

# livelihoods

today and tomorrow

March 2012



# *Panchayat*

Happy Holi! Happy Ugadi!

'Telangana' is hot again. Mixed Results in elections for five states! Union Budget in Parliament!

Let there be health for all. Let there be no street children. Let there be appreciation of cultural unity in diversity.

Let the free entrepreneur and enterprise flourish, but on a foundation of fairness. Let the creativity and innovation help the poor coming out of poverty and making this a better place to live now and for the next generations.

Let us not wait for Mother Earth to assert. Let us care for her. Let us dance to the tunes of soul of the universe.

Let the copy rights and intellectual property rights come in the way of benefit to the common person. Let us learn to read more and use the learning.

Let us succeed in eliminating malaria, like we did polio.

Local Governments are in existence for more than 5000 years. They have been taking care of their needs with least dependence on the king or the state, till recently. This situation has been sought to be restored with the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution. With more than 20 years, since the amendments, restoration is at best partial. 29 subjects (see XI Schedule of the Constitution) were sought to be transferred to the Local Governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions). These included – Farming and related (agriculture, extension, lands and soils, water and watersheds, livestock, fisheries, social and farm forestry, NTFP); Small and cottage Industries; Housing; Drinking water; Fuel and fodder; Roads and communications; electrification; Non-conventional energy; Poverty alleviation; Education; Libraries; Cultural activities; Markets; Health, sanitation and health centres; Family, women and child development; Social Welfare; PDS; and Community assets. Of course, along with these subjects, powers needed to be devolved and funds needed to be made available. But, the progress is varying across the states and the transfer, devolution and allocation seem to be marginal, with minor plus/minus here and there. The progress on the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas is no different.

Also, the system of PRIs is not uniform across. We see the standard 3-tier system in some states. We have two additional intermediate tiers in some states. In some states, the Gram Sabha is real and seems to meet at least. In some other states, it is tokenism. Panchayat Presidents are elected directly somewhere and some other places, representatives elect. The CEO of Zilla Parishad is in charge of development in the district in some states and District Collector is everything in some states. PRIs plan in some states and the plans get consolidated upwards. In some other states, line departments plan. Decentralization is still to cross the stage rhetoric broadly across.

However, in the long-run, Visioning, Planning and implementing the plans in the 29 subjects is the key focus of PRIs. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Panchayats'.

SK Dey piloted Community Development in the country and was the initiator of the current 'organization' of Panchayats. State Institutes of Rural Development across the states train and build capacities of the PRIs, their leaders and staff. Zardosi, the mirrorwork and metalwork on saris and dress material, is an expanding enterprise employing poor women and men. The Republic by Plato is a classic on governance and if you have not read it earlier, you should do it as soon as possible. 'Kshetram' discusses the livelihoods of the Western Ghats.

With the appreciation that decentralized governance is the surest way forward for us, I remain struggling to cope with the reality of final journey of my dear long-term colleague, friend and development saint, Manoharan on 27 February 2012 and thinking how to nurture loving development professionals to be with the poor.



G. Muralidhar

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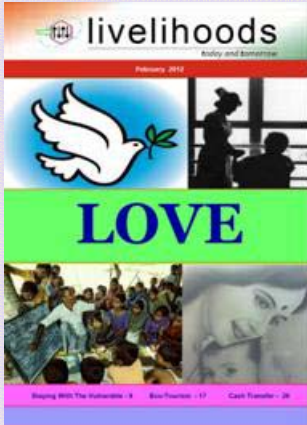
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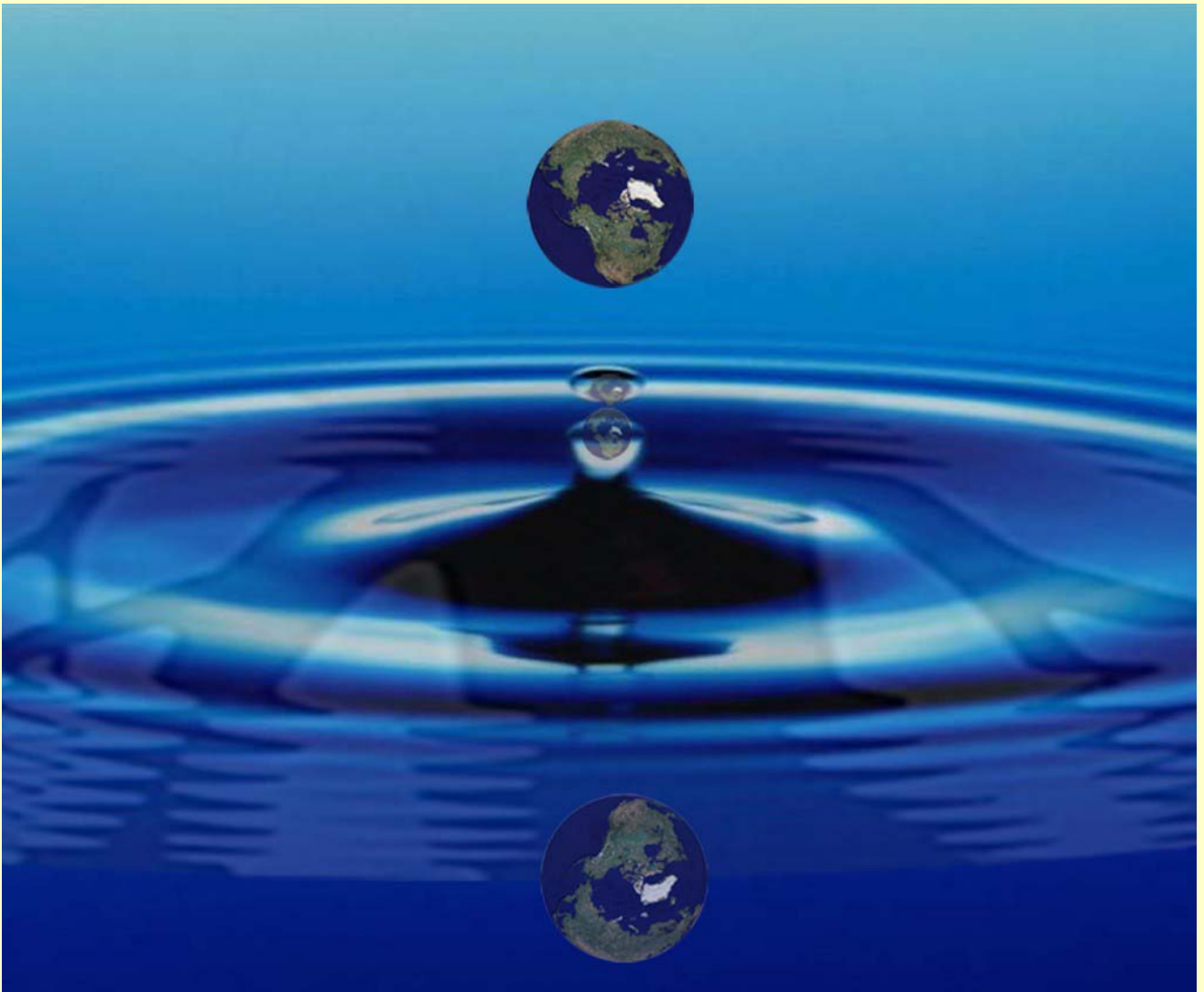
I received your livelihoods February 2012. The cover story and from page are very nice.

Thanks

Bharathi

Hyderabad,

## 22 March World Day For Water



**Cancer killed 5.56 lakh in India in 2010:** Tobacco-related cancers and cervical cancers caused most cancer deaths. Cancer killed 5,56,400 people across the country in 2010. The 30-69 age group accounted for 71 per cent (3,95,400) of the deaths. In 2010, cancer alone accounted for 8 per cent of the 2.5 million total male deaths and 12 per cent of the 1.6 million total female deaths in this age group (30 TO 69 years). These are some of the findings of a paper published on March 28 in The Lancet. The study found that 7,137 of the 1,22,429 deaths during 2001-2003 were due to cancer, corresponding to 5,56,400 cancer deaths in 2010. At nearly 23 per cent, oral cancer caused the most number of deaths among men. It was followed by stomach cancer (12.6 per cent) and lung cancer (11.4 per cent). In the case of women, cervical cancer was the leading cause (about 17 per cent), followed by breast cancer (10.2 per cent). The most striking find is that tobacco-related cancers accounted for 42 per cent of all male deaths and 18.3 per cent of all female deaths.

**Drought to Hit Tea Output in Assam, West Bengal:** Tea Production in North India covering Assam and West Bengal for 2012 is set to register a sharp drop due to a prolonged dry spell and rising temperature across Assam and West Bengal. The crop loss is set to lead to cash flow problems for the tea companies. Data compiled by the Indian Tea Association confirm rainfall deficit for West Bengal at around 31-42 per cent during January-March 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011. Upper Assam estates in the South Bank of the Brahmaputra are also experiencing severe drought conditions with rainfall deficit of 45 per cent in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts and around 38 per cent in Golaghat. Assam and West Bengal

together account for 75 per cent of Indian tea output. Crop is estimated to drop by around 60 per cent till March as compared to 2011. The crop in Assam and West Bengal up to March 2012 can, therefore, at best touch 20 million kg as against 46 million kg recorded in the corresponding period in 2011.

**Rates on Small Savings Schemes Increased, Delhi:** In its bid to render the National Small Savings Fund schemes more attractive to investors by way of returns and halt the tendency to switch over to bank deposit schemes, the government, on Monday, hiked the rates of interest on post office small savings plans by up to 50 basis points for the new fiscal year. Accordingly, while the interest rate on savings deposits has been kept unchanged at 4 per cent the same as in savings bank accounts — the rates for time deposits of one and two years stand increased by 50 basis points each to 8.2 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively. For the more popular 'monthly income scheme', however, the increase is slightly lower at 30 basis points and, thus, the interest rate for the five-year scheme stands pegged at 8.5 per cent while the interest on public provident fund has been upped from 8.6 per cent to 8.8 per cent. The new rates are to come into effect from April 1 this year.

**Bt Cotton no Marvel, Delhi:** A new report, which hopes to be a wake-up call for policy makers, points towards drastic depletion of nutrients in the soil due to repeated cultivation of Bt cotton hybrids. A new report by the Coalition for GM Free India says that ten years after Bt cotton officially entered India, its manufacturers and promoters would like the world to believe that it is an unqualified success but the reality is starkly different. The report put together by the Coalition, a broad network of organizations, scientists, farmer

unions and consumer groups says the hype over Bt cotton is typified by recent advertisements by Mahyco-Monsanto claiming "Bollgard boosts Indian cotton farmers' income by over Rs.31,500 crores," which was pulled up by Advertising Standards Council of India for false information. Underlining the deep crisis in cotton farming after a decade of transgenic seeds, the report says that the spate of farmer suicides in 2011-12 has been particularly severe among Bt cotton farmers. In Andhra Pradesh, out of 47 lakh acres planted with Bt cotton during Kharif 2011 season, the crop failed in 33.73 lakh acres as per the state government estimates in December 2011. This means two-thirds of cotton area had yield loss of more than 50 per cent. The report puts together various statistics culled from the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) and other sources and says the data should serve as a wake up call to policy makers and MPs.

**The Farmer Outreach 'Ambulance', Andhra Pradesh:** If you thought ambulances are only for the seriously ill, think again. Srihari Kotela, a chartered accountant, has launched one to reach out to farmers in Andhra Pradesh. Farmers can make a simple phone call to seek a visit by the rythu ratham, a comprehensive information source on farming, be it on fertilizers or crop diseases or government schemes. The concept would encourage good agricultural practices and raise farm incomes, says Mr. Kotela. His company, eFresh Portal, has tied up with the Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, the University of North Bengal and the Food Safety and Knowledge Network for this. "We now have one ambulance; we plan to have 20 vans and cover all the States... to create awareness and interest among farmers," he says. The vehicle is

equipped with soil-testing kits, pesticide sprayers, protective gear, an LCD projector, a computer system, and training videos, and so on. What is really happening here is that with the government having cut down on its budget for agricultural extension activities, mainly under the auspices of the Farm Information Bureau, which used to organise such field visits, private initiatives are taking that space. Gone are the days when microphone-wielding extension officers would travel from village to village on their distinctive jeeps.

**It Rains in The Village, But Fields Remain Dry:** Small farmers and crop production are under stress in the face of climate change. The impact of climate change is unfolding at a pace that is much quicker than predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), stated a new research study released here in the Capital recently. The study conducted by Action Aid with Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, further stresses that more than 80 per cent of farmers in India, who are mainly small and marginal farmers and contribute about 50 per cent of the total crop production of the country, will be the most affected by the changing climate. The study was shared and deliberated upon at a national consultation on Climate Change and Agriculture – Adaptation and Mitigation by Small and Marginal Farmers organised in the Capital.

**Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Increase The Risk Of Diabetes:** Regular intake of sugar-sweetened soft drinks can increase the risk of diabetes and heart diseases, a new study has claimed. According to researchers at the University of California, such drinks — soft, sport and fruit beverages excluding 100 per cent fruit juice — contain between 120 to 200 calories per drink and play a major role in the rising tide of obesity. Estimates presented at the American Heart Association's annual

conference say that the increased consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks between 1990 and 2000 contributed to 1,30,000 new cases of diabetes and 14,000 new cases of coronary heart disease (CHD) in the U.S. over the past decade.

