 YSMD volunteers to coordinate a number of relief camps for refugees who came from Bangladesh. Later that year, 40 volunteers along with Joe, moved to Odisha, which had been ravaged by a cyclone and tidal waves. Joe and a few colleagues decided to stay on in the area afterwards, to work as development activists. They moved to Ganjam District in southern Odisha in 1976 on the invitation of the Government, to initiate development activities among the indigenous communities of Odisha.

Joe founded an NGO called Gram Vikas in 1979 to serve to the poorest communities in Odisha. Since its inception, Joe has been the Executive Director of Gram Vikas. Today Gram Vikas is one of the largest NGOs in Odisha, reaching out to about 314,458 indigenous and poor families living in 943 rural habitations as on 31st March 2010.

Joe initiated number of programs under Gram Vikas. Some of the pioneering efforts of Gram Vikas have been in bio gas promotion, community forestry, rural habitat development and education. Gram Vikas set 55000 bio gas systems to provide less expensive fuel to the villagers. Through its Movement and Action Network for Transformation in Rural Areas (MANTRA), Gram Vikas helps to build low cost drinking water and proper sanitation facilities to in 787 villages. As a result every family of the project area got bathroom, toilet and safe water facilities. It reduced their health expenditure drastically. Gram Vikas current approach to converge community action with water and sanitation as the entry point is evolving into a movement influencing local democratic self-governance and poor people's control over development processes.

The core methodology of Gram Vikas is to harness, through full community mobilization, all physical and human capital in a village. The organization works with the villagers to create and manage a "village corpus", a fund that draws cash and in-kind contributions from all families based on their ability to pay. Once the fund is established, the organization contributes supplementary resources or makes soft loans for specific projects.

Joe Madiath is also one of the founders of the Voluntary Association Network of India and the Odisha Development Action Forum. He currently serves on the Governing Board of several institutions including the Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technologies (CAPART), the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and BASIX. He has been part of various consultative committees of the central and state governments.

Gram Vikas and Joe Madiath have received several national and international awards in recognition of their work, including the Allan Shawn Feinstein World Hunger Award for 1995-96 from Brown University, USA; the Dr. K.S. Rao Memorial National Award, 1998 for outstanding Lifetime contribution to the development of new and renewable sources of energy from the Solar Energy Society of India. In 2005, Joe was awarded the Social Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to improving the plight of the rural masses, from The Godfrey Phillips Red & White Bravery Awards.

Joe Madiath has spent about 30 years working for the development of poorest communities of Odisha state. His unquenchable focus on the sustainable development of the villages is bearing fruits and transforming the lives of many poor households. ❖

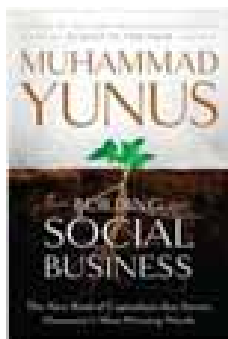
Books

Book Summary

Name of the Book: **Building Social Business: The New Kind of Capitalism That Serves Humanity's Most Pressing Needs**

Author: **Muhammad Yunus**

Publishers: **Public Affairs**



Muhammad Yunus, the practical visionary who pioneered microcredit and, with his Grameen Bank, won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, has developed a visionary new dimension for capitalism which he calls "social business." By harnessing the energy of profit-making to the objective of fulfilling human needs, social business creates self-supporting, viable commercial enterprises that generate

economic growth even as they produce goods and services that make the world a better place.

As its title suggests, this book deals with the issue of social business in terms of *construction*. In this book, Yunus shows how social business has gone from being a theory to an inspiring practice, adopted by leading corporations, entrepreneurs, and social activists across Asia, South America, Europe and the US. He demonstrates how social business transforms lives; offers practical guidance for those who want to create social businesses of their own; explains how public and corporate policies must adapt to make room for the social business model; and shows why social business holds the potential to redeem the failed promise of free-market enterprise.

In *Building Social Business*, Yunus expands on his self-proclaimed world-changing mechanism for social change that he introduced in an earlier book, "Creating a World without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism". He fleshes out the idea more fully in this work by not only defining social business clearly and providing examples of how it has been successful already, but also

by drawing distinctions between social business and other socially conscious organizational structures.

For Yunus, there are two types of social business: one is a for-profit corporation that is owned by the poor, and satisfies its social mission by improving people's lives. The second is a business that fulfills the following seven criteria: there should be no profit for initial investors and no ongoing profit for investors/owners of the company; the business should be dedicated to a social cause; financially self-sustaining; ecologically responsible; it should pay better than market wages to its staff, and this should be done with joy.

Part of the book is dedicated to drawing distinctions between social businesses and more established socially minded organizations such as NGOs and charities. The primary difference is that social businesses strive to be self-sufficient and not reliant on private donation or government largesse to survive. But they must also meet the other criteria stipulated – most importantly, that it not be a vehicle of increasing personal or investor wealth.

