

livelihoods

today and tomorrow

November 2014

CHILD LABOUR



Happy Karthika!

Any child out of school is a child labour. Even after 67 years after independence, India could not succeed in enrolling 100% children in the school going age into schools. Some of them are labour in harmful occupations and some others are in unhygienic occupations too. Some are enslaved. Some are living with migrant parents. Some are left back at home. Some are tending their younger siblings. Some are tending the livestock. Some are domestic help outside and some in their own homes. It is widespread across urban and rural areas; across communities; across religions etc. It is both kinds - paid and unpaid. The numbers are high - more than 5% households are considered having child labour, largest in any country in the world. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Child Labour'.

Do not miss reading Vishnu Sharma's classic – Panchatantra.

Supplements included in this month include: Legendary Effort - 'Poultry' and Flagship Programme - MGNREGS.

Usual e-links introduce a video (Amul Story of India), book (Being Human by Margaret Archer), and value-chain/subsector (Chironji/ Bajra).

Daily notes for the month are presented as part of the e-livelihoods learning course. This month, it is capsule 11: Livelihoods Support.

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

the 'livelihoods' team

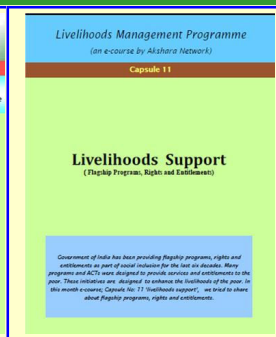
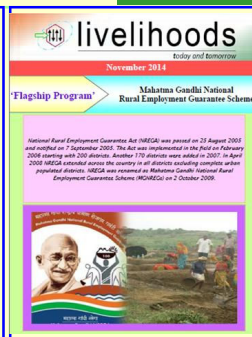
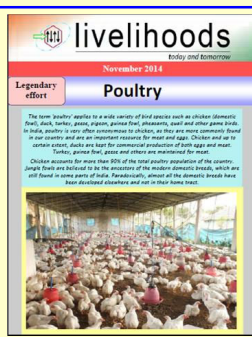
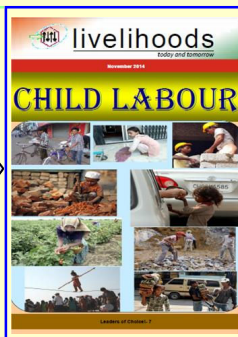
246 million children are child labourers in the world. 73 million working children are less than 10 years old. Every year, 22,000 children die in work-related accidents. 127 million – age 14 and under are in the Asia-Pacific region. 8.4 million Children are trapped in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage.

(Source: International Labour Organization Report)



Articulating in simple way is tough job. It requires rigorous work and good understanding.

Latest Livelihoods



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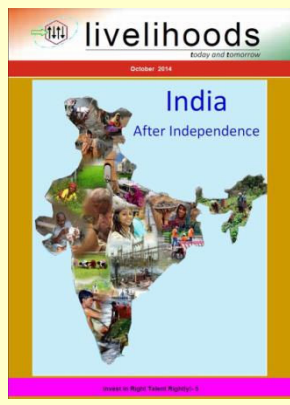
Focus: Child Labour 11

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e-links	VCA	Chironji
	Sub-sector	Bajra
	E-book	Being Human by Margaret S Archer
	V-book	Amul Story of India

Legendary Effort Poultry
Flagship Programs MGNREGS

e-course	Capsule: 11	Livelihoods Support (Flagship Programs, Rights and Entitlements)
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Dear Livelihood family,
 Thank you all for sharing your experiences and achievement story.
 With regards,
 Dhruvajyoti Kalita
 Guwahati



Dear livelihoods team member,
 Received 'livelihoods' October 2014 and it is informative.
 vijayababu gosala

Can, Jan Dhan Yojana provides banking facilities to all poor families?

News

Telangana Extends Relief to MSMEs: Various measures to help support the development of micro, small and medium enterprises have been initiated by the Telangana government, including one where it linked incentives for mega industrial projects to their procurement from MSMEs. It is mandatory, declared a senior official of the State government, for mega projects in core sectors to set aside a portion of the activity for MSMEs if they want to access the incentives.

GHMC Told To Take Steps To Prevent Communicable Diseases: Mayor Mohammed Majid Hussain and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner said that the Rs. 5 food scheme taken up at 15 centres in Hyderabad is getting good feedback, and hence directed the Commissioner to take up works for the remaining 35 centres on priority.

Skill Development Centres To Be Set Up In All Districts: The Andhra

Pradesh Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) would set up Skill Development Centres in each district of the State, said the corporation Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ghanta Subba Rao. The corporation, established two months ago to improve skills among the students, is on a mission to make skilled engineers. for speedy development of ports, airports, roads and other logistics, Mr. Rao said, who is also the ex-officio secretary to the government (Higher Education). Participating in an awareness meeting of for managements and principals of various engineering colleges at V.R. Siddhartha Engineering College (VRSEC) at Kanuru, he said Andhra Pradesh needed nearly nine lakh engineers in the next four years in various sectors. There was a lot of gap between demand and supply and the largest employing sectors were construction, hospitality, banking, Information Technology and IT enabled services, he pointed out. ❖

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Announces \$107 Million in Grants: Partners in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) today announced \$107 million in grants to five countries—Benin, Bhutan, Kenya, Laos PDR, and Timor Leste—for country-led initiatives to increase agriculture productivity, reduce poverty, and improve food and nutrition security. transformative and lasting long-term development.

Somaliland: Soaring Charcoal Prices Hit Livelihoods: The livelihoods of vulnerable families, including the poor and internally displaced, in the self-declared independent republic of Somaliland have been hard hit by steep rises in the price of charcoal, the main fuel for cooking in the region. A 25kg sack of charcoal cost 90,000 Somaliland shillings (US\$13.84) in October - up from 60,000 shillings (\$9.23) in September. A similar sack was selling at 18,000 shillings (\$2.76) in 2007. ❖

News From The States

Multiple Schemes Flood Agriculture Sector: Agriculture sector is the top priority of Bihar government, chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said while releasing the JD (U) government's ninth annual Report Card. Manjhi said 76% of the state's population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Various programmes have been launched to boost yield, and the average productivity of wheat and paddy in the state has crossed the national average productivity. Encouraged by the success of agriculture roadmap, the government has introduced another multidimensional agriculture roadmap.

GOVT Sets New Benchmark For Skill Development: Rural India Skills Emblem (RISE) will be the new standard for recognition of skills, a measure that the government is seeking to develop as a brand to instill confidence about skilled Indian workers globally. The rural development ministry is laying down eligibility norms to enhance the sanctity of training and the process of assessment of trainees under the 'Aajeevika' scheme for skill development (under National Rural Livelihoods Mission), renamed by the BJP government as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana. Under the new norms, the training centres will be required to have minimum facilities and infrastructure to ensure quality imparting of skills. At the same time, bio-metric attendance and CCTVs will be in place to keep tab on attendance of those who sign up.

SAARC Delhi Declaration Pushes For Better Education: Education Ministers and officials of eight South Asian countries have resolved to collaborate on increased use of information technology and improving the quality of education. At the second meeting of Education Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) here, representatives of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka issued a joint statement titled "The New Delhi Declaration on Education." Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani chaired the meeting. The priority areas of action decided upon include enhancing the learning and development readiness of pre-school children, ensuring education for all, expanding skill development, facilitating mutual recognition of qualifications and mobility of students and teachers and expanding alternative ways of learning such as open and distance education.

Rs.3,616-cr. Credit Potential For Priority Sector in Tiruvannamalai: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched a Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for Tiruvannamalai district for 2015-16 fiscal year. The plan that serves as a guide for commercial

banks to draw Annual Credit Plan foresees that bankers have a potential to advance credits to the tune of Rs. 3615.98 crore for priority sector in Tiruvannamalai district during the next fiscal. District Collector A. Gnanasekaran released the PLP, on behalf of NABARD, recently. The overall projections for 2015-16 show an increase of 13 per cent over the Annual Credit Plan target of Rs.3195.47 crore fixed for the banks for 2014-15. According to S.T.Sudarsan, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Tiruvannamalai district, the Annual Potential Linked Credit Plan is an updation of credit projections made by NABARD in the PLP document for 12th Five year plan period.

