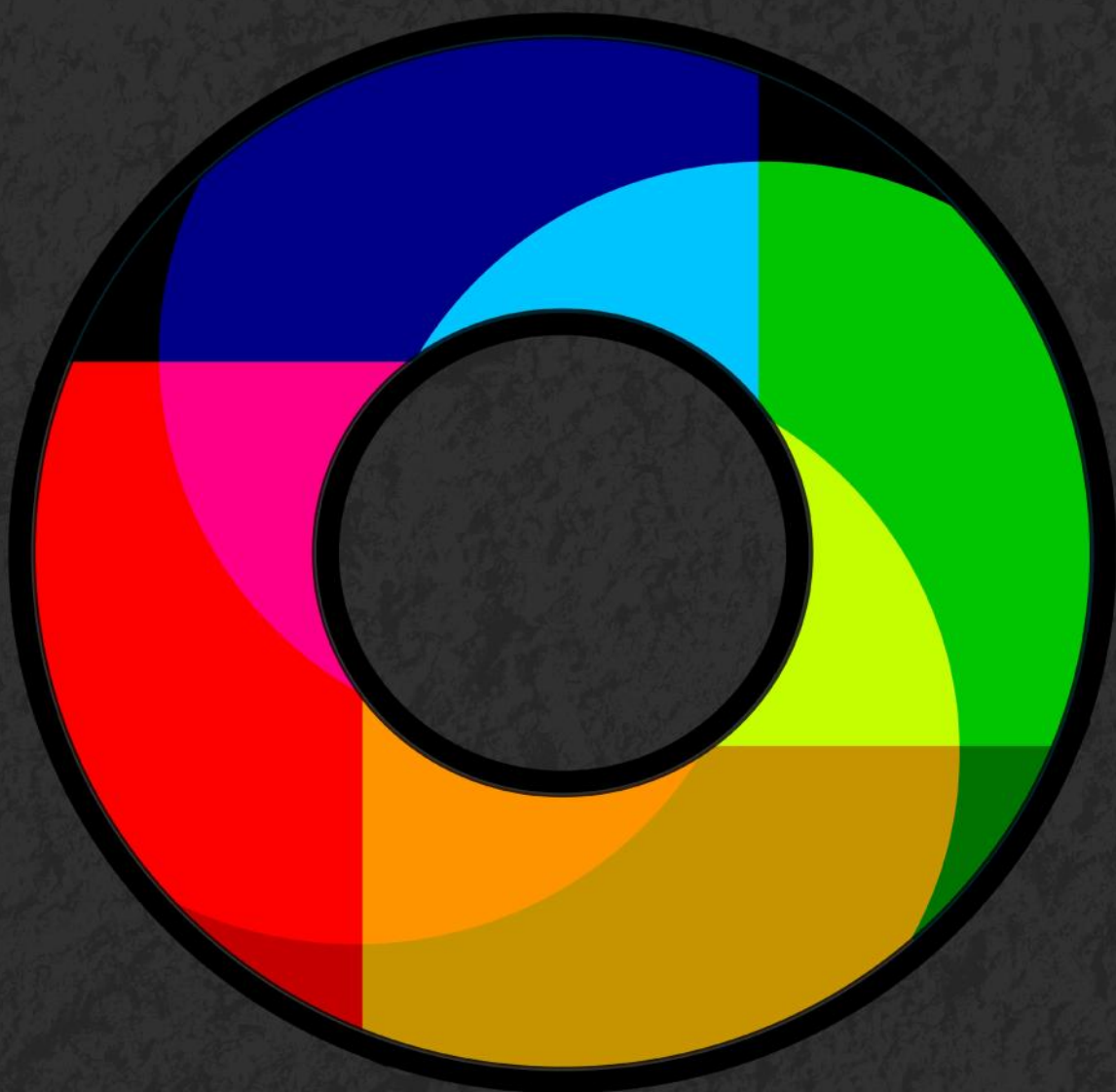


# livelihoods

*today and tomorrow*

November 2015



# Convergence

Poverty Reduction Campaign, Cadre, and Connect ! - 7

Children's Day!

Deepaavali! Kaarthika!

Dr Kurien!

Each individual and family plans for their well-being based on their knowledge, skills, resources and access to their rights, entitlements, schemes, linkages and support they could draw. The convergence happens in the family or by the individual. The next tier of convergence is the village/ Panchayat. The group, community. Gram Sabha or the Panchayat prioritises and chooses the families, activities, cadres, etc., and consolidates the demand at that level. Or they could ration the supply with prioritized demand. The next tiers of convergence are the block, district and state. The augmentation/rationing of supply and demand happens. Integrating multiple schemes available to a family, village, block etc., would ensure that the support is not ad hoc and piece-meal. The impact could be meaningful and significant. This would require knowing what is available on offer, figuring out the families that can access this, and making sure that the family gets all the 'supply' that the family demands as far as possible. This is an exercise in joint planning, sensitization, co-implementation and monitoring. For convergence, Community, Government, banks, civil society, and/or corporate social responsibility work together. Convergence appears to be the mandatory way for poverty reduction, livelihoods and development efforts, etc. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Convergence'.

Do not forget to read the Classic 'The Penguin History of Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300'.

Supplements included in this month include: Legendary Effort - 'Ramakrishna Mission' and Kshetram – Dandakaaranya.

Usual e-links introduce a video (Aajeevika – Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture), book (Smallholder Farmers in India: Food Security and Agricultural Policy), and value-chain/subsector (Labour and Vegetables Subsector / Chhattisgarh).

As ever, pooled up Daily notes for the month as part of the e-livelihoods learning course are also presented this month.

