

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

March 2014



Livelihoods in Elections



Happy Holi! Happy Jaya Ugadi!

2 June 2014 is the Appointed Day for Telangana. Preparations are underway! Under President's Rule!

9-phase General Election Processes have begun from the first week of March!

Elections in India is now spread over 75 days with some preparation time for parties not less than a year. With Assembly Elections, Municipal Elections, Local Body Elections, Cooperative Elections, Trade Union Elections and so on so forth, the elections appear to be fairly spread out. General Elections involve – rallies and campaigns; visits to constituencies; manifestos; primaries (new idea); e-campaigns; TV and radio campaigns; debates and paid news and programmes; opinion polls; posters, banners, flexis and flags; advertisements; membership enrolments; door-to-door canvassing; kind and cash inducements to voters and their local leaders; canvassing for the tickets; social media campaigns; transport and travel; taxis; stay and food; feeding activists; food packets; voter enrolment; polling booths; security; representatives in the polling booths; polling officers; counting; victory rallies etc. The size of Indian General Elections is anywhere between Rs.5000 Crore – Rs.50000 Crore. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'livelihoods in elections'.

Do not miss reading Jean-Jacques Rousseau's classic - 'The Social Contract'. Read about Garhwal in 'Kshetram' and Internally Displaced Persons in 'Sukshetram'.

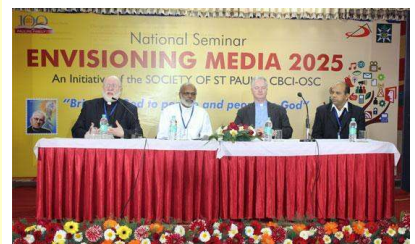
'Legend' introduces 'Acharya Vinoba Bhave'. 'How to' supplement discusses 'How to do recruitment in NGOs?' Usual e-links introduce a video (The Spirit of Enterprise), book (Illusions by Richard Bach), LEAP (Seripalli Village), and value-chain/subsector (Miaze/Chickpea).

Daily notes for the month are presented as part of the e-livelihoods learning course. This month, it is capsule 3: Self-Management.

With the faith and hope that you find the issue a useful read, we remain.

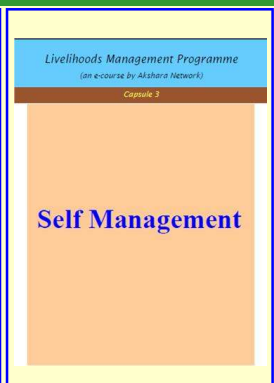
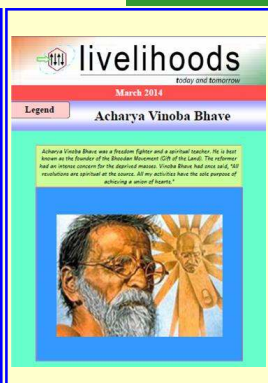
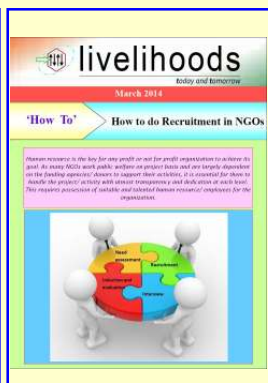
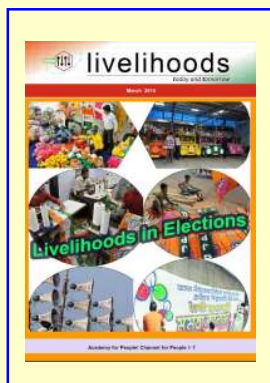
the 'livelihoods' team

Globally one-third of food is either waste or lost in each year. In developed countries like United States and United Kingdom an average family waste 1100 \$ to 1600\$ worth food every year. Millions of people go to bed with hungry every night. (World Bank Report)



Planning the things considering related factors may not give good results.

Latest 'livelihoods' Supplements e-course



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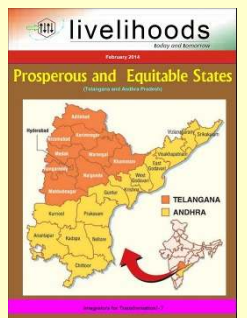
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e-links	LEAP	Seripalli village
	VCA	Maize
	Sub-sector	Chickpea
	e-book	Illusions by Richard Bach
	v-book	The Spirit of Enterprise

e-course Capsule: 3 Self Management

Supplement; How to do How to do Recruitment in NGOs

Supplement: Legend Acharya Vinoba Bhave



Thanks for sharing these valuable documents. If you can also share few examples for some of the tools will be helpful.

With regards

Raghavan

Thanks for sharing E.Magazine of Nava Jyothi and also you have added our id in your E.magazine id.please send every monthly

magazines to us through mail. Regards,

K. NEERAJA,, Dy.Director, NAVA JYOTHI,, Ramayampet,

Received 'livelihoods' February 2014. It is Very useful information.

Thank you.

Valsala Kumari

Executive Director, Kudumbashree.



Can 'Street Vendors Act, 2014'
Protect The Vendors
Interests?

News

Fund Crunch Stalls Sanitary Napkin Distribution Scheme:

A scheme of the Rajiv Vidya Mission to distribute sanitary pads to girl children in government schools so as to improve their menstrual hygiene is now defunct due to lack of funds. Introduced in 2012 as part of the National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPGL), the scheme aimed at distributing packets of branded sanitary napkins to adolescent girl children of classes seven and eight every month. Conceptualised in order to reduce the high drop-out rates among adolescent girl children after puberty. In the academic year 2012-13, the RVM spent Rs.10 crore of Central funds to the benefit of about 10 lakh girl children in government schools across the State.

40 per cent Children Malnourished:

In Andhra Pradesh, a study on the nutritional status of children (zero to six years) in 12 districts of the State by People's Voice for Child Rights (PVCN), in collaboration with Child Rights and You (CRY), has thrown up rather disturbing trends. Of the 5,568 children covered, 40 per cent i.e., 2,250 children were undernourished. The study says that out of the 40 per cent undernourished children, 18 per cent are severely underweight while 23 per cent are moderately underweight. ❖

GOVT Gives Go-Ahead to 137 Projects Rural Youth Skill Development:

In an effort to shore up support among one of its key constituencies ahead of the April-May national poll, the Union rural development ministry has given its go-ahead to 137 projects that will help skill an estimated half a million rural youth. The training will be conducted primarily by private and government firms and bodies specializing in skill development under the aegis of the ministry's flagship National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and funded with an initial tranche of Rs1,348 crore from rural development ministry, the government said in a statement.

Women's Micro-Enterprise Scheme to Be History:

The scheme that has helped more than 2,000 below-poverty-line women start their own micro-enterprises is likely to be discontinued. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is a Central government scheme that came to effect in 1997. It had helped scores form self-help groups and get subsidies for their small-scale businesses. From April 1, though, this scheme IAS likely to be replaced with another-National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). ❖



Water, Dignity and Sustainable Livelihoods for Women in Kenya:

A mother and daughter gather empty jerricans – 3 to 5 gallon water containers – dirty pots, and soiled clothing to begin their search for water, a chore which sometimes takes all day. Though a local vendor sells clean water, it is too expensive for this family making less than a \$1 a day. After spending hours washing and drying clothes, pots, and dishes; bathing themselves, younger children, and sometimes even the animals; the mother and daughter begin their long journey home. In addition to the laundry and pots, they must also carry five gallons of water – just enough to cook and provide the family drinking water for a few days. Carrying the jerricans a top their heads, shoulders, and backs, the women strain to keep their delicate balance – careful not to lose a single drop on the rough road home. ❖

Konaipally Village Organization

The Konaipally Village Organization is in Konaipally village, Kondapaka mandal, Medak district. The VO was formed on 16 September 2001. The VO covers 60% of the villagers. There are 15 SHGs in the VO. Each group has 10-15 members and 152 members in the SHGs.