Girls Forced To Drop Out Of 'Unviable' Rajasthan Govt. Schools-Study: With government school closures in Rajasthan are on the rise for being "unviable", girls from poor families are being forced to drop out, according to a new study. NGO Save the Children's new report on the status of girl child titled "World of India's Girls, 2014", released, said poor girls were left with little choice but to enrol in low-fee private schools and compromise on the quality of education. While Rajasthan is often cited as an example of successful implementation of the public private partnership (PPP) in the education sector, such schools are expensive and not easily accessible, said the study. The proportion of out-of-school girls (aged 11-14 years) has increased from 8.9 per cent in 2011 to over 11 per cent in 2012. At the upper primary stage, the enrolment rate for girls falls to below 60 per cent.

New LPG Subsidy Scheme Begins In 54 Districts: Beginning today, LPG consumers in 54 districts of 11 states will start getting cash subsidy so that they can buy the cooking fuel at market price. The ambitious plan, launched by the previous UPA government in June 2013 but abruptly stopped earlier this year following court orders, has been modified to exclude the requirement of unique identification number (Aadhaar) for availing the cash subsidy. "The Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL) scheme was launched on June 1, 2013 and finally covered 291 districts. It required the consumer to mandatorily have an Aadhaar number for availing LPG subsidy. "The government has comprehensively reviewed the scheme and after examining the difficulties faced by the consumer substantively modified the scheme prior to launch. The modified DBTL scheme is being re-launched in 54 districts on November 15 in the 1st Phase and in the rest of the country on January 1, 2015," an official statement said. Under the scheme, LPG consumers will get cash subsidy in their bank accounts so they can buy a cooking gas cylinder at market price. ❖

Bodoland

Bodoland is an autonomous administrative unit in Assam, constituted under the sixth schedule of the Constitution. Located on the bank of the



Brahmaputra river in Assam, Bodoland is a beautiful area situated amidst nature. There are four districts in Bodoland including Kokrajhar, Udalguri, Baksa, Chirang; with Kokrajhar being the capital of Bodoland. Bodoland covers an area of 8795 sq km. These four districts are referred to as Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD).

The population of BTAD according to the 2001 census is reported as 29.2 lakhs, while the male-female sex ratio is 1000 males for 943 females. BTAD has literacy rate of 67%. Education level in women is much lower to that of men.

The people of Bodoland speak Bodo and Assamese languages. The population is comprised of 28% Bodo, 20% Muslims, 15% Adivasis, rest are Assamese, Bengali Hindu and non-Bodo tribes.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the Bodo community. Paddy cultivation, pig farming, poultry and tea plantation are the major sources of income for the people of Bodoland. The income of the Bodo people also comes from weaving and selling bamboo products. Silk worm rearing and weaving of Silk is another major livelihood for Bodos. Bodo women weave their own traditional dresses at home; which forms a part of their daily chores. They are expert weavers with artistic sensibility and they weave cotton textiles of various colours and silk fabrics of the finest quality. Most of the youths are also engaged in the contract works and are also supplying materials to government departments. Since the people have become more self-reliant, the work force has become more constrained in every Bodo family in this region.

Many medium and small irrigation projects, including flow irrigation systems have come up in BTAD, The nearest railway station and airport to Bodoland is in Guwahati. Buses are used regularly to travel to and from Bodoland.

This region is full of tourist attractions such as Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, Reserve Forests, Temples, Gateway Spots etc. There is an ample opportunity to develop the region, both socially and economically through tourism. However, in spite of immense potentiality, tourism could not be developed here as expected.

Even though agriculture is the major livelihood, most of the youth have set their eyes on self-employment through various means, creating a stumbling block to the sustainable economic development. What is urgently required at this present juncture are some strong steps to prevent further alienation of tribal land and forest reserves, coupled with measures to protect the constitutional rights of the other communities in this area. ❖

Maram Nagas

The Marams are tribals of the Northeast India, inhabiting the Senapati district of the tiny state of Manipur. They belong to the Austric-Linguistic ethnic group of people called Maram Nagas. They have Mongoloid features and Caucasoid traits are also found in these people.

There are more than thirty Maram villages scattered there. The area includes hills, scrubs and tropical forests. As per the 2001 Census, the total number of the Maram Nagas are about 37,340. Marams may be classified into five groups: those of Maram Khullen and its neighbouring villages, Willong and its surrounding villages, Villages in and around Tahamzam, Tumuyon Khullen and Nagatan villages. Their villages are divided into 'Sadung' or 'Khel'.

These people speak the Maram language. The number of Maram speakers is about 37,000, as per the UNESCO database.

Women bear the major burden of household chores, including taking care of the children. Women also collect water and firewood. Men are responsible for cutting down of trees, from which firewood are prepared.

Rice is the staple food for the Maram people. They are the only Nagas who did not consume pork in the past; Today, with the advent of Christianity, the Maram Nagas have started changing their food habits and now almost 99% of the Maram people consume pork.

Agriculture and forest products (NTFPs) are the major income source of the Maram. The two forms of cultivation practiced by the people are Terrace and Jhumming (Shifting) cultivation. Shifting cultivation is the main cultivation practiced by them. Paddy, maize, millet, bean, pumpkin, turmeric, ginger, chilli, cucumber, gourd, cabbage, sweet potato, pulses, cereals and taro are grown. They collect dry firewood, wild vegetables, brooms, and bamboo shoots timber, cane, and creepers etc., which are sold on day-to-day basis to meet their immediate requirements of funds. Hunting is the secondary occupation of Maram tribes. They hunt whatever animals or birds they spot in the nearby forests. Basketry is a traditional occupation and this work is simultaneously done with agricultural works. Milch animals, draught animals, young cattle, pig and poultry are the main livestock of Marams. Some of people take up Sericulture as an additional source of income to them. Nowadays, many Maram people are taking up self-employment and self-services.

There are a lot of things we can learn from the Marams, mainly the importance given to women by them in the day to day work responsibilities and the focus given by older generations on passing on folklore, folktales, songs etc., to the next generations. As the number of this tribe is minimal, there is a risk of disappearance of heritages; Which is not only a loss for a particular 'group', but an irreparable loss for the cultural diversity of the State and the Nation. ❖

Leaders of Choice!

Happy Karthika! Happy Guru Nanak Jayanthi!

Let us remember Dr Verghese Kurien! Let us celebrate National Milk Day!

Elections in Jharkhand and J&K are in progress.

Modi expands his cabinet. Minimum Governance is giving way.

Rural Development gets a full-time Minister finally!

Kabir Panthi, Rampal gets arrested against treason. Rs.1000 Crore empire collapses.

Obama will be the Chief Guest at the 2015 Republic Day Parade.

What we expect from our colleagues (courtesy, Virender Kapoor) include:

- ◆ Integrity and Loyalty
- ◆ Being Responsive and therefore, being responsible
- ◆ Initiative
- ◆ Going the extra mile
- ◆ No argument in public
- ◆ Competence
- ◆ Being reasonable
- ◆ Sharing the load
- ◆ Maturity
- ◆ Enthusiasm
- ◆ Helping during emotional distress

Are we good colleagues?

We are leaders and leaders by choice. Now that we have taken up this, we have to consciously choose to influence those around us by managing ourselves and leading others in – communication, team leadership, productivity and personal development. Leadership is not by title or position but a choice on how we lead. This would mean –

We need to listen with liking, with eyes and empathy, in the moment, giving time and taking notes, with head and heart How. We need to listen in such a way that the other person

should come back again. Are we listening? Are we asking questions well?