**Unscientific Exploitation Led to Depletion of Medicinal Plants, Thiruvananthapuram:** Unscientific exploitation of forest resources and recurring incidents of forest fires have led to the depletion of medicinal plants in forest areas in the State, according to speakers in a workshop on protection of herbal plants here. Inaugurating the one-day workshop for members of the Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS) under the Kannur Social Forestry Division here on Wednesday, Chief Forest Conservator (Northern Circle) D.K. Varma said that India is a leading country involved in management and protection of medicinal plants as the country has a rich-tradition of Ayurveda-based healing practices. However, the availability of medicinal plants had increased over the years as a result of reduction in the forest areas, encroachment and forest fires. In the State, there were 23 Ayurveda drugs-making companies including Oushadhi in the government sector, he pointed out. Though the State was known to have rich forest areas, herbal medicines from the State's forest areas accounted for only 30 to 40 per cent of the total requirement in the State, he informed. Himalayan region is the other medicinal plants-rich area in the country, he stated. Attributing the decline in the availability of the medicinal plants to unscientific exploitation of forest wealth and recurring incidents of forest fires.

**Wage Rate Under MGNREGA Revised, Delhi:** Rates indexed to Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour. The Centre on Monday revised the wage rate under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act and has decided to amend the Act to remove the existing disparity in minimum wage, even as the matter is scheduled to come up before the Supreme Court on April 9. The revision in the wage rate indexed to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPIAL) will come into effect on April 1 and will prevail for the year 2012-13.

**Solar-powered Boat Launched, Kerala:** An innovative boat, powered by solar energy, was launched in the backwaters off Kochi on Wednesday. The boat, a churulan, a craft made in the conventional style, was equipped with solar panels for continuous operation for four hours.

While several advanced countries are making innovative projects based on



solar energy, it is for the first time that a solar energy-powered craft is being launched in Kerala, said Georgekutty Karianappally, whose solar devices company, Lifeway Solar, provided the idea and equipped the boat with solar energy technology. The boat can carry four passengers apart from the operator, and travel at a speed of 15 km. The boat's design is ideal for travel through rivulets in Kuttanad. It can be pressed into service for tourists, especially foreigners, who would like to see the countryside on boat, he said. The boat was built for a resort based in Kumarakom. Mr. Georgekutty said his company had earlier launched several projects based on solar energy. These include solar incubator, solar milking machine and solar oil heater. ♦

## S.K. Dey

S.K. Dey ((1905-1989) was India's first Union Cabinet minister for Cooperation and Panchyati Raj. Mr. Dey is remembered as the man who pioneered and steered community development in independent India. He firmly believed that democracy cannot be practiced by government servants and stressed that the fruits of democracy ought to reach every village.

### Early life

Born on 13<sup>th</sup> September in Laxmibassa village in present-day Bangladesh, Mr. Dey went on to study engineering at world-renowned institutions- Purdue University and Michigan in the United States of America.

He began his career by serving as the Honorary Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India (1948-51). It was in this post that Mr. Dey proved his mettle as a "social engineer" and was noticed by top government, including then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

### Tenure as Minister

Mr. Dey's vitality and commitment to developing grassroots democracy prompted Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to hand over the reins of Rural Development in newly independent India to Mr. Dey. After Nehru's death, Mr. Dey resigned from the ministry and dedicated his time to build Panchayati Raj institutions in the country.

As minister, his pet project was the Community Development Programme (1953) which would later form the basis of Community Development Blocks across the country. Mr. Dey's concept of community development was rooted in his belief that the community could help itself rather than looking "towards the government as Mai-Baap." Mr. Dey's model of community development is characterized by a three-pronged strategy- development of the area, coordinated administration and development of the individual and the community.

The first Community Development Project was undertaken in Etawah U.P in 1948. During 1952, 55 such projects were taken up across the country. Taking their success into account, the Community Development Programme was scaled up to all blocks in the country.

### Rural Township

In 1949, Mr. Dey designed the concept of an agro-industrial township for rural development. The thrust of this model was its focus on a combination of agriculture and industrial development. The township would be provided support in terms of goods and services by surrounding villages. It would be self-sufficient and function on the basis of cooperation.

This model materialized as the "Mazdoori Manzil" project in 1950, in Nilokheri, Haryana. The project benefitted 7000 homeless refugees from Pakistan. Mr. Dey considered this model to be welfare state in action. Impressed with the model, Nehru termed it to be the "Mecca of Development" and called for the creation of many more Nilokheris across the country. Unfortunately, over the years, Nilokheri has been lost to obscurity and lacks even basic facilities such

as health, water and education.

S.K. Dey appears to have been influenced, on the one hand, by Rabindranath Tagore's Shantiniketan experiment for Rural Development and, on the other, by the Gandhian idea of Rural Construction which laid stress on self-sufficiency and manual labour. It could also be perceived as a Model of Rural Development based on a synthesis of Liberalism, Marxism and Gandhi-ism. Its emphasis on individual liberty seems to have been imbibed from Liberalism, stress on right and duty to work from Marxism and that of small scale cottage and village industries from Gandhi-ism.

### Panchayati Raj

Mr. Dey was a member of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee (1957) that was set up to study the Community Development Programme. The Committee assessed the extent to which the programme had succeeded in utilizing local initiatives and in creating institutions to ensure continuity in the process of improving economic and social conditions in rural areas. The Committee held that community development would be deep and enduring only when the community was involved in the planning, decision-making and implementation process, thus making a case for a strong Panchayati Raj system.

The Balwantrai Mehta Committee proposed a seminal developmental role for Panchayati Raj Institution in rural development and termed these as necessary for the success of community development and national extension programmes.

Mr. Dey attributed philosophical connotations to the Panchayati Raj, which he explained in detail in his book "Panchayat-i-Raj, a Synthesis." He elucidates that the Panchayati Raj was an important link between the individual and the world at large. Mr. Dey visualized an intimate relationship between the Gram Sabha and the Lok Sabha and said that democracy was to flow from the Parliament to the Gram Sabha.

Mr. Dey urged state governments to give priority to establishing PRIs their respective states. By the 1960s, all states had legislated on PRIs and more 2, 17, 300 Panchayats had come into being.

### Other Achievements

Mr. Dey also played an instrumental role in the institution of the National Development Council. Mr. Dey's has made a marked contribution to the field of development journalism by being the guiding force behind "Kurukshestra", the monthly organ of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Mr. Dey was a rare blend of a philosopher and practitioner who played an important role in the nation-building process for more than four decades after Independence. His pioneering contribution to the concept and implementation of rural development and Panchayati Raj merits special attention from social scientists, administrators, political leaders and other stakeholders in the project for rural development and decentralised rural governance. ❖

## The Western Ghats

The Western Ghats are a 150-million year old mountain range in peninsular India. The range stretches from the Tapti River in the North to Kanyakumari in the south.

**Length** 1,600 km N–S  
**Width** 100 km E–W  
**Area** 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> (61,776 sq mi)  
**Highest point** Anamudi  
 (Eravikulam, Idukki, South India, Kerala, India)  
 - elevation 2,695 m (8,842 ft)  
**Lowest point** Palakkad Gap  
 (Palakkad, Palakkad district, South India, Kerala, India) - elevation 300 (984 ft)

Running parallel to the Arabian Sea coast, these mountains are replete with rivers and dense rainforests. They host numerous species of flora and fauna, making it a biodiversity hotspot.



Ghats than the northern parts. The northern part, comprising of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa, major crops grown are jowar, ragi, cereals, sugarcane etc. The southern parts of the Ghats, spanning Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, host a wider variety of crops. The prominent crops cultivated in the southern parts of the Ghats

include a number of horticultural, cash and plantations. Major crops include pepper, cardamom, areca, coconut, mango and jackfruit. Coffee, tea plantations are abundant in Wayanad and Nilgiri ranges.

The Ghats are home to a wide variety of medicinal plants. Many of the herbs in the region are used as key ingredients of Ayurvedic medicines. A plant called Ghanera that is found in the region contains a chemical that is thought to cure cancer.

The Ghats have three major river systems- Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery, these rivers drain 40% of the country and offer cold water fishing grounds. There are 102 species of fish in the water systems of the Ghats. The Ghats are riddled with estuaries of rivers flowing towards the Arabian Sea. These estuaries prove to be a boon for thousand of fishermen living in the Ghats. The Tor Khudree species of fish is endemic to this region.

Being one of the 24 biodiversity hotspots in the world, the Western Ghats attract tourists and wildlife enthusiasts from across the world. Some of the famous wildlife parks located in the Ghats are Wayanad, Periyar, known for their serene landscape and tigers.

Increasing population pressure, mining and rapid, unchecked deforestation are precipitating an ecological disaster in the Western Ghats. Increased human industrial activity is taking a toll on the habitat of the 2,500 variety of animal species found in the forests. Besides population pressure and rapid deforestation, the ecology of the Ghats faces a threat from large development projects, especially dams that are being constructed on the rivers that run through the Ghats.

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forestry had appointed the Western Ghats Ecological Expert Panel (WGEEP) to look into the ecological crisis looming over the region. The panel, in Feb. 2012 recommended that inter-basin connecting of rivers should be put to an end to preserve the ecology of the Ghats. The report of the panel also points to faulty or complete lack of implementation of environmental laws in the region. ❖

The Ghats are 1600 kms long and stretch across Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The rich natural resources of the Ghats have proved to be an abode of wealth for the 442 lakh people dwelling in it. Tribals constitute about 5% of the total population of the Ghats. The major tribes of the region include Kotas, Badagas, Kurumbas and Todas (in the Nilgiri Range), Soligas (Biligiri Rangaswamy range) the Kuruma, Siddis, Paniya Adiya Kuruchiya Kathinayaka (Wayanad), Warli and Bhils (Maharashtra and Gujarat). These tribes dwell in the thick forests of the Ghats. Their livelihoods are closely entwined with the forest- be it NTFP collection or shift cultivation.

The Ghats harbor a wide variety of NTFP that serve as food, raw material and medicine to the people living in the forests. Major NTFP products of the Ghats include honey, lantana wood, beetel nuts, uppage fruit, kokum, halmaddi resin, Malabar nutmeg, etc. Most of the tribes of the Ghats depend on NTFP collection for their livelihoods. However, as is the case in other parts of the country, this is a fast declining livelihood among the tribals. Little value addition is done locally, and much of the produce is sold at rates that are well below the market rates. Many of the NTFP found in the Ghats are used as raw material in larger industries. Added to this is the increasing pressure on the forests in the form of development projects and rising population that are threatening the forests and their products.

Besides NTFP, agriculture is also a major livelihood in the Ghats. The soil composition varies from range to range. In the northern parts of the Ghats, the topography is not as fertile as it is in the southern parts. This is attributed to the fact that more rivers run through the southern parts of the



# To Manoharan With Love!

## Happy Holi! Happy Ugadi!

The streams of thought and work that continued to dominate the month include Six Capitals of the Livelihoods of the poor and the vulnerable and Scaling-up.

*Personally, we are still on our way to come to terms with the reality of not having our dear friend, young but accomplished development saint and an inspiration to many, **Manoharan**, around.*

This is the budget time. Train tariffs increased barring sleeper and 3<sup>rd</sup> AC, thanks to Mamata Didi. Pranab Da's budget confirms that our economy has slowed down a bit to 6.9%. We are a budget that is about Rs. 15,000 billion.

It talks about National Urban Health Mission. Officially National Rural Livelihoods Mission gets budget allocation of about Rs.4300 Crore for the year. Interest subvention to SHGs at 7% (and 3% additionally on timely repayment) is proposed. A Bharat Livelihoods Foundation of India is also proposed to be established for supporting civil society initiatives in 170 tribal-dominant districts. Credit Guarantee Fund is proposed for institutional credit flow for skill development. Providing grants to new knowledge creators is proposed. IRMA would receive Rs.25 Crore as grant. Aadhar is being expanded and is becoming, as feared, as the single window platform for all payments from Government to the individual.

The budget proposes taxing all services except those in the negative list. The negative list includes – services by governments and local governments; recognized education; house rent; entertainment and amusement services; public transportation including metered cabs; and services for agriculture and animal husbandry. Exemptions include – healthcare, services by charities, sportspersons, artists etc., advocates servicing non-business, independent journalists, animal care, car parking, services of business facilitators and correspondents to banks and insurance companies, construction services relating to specified infrastructure and recording films. The service tax is raised to 12.36%.

Census 2011 data is flowing in. India is going through a complex transition. Millions have access to state-of-the-art technologies and consumer goods but a large number lacks access to the most rudimentary facilities.

Despite loud noises on poverty line, Planning Commission states that daily consumption expenditure of Rs.28.35 (urban) and Rs.22.42 (rural) as poverty line. Accordingly, the poor in poverty has decreased by 7%, down to 30%, over the last five years. However, nearly half of the STs and SCs continue to be poor. While all this may have some basis to say, the numbers appear not real. In any case, socio-economic and caste census is in progress right now and let us see what estimates this survey will bring. Government also says that its programmes are delinked from the poverty line, except PDS. Is this so? We thought only the allocations to the states are linked to poverty figures. Government has agreed to set up a committee and look at the entire business once again. Hope the committee

does a more comprehensive job on the crucial issues of who is poor, how many are poor so that targeting improves significantly.

According to Government, the challenges before the country are –

- \* livelihood security for the vast majority of our population and removal of poverty, hunger and illiteracy from our land;
- \* economic security through rapid and broad-based development and creation of productive jobs for our people;
- \* energy security for our rapid growth;
- \* ecological and environmental security, yet realizing our developmental goals;
- \* internal and external security within the framework of a just, plural, secular and inclusive growth.

