

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

November 2013



Aspiration of a Common Person

Dr Verghese Kurien is on the mind.

Cyclones in succession!

Telangana continues to inch forward!

Election Processes in 5 states continue!

National Elections are round the corner. Common People have frustrations with the Government(s) and aspirations from the new Government(s), with major influences on their lives and livelihoods. Election Manifestos are expected to articulate efforts to minimize these frustrations and fulfil the reasonable aspirations. National Common Minimum Programme of the Government has to take them on board in some manner. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Aspirations of a Common Person' through interviews as a special issue.

'Legend' introduces 'Kurien'. 'How to' supplement discusses 'How to do Induction?' Usual e-links introduce a video (Women Empowerment), book (Rural Development: Putting the Last First), LEAP (Mungimalla Village), value-chain/subsector (dry fish/green gram), and eleventh issue (Project Management) of e-livelihoods learning course.

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

the 'livelihoods' team.

Approximately 10 percent of the world's population lives with a disability. Often ignored, forgotten or stigmatized, people with disabilities not only struggle for daily recognition, but face life-threatening challenges in times of disaster.



Present Development professionals are largely reluctant in staying with poor people in the villages or tribal areas which is essential to understand poverty.

<p>Latest 'livelihoods' Supplements e-course</p>				
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‘livelihoods’ team
 Editor-in-Chief G Muralidhar
 Working Editors B Ramya
 T Venkateshwarlu
 Edit Associates K Krishna Chaithanya
 S Laxman
 K Ramesh
 M Siddhardha

walked/ walking with us
 T Aparna Gayathri Mansi Koushik
 K Bharathi V Muralidhar
 G Bhargava D Narasimha Reddy
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 P Madhusudan M Vijaybhasker
 G Madhu Vamsi K Visweswar Rao
 P Mahesh

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Akshara Livelihoods (ALPL)

For enquiries contact:
AKSHARA Network for Development Support Services,
 HIG II B-25 F-6, APHB Colony,
 Baghlingampally, Hyderabad - 500044

Mobile: 09951819345
 www.aksharakriti.org
 www.livelihoods.net.in
 aksharakriti@gmail.com

Focus: Aspirations of a Common Person 6

Every Month.....

News & Response		4
Perspective	Kurien is The Way	5
Interviews		9
Story, Books & e-links		22
‘Yoga’kshemam		23

e-links	LEAP	Mungimalla Village
	VCA	Dry Fish
	Sub-sector	Green Gram
	e-book	Rural Development: Putting The Last First
	v-book	Women Empowerment

e- course	Capsule; 11:	Project Management
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Supplement; How to do	How to do Induction ?
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Supplement: Legend	Verghese Kurien
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Good morning Sir. I received latest e-copy 'livelihoods' October 2013. It's very informative. Thank you for sending magazine.

With regards
Nagaraju
Agri. Co coordinator , Andhra Pradesh

I received latest 'livelihoods' October 2013. It is very informative and good designing.

G. Yadava Reddy

Field Coordinator, CSA, Hyderabad

I received latest e-copy 'livelihoods' October 2013. It's very informative. Thank you for sending magazine.

Ravi Kumar ,

MEPMA, Andhra Pradesh

Received latest e-copy 'livelihoods' October 2013. It's useful for us. Thank you for sending magazine.

Rajendra Prasad

Andhra Pradesh. ❖



Can Aadhar only be sufficient to access all public services?

News

AP Grants 'Right of Way' For National Optical Fibre Network Project: The Andhra Pradesh Government has issued right of way to Bharat Broadband Network Ltd entails an outlay of Rs 20,000 crore and is expected to be completed by 2014-15. Under the project, it is proposed to provide internet bandwidth of 100 mbps for every gram panchayat. The project has potential to transform lives in rural areas including video data, internet and telephone in areas such as education, health, entertainment, business and e-governance on delivery of services.

Environment Protection A Top Priority of Adilabad Raj Gonds: The survival of the Raj Gonds depends on agriculture inside forests which needs incorporation of ways and means of crop protection. Rapid deforestation and extinction of forest species in the recent years have made the tribal culture rather obsolete at an equal pace. A substantial deviation from their ethos can be seen among the Gonds and Kolams, especially the youth, as the demands of a changed environment is pulling them away towards towns and cities in search of livelihoods. ❖

World Bank Reviews Implementation of Livelihoods Mission: Madhya Pradesh: A team of World Bank undertook a detailed review of extension works done under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in the state since April 1 this year. They laid emphasis on income augmentation of self-help groups through financial assistance. They also stressed the need to chalk out a strategy for financial assistance from banks to SHGs and empowerment and skill development of rural organisations

More NREGS Man-days in Calamity-hit Districts: The Centre has agreed to increase the man-days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to 150 in the cyclone and flood-affected districts of Ganjam, Puri, Mayurbhanj and Balasore. The present limit for guaranteed employment to rural households under the scheme is 100 days a year. Panchayati raj secretary has directed the district administrations to take immediate steps in view of the order. Sources said the state government recently wrote to the Union government to allow it to engage more people under MGNREGS for removing debris from sand-cast land and roads in the calamities-hit areas of Odisha. It had also requested the Centre to increase the man-days, which aimed at providing employment to the affected people of the four districts. ❖



Coconut Crisis Looms as Post-war Palm Trees Age: Southeast Asia: Asia's coconut palms, which mark the landscape from the Philippines to India, face a crisis as aging groves become less productive, with harvests that are a source of food and income for millions being outstripped by demand. The trees, many of which were planted about 50 to 60 years ago, no longer yield enough to meet rising demand, according to the Rome-based Food & Agriculture Organization. While world consumption of coconut products is growing more than 10 percent a year, production is increasing by only 2 percent, it said. In the Philippines, among the three biggest growers, one in five people depends on the crop to some extent, according to the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community. ❖

Kurien is The Way!

Phailin, Lehar! Mangalyan successfully launched.
Telangana, still a work in progress! Sachin retires and gets Bharat Ratna.

Fake sting operation! Modi stalking? Ganguly assaulting?

Tejpal arrested.

Amidst all this, let us remember the social entrepreneur par excellence, Dr Verghese Kurien.