We need to connect, we need to offer hope and we need to inform if we are speaking with influence. Are we? Relive a story. Prepare. Visualize the speech. Follow an outline. Pause sufficiently. Read audience. Make eye contact. Have a sense of humour. Don't take too long to deliver the point. Review. Are we speaking with influence?

Honesty (and trustworthiness), Forward-looking, inspiring and competence are the key leadership qualities. Do we have them? Good leaders care (and CARE). They create a Climate of trust, they are Accountable and take full responsibility for failure and share successes. They respect and provide Recognition to colleagues. They delegate and Empower. They receive respected influence. They remember names. They keep their word. They are demanded but not demeaning. Are we building teams?

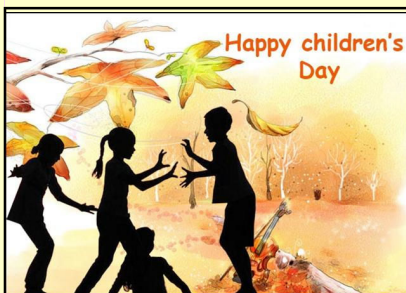
Productivity is a function of time, plan, focus and delegation. Increase in Productivity requires purging often. It requires being organized, slowing down and relaxing, using calendars, using daily list of 3-4 items, asking for help, outsourcing and having productive mindset. Are we productive?

Personal Development requires a vision, well-being in fourth quarter of life and learning from our mistakes. Focus matters. Are we learning? Are we growing? Are we focused? Are we building enduring relationships?

Enjoying silence, having an attitude of gratitude, taking a 10-20 minute nap when tired, allowing for mistakes, helping someone, and enjoying life are important for life with less stress. Detachment, fulfillment by what we become, finding joy and beauty in simple things etc., bring inner peace. This makes for great leaders. Do we have inner peace? We must accustom ourselves to stillness of the soul, of the eyes and of the tongue.

Self-discipline is critical for a successful leader. Are we self-disciplined?

We need to truly become leaders of choice and build leaders of choice, in our states, districts, blocks, clusters, and villages. Let us begin now. ❖



14 November
Children's Day



21 November
World Television Day



25 November
International Day for Elimination of
Violence Against Women

Work Hard for Our Kids...

Children Take Care of Me...

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is B. Raju and I am 35 years old. My Native village is Pochampally in Nalgonda district, Telangana. I have two children.

Please describe your family?

My wife is a handloom weaver. My son is studying SSC and daughter is studying 7th class in a government school. My mother and young brothers close to our house. My father died 12 years ago.

Tell about your employment. How much do you earn from it?

I am daily wage labourer working for Rebutton Company in Vanastahlipuram. I earn Rs.7500 per month. The company runs on three shifts per day and workers rotate timings though out the week. Most of my work requires me to be in a very close proximity to a hot furnace. Especially during summer, the heat has very detrimental effects on my body. Workers often face dehydration problems, burns caused by slipping furnace clip rods, and broken bones due to workplace related conditions. The furnace burns all 24 hours, so all of my colleagues across all shifts face these problems on a daily basis.

What kinds of problems are you facing in this work?

Since I am continuously exposed to so much heat throughout the day every day, I've been facing many biological problems since my body cannot cope with such extreme conditions. Also, the expectation to cover few night shifts every week causes a lack of sleep, and this contributes to digestive issues as well. Since we stay in a single room, all of these personal problems create lots of inconvenience to my family.

What are your brothers doing?

My elder brother does labour work in the precast industry and my younger brother is an automobile mechanic in Autonagar, Hyderabad.

What was your occupation in the past?

I had a clerical job in a saree shop in the past, and subsequently became a handloom weaver for the past 10 years. Since there is no growth in this industry, I changed my job.

Do you receive any benefits from the government?

I have a ration card, voter card, and aadhaar card.

What would you like the government to provide you?

I want from the government to provide a house under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to provide high quality education to my children and help them settle well in life. I would like my wife and I to work hard and take good care of our kids. ❖

What is your name?

My name is Bairu Laxmamma. I am 70 years old.

Can you tell me about your family?

I have three sons and four daughters who all are settled in different villages. Present I live with my younger son family at Bachannapeta Mandal, Warangal District. Sometimes I live in Pochampally. My husband died 15 years ago. I am a widow.

What is your native place?

My native place is Pochampally village in Nalgonda district, Telangana.

What is your occupation?

I belong to the weaver community. In the past, I had a supporting role in handloom work. Right now, I have less work assigned to me so I use my spare time to make textures for small kerchiefs. If there is demand for them, I earn Rs.200-300 per month.

What are your children doing?

My elder son is a company worker in Sholapur, my 2nd son sells chips, spices etc to kirana shops in Pochampally town. My youngest son is a priest in Jangaon town. All of my daughters stay at their in-laws' house. Hence, even though I am single, no one is there to take care of me.

How do you get money to sustain your life?

I earn money from renting out my house. Every month, I receive Rs.1000. If my neighbours provide me with work opportunities, I earn more money. But in this old age, my body cannot cooperate to work, so I struggle to survive. Some times my younger son take care to my responsibility.

What kinds of problems are you facing now?

I am suffering from arthritis, body pains, and B.P. I take medicine for these health problems.

When you fall sick, who will take care you?

My daughters usually take care of me and provide medicines. Recently, when I was suffering with fever, my elder daughter came to take care of me.

Do you receive any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have a ration card, aadhaar card, voter card, and receive a monthly widow pension of Rs.500.

I heard that widow pension is increased to 1000 by Telangana government. But so far, I did not get increased pension.

What are your plans for the future?

I have no other plans but to take care of myself and see that my kids have good lives. ❖

Settle Down With a Good Job

Work for Our Members

What is your name? Tell us about yourself?

My name is Saraiah. I am 30 years old. I completed MA (Sociology). My native place is in Janagaon mandal, Warangal district, Telangana state.



Can you describe your family?

My father is a farmer and he had three acres of land. My mother is a housewife. I am staying alone in Sangareddy town in Medak district for employment purposes.

Can you elaborate on your job?

I work as a Counsellor in an Integrating Counselling & Testing Centre (ICTC) in Sangareddy in district Hospital. I have been working in this hospital for the past six years. My job is to provide counselling, build confidence, provide healthcare suggestions, and provide Anti-Retro Viral (ART) therapy to HIV/Aids patients. I am a representative of the Medak area hospitals. Every month, I attend a meeting in Hyderabad to submit a work report. This programme is conducted by the AP SACS monitoring NACO.

How many patients receive counselling per day?

In our district hospital, 4-5 people enrol for counselling per day. We take all necessary steps to respect the counselee, provide all possible support, and maintain privacy over their information. Moreover, to increase awareness about the core reasons for these diseases, we provide awareness to target communities. At the end of every month, we prepare the status report about our progress with counselees and submit it to the higher official in Hyderabad.

What type of treatments do you provide for patients?

We begin by running a thorough diagnostic about the patient's background, including the patient's family, place, possible reasons for contracting the disease, and assessment on how long it would take to notice negative health impacts. After the diagnostic of the patient's blood, we refer an appropriate medicine based on the severity of the condition. We start the Anti-Retro Viral (ART) therapy treatment and provide it in three phases. We provide these treatments free of cost. In the 1st visit we take data about the blood RBC and WBC cells count. On the basis if patient condition is better we provide the next step for treatment. If patient condition is bad we give more dose for improving the blood accounts.

What kind benefits do you receive from the government?

We have a ration card, aadhaar card, voter card, and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) house in my village.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to settle down with a good job. ❖

What is your name? your native place?

My name is Ch. Ramesh. I am 35 years old. My native place is Pochampally village cum mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana.



What is your occupation & community?

I belong to a fishermen community. I am President of Fisheries Cooperative Society.

In our community, about 200 families depend upon fishing in our village tanks. We are running a Primary Fisheries Cooperative Society with 80 members. It was established on 2 February 1960. We unanimously elect a 9 member body to lead the society, who are rotated every 5 years. I was elected as President for five years (2011-2016). The society is under the supervision of the Divisional Fisheries Inspector, Bhongir. As we don't have a bank account, we transact money only in a manual way.