We can't agree more. We hope our governments and civil society rise to the challenges and work together with the community collectives in achieving these five 'securities'.

1200 tribal delegates from across the country resolved recently - all adivasis

except for regular Government employees should be recognized as being automatically included as poor; no forcible land acquisition and adivasis to be given full rights as stakeholders on minerals under the land in their occupation and area; the full amount of Tribal Sub-Plan of a minimum of 8.5 per cent of the Plan expenditure to cover all Ministries must be given; and fair minimum support price for all minor forest produce.

We have also seen SCs and STs seeking implementation of Sub-plans in AP and Government has responded by sub-committee of Ministers to work on it. Thus, there is a need to enforce these sub-plans for the vulnerable. In fact, we need sub-plans for other vulnerable too – elders, differently-abled, minorities, occupational groups etc., so that they receive the intended allocation surely.

Pranab Da proposed to raise pension to Rs.300/month i.e. Rs.10/day. It is unclear why it is not Rs.30 or so per day at least matching with the 'poverty line'. In any case, TN thought it fit to raise it to Rs.1000/month and Kerala to Rs.900/month. The situation of a widow, disabled or a old person waiting for inclusion as a pensioner under a quota system and therefore they wait for the death of a pensioner to die, is not acceptable. We need to make it universal and we need to make it adequate. There is no other way.

Manoharan spent his time working with the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, particularly adivasis, with faith in their capacity, organizing and nurturing their self-help and collective action. **Let us mobilize and nurture Manoharans (high-calibre young men and women) to stay with them for reasonable periods and offer love.** That will be the fittest tribute we can offer to him. ❖

## Perspectives

G Muralidhar

## Gram Panchayat

The idea of local self-government had existed in India even in ancient times. Even if we accept its beginning as an organizational concept with the Ripon's resolution it is more than a century and two decades old. In its tumultuous career it has seen many ups and downs. In spite of a formal inauguration by the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1959, after the Balvant Rai Mehta committee recommendation in 1957, these institutions could not take proper roots in the country.



Some of the scholars even declared that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) were like failed God. The Janata Government appointed the Ashok Mehta committee to rejuvenate the PRIs. But the 73rd and 74th amendment, which were passed in 1992 and came into force in April 1994, have virtually revolutionized the idea of local self-government - both rural and urban - by bestowing constitutional status on them. These amendments were passed in the

light of the experience of the Local-Self Governing Institutions in India.

The 73rd and 74th amendments also contained provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to rural (Panchayati Raj Institutions) and urban (Nagarpalikas) local self-government institutions. These amendments respectively provided that the Panchayat's at village, block and district levels would have 29 subjects of rural importance as listed in the 11th schedule and municipalities would have 18 subjects of urban importance as listed in the 12th schedule. These amendments bestowed upon the local self-government bodies - both rural and urban - the responsibility to prepare and implement a number of development plans based on the needs of local people.

### **The main features of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act:**

Establishment of a three tier structure (Village Panchayat, Block Samithi and Zilla Parishad) in states which have a population of 20 lakhs and above.

Regular elections to Panchayat's every 5 years.

Reservations of seats for members and offices for chairpersons to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their population.

Reservations of greater than 1/3rd seats for members and offices for chairpersons to women.

Constitution of state finance commissions every five years to recommend measures to improve the finances of Panchayat's.

A State Election Commission has to be constituted in every State and Union Territory (UT), to supervise, direct and control the regular and smooth elections to Panchayat's.

Gram Sabha or village assembly as a deliberative body to decentralize governance has been envisaged as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj System.

To promote bottom-up planning, the District Planning Committee (DPC) in every district has been accorded constitutional status.

An indicative list of 29 items has been given in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Panchayat's are expected to play an effective role in the planning and implementation of works related to these 29 items.

### **Subjects as per Eleventh Schedule (Article 243G)**

1. Agriculture including agricultural extension. 2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation 3. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development 4. Animal Husbandry, dairying and poultry 5. Fisheries 6. Social forestry and farm forestry 7. Minor Forest Produce 8. Small Scale industries including food-processing industries 9.

Khadi, village and cottage industries 10. Rural Housing 11. Drinking Water 12. Fuel and Fodder 13. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication 14. Rural electrification including distribution of electricity 15. Non-conventional energy sources 16. Poverty alleviation programs 17. Education including primary and secondary schools 18. Technical training and vocational education 19. Adult and non-formal education 20. Libraries 21. Cultural activities 22. Markets and fairs 23. Health and Sanitation including hospitals, primary health centers and dispensaries 24. Family Welfare

25. Women and Child Development 26. Social Welfare including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded

27. Welfare of the weaker sections and in particular of the SCs and STs 28. Public Distribution System 29. Maintenance of community assets.

Democracy, decentralization and development are in a triangular relationship.

The PRIs had been functioning in West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh with varying degree of success. But the experience in the field of local self governing institutions is qualitatively different after the 73rd and 74th amendments became acts because they made parliamentary democracy in our country participatory in the real sense. These amendments gave substance and meaning to the local self-governing institutions. These amendments removed the bottlenecks from the paths of empowerment of the weaker sections of society like the Dalits, tribal's and the women.

**Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act** intends to conserve tribals' traditional rights over natural resources like forest, water, land and minerals in their areas. It gives full self-governance powers for the tribal community to provide Rights and livelihoods.

**The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan** envisages channelizing the flow of outlays and benefits from all the sectors of development in the Annual Plans of States/UTs and Central Ministries at least in proportion to their population both in physical and financial terms. Implementation of SCSP and TSP is not being done uniformly in all States/UTs. Different States have adopted different mechanism without exploring effective mechanism which can ensure quantification of funds for SCSP and TSP, monitoring of expenditure, avert diversion of funds to unintended ventures etc.

The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) since evolved in 1979 is aimed at:

(a) Economic development through beneficiary oriented programs for raising their income and creating assets;

(b) Basti-oriented schemes for infrastructure development through provision of drinking water supply, link roads house sites, housing etc.

(c) Educational and Social development: activities like establishment of primary schools, health centers, vocational centers, community halls, women work place etc.

### **Women and Panchayat's**

The President of India in her Address to the Parliament on 4th June, 2009 had mentioned the intent to provide fifty percent reservation for women in Panchayat's as women

suffer multiple deprivations of class, caste and gender. And, enhancing reservation in Panchayat's will lead to more women entering the public sphere.

Accordingly, a Bill to amend Article 243D to provide 50 % reservation for women in seats and also offices of Chairpersons in all 3 tiers of Panchayat's was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.11.2009. Presently, out of approx 28.18 lacs elected representatives of Panchayat's, 36.87% (around 10 lacs) are women. With the proposed Constitutional Amendment, the number of elected women representatives (EWRs) is expected to rise to more than 14 Lakhs. A number of steps are necessary for empowerment of women, such as:

A provision of women component plans in PRI budgets

Linkages with SHGs in all levels of PRIs.

Adequate training and capacity building of EWR

Political parties to put up women candidates

Women candidates be given opportunity to serve a full term

Mahila Sabhas be encouraged to facilitate women's concerns and be raised on priorities in meetings of Gram/Ward Sabhas

Separate quorum for women's participation in Gram/Ward Sabhas.

In many of the states local level functionaries of government departments have been placed under the control of Panchayat's.

### **Functions of PRIs in Gram Panchayat, Block and District Levels:**

**Gram Panchayat** prepares annual development plans for gram panchayat based on Gram Sabha priorities and prepares annual budget for the implementation of plans. It sends annual development plans to block panchayat. It organizes relief activities in natural disasters time.

It removes encroachments of the common properties and resources such as pasture lands, grasslands, graveyards, common pathways, water bodies and forest in the village. It mobilizes community contributions for development works. It plans and implements various schemes for poverty reduction. It conducts Ward Sabha and Gram Sabha meetings to prepare village development and gender responsive plans.

**Block Panchayat** consolidates the gram panchayat annual development plans of the block and prepares annual development plans for block panchayat. It sends the annual plan to the district panchayat. It prepares annual budget for the block panchayat annual development plans.

It receives grants from state and central governments and distributes to the gram panchayats in the block. It ensures time bound utilization of funds in gram panchayats. It organizes block panchayat meetings and also ensures to conduct Gram Sabha, Ward Sabha meetings.

**District Panchayat** prepares district development plans both 5 yearly perspective plan and annual development plan to promote development in rural areas in the district. It coordinates with all concerned departments to prepare and implement the district development plan.

It mobilizes funds from central and state governments and distributes the funds to block and gram panchayats in the district. It gives leadership to the all panchayats in the district at block and village level.

### **Limitations of the Amendments**

In spite of the revolutionary changes brought about by the 73rd Amendment it suffers from some serious limitations. Ambiguity about the functional jurisdiction of Panchayat's is one of its serious limitations. In the absence of properly defined jurisdiction, it is dependent upon the discretion of state legislatures for being assigned the functions. This act does not mention the powers and functions of the Gram Sabha. This amendment mentions that the Gram Sabha will perform the functions which may be assigned to it by the State legislature. The provision relating to Gram Sabha in the laws enacted by most of the states reduce the Gram Sabha to a powerless body which will routinely rubber stamp the decisions taken up by the Gram Panchayat. The Chief Ministers' Conference held in August 1997 at New Delhi ruled that it would be necessary to vest in Gram Sabha the powers to sanction and disburse benefits in open meetings, to decide location of drinking water hand pumps etc without having to refer the matter to officials or other authorities. Even the new amendment does not evolve any source of revenue for the PRIs. It has left these to be considered by the state finance commission. The urban local governing institutions are also faced with paucity due to increase in population and with people from rural areas coming to the cities in search of jobs and better life.

### **Why are the Panchayats not delivering in many States**

Some reasons for their uninspiring performance are:

**Lack of adequate devolution:** Many States have not taken adequate steps to devolve 3Fs to the

PRIs to enable them to discharge their constitutionally stipulated function. Further, it is imperative that the PRIs have resources to match the responsibilities entrusted to them. While SFCs have submitted their recommendations, not many few States have implemented these or taken steps to ensure the PRI's fiscal viability.

### **Effective Devolution:**

i) The number of subjects listed for devolution is less important than securing effective

devolution of functions related to these subjects. States may, therefore, prepare a five-year

plan for effective devolution, aimed at accomplishing full devolution of functions, functionaries and finances for all devolved subjects in pre-determined annual stages over the next five years.

ii) For devolution to the PRIs, there should be a clear demarcation subject-wise of functions devolved to each of the three tiers of the PRIs. Such demarcation would be essential to determining the contingent devolution of functionaries and finances to each of the three tiers of the system. Technically, this is called 'activity mapping'. A working group of the Union Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken a detailed illustrative exercise in activity mapping. Based on that model, States should initiate activity mapping within this calendar year with the aim of completing the exercise as soon as possible.

iii) Devolution should be based on the principle of “subsidiary”, that is, whatever can be accomplished at a lower level should be entrusted to that level. Only that which cannot be effectively implemented at a lower tier might be taken to a higher tier.

iv) Devolution may also be made irreversible: a function once devolved should not be arbitrarily taken back. Therefore, it would be preferable to make provision for devolution through legislation rather than administrative orders.

**Excessive control by bureaucracy:** Wide powers of suspension and dismissal have been vested in the State bureaucracy, placing the PRIs in a position of disadvantage vis-a-vis even middle rung functionaries of the State Governments. In some States, even Gram Panchayat’s have been placed in a position of subordination: Gram Panchayat Sarpanch’s have to spend extraordinary amount of time visiting Block Offices for funds and/or technical approval. These interactions with the Block staff office distort the role of a Sarpanchs as elected representatives.

**Tied nature of funds:** This has two implications. The activities stated under a certain scheme are not always appropriate for all parts of the district. This results in unsuitable activities being promoted or an under-spend of the funds.

**Overwhelming dependency on government funding:** A review of money received and own source funds shows the overwhelming dependence of Panchayats on government funding. When Panchayats do not raise resources and instead receive funds from outside, people are less likely to request a social audit.

**Reluctance to use fiscal powers:** An important power devolved to GP is the right to levy tax on property, business, markets, fairs and also for services provided, like street lighting or public toilets, etc. Very few Panchayats use their fiscal power to levy new taxes. The argument pushed by Panchayat-heads is that it is difficult to levy tax on your own constituency, especially when you live in the community

**Status of the Gram Sabha:** Empowering the Gram Sabhas could have been a powerful weapon for transparency, accountability and for involvement of the marginalized sections. However, a number of the State Acts have not spelt the powers of Gram Sabhas nor have any procedures been laid down for the functioning of these bodies.

Devolution is a form of decentralization which seeks to create independent level of authority of government with functions and responsibilities. It is an arrangement for central or state Governments to relinquish some of its functions to the new units of government that are outside its control. This can be achieved by providing for it in the Constitution itself or by ordinary law of the land. One of the major reasons for the failure of the local self-government institutions in India has been half-hearted devolution of powers to the Panchayat’s as mentioned earlier.

**Relationship between panchayats and citizens / stakeholders groups/ Community based organizations / other civil society bodies:**

A large number of NGOs and stakeholder groups /

community based organizations (CBO) like Self Help Groups, User Groups, SHG’s etc are functioning in the villages. Very often these organizations are involved in implementing various state/central government programs/schemes.