Dr Kurien had gone to Anand in late 40s to work in a government creamery. Quickly, he had moved to work with the cooperative led by Tribhuvan Patel and Amul has become a success by late 50s. In 1964, Prime Minister Shastri wanted more Amuls and 'manadated' Kurien to go forward with his blessings and no money. National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) had come into being with Dr Kurien as the Chairman with its headquarters at Anand away from the corridors of power and babudom. NDDDB was a technical support agency. Indian Dairy Corporation, with headquarters at Vadodara was a financial arm. The support came from sale of milk powder under World Food Programme. Operation Flood went on to replicate Amuls all over the country. NDDDB added oil, fruits and vegetables, salt etc., to milk as it progressed. India became largest milk producer in the world and self-sufficient in milk, with per capita milk availability of 290 grams/day.

About 15 million milk producers are collectivized nationally through village dairies, cooperatives, unions, federations and national federation.

Gradually, a cooperative movement has been ushered in. Fight for self-reliant cooperative act continues even now.

Dr Kurien established IRMA to service the dairy cooperatives. Gradually, IRMA is servicing the development and/or rural management, with its 2000 professionals. Rural Management discipline has emerged. Cooperative Management discipline has emerged.

Still, Bharat Ratna has eluded him.

A parallel for this effort has not been seen in the country till recently. National Rural Livelihoods Mission may be that effort in future! Incidentally its focus, philosophy, processes, and institutions are strikingly similar. Therefore, it makes sense to review and reflect on the ways of Amul, NDDDB and IRMA and develop ways forward for NRLM. With National Urban Livelihoods Mission also announced, this reflection, visioning and strategizing is important and needs to be taken immediately.

Critical questions that need to be explored and answered include –

- * Amuls and NDDDB took 50+ years to achieve. Should we not budget similar time frame?
- * Amul is the model that has been replicated. What is the model that is being replicated here? Can we describe it clearly and unambiguously?
- * How do we marry the people's institutions and professionals?
- * How do we produce and nurture professionals with conviction and understanding of the model?
- * How do we go about building the self-help management discipline?
- * How do we build a self-help movement?
- * How do we have an act that supports self-help institutions?
- * How do we build on the cooperative movement's processes and adopt for the self-help movement?

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

* How do we initiate and build 'IRMA's for servicing NRLM and NULM?

* How do we build body of literature and research on this model?

* How do we build channels of knowledge dissemination including stories, songs, books, videos, films, radios, television channels, portals etc.?

* How do we use the new technology?

* How do we expand the comprehensive value-chain works of dairy into various value-chain works of the poor?

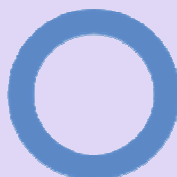
* How do we build political buy in but not interference?

* How do we build professionalism away from the corridors of power? Is Anand away from Delhi useful?

* How do ensure focus on the model, without diffused efforts in various directions?

* How do we hasten up scaling-up? Spearhead teams? Resource Pools? Resource Agencies? Community Resource Persons? Grassroots Professionals?

It appears seeding a pool of 10-50 passionate dedicated resource persons in each state would be the key. Each pool needs to be serviced by a mentor or two at the national level. These senior mentors should be identified and should be involved in this reflection and visioning and inspired for dedication to this task of building this movement. ❖



world diabetes day

14 November

Aspirations of a Common Person

16th Lok Sabha elections are coming. People have been electing public representatives for the last 6 decades with hope of better lives and livelihoods. In the last 15 elections in 63 years many political parties came with different election manifestos promising many things to the people particularly to the poor. In this period many schemes and programs designed to eradicate poverty and provide livelihoods support to the people. Different schemes were introduced to provide basic needs of the people such food, health, education, electricity, housing etc to the people in the part their election manifestos and pressure from people to materialize those promises. Lakhs of crores expenditure was invested in to those schemes and programs.

Poverty has been existing along with hundreds number of schemes and poverty elimination programs poverty also existing for decades. According to World Bank Report (2010) 32.27% of the people are below poverty line with very less income US\$ 1.25 per day and 68.7% people living with only US\$ 2 per day. Employment, food security, housing, health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity, transport, minimum support prices, social security, insurances are stressing problems of the in the poor in the country. Basic needs prices have been increasing in an unimaginable way. Poor are struggling to survive with sky height prices.

The agriculture which is providing employment to the more than half of the population in the country has been facing problem for 3 decades. Large numbers of small and marginal farmers are depending on agriculture in rural areas. They are not getting minimum income from the agriculture. Farmer's suicides are very high in the country. The uneven rains, increasing inputs cost, fluctuations of the crops prices, lack of support systems are putting huge burden on farmers. Second largest employment providing occupation weaving is also facing problems. With the increasing input cost and sever competition with power looms push the weaving sector into the vulnerable condition. Small scale industries and cottage industries are facing tremendous pressure from big industries. Lack of investment and increasing production cost taking these industries to sick stage. Productivity has been gradually decreasing and unable to provide income to the dependent communities in fishing and NTFP.

Different sections of the people like farmers, weavers, artisans, agriculture, wage labourers, fishermen, small entrepreneurs, Non Timbers Forest Produce (NTFP) collectors, small produce, and unemployed persons are suffering with serious livelihoods related problems. The coming government should focus should on the problems of the various sections of the people and design & implement the schemes and programs to meet their needs. Here there major demands as follows...