Who is providing the financial assistance for running the society?

A Hyderabad contractor has got the rights on our tanks. He provides the finance support at all stages from fishes breeding to the harvesting stage. As per his requirement, we catch fish and sell fishes to the contractor.

What are you doing for the development of your community?

Our community members are managing 2 tanks -major (Pochampally), minor (Vannamoni), under the Moosi canals. We have the right to cultivate the fish. We pay a tax of Rs.12000 per annum Fisheries Inspector in Bhongir. We also manage the flow of the water. Every day, we guard the tanks with 6 teams of 10-12 members in 6 places, round the clock, to curb theft of fish. We collect fish, weigh them and sell them. Average each member earns Rs.15000 per annum.

What are your achievements in your tenure as President?

In my tenure as President, I constructed an additional room for the society.

What type of problems are your community facing?

In our tank, the fish are dying due to polluted water from industries, which is a threat to our livelihood. Apart from that, the Pistia (Gurrapu dekka) plants are a major challenge for us while fishing. We also face many problems such as skin diseases, snake bites, insect bites etc. At night, we have to guard the tank from the theft of fishes.

What is your vision for your community?

I want to provide pension and insurance to the members of our community. I also demand the government to curb industrial pollution of water in our tanks, and provide insurance in-case of loss of fish, for the sustainable development of our livelihood. ❖

I Get Happiness

Tell About yourself and your family ?

My name is M Mahendar. I am 40 years old, I completed B. Com. My native place is Cheryal and it is located in Warangal district of Telangana state.

I live with wife, two children and mother. Recently my father was died by sunstroke. My children are going to school in Cheryal. I have one acre of agriculture land and we cultivate dry land crops like red gram, cotton and other crops.

Tell about your job?

Present, I am working as a Project Coordinator – Institutional Building (IB) under Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management (APCBTM) Project. And I am also involving in other works of NGO like administration and other projects works also.

I started my career as development worker in Arthika Sangika Samatha Mandali (ASSMA) and still I have been working various positions in this organization for the last 15 years.

First, I worked as a Village Organizer (VO) for five years. As a VO my works were to motivate women towards form Self Help Groups (SHGs),. And create awareness on savings, internal lending and book keeping and also form village level federation in Kondapaka mandal. Later I worked as Project Coordinator (PC) for three years under organic farming program.

ASSMA implemented SAMISTI program for women and child developmet in Kondapaka and Andole mandals in Medak. UNICEF gave SAMISTI program to MEDVAN (Medak District Voluntary Agencies Network) in Medak district. ASSMA is a part member of this network. I shifted from organic program to SAMISTI program, I worked as Mandal Coordinator for 20 villages of Kondapaka mandal in Medak district. I worked on education, health, nutrition, sanitation, safe drinking water, child labour, prevent child marriages and HIV/AIDS under SAMITI Program.

As part of program, we did village micro planning, PRA program, selected village volunteers, and given training for volunteers, updated SAMITI program boards, conducted review meetings for volunteers monthly, submitted monthly reports to District Project Coordinator (DPO) of MEDVAN. We conducted Kalajatha programs to prevent child marriages and we also prepared role plays on child marriages. Through our different efforts child marriages reduced in our areas. I also worked as District Resource Person (DRP) as part of program and I gave trainings on sanitation, health and hygiene for mandal level staff in the Medak district. After that I worked as Project Coordinator in Dalits land development program. As part of job I used to motivate Dalit farmers towards cultivating their lands from their waste lands.

Later I shifted to Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management (APCBTM) Project. I have been working as Project Coordinator (IB) in seven mandals in Medak district in ASSMA since 2009. We have to create awareness for

Water Users Associations (WUAs) on tank management, water distribution, water tax collection, develop corpus fund, book keeping, update boards and strengthening WUAs, etc.



Did you participate in training programs?

I participated in number of trainings during my job. First I trained on SHGS' formation, management, book keeping. I trained on PRI, health, immunization, child marriages, safe drinking water etc under SAMISTI program. After that I took one month training as District Resource Person on irrigation tank management. I visited Maharashtra, Mulkanoor in Karimnagar, Ankapur in Nizamabad district and Mahabubnagar.

Tell about your ASSMA Organization?

ASSMA was established on 26 May 1997 under society act in Medak district. It is focus on child education, women empowerment, farmers development etc. It is implementing various projects like watershed project, APCBTM project, women MACs etc in Medak.

Who are monitoring to your work?

ASSMA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) review my work in monthly review meeting on every month 4th in our office. In the meeting we submit our work reports and prepare plan for the next month. As part program district level officers are monitoring to my work regularly.

Explain your achievements?

In my 15 years experience I did many works and involved different types of activities. In this journey I did some remarkable achievements such as my work area three villages got Nirmal Puraskar award, formation of SHGs, federations and farmers associations. I got good recognition as a NGO worker in Medak district. One of my big achievements is to establish seeds center in the villages.

Medak District DM&HO gifted wrist watch to me under polio program. Personally, I have good attachment with people of Kondapaka mandal. People recognize me.

What did you learn in this journey?

I became professional in motivating people. I think that motivation requires skills. If we correctly motivate the people, they respond to our motivation. But this process may take time. We have to patiently wait for the aspired results. Hard work is critical in this field and our development depends on our hard work.

Initially, I faced lot of problems that they did not believe us. But we spent lot of time with people. Slowly, They believe our works. And we work for less salary but I get satisfaction more than salary.

What is your vision?

I want to start a own NGO and work on education, health, nutrition, women empowerment and farming issues. ❖

Child Labour

India, the second fastest growing economy in the world, has the largest number of child labour in the world. Millions of kids below 14 years of age are toiling hard for survival. Nearly, 60 million children are working as child labour in the country. If we include all the children, who are not going to school, the number will reach nearly 100 million child labourers. It is 30% of the world's child labour. There are a number of international, regional, national and state level organizations and Governments, working to eradicate child labour in the country. At the National and State level, different Acts and Policies were designed to abolish the child labour system. But child labour is prevalent across the country, depriving the kids from physical & mental development, healthy and prosperous life and accessibility to education. Millions of kids' wonderful childhood is being crushed under inhuman conditions, restricted locations, dark rooms, high temperature and breathing poisonous fumes in processing centers, manufacturing factories, enterprises and agriculture fields. There is an urgent need to eradicate child labour in the country. It requires multiple interventions and particularly tremendous commitment to protect the children from the iron clutches of child labour. In this context 'livelihoods' explores 'Child Labour' in the country.



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prosperous life and accessibility to education. Millions of kids' wonderful childhood is being crushed under inhuman conditions, restricted locations, dark rooms, high temperature and breathing poisonous fumes in processing centers, manufacturing factories, enterprises and agriculture fields. There is an urgent need to eradicate child labour in the country. It requires multiple interventions and particularly tremendous commitment to protect the children from the iron clutches of child labour. In this context 'livelihoods' explores 'Child Labour' in the country.

Children are the most valuable asset to the any country in the world. They are the future nation-builders. Child labour, is any work which deprives children from right to education, joy of childhood, leisure, and harms the child's health and prevents physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of children. Children are more sensitive than adults. They are less resistant to diseases and suffer more from chemical hazards and radiation than adults. Article 24

of the Indian Constitution prohibits child labour in any factory, industry, mine and agriculture fields or any hazardous employment.

Children are working in all sectors such as agriculture, industrial and service sectors and particularly in informal sector. Child labourers make up 6% of total population, 15% of children's population and 4% of total labour force in the country. More than 60% of child labourers are in agriculture, livestock rearing, forestry and fishing; 25% in service sector and 15% in manufacturing sector. Most of the children are working in the informal sector. On an average, child labourers work from 12 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week and without facilities in work places or holidays.

Child labour may be part-time or full-time; it may be domestic work or other work or even a type of bondage work. Mostly, children are getting low wages and in some cases they didn't even get any income.