Steps should be taken to institutionalize the coordinating mechanism between such stakeholder groups/ organizations and the Panchayat’s, but the question is Will it be appropriate if these bodies are asked to attend gram Sabha / intermediate Panchayat meetings and brief the members on their ongoing activities in the area? Could they be co-opted as special invitees of the Panchayat’s or their Standing Committees? Do you think it will create an environment of complementarity? What could be the modalities for such interactions? Will the Co-ordination between stakeholders / CBO groups and PRIs will lead to convergence of various development programs in the area? What are the implications if such organizations function under the overall umbrella of the local government?

#### **SHG and PRI:**

States are charged to prepare plans to cover at least one member from each rural BPL family under SHGs during the 11th Five-Year Plan. To cover all the BPL families there is a need to form 20 lakh more SHGs, which is an enormous task in the light of the resource availability and the delivery mechanism that exists.

**Institution Building:** The entire program is built on the foundation of community owned and managed institutions with a role for poor women to take initiatives in planning, implementing and monitoring the development programs. Community institutions have been developed into a four-tier structure.

All SHGs at the hamlet level are organized into a Village Organization (VO). There can be more than one VO in a village, depending on the numbers. The VOs in one Mandal are then federated to form the Mandal Samakhya (MS), which typically has 4,000 to 6,000 women as members. Around 20 MS’s form the Zilla Samakhya (ZS). A key design feature is the deployment of a large number of animators, group leaders, community resource persons, etc selected from the target villages to support the CBOs. The strategy is to ensure that the institutions are formed around a system of local ownership and support and are not dependent on external sources forever.

As of April 2008, the program has mobilized 88 Lakh members into seven Lakh SHGs, 34,269 VOs, 1,086 MSs and 22 ZSs. A unique feature of the program has been the focus on the poorest of the poor, SCs, STs, single women and the disabled. The percentage of total SC and ST households mobilized into SHGs account for 90 per cent of the total of such rural households. These institutional arrangements have enabled the poor to access a range of services, resources and expertise from both the public and the private sector.

**Build on existing livelihoods:** IKP has identified a number of livelihood initiatives, which are aimed

at building on the existing livelihood patterns of the poor. Availing financial support through SHGs, the

households have invested predominantly in agriculture, dairy, non-farm trade, and sheep-rearing with

agriculture and dairy taking a predominant share. The program has contributed to the de-linking of

exploitative inter-linked credit and commodity markets. CBOs are permitted to act as authorized procurement

and marketing agents by line departments and para-statal agencies like the dairy corporation

which assures communities of price benefits. The collective activities have cumulatively benefited about

300,000 poor households in the project area. The turnover has increased from Rs 16 Crore in 2004-'05

to Rs 320 Crore as of March 2008.

**Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA):**  
The major intervention under CMSA has

been promotion of non-pesticide management practices (NPMP) which replace chemical and other external inputs with local knowledge and natural methods of pest management. The partnership between

NGOs and MSs as a community-managed extension program, covers 2.05 Lakh acres benefiting nearly

90,000 farmers. The cost of cultivation has reduced to a substantial extent leading to a 40-to-60-per cent

increase in the income of a farmer.

The sustainable agriculture intervention is now being looked at as a comprehensive program which

is dovetailing various other elements such as natural resource management of soil and water, setting up community seed banks to maintain crop and varietal diversity, post harvest management pilots in paddy

and millet processing and integrating food security programs by supplying essential commodities to

poor households.

#### **Schemes/programs implemented by PRI:**

PRIs implementing major development programs those are related to education, health, housing, employment and livelihoods. The SSA and Right to education focus on the education of girls child and weaker section of society. Health is covered under NRHM and it has impact on working capacity of women. ASHA is working at village level for the pregnant and lactating women. Similarly, MGNREGA is for wage employment and NRLM is for livelihood to improve social status of women by making reservation for them. In livelihoods point of view the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted on August 25, 2005. The Act directs state governments to implement MGNREGA "schemes". Under the MGNREGA many rural poor people are getting livelihood, the Central Government meets the cost towards the payment of wage, 3/4 of material cost and some percentage of administrative cost.

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDIP) which ran from 1980 to 1999 was a comprehensive self-employment scheme targeted at Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Their modified and refined successors – NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) . The conventional approach to the stimulation of rural livelihoods has been

essentially a targeted supply-side one – a pattern sought to be broken by NREGA which has been developed and positioned as a rights-based social security program. A recently introduced program – the Backward Regions Grants Fund (BRGF) – seeks to fill the gaps in infrastructure implementation of programs through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). In addition the government runs a large number of programs aimed at the development of underprivileged castes and communities, undeveloped regions and in sub-sectors with a large number of workers, such as handloom and handicrafts.

Panchayats should take care of livelihoods development for that they can promote collective farming among small and marginal farmers, develop dairy and poultry sector, and ensure accessibility of credit at the time of requirement and forming SHGs and Farmers co-operative for sustainable livelihoods.

#### **Livelihoods and Panchayat:**

##### **Rural Business Hubs**

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992, has mandated Panchayat's as Institutions of Self Government

to plan and implement programs of economic development and social justice. Over 14 years, Panchayat's across the country have achieved varying levels of success in delivering basic services. Though some of Panchayat's have also been promoting economic development of local resources by supporting micro-credit and micro-enterprises etc, government interventions in the directions of promoting rural industry and economic growth have largely been ignored or neglected by the Panchayat's. The need has been to encourage and involve Panchayat's in economic development of rural areas and also to help private and public sector entrepreneurs to link with Panchayat's, for enhancing local business potential. Further the private and public sector lack information and control with elected representatives of the people at the local level.

Therefore, in June 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Hon'ble Prime Minister initiated the concept of the Rural Business Hubs (RBH) aimed to promote rural industries and increase rural non-farm incomes through providing regular livelihood opportunities. RBH involves a bottom-up approach where private, public and Panchayati Raj Institutions participate as main stakeholders. Panchayat's are the local units for decentralized governance at village, block and district levels, and are managed by elected representatives of the people.

The partnership envisages involving local organizations, companies, NGOs and the government for local economic development, through identification of industrial clusters and involving poor households in cluster development. Local firms are thus utilized for enterprise development and augmenting skills of the poor. Infrastructure development is overseen by the Panchayat's, and inward investment is provided through seed capital by the ministry, and further funds flow is envisaged through other official schemes for poverty reduction, regional development and cluster development.

Mostly the PRI's are being the implementing agencies as there is no devolution of power and funds to the PRI's. ❖

## “Zardozi”

Rubina lives in Tekalhalli, Kolar district in Karnataka. She lives with her mother, father and three younger siblings— two brothers and one sister. Rubina is 19 and discontinued school after class eight as her family could not afford to pay school fees. Rubina’s father works as a daily wage labourer in Kolar. Her mother cleans and sells Tamarind. Her siblings are studying currently studying in school.

Rubina used to help her mother out in the tamarind business after quitting school. Their monthly income used to be about Rs. 5,000-6,000 until 2 years ago.

In 2010, Rubina learnt to do “zardozi” work on sarees and dress materials from her cousins. Rubina started to make designs for her family members and neighbours.

One day, she discussed with her mother about starting a small business of embroidery. Her mother agreed and decided to invest in the business. Her mother borrowed a loan of Rs. 2000 from her SHG for starting the enterprise. Initially, Rubina made 5 sarees and sold them for Rs. 600 each.

The raw materials required for the enterprise are needles, threads, beads and sarees. Depending on the design, Rubina takes 3-10 days to complete one saree. On an average, she manages to make at least 4 sarees a month. Sometimes her customers bring a saree to do the work on. On every saree, Rubina earns a minimum profit of Rs. 50. Thanks to her skill, the family income has risen by about Rs. 2000 per month (on an average).

In the future Rubina wants to buy a computerized embroidery machines as it can deliver much more in a month. She also plans to learn to make designs on sarees using fabric paint. It gives Rubina a sense of pride that she is able to support

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Saree	250
Raw Materials	100
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Income</b>	
For small work	350
For large design	600
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>350-600</b>
<b>Profit</b>	<b>50-250</b>

her family in this manner, something rare for women in her community. Besides expanding the variety of her products, Rubina also wishes to teach her younger sister and others in the village this art so that they too can contribute to their families in a similar manner. ❖

## I Plan My Day Well...

Laxmi, 34, lives in Nandyala town, Kurnool district and telling her and her family situation. In an interview with “Livelihoods” she talks about how she overcame challenges arising out of her poverty. She is depending on three livelihoods and working hard for her family.

**Q:** Did you go to school?

**A:** Yes, I studied up to 5<sup>th</sup> standard in a government school in Nandyala. I was not encouraged to study any further as my parents are illiterate did not realize the value of education.

**Q:** Is Nandyala your native place?

**A:** Yes, I was born and brought up in Nandyala in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh. My husband is from Nandyala, so even after marriage I live here.

**Q:** Tell us about your family.

**A:** We are four members in our family- my husband, I and our sons. We live in road-side hut. We have no assets and did not inherit any either. But we hope to create some assets we can pass down to our children, at least a house.

**Q:** What do you do for a living?

**A:** We are poor, and it is difficult to make ends meet. I work as a daily wage labour, sell flowers and make stone grinders. Most of time goes in working as a daily wage labour

**Q:** What do your family members do?

**A:** My husband is working in a motor mechanic shop. Our sons are studying in a government school. My children are helping me in my work.

**Q:** How much do you earn in a month?

**A:** I earn approximately Rs 2500-3000 in a month. We are saving money for children's education.

**Q:** Tell us about your flowers business.

**A:** Every day I sell flowers at the temple. I am earning Rs 500-600 a month from this occupation.

**Q:** Tell us about your stone grinder business.

**A:** I make stone grinders after coming home from the fields (where I work as a labourer). At times, when there is not labour work available, I spend the whole day making stone grinders.

**Q:** Where did you learn to make stone grinders?

**A:** My mother used to make stone grinders and I learnt from her in my childhood. I used to help her back then.

**Q:** How do you sell the stone grinders?

**A:** People come to my home to purchase the stone grinders. Nowadays people prefer electric mixer grinder and wet grinders. There is a very small market for stone grinders and this makes matters worse for us.

**Q:** How do you manage three occupations?

**A:** In the morning, I sell flowers. After 10 o'clock I go for labour work (agriculture work and construction work) and in the evening I make stone grinders at my home.

In a month I make 10-15 stone grinders. I sell on grinder at Rs 150-200. I sell 10-15 stone grinders in a month. I bring raw material from nearby Thadipathri village. At a time I buy raw material worth Rs 5000. Sometimes, if I get the time and energy, I make more than 15 stone grinders.

My husband and children support and help me in my work. I plan my 24hrs plan correctly.

**Q:** Have you joined any SHG?

**A:** No, I have no awareness on SHGs, though I heard a woman talking about them at work one day. I am not getting any government benefits either.

**Q:** What kind of problems are you facing?

**A:** We have no house of our own and we are living in an unsafe place. Our house does not protect us from the sharp heat of the summer, the moist of the monsoon or the chill of the winter.

**Q:** What are your future plans?

**A:** We want our own house and will give good education for our children. There are a lot of bank and other coaching centers in Nandyala. I see there is potential for a small tea stall in student areas. My husband is considering starting his own mechanic shop. For these plans to materialize, we need a good amount of credit to invest. ❖





# Bangles

Bangles are traditional ornaments worn mostly by South Asian women especially Hindus. In South Asian culture, bangles hold a special significance that indicate a woman's marital status.

Bangles are circular in shape, and, unlike bracelets, are not flexible. The word is derived from Hindi *bungrī* (glass). They are made of numerous precious as well as non-precious materials such as gold, silver, platinum, glass, wood, ferrous metals, plastic, etc. Bangles made from sea shell, which are white colour, are worn by married Bengali Hindu women.

Bangles are part of traditional Indian jewellery. They are usually worn in pairs by women, one or more on each arm. Most Indian women prefer wearing either gold or glass bangles or combination of both. Inexpensive bangles made from plastic are slowly replacing those made by glass, but the ones made of glass are still preferred for traditional occasions such as marriages and festivals.

During an Indian wedding, the bride tries to wear the smallest glass bangles using scented oil. It's believed that smaller bangles symbolize a happy and loving marriage and a wonderful courtship. The South Indian ceremony called *Valaikaapu* (bangle ceremony) occurs during the seventh month of a woman's pregnancy. The family celebrates, and bangles of all colors and designs are stacked on the woman's wrists which means she carries all the love of her husband along with her while going to her mother's house. Another factor about the bangles is that it is considered inauspicious for a woman to have bare arms without bangles. To the Hindu woman, bangle is not only an ornament, but also an important part of womanhood and honor.

The designs of bangles range from simple to intricate handmade designs, often studded with precious and semi-precious stones such as diamonds, gems and pearls. Sets of expensive bangles made of gold and silver make a jingling sound. The imitation jewellery, tend to make a tinny sound when jingled.

The largest glass bangles producing centre in India is Firozabad, located in Uttar Pradesh. A historical bangle market called *Laad Bazar* is located in Hyderabad, India, and has been operational for over 500 years.



There are several types of bangles- Acrylic Bangles, Glass Bangles, Aluminium Bangles, Gold & Silver Bangles, Sealing wax Bangles and Wooden Bangles

## GLASS BANGLES

Glass Bangles are made out of block glass of different shades of colors or directly from batch materials. These are round in shape with pleasing colors and designs over the surface. It is customary for ladies, especially Hindu ladies to wear bangles from their childhood for ornamental decoration.