Farmers:

- * Government ensure that, every farmer should get minimum Rs. 50000 income per year
- * Agriculture products prices should 50% higher than the production cost
- * Provide in time and sufficient agriculture loans to the farmers at 3 % interest rate
- * Provide seeds, fertilizers and pesticides sufficiently with 50% subsidy rates through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS)
- * Include small farmers agriculture works particularly harvesting works in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- * Provide crop compensation minimum Rs. 10000 per acre
- * Establish agricultural based industries in villages
- * Provide in time and sufficient agriculture extended services
- * Establish cold storages in each major Grampachayat
- * Ban Genetically Modified (GM) crops until those crop are prove safe
- * Allot 50% of research investment to promote organic practices research and promotion
- * Increase investment research to enhance crops productivity and endurance
- * Setup farmers training centers and include organic farming in the curriculum and use best farmers as resource persons in trainings
- * Strengthen utilize the resources for their livelihoods enhancement and lobbying for policies to support agriculture
- * Establish village level collective procurement centers



- * Establish kiosk centers in every major gram panchayat to provide update information about seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, best practices and crops prices

Weavers:

- * Separate handloom and textiles and allot separate budget to handloom
- * Provide raw material including yarn (warp, weft & jari), colours, chemicals and machinery with 50% subsidy
- * Increase health scheme amount from Rs. 15000 to Rs.30000
- * Increase weavers pension from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000
- * Establish Andhra Pradesh Cooperative (APCO) procurement centers at society level (10 to 15 villages)
- * Increase handloom budget to Rs. 5000 crores
- * Provide life insurance to all weavers and increase insurance amount from Rs. 30000 to Rs. 2 Lakhs
- * Provide loans to all weavers at 3% interest rate
- * Provide exhibitions across the country to handloom products
- * Include handloom works in MGNREGS
- * Reduce production cost and ensure to Rs. 50000 income per weaving family per year
- * Provide training to weavers on new designs according to present generations requirements



Labour:

- * Provide employment 270 working days per year to all kinds of labours
- * Minimum wage should Rs. 150 in rural areas and Rs. 250 in urban areas to the labour
- * Ensure equal wages to men and women
- * Provide skills up gradation programs
- * Provide insurance to all labours and increase the compensation amount up to Rs. 2 Lakhs
- * Establish day care centers at work places for labour children
- * Provide safe drinking water facility at work places
- * Provide health insurance to all labours
- * Provide special schools to migrant labours' children
- * Ensure safety measures at work places
- * Provide 150 work days per eligible labour under MGNREGS



Artisans:

- * Establish village level and occupation based artisan collective and provide training to meet the market needs
- * Provide sheds and electricity to the artisans
- * Establish and promote research institutes to develop new design according to consumers interest
- * Provide raw material at subsidy rate
- * Provide loans at 3% interest
- * Provide tax exemption on artisans' products and their raw material
- * Establish district level artisans cooperatives under producers company



- * Artisans' products should be patented
- * Organize exhibitions and promote artisans products
- * Provide insurance to all artisans
- * Provide quality health and education facilities to all artisan families
- * Provide reservation for artisan products in government institutions

Small Entrepreneurs:

- * Provide raw material and uninterrupted electricity at subsidy prices
- * Provide loan at 3% interest
- * Provide skill trainings to the small entrepreneurs
- * Invest in research in designing suitable technologies for small entrepreneurs
- * Provide safety measures to protect from corporate
- * Make easy accessibility to get permissions and license
- * Provide all types of insurances
- * Organize entrepreneurs in collectives
- * Protect from the harassments of local rowdies and police personnel at business places
- * Create and promote suitable environment to entrepreneurship development
- * Design policies to promote small entrepreneurship

Workers in Unorganized Sector:

- * Increase the wages according to the inflation
- * Ensure to safe conditions at work places
- * Ensure to implement labour Acts in the industries and factories
- * Ensure unionization in industries and factories
- * Provide sufficient compensation at the time accidents
- * Provide basic needs at work places
- * Provide health and life insurance to the workers
- * Provide quality education to the workers' children

NTFP Collectors:

- * Provide minimum prices to Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)
- * Ensure right to tribals to access NTFP produces from forest
- * Form NTFP collectors' collectives
- * Establish collective NTFP procurement centers
- * Provide insurance to NTFP collectors
- * Provide quality health and education facilities to NTFP families
- * Provide training on NTFP collection
- * Provide tools to NTFP collectors
- * Provide loans at 0 % interest rate
- * Involve NTFP tribals in forest regeneration and preservation activities
- * Ensure to get 270 working days with Rs. 150 per day to per person to all NTFP collectors

There are millions of people depending on various livelihoods. They are facing different problems and getting minimum income from their livelihoods. They are struggling to meet basic needs and livelihoods enhancement. They need lot of direct and indirect support and services to their lives and livelihoods. This 16th elections may salve some of their aspirations. ❖

Vote to Sincere Candidate



Taddy Mahesh (24) is Marketing Executive at a Pharmaceutical Company in Visakhapatnam. His native place is Nayuduvalasa, Vizianagaram District.

How many members are there in your family?

We are 3 members in the family - my mother and brother. They live in my native village Nayuduvalasa of Vizianagaram district. My mother is a daily wage labourer and my brother is a student.

Did you cast your vote in the previous election?

Yes I casted my vote in the last election.

What were your expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the candidates would provide welfare and some development programs to the people.

Did you receive any benefits?

No, I did not get any benefits from the party and government in last elections.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming elections. I want to cast my vote for a sincere candidate who will work for the development of their constituency. My only demand is that everybody should get the benefits entitled to them from the government. These should not be held back or delivered late.

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

My financial problems increase every passing day. Price rise in food and essential commodities has only made life more difficult. I hope the next government would take measures to control prices.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, since my family is a white-card holder (BPL) we are entitled to a host of schemes. However, I got only college fee reimbursement from the government this year.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to develop my skills in my career and get good opportunity. ❖

Reduce Commodities' Prices



P. Balaram Singh (50) working as a dhobi & Ironing to clothes in Dhoolpet, Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family?

We are 6 members in the family - Me, my wife, 3 sons and 1 daughter .

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

I run a laundry. I earn Rs 400/day, besides my wife also runs a laundry shop in Dhoolpet she earns Rs. 200/-day.

Did you cast your vote in the previous election?

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous elections 7 times.

What were your expectations when you casted your vote?

I wanted the government to act on reducing the commodity prices, create more jobs. I was also expecting to avail a scheme to from the government to construct a house.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I hope to get financial support from the government towards the construction of a new house, create more jobs.

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

My children don't have a job even though they are graduates. Besides that, I have no proper house to live in.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I take my ration from the PDS shop.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to open a new laundry shop; provide good jobs to my children. ❖

Loan For Own House

Nagesh (22) is running a Chat stall at Kachiguda, Hyderabad.



Tell us about your family?