Executive Committee (EC) was formed the leaders of SHGs. Total 30 members are in the EC.

VO Office Barriers (OB):

The VO President: Laxmi, Vice President: Pentamma, Secretary: Bagya. There are three committees are in the VO such monitoring committee, loan recovery committee and health committee.

The VO facilitates bank linkage to SHG members, by linking SHGs with banks. VO provides trainings to SHGs members on regular meetings, savings, book keeping and internal lending.

The VO conducts meeting on 16th of every month. They discuss agendas like bank linkage, SHGs status, loan recovery, new loans, insurance and other activities.

Scheme Health committee monitors anganwadi

centers and Maarpu program (Health Program)

VO appointed a book keeper called Swami and he writes 15 groups books for every month.

VO invites it's meetings The village Sarpanch, Primary Health Centre nurses, aanganwadi teacher, aaya etc. The Cluster Coordinator (CC) and Village Activist participates in the VO meetings.

VO supports to implement the government schemes pensions and other schemes.

6 SHGs members had Abhaya Hastham Pension cards, with this scheme they get Rs.500, very month.

SHGs got Rs.43 lakhs loan from the Grameen Vikas Bank. This money is utilized in agricultural inputs and to the purchase of livestock for sustainable development and saving in the banks. SHG members are getting loan at the rate of Rs.2 interest for Rs.100.

VO loan recovery committee helps in loan recovery to the bank field officer. The VO participates in promoting children education program, pulse polio program and cleaning programs. ❖

Facility

Pension Scheme

Konaipalli Anganwadi Centre

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) started on 15 August 1995 in Konaipalli village, Kondapaka Mandal, Medak district. This scheme is given to old people, widows and disabled persons.

Distribution system: In the village level, it is distributed by the village Panchayath Secretary. Previously, they practiced a manual distribution system, but due to possibilities of corruption, it has been changed by the Government to a smart system. One of the local villagers is appointed by the concerned officer for distribution, with a salary of Rs 500 per month.

Types of pension: 33 Old age pensions above 60 years: Rs 200. 13 Disable pensions: Rs 500, 22 Widows: Rs. 200 1 Weavers pension ----Rs 200

The eligible persons approach The panchayath secretary and applied for pension. The Village Secretary submits the pension applications to MDO in Mandal Parishat. After verification they announce the pension holder's name and issue the pension card.

There is problem in pensions distribution. Finger-prints not being scanned in Bio metric process. Compulsory presence of candidate. Lack of power supply for the Bio metric machine. Hence, people are requesting the use of manual system in the village. ❖

The village of Konaipalli is in Kondapaka mandal, Medak district. This village is successfully running the Aanganwadi centre by Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) department is running 2 Anganwadi centers in the village. The first Anganwadi centre was established on 15 August 2002. Anganwadi teacher and an aaya are maintaining the Anganwadi centre. This centre presently has 13 children- 6 male and 7 female, in the age group of 0-6 years and 16 pregnant and lactating women.

This Anganwadi centre provides pre-school education to the age group of 0-6 years, in play and learn method. Nutritional education to families, especially on pregnancy and child growth and lactating women also. Educating the teenage girls and social awareness programme on AIDS and filaria, polio, encephalitis etc..

In the Anganwadi centre they provides eggs twice a week and rava, daal and leafy vegetable and supplements are given every day and the weight of babies is updated, to avoid the nutritional deficiency. And growth rate is also mentioned in their data as per the norms. The Angawadi teacher also participates in health awareness programs.

The Anganwadi staff are facing the lack of proper salaries. They are not getting play material and food items properly from the ICDS department. ❖

Garhwal

Internally Displaced Persons

Garhwal is the northern part of Uttarakhand, a state full of hills, whose southern part is Kumaon. Uttarakhand is often referred to as "land of gods", with shrines like Gangotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath etc. Lying in the Himalayas, It is bounded on the north by Tibet, on the east by Kumaon region, on the South by Uttar Pradesh, and on the North-west by Himachal Pradesh.



Garhwal has 7 districts such as Chamoli, Dehradun, Haridwar, Pauri, Tehri, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi. However, Dehradun and Haridwar are not commonly considered under Garhwal as they are plains. Pauri is the administrative center of Garhwal.

The region consists mostly of mountain ranges, separated by narrow valleys, deep gorges or ravines. Garhwal is rich in flora and fauna.

Due to the topography, uniformity in agro climatic conditions is rare. There exist wide variations in altitude, rainfall, vegetation, soil structure, density of population etc. except in the plains. Geographically, Garhwal is almost in the central point of the Himalayan sweep, with an area of about 30,090 sq km, spreading 220 km in East-west and 235 km in North-south, the region constitutes of 7.01% of the Indian Himalaya. Most of the holy rivers of India owe their origin to the snow peaks of Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts. Besides, there are many springs, streams, rivers and rivulets. These aquatic resources harbour diverse ichthyofauna, there are about 64 fish species in Garhwal Himalaya. Fish is a cheap and rich source of animal protein for the people here. Traps and nets are used for fishing, but use of various plants as fish poison is an old practice here.

The official language of Garhwal is Garhwali, one of the 325 recognized languages in India. However, according to UNESCO's Atlas of the languages, Garhwali is shrinking due to unidentified reasons. Garhwal is for the Garhwali Brahmins, known for being one of the learned and intellectual clans of Brahmins. In Garhwal, 30-40% of the population is Brahmins.

People from all over India come to Dehradun for education. While Haridwar is known for its industrial settlements. These plains are also known to cultivate sugarcane and wheat due to the availability of labor and irrigation facilities. A major source of occupation is agriculture (65 % population), which is highly labor intensive. Subsistence farming is prevalent here, i.e they do not cultivate for selling purposes but for feeding themselves. Agricultural workforce is almost negligible due to undulating topography and traditional methods of cultivating. Hence, it is not a scope of occupation here. Cultivation is confined to the immediate vicinity of the rivers. One characteristic of the region is the presence of higher proportion of female workers.

Though the region is rich in natural resources, there are a number of challenges that hinder the growth of this region. In June 2013, a cloudburst in the mountainous valleys of the area resulted in widespread damage and over 5,000 deaths. It was India's worst natural disaster in death toll since the 2004 tsunami. ❖

IDPs in Andhra Pradesh: Over the past thirty years, Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh has seen a huge influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Orissa, due to local disturbances and insurgence. Displacement has had adverse effects on the livelihoods, food security and health standards of these communities. They have limited access to resources and government entitlements. Most of them are unaware of their rights.



Over the past ten years, IDPs have migrated from Sukuma and Dantewada districts to Khammam in Andhra Pradesh. It is estimated that there are about 30,000-IDPs from Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of Chhattisgarh in Khammam district, a border district of Andhra Pradesh. However, Tribal Welfare Department Records show 17,000 IDPs in 20 mandals of Khammam district. Mandals are: Aswapuram, Bhadrachalam, Dummugudem, Venkatapuram, Manuguru, Wazeedu, Aswaraopeta, Dammipeta, Pinapaka, Gundala, Kunavaram, Chintur, VR Puram, Bhurgampudi, Kothagudem, Paloncha, Kukunoor, Velaipadu, Cherla and Mulkapalli.