Glass bangle making is an extensive process that requires fine skills. It is highly labour intensive, comprising of mixing of batch material like sand, soda, ash, lime, fedspar, borax etc. with other additives in suitable proportion, and melting in a pot furnace at a temperature of about 1350°C. The molten glass is drawn from the furnace with the help of iron pipe and formed into gob to get required quantity of glass for formation into parisons on iron plates. The parisons of different colours are joined together and reheated in an auxiliary furnace to obtain required designs. The reheated parisons is then transferred to 'Belan Furnace' from which the glass is further drawn into spirals of bangles on the spindle mounted and rotated manually at uniform rate of revolution synchronizing with the continuous supply of molten glass for formation of spiral at the other end of the furnace. The size of the bangles mainly depends upon the diameter of the spindle used in the formation of spirals. Spirals are then taken out from the spindle and cut to obtain bangles. The cut bangles are then send for joining of ends,



belonging to Bhumij, Mo, Oraon, Munda, and Santal tribes.

Lac bangles are made plain or with lehariya designs on them or studded with glass, precious and semi-precious stones.

Lakhera or laheri is the hereditary artisan community of Hindus involved in lac bangle making in Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Lac bangles are worn by Hindus. In Rajasthan lac bangles are made by Muslims and worn by Hindus.

Rajasthan – Jaipur and Ajmer are important centres.

· Bihar - Muzafarpur, Laheriasarai, Madhubani, and Lakhisarai are

finishing, decoration etc. The finished products are then neatly packed or made into toras for sale.

Glass Bangles are the item of mass consumption throughout the country. The demand for the Glass Bangles generally goes up during festive season and specially functions, marriage occasions etc. In spite of the competition from plastic and other bangles, the demand for Glass Bangles is ever increasing in view of established characterised customary and auspicious status gained by it in the society. The demand of Glass Bangles in foreign countries is also increasing. It is expected that in near future, the demand of Glass Bangles in foreign countries will increase. As the production is based on manual operation and the necessary skills are available in the country only, this product while exporting may earn good revenue.

## LAC BANGLES

Lac is a resinous substance secreted by an insect called kerria lacca. Lac is the source of resin, wax, and dye. It collected from forests in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, and Assam.

Lac bangles from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Hyderabad, and Bihar are extremely popular. Jaipur is a big centre for lac bangles. They are considered a sign of good omen and are worn by married women on all auspicious occasions in Gujarat and Rajasthan with red and green being the traditional colors. In Bihar, lac refuse called kiri forms the core of the lac bangles. The outer colored layer of the bangle is made out of better quality lac. Traditionally, lac bangles in Bihar are worn by married women

especially well known for this

craft (locally called lahathi).

· Hyderabad – Lad bazaar in old city is the main production centre and market for lac bangles.

The base is made in pure lac and embellished with glass pieces of various shapes.

Lac bangles are considered auspicious in several cultures



## Bangle Sellers Are We..

Bangle sellers are we who bear  
Our shining loads to the temple fair...  
Who will buy these delicate, bright  
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?  
Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,  
For happy daughters and happy wives.

Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,  
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,  
Some are flushed like the buds that dream  
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,  
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves  
To the limpid glory of new born leaves

Some are like fields of sunlit corn,  
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,  
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,  
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

Some are purple and gold flecked grey  
For she who has journeyed through life midway,  
Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest,  
And cradled fair sons on her faithful breast,  
And serves her household in fruitful pride,  
And worships the gods at her husband's side.  
-Sarojini Naidu

of the country and therefore popular during marriage ceremonies in regions like Rajasthan, Hyderabad, and Bihar. In Rajasthan lac bangles continue to be popular among married women. They are preferred as they are soothing to wear and do not cause infections or itchiness like in the case of plastic or glass bangles.

Apart from being worn in ceremonial functions, traditional designs are not so popular today. Traditional colors have been replaced by a whole array of pastels and other colors preferred by customers today. Sequins, semi-precious stones, and glass work on lac bangles is quite popular today in Rajasthan and Hyderabad.

In the Old City of Hyderabad, once a main center for lac bangles, the number of families practicing the craft has declined substantially. The demand for lac bangles has however increased in the international market. A number of lac artisans have migrated to Gulf countries from Hyderabad in search of bangle making jobs.

### Plastic Bangles:

Plastic bangles have a good market as they are available in different designs and colours for different occasions and seasons. In manufacturing plastic bangles, acrylic pipes of different diameters are cut as per the demanded market size and thickness, which are engraved and polished and ultimately packed for market. ❖

## 8 March International Women's Day



# Budget 2012: Implication on RD schemes

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of programs in rural areas through for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitant development, provision of basic minimum services etc.

The important programmes presently being implemented by the Ministry are Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Rural Housing (Indira Awaas Yojana), DRDA

Administration, Training Schemes, Promotion of Voluntary Schemes and Social Action Programme, organization of beneficiaries, advancement and dissemination of rural technology through CAPART, Monitoring mechanism.

PMGSY is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity to all unconnected habitations in rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons (250 persons in hill states) through good, all-weather roads. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self employment programme for the rural poorthat has now been restructured as the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

The Ministry recognizes housing as one of the basic requirements for human security that is unavailable to a large number of poor in the country. With the motive of providing shelter to all BPL families, the Ministry introduced has taken measures to ensure the conversion of all unserviceable kuccha houses into pucca houses by the end of 11th plan period (2007-2012). The plan is being implemented through various programmes such as Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Credit cum Subsidy Scheme for Rural Housing, Innovative Scheme for Rural Housing and Habitat Development, Rural Building Centres, Equity Contribution by Ministry of Rural Development to HUDCO and National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat.

In India, a growing population has translated into a large number of potential workforce being unemployed. The country is seeking to reap this demographic dividend by providing basic skill building and providing employment to unemployed youth in the service sector. Skill development constitutes an important strategy in India's efforts towards poverty reduction.

To ensure that the programme implementation reflects the needs and aspirations of the local people the Panchayati Raj Institutions are considered as an important tool for the

implementation of the programmes of the Ministry most of the rural development programmes, a crucial role has been assigned to PRIs for programme implementation. The State governments are being persuaded to delegate adequate administrative and financial powers to PRIs. .

Ministry of Rural Development had a total budget (2011-12)

Ministry of Rural Development			
Sl.No	Name of the Department	2011-2012 Rs in Cr	
		B.E	R.E
1	Department of Rural development	74,100.00	67,157.29
2	Department of Land resources	2,700.00	2,425.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>76,800.00</b>	<b>69,582.29</b>

of Rs.87800 crore. Out of this total outlay, rural development itself has Rs.74100 crore (RE-Rs.67157.29 crore), land resources has 2700 (RE-Rs.2425 crore) crore and drinking water supply is Rs.11000 crore. In the revised estimates it has been observed that the department was unable to spend its entire budget to an extent of Rs.7000 crore. This is a sad trend indicating at lack of planning in the ministry.

Three major components of rural development budget are MGNREGS, PMGSY and Rural housing these three constitute Rs.70, 000 crore- which is nearly 95% of total rural development budget (Rs.74100 crore). Of these MGNREGS has the most major share with much of its funds infused as daily wages.

In this year's budget Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was identified as major thrust areas for the Government to ensure sustainable and more inclusive growth. Both Rural development and Panchayati Raj were emphasized upon to large extent in the Union 2012-13 presented by the Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 16 March 2012.

The Union Budget 2012-13 announced a major initiative to strengthen Panchayats across the country through Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat SASHaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA). Swarnajayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY) was restructured into National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to provide self employment opportunities. Pranab Mukherjee proposed to increase the allocation of NRLM by over 34 percent to Rs. 3915 crores in 2012-13.

## Budgetary Provisions for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

Budgetary allocation for rural drinking water and sanitation increased from Rs 11000 crore to Rs 14000 crore marking an increase of over 27 per cent.

The Union Budget 2012-13 proposed increase in allocation

Department of Rural Development			
Sl. No	Department	2011-2012 RS in Cr	
		B.E	R.E
1	Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	400 00	31000
2	National Rural Livelihoods Mission (Ajeevika)	291 4	2681.2 9
3	DRDA Administration	461	550
4	Rural Housing	100 00	10000
5	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	200 00	20000
6	Grants to National Institute of Rural Development	105	81
7	Assistance to C.A.P.A.R.T	100	35
8	PURA	100	90
9	Management support to RD programme and strengthening district planning process	120	120
10	BPL survey	300	2600
	<b>Total plan RD</b>	<b>741 00</b>	<b>67157. 29</b>

In the Union Budget 2012-13 the Finance Minister proposed an increase in allocation by 21.7 per cent for Right to Education – SarvaShikshaAbhiyan to Rs.25555 crore. Increase in allocation by 29 per cent for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan to Rs. 3124 crore was also proposed. He proposed to set up a Credit Guarantee Fund to ensure better flow of funds to students. The proposed to increase the allocation for NRHM to Rs.20822 crore in 2012-13. He also announced the launch of National Urban Health Mission and declared that no new case of polio was reported in last one year.

With agriculture in crisis, India needs to create lots of jobs in the rural non-farm sector. The mobile revolution is reducing information asymmetries. Other forms of

for by 20 per cent to Rs.24000 crore to improve connectivity.

access are in various stages of progress. As for credit, while the government has been on a large drive to open bank accounts, it is still unclear whether this is translating

Major initiative was proposed to strengthen Panchayats

Department of Land Resources			
Sl.No	Name of the Department	2011-2012 Rs in Cr	
		B.E	R.E
1	Integrated Watershed Management Programme	2549.2	2314.2
2	National Land Records Modernisation Programme(NLRMP)	150	110
3	National Rehabilitation Policy	0.5	0.5
4	Bio Fuel	0.3	0.3
	<b>Total Land Resources</b>	<b>2700</b>	<b>2425</b>

through Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan.

The budget stated the continuance of Backward Regions Grant Fund scheme in twelfth plan with enhanced allocation of Rs 12040 crore in 2012-13, thereby representing an increase of 22 per cent over the budgetary expenditure of 2011-12.

The Union Budget also proposed allocation under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to be enhanced to Rs 20000 crore.

For creating warehousing facilities in rural areas, the Finance Minister proposed to earmark an amount of Rs. 5000 crores from the enhanced allocation of Rs. 20000 crores under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

into meaningful financial inclusion. A big question here is whether these linkages can by themselves catalyse the formation of small enterprises or if villagers need further handholding.

Rural roads under PMGSY must be considered as connectivity will improve the access and hence better facilities and income if governed properly. Emphasis is to be on efficient monitoring of construction and quality of roads and houses built. Market linkages in rural areas, the government and some of its arms have been rolling out a set of new missions. In 2011, the government at the Centre rolled out the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which is designed to support small enterprises around farm and non-farm products. ❖

# Handloom Budget Analysis

While the government is talking of tough decisions to reduce subsidies, it is also increasing taxes, especially service tax from 10 to 12%. Overall, it is expecting Rs.7,71,000 crores from taxes. This is an increase of 26% from 2010-11. Highest contribution is coming from service tax. Wealth tax is mere Rs.1200 crores. Who is paying this service tax? On the other hand, revenue foregone (that is exemptions) in 2010-11 has gone up to Rs.5,22,810 crores.

Total subsidies are Rs.1,90,015 crores only (including fertilizer, food, petroleum, interest and others). Compare this, with exemptions to companies as estimated for 2011-12 total Rs.5,39,552 crores (corporate income tax, excise, customs and export promotion). Within this, and because of these exemptions, the effective tax rate for just 239 companies (above Rs.500 crore turnover is 22.1%), which means the bigger you are the lesser tax is paid. Government says the effective tax rate for corporate has been gradually rising (20.55% for 2006-07; 22.44% for 2007-08; 22.78% for 2008-09; 23.53% for 2009-10 and 24.1% for 2010-11). This means for years, corporates in India have been getting subsidies, and becoming richer, even while the government 'struggles' to increase its tax recoveries.

Summarily, everyone is paying taxes, except the rich corporates, and the employs of these rich corporates. No doubt, this budget a "red carpet roll out" for private accumulation of wealth, by robbing public, natural resources.

## Handloom sector

Today, Pranab Mukherjee has presented the budget for the year 2012-13, in the Parliament. I am trying to analyse the allocations to handloom sector, and share with you. The following is the table of allocations:

### Observations:

1. Loan waiver package is a mere Rs.2205 crores, even though prior to UP and other State elections, government has announced a Rs.6800 crore package. At that time, we had observed that this package needs to be reconsidered, and also the allocation for such package is a mere 6 percent of the total annual turnover volume of handloom sector. Nevertheless, we welcomed such a package. In this budget 2012-13, even this amount has not been provided for.
2. Last year, in 2011-12, an amount of Rs.360 crore was allocated under this same provision.
3. A very good and welcome step is increasing the allocation for Mill Gate Price Scheme, from Rs.55 crores to Rs.350 crores.
4. In his budget speech, Finance Minister mentions inclusion of two mega clusters. However, the budget increase is a mere Rs.40 crores. This scheme has

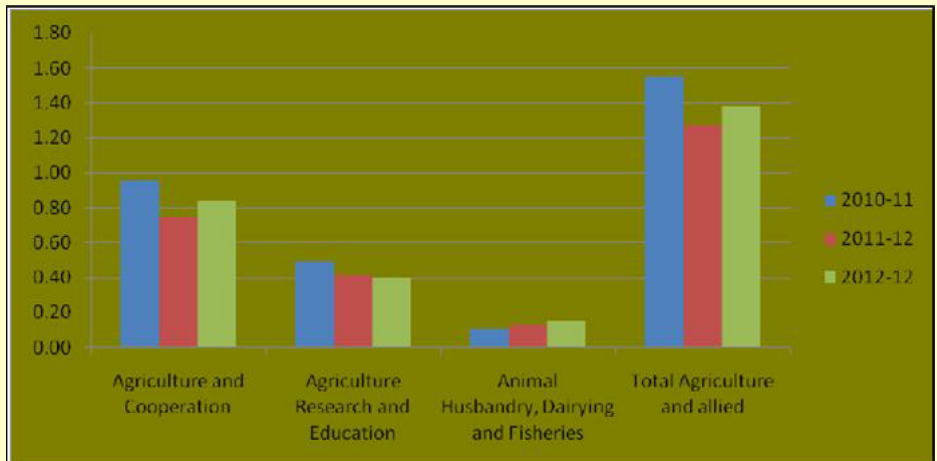
been running without a proper direction, with more and more cluster additions based on political recommendations.