We are 6 members in the family - my father, mother, 3 sisters and me. We are an agricultural family and back in our village.

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

I am running a chat stall near Kachiguda Railway station, Hyderabad. I earned Rs 500/day.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I have voted in the previous elections.

What were your expectations when you casted your vote?

I hoped the government would support me in building my own house, availing financial support for my business, etc.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. My expectations remain unchanged; I hope to get financial support from the government to construct a new house.

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

I am the only earning member in the family. At times, I earn only Rs 100 to 200/- day. I struggle to support my family.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I get ration from the PDS and a subsidized gas cylinder.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to open a sweet shop. ❖

Reduce Petrol Prices

Pasha (40) is a Auto Driver in Hyderabad.



Tell us about your family.

We are totally 4members in the family. They are my wife, and two children, 1 boy and 1 girl.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per day/month?

I am an auto driver. I have been in this profession for the past 11 years. Before that I used to work as a mechanic. I earn Rs 10,000/month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I casted my vote in the previous elections.

What were your expectations when you casted your vote?

Yes, when I voted I hoped that the government would do something to decrease petrol prices and financial support from the government to buy a car and start a taxi service. I also want support to build a house.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I expect that I may get financial support from the government to buy a car and own a new house.

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

I don't have enough money to provide quality education my children.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I am accessing the PDS scheme, subsidized gas cylinder.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to start a taxi service. ❖

Provide Loan For Business

Reduce Commodities' Prices



MD Jahangir (48) is running a tyre puncture / mechanic shop near Baghlingampally, Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family.

We are totally 7 members in the family. They are my wife, mother, 3 daughters, and a son and along with myself.

What is your present occupation?

How much do you earn per day/month?

I am running a tyre puncture cum mechanic shop near . Baghlingampally, Hyderabad. I earn Rs. 8000/- per month. And my wife is a tailor. She earns about Rs. 2500/ per month from the fabrication.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

Yes, when I have voted I thought I would get support from government like financial loan to poor people and scholarships to the children's.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any type of benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I expect some loans from the government to expand my business.

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

At present prices of essential commodities are increasing every day, living conditions are also worsening. This problem is to be solved by the new government.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I have PDS ration card, Aarogyasree health scheme card, subsidy gas cylinder card under the Deepam scheme. I am able to benefit from all of them.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to give quality education to my children so they can get good jobs and settle well. ❖



Ramesh Nayak (34) is a Security Guard for ATM in Hyderabad. He migrated from Nizamabad.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my wife and 2-year old son in Hyderabad.

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

I have been working as a security guard for the last 3 years, and I earn 7,400 per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes I have casted my vote in the previous elections.

What were the fundamental expectations when you voted?

I expected a government job, because I worked in a Nizam Sugar factory as a daily wage labour, According to the management they said that they would hire if there is any work otherwise which I would have to lookout for a job because of which I have migrated to Hyderabad city and working as a security guard. I want loan from the government to take an auto /car for driving purpose.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

No, I did not get any benefits from the party or the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I would expect a reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel including provisions also, provide the employment, and provide me one flat on Rajeev Swagrauha scheme.

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

My salary is not sufficient to survive in the city and I need one house for staying in the city. I am using a bicycle to commute around the city as I am not able to bare the bus fare.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

So far, I did not get any benefits from the government. I have applied for Indiramma house in the village but I did not get the scheme, I applied the financial assistance from the government on the scheme of Chief Minister Employment Yojana (CMEY) but I did not get any assistance.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to start a business like tent house, driving auto or to start fish farming. ❖

I Got Help For Own House

Allot Place For Shop



Swamy Nayak (37) is working as Fruits vendor and Labour in Cheekatimamidi village, Bommalaramaram mandal, Nalgonda district.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my wife and 2 boys. My sons are studying in the village.

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

Presently, I am working as a fruit vendor in rainy season. I sell custard apples in this season. In the off-season I work as an agriculture laborer in the village.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I casted my vote in the previous elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I hoped to construct my house under the scheme of Indira Awas Yogana with the financial support from the government.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

Yes, I got the amount for construct my house under the scheme of Indira Awas Yogana (IAY), MGNREGA card and PDS card also.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I want financial support from the government, provide me labor work throughout the year, and increase the wages.

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

Competitions from fellow vendors, health problems, less working days, etc are some of the problems being faced.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to get the work regularly. ❖

Balaraj (70) is a Flower Vendor in Narayanaguda, Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my daughter, her children and wife. My daughter has three sons.



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

I am a Flower vendor near Narayanguda flyover. I am a vendor for the last 5years. I earn Rs 500-600/- daily.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous elections so many times.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected they will give some place to start the shop, and get Rs 1000 as old age pension.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I get a pension of Rs 500 per month, PDS card and Government has provided a 4 wheeler cart.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I expect the government to increase the pension, as it is not sufficient to support the family.

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

Flowers are very perishable products, so they expire soon and I suffer losses. Besides my health ailments are a regular problem. I need to pay Rs 200 per month to traffic police as fine for running my shop 'illegally'.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I got the pension from the government of Rs500 per month. I am a white card holder get the ration every month.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to start a flower shop and give quality education to my grandchildren. ❖

Provide Employment



Mahesh Kumar (25) is running a small provision shop in Narayanaguda, Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my parents and my brother. My parents stay at home. My brother

just finished his MBA.

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

I am running a small provision shop. I earned 8000 / month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes I have casted my vote in the previous 2 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected the government will give me employment opportunity; and reduce the prices of the commodities.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I expect the government to support livelihoods of the poor and provide financial assistance to the poor.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, I got PDS ration card, subsidized gas cylinder card under the scheme of Deepam and the government gave the flat to my grandfather.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to get employment in public sector (job of any kind). ❖

Provide Health Services



Laxmi (40) is Bamboo product vendor in Barkatpura, Hyderabad.

Tell us about your family.

We are 5 members in the family - 2 sons and one daughter. My daughter is married.

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

I have been running a shop which sells baskets and other bamboo products for 25 years now. I earn Rs 7000/- per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I casted my vote in the previous election. I have voted in 6 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the government would provide me an Aarogyasri card, and some financial support.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I am not getting any financial support from the government. I want to expand my shop with the money.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I expect to get financial support from the government to construct a new house and new shop.