The displacement has affected their livelihoods and standard of living. IDPs in Khammam belong to the Gutti Koya tribe. The IDPs mainly sustained themselves by working as agricultural laborers (mirchi, eucalyptus and paddy) but also maintained some Podu (shifting cultivation) in forest lands. They cultivate sorghum, jowar and vegetables. Besides this, livestock rearing and NTFP collections are their major livelihoods, which supplement their income. Agriculture harvest, NTFP produce and poultry are mostly used for consumption. IDPs sell their produce at the local market (shandies). Most of them still follow the barter system.

The local government views IDPs as outsiders and does not deliver benefits to them. IDPs do not have access to schemes such as MGNREGS, Anganwadi, IAY and PDS etc. They are not aware of their rights under the IDP Act.

These IDPs, already vulnerable, have been further marginalised. They have suffered severe losses in their livelihoods, health and food security. So far, IDPs have not been able to rebuild their lives and earn enough to meet their family needs. Food insecurity, diseases and low standards of education continue to plague the community. Their inability to pursue new livelihoods could be attributed to their being in an alien environment, lack of legal recognition, rights and limited access to resources. This has impacted their income, which in turn has affected their ability to access adequate and nutritious food.

IDPs do not intend to go back to their native places. IDPs live 3-4 km away from non-IDP villages. Their villages are deprived of drinking water facilities, electricity, sanitation, schools, metalled roads, health care and other basic necessities. Malaria, TB, Jaundice have high incidence among IDPs. The community is extremely malnourished and has fragile food security. ❖

Academy for People! Channel for People!

Happy Holi. Happy Ugadi.

Telangana's Appointed Day is 2 June.

Nine-phase General Elections are on. They appear critical in the polity of India.

Parties are releasing their manifestos and announcing their candidates. Hope electorate votes for values and vision and practice of values. Our vision includes India with humane, equitable and inclusive governance that ensures universal food, nutrition, health and social security, universal access to rights and entitlements, and education to all to realize their full potential. The governance would remain transparent and accountable to us at all levels. We would remain committed to the well-being of all human beings, living beings and natural resources. We need 1-2 million visionary community leaders and professionals. Poverty Reduction Agents with vision and capacity at all levels need long tenures.

Hope these elections are a step towards this vision.

Should we target numbers? Families? Natural Resources? Family plans? Group Plans? Village Plans? Comprehensive Plans? Sectoral and piece-meal plans? Integration? Seasonal Plans? Food Banks? Seed Banks? Grain banks?

Apart from the two Poverty Reduction Missions in the country, Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods of the Poor agenda needs to be supplemented with two small interventions with a national mandate – one a national academy; second a national channel.

National Academy to build/coordinate the task of creating human resources for the task. It would build the discipline of livelihoods management. Distinguished team leadership would guide the academy. Literature on livelihoods would be encouraged. The curriculum of livelihoods management would be taken to management institutes. Management and Technical Education Curriculum would be inclusive to include Livelihoods Management. The faculty would be nurtured and mentored. Fellowships and internships on scale would be supported. Livelihoods management institutes would be built across the country. Community colleges for community professionals, cadres, leaders and members would be supported. Capacity building architecture and pools of resource persons would be

developed and supported. Distance education and e-education modules would be working. Text, Audio, Video and interactive material would be available. It would emerge as think tank and policy advocate for the livelihoods at the bottom of the pyramid in the country.

This should not wait any longer. Isn't it?

Livelihoods/People's Channel(s) reaches out to the people at large to meet their information, knowledge, education and entertainment needs. It is a platform for people and people working for the people. It keeps people informed. It targets sections of people with bytes for them. It communicates basics of livelihoods and poverty reduction in a variety of ways and in a variety of contexts. It showcases the case studies who have come out of poverty. It discusses the issues fundamental to the poor. It offers tuitions. It offers extension services. It offers food, nutrition and health education. It discusses livelihoods analysis and planning. It shows value-chains and subsectors for the poor to tap opportunities. It presents the changing contexts, trends, opportunities and trends. Emerging livelihoods and declining

livelihoods would be discussed. It offers counselling. It offers wage, job and self-employment opportunities. It offers information and helpdesks for accessing their rights and entitlements. It introduces schemes and programmes. It introduces the community leaders, cadres, resource persons, volunteers and professionals working for community. It offers capacity building to them. It introduces internships and fellowships to work with the poor. It introduces the books, videos and literature. It introduces professionals and organizations working for the poor in a variety of ways at various levels. It introduces the agents of change and social entrepreneurs and their collectives. It also introduces community collectives and community enterprises. It continues development dialogues. It shows the interventions on ground that are working and that are not working. It brings the people from within the poor working for the poor and the people from outside working for the poor face-to-face. It pools up and disseminates emerging learning.

It can then make the content available on the portal, in the you tube, social media etc. It can also mentor the mentors to the professionals and organizations in the sector!

The time has come for them. ❖

Perspectives

G Muralidhar



21 March
World Water
Day



Difficult to Continue Work

Humble to Service People

Laxmi is a 70-year old groundnut seller in Uppla area in Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family.

I have three sons and one daughter. I live with my youngest son, his wife, and his children. My eldest son is doing agriculture in my village. My second son is a hamali worker at Bhongir Gunj Market. My youngest son, with whom I live, is an auto driver. My husband died 20 years ago. I live Battugudem in Bbinagar Mandal, Nalgonda District.



What is your current occupation? How much do you earn per day/month?

I am a groundnut seller in Uppal, Tarnaka, and Osmania university campus area. I come to Hyderabad every day by bus. I have been doing this work for over the past ten years. On average, I earn Rs. 200 per day doing this job. However, when students and participants hold meetings near my stall, I earn Rs 300-400. My transportation expense is Rs. 60-70 per day. I lent some money to my children a while ago expecting to be paid back, but they never returned it to me. Sometimes, I give money to my grandchildren as well.

Where do you purchase the groundnuts?

I do not purchase my groundnuts from anyone; they are the agricultural products of my land. If the crop is not available or not yet ready, I temporarily purchase groundnuts at Bhongir Gunj Market. I own three acres of land, which was distributed to my sons after my husband's death.

Did you receive a pension?

Yes, I have a pension card. I receive Rs. 200 per month.

Which son is taking care of you now?

My youngest son is care taking to me at the moment. But my daughter-in-law is completely unsupportive of his help towards me. She refuses to even cook me food, so I prepare it for myself. Since I'm at the last stage of my life, I don't think I have the option to live all by myself. I will continue to live a relatively independent life while still staying with my youngest son.

What are your expectations from the government?

I expect the government to hike the widow's pension to Rs. 1000 per month. Costs of basic commodities and healthcare medication are increasing at a drastic pace. I cannot hope to sustain myself if this trend continues. Now, I'm even suffering from body pains, and I can only seek proper medical attention when I have more money to spend.

What are your plans for the future?

It's getting very difficult for me to continue working. I hope to live out the end of my life in peace. ❖

What is your name and how old are you?

My name is Govind Reddy. I am 28 years old.

What is your educational qualification?

I completed MSW from Acharya Nagarjuna University through a distance education program.



What is your native village? And tell us about your family.

My village name is Anumula, which is located in Nalgonda district. My family consists of: my father (farmer), mother, brother, and sister-in-law and me.

What is your current occupation?

I work as a HIV/AIDS counselor at a regional government hospital in Medchal, Rangareddy District.

How long have you been working in this profession?

I have been working in the government hospital since July 2009. My job was established by the APSACS (Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society). I currently work in Medchal. Before coming here, I worked at Manikonda Government Hospital.

Tell me about your job?