5. Unfortunately, the allocation for welfare schemes is being reduced, from Rs.125 crores current year to Rs.105 crores for the coming year. There is a gradual and deliberate reduction in allocations for handloom weaver welfare.

6. Number of schemes have been reduced drastically, to a mere 3 major schemes.

### Opinion

Handloom sector gets a whopping Rs.2960 crore allocation. It is equal to (just a little above) last 8 years of allocations together. Our 8 years of continuous monitoring and feedback efforts seem to have paid off. However, in comparison to the need, it is too little and has come rather late. The situation is akin to a severely malnourished child being given a plateful of tasty, oil rich food. While we can appreciate the generosity, the child to recover requires critical doses of liquid, energy food. Maybe later, the child would



be able to digest the food given now. Summarily, the allocation for handloom is better, but the ingredients do not help in the revival of handloom sector.

From the below shown graph, it can be seen that allocations to agriculture and allied services, in

total and separately, as a percentage of total central government allocations is decreasing. In 2010-11, the share of spending on agriculture and allied sectors is 1.55 percent of the total central government spending. This share has dropped to 1.28 percent in 2011-12 allocations and has increased marginally to 1.38 percent in 2012-13. Overall, there is decrease in the share by 0.17 percent. Similarly, decrease for department of Agriculture and Cooperation is 0.95, 0.74 and 0.83 percent in that order, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. For Agricultural research the decrease is 0.49, 0.41 and 0.41 in the same order. For animal husbandry, fisheries and livestock, it is 0.11, 0.12 and 0.15, a better situation. As suicides are increasing, and farming is in dire straits, central government allocations are decreasing, notwithstanding the rhetoric and number game. ❖

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# State Institutes of Rural Development

*State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD)* is the nodal agency in imparting training and capacity building to the different stakeholders of the development sector for better implementation of the services to the rural poor. There are 28 SIRDs in the country— one in each state— all of which were established after 1980. Few of them are extended departments of state rural ministries whereas some came into existence independently.

The mission of the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) is to focus on qualitative development in the ongoing rural development schemes and sensitizing the elected representatives of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) by providing capacity building.

Capacity building is considered a vital part of the development efforts as it empowers stakeholders through knowledge dissemination, making the delivery system more efficient and thus drive towards better end results.

Majority of the SIRDs are working under Rural Development & Panchayati Raj department of respective states and few states have established SIRDs as an autonomous body. Though the main objective of all the institutes is serving rural population through training, research and analysis in the rural development sector each one of them have their specific mandates with slight differences. SIRDs also provides consultancy services in rural development sector of their respective states. The article will discuss about its genesis, major activities and finally its importance in the context of rural development.

## **Context:**

SIRDs work with following objectives with slight differences in their mandates.

To train Officials, Elected Representatives and NGOs with Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.

To undertake Research Studies on Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.

To promote creative thinking on Panchayati Raj and Rural Development by organizing Seminars, Workshops and Conferences.

To collect and disseminate information and material on Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.

To undertake evaluation studies of various programmes of Rural Development and functioning of Panchayati Raj.

To prepare print and publish papers, reference materials, training modules and books on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Some of the major activities undertaken by SIRD are listed below:

Conduct training programs, conferences, seminars and workshops

Organize, aid, promote and research

Analyze and propose solutions in implementing rural development and Panchayati Raj programs

Disseminate information through magazines, reports, books and others publications

## **Functions of SIRD:**

### **Training:**

SIRD conducts various training programs on rural development and decentralized governance for the representatives of Panchayat Raj institutions, rural development functionaries, NGOs, bankers and rural micro credit institutions.

### **Research:**

SIRD conducts field based research which is an important part in rural development policy formulations. It also conducts impact assessment studies under research work.

### **Consultancy:**

SIRD provides consultancy services to various regional, national and international organizations.

The institute provides intensive training using contemporary methodologies and technologies to suit different program requirements. The form, content and delivery mechanism of the program is developed with the assistance of panel of experts from the same field. The training methodology has a mix of innovative and successful forms of knowledge dissemination like presentations, panel discussions, demonstrations, lectures, case-studies, role-plays, experience sharing, brain storming. Field exposure is extensively used in the training process with emphasis on participatory and interactive learning components.

Rural Development Department and Panchayat Raj Department of the government have initiated many efforts for the training of functionaries for the state sponsored and special schemes and these training programs are given priority in the training activity of SIRD. A few significant titles of train-

### Training programmes by SIRDs/ETCs in 2009-10 and 2010-11

STATE	2009-10		2010-11	
	Number	Participants	Number	Participants
Andhra Pradesh	6,885	262,565	4,050	201,306
Arunachal Pradesh	44	3,464	33	1,431
Assam	1,149	56,443	982	37,286
Bihar	0	0	66	1,869
Chattisgarh	1,437	53,345	2,457	91,684
Goa	158	7,983	120	6,910
Gujarat	533	61,340	528	18,041
Haryana	389	27,445	932	55,136
Himachal Pradesh	45	3,191	121	4,189
Jammu & Kashmir	203	7,099	119	4,538
Jharkhand	27	1,334	16	543
Karnataka	276	115,342	2,591	87,611
Kerala	1,111	44,490	1,312	70,172

ing programs conducted by SIRD are listed below:

Workshop on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

Course on Managerial Skills

Course on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Course on Computer Applications in Rural Development and PR

Course on Implementation of Rural Development Programs

Course on Rural Development Schemes and Guidelines for PRIs

Course on Financial Management and Audit in PRIs

Course on Leadership and Organizational Development

Course on Panchayat Raj Finances

Course on Management of Micro Credit and Micro Enterprises in SGSY

Course on Marketing Management of Micro enterprises in SGSY

Course on Rural Engineering

Each SIRD on an average conducts 1500 trainings per year on different subjects relevant to the development sector.

#### Brief of Achievements by SIRDs:

In the year 2009-10 all SIRDs together conducted 27,065 trainings for 13,72,251 rural development stakeholders which has increased in the succeeding years to

24,174 & 11,25,579 respectively. Apart from training, all SIRDs have contributed through consultancy work as mentioned earlier.

#### Financials of SIRDs:

The SIRDs are supported through MORD grants transferred through NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development) by the government. State rural department contribute the minimum percentage of budget share and the rest is by central government.

#### SIRD Status Report by NIRD:

The **MoRD** had set up 6 sub groups for re-vamping of NIRD, Hyderabad, SIRDs and ETCs. NIRD appraised the performance of all SIRDs based on various parameters such as trainings conducted in last six years, use of IEC, level of participants, quality of training etc. and it came up with following results in the year 2009

**Strong SIRD:** AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, M.P., Tamilnadu, U.P. & W.B.

**Medium SIRD:** Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat, H.P., J & K, Kerala, Orissa & Rajasthan

**Weak SIRDs:** Arunachal, Assam, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagland, Punjab, Sikkim & Tripura

One Stream: Arunachal, Assam, Haryana, Goa, H.P., J & K, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagland, Sikkim, Tripura, Mizoram

Two Stream: A.P., Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, and

### Releases made to SIRDs during the last two year (Rs. In Lakh)

Year	Recurring	Non Recurring	OTC*	TSST**	Total
2009-10	1,291.05	1,131.79	39.55	--	2,462.39
2010-11	1,796.95	2,422.57	294.86	245.95	4,760.33
Total	3,088.00	3,554.36	334.41	245.95	7222.72

\* OTC- Organization of Training Courses

\*\* TSST- Training Support Services with Technology



W.B. revised format online through the web site [www.ruraldiksha.nic](http://www.ruraldiksha.nic).

Three Stream: M.P. & U.P.

**Initiatives of SIRD for 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan:**

Training Need Assessment (TNA) to be taken up by States

Madhya Pradesh	2,779	186,512	1,205	41,619
Maharashtra	1,105	50,543	910	33,122
Manipur	67	2,819	37	1,528
Meghalaya	57	2,239	47	2,537
Mizoram	74	5,011	68	5,207
Nagaland	66	4,088	51	2,909
Orissa	523	17,680	1,848	69,584
Punjab	1,264	59,328	1,521	155,081
Rajasthan	97	4,781	106	4,682
Sikkim	50	2,832	146	7,250
Tamil Nadu	882	45,442	1,430	51,103
Tripura	13	367	3	50
Uttar Pradesh	7,495	337,542	2,871	147,893
Uttarakhand	179	5,228	442	17,749
West Bengal	157	3,798	162	4,549
Total	27,065	1,372,251	24,174	1,125,579

2.SIRDs to share training material with other SIRDs and ETCs. 3. Develop Computer Based Training Modules with the help of expertise of NIRD and APARD, Hyderabad.

**Conclusion:**

Since inception SIRDs have been continuously contributing and positively impacting rural development programs in the states. Even today it is the most important agency when it comes to training and capacity building. Yet there is scope for innovation and research at ground level to improve the implementation of welfare schemes.

The most important initiative of SIRD is to accelerate training in selected Block under Lab to Land initiative. SIRDs are going to furnish Training Action Plan and Budget for 12th Five Year Plan (2013-18). Going forward they have decided to develop resource persons in specialized disciplines to tackle the issue of quality faculty. Apart from these, following initiatives are in the pipeline-

Currently SIRDs are facing problems as rightly pointed out by NIRD in terms of quality of training, academic faculty, timely deliver of services. Government and management team of SIRDs need to work upon this area. To achieve financial stability SIRDs should try to get funds in terms of direct grants. This will help in achieving the vision with no constraints and become the premier institute for knowledge dissemination in the development sector. ❖

SIRDs have decided to send Monthly Progress Report in

**March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**



## Small-Holder Poultry Rearing

Workshop on Small-Holder Poultry Rearing: A Sustainable Livelihood Opportunity for the Rural Poor New Delhi, India 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 Convened by: South Asia Pro Poor Livestock Policy Programme (a joint initiative of the National Dairy Development Board and FAO) Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) National Small-holder Poultry Development Trust. The South Asia Pro Poor Livestock Policy Programme, Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), and the National Small-holder Poultry Development Trust (NSPDT), jointly convened a workshop on 'Small-Holder Poultry Rearing: A Sustainable Livelihood Opportunity for the Rural Poor', in New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The workshop was designed with the objective of building awareness on the immense potential of poultry rearing as a viable income earning opportunity for the rural poor, identifying opportunities that the poultry sector presents, and planning what needs to be done to enable small-holders to participate in and benefit from an expanding poultry market. Over 80 participants from government programmes and research institutions, NGOs and donor agencies attended the day-long workshop, which was inaugurated by Dr. Amarjeet Singh Nanda,

Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Government of India, who also delivered the workshop key-note address. In his address, Dr. Nanda highlighted the significant growth in the poultry sector in recent years, and its transformation from a household-level production system into a major commercial activity. The poultry sector currently provides employment to over three million people in the country, and is one of the fastest growing economic sectors, averaging a growth rate of 10-15 percent per annum over the last decade.

The rapid advancement of the poultry sector has however largely by-passed the poor, for whom poultry rearing has been a traditional livelihood activity, contributing significantly to household food and nutrition security. While poultry rearing is recognized as a key poverty reduction strategy, with a number of schemes on poultry development and promotion, the high growth in the sector is currently confined to the commercial, organized sector. This is largely on account of the poor risk bearing capacity of smallholders, the lack of a coordinated supply of inputs, extension and market services, and limited access to new knowledge and technology by small-holders. To enable small-holders to effectively participate in and benefit from the rapidly expanding poultry sector, a distinctly designed

approach is required that is based on the existing knowledge, resources, access to inputs and markets, and enables smallholders to graduate from a nutrition and food security focused intervention, to a livelihood and income earning intervention.

Dr. Nanda further highlighted the key elements of profitable and sustainable poultry rearing models for small-holders, commencing with a description of a low input/ low output poultry production system that focused on the rearing of desi (non-descript) birds. This is an auto-run system that requires no or negligible investment. Birds are dual purpose, and are raised for both meat and eggs. Being native to the environment, these birds demonstrate high levels of adaptability. This production system meets critical household food and nutrition security needs and 'emergency' income requirements. Similar to the system of rearing desi (non-descript) birds, is the rearing of indigenous poultry breeds, a wide variety of which are found in India

Poultry production systems that are based on improved breeds, with relatively higher productivity, require moderate inputs (particularly related to sourcing of birds, feed, health services and access to markets). High input/ high output poultry production systems are dependent on strong backward and forward linkages, and necessarily require that aspects related to sourcing of birds, health services, feed and market access are ensured.