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

We are facing some health problems, besides this Traffic police are collecting from us is Rs. 200/- per month.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the government? If so, what are they?

I benefit from the PDS scheme, subsidized cylinder from the government.

What are your future plans?

I Didn't Get Benefits



Bibi (50) is a Rag picker in Hyderabad. Her family migrated from Mallepally, Nizamabad.

Tell us about your family.

I live with my husband and daughter.

What is your present occupation? How much do

you earn per day/month?

I collect waste papers, plastic bags and other reusable items from the garbage. I earn Rs 300/day. The work is not frequent. Some days I get Rs 500, other day Rs 150. My income depends upon the availability of waste papers.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous 3 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

Yes, I thought I would get financial assistance life loans from the government.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. My expectations were not met last time. So they remain the same. I hope to get some financial assistance from the government or party for building a new house.

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

The prices of food and essential commodities are increasing every day. This is making things tough. Our living conditions are already so bad, it is only worsening now. I hope the new government would be more in tune with our needs.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I have not got any benefit from any government scheme.

What are your future plans?

My immediate plan is to build a house for my family. ❖

Want Loan For Business



Srinivas Chary (45) is a carpenter in Hyderabad. His family migrated from Ramayampet, Medak District.

Tell us about your family.

We are 5 members. in the family - my wife and 3 children (2 daughters. and 1 son) and me.

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

I am a carpenter, and work on daily wage basis. I work at a furniture shop in Hyderabad. I earn an average Rs. 15,000 per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous 5-6 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I want financial assistance from the government to purchase some small machinery, new instruments for my profession. I also hoped the government would reduce the price of provisions and petrol and diesel.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I want financial assistance from the banks or government to purchase a new machine and instruments which are required for my profession. My other demands include reduction in the price of provisions and including petrol and diesel etc.

The government should also provide quality education children and provide health schemes. These schemes should be implemented for every eligible individual. But financial assistance in the form of loans and scholarships for children's education are on the top of the list.

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

The rising prices of food and essential commodities are the most dominant problem in our daily life. Deteriorating health conditions, high school fees add to our troubles.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I am eligible for PDS ration card, Aarogyasree health scheme card, and subsidy gas cylinder card.

What are your future plans?

In future I want to establish my own shop. I will provide employment to a few people and hope to run a flourishing business. That is my future plan. ❖

Provide Loan For Livestock

No Support Received



Venkat Reddy (45) is a Farmer in Itikanellore, Punganoor Mandal, Chittoor District.

Tell us about your family.

We are 4 members in the family. My wife is an agriculture labourer. My elder son helps me on the farm. And, younger son is studying at village.

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

I purchased an acre of land and took 3 acres for lease in the village. I am cultivating paddy, sugarcane and groundnut in the land. In last crop, I have lost in crops because of heavy rains. So, I did not earn anything last season. But, in better conditions, I would have earned Rs. 30,000/- crop.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes I have casted my vote in the previous election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the government would give subsidies on sheep and cattle. Therefore I casted my vote.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the party and government. When I voted, I thought I would receive subsidies on sheep and cattle. Earlier the candidates had promised they would give subsidies on cattle. But they did not keep their promise.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming elections. Being a small farmer I would demand that we (in the villages) get the entitlements we are eligible for from the coming government. I hope that new representatives would give better services to poor in the villages, especially services related to agriculture and livestock.

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

Yes, the uncertain and insufficient rainfall is a real threat to my crops every season. I wanted to rear sheep and cattle as a contingency. However, I can't imagine buying a decent -sized herd without assistance/subsidies. The rising prices add to our woes.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I have received crop compensation of Rs. 2000 per acre from the government. It was insufficient. But my expenditure was Rs. 10000 to Rs. 15000 per acre.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to cultivate paddy, sugarcane and groundnut along with developing the livestock business (Sheep and Cattle). Besides I also want to give better education for my son. ❖

Nokku Laxmi (36) is a Anganwadi Teacher in Dosarapamu village, Rajavommangi mandal, East Godavari district.

Tell us about your family.

We are 4 members in the family. My husband is working at an NGO in Visakhapatnam. We belong to tribal community. My village belongs to the ITDA area in East Godavari district.

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

I am working as Anganwadi Teacher in our Village. I have been doing this job for the last 6 years. I am getting a salary of Rs 3700 per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes I have casted my vote in the previous many elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the government would take measures for the development of our community and village.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the party or government. When I voted, I thought they would work for the development of tribal people and villages. But they did not do much.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

No, I am not willing to vote in the upcoming elections. Because 4 months ago my husband was met with an accident and nobody supported us. I received some support from ICDS, but it wasn't sufficient. Therefore I am not willing to vote in coming election.

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

At present my husband's health is not well. He can't go to work and his treatment is expensive. My income is too little to support the family. Therefore we are facing a serious financial crisis. The rising prices are only adding to the burden.

Are you entitled to any schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, I got some benefits from the government. I got a house from the Indiramma Housing scheme. My father-in-law is getting old age pension.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to give better education for my daughter. I want to be of service to the children of our village through the Anganwadi forever. ❖

Vote For Good Candidate



Mandapaka Seshu Rao (70) is a President to Elders Mandal Mahila Samakhyia in Korukonda mandal, East Godavari district.

**What is your educational qualification?
What is your native village?**

I have studied till 6th class. I am a native of Kanupur village, Korukonda Mandal, East Godavari district.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

We are a family of 10 members consisting of me, my wife, 3 sons and 3 daughter-in-laws, my sons are doing agriculture.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

As I am 70 years old, I am not able to work. I do not have an income. But I am a member of a Elders Self Help Group in my village. It is one of the ESHGs formed in our (Korunkonda)mandal under the name Karuna Project by HelpAge India. From the last 2 years, I have also been the President of Mandala Samakhyia.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I had expected development in our village as the candidates in the last elections had promised. But till date no such thing has happened.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

No, I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming elections. I want to vote for a good candidate who will work for the growth and development of his constituency. I want to demand the upcoming government to give the eligible people whatever they are entitled for under the various government schemes. I also want a united Andhra Pradesh.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

I do not have any financial problems. But due to my age I have some health problems.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, I have got a house loan through one of the schemes. I also get subsidy from the PDS by the government.