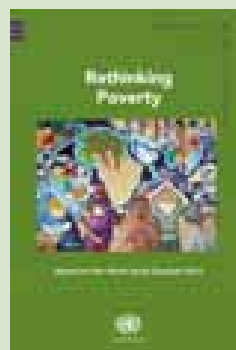
Ultimately, Yunus has faith in people's ability to change the world and make it better for all. His observation that human beings are not one-dimensional profit-maximizing creatures leads him to recommend a business structure that eschews personal profit in order to maximize the other dimensions of human happiness. This boundless optimism towards the creative drive of capitalist enterprise is truly refreshing. Yunus provides genuine insight into global poverty and a unique perspective on the ways in which social businesses can coexist with traditional businesses to alleviate poverty and improve the lives of the world's citizens. ❖

New

Name of the Book: **Rethinking Poverty: Report on the World Social Situation 2010**

Author: **United Nations**

Publishers: **United Nations**



Resources

MICROCAPITAL EVENT: Sixth Annual Microfinance Investment Summit at Mumbai from 22-02-2011 to 24-02-2011

The three-day conference will focus on trends, challenges and emerging technologies in microfinance in India. The discussion topics are how to protect clients from overindebtedness while remaining solvent, Enhancing the integrity of microfinance, Minimizing the effects of uncontrolled growth, Optimizing outreach and sustainable growth, Conducting responsible finance by bringing social performance to the front etc. More details about the summit can found at http://www.c5-online.com/financial_services/microfinanceindia.htm

Only One Move

We sometimes allow our weaknesses to be our downfall rather than using them to our advantage. We tell ourselves we cannot do something because we do not feel it is our strength. But, if we didn't dwell on our weaknesses, we may find that we could succeed. We tend to give up rather than persevere. We all need to be reminded that sometimes what we perceive as our weakness could actually turn out to be our strength. This inspirational short story offers words of wisdom about our strengths and weaknesses.



This is a story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the Sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the Sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the Sensei intervened. "No," the Sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and Sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?" "You won for two reasons," the Sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's greatest weakness had become his greatest strength.

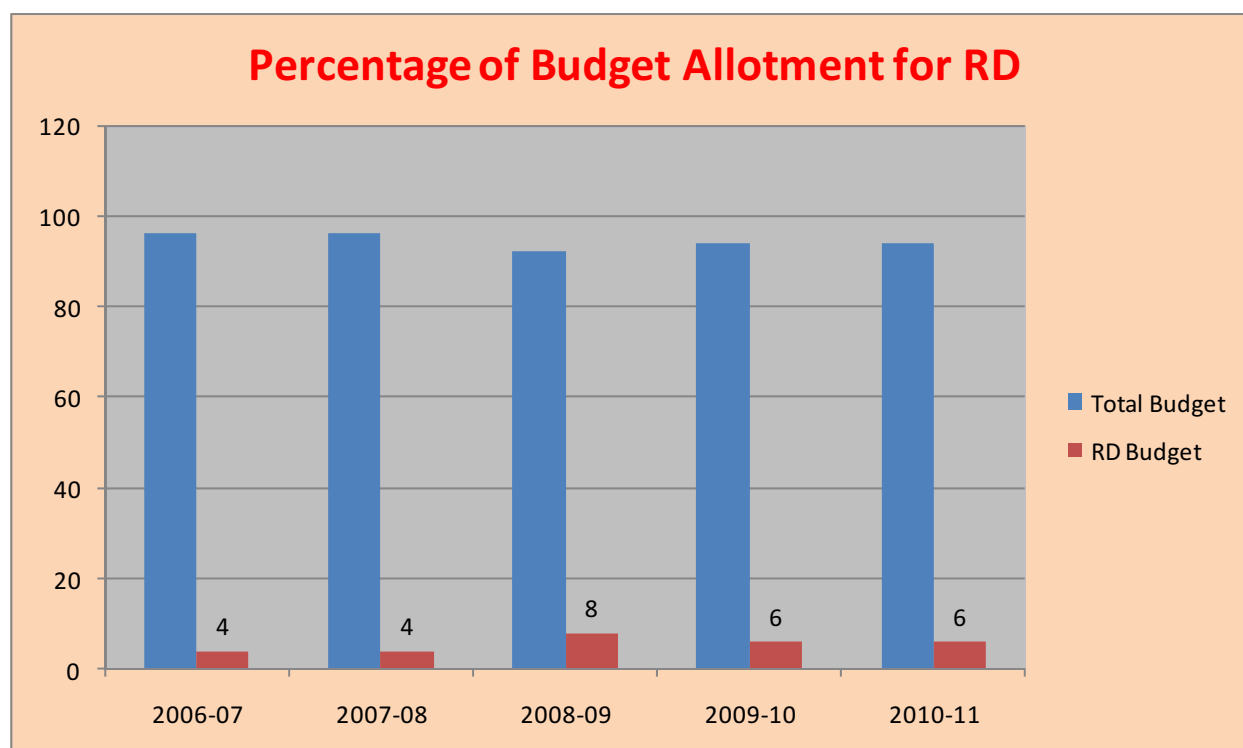
All of us do have weaknesses... some physical and many psychological and emotional weaknesses...It is entirely in our hands to turn them into strengths.. ❖

Rural Development Budget in India

The budget allocation for rural development activities by the central government over a period of 5 years is presented below.