As an AIDS counselor, I have to counsel patients who suffer from HIV positive. Between 9AM and 4:30PM, we provide medication, advice, and support to those affected by the disease.

What are the stages in your job as a counselor?

There are four stages of counseling: individual counseling, couple counseling, group counseling, and members counseling. If the patient goes for a blood test and is found to be AIDS positive, the medical persons mention add that to their report. We take the data and create a plan to rebuild confidence and physical ability for the patient to survive in the most productive manner possible.

How many patients register every month?

Every month, we have about 4-5 cases recognized as positive. In some cases, we do not register them at the regional level and instead send the patients to District-level hospitals for better treatment.

How much do you get per month?

I earn Rs. 12000 per month.

Do you face any problems in your job? What are your plans for the future?

I don't face any problems in my job. I feel humbled to serve poor people in need. My only real issue is that I aspire to move up the ladder and earn a higher salary than what I currently get. In the future, I hope to bring these types of programs to villages. ❖

No Future Plans

Lost Job Because of Disability

Rukunamma is a 64-year old daily wage gardener at Osmania University in Hyderabad. She emigrated from Peta Basheerabad village, Tandoor mandal, Ranga Reddy district.



Tell us about your family.

I currently live alone. I used to live with my daughter until she got married. My husband died 15 years ago due to his binge drinking habit. Hence, I stay in my house in Lela Peta all by myself.

What is your occupation? How much do you earn per month?

I have been working as a contract gardener in Osmania University for the past 15 years. I earn Rs. 5000 per month.

How did you get this job? Do you have an educational background?

I got the job after the death of my husband. His prior occupation became vacant and the first priority to fill it was given to victims of his family. I started working here after his death due to lack of an alternative livelihood. I have no one to support me to build proper long term plans, since even my relatives have financially abandoned me. The university staff understood my economic vulnerability and gave me the job. I have no educational background; I am illiterate.

Tell about you work?

My work hours are between 10:00AM and 4:30PM. We work under a maestri group leader who plans and supervises our work in certain areas of the university campus. Once our work at one location satisfies the leader, he assigns us our next job.

Does your daughter take care of you?

Yes, my daughter is taking care to me. She lives in Mehedipatnam Whenever I get sick, she takes me to her house to look after my health.

Did you receive any benefits from government ?

Yes, I get ration and widow pension from government.

What kinds of problems do you face in your daily life?

My salary is not sufficient to survive in the city. Prices of important commodities and the cost of living in general are increasing at an extremely rapid rate. My health is also deteriorating gradually. The only way I can sustain myself is through an increase in wages. I currently face body pains, but I have to endure it because no one is available to take care of me and I don't have enough money to take care of myself. Even my daughter who lives in Mehidipatnam is almost inaccessible to me other than during times of ailment.

What are your plans for the future?

I don't have any plans for future. I want to work until my death. ❖

Balaiah, who is 58 years old disabled person, is in charge of the read room of Kaveri hostel in Osmania University in Hyderabad.



Tell us about your family.

I currently live with my wife and son in Manikeswarnagar in Secunderabad. My son has completed his degree program and is applying to get a job. I have a daughter, who got married last year.

When did you come to Hyderabad?

My family migrated to Hyderabad 35 years ago because I was unable to sustain myself and my family economically through agriculture and catch-fishing, which were very vulnerable livelihoods in the past.

What is your current occupation? How much do you earn per month?

I have been working as a reading room in-charge of Kaveri hostel in Osmania University for the past 29 years, and I earn Rs. 21000 per month.

What is your specific role at work? What is your educational qualification?

I supply newspapers and magazines to the hostel read room. My work is similar to that of a librarian, except customized to the hostel read room setting. I studied intermediate.

What are your office timings?

My duty timings are between 7:30AM to 11:30AM. For the rest of the day until 4:30PM, I work in the chief warden hostels section.

Do you face any problems in your daily life?

I am unable to walk without the support of another person. I injured my right foot due to an accident during my childhood years. Hence, I cannot walk like a normal person. I take assistance from my son or students to complete even the smallest tasks that require movement. I am also suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes. I use tablets every day to maintain my physical well-being, which costs Rs. 3000 per month.

What kinds of entitlement program benefits do you receive from the government?

I receive benefits from my PHC pension, ration card and concession bus pass.

How is your vulnerability a curse to your life?

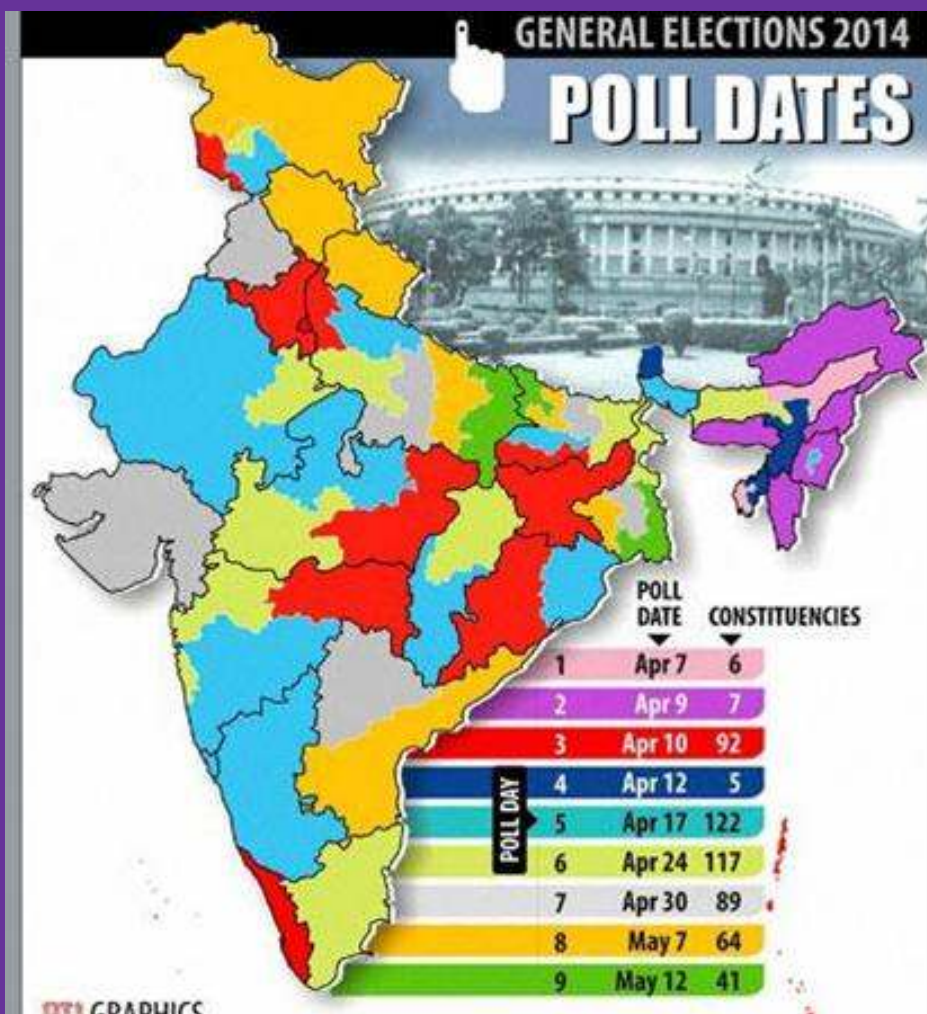
I lost the promotion as hostel warden duty because of my leg problem. I'm forced to accept my pitiful limitations.

What are your plans for the future?