What are your future plans?

I don't have any future plans. But I want to see some changes made in the agriculture sector so that it can develop. ❖

Provide Better Education



Md. Naseed (34) is a Vegetable vendor in Tarnaka, Hyderabad.

What is your educational qualification?

I am an illiterate. I have been selling vegetables since my childhood.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family?

I live with my mother and father. I have 2 sons. Both of them are presently studying in a government school. I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters, all of them are married. I currently live in a rented house in Manikeshwar nagar, near Tarnaka, Secunderabad.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I am a vegetable vendor by profession and I earn a meager income which is hardly able to meet the family expenditure.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I wanted the government to control the increasing prices of basic commodities and goods. Also, I hoped to benefit from the various schemes announced by the government.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I didn't receive any sort of benefits from the governments.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I would like to vote with a hope that the upcoming government would keep the rising prices under check and I would be allowed to have the basic necessities of life like food and shelter.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

My basic problem is the increasing prices of goods as it is having a corresponding effect on the rest of the prices. Majority of my expenses are towards rent and current bill which are rising continuously. I do not know how to cope with the increasing expenses.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I am not entitled to any of the benefits being announced by the governments

What are your future plans?

It would be better if I can have a house of my own and I want to be able to get my children educated and have a good standard of living. ❖

Increase My Salary



Prakash (48) is working as Cook at hotel in Manikeshwarnagar, Secunderbad. He migrated from Karnataka.

What is your educational qualification?

I am an illiterate.

What is your family background?

How many members are there in your family?

I along with my wife and two children, live in a rented house. My family is totally dependent on the work I do, without having any extra source of income. I stay at Manikeshwarnagar, Tarnaka, Secunderbad.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

Presently I am a cook at a Hotel in Manikeshwarnagar. I earn Rs. 500 per day.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I thought the government would ensure that all my basic needs are met.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

Till date I haven't received any sort of benefits from the government because of lack of my identity proof.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I would like to vote in the upcoming elections. I would demand that my income (as a daily wage labor) should commensurate with the rising prices. I would also like to have a ration card, and a basic housing facility.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

I am a daily wage labor and I don't have any social security benefits.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

No, I am not entitled to any of the benefits of the government.

What are your future plans?

I would like to set up my own hotel in Tarnaka. ❖

Should Work For People



Prameela (30) is running a Flour mill in Manikeshwarnagar, Secunderbad.

What is your educational qualification?

I have studied till 7th class and dropped out of the school because of financial constraints.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family?

I live along with my husband and 2 children who are presently pursuing their education. Till date they are being educated in the government school. As my child got a good result in his 10th class examination I am thinking of getting him admitted into a private college. My family stays at Manikeshwarnagar, Tarnaka, Secunderbaad.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I run a small shop which houses a flour-mill. I earn nearly Rs 3,000/- per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the last election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the elected representatives would note the peoples concerns and would take care of their problems. For example - our area has an overflowing drainage but even though many representatives have come by, none of them have sorted the problem.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I have not been entitled to any of the benefits. 3 years ago I paid some amount towards the housing scheme announced by the government. Till date I haven't received any communication from their side. I am not a member of any SHG.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to participate in the upcoming elections. I want a promise on the provision of basic amenities like housing and education of my children, as majority of the my expenses are towards the rent and education of my children.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

I am not able to provide quality education to my children even though they are performing well in their studies because of insufficient income. Besides, the prices are continuously increasing making family sustenance difficult.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

No, I am not entitled to any of the benefits given by the government.

What are your future plans?

I would like to develop my business given the support of the government in the form of soft loans and lead a happy secure life in my own house. ❖

Provide Service to The Poor



Ch. Venkatesh (27) is running a Medical Shop in Pochampally.

**What is your educational qualification?
What is your native village?**

I have studied up to BA. I belong to Kanumukkula Village, Pochampally Mandal, Nalgonda District.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

There are 4 members in my family. My parents depend on Agriculture work. We have 2 acres of land in the village. My wife is a member in a Self Help Group in the village.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I am running a medical shop at Pochampally along with my wife. Last 4 years onwards I have been running this medical shop. I earn Rs. 8000 per month on this medical shop.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous 2 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected the elected persons would do some development activities for people.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government. When I voted I hoped that the candidates would take up development works for people in Telangana as they had said so in the manifesto. But they did no such thing.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am very much willing to vote in the upcoming elections. As a small entrepreneur, I want me and everyone in my village to get all the benefits we can from the government schemes. I hope whoever gets elected does service to the poor and improves the health and sanitation facilities in the villages.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

In the field of business that I am in there is a huge financial competition. Day to day all rates are increasing in India. Present ruling government is not doing anything to reduce inflation.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

So far, I got only Indiramma House from the government. I am expecting loan from the bank for my business development.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to construct a house at Pochampally and I want to develop my business. ❖

No Benefits Received



Rayabanda Venkata Chary (31) is a Photographer / TV repairer in Julur in Pochampally.

What is your educational qualification and your native village?

I have studied up to SSC. I belong to Julur Village, Pochampally Mandal, Nalgonda District.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

There are 4 members in my family. I have 1 1/2 acres land in the village and I gave my land to lease. My wife is a member in a Self Help Group in the village. She does tailoring in the village.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I am a Photographer in the village. I take photos for marriages and functions. Besides this work I repair electronic items. In the off-season, I do TV repairing work in the village. From the Photography I earn approximately Rs.60, 000 and from the TV repairing Rs. 40,000 per year.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous 2 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected that the candidate would do some development activities for people in the village.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any benefits from the government. I had hoped that the candidate would develop our region. But they did not do proper work.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am very much willing to vote in the upcoming elections. Being a small entrepreneur I would demand that I and everyone in my village to get eligibility to entitlements from the coming government. I expect that the candidate should provide better services to poor through schemes, loans and development programs.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

There is a huge competition and a lack of credit availability. I hope in coming elections a good person will win and from that person we will get better services to our village. These days inflation is there, all rates are increasing and we are not able to meet the family expenditure. Present ruling government is not doing anything to reduce inflation.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

So far, I did not get any benefits from the government. I have applied for Indiramma house in the village but I did not get a house from the scheme.