Over the last two decades South Asian economies have been growing at an average rate of over 6 percent per year, with gains in real per capita income ranging from 2.5 to 5 percent per annum. While structural transformations have led to the industry and service sectors now contributing the most to gross domestic production, agriculture remains a critical component, accounting for about 20 percent of the GDP. The largest majority of poor households continue to depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, directly or indirectly<sup>1</sup> and investments in agriculture are recognized as an effective strategy for poverty reduction.

The capacity of agriculture to contribute to poverty reduction does not only depend on the overall rate of growth, but also on the ability of poor households to participate in that growth, i.e. on the quality or inclusiveness of the growth process. Under this perspective, investing in small-scale farming is possibly one of the most effective strategies to sustain an inclusive growth of the agricultural sector, since small farmers and the landless represent a

large share of rural households in South Asia.

In recent years, changes have also been occurring within the agricultural sector, with fruits, vegetables, fish, meat and dairy products gaining importance. The contribution of the livestock sector to the GDP is approximately 4.5 percent, and the sector employs about 5.5 percent of the workforce<sup>3</sup>. Given past and projected trends in the demand for animal protein, targeted investments in the livestock sector appear promising to nurture a pro-poor, market-oriented and sustainable growth of agriculture.

There is evidence that investments in smallscale poultry farming can generate handsome returns and contribute to poverty reduction and increased food and nutrition security in regions where a large share of the population rears poultry birds<sup>4</sup>. In India, it is estimated that over 50 percent of landless and marginal farmers depend on poultry and small ruminant rearing and with the increasing demand for meat and eggs, the poultry sector provides direct employment to over two million people<sup>5</sup>. The Eleventh Five Year Plan targets an annual growth of 10 percent in the poultry sector, stressing that the benefit of this growth should be equitable, primarily benefiting small and marginal farmers, and the landless.

The potential contribution of poultry to the livelihoods of the rural poor, however, remains largely unexploited, because of pervasive animal diseases, poor husbandry practices, limited access to critical inputs and absence of effective market linkages. The untapped potential of rural poultry production in India and its significant contribution to nutritional requirements and supplementary income is well articulated in the National Livestock Policy (2008) (Final Draft).

With the objectives of building awareness, identifying opportunities that the poultry sector presents, and planning what needs to be done to enable small-holders to participate effectively in and benefit from an expanding market, the South Asia Pro Poor Livestock Policy Programme (a joint initiative of the National Dairy Development Board and FAO), the National Resource Centre for Rural Livelihoods (NRCRL) and the National Small-holder Poultry Development Trust, are jointly convening a workshop on small-holder poultry rearing in New Delhi on 28th December 2010. The workshop seeks to centre-stage the contribution of poultry rearing as a sustainable livelihood opportunity for the rural poor, building on the significant experience gained and lessons learnt by SA PPLP and PRADAN. While SA PPLP's work has focused on the identification, documentation and dissemination of good practices on small-holder poultry rearing in the South Asian region, PRADAN has designed and implemented a community-led small-holder poultry initiative across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand

and Chhattisgarh, directly benefiting over 5000 small and marginal farmers, all of whom are women organized into 20 cooperatives and two federations.

In addition to an overview of the poultry sector and a mapping of potential opportunities for small-holders, the workshop will showcase interventions from across the country and within the South Asian region where targeted support to small-holders either through the provision of support services (vaccination and health services, extension and credit), improved husbandry and feed practices, often building on local knowledge systems, collectivization to achieve economies of scale and facilitating market linkages has led to significant improvements in food, nutrition and income security for the rural poor. These interventions demonstrate that backyard and small-scale market-oriented poultry farming significantly contributes to rural livelihoods, in terms of food, cash and as a buffer stock, and that relatively minor changes in husbandry practice does lead to significant improvements in bird mortality and health. However, the current policy and programme framework, does not often help farmers make profitable use of their few poultry birds. There continues to be a focus on exotic poultry breeds, which often do not thrive well in rural areas, inadequate animal health and extension services, which either do not reach the poor or tend to focus on ruminants and advanced technologies, and marketing strategies which are often disconnected with production and productivity issues. These currently limit the contribution of poultry to rural livelihoods. Relatively minor changes in the current policy and institutional setting, such as a focus on non-descript and indigenous birds, inclusion of poultry in the current system of animal health services, as also support for the formation of collectives of poultry rearers to achieve economies of scale both with regard to access to inputs and markets, will definitely enhance the contribution of poultry to rural incomes. Refurbishing the current livestock policy framework first and foremost needs major appreciation by policy makers at all levels of the importance of resource investments in backyard and small-scale poultry farming to reduce poverty and increase incomes in rural areas.

Against the above back-drop, the workshop will discuss the need for convergence between various rural development programmes, to enable small-holders to access resources and information to sustainably maintain and where possible expand poultry rearing interventions. Recognising the critical role of small-holder poultry production systems in ensuring food and nutrition security for the rural poor, the workshop will also attempt to identify what more needs to be done to sustain and further build such systems, as also facilitate and ensure that small-holders participate and benefit from a rapidly expanding poultry sector. ❖

## Dalit Women's Political Participation

The "Dalit Women's to Political Participation in Rural Panchayat Raj" is a study report which focussed on Dalit women political participation in rural areas. The study was done at Gujarat and Tamil Nadu states by Navsaranjan Trust in 2009. Access to Panchayat Posts in the patriarchal system, there are lots of struggles for women to win the election. And within the system, Dalit women have to struggle more than other women. It is very difficult for them to win the election because nobody believes that they have the ability to carry out panchayat works. Everyone plays politics with them and against them just because they – dominant castes and men – never want Dalit women to control the panchayat administration. In this context the study was taken.

The study described Dalit women accessibility in panchayat posts and, once elected, how they are exercising political power and authority for the welfare of their constituency, Dalits and women in particular, the factors and structures facilitate or inhibit Dalit women's access, participation and impact in Panchayati Raj and the role of various state institutions in preventing and responding to obstructions against Dalit women in Panchayati Raj.

The study says that only one-third Dalit women were able to act with independence and freedom to win the panchayat elections. Both personal factors such as education, experience on social issues, motivation to bring development to their community and others, prior performance in panchayats, political negotiation skills, as well as external factors including family support, good relations with other villagers, economic stability and family's political contacts, all played a supportive role in enabling women to access panchayat positions.

The study explained the Dalit women situation in panchayat raj institutions in rural areas that given the low social, educational, economic and gender status of these women; however, they could be challenged and overpowered relatively easily by dominant forces. For the majority of Dalit women, the panchayat election process masks strong, caste-based patriarchal control over them and the enjoyment of their rights. Around 85% of Dalit women were pushed into panchayat politics primarily by dominant castes or their husbands, the former often working through the women's husbands. Dominant castes also for the most part sought to directly engineer elections by consensus, thereby making the reservation policy redundant.

The study describes the suppression of Dalit women by the dominant caste men and secondarily Dalit men to exploit Dalit women, and reinforce their own interests and the suppression of these women. At the same time, this denied Dalit women's right to independent and empowered participation in local governance. It refers to the denial of Dalit women's right to participate in panchayat institutions perpetrated by non-state or state actors.

The study explains the causes for situation elected Dalit women. The Dalit women have low gender status in the

family by economically dependent and bounded within marital and kinship relations. Their low gender, caste and class status as illiterate and labourer in society; their old age or widowhood status; exploiting and deepening intra-Dalit divisions through supporting one sub-caste against another, often to prevent a more assertive or vocal sub-caste member from being elected. Livelihood dependency and lack of sufficient financial resources to meet election expenses also made the women vulnerable to proxy politics especially from dominant castes and political parties which are dominated by dominant castes.

The study explains the obstructions which control over the election process was also achieved through other means, aiming to prevent or discourage the Dalit women from filing nominations (experienced by 12.5% of the women), or to force or push them to withdraw their nominations (14.5% of the women). This included pressure in the forms of caste and sexually-based abuse, allegations of immoral behaviour, threats, bribes and vilifying campaigns against women's capacity to govern, physical assaults and property destruction. It further included restrictions on freedoms through social norms preventing movement outside the home for campaigning, livelihood demands and compulsions of household responsibilities.

The study describes the discrimination on elected Dalit women. It says that over one-third of the women faced in carrying out their panchayat responsibilities, complex segregation methods surrounding seating arrangements as well as discriminatory practices related to water, tea and food were prevalent in the panchayat offices. These to a large part mirrored socio-cultural practices of untouchability prevailing outside the offices. Thus 38% of women stated that they were not allowed to sit on chairs alongside other elected representatives in the office. The fundamental right to equality and non-discrimination enshrined in Article 15 of the Indian Constitution notwithstanding, 89.8% of Dalit women elected representatives felt they were treated differently from other elected representatives in their panchayats.

The study suggests that essentially, required reforms must recognize that political participation cannot be viewed in isolation: efforts to realize other enabling rights – especially the rights to education and information, to free employment, alongside the right to equality within the family and in society – must be integrated with efforts to ensure Dalit women's enjoyment of their right to political participation. Sustained systemic change requires multiple state and non-state actors at the state and national levels working together to influence formal and non-formal local institutions of power and to strengthen Dalit women's sense of confidence, skills, power and support networks. Creative ways must be explored, with Dalit women as well as Dalit men and non-Dalits, to capitalise on the success stories of Dalit women's political leadership, and cultivate their growth. ❖

## Economic Freedom Leads to Self Esteem

Out of Poverty

Desapogula Nagamma belongs to Loddipalli in Kurnool district. Her husband, Raju, is a horse-cart driver. They have 5 children- 4 sons and a daughter, none of them continued school after class 7. Raju used to ride a rented horse-cart. One day, Nagamma and Raju decided to borrow a loan from the SC Corporation to buy a cart of their own, as this would save money on the rent. They were able to earn and save more. Nagamma and Raju repaid the loan partly from their income and partly through daily *thandal*.

Shortly after repaying the loan for the cart, Nagamma found out about SHGs through a *Kalajataru* (awareness campaigns) and decided to join a SHG. She borrowed a loan of Rs. 4000 the first time, for her husband to buy horse cart wheels. Later, she borrowed a loan of Rs.10, 000 and bought one buffalo. She would sell the buffalo milk in a dairy near the village. After a year, her SHG joined the Mahila Samakhya. She bought three buffalos by borrowing Rs. 30,000 from the MS.

By then the family's income was Rs. 6, 000, three times of what it was two years earlier. They built a new house and shifted out of their small hut. Their income is segregated into household expenditure (Rs. 2,000); maintenance of the buffaloes (Rs. 1, 000) and the loan installment (Rs. 3, 000).

Still, the family's financial position was not strong enough to withstand an emergency. This prompted Nagamma to borrow Rs. 15, 000 with which she started a small kirana shop in the village. The shop earns them a monthly income of Rs. 500. Nagamma runs the kirana shop while her sons take of the dairy business.

Today, Nagamma epitomizes confidence and diligence for her peers in the SHG and the federation. Nagamma's journey from the small *kaccha* house to the *pucca* house reflects the hard work she and her husband had put in to ensure that they have the basic necessities. Earlier, they used to consume less nutritious food (*korannam*) and now they consume good quality rice and even meat. Over the years, the couple managed to get all their children married without facing many financial hassles.

Nagamma believes that her strong sense of self-confidence and self-belief that she too could take up financial responsibilities for the family were instrumental to her success. Her being a woman or illiterate was of little consequence in this matter. To put it in her own words, "a woman who is economically empowered has a voice, wisdom & strength. Now, I manage bank transactions freely, go anywhere and set aside apprehensions. Build a woman's self confidence, and she has everything". ❖

## Business Without Knowledge Brings Loss

Broken Lives

Subbarao, 73, lives in Nellore town. His wife Anjali, 60, and he have two sons and one daughter. Till 2009, Subbarao resided in Allur mandal. There, he had his own house. He used to work as a mechanic and earned enough to feed his family and ensure a life without hardship. His children had attended school too. Subbarao also had 3 acres of cultivable land which he leased out.

In 2007, he borrowed a loan and spent his savings to buy a lorry to transport goods for local companies. This new livelihood earned him more money and comforts for the family. However, slowly, this boon started to prove to be a bane.

To ensure that the goods' transport business went well, Subbarao had sought the cooperation of his eldest son, Rajesh. Initially Rajesh had helped his father at work after school hours. However, after a few months, Rajesh lost interest in the work and refused to help Subbarao. His income had fallen and was unable to repay the loan he had borrowed. In the absence of a helping hand, Subbarao could not maintain the lorry well and it frequently broke down. Soon, unable to bear the loan and the maintenance costs Subbarao sold the lorry.

Shortly after this, he shifted to Nellore along with his family. There, he started a flour mill with the little amount of

money had left. He also hired a labourer to work at the mill. This new business showed promise. At around this time, he got his eldest son married.

Income from the mill started declining two years after Subbarao had started it. Yet again, his family was at blame. His wife and children had mismanaged the money and raw material at the mill. This resulted in insufficient resources to keep the mill up and running. There was not enough money to pay the rent, electricity bill and labour charges. Despite the circumstances, Subbarao borrowed loans from friends and relatives performed his daughter's marriage. This worsened his financial position.

To make matters worse, his eldest son had succumbed to TB, leaving behind his wife and two children. His wife has gone to her parental home but has left one daughter under the care of Subbarao. Subbarao's younger son had studied engineering but is currently unemployed; his wife is pursuing her graduation.