I have no personal plans for the future. However, I'd like my son to find a well paying job so that he can independently sustain himself. Once I retire in September 2015, I hope my son would have an income source to support our family. ❖

Livelihoods in Elections

16th general elections is the lengthiest and costliest elections in the world. The contesting parties are expected to spend Rs. 30,500 crores in these elections (Centre for Media Studies estimation). There are a number of activities which livelihoods during this elections. Along with MP elections there are MLA elections and village level / municipal level elections conduct once in every five Years.



In India, the 16th general elections or Lok Sabha elections will be held from 7th April to 12th May 2014. The elections will be conducted in all 543 Parliamentary constituencies, in 9 stages, 672 districts, 29 states and 7 Union Territories to elect Members of Parliament (MP) for Lok Sabha. According to the Election Commission of India (EC), presently there are 81.45 crore voters in the country. 9, 30,000 polling stations will be setup to conduct the elections. This is the lengthiest and costliest elections in the world. The contesting parties are expected to spend Rs. 30,500 crores in these elections (Centre for Media Studies estimation). There are a number are number of



activities which livelihoods during this elections. Along with MP elections there are MLA elections and village level / municipal level elections conduct once in every five Years. This month, 'livelihoods' tries to understand the livelihood opportunities in elections.

In the 15th general elections, in 2009, nearly 364 political parties and 8,070 candidates contested. Last general elections were held in four stages; in a one month period and 41.81 crore voters (58.4%) utilized their voting right, out of total 71.6 crore voters in the country. Nearly 8,28,804 polling stations and 13,68,430 electronic voting machines were setup, 65 lakh election staff and 11 lakh police forces were deployed. The expenditure of the 15th general elections was approximately Rs. 10,000 crores.

In the 16th general elections, 10 crore additional voters have added. 9,30,000 polling stations, 13,00,000 electronic

voting machines, 1.10 crore election staff and police forces are participating in present elections. Almost 9000 candidates may be participating in the elections.

According to the Delimitation Commission of India, the Parliament Constituency's size ranges from 50000 voters to maximum 25 lakhs voters.

In our country there are three types of elections- Panchayat / Municipal level election, Assembly constituencies' election and Parliament constituencies' election. Totally, 4,120 MLAs (Including 100 MLAs from 2 UTs Delhi and Pondicherry) are elected every 5 years. Along with these elections, Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTC) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTC) elections are conducted every 5 years. The election process will last for more than two months and mostly the general elections and the Assembly

elections are conducted separately in many states in the country. This time only four states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Sikkim are also having elections to elect a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) simultaneously. Recently MLA elections completed in five states such as Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram states. Particularly, this time Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states are conducting Municipal elections, MPTC and ZPTC elections, along with





MP and MLA elections.

The elections are a good season for various livelihoods opportunities for more than 2 months. It may not be exaggeration to say that in these two months of general elections period, different types of entrepreneurs may earn yearly income by working in the election related livelihoods. Election surveys and enrollment of the voters by party activists will start before election announcement by the EC. Pre poll survey work is a very big activity. There are various levels of surveys such as national, state and regional level surveys. Many organizations are involved in this activity.

They have to interact with minimum 50,000 (0.06% in total number) voters across the country. These surveys are conducted in two ways- online poll survey or direct interaction with voters in the villages or towns. In preparing questionnaires, interactions with voters in the field, data entry, consolidation, logistical works and presentation activities, require different types of skilled people. It is not a one-time activity. Almost all major national media managements, different parties, individuals, organizations etc, may ask for a survey.

Election campaign is a very important process in elections.



The campaign broadly contains advertising the parties' manifestoes particularly its promises, achievements, contested persons qualifications and visions about the development of the people in the constituencies. Parties consider the election campaign as essential and a very important strategy in winning the votes. The campaign decides the fate of the candidate in the elections. In election campaigns the candidates have to spend on various items.

Regarding expenditure items in the election

campaign, the Election Commission suggested items used as follows-

1. Hiring charges of Loudspeaker with amplifier and microphone.
2. Construction of podium/pandal (standard size to seat 4-5 persons)
3. Cloth Banner
4. Cloth Flags
5. Plastic Flags
6. Hand Bills
7. Posters
8. Hoardings
9. Cut outs (wooden)
10. Cut outs (Cloth/Plastic)
11. Video Cassettes
12. Audio Cassettes
13. Erection of gates for meetings
14. Erection of arches
15. Daily hiring charges of vehicles:
 - (i) Jeep/Tempo/Trucker, etc.
 - (ii) Sumo/Qualis
 - (iii) Cars
 - (iv) Three – Wheelers
 - (v) Cycle – Rickshaw
- 16 Hiring charges of hotel rooms/guest houses
- 17 Charges of drivers, salary
- 18 Hiring charges of furniture (chairs, sofa, etc.) and



fixtures.

Along with above stated items candidates spend on other items like- stickers, badges, caps, T-shirts, kanduvas, printing polling slips, model ballot papers, hiring cultural teams, traditional and modern musical groups, distributing gift items, advertisements in print media and electronic media, hiring offices on rent basis, payments to office in-charges, meetings' organizers, serving food, cool drinks, butter milk to the participating people in meetings/rallies, logistical works' organizers, tickets booking, and supervisors etc. They also mobilize people for meetings, visit voter's houses, promising to solve the individual/village/slum/mandal / block/division level problems.

After EC's declaration about polling dates, parties start to select suitable candidates for constituencies and publish

the candidates' lists. The selected candidates begin the election campaign with posters, stickers, identity cards and pamphlets. In the pamphlets, leaflets and posters they print the parties' promises in general and include the constituency issues and related promises. This gives huge work to printing presses and Desktop Publishing (DTP) centers. The workers have to do double shifts to meet the orders from the candidates and the managements have to take



votes can be mapped through online campaigns. The candidates are using the social media options such as facebook, twitter, blogs, web-sites, e-mails, apps, youtube and other applications, as it is easy to reach a vast number of people. Regularly updating the party status, interacting with people and facilitating space for their opinions can be possible through social media. Major national and state level parties are spending money on social media for advertising. Almost 1 in 3 persons has mobile phones in our country. Candidates are using messaging services for election campaigns. Telecom service providers are getting huge income with this. A lot of people having technical knowledge on internet, web designing, portal making, apps and video making are in demand. According to Google India, this year it is getting 250-300% income on advertisements from political parties, in the country.

There are 6,40,867 villages and 7,933 towns in the country. Major political parties set up party offices in the villages and in slums in the towns, to coordinate the election works, particularly election campaign work. The candidates rent houses for party offices, hire office boys, chairs, tables and tents. These offices become central points to all election related works and party activists' gatherings. The candidates arrange water cans, tea, breakfast, snacks and meals from hotels for the party activists. These small entrepreneurs get good income in this month.

Mobilizing people for meetings and rallies are important in election campaigns. The candidates organize various meetings, particularly big and medium meetings, which provide many livelihoods such as setting stage, arranging banners, flags, electricity connection, cultural teams' performances, vehicles to mobilize people to the meetings and propaganda to the meetings, arranging mike-set,



selling different snacks items and preparing tea and breakfast for the organizers. Water packets selling, ice creams selling, coconut selling and cool drinks selling people also get good income in the meetings. People also get Rs. 200 per meeting to participate.

Election campaign through wall writing has been gradually decreasing for decades, yet political parties are depending on wall writing for election campaign. This provides bright income opportunity to the artists through wall writing to the contested candidates.