What are your future plans?

I want to construct a house in the village and establish a Photo Studio in Pochampally and I want to give better education to my children. ❖

Elders Should Get Entitlements

Provide Good Education



Vegi Mahalaxmi (60) is Secretary to Elders Mandal Mahila Samakhya in Korukonda mandal, East Godavari district.

What is your educational qualification? What is your native village?

I am illiterate. I did not go to school due to financial constraints.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

I live alone at home. I have two sons. They are married and stay separately in our village. My husband died 5 years ago.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

As I am 60 years, I am not able to work. But I am a member of a Elders Self Help Group in my village. It is one of the ESHGs formed in our (Korukonda) mandal under the name Karuna Project by HelpAge India. From the last 2 years, I have also been the Secretary of Mandala Samakhya. I do not have an income.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected the candidate who won in the last election to fulfill his promise of development in our village. But no such thing has happened.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

No, I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming election. I want to vote for a good candidate who will work for the growth and development of my constituency. I want to demand the upcoming government to give the eligible people whatever they are entitled to under the various government schemes. I want better roads and sanitation facilities in my village.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

I do not have any financial problems. But I have some health problems due to my age.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, I got a house loan through one of the schemes. I am also eligible for PDS.

What are your future plans?

I don't have any future plans. Elders' should get all entitlements from the government. ❖

Kasabogu Yacobu (48) is construction labour in Kurnool.

What is your educational qualification? What is your native village?

I have studied till 7th class. I stay at Dharmapeta in Kurnool.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

We are 7 members at home. My family consists of me, my wife and 5 children. My wife is working as daily wage labour in Kurnool. My daughters are working as maids at apartments in Kurnool. They are also doing their B.Tech and Inter.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I work as a construction labour in Kurnool. I earn Rs. 5000 per month. I get about 15-20 days of work for month.

Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?

Yes, I did. But my vote was declared invalid. I never found out why, I assume it was a casualty of corrupt politics.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I didn't expect anything, anyway I was thoroughly disappointed in the political system after my vote was declared invalid for no evident reason.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

No, I did not get any benefits from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

No, I am not willing to vote in the upcoming election. But, as a common man I would demand the upcoming government to give the eligible people whatever they are entitled for under the various government schemes. Under labour act, every labourer should get work and wage from the government. And government should provide good education to the children of construction labourers. Labourers should get more welfare schemes.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

I have financial problems. I am not able to meet family expenditures and children education fees also. I get construction labour work only 15-20 days in every month and the rest of the days I am staying at home idly.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

Yes, I am getting PDS from the government.

What are your future plans?

Be a Good Politician



N. Sivaram (32) is Secretary to Elders Mandal Mahila Samakhya in Korukonda mandal, East Godavari district.

What is your name and how old are you?

My name is N. Sivaram, I am 32 years old.

What is your educational qualification? What is your native village?

I studied up to 10th class. Presently I am living at Venkatareddynagar, Ramanthapur, in Malkajgiri, Hyderabad.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

We are totally 9 members in the family. They are my mother, father, sister, and 5 brothers.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I am running a pan shop from the last 5 years onwards. I earn Rs. 8000/- per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I wanted to get license from the government for my shop.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

Yes, I got financial support from the government to open a new shop and a license for the same.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I want to get financial support from the government to construct a new house, employment opportunities for my children, and a new shop.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

Street vending is not legally recognized as a result, I am often pulled up by the police. The only way out is to shell out heavy fines. Recently, the Central Government had passed a law to legalise street vendors and provide us with licenses. There has been no action on that front yet I hope the next Government would implement the law effectively.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I am accessing the P.D.S scheme and getting a subsidy cylinder from the government.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to be become a politician from Malkajgiri. ❖

Loan For Own House



Sonamma (55) is a Cobbler in Ramanthapur, Hyderabad.

What is your name and how old are you?

My name is Sonamma, I am 55 years old.

What is your educational qualification? What is your native village?

I am an illiterate. Presently I am living in Nethaji nagar colony, Ramanthapur, in Hyderabad.

What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?

We are totally 6 members in the family. My family consists of me and my 5 daughters. 4 of my daughters are married.

What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?

I am a cobbler. I earn Rs. 80 to 100/- per day.

Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

When I voted for the leader I thought I would get some financial assistance from the government.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

I did not get any type of monetary benefits.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will cast my vote. I hope to get financial support from the government to construct a new house and a new shop.

What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?

My husband has passed away. I am not earning sufficient money to support my family. One of my daughters is yet to get married and it is hard for me to support the family.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?

I am accessing the P.D.S scheme, subsidy cylinder and also pension from the government.

What are your future plans?

In future, I want to enjoy life with my grand children. Due to my age my body is not supporting me to do work. ❖

Reduce Commodities' Prices

Schemes Should Implement



Cherukupally Srinivas (35) is working as Private Teacher in Khammam.

Tell us about your family.

I am married and have a young son.

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

I am a teacher at a private school in Khammam. I earn Rs. 6000 a month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous held election?

Yes, I casted my vote in the last 3 elections.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I expected the government to reduce the prices of essential commodities like oil, rice petrol, etc. And provide employment opportunities to the younger generation. I also hoped it would make crop loans more accessible.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

Yes, to a certain extent. It hasn't been able to do anything about price rise. I was able to avail the "Rajeev Aarogya Sri" health scheme. And my father, who is a farmer, got a crop loan from the government.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I will vote. The government should focus on the common man's problems. I demand the government to reduce the price of provisions, including petrol and diesel. Quality education, health care should also be made available to everybody. For small farmers and small producers, the government should take measures to introduce/increase Minimum Support Price (MSP) and curtail the role of middlemen. The farmers should also be supported to deal with crop losses in the aftermath of natural calamities, like the recent cyclone which left many fields inundated and destroyed the crops. Uninterrupted power supply for cultivation, input subsidy to the poor are also required. The irrigation canal systems under Paleru Reservoir need to be restored. In off-season, MGNREGS must be implemented effectively. SC/ST welfare schemes, education support for children, etc. are also needed for the poor.