Sometimes, they are involved in supportive roles, particularly in artisan works at homes. Mostly, girl children are involved in domestic works such as cleaning, cooking, bringing water and taking care of kids etc. at home. Thousands of rich families prefer to hire children for household chores and for looking after their own kids, in-return providing for labourer's food, clothes and other minimum necessities.

In rural areas, child labourers are involved in different works in agriculture, particularly in works such as cotton seeding, where the farmers prefer children. In agriculture and artisan works, children may be completely

involved or may play a support role. According to the MV Foundation, nearly 4 lakh children, mostly girl children, between the age group of 7 to 14 years are working 14 to 16 hours a day in cotton seed production in Andhra Pradesh (Including Telangana state). The deadly pesticides such as Endosulpha and Methanol damage the children's lungs and their health is affected by standing for so long in the wet mud in the agriculture fields.



Livestock rearing is also one of the major occupations, which absorb child labourers. In rural areas, particularly in poor families most of the children are engaged in household works such as collecting water, firewood, cleaning houses, taking care of kids, livestock and cleaning utensils etc.

Child labour is prevalent in many places such as hotels, restaurants, sweet shops, glass manufacturing units, tourism industry, diamond industry, hybrid seeds production units, textile units, rice mills, jewellery industries, tailoring centers, tea stalls, matches, fireworks and explosive industries, bangles factories, beedi-making, carpet-making, lock making, brassware, export oriented garment units, gem polishing industries, salt mines and manufacturing units, leather units, diamond industries, construction works, brick factories, mechanic shops, carpentry shops, painting, plumber works, stone cutting industries, mining industries, cooking, selling different items etc.

Siva Kasi in Tamil Nadu is famous for manufacturing of crackers and also famous for engaging children in those dangerous works. There are nearly 45000 to 60000 thousand children working in cracker-making factories; of which 65% of the child labourers are girls. These factories are situated in poor villages of Siva Kasi area. The factory owners get the child labourers from their agents who reside in the villages. The agents give advances to the child labourer's parents to send their children for work in the cracker-making factories. Every morning between 3am to 5am, agents come along with buses and pick-up the half-asleep children from their homes and drop the kids back between 6pm to 7pm. They work with the dangerous chemicals, mixing them for 12 hours a day in poorly-ventilated rooms, without minimum safety measures. The



kids return home tired. Fire accidents, which take the children's precious lives are common in the area. They have to sit for long hours in the same position, harming their posture and damaging their eye sight and respiratory system. They get anywhere between Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per day, per 12 hours. Most of the children have never been to a school. The carpet industry is another major industry employing children.

In many small and medium factories, cottage industries, hotels, mechanic shops and other enterprises employers largely prefer to take children as workers. They prefer child labourers due to various reasons such as -children can work for long hours, they engage actively in works, they don't demand higher wages and other facilities and they have no unions which fight for better working conditions for them etc. India has the largest informal sector with lakhs of small and marginal industries, construction works, artisan enterprises which take child labourers in its clutches.

In urban areas, the practice of engaging girl children in domestic work has been increasing for the last three to four decades in the country. The girl children work in rich and middle class houses as domestic workers. The middle class is growing and now it makes up 20% of total population and most of the families in this category have both husband and wife doing jobs or running enterprises. So they require the girl child labourers to do the household chores, caring for elders and children. The girl child labourers have to deal with many problems such as getting low wages, insufficient food, no holidays and emotional/sexual abuse in the domestic work. Their situation reflects the life of a slave.

Many children are involved in selling tea, snacks, and vegetables etc. in shops,



labour. In many poor families, parents prefer to send their children to work instead of school. As they feel that if the child went to work instead of school, the child can contribute to the total family income and they can additionally escape from the education expenditure. According to one survey, children labourers are contributing 25% to 40% to their family income. The poor parents who are mostly illiterates, do not recognize the importance

near bus stops, railway stations, busy centers and moving from one place to another, it is particularly more prevalent in urban areas. They work from morning to evening or half a day. They have to stand in hot and cold temperatures for long hours to earn money for survival.

We can see many children involved in rag-picking on the roads and streets, from a number of dustbins and garbage dumps, particularly in urban areas. They wake up very early in the morning and take bags and collect recyclable things from the excreta and toxic waste on the roads and from garbage dumps and dustbins till evening and sell the collected things in shops at very less prices. They collect recyclable things without gloves, shoes and mask. These kids get injured while collecting needles and sharp glass pieces, bites from infected animals and fall ill because of handling garbage.

A number of children engage in begging in both rural and urban areas in places such as railway stations, bus stands, busy centers, devotional places, markets, shops etc. In many places, begging women use little kids below age of one to two years for begging and pay some amount to the kids' mothers. Some of the children are forced into doing illegal activities, such as supplying drugs and other prohibited activities, which endanger their life. The Police also harass these children, whenever there are any crimes.

Poverty is the main cause for child labour. Particularly, the growing gap between the poor and rich and privatization of public sector are also contributing to the child

of education. They do not see education as a meaningful alternative option for their children's survival because of the huge number of educated unemployed people in their surroundings. They are not aware about the bad effects of the child labour.

Poor parents borrow money from the rich or factory owners or money-lenders. When they do not repay the money, they are forced to send their children to work in the money-lenders' enterprises. According to the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, there are about 10 million bonded child labourers in the country. It is a form of slavery. Earlier, bonded labour was prevalent mostly in agriculture. Now it has expanded to beedi-making, brick kilns, carpet-weaving, hotels, fire-works, leather works, mines, quarries etc. Most



of the bonded labourers belong to Dalit and Tribal communities. Migration is also one of the major causes for child labour.

Lack of qualitative Government schools is also one of the causes for child labour. In localities of the poor people, on one-side there are Government schools in poor quality and on another-side there are private schools which provide quality education, but charge a lot of money. So, the recognizable percent of poor parents do not want to send their children to schools.

India is predominately an agriculture-based economy, with more than 75% of the farmers belonging to marginal and small farmers category. These families do agriculture as a family enterprise. They use their children in many activities in agriculture. Culture is one of the important causes for child labour. According to the culture, children should follow elder's footsteps in all aspects, including livelihoods. So, a recognizable number of children follow their parent's business or occupation. Largely, our society does not give equal importance to girl child in all aspects, particularly in the aspect of education. Most of the poor parents think that there is no need to provide education to girls, as girl children play vital roles in household chores. These cultural factors prevent most of the girl children from education or force them to dropout from schools, particularly girl children from poor families.

A number of policies have evolved to eradicate child labour, from the pre-independence era to the present era. The



Indian Factory Act, 1881 prohibited a child below 7 years of age for employment in factories. It was amended in 1891, to increase the minimum age limit of a child employed in factories to 9 years. The Constitution of India says that child labour is a wrong practice and that it should be eliminated by the law. In this process, the Government of India appointed Guruprasad swamy Committee to study and prepare recommendations to eradicate child labour in the country. In 1986, The Child Labour Act was introduced to eradicate child labour in the country. It states that child labour is illegal and fixes the minimum age of employment at 14 years. In 1989, a national policy on child labour was introduced to rehabilitate the child labourers from the dangerous works. But The Child Labour Act, 1986 allows child labour in non-hazardous industries. The Non



Government Organizations (NGOs) and Democratic people put pressure on Government to bring changes in the Act. In 1993, the Punjab and Haryana High Court gave order to abolish child labour in both hazardous and non-hazardous industries. But it also allows the children to work in family-based occupations and trades to learn occupational skills. The Commissions of Child Rights Protection Act, 2005 was introduced to protect, promote and defend child rights in every state. It facilitated to form the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Level Commissions in each state.

The Government has designed various programs at the state and national level to eradicate child labour in the country. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program was started in 1979, to provide nutritious food and pre-school education to the poor children. Later the Centre extended its services to pregnant and lactating women. By March 2014, there were 13,42,146 ICDS centers (Anganwadi Centers and Mini Anganwadi Centers) providing its services to 3.7 crore children in the country. In 1982, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the Noon Meals Program (NMP) to ensure food to children at least once a day. Later, it expanded to other states in the country and adopted as a national program. The Government of India is running special pre-schools for the poor children in many states and presently there are 6.7 lakh mid-day meal centers providing food to 10.45 crore children in 11.58 lakh schools in the country.