In the election campaign, candidates, parties' representatives, cultural teams and their supporters have to move around the constituency and representatives have to travel from state headquarters and nation headquarters for election campaigns. The candidates have to make travel arrangements for those persons. This gives work such as booking vehicles, tickets for buses, rail and flight to the travel agents. The candidates have to book accommodation for the parties' representatives and others in hotels and lodges which provides good income to them.



Print media and electronic media are key instruments in election campaigns. Almost every contested candidate gives advertisement in print and electronic media several times. They spend lakhs of rupees on advertisement. Print media is also useful to print pamphlets, brochures and leaflets to the people, which are then given to the paper agents, who put it in news papers and distribute it along with newspapers to the subscribers. The paper agents get extra income from this opportunity.

Candidates make preparations to ensure voter identity cards to every person, particularly their supports. They give this responsibility to the core activists, to facilitate

voters to get voter cards. The candidates are also involved in providing printouts and xerox copies of the polling slips to distribute to the voters in election day and before election day. Xerox shops get lots of work for xerox copies, printouts and preparing identity cards for the voters.

Political parties take services from detective agencies to enquire about candidates details, opposite candidates strategies and people's aspirations. Almost 10000 detective agencies are working in the country. They are charging from 5—20 lakhs for their service.

Gifts distribution is also one of the methods practiced by the candidates in the election campaign. For example some candidates, with election symbols like bamboo basket,



vessel, iron box etc distribute those gifts to the people.

Candidates also distribute sarees or ornaments to the women voters at the time of election

campaign. These practices give lots of opportunities to the gift selling people and gift making people.

Before the polling, on polling day and after polling, people



are required to- bring polling material, assisting polling staff, providing tea, tiffin, meals to the staff, arranging tents etc. Almost all major parties put their supporters as polling agents. They play the role of identifying voters and preventing duplication or fake voters in polling. The candidates pay money to their polling agents. There may be more people indirectly depending, in various elections related works, across the country.

After elections, the elected candidates celebrates their victory. In those celebrations lot of crackers and garlands used. It provide income to the flower garlands sellers and crackers sellers.

After elections the new governments try to implement some of the election promises in the first year. These promises' materialization will definitely influence and impact crores of people's lives and livelihoods at different levels. ❖



8 March International Women's Day

Water Brought Life in a Village



Prosperity of India lies in the prosperity of her villages. Today I would like to share my first experience in understanding a village and how can a development organization change the village fate.

Nayakhera (pronounced as Nayakheda) is a hamlet of Dhikoli village panchayat located 4 km from Dhikoli and 16km far from Jhansi district in Uttar Pradesh (west). The village has 126 households with 725 population with a gender ratio of 781: 1000 for adults.

Though almost all farmers have dug wells in their fields (previously used for irrigation), they all got dried up due to the reduction in rain fall and failure to store rain water effectively. Hence they shifted to rainfed agriculture. Hence no big vehicle enters the village. This is a barrier for the village to connect the market.

The village is surrounded by very large rocky land and rocky red soil agricultural fields. The village has only one water source – a large water pond that is located 1 km from the village. It is the only source of the villagers for drinking and consumption purpose. Though the village has an open well at the heart of the village, due to the reduction in rainfall and increased temperatures, it got dried up 7 12 years back and is now filled with garbage. Sanitation is also a major problem for the village. Not even a single family in the village has a toilet in the village because of water scarcity.

The village panchayat being located far from the village, the Gram pradhan does not come to the village except during any official visits or for elections. Due to the lack of water, the villagers were dependent on rain fed crops like groundnut and til. They also kept some goats which don't require much care and water.

However their fortune took a turn when a development organization 'Development Alternatives' widely known as TARAGRAM has entered the village with an intention to give their supportive hand in developing the hamlet. The organization whose operational area is entire Bundelkhand and has three sitting offices in Orcha, Pahuj and Datia has several partners that are focused on rural development – NABARD, ICRISAT, UP government, ICAR and IGFR.

TARAGRAM has entered the village in 2008 and immediately identified that the only problem that is to be addressed to solve the problematic situation of Nayakhera is water scarcity. They mobilized the villagers and explained them about how to overcome the water scarcity problem through the government sponsored 'Watershed development program'. In this scheme, they convinced the villagers to contribute voluntary labor for construction of check dams in the areas of agricultural fields and where the little available rain water is wasted through run off.

First they have constructed two check dams where most of

the agricultural fields are located with the financial support from WSDP and labor from the villagers. At this point, they kept the cost low by using rocks to hinder the water flow. After few months, the villagers saw the growing vegetation on the fields surrounding the construction and were convinced that this method can literally solve their water problem for agriculture. Then they constructed three more check dams now with concrete and rocks. This has resulted in increase of goring water level in the area substantially and helped the villagers to grow water dependent crops like wheat, paddy (in few places) and vegetables. A small pond is also developed by the villagers to grow fish. This has generated livelihood for a poor single old man as a guard to the pond. The fish pond auctioned every year by the villagers to collect and sell the fish from pond. Amount received by the auction is kept with the water shed management committee for the repair and maintenance of the checkdams.

As the water level rose satisfactorily, they dug two bore wells each at one end of the village to provide potable water for the villagers. Water in the surrounding areas also encouraged them to keep milch animal - buffaloes. Now there are 50 buffaloes in the village which are catering to the milk needs of the village. Some farmers are selling the milk in Dhikoli, which does not have a dairy unit.

During this period, the organization built good rapport with the village woman and brought awareness among them about the importance of sanitation and the usefulness of forming women self help groups. They formed eight SHGs with the women and encouraged them to save money.

A drinking water tank was constructed in the village in 2012 near the village water tank with a cost of Rs 3, 43,000. TARAGRAM which has been working on Solar power in several villages has encouraged them to set up a water pump that runs on solar power at an additional cost of Rs 1 lakh (after subsidy from government) to reduce the operational cost of the pump in case of diesel. It also provided technical assistance in installation as well as trained two village youth on maintenance of the solar unit as well as pump. Five families who were comparatively rich than the others have got individual water connection at a payment of Rs 2000 and the remaining villagers are now able to fetch water from the three public water taps constructed in the village.

Slowly construction of toilets has also started in the village after pressurization of three years to convince the pradhan as well as the officials to get financial support. All the families who were categorized under BPL category received monetary support of Rs 1800 per household to construct a toilet. The villagers are mandated to provide self labor to reduce the cost.

The villagers are now working on land leveling of the rocky unused land under MGNREGS to develop it as a common grazing land, encouraged by the positive results of check dams. ❖

Individual Enterprise

Collective Enterprise

Screen Printing Shop

Leaf Plates Making



Social Enterprise

Public Enterprise

Service Train Educate People Society (STEPS)

Vegetable Market



The Street Vendors Act, 2014

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street vending) Act, 2014 was passed on 19 February 2014. The Act aims to protect the rights of the street vendors, to regulate street vending activities and to create a helpful atmosphere for street vendors.

Around 10 million people depend on street vending in India. They work an average of 10-12 hours daily. They are harassed by the authorities, police etc. Over the years the street vendors have formed trade unions and associations.

These street vendors form a very important segment of the unorganized sector in the country besides contributing towards poverty alleviation, as a source of self employment.

Salient features:

Any person intending to undertake street vending needs to register with the Town Vending committee (TVC). Street vendor may then apply for a vending certificate that will be issued based on various criteria.

The state government shall frame a scheme for street vendors. The local authority shall frame a street vending plan in consultation with the planning authority for every five years.

The TVC comprises of the Municipal Commissioner, representatives of street vendors, local authority, planning authority, local police, resident welfare association and other trader's associations.

This Act shall not apply to railways land, premises and in the trains.