Year	2006-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
Total Budget	563991	640521	750885	1020838	1108749
RD Budget	24025.62	27522.86	56883.54	62706.95	66137.86
Percentage	4.25993	4.296949	7.575533	6.142694	5.965089

The above data is also presented in the form of a diagram below.



These statistics show that the percentage of budget allocation to rural development ranges from 4 to 7 percent of total budget allocation. Last year the budget allocation is only to a tune of 5.9 percent of total budget which is significantly low in a country where 70 percent of the population resides in rural areas.

To promote the concept of inclusive growth, food security, minimum 100 days of work and improving farm and nonfarm livelihoods, government needs to allocate at least 12% to 15% of its total budget exclusively for rural development department. ❖

Making Cement Material



Shining Livelihoods

Fading Street Dramas

Declining Livelihoods



‘Yoga’kshemam

Happy Makarasankranti! Happy Republic Day!

Some action around! Sri Krishna Commission submits its report on Telangana and stirrings thereafter; Malegam Committee submits its report on MFIs; Investigations into 2G and CWG are in progress; Manmohan shuffles his Cabinet; Some people in-charge are sacked; Now we know Makarajyothi at Sabarimala is manmade as a tradition; More than Rs.2.0 lakh Crore investment flows into Gujarat committed; Food inflation soared to 16%.

Let us hope the spirit of Civil Liberties Advocate, KG Kannabiran, continues to guide us.

Of course, we remembered Swami Vivekananda (12 January) and we will remember Mahatma Gandhi (30 January).

World Religion Day (Third Sunday of January – 15 January this year), and National Girl Child Day (24 January) went by. Valentines’ Day, Social Justice day and Thinking Day are awaiting us in February. Let us also note that 2011 is also the International Year of Forests and World Veterinary Year to appreciate all life beyond human beings.

Institutional architecture for the livelihoods of the poor, projects/programs/missions on livelihoods and resources for them, continued to dominate our thinking and working space, as always, in this month also. Various continuums in livelihoods have come to the fore. What is the way forward for us as ‘Commons’ is one of the key resources of the poor – has taken a lot of thinking time.

Rolling-out rural livelihoods agenda across the country – through the mission(s), through the models and innovations, through the community and support institutional architecture, through the knowledge dissemination, through the creation of the livelihoods and knowledge workers, through the capacity building, through the learning platforms, through the increased funds allocations and availability, through increased understanding and appreciation of the livelihoods reality of the poor, through the portals and channels and through the campaigns – is slowly acquiring the character of a national movement. Seeds have been sown and some have started to sprout.

I am still to catch up with some rest, sleep, multiple energies, balance, multiple flows etc. Transition and Reflection continue playing to the hilt. Relentless pursuit of nayanataras and by nayanataras! We are designed to flow relentlessly even beneath/underneath the ice sheet on the

surface. So be it.

During the month, there is an endorsement – life, all life, matter the most. Great relationships sustain life. For these, we need to take responsibility – 100/0. We need to do our 100 without thinking of any return, without being affected by any other return not anticipated. This needs to persist. This needs to go on.

The second endorsement in the month is on the need for emphasis on equal opportunities, equitable access and equitable fruits and results commensurate with the effort and performance, rather than on equal fruits and results.

The third endorsement is that sharing knowledge keeps us learning.

In the Book ‘Being the Boss’ Linda Hill and Kent Lineback talk about managing oneself, one’s network and one’s team for being useful and deliver responsibility through exerting influence. “Trust is the foundation of all forms of influence other than coercion ...”; “...build and nurture a broad network of ongoing relationships ...”; “...creating a real team (collective of varied skills that want to stick together) and managing their people as a whole...” Of course ***on these three imperatives, one needs to periodically [daily/weekly/monthly] assess oneself, plan, work the plan and review.***

In the confluence of the souls, and through the flows of universe, visible and/or invisible, we are in the ‘yogamathanam’ seeking amritayogaanatham to create, expand and lost in the flows of the ‘innermost’ and ‘universe’.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** Relentlessly! With simplicity! For being useful and continuing to be useful!

Krshna confirms that any free soul that practices and pursues this thought of being useful with single-minded concentration and devotion would indeed attain mukti and become part of the viswamahatma. Wherever the Guru and the Disciple work in tandem, srivijayabhuti (prosperity, victory and welfare to life) and dhruvaniti (conducive context) would be certain.

Join us in the world of yoga – for the realization of the eternal flows of the innermost and the universe define our being - towards amritayogaanathasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar

Surviving Tradition