There are many international organizations working on the protection of child rights across the world. Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) has 2189 member organizations across the world from various NGOs, United Nation (UN) agencies, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), research institutions, Intergovernmental



Organizations (IGOs). CRIN publishes reports regarding child rights situation in the world. These reports are submitted to CRIN by the member organizations. In child rights protection, along with CRIN there are many international organizations such as International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), Child Helpline International (CHI), Amnesty International, Action Aid International, Children International, Child Information and Documentation Center (CRIDOC), International Labour Organization (ILO), Defense for Children International, Global Action for Children, PLAN International etc. working across the world.

In the country, there are many organizations working for the



protection of child rights in all the states and Union Territories (UTs) like Butterflies, Concern for Working Child, Child Rights and You (CRY), Rescue Foundation, Safer India, Shakti Vahini, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), Meljol, Asha for Education, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MVF), SOS Children's Villages India, Save the Children India, Child Help Line etc., working for the protection of child rights in the country. These NGOs are working on different activities such as running schools and shelter homes, awareness programs, children protection cells, convergence programs on children rights, legal aid centers for children etc.



There is a slight change in the child labour situation in the country. The continuous efforts of Governments, CBOs and NGOs and changes in the thinking of people about education-facilitated gradual decline in child labour. The poor people are also preferring to send their kids to schools instead of sending them to work in fields or factories. This trend has been growing for the last two to three decades. But part-time child labourers and student drop-outs are also increasing. This is the direct result of poverty, unemployment, lack of quality and sufficient residential schools with good facilities and poor education in Government schools. So, the poor children have to work as part-time workers to meet the financial needs of the family.

Child labourers are very high in the country, even though there are national and state level Governments programs and international and national organizations' initiatives running in the country to eradicate child labour. The prevalence of child labour has many causes such as lack of multiple interventions, lack of focus on poverty reduction and conviction on programs, implementation of Acts, insufficient funds' allocation, lack of quality universal education with residential facility to poor children, cultural barricades etc.

Every child has a right to enjoy a joy-filled childhood and have access to physical, mental and spiritual development. Our country has the potentiality to eradicate child labour if the Governments strived in a committed and a time-bound manner. To eradicate child labour in the country, the Government has to take some important steps, which are as follows:

- ◆ Recognize the elimination of child labour as a top-most priority,
- ◆ Design a comprehensive plan with time-bound results, involving NGOs, CBOs, experts, legal advisers and rights activists;
- ◆ Allocate sufficient funds;
- ◆ Design multiple programs, including poverty elimination;
- ◆ Provide sufficient ICDS centers;
- ◆ Establish children's court in each district;
- ◆ Provide quality residential schools;
- ◆ Conduct continuous awareness programs on child labour;
- ◆ Design Acts, which ban all types of labour, including hazardous and non-hazardous categories;
- ◆ Strict implementation of Acts and strict punishments to the employers, who take kids in their enterprises as child labourers.

The Government should do continuous monitoring and evaluation of child labour eradication programs and bridge the gaps without delay.

Child labour is a complete violation of the Constitution - which ensures the protection of children and their rights. The Government should ensure equal opportunities for all children, particularly those from the poorest of the poor families. ❖

Rudram Devi Mahila Mandali (RDMM)

Rudrama Devi Mahila Mandali was established in 2000 in Warangal, Telangana. It is a Female Sex Workers (FSWs)-led community-based organization (CBO) registered under the Societies Registration Act, in 2004. RDMM's interventions are aimed at improving the quality of life of FSWs by creating awareness on HIV Prevention, providing care and support for those affected by HIV and protecting their human rights and dignity.

Activities by RDMM: It provides awareness on sexual health, condom promotion, etc. It offers clinical services for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) for the marginalized and vulnerable populations (FSW). It creates a friendly environment for FSW-PLHA to improve their quality of life.

Committees: The RDMM has setup specific task committees such as Core Advocacy Group, Clinic Review Committee, DIC Management Committee and Condom Committee. These committees have specific roles with regard to programme implementation. The CBO is being managed by an Executive Committee consisting of seven

members. Its day to day bank operations are being managed by President, Vice-President & Treasurer. The committee meets every quarter to review and to plan directions and all major decisions to be taken.

RDMM has 22 Community Based Groups with 1517 members. Earlier, the members paid Rs.10/- towards membership fee every year, which was treated as Corpus Fund. But the fee has recently increased to Rs.30/-.

The occupation of the members is sex work. Some of the members depend on tailoring, fruit and vegetable vending, doing petty businesses etc., for extra income.

So far, 43 FSW PLHAs are being supported with nutritious food by RDMM. 20 HIV positive children who were out of school were enrolled and mainstreamed. Five destitute bodies of FSWs were cremated with full funerary customs with support of members. It has established linkages with Govt. Departments for Govt. sponsored welfare schemes. It leads a Targeted Intervention (TI) supported by APSACS & NACO. ❖

Support Organization

Viswa Yuva Kendra (VYK)

Viswa Yuva Kendra (VYK) was established on August 15th, 1986 in Angul district in Orissa. It is working for the sustainable development of communities, especially of underprivileged women and youth; besides working for Conservation of Forest, Health, Child Rights, Education and Women Empowerment. It is currently working in Angul, Subarnapur, Deogarh, Boudh and Dhenkanal Districts of Orissa.

Activities:

- ❖ VYK conducts a six months programme for rural youth, living in inaccessible areas on computer education, spoken English, sales and retail sales management, office management, personality development and career counseling etc.
- ❖ It has been running 5 creche centers in 5 villages. About 131 children were enrolled under this programme. VYK has been running a IGNOU study centre since 2002.
- ❖ It has established a Rural Community College (VRCC) and it is providing livelihood-related education to literate and semi-literate youths of rural and inaccessible areas. It also has a library to serve the needs of the people of all categories. it has more than 10,000 voluble

books.

- ❖ VYK has a counseling and referral centre for HIV/AIDS, STI/RTI patients. Government facilities are also available here for control of HIV/AIDS. It established a Community Eye Hospital in Sambalpur. More than 7500 cataract surgeries were conducted.
- ❖ It has promoted 240 women self-help groups in Kishorenagar, Chhendipada and Athmallik blocks of Angul district. it has provided soft loans to the lower income group women to involve them in small income generation activities such as business activities, brick making, kitchen gardening, rice processing, petty shops, poultry etc.
- ❖ VYK has been organizing early childhood development program. More than 1500 care givers received training under this programme on child caring. VYK implemented The Orissa Forestry Development Project for three years to conserve and protect forest resources and provide alternative livelihood to the people dependent on forests.

It initiated joint activities on Water and Sanitation, especially advocacy activities, Research Papers, Status Documentation etc. ❖

Training Organizations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Craftworld—Agartala
http://www.indev.nic.in/craftworld 2. Hope Socio Cultural Foundation
http://www.hopref.org | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Prabaha
http://www.prabaha.tripura4u.com 4. Voluntary Health Association of Tripura - Agartala
http://www.indev.nic.in/vhat |
|---|---|

Raghavapuram Village Organization

Raghavapuram village is in Bibinagar mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana. This village is near the Musi Belt region.

Raghavapuram Village Organization (VO) was established in 2003 and was registered under the Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Act in 2006. The VO has 33 SHGs under it, with each SHG having 10-15 members, making the total members of the VO to be 294.

Office Bearers (OB): The OB members are elected from and among the member SHGs. Those are: President: Ramadevi, Treasurer: Andaalu, Secretary: Pentamma, Book keeper: Parijatha

The VO meetings: The VO conducts the meetings on the 1st and 16th of every month. They discuss bank linkages activities, payment & repayment, savings, internal lending, interest rate and loans; they review the last month's issues and pass the resolution to all the members. The meeting is attended by the Cluster-coordinator and SHG leaders. If any member does not attend the meeting they have to pay Rs. 50 as penalty. The office bearers are rotated every 2 years.