The Act provides for the creation of a Town Vending Authority (TVA), in each Local Authority for implementing the provisions of the Act and to do a survey of all existing street vendors. Local authority has to do subsequent surveys for every 5 years to avoid arbitrariness of authorities with consultation of planning authority. It has to issue certificates to the street vendors identified in the survey. It gives preference to SC, ST, OBC, Women, Persons with Disabilities, Minority's etc.

Street vendors will be accommodated in designated vending zones. All street vendors should be above 14 years of age, for issuing certificate. The certificate may be cancelled if a vendor breaches the condition of the certificate. There will be a Town Committee in each zone or ward of the local authority.

The Act states that no street vendor will be evicted, until the survey has been completed and certificate of vending issued to the street vendors. The Act has also provided that in case a street vendor dies or suffers from permanent disability or illness, his / her family member can vend in his / her place till the validity the certificate of vending. Thus, the mechanism is to provide universal coverage, by protecting the street vendors from harassment and promoting their livelihoods.

Procedure for relocation, eviction and confiscation of goods has been specified and made street vendor friendly. The entire planning exercise has to ensure that the provision of space or area for street vending is reasonable and consistent with existing natural markets. Thus, locations where there is a constant congregation of buyers and sellers, will be protected under the Act.

There is a provision for establishment of an independent dispute and grievance redressal mechanism under the chairmanship of retired judicial officers to maintain impartiality. The Act provides a time period for release of seized goods. The local authority is required to release non perishable goods within 2 working days and perishable goods on the same day.

The Act also provides for promotional measures towards availability of credit, insurance and other welfare schemes of social security, capacity building, research, education and training programs etc. for street vendors, by the Government. Section 29 of the Act provides for protection of street vendors from harassment by police and other authorities. Relocation of street vendors should be exercised as a last resort.

The Act provides that the Rules under the Act have to be notified within one year of its commencement, and scheme has to be notified within six months, to prevent delay in implementation. A street vendor who vends without a certificate, may be penalised with a fine of upto Rs.2000.

Key issues and analysis:

Currently, street vending is regulated under municipal laws enacted by state legislatures. Parliament's competence to legislate on this issue depends on whether the Act is interpreted as substantively addressing rights and obligations of street vendors or relating to municipal zoning (state list).

The Act does not specify principles for issuing vending certificate, allocating vending zones and the number of vendors per zone. Absence of such norms could defeat the purpose of the law to ensure uniformity in legal frame work.

The Act does not provide space the stakeholders to be consulted in the formulation of the street vending plan. This could lead to lack of safeguards in ensuring that plan is determined in a fair manner.

The central law will have overriding effect on state laws that are inconsistent with the Act. Current state laws differ with the Act in terms of powers of the TVC, and mechanism for dispute resolution. The standing committee suggests making the Act applicable to the railways, incorporating specific provisions of the scheme in the Act, and consultation with the TVC on the vending plan.

Government has given recognition to street vendors. They may get social security and rights by this Act. Most of the cities have lakhs of street vendors, who depend on various small enterprises. Government has to spread awareness about this Act to the street vendors. ❖

Kalvakurthi Mandal Vikalangula Samakhya

Kalvakurthi Mandala Vikalangula Samakya was formed in February 2012 in Kalvakurthi mandal, Mahabubnagar district. It formed with 42 Village Organizations (VOs) with 53 Disabled Self Help Groups (DSHGs) in 19 Gram Panchayats in Kalvakurthi mandal. The governing body president is Murali, Secretary is Krishnaiah and Treasurer is Ravi. Mandal Samakhya conducts monthly review meeting on 10th of every month. Every month each group has to pay Rs.100 to Mandal Samakya as saving. So far, it has a corpus fund of Rs 48,400. Assistant Programme manager (APM) and Community Development Worker (CDW) are working in Mandal Samakhya.

Each DSHG consists of 5 to 12 members, with men and women. In Mandal Samakhya, 530 out of 834 disabled people joined in these groups, in Kalvakurthi. Members save Rs. 50 to Rs.100 every month in DSHGs. All members are getting pensions from government. Members get income from various livelihoods like kirana shops, pan shops, selling vegetables, agriculture and allied sectors, MGNREGS works etc.

Recently, eight groups have taken loans from Sthrinidhi. 46 groups have taken loans without interest rate from banks like SBI, SBH, APGVB and Andhra bank with support of Mahila Mandal samakhya. MVS monitors loan payment, book keeping, group formation etc of all DSHGs, in monthly review meeting. MVS wants to work on issues of disabled. The government gave tri-cycles to 10 Members, ear machines to 3 members, support sticks to 6 members and marriage incentive Rs. 50,000 to one member by MVS facilitation. Earlier, disabled people did not know their rights, now they are aware about their rights and getting benefits from government. They are very happy about their work. Previously, disabled persons did not get identity from the family members now they disabled people are getting recognition in the family. ❖

Support Organization

Divya Disha

Divya Disha Organization has been working towards the empowerment of children, since 1987. It works for runaway children and orphans. It gives shelter, food, clothes, counseling and moral support to children. It is located in Uppal, Hyderabad



Divya Disha conducts different types of activities for child development. It has been facilitating a rehabilitation home for around 200 boys and girls in difficult circumstances since 1998. Under child-line (Toll free no-1098) program, it provides 24 hour emergency service for children in Hyderabad and Rangareddy, with support of CWC, UNICEF and Ministry of Women and Child welfare. It runs residential special training centres for children, who do not attend the regular schools, with support of SSA in Hyderabad and Rangareddy. 73 children are enrolled in these centres. It works with 1000 Healthcare Resource Groups, for better health care in Vikarabad, Parigi, Chevela and Mominpet Mandals in Rangareddy District, under target intervention project with support of NACO / APSACS. It is working with Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF), for implementing Balaraksha project in 20 slums in Hyderabad. It implements Andhra Pradesh Child Rights Cell (Toll free no 1800 425 3525) project to create awareness about child rights and protection.

Divya Disha implements Aflatoun and Aflateen Social and Financial Education Program in 360 Government Telugu medium schools with support of HDFC bank and Meljol. Aflatoun emphasises on personal understanding, child rights and responsibility, saving and spending, planning and budget, social and financial entrepreneur, in primary schools and Aflateen program equips children with the knowledge, skills and confidence to become self-reliant citizens. It formed child protection committees in Medak and Rangareddy districts, for child protection and rights. It implements Balabandhu project on Rescue & Rehabilitation of runaway, missing, abused or trafficked children, urban deprived children, with support of Kusuma Trust, Gibraltar in Hyderabad and Medak. It creates a positive impact through different programmes for children. It has rescued and rehabilitated thousands of children in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts. ❖

Training Institutions

1. Unnati Organization: <http://www.unnati.org>
2. Magic Bus: <http://www.magicbus.org>
3. Centre for Economic Social Studies (CESS): <http://cess.res.in/>
4. The National Academy of Agriculture Research Management (NAARM): <http://www.naarm.ernet.in/>
5. Restless Development (The Youth – Led Development Agency) <http://restlessdevelopment.org/>

Flexi Banners Making

In such competitive times like today, business' success mostly depends on organization, marketing and advertising plans, this is where the emerging livelihood of flex industry comes in. Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) provides high quality, PVC flex media banner roll for digital printing, outdoor advertising, billboard, signage, banners and exhibition booth decoration and promotional activities. It is a substitute to the cloth banners. It is emerging as a new livelihood opportunity in printing section and advertisement. Lakhs of people depend on this industry.