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

I would say rising prices of essential commodities is the toughest problem at present.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the government? If so, what are they?

I receive ration from PDS ration card, Arogyasree health scheme card, subsidized gas cylinder card.

What are your future plans?

I want to become a government teacher. And, I want to service in educations system forever. ❖



P. Lova Raju (26) is working as Office Boy at a Private Company, in Visakhapatnam.

Tell us about your family?

I live in Vizag. My wife, son and parents live in our village. My wife is a wage labourer.

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

I am an office boy at a private company. Besides this, I work part time at a tiffin center in Visakhapatnam. I earn approximately Rs.6000 per month.

Did you cast your vote in the previous election?

Yes I casted my vote in the previous election.

What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?

I looked forward to the government implementing development and welfare schemes for the poor. I hoped it would create more jobs.

Did the government live up to your expectations?

Yes, I got some benefits from the government. But it was not sufficient.

Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming elections. I only wish the government's schemes are implemented well so that the benefits reach the people they are meant for

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

My biggest problem is financial insecurity. I do not earn enough to support my family.

Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the government? If so, what are they?

Yes, I receive pension from the government. My wife borrows loans from her SHG.

What are your future plans?

I want to build my own house. With some financial support, I will also start a business on my own. ❖

The Two Hospital Patients

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on holiday.

And every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days and weeks passed.

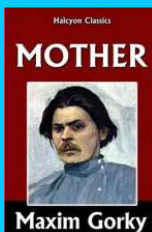
One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch and, after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it for himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed.

It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you." ❖

Resources

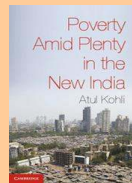
The book of 'Mother' is written by Maxim Gorky and published by Mahaveer Publication. In the book the literature represents much more than a pristine chronicle of a particular time and place; it occupies a unique position at the nexus of past and future realities. In the book the writer describes the vulnerable conditions of workers in 19 Century in Europe. He explained the workers struggles for their betterment and its impacts on the workers. The book 'Mother' is considered a turning-point in the history of Russian literature. If you like serious literature, and want to read how to portray the social history in a contemporary literary work –this is the best book to read. ❖

Classic Book



The book "Poverty Amid Plenty in the New India", written by Atul Kohli, was published by Cambridge University in 2012. The most important contribution of the book is the detailed analysis of the state role after reforms. Kohli intelligently analyzes the two-track system in which one side promotes one important scheme for political purpose and the second side implements pro-business policies. He examines the process of how reforms that were initiated at time of Indira Gandhi has changed such that political leaders shifted their focus from the common man to business interests on issues related to the economy. It is a good book for those who want to understand the results of ongoing reforms in the country. ❖

Latest Book



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e-course

‘Yoga’kshemam

Happy Deepavali! Happy Karthika!

Polls in 5 states go on!

Sachin Tendulkar is a Bharat Ratna!

Remembering Dr Verghese Kurien, Social Entrepreneur-at-large!

This month takes me to the threshold of transition. All my excuses seem to be over. I need to get going beyond schooling and de-schooling, to pursue the core deep within.

Amy Morin lists a mentally strong social entrepreneur would not be doing. These include –

- * No time to feel sorry for themselves [optimism does not die]
- * No transfer of control to others who make them feel inferior or bad.
- * No shying away from change.
- * No time for things they cannot control.
- * No extra steps to please others (naturally kind and fair)
- * No fear to take calculated risks
- * No time to dwell in the past
- * No time, energy and investment for making the same mistakes over and over
- * No time and energy for resenting other’s successes
- * No giving up with failure
- * No fear of being alone and no fear of being with others
- * No expectations from this world without homework and intense effort
- * No immediate results and no short cuts

To be mentally strong, it requires lots and lots of practice, discipline, effort and continual self-reflection. This would be improved with the help from the master.

The initial de-schooling and work has to be transformed and developed over a long period of time, may be a decade or two, to achieve the glorious potential that exists within us. This gets accentuated and picks up pace working with the master and the master’s grace. The potential becomes the symphony for the universe. It requires exploring each other’s depths together. It requires careful weaving together of the two into one. This transformation of weaving requires unbroken time together of the deep within and the without. Otherwise,

the possible may not be a reality.

Within and without have the same vision of something wonderful yet separated by solid walls. Both are frustrated and are in constant struggle – one breaking the walls and the other building the walls. It causes deep and intense pain on one level or the other. This resistance needs to be appreciated and melted out.

Twenty-plus years since the opening and de-schooling process has been initiated, the learning and transition into a next phase is pulling the steely exterior with all its force to surrender. No waiting is possible now, it appears. While it is the best it could reach, it has to go without its full development and climactic expression in the form of a finest weave.

Surely, ‘without’ is better by the touch of the ‘within’, even if they are not woven into one. Even if something deep goes unfulfilled for now! They continue to touch each other till the end.

Weaving together of the within and without is the master’s work and grace. It happens when we are ready. Getting ready is intense preparation, training, practice with intense effort with single minded pursuit. Pursuit of the universe! Pursuit of the ‘within’! If we do so, we become and remain useful to

the universe with all the love we possibly can give. This signals readiness to the master. When ready, the master takes the ‘within’ and ‘without’ and weaves them together. When ready, the master gets into the ‘within’ and pushes us to get woven together. The master separates and chooses the ‘within’ from others who are masquerading as ‘within’s. Then the ‘within’ would surely persist with weaving with ‘without’ in we evolving into eternal weave of warp and weft of the universe.

This weave of the ‘within’ and ‘without’ is the bliss! This is [krishnaambaram](#).

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we pursue and get ready! If we choose the ‘within’ from duplicates! If we let the ‘within’ be in touch with the ‘without’! If we let the ‘within’ take over the task of weaving! If we let ‘within’ and ‘without’ be woven together! If we let the master take the charge of nurturing and mentoring the ‘within’! Krishna confirms – ‘within’ and ‘without’ are meant to be woven together and lost in each other eternally.

Join us in the world of yoga – for letting our ‘within’ and ‘without’ be woven together – towards krishnaambarayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar



livelihoods

Policy and Programme