The MS meetings: The Mandal Samakya (MS) meeting is held on the 8th and 23rd of every month. The meeting is held at the premises of Mandal Parishat. The meeting is attended by the Presidents of

the different VO's, Cluster Coordinators and A.P.M.

Savings & loans: Every SHG member has to save Rs.100 per month. The total loan amount given is Rs.45 lakhs, Sreenidhi amount is Rs.11 lakhs and internal lending amount is Rs.9 lakhs. The interest rates are -from M.S to VO is 50 paisa and V.O to SHG is Rs. 1.

Other schemes: There are 90 Abhaya Hastham pensioners who get Rs. 500 per month. This scheme is applicable to members of SHGs who are above the age of 60. The VO is supervising the Indira Kranthi Patham to empower women. Since the last few years the VO has been purchasing Paddy from the farmers in the village under guidance of Zilla Samakhya.

This village selected for pilot project of computerized accounting system, launched by SERP in collaboration with World Bank and CAGP (Consultative Group on Assisting Poor). In this project, the Village book-keepers are using Laptops for accounting, in order to be more transparent in their dealings.

VO sub committees: VO has five committees such as Bank-linkage committee, Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) committee, Recovery committee, Supervising committee, Health committee etc. ❖

Scheme

The meeting is attended by the Presidents of

Facility

Abhaya Hastam

The village of Raghavapur is in Bibinagar Mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana. The "Abhaya Hastam" scheme is being successfully run here, since its launch on November 1st, 2009.

This scheme has a three-pronged purpose, where-in it gives pension and insurance to the women of Self Help Groups (SHGs), while also providing scholarship to their children. The pension acts as a social security to the family members. Most of the villagers here are dependent upon agriculture and allied sectors such as daily wage labour, poultry-farm works, toddy selling, animal rearing, fishing, pot making etc. It helps in uplifting the poor people in the society.

The selected SHGs women pay a premium amount of Rs. 365 per annum or Rs.30 per month or Rs.1 per day; While the state government adds the remaining amount. The eligible age for applying for the scheme is from 18-59, while a white ration card (Below poverty-line) is a must. As per this qualification almost all the SHG members here, have applied for this scheme.

There are 230 members who have opted for this scheme here. About 24 women are getting an old age pension of Rs.500. And their children are getting a scholarship of Rs.1200 (9th class to intermediate) per annum. The VO maintains a separate Abhaya Hastam Account in a bank in Bibinagar. Apart from this, the SHG members get Rs.30,000 on natural death and Rs.70,000 in the case of an accidental death. Thus the scheme has been a boon to the women of the SHGs. ❖

Paddy Purchase Centre

The Paddy Purchase Centre in Raghavapur is being successfully run by the Village Organization (VO). This Centre has been in operation since 2010, under the Indira Kranthi Pathakam. Through this Centre, nearly 200 farmers sell their produce in the crop harvesting seasons.

The purchase committee: The committee is set-up by the VO, comprising of five members from the VO. It appoints a special book-keeper to maintain the Paddy account. It collects the Paddy as per the government's instructions. The paddy is purchased on the Minimum Support Price of Rs.1345.

The procedure: After harvesting, the produce is shifted to the Purchase Centre for selling. They enroll the name of the farmer, weigh their produce, measure the moisture and check the grain-quality.

The VO leaders purchase paddy on a commission basis of about 20% (including Hamali, transport and maintenance charges) and approach the leader in a first-come-first-weigh principle. The collected paddy is sent to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godown or a Rice mill through a lorry every 2-3 days, depending upon the quantity and quality. This procedure is supervised by the DRDA, Civil Supply official, Tehasilder, MPDO, PACS chairman etc.

After weighing, the paddy quantity data is sent to the DRDA. The Mandal Samakya (MS) mediates between the VO and DRDA. DRDA issues the payment to the VO through a Bank. The local VO opens a new payment account in the Bank and pays the due amount to the farmer, through cheques. ❖

Tyre Retreading

Retreading tyres is a process of recycling old tyres to make them reusable.

Generally, tyres wear out after about 200000 k.m, which are then purchased by the retreading agents. The old spent tyres are procured from beside national highways, villages, puncture shops, small towns, industrial areas and rural areas. The minimum rate of an old tyre is between Rs.1000-3000.

The retreading process requires different kind of components such as treads, body plies, belts, beads, side walls, and inner liners etc. There are two main processes used for retreading tyres -Mold Cure and Pre Cure. Both processes start with checking the tyre, followed by non-destructive inspection such as by shearograph, to locate non-visible damage and embedded debris and nails. Tyres can be retreaded multiple times if the casing is in a usable condition. Casings fit for retreading have the old tread buffed away to prepare for retreading. The previously prepared tread strips are applied to the tyre's rubber strips with adhesives. This method allows more flexibility in tyre sizes and is the most commonly used method, but results in a visible seam, where the ends of the strips meet.

These spent tyres that have been inspected, repaired and retread are then sold to customers.

This process preserves about 90% of the material and costs only about 20% of the cost of manufacturing a new one.

The cost of a new truck tyre is about Rs.15000-20000, whereas a retread tyre is available at Rs.7500-9500, depending on the condition of the tyre.

A budding entrepreneur can setup a small plant with just 15 workers and a small investment on raw materials such as synthetic rubber belts, adhesive gums, nylon threads,



chemicals etc. If the plant runs well, it can make up to 40 Lakhs per annum.

It indirectly provides livelihoods to hundreds of labourers, puncture shop owners, delivery boys, auto drivers, marketing agents, mechanics, tyre shop dealers, shop owners, land site lessors, rentals, commission brokers or middle men, wood sellers, coal sellers, accountants, security guards etc.

In a day, 6-10 tyres can be retread, depending upon the condition of the spent tyres.

So, this sector has the potential to grow rapidly in the automobile industry and the tyre market.

This emerging livelihood is providing employment to lakhs of people in the automobile tyre manufacturing industry in the country. Mostly, the middle-class purchase the retreaded tyres due to their lower cost compared to new tyres. There are officially 500 retreading plants mostly in the Industrial Development Areas of Cherlapally, Auto Nagar, Balnagar and Patancheru in Hyderabad, providing livelihoods to more than 10,000 people. ❖

Individual Enterprise

Collective Enterprise



The Day Dreaming Priest

Long time ago there lived a priest who was extremely lazy and poor at the same time. He did not want to do any hard work but used to dream of being rich one day. He got his food by begging for alms.

One morning he got a pot of milk as part of the alms. He was extremely delighted and went home with the pot of milk. He boiled the milk, drank some of it and put the remaining milk in a pot. He added slight curds in the pot for converting the milk to curd. He then lay down to sleep.

Soon he started imagining about the pot of curd while he lay asleep. He dreamt that if he could become rich somehow all his miseries would be gone. His thoughts turned to the pot of milk he had set to form curd. He dreamt on; "By morning the pot of milk would set, it would be converted to curd. I would churn the curd and make butter from it.

I would heat the butter and make ghee out of it. I will then go to that market and sell that ghee, and make some money. With that money i will buy a hen. The hen will lay may eggs which will hatch and there will be many chicken. These chicken will in turn lay hundreds of eggs and I will soon have a poultry farm



of my own." He kept on imagining.

"I will sell all the hens of my poultry and buy some cows, and open a milk dairy. All the town people will buy milk from me. I will be very rich and soon I shall buy jewels. The king will buy all the jewels from me.

I will be so rich that I will be able to marry an exceptionally beautiful girl from a rich family. Soon I will have a handsome son. If he does any mischief I will be very angry and to teach him a lesson, I will hit him with a big stick."During this dream, he involuntarily picked up the stick next to his bed and thinking that he was beating his son, raised the stick and hit the pot. The pot of milk broke and he awoke from his day dream.

Story moral: There is no substitute for hard work. Dreams cannot be fulfilled without hard work. ❖

Social Enterprise

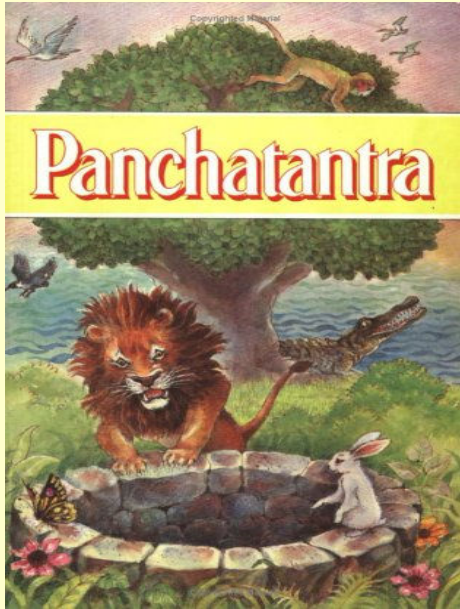


Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)



16 November International Day for Tolerance

Panchatantra



Author: Vishnu Sharma

The Panchatantra is one of the most popular collections of Indian tales, influencing literature all over the world. It is a collection of folktales and fables that were believed to be written more than 2500 years ago in Sanskrit by Vishnu Sharma. The main characters of these tales are animals, each of which are associated with certain qualities of human beings. According to the tales, the book was written when a King approached a learned Pandit to teach the important lessons of life to his ignorant and unwise sons. The wise Pandit understanding that the royal princes could not understand complex principles in an ordinary way, devised a method wherein he would impart important knowledge in the form of simple and easy-to-understand folktales.

This particular version of the Panchatantra was translated by G L Chandiramani. Panchatantra refers to two words 'pancha' meaning number five and 'tantra' meaning ways/strategies related to inner fulfillment. ❖

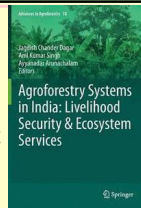
Agro-forestry System in India

Author: Jagdish Chander, Anilkumar.

This book, as the name suggests, describes the Agroforestry systems in India; and analyzes livelihoods security & ecosystems services. It outlines the effects of climatic changes in India.

It explains the importance of soil conservation and ecosystem management through agroforestry. It analyzes the effects of shifting cultivation, particularly in dry and rain-fed lands. It looks at agroforestry as a way to develop the sustainability of livelihoods in rural areas. It suggests some recommendations to adapt with climate changes in hot and arid environments.

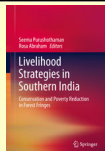
The book advocates balancing the ecosystems and rehabilitation methods in mines, flood-prone areas etc., to provide livelihood security. It proposes some of the changes that can be made in the National Agroforestry Policies. This book is very much useful to environmentalists, policy-makers and those with an interest in the subject. ❖



Livelihoods Strategies in Southern India

Author: Seema Purushothaman, Abraham

This book covers the livelihoods strategies of forest communities in Southern India. It provides a unique perspective of locality-level livelihoods issues and socio-ecological problems of communities living in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It gives data in a qualitative and quantitative way. This volume focuses on livelihood issues faced by forest communities, living south of the Western Ghats of India, facing the pressure of Urbanization and Commercialization. It analyzes the ethnic livelihoods of these communities such as shifting cultivation, hunting etc. The book suggests new policies, initiatives and strategies for sustainable livelihoods. It is informative about the livelihoods of forest dwellers in the globalization period. It recommends the strict implementation of the measures already in-place. It is the best suitable book to get a peek into the lives & livelihoods of the forest communities, along with the problems they face. ❖



e-links

VCA : http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/379-chironji-vca

Sub-sector: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/380-sub-sector-bajra

e-book : http://soniapedrosebastiao.weebly.com/uploads/2/0/3/9/20393123/margaret_s._archer_being_human_the_problem_of_agency_2001.pdf

v-book : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auJ7p1XHXig>

Supplements

Legendary Effort: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/381-poultry-

Flagship Program: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/382-mgnregs

e-course

e-course; Capsule No - 11:

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/383-e-course-livelihoods-support-capsule-no-11-

'Yoga'kshemam

Let us remember Dr V Kurien!

As my mother rested for good on 21 November 2014, I have been spending my time village, Gundrampally, in mourning (shraddha) reflecting. I have heard Gita several times during this period and I thought of presenting its brief summary, even if it means repetition -

A 700+ verse (in 18 chapters) Gita, a sub-part, within the epic, Mahabharata, is a great source of inspiration to many of us. In Gita, we see three dominant threads – life of dharma, renunciation with enlightenment and devotion. It synthesizes yoga of knowledge, yoga of action, yoga of transcendence and yoga of devotion. It brings together Vedanta, Samkhya and Bhakti. In some sense, it is a field book (practitioner's guide) to reorganize our inner ways of thinking, feeling, and action in our everyday lives, based on knowledge, devotion and action wherein results are automatically taken care, towards liberation or union (yoga) with the ultimate or universe of reality, progressively from karma to bhakti to gyana.

Karma would be 'inaction in action and action in inaction' without attachment. This would mean desireless action, renouncing fruits of action, dedicating all action for yoga, and surrendering oneself body and soul. This would mean control of all mental desires and tendencies for transient pleasures.

Bhakti would have two elements - faith (sraddha) and total surrender. It includes meditation on the universe, free from ill will for any life (creature).

Gyana would have wisdom and knowledge, and cosmic experience at the micro-level and microcosmic realization at the cosmic level. Seeing the difference between the body and the knower of the body and knowing the way out of the material bondage forms the key means on the path of gyana.

Gita's essence includes:

- ♦ Fight (action) with knowledge and detachment;
- ♦ Regulate senses and be fixed on being part of the Universe;
- ♦ Prepare and wait for bonafide Guru to appear;
- ♦ Know that knowledge-seeking and action are not contradictory;
- ♦ Fix consciousness on the Universe (sum total of all souls);
- ♦ Sankhya, Karma, Gyana and Dhyana Yogas are the stepping stones towards Universal Consciousness

- ♦ Of these, Dhyana is superior and constant practice with determination is the key
- ♦ Know that everything in existence is a combination of material and spiritual energies of this Universe
- ♦ Dhyana Yoga with devotion is the way to joining the Universe
- ♦ Universe creates, maintains and annihilates
- ♦ Universe seeks intense devotion, not any specific offering
- ♦ Devotion itself destroys ignorance if any in the devotee
- ♦ Then the devotee becomes the instrument of the Universe for the purposes of the Universe
- ♦ Servicing the Universe directly is superior and all other paths end up in this path in due course
- ♦ Freedom from material entanglement comes from the knowledge of the material nature – saathvik, rajas and tamas and dissociation from lower order material nature
 - ♦ Complete Surrender to Universe in devotion can transcend these modes
 - ♦ Universe is everything; it is the splendor of the sun, it is the fire of digestion, it is the brain, it is the heart.
- ♦ Lust, anger and greed are the key elements of demonic mentality and therefore, need to be given up
- ♦ In conclusion, Gita persuades us to practice love and devotion to the Universe.
- ♦ When the surrendered devotee and the Universe co-exist in harmony, the victory is theirs.

This month, as we reflect, reconfirms we are only instruments of the Universe. 'Amma' gave up the fight and rested, within two days of being off from the drip. We pray for her soul to rest in peace. And we get going. Life has to go on. A jhalak of the plain star in the eyes!

As we inch forward, we are on vairagyayogam. Journey of sristi after laya.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we pursue pursuit! If we renounce the unpursuable! If we allow annihilation of indiscipline of our senses! If we let our thoughts, words and deeds be in sync! If we truly let ourselves be the instruments! Krsna confirms practitioner of love becomes surely one with the universe.

Join us in the world of yoga – for being in sync – towards swatidyogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

G Muralidhar