Subbarao manages to meet the basic needs of his family by working as a marriage broker. It does not earn him much, but his courage to start afresh after being dealt with several personal and financial blows is appreciable. He is the sole bread winner for his family of five. ❖

## I Want to be in a Better Position

Jampaiah from Raghunathapalli, Warangal works as a community coordinator with the Mandal Samkhya for SHGs of the disabled there. In an interview with **Livelihoods** he talks about how he overcame challenges arising out of his disability and his experience as a community coordinator.

**Q:** What is your educational qualification?

**A:** I completed M.A Sociology in Kakathiya University (Warangal centre) in 2011.

**Q:** Where do you hail from?

**A:** I belong to Raghunathpally in Warangal district, Andhra Pradesh.

**Q:** Tell us about your family.

**A:** We are seven members in our family- my mother, father, two elder brothers, my daughter, my wife and me. We live in a joint family.

We do not have agriculture land but we rear livestock. Our father and mother take care of the livestock. My wife is a house wife. My brothers are studying ITI.

**Q:** Where are you working as a community coordinator?

**A:** I am working as a community coordinator in Navabharathi Mandal Samakhya in Raghunathpally. I have been working there since July 2004. Earlier, I had worked as a community development worker in the Mandal Samakhya.

**Q:** Tell us about your disability. Were you born with it? And have you had treatment so far?

**A:** I was not born with the disability. When I was about 4, my left leg was affected by polio. My parents did not know about polio as they are illiterate. But they have ensured that my brothers and I received a good education.

Earlier, I suffered a lot with disability because my leg restricted my movements to a large extent. I was unable to walk, run, cycle, etc. When I joined the Mandal Samakhya in 2004, I learnt about how one can cure and manage disability. At about the same time, IKP conducted a polio surgery mela in Warangal. I participated in the mela and they finalized my name for surgery. The surgery was successful. Today, I am in a much better position and move around without much hassle.

**Q:** Are you getting any benefits from the government?

**A:** Yes, I am getting a disability pension of Rs.500 a month from the State government.

**Q:** What are your responsibilities as a community coordinator?

**A:** As a community coordinator, my tasks include identifying and mobilizing disabled in villages in Raghunathpally mandal, conducting needs assessment camps & multipurpose camps. I mobilize the disabled into groups and village organization.

I was given training on my roles and responsibilities, book

keeping, meetings, savings, loans and other activities. We inform the groups on the current activities of the Samakhya. Age limit is not a factor while forming disabled groups.

**Q:** Who monitors your work?

**A:** At the District level, District Programme Manager (Disabled) monitors my work. At the mandal level, Cluster APM and general APM monitor my work. They give inputs at monthly review meetings to me and the SHG members to ensure smooth functioning of the groups.

**Q:** Group members are getting loans?

**A:** Yes, They are getting group loans of upto 4 times from group and banks. Some body members have started their own business like kiranam shops, tailoring, livestock and others support their parents in their work. They are utilizing loans well and repay regularly. We provide ABH (Abhaya hastham), AABY (Aam Aadmi Bheema Yojana) and JBY (Janasri Bheema yojana) insurance facilities for SHG members.

**Q:** Do you follow any rules and regulations for giving loans?

**A:** Yes, we are follow rules and after six months we check their activities. Groups should conduct regular monthly meetings, maintain books and follow rules and regulations. They are getting loans above Rs.50000 from the bank and Village organization.

**Q:** Tell us about the Navabharathi Mandal Samakhya and Swayam Krushi Mandala Vikalangula Samakhya.

**A:** Navabharathi Mandal Samakhya was formed on 13<sup>th</sup> September-2003. The Mandal Samakhya has a membership of 1015 SHGs and 38 Village organizations. Loan outstanding amount is Rs 1023crore and monthly average earning interest is Rs.50000.

**Q:** Which types of activities has MVS conducted so far?

**A:** 670 disable persons got medical certificates and 340 persons got bus and train passes.16 cleft-lip and palate children were identified and 13 were operated.41 disable persons were got artificial limbs, calipers, 25 members were got operation of polio surgical corrections, 29 mentally retired persons and their parents were trained in improving the self help skills, 28 hearing impaired persons were trained in speech therapy and 12 disable persons conducted kalajatha programmes in 5 villages.70 tri cycles,15 wheel chairs,32 pairs of crutches,38 hearing aids and 5 blind sticks were supplied to needy free of cost. On the eve of world disabled day for the last 3years MVS is organizing games to disabled persons.(Chess, Caroms, Songs and Essay writing).

**Q:** What is your future goal?

**A:** I want to be in a better position in my present field and also give my support and help for disabled people and my parents. I am improving my skills and qualification. My colleagues and friends are encouraging me. ❖

## Book Summary

Name of the Book: Republic

Name of the Author: Plato

Plato (424-324 B.C) is considered to be the Western world's first political philosopher. He is most remembered for his seminal "Republic". The Republic is presented as a dialogue between Socrates- Plato's mentor and other intellectuals of the age.

The book begins with a debate on justice among Socrates and the others present. Through a series of dialogues, Plato concludes that justice is doing what is one's duty. It is quite similar to the Vedic concept of Dharma. Plato strongly believed that each human being is born with a specific set of skills and faculties that befit her/him for certain roles. Realizing and fulfilling this role by each individual in society is justice.

On the basis of this definition of justice, Plato goes on to evolve a concept of the ideal state, society and education.

To Plato monarchy, oligarchy, and polity were all forms of government that had a negative, "perverted" side (tyranny, autocracy and democracy) and therefore not feasible. Plato links a good state with a just society, a just society with a just individual. Plato rejected democracy as the ideal form of government, calling it "mobocracy". Instead, Plato suggested a state that is ruled by a "Philosopher King". Plato's concept of state encompassed not only governance and politics but also other larger issues such as education, property and gender issues.

Plato said that society would be classified into three classes - the artisan class, the warrior class and the ruler class. Of these, Plato accorded the ruler class the highest status.

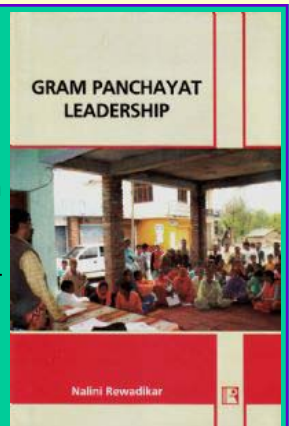
The ruler, according to Plato would be the product of a long and rigorous education. Plato's ideal of education touched not only upon the sciences but also on other, "subtler" faculties such as music, gymnastics, art and craft. Plato perceived that the human personality required exposure to the various arts to develop properly. Further, Plato considered that a student who excelled in metaphysics and grasped the "world of ideas" was fit to be a philosopher ruler. Such a ruler would not be bound by responsibilities of family or property.

Plato considered that a philosophical bent was necessary for a good ruler. It would result in a good state. Plato's concept of state is embodied in the philosopher ruler and does not explain other facets of the state. This has led many to believe that Plato advocated a dictatorship. One cannot say how feasible Plato's idea of the state is, whether a ruler can really overcome the temptations of power. It is a concept that provokes one to think on the merits of democracy and the characteristics of an ideal ruler. ❖

**Name of the Book:** Gram Panchayat Leadership

**Name of the Authors:** Rewadikar, Nalini

**Publisher:** Rawat Publications



## Resources

**PRIA:** vision is of a world where informed, empowered citizens participate in the process of deepening democracy with tolerance towards its large numbers and diversity. These include the marginalised, especially women. Citizens' rights and responsibilities are nurtured through a balance between authority and accountability. A harmony between economic and social development is sought in an eco-friendly manner where local priorities are not sacrificed to global demands. Individual freedom and autonomy is sustained with collective solidarity. <http://www.pria.org/about-pria>.

**CGG (Center for Good Governance):** It aims to be a world-class institution to guide governance reforms in Andhra Pradesh, other states in India and the developing world at large, by bringing together and harnessing the power of knowledge, technology and people for good governance. CGG strives to be among the very best in the world in the area of practical reforms to foster growth-oriented and people-centred good governance. <http://www.cgg.gov.in/ourvision.jsp>.

**CWS (Center for World Solidarity):** The Mission of CWS is to promote a rights-based, gendered and eco-sustainable approach that will advance people-centred governance, livelihoods and management of natural resources. This will be achieved through partnering, nurturing and collaborating with Voluntary Organisations and other stakeholders at all levels. <http://www.cwsy.org/> ❖

## The Window Through Which We Look

A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood.

The next morning while they were eating breakfast,

The young woman saw her neighbour hanging the wash outside.

'That laundry is not very clean,' she said.

'She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.'



Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbour would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

'Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this.'

The husband said, 'I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.'

And so it is with life.

What we see when watching others depends on the window through which we look!!! ❖



## Distribution of Usually Employed Persons

Broad Industry Division	Male			Female		
	50 <sup>th</sup> Rd	55 <sup>th</sup> Rd	61 <sup>st</sup> Rd	50 <sup>th</sup> Rd	55 <sup>th</sup> Rd	61 <sup>st</sup> Rd
	(1993-94)	(1999-00)	(2004-05)	(1993-94)	(1999-00)	(2004-05)
Agriculture	74.1	71.4	66.5	86.2	85.4	83.3
Mining and Quarrying	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3
Manufacturing	7	7.3	7.9	7	7.6	8.4
Electricity, Water, etc.	0.3	0.2	0.2			
Construction	3.2	4.5	6.8	0.9	1.1	1.5
Trade, Hotel & Restaurant	5.5	5.8	8.3	2.1	2	2.5

Despite the constraints of agriculture sector to further absorb the workforce, the rural employment continues to be predominantly agrarian and 66.5 percent of usually employed male persons, 83.3 percent female persons and 70.8 percent of all persons are engaged in agriculture. But there is slow but steady decline in rural work participation in agriculture. The work participation in non agriculture is also becoming diversified and the progression of rural livelihood diversification over the NSS rounds is reflected by its index. The pace of diversification in respect of females is much slower compared to the male counterparts. ❖

## Betel



Shining Livelihoods

## Buttermilk Making



Declining Livelihoods

Happy Holi! Happy Ugadi!

Mixed Results in the elections in 5 states. A young Akhilesh takes charge in UP. UPA has become more tentative.

Rail and Main Budgets have been introduced in Parliament. Telangana is heating up. Suicides are back. Leaders that matter dodge and/or play a wait and watch game.

Life at large, Livelihoods, Leadership, Love, Learning and Linkages (6L) off/for/by the poor, individually, collectively and institutionally; and building individuals and institutions at various levels, of various hues and in various domains are the key foci of our work.

Everyone of us are in leadership positions day-in and day-out. Leadership entails strategic thinking skills. I gather from Paul J. H. Schoemaker that these include –

- \* *anticipate (vision beyond the focus and boundaries–peripheral vision);*
- \* *think critically to dig deep to the root and challenging mindsets and beliefs;*
- \* *interpret by seeking patterns and testing multiple hypotheses;*
- \* *decide even with incomplete information and diverse views, without being a victim of analysis paralysis;*
- \* *align and follow through to build necessary support;*
- \* *de-learn and learn by encouraging honest and rigorous feedback and celebrating success and failures.*

According to Damiana Bazadona, most of the successful leaders surround themselves with smart people; demand accountability; connect emotionally with people; inspire people with vision and confidence; present and fully engaged with people when with people; are inherently optimistic. Further I gather from Jeff Haden – they ignore job descriptions; are eccentric to stretch boundaries and challenge the status quo; fit seamlessly into teams when warranted; recognize others' contribution; tackle sensitive issues privately; bring important issues to the fore; have deeper drive; and keep improving the processes.

We also need to be aware of the negative people in our lives. They need to be dealt with. Notice them; Understand sources of their negativity; remain completely detached; ask for something positive; see them as the opportunities to grow; and analyze the feelings and causes so that you remain immune.

Let us be aware of the facts about us, I have chanced upon during the month –

- \* we miss small changes (inattention blindness);
- \* we can remember only 3 to 4 things at a time;
- \* we make most of our decisions unconsciously;
- \* we can't multi-task;
- \* we are addicted to seeking information;
- \* we have close ties with not more than 150 persons;
- \* activities in sync bond people;
- \* we need information coming in bits and pieces;
- \* nobody chooses tougher means to achieve the same end;
- \* even the illusion of progress inspires;
- \* our minds wander about 30% of the time.

**We are still coping with shock and grief. Manoharan has succumbed to liver cancer finally on 27 February at Gudalur. We remain committed to carry on. He would not like us to stop doing whatever we are doing and carrying on.** May be we should add more

to what we do. More intensity, more quality and more significance! Can we think of supporting young men and women coming into development with a scholarship? Can we think of adopting villages, families, children, schools...? Can we come together every year? Can we put together the work at various places for us to learn and appreciate? Can we have a video? Can we have a film? Can we run 'musings' or run the blog?

I realize during the month that there is no other existence beyond being useful. Pursuit achieves it. Spiritual partnership with the universe guarantees this. Partnership requires practice to connect and flow as one.

As we partner with the soul of the universe, we 'remain' useful. In the universe taking over, we dissolve in it and [naranaaraayanayogam](#).

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** Partner and Practice to remain in partnership, for reflection and being useful! Relentlessly! Krishna confirms – nara, the free agent, with thoughts, words and actions for usefulness and liberation, enveloped by naaraayana on all sides, will remain forever useful and be liberated.

Join us in the world of yoga – for shared life of bliss - towards yogayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

**G Muralidhar**