The flex boards and cutouts are used in the name of publicity. The political parties, booth level committees, commercial organizations, movie distributors, companies etc. use this effective advertisement system because it takes a very short time to print, needs less human resources and saves money too. PVC flex is made out of top quality PVC and fabric raw material, specially designed for the solvent printing industry.

The cost of the PVC machine ranges from 8-30 lakhs. Flex office provides employment to computer designers, Machine operators, helpers, advertisement agents etc. In earlier days, a single banner on the cloth was designed by a single person and eco - friendly colors were used. But nowadays, these poly vinyl flex poses a serious threat to environment. The chemicals are very effective for visuals. But unfortunately, they pollute the nature. Types of flexes- PVC flex banners provide high quality media banner roll for digital printing, outdoor advertising, billboard, signage, promotional activities etc. Sizes: 8/20, 10/12, 10/20 etc. The cost ranges from Rs. 250 to Rs. 20,000

PVC Flex specially caters to the Indian market, as it is cost effective. Due to stable chemical character and excellent ink absorbency, PVC Flex will bring wonderful digital printing images for large format picture advertisements.

Though it is providing bright livelihood opportunity , it has it's own cons. The chemical poly-vinyl chloride which used in PVC flex causes a serious threat to the environment, as it is not bio-degradable. Flex cannot be re-used or recycled. Made of synthetic polymer, it has to be burnt. When burnt, they emit toxic fumes that have serious effects on health, like cancer and infertility. PVC seeps slowly into the soil and pollutes it. ❖

Leader

Community Worker



ESHG's OB Leaders



SHG's Book Keeper

Donkey in The Well

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!



Moral:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up. Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred - Forgive
2. Free your mind from worries - Most never happens
3. Live simply and appreciate what you have
4. Give more
5. Expect less from people but more from yourself. ❖

Resources

Book Name: The Social Contract

Classic Book

Author: Jean – Jacques Rousseau



'The Social Contract' was written by Rousseau in 1762. His famous phrase is 'Man is born free, but everywhere he is chains'. In the book, he opposed the 'divine' rights of the kings upon people. According to his logic, the people should prepare laws with common agreement for governance. He articulated a set of values and systems, to ensure the freedom of people. He clearly mentioned, that a society should have two parts- First part comprising a set of people, who will represent the people's common will, with law making power. Second part is the Government, which implements the laws. If the government fails to implement laws, People should change that government. The book inspired many political reforms in the world.

Book Name: Agriculture, Biodiversity And Markets: Livelihoods And Agroecology

Latest Book

Editors: Stewart Lockie, David Carpenter

This volume takes a comparative approach, illustrating the collected case studies from developed and developing countries across the world. It provides better insights on biodiversity and agroecosystems. It describes the important role of biodiversity in determining agricultural productivity and deciding the livelihoods of the agricultural communities. It discussed the vital role of biodiversity and suggested many market based initiatives and instruments to protect biodiversity. This book is highly recommended to all those who want to know about agriculture and biodiversity.

e-links

- LEAP : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/301-seripally-village-alampur-mandal-mahabubnagar-district
- VCA : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/303-maize-value-chain
- Sub sector : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/302-sub-sector-chickpea
- e-book : https://www.google.co.in/search?q=xa.yimg.com%2Fkq%2Fgroups%2F17906145%2F...%2Fillusions_by_richardbach.pdf
- v- book : <http://www.livelihoods.net.in/e-class-room/spirit-enterprise?t=10s>

Supplements

- Supplement: 1 : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/304-suppelementhow-to-do-recruitment-in-ngos
- Supplement: 2 : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/305-acharya-vinoba-bhave-

e-course

e-course: Capsule 3: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/306-e-course-capsule-3-march-2014

'Yoga'kshemam

Happy Holi! Happy Ugadi!

Telangana Appointed Day is 2 June. Preparations are going on at brisk pace.

9-phase Election Processes are in progress. Election Code is in vogue. Parties are finalizing alliances, seat sharing arrangements, vote sharing tactics, etc. Manifestos are being released. Candidates are being announced. Initial advantage appears to be with BJP. Middle Game and End Game will be critical.

Transition times, transition results, transition ways.

Transition is in the air.

Transition is for legacy and it needs us to live. Transition requires us to have 'life'. Transition requires linkages. Transition requires authentic leadership. Learning and of course, love are integral to transition.

Life could be divided into four phases –

- ♦ getting ready (initial learning, first 15-30 years);
- ♦ working (prime livelihood, second 0-40 years);
- ♦ transition (fulfilment beyond working, third 10-40 years); and
- ♦ towards nirvana (last 0-10 years).

Of these three phases, the third phase is the most mature and critical phase towards maximized usefulness to this universe. In this phase, we discover and realize our latent and inner potential with lasting impact and legacy. Obviously this begins with the self, but extends to the universe. We keep going forward. Transition means we are useful. Usefulness is the essence of transition. Transition combines wisdom of learning over the years, the realization of the potential of highest impact, ability, time, and purpose and brings forth usefulness of highest order. Transition is therefore a transformation. Transformation is caused collectively by thoughts, beliefs and intentions towards improvements in the ability, investments of time and aligning with the purpose.

The month has endorsed the importance of consistent writing for all our letters, documents, notes etc. We need to follow a style and format guide consistently. The elements of consistent, crisp and good writing that require norms to be followed include –

- ♦ American English vs British English vs Indian English, and exceptions
- ♦ Gender neutral language
- ♦ Size of the Page
- ♦ Justification of the Paragraph
- ♦ Header
- ♦ Footer
- ♦ Capitalization
- ♦ Lower, Upper Case
- ♦ Hyphenation
- ♦ Bullets, numbered bullets, sub-bullets
- ♦ Titles, Captions

- ♦ Headings
- ♦ Currencies
- ♦ Dates, Date Ranges, Years
- ♦ Time, Clock
- ♦ Units, Ranges, Weights and Measures
- ♦ Active Voice vs Passive Voice
- ♦ Indirect Speech vs Direct Speech
- ♦ First Person vs Third Person
- ♦ Hyphenation
- ♦ Numbers, ratios and fractions
- ♦ Line Space, Paragraph Space
- ♦ Paragraph indent
- ♦ Fonts and Font sizes
- ♦ Punctuation
- ♦ Bold vs underline vs italicize vs normal
- ♦ References
- ♦ Abbreviations/Acronyms, plurals of abbreviations
- ♦ Use of apostrophe
- ♦ Abstracts
- ♦ Power Point presentations

To be useful, we need to communicate. We need articulate communication. We need to write. We need to present. This requires practice and disciplined effort.

Transition for realizing glorious potential within us and usefulness to the universe is the same thing said in two different ways. Consolidated realized glorious potential within us is the larger good to the universe. Our transition, therefore, our usefulness is in our actions towards realizing the potential. These actions are

combined actions to integrate learning, potential, invested time and effort. Integration lets us attract our co-travelers to become teams of symphony for the universe. To lead and to be led for the symphony of the universe, we need to become integral to the inner self.

This integration is the transition. The time is now. The inner self has to take charge now. Body, senses and thoughts fall in line now. As 'within' persists with 'transition', eternal integration in the universe is the way out.

This persistence with integration is the bliss! This is raadhapallavam.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we pursue, persist and get ready! If we go after the soul of the universe! If we respond to its call! If we set our values of integration! If we realize the creative tension of not becoming our identities on integration! If we keep persisting with resolving this creative tension! If we take charge together! If we climax together! Krsna confirms – together we are the universe and universe is 'us'. Therefore, universe pursues us and we pursue universe eternally.

Join us in the world of yoga – for mutual pursuance – towards krishnavapallavayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar