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

the 'livelihoods' team

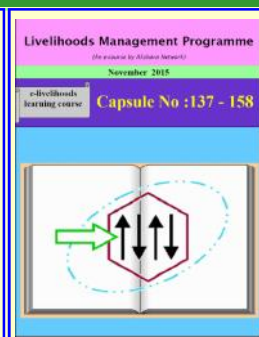
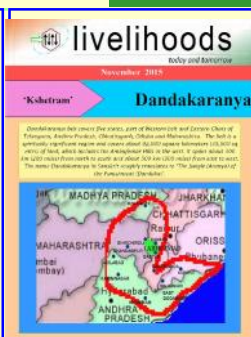
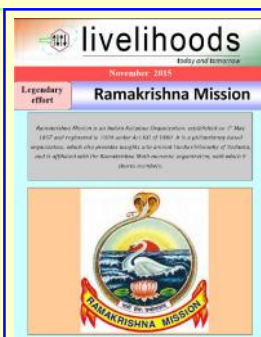
This global labour force will consist of 2.2 billion males, assuming a male participation rate of around 77 per cent, and 1.4 billion females, assuming female participation of around 50 per cent.

(Source: <http://www.ilo.org>)



Most of the people concentrate on expectations instead of their capacities.

**Latest Livelihoods**



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**Legendary Effort** Ramakrishna Mission

**Kshetram** Dandakaranya

**e- course** e-livelihoods learning course Capsule No: 137 - 158



I received 'livihoods' October 2015, supplements and e-course. These are useful material to me. This month focus article 'Communitization' gives good information including examples across the country and related Act.

Tambi

Hyderabad.



Can, NITI Aayog solve backward regions' problems in the country?

## News

**My Brick, My Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh "My Brick, My Amaravati" has created a new Guinness world record for receiving largest number of online donations, within a span of 24 hours. The programme was launched on October 15 by the CM, wherein people could buy "e-bricks" for the capital for Rs.10/- each and the ruling party leaders ran a 10 day campaign requesting people across the state to participate in the programme and donate during the 24-hour window. The campaign needed 1.05 lakh bricks to be sold to achieve the world record. Surprisingly, people from 75 countries donated for Amaravati's construction via the campaign.

**Mobile Manufacturing Hub in AP:** Andhra Pradesh is fast turning into a mobile manufacturing hub with Lava being the latest entrant with an investment of Rs 500 crore. Besides Lava, the Sri Venkateswara Mobile and Electronics Manufacturing Hub at the industrial park at Renigunta near Tirupati — recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ❖

**Budgetary Allocations to Irrigation Department:** Telangana, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has directed the authorities concerned to devise a new policy wherein budgetary allocations are made directly to the Irrigation Department. The decision regarding directing spending by the Irrigation Department was taken at a review meeting held here, particularly on avoiding the delay in the execution (construction) of irrigation projects. The new system was necessary since the government was planning to allocate Rs.25,000 crore for irrigation projects every year. Stressing the need to bring down administrative delays.

**E-auction of Govt. Lands Fetches High Prices:** The State government reaped a rich harvest in the land auctions in Kokapet and Manikonda areas in Cyberabad, reflecting that the land prices have not fallen. Aurobindo Pharma picked up five acres in Rayadurg spending Rs. 29.28 crore per acre in the e-auction conducted by the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC). The same company purchased another 3.65 acres piece in the same area at Rs. 24.88 crore. ❖

(in million tonnes)

Falling foodgrain output		
Crop	(June 2014- July 2015)	2013-14
Rice	102.54	106.65
Wheat	90.78	95.85
Coarse Cereals	40.42	43.29
Pulses	17.38	19.25

**G20 two day Summit:** G20 two day Summit began in this Turkish coastal resort town and in this Paris attack took the centre stage and a united global effort has been called for to combat terrorism. The G20 Summit, which was expected to mainly discuss inclusive economic growth and climate change and was set to adopt a resolution at the end of the two day meeting.

**Global Financial Secrecy Index Report:** According to the global Financial Secrecy Index (FSI) report released by the Tax Justice Network (TJN), India, has ranked 45 in the list of 92 countries in 2015, when compared to 32 in 2013, a real big jump. The country has made significant progress in the past two years in financial transparency. ❖



## News From the States

**Lowered GDP Forecast at 7.4%:** Economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), marginally lowered GDP forecast at 7.4 percent, due to deficient monsoon and slowdown in agriculture, as the Finance Ministry, has pegged growth rate around 8.1-8.5 percent for the financial year 2015-16 and this figure looks difficult to achieve, as the growth in the first quarter worked out to be only 7 percent.

**Finance Dept Asked Impact Assessment Reports:** Maharashtra; Finance Minister has directed all the Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of all departments to submit details of the social impact assessment reports over the impact of new scheme, before sending it to the Finance Department.

**Commuting in India;** over a fifth of non-agricultural workers in India commute to work on foot, followed by commutes by cycle, moped or motorcycle and bus, new data from the Census shows. The Office of the Registrar General of India released data on commutes for the 200 million working Indians, who are neither employed in agriculture nor in household industries.

**Incessant Rains Lashing:** Incessant rains have been lashing Tamil Nadu for one week and AP too has been experiencing heavy downpour and for the two days the fishing activity along the AP coast has come to a half, owing to incessant rainfall due to vigorous North East Monsoon. According to report by the meteorological authorities, highest rainfall of 14 cm in Krishna District was recorded in Avanigadda.

**100% Coverage of Urban Households:** Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to ensure 100% coverage of urban households with water supply and sewerage network services in the coming four to five years besides enabling water supply at 135 lpcd. The government has proposed a total investment of Rs. 49,918 crore, for the five-year mission till 2020. This includes Rs 17,086 crore in water supply schemes, Sewerage and Septage Management Rs 11,594 crore, Storm Water Drains Rs 14,690 crore, Non-motorised public transport Rs 5,172 crore and provision of parks and green spaces Rs 1,375 crore.

**Industrial Production has Slackened:** Indian economy, is still reeling under the woods, as industrial production has slackened to a four month low of 3.6%, while retail inflation has inched up to 5%, as per the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

**Manufacturing Sector has Cooled:** India's manufacturing sector has cooled to its slowest in 22 months, as domestic demand softened according to a private survey and this is putting pressure on Narendra Modi to usher in long promised reforms. The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing

Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by Markit, fell to 50.7 in October from September's 51.2. The 50-mark divides expansion from contraction. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in order to try and spur demand had cut interest rates to a four and a half year low of 6.75% September in a larger than expected move. There is a need to fast-track stalled infrastructure projects and ease restrictions on firms to bolster growth.

**E commerce is catching up in Railways:** E commerce is catching up fast and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched "Food on Track", station based e-catering facility in 45 stations across the country under, which the passengers can order food of their choice from leading private caterers. This would be rolled out in phased manner, as major junctions and stations like New Delhi, Mumbai Central, Chennai Central, Lucknow, Howrah, Vijayawada, Ahmedabad and several others are covered under phase one.

**Smartphone & Health:** A new device has been integrated into a smartphone, which can detect diabetes in few seconds from saliva sample of a person, as the device detects a biological indicator of a possible risk of type II diabetes in saliva and can be used in low-income populations. This development is unique, as it is adaptable to cellphones and gives results in a few seconds and also that a cartridge adaptable to the mobile phone that will record whether a compound is present in saliva, which becomes visible, if the patient has diabetes.

**First Blind-friendly Railway Station in the Country:** Mysuru, will be the first railway station in the country, that is blind-friendly, as the railway station will now have transit maps and train schedules in Braille at various points across the station. Even the menu card at the canteen will be available in Braille soon.

**Largest Number of TB Cases Recorded in 2014:** Tuberculosis (TB), India has recorded the largest number of cases in 2014, according to a report by the WHO, as 1.5 million people died from the diseases. TB ranks alongside HIV as a leading killer worldwide. India, Indonesia and China had the largest number of cases standing at 23%, 10% and 10% respectively of the global total in 2014.

**Pulses Prices of Rise Increases Poultry Demand:** Rise in prices of pulses has come as a blessing in disguise for the domestic poultry industry, which has been reeling under rising input costs and lower demand owing to the austere season. The skyrocketing prices of pulses, is helping poultry industry, in terms of increased demand for eggs and sources at the National Egg Co-ordination Committee also confirm the trend of people switching over to eggs from pulses to meet their daily protein requirement. ❖

## Coastal Odisha

The Coastal Plains or Utkal Plains region falls in the eastern part of Odisha, India. The region has major rivers Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga, Baitarani, Brahmani, Mahanadi, and Rushikulya; therefore, the coastal plain of Odisha is called the "Hexadeltaic region" or the "Gift of Six Rivers". The region is bounded by the Lower Ganges (Ganga) Plain to the north, Bay of Bengal to the east, Tamil Nadu Plains to the south, and Eastern Ghats to the west. It has a straight shoreline (480 km) and an elevation of about 250 feet (76 metres). The region comprises of nine districts namely: Balasore, Bhadrak, Jaipur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri and Ganjam.



The main soils found here are the fertile red and black soils. The total population of the region is 1,62,24,038 (44.19% of the population of Odisha). The primary language spoken is Odia. The population comprises of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians.

Chilka lake, one of the largest saltwater lakes in India (1165 km<sup>2</sup>), and Samang and Sur (freshwater lakes) are there in this region. The region is home to major irrigation projects, mangrove forests, sea beaches, various popular tourist spots, large water lagoons, sanctuaries, etc.. Also, it has the largest repository of Estuarine Crocodiles, which is the centre of attraction for tourists.

Agriculture is the primary occupation of the population living here. Rice is the principal crop. During the Kharif and Rabi seasons various pulses; legumes; oilseeds; vegetables; Wheat, Ground nut, Sugar cane, Ragi, Mung, Biri, etc., are also grown. Fishing is the second main occupation in the region and many of the local people are involved in Prawn cultivation, dry fish production, marketing etc..

Even though agriculture is the main occupation, many people depend on seaports and beaches for employment and for petty businesses. Most of the industries are centred in Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar; including paper mills, refrigerator plants, and ceramic, glass, textiles and galvanised pipe industries etc.. Mangroves and sea grasses provide vital breeding to marine species, which largely contribute towards commercial fishery in the state. Some of the coastal districts maintain waste land development, Coconut plantation and Betel plantations. Local population collects Bamboo wood for furniture, Fire wood and different types of fruits and nuts from forests.

Although, the region has abundant natural resources, sound irrigation facilities, good infrastructure, suitable climate and soil for cultivation, because of regular floods from rivers, cyclones and other natural disasters, thousands of people continue to lose their lives and property too. ❖

## Thadou Tribe

The Thadou tribe is native to Manipur, Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram states in North East India; Chin state and Sagaing Division in Burma; and eastern Bangladesh. The tribe belongs to the Kuki-Chin



language of the Tibeto-Burman family. They speak the Thadou language, which was the second language after Meiteilon (Manipuri) in the Manipur State during British rule. The tribe is called as Thadou by the Chins of Myanmar (Burma); Lusuong by the Lushais/Mizo; Khongjai/Khongsai by the Meiteis; Khongchai/Khachami by the Tangkhuls; Kusamei by the Maos; and Makheng by the Anals. In Manipur, the tribe is mostly found in Churachandpur, Senapati, Ukhrul, Chandel, South-Western Hills, Sadar Hills and Jiribam Districts.

The tribe believes that it originated from a "Cave" in Tibet or China. Thadou has a distinctive culture of their own — language, literature, dress, social life and form of self-governance, livelihoods, marriage, defence, religion and so on. The tribe's history can be found in its oral traditions including folklore and folktales. As per the 2011 census, the total Thadou population in Manipur was 1,90,595; it is the second largest tribe in Manipur preceded only by the Meiteis or Manipuris.

The tribe is patrilineal and has a monogamous society, bride price is customary and the inheritance is in male line. Women are social masters and play a significant role in the tribe's etiquette and lifestyle. The tribe has no structured education system in their society. Their socio-cultural component is very distinctive; marriage among the tribe is complex, with four different types of marriage. The tribe's villages are permanent self-sufficient structures and the homes are made from wood and can accommodate two to three generations of a family. They practice spirit worship. The tribe mainly consumes different types of grains and vegetables cultivated by them and a local beverage of "rice or maize beer".

The primary occupation of the tribe is agriculture. The other livelihood activities are basketary, poultry, weaving and cane work, which are the tribe's traditional crafts. They are renowned hunters, reputable warriors, headhunters, animists. Their hunting kit consists of a leather waist pouch for pellets, an animal horn for storing gunpowder and a knife; they carry different kinds of traps and snares, which are used to trap small and big animals. Apart from hunting the game, they also take to seasonal fishing in local streams and rivers. The younger generations of Thadous have taken to various white collar jobs, in professional fields in the Government services, teaching etc. ❖

# Poverty Reduction Campaign, Cadre, and Connect!

Children's Day!

Happy Nehru!

Happy Deepaavali, Karthika!

India has about 130 Crore Indians or about 30 Crore families. Varyingly about 20-30% are considered being out of poverty. The remaining need to be supported to with support of varying intensities to come and stay out of poverty. They needed literacy. They needed committed quality schooling support to their children. They needed public health support. These are in the pipeline. They need organization. A Self-help movement is offering this. They need to be invested to augment their capacity in terms of knowledge-skills-resources. This will make demands on the state, market and civil society to deliver their rights, entitlements etc. This will allow them to access their share. This will ensure fairness, equity and justice. This will improve their livelihoods, lives and wellbeing. This will guarantee improved freedom and choices.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan, Right to Information, Right to Education, National Health Mission, Right to Employment, National Livelihoods Missions, Poverty Free Panchayats etc., are ushering this agenda. Civil Society is playing its part. Communities have begun to play their part. Participation and Communitization are the key drivers in this. Convergence is the new talking point. All this would mean meticulous planning and rigorous roll-out of the plans. This requires some new drive.

This should include Communication Campaign, with high intensity. This may include Cultural Communication Teams, Portals, Radio and Television slots, Videos, Channels, Training of Trainers, Capacity Building Offensive etc. This should include Planning and Support Poverty Reduction Corps (cadre) all across, 2 million of them at the grassroots in the villages, wards etc., trained intensively and exhaustively, supported by 50,000 PR Corps

(professionals) and 1000 mentors. This should include an architecture that connects, reviews and monitors, may be in each district and/or 100 locations in the country. This should include some token funds, may be Rs.100-200 per family/year and some convening power.

This should pave way for moving towards reducing the number of redundant and artificially split schemes to a bare minimum. The support can flow to the individual family more and directly as untied support; then to the village; to the block etc. The sub-missions can be unified and integrated to single missions. The departments can be reduced and made more holistic. Generalistic integrators could be placed and trained intensively for extending comprehensive support. Technical Support may be taken as per the need rather than maintaining silos of technical verticals. Community members, leaders, cadres, paraprofessionals, service providers, volunteers etc., could play significant roles. The budgets could be more dovetailed to PRIs and Community Institutions rather than direct spends by the departments, organizations and missions. Where possible/required, the support could be untied against plans rather than strait-jacketed schemes and costs.

Transparency, Accountability, Audit mechanisms could be strengthened. Community planning, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and audit could be the norm for most instances. Business planning could be the basis where investments are sought.

Communication Campaign, Corps/Cadre, Connect Mechanisms, Convening Power and Funds, Communitization, Integration and Convergence appear to be the key instruments in the movement for self-help, poverty reduction, livelihoods and life. The approach appears to be institutional platforms and demand ownership. ❖

## Perspectives

G Muralidhar



**20 November**  
**Universal Children's Day**



**21 November**  
**World Fisheries Day**

## Looking for Bright Future

## Skill development to Differently Abled

## Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Nitta Shankhar. I am 28 years old. I belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community. My native village is Bhoopala Patnam, Pinapaka mandal, Khammam district, Telangana. I am married and have two sons, both of whom are studying in private schools in Pinapaka mandal. My mother and father stay with my brother. My sisters are married. Due to our poor financial status, I could not attend school.

My brother earns his livelihood from the 1 acre of agricultural land our family owns.

## What are you doing?

Since 2007, I have been working as an attender in the Mandal Mahila Samakhy (MMS) in Pinapaka mandal. My job responsibilities are cleaning the office, photocopying papers, purchase of stationary items and, arranging drinking water at the office premises. My office timings are from 9.30 AM to 6.00 PM. I earn Rs. 2000/- per month. My income is insufficient to support my family; therefore, I am also working on a part-time basis as a subordinate in the BSNL office. My job involves cleaning works, solving signal problems, maintaining BSNL office and also the duties of an attender. I earn Rs. 2500/- per month from this job;

## What did you do earlier?

Earlier, I had worked as an attender in a private school in Bayyaram village for six years and earned Rs. 500/- per month. I quit the job as the income was insufficient to maintain my family.

## Do you face any problems?

I am the sole breadwinner of my family, which is a huge burden. Earlier, my wife too used to work, but due to health problems, she is now a full time housewife. My monthly earning of Rs. 4500/- is not sufficient to maintain my family, as my children are studying in a private school and we stay in a rented house. Additionally, the cost of treatment for my wife and rising prices of groceries are making us face huge financial problems.

## Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have received ration card, MGNREGS card, election card etc.

## What are your future goals?

I want to provide quality education to my children and I am on the lookout for a better livelihood to my family. ❖



## Can you introduce yourself?

I am Kalthi Laxman Rao. I am a native of Pandu Rangapuram village, Pinapaka mandal, Khammam district, Telangana. I am 29 years old, and I passed Intermediate. I belong to the Scheduled Tribe community (ST).

I was married in 2011; I am living with my wife and two daughters. I and my wife are Differently Abled from birth. We are victims of polio, as our parents were unaware about immunization. I and my wife met during a skill development training period and decided to get married, and our elders approved our marriage.

## What are you doing?

I have been running a Xerox cum tea shop in Pinapaka Mandal, along with my friend, Veerabhadra, since 2013. We had approached the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Bhadrachalam and availed a loan of Rs.1,60,000/- for setting it up. We undertake Xerox activities, sell stationery items, and run tea stalls; the shop timings are from morning 9.30 AM to 6.00 PM. Our shop is located near the MRO office. We earn a monthly profit of Rs.6000/- from our business. Apart from the above, I also work as a MGNREGS worker for 60 days every year under MGNREGS. My wife has also been supporting the family by working as a tailor.

## What did you do earlier?

Earlier, I used to work as a tailor and used to stitch men's wear, but my income was too meagre to run my house.

## Did you take membership in DSHG?

Yes, I have been a member of the Adarsha DSHG since 2013. Our group is active and my wife is also one of the members in the same DSHG; however, we are yet to receive loans from our group.

## Do you face any problems?

Yes, as I and my wife are Differently Abled, we cannot lift heavy weights, but we still continue to work as normal individuals.

## Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have received ration card, Aadhar card, election card, MGNREGS card etc. Additionally, I and my wife avail a monthly disabled pension of Rs. 1500/-.

## What is your future goal?

I want to open a Training Centre for Skill Development of Differently Abled individuals. ❖





## To Become MS President...

### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Lingampally Uma. I am a native of Yellampet village, Marpeda mandal, Warangal District, Telangana. I am 40 years old, studied 5<sup>th</sup> standard and belong to the Backward Caste community (BC). I am married, and live with my husband, son and daughter. My husband works as a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) in our village.



### What are you doing?

Since 2009, I have been serving as the President of Sri Ganapathi Village Organization (VO), and have been serving as the President for Amruthavarsini Self Help Group (SHG) since 1997. I stitch women's clothes during festival season, do agriculture works, and work as a labour during summer months in MGNREGS programme.

My job description involves: conducting the monthly VO meeting; passing the VO meeting resolution to SHG leaders; preparing the agenda of the meeting with the support of the Community Activist (CA); operating the VO bank account jointly with Secretary and Treasurer; attending the monthly Mandal Samakhya meeting; participating in MS activities on special days such as during dharnas etc.; making insurance claim on behalf of the members during death of members or their family members; recovering loans from members and sanctioning new loans to members etc.

The VO pays me Rs.100/- for giving time for VO meeting; the MS gives me travel allowance, whenever I give time for MS works. I get Rs.100/- for agriculture work and MGNREGS per day.

### Did you get any training?

Yes, I received training on leadership; roles and responsibilities of leaders and members; on maintaining VO; book keeping; and SHG development etc., in Zilla Samakhya, Hanamakonda, Telangana.

### Do you face any problems?

SERP is not providing any Abhayahastham loans for eligible members, due to this the members are not cooperating with me.

### Did you get any benefits from the government?

I availed ration, Aadhar, election, MGNREGS card etc. I constructed a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme in my village.

### What are your future goals?

My aim is to become the President of Marpeda Mandal Samakhya and Zilla Samakhya of Warangal. ❖

## Recognize Our Work...

### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Domala Bikshamma. I am a native of Rampur village, near Marpeda mandal, Warangal district, Telangana. I am 42 years old and have studied up to 9<sup>th</sup> standard. I belong to the Backward Caste (BC) community. I am married and have two sons. My husband is a farmer; we own 1.5 acre of agricultural land and he cultivate mangos.



### What are you doing?

I have been working as a Community Activist (CA) in my village since 2005, besides also working as a leader of the Swarnadhra Self Help Group (SHG). For earning a livelihood, I work as a labour in our agriculture land and in other people's farms too. During the day time I go for agriculture works, and in the evening hours I write and maintain SHG books.

Now I am writing books for 10 SHGs of Ashajyothi VO, they are paying me Rs.100/- per group. I am also earning Rs.2000/- per month by writing the books of VO. My job description involves: writing and maintaining 12 types of books for the VO every month; conducting the VO meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of every month; giving a meeting message to Office Bearers (OB) before meeting; writing minutes of the VO meeting; currently, doing a survey for Naa Pedala Pusthakam, and Individual Household latrine (IHL) survey.

### Do you face any problems?

Yes, I give a lot of time to the SHG works, but I get paid very less. Sometimes, I face problems with SHG members, particularly, I have to visit a few SHG members' houses numerous times because they do not repay loans on time, while some SHG leaders do not attend VO meetings, and some members do not renew their insurance etc.

### Did you undergo any training?

Yes, initially I underwent training on book keeping, roles and responsibilities, refresher trainings etc., but now there are no trainings.

### Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have got a ration card, Aadhar card, election card, MGNREGS card etc. I received loans (Eight times) from our SHG and bank.

### What are your future goals?

I don't have any future goals; however, I want the government to recognise the role of community activists and also increase their salaries. ❖

# Empowerment Through SHGs

## Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Yadagiri Divenamma. I am 49 years old and I have completed my graduation in Distance mode. I am a native of Nakkapalli village, Nakkapalli mandal in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. At present, I am working as a Cluster Coordinator (CC) under the Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP) in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

## Can you tell us about your family?

My family consists of two daughters and a son. I left my husband due to his unbearable harassment when my children were really small, and started living at my maternal home along with my children. Recently, my mother has expired, so I and my three children are living alone. My elder daughter is pursuing her graduation, my younger daughter is studying Intermediate and my son is studying 10<sup>th</sup> class.

## Where are you working? When did you come into the development sector?

Currently, I am working for Payakarao Peta Mandal Mahila Samaikya (Payakarao Peta MMS) at Satyavaram cluster, Visakhapatnam district, AP.

After my separation from my husband, I was supporting my children through tailoring, which was my main source of livelihood; however, the income through this livelihood was not sufficient enough to support my family' so I joined a Self Help Group (SHG) in my village as a member with the encouragement of the old Velugu CC. During this period, I realized that I can pursue my graduation in distance mode, and accomplished it.

My Gram Panchayat (GP) selected me as a Community Activist (CA) in 2004 for Scheduled Caste (SC) colony at Nakkapalli Panchayat in Nakkapalli mandal. In 2008, I was selected as a Community Resource Person (CRP) for trainings at district level. In 2012, because of my work experience and performance with SHGs, the Zilla Samaikya had encouraged me to attend the interview for CC positions conducted by the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and they selected me as a CC.

## Can you tell us about your work?

As a CA, I had participated in poor identification programmes at village level; arranged meetings with poor women to form SHGs; facilitated the formation of SHGs; conducted weekly meetings; As a CRP, I imparted trainings on CIF, Loan recovery, VO concept and Abhayahastam etc., at district level for three years.

As a CC, I am working for poor SHG members in 489

SHGs from 19 Village Organizations (VO) in six panchayats. I manage 19 Village Organization Assistants (VOA) at field level. I attend all the VOs' meetings in a month; attend MMS review meeting once a month; manage and train VOAs on VO related works such as mobile book keeping, CIF implementation and repayment, Streenidhi and Abhayahastam schemes implementation, monitoring and repayment; conduct review meetings of VOAs at cluster level; link SHGs with Banks for loans and repayments; prepare documentation on bank linkages and Streenidhi and Abayahastam loan applications etc..

If any VOA is unable to attend a VO meeting, I do the mobile book keeping and cut receipts and vouchers. I also attend convergence meetings with government and banks if needed and or if it's urgent. I attend collector meetings with all our project staff. If the problem is very critical at VO level, my Assistant Project Manager will support me in finding a solution. Once I finish attending all the VO meetings in a month, I update all the information to my head office through APM. I submit my monthly work plan and work done reports to APM. Apart from these regular works, I attend Social Component Plan (SCP) identification and implementation etc., do Aadhar card verification work, Community toilets work as a part of government programme, and SHG members account opening work.

## Did you take trainings from your project?

As a CRP, I attended a 15 day training programme in Kurnool District on "Bank Linkages", Streenidhi and CIF. I also underwent training on mobile book keeping, bank linkage, Streenidhi and Abhayahastam implementation, and attended sessions on MMS committee formation and organization at Zilla Samakhya in Visakhapatnam.

## What type of problems do you face in your daily job?

There are many problems. Loan repayment is a big issue, as the defaulter's family members, especially men, create trouble for us.

## Did you get any recognition from your project?

Community treats me as a good worker and my subordinates recognize me as a committed worker.

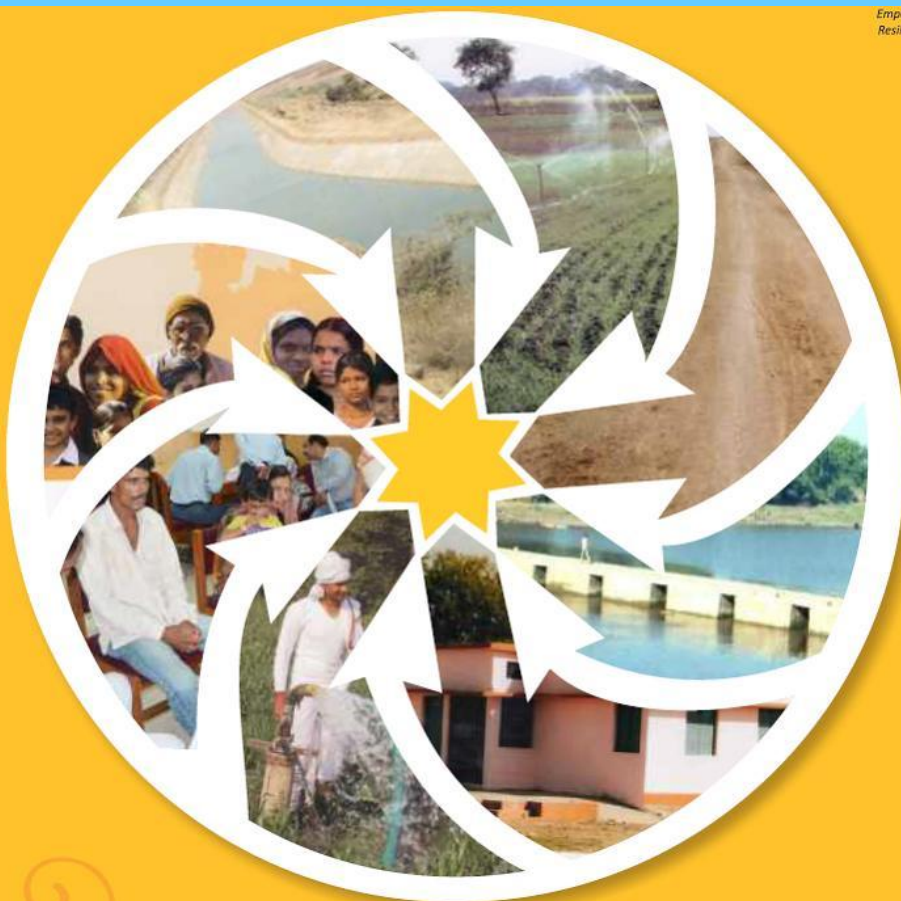
## What are your future plans?

As a development worker, I want to work for SHG members, educate and empower poor women through SHGs and I want to make them utilize government benefits and help them come out of their poor economical conditions. Coming to my personal life, I want to educate my three children and make them independent. ❖



# Convergence

*In our country, the Central and State level governments have been implementing various programs and schemes through different departments across the country. Furthermore, various departments have been designing different guidelines, and administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs to foster development. However, the results have not been up to the desirable level. To achieve efficient results, most of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for convergence in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring different departments on a common platform, and to work together and facilitate local governments' participation in programs from stage of planning to implementation to achieve efficacious results. In this context, 'livelihoods' makes efforts to understand 'Convergence'.*





In our country, the Central and State level governments have been implementing various programs and schemes through different departments across the country. Furthermore, various departments have been designing different guidelines, and administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs to foster development. However, the results have not been up to the desirable level. To achieve efficient results, most of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for convergence in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring different departments on a common platform, and to work together and facilitate local governments' participation in programs from stage of planning to implementation to achieve efficacious results.

Since the dawn of Independence, the Central and State governments have been implementing various programs and schemes through different departments across the country. Each department has been designing its own guidelines, and administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs for the targeted beneficiaries. However, the results have not been adequately reaching the targeted groups. In order to achieve efficient results, many of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for "convergence" in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring in different departments on a common platform, and to work together through co-ordination, facilitate local government's participation in programs to achieve competent results. Thus, convergence holds significance, as it bridges the gaps

in program execution.

Various programs, working for the development of the poor and for the eradication of poverty, have been allocated lakhs of crores of rupees by respective Central and State governments, but without any appropriate results. The programs/schemes, which aimed at target communities, many times ended up addressing various needs of a same community, in terms of household level, group level, village level and cluster level needs. Therefore, the programs targeted for the poor, did not achieve desirable results against the allocated budget. If we look at some of the programs/schemes that have been under implementation are as follows:

- ♦ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- ♦ National Health Mission (NHM)
- ♦ National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)
- ♦ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- ♦ National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- ♦ Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- ♦ Pradhan Manthri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- ♦ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
- ♦ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- ♦ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)





- ♦ Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)
- ♦ Public Distribution System (PDS)
- ♦ Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)
- ♦ Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)
- ♦ Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)
- ♦ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- ♦ Individual Sanitary Latrines (ISLs)

Various departments and agencies have been implementing divergent programs and schemes, with close to similar objectives targeting same beneficiaries and operational areas. Consequently, there has been duplication in implementation of works, through different programs designed to address the same communities. Many times, different departments are engaged in different schemes in the same operational area, where the target beneficiaries are the same. This situation has always brought in lacunae in resource planning and mobilization for schemes, poor implementation of schemes, and complete lack of community participation from planning to implementation stages of schemes. This has been a regular feature, as program implementation by various departments involved various activities i.e., resource mobilization, beneficiary identification, selection, disbursement of funds, monitoring and evaluation of activities; therefore, different departments would do similar activities, multiple times with same beneficiaries in operational areas. The repetition of works, ended up in wastage of human, financial and



social resources in program implementation. Thereby, resource mobilization gradually became a burden to the implementation of multiple programs.

Duplication of work in the implementation of these schemes, is mainly due to poor communication and coordination among various departments, closely followed by poor community participation, lack of transparency, outdated technologies, lack of qualified personnel, existence of top-down approaches, lack of accountability, non-involvement of local government institutions in program planning and implementation. As a result of these roadblocks, various departments are unable to implement programs/schemes successfully and achieve maximum results from the ground. Due to these fallacies, many a time, only a few lucky beneficiaries are successfully accessing multiple programs, while the needy are left out due to multiple factors and at the end of the day, they are



unable to access key program/scheme benefits. Additionally, It is important to understand the reasons behind why this sector-wise thrust in development has been more of a failure, than success. The operational mechanism of programs/schemes to be implemented by various departments, have similarities in "procedures and processes" in implementation of schemes; however, they differ in approval systems, implementation mechanism and agencies involved.

Going by the failure of implementation of

programs/schemes and the poor reach of the schemes to the targeted beneficiaries, there have been calls for linkages; which can be achieved by improving program specified guidelines and bringing in uniformity in guidelines such as identification of beneficiaries, release of funds, sanction of funds, monitoring and evaluation of programs/schemes. Therefore, in this context, convergence is a crucial element for successful implementation of the programs to achieve the maximum results and to bring about improvements in multiple goals; strengthen the partnership among government and community stakeholders; address the needs of marginalized/vulnerable communities; aid in establishing good governance structures; and facilitate sustainable development. In order to initiate convergence, various elements have to be considered, which are as follows...

- ♦ Goal setting: Objectives have to be designed without compromising essential characteristics of the programs in convergence to form partnerships at grassroots level. The convergence approach should facilitate target communities to realize their common goal of poverty reduction, creation of durable and qualitative assets.
- ♦ Local needs, problems and other issues: Decentralization is a crucial element in convergence. Facilitating the inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged



people in programs, from planning to implementation activities, provides space for decision-making and in assigning priorities. Participatory planning ensures identification of local needs and problems, and also goals fulfillment.

- ♦ Identification of potential areas/activities/schemes: Existing various programs' annual plans have to evaluate and find potential areas/activities.
- ♦ Technical knowledge and administrative guidance: Suitable technologies are an integral part in convergence, so as to facilitate technology institutions according to problems in programs implementation.
- ♦ Setting time-frame for activities: Setting a time-frame for all the activities of the programs is an important element in convergence. It is also a precondition to all departments and partner agencies.
- ♦ Role clarity among stakeholders: As there are various departments and stakeholders are involved; therefore, clarity of their roles is a key element in convergence. It enhances better understanding among different departments and stakeholders, and also solves problems.
- ♦ Funds flow consistent with activity – time-frame activities: Funds are critical to the implementation of programs, but



Department of Rural Development  
Government of India

ensuring consistency of the fund flow with the time-frame activities is equally crucial. As most of the times, there are many delays, because of lack of funds to undertake the activities. So, adequate funds mobilization at district level, with the support of state and central governments is an important element.

- Consultation with stakeholders at various levels: The information on district level proceedings have to be sent to stakeholders at block/mandal level and at Gram Panchayat level, so as to get feedback on the proceedings; which facilitates the preparation of comprehensive plans for convergence.
- New activities mapping: Involving stakeholders in the workshop and ensuring the preparation of a plan of the time-frame activities with regard to the expected outcomes, is an important element in convergence. Convergence plan should be prepared at the unit level. It would be a reference for all stakeholders who are involved in the programs.
- Capacity building: Different stakeholders from various departments to target communities working together is the fundamental element in convergence. Different departments'



functionaries, target communities and other stakeholders' capacities need to be enhanced and they be made to understand their roles at different levels, so as to implement the programs efficiently and effectively. Getting knowledge on technologies is also required. Functionaries and target communities need to have understanding on program benefits, costs and risks.

Convergence, in the context of our discussion, refers to all resources i.e., human, financial and physical components coming together at one point, for efficient delivery of deliverables. There are broad categories of convergence and convergence in planning is a must. Convergence of services can be possible, when an integrated approach is applied, as it would help in achieve the intended outcomes. Thus,







convergence at planning, resource level and implementation is crucial. For achieving convergence, the authorities must be empowered to ensure inter-departmental co-ordination, resource pooling, call for changes in guidelines, identify areas of convergence, bring about appropriate amendments to guidelines and circulars, bring in flexibility for facilitating convergence, put up appropriate monitoring mechanism to avoid double recording of work in different programs, etc..

Convergence should happen at all the levels, right from household level through community, village and cluster level. Convergence is required in three activities at the initial stage:: identification of flagship programs and document the results; study various institutional measures i.e., planning approval, sanctioning, fund disbursement and monitoring; and lastly find opportunities for convergence and design measures.

As plans should be prepared at district level, whereby only the activities identified & included in the district plan should be taken up under any scheme by the nodal department and decentralization of planning should be the way to enhance participation of all the key stakeholders. Along the lines, resource endowments should be done on a detailed needs analysis, without any relation to a specific scheme or a programme. Convergence of schemes should enable local government to function as units of self-governance, need for devaluation of funds, function

and functionaries. Establishing proper procedures of process monitoring, ensuring accountability and transparency from planning to implementation stages, will go a long way in generating confidence among the citizens in the process. Convergence at various levels will establish linkages between panchayats and other departments, which further have to be streamlined, strengthened and institutionalized. Thus, convergence would bring in more integrated plans for more delivery of outputs. However, there are many issues in achieving convergence, such as reluctance among the sectoral departments to commit funds for projects, as they have the fear of losing control over their resources; secondly, lack of institutional platform for convergence, as monitoring of planned convergence becomes difficult, as resources may be under the control of some of the agencies outside the fold of the main programs seeking convergence; and lack of harmonization of guidelines for convergence.

Calls have been made for convergence of financial and human resources to enhance productivity, value addition through backward and forward linkages. Convergence has to begin from the grassroots level and which proposes for intensive integrated planning and implementation at village levels. As participatory planning from the base i.e., grassroots level moving upwards led by the local governments will lead to a sense of ownership among the key stakeholders, which in turn would pave the way for much better results in local development. ❖



## The Public Premises Amendment Bill, 2014

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014, was introduced on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 in Lok Sabha by the Minister of Urban Development Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, and was passed by Lok Sabha on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The main objective of the Bill is to promote urban development and enable quick execution of infrastructure projects, and also to empower corporations such as Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, other Metros, Public Transport Companies, Companies of Delhi Government, New Delhi Municipal Council, and successors to Major Port Trusts, etc., to get their properties and premises evicted of unauthorized companies in a speedy manner.

The legislation, set in four stages, aims to carry out the process of eviction of illegal occupants from public land within a maximum of 60 days. The Bill seeks to amend the Act, 1971, for speedy eviction of unauthorized occupants from public premises, which includes those in government companies and corporations; the key features were the inclusion of certain properties under the definition of public premises where the central government would own at least 51% of the shares, inclusive of subsidiaries of these companies; and also the premises belonging to universities established under a Central Act, etc.

The Bill clearly includes the following types of premises as public premises: **a)** Premises of companies where at least 51% of shares are owned by the central government, and also partly by the state government, including the subsidiaries of these companies and those which can carry on the business of public transport including metro railways; **b)** premises owned or leased by the companies of the central government or state governments, or the joint holders of premises both by the central and state government (as per definition of public premises), for instance, the National Capital Territory of Delhi; **c)** categorization of the Municipal Corporation or notified area Committee as Public Premises and; **d)** premises owned or leased by the Board of Trustees constituted under the Major Ports Act, 1963.

The Act also proposed amendments to the process of eviction with time limits. The Bill provides for strict timeframes towards completion of eviction proceedings in order to prevent the misuse of procedures, and also to provide adequate safeguards to prevent any misuse of the provisions of the Bill. The Bill also contained the provision for a Summary Trial, disposal of appeals by the District and Sessions Judge, substitution of MCD in the act with the newly created corporations, and maximum time limit for disposal of the cases by the Estate Officers.

The Bill has received criticism from some quarters on the following fronts: **a)** Government land should not go into the hands of corporate houses, and it is important to know as to how much of the government land has been encroached by the corporates; **b)** lack of democratic participation from all the key stakeholders; especially urban dwellers; **c)** dysfunctionality of the urban infrastructure projects, right from the stage of planning, implementation and operations; as these stages are usually discontinuous, involving different parties, the projects do not involve democratic participation of key stakeholders, mainly urban dwellers and little attention is given to the needs of these people; **d)** the projects are confronting affordability issues, as the approach to affordability usually combines public sector funding with private sector financing and as a result the projects developed are often flawed and may remain in risk; **e)** land use and payments to urban dwellers go unchecked and get postponed; **f)** the Bill fails to facilitate consultation with key stakeholders, as any efficient project development, requires projects to be shaped in response to the mix of various stakeholders' objectives and support; **g)** quick execution of infrastructure projects, on which the Bill lays focus on, undermines effectiveness of planning, and the needs of urban dwellers whose livelihoods are dependent on urban scape; **h)** the urban infrastructure projects fail to take the environmental impact assessments, prior to initiation of the projects; **i)** the process of compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement of the urban dwellers has no clarity, as the stakeholders are not engaged in the project processes; **j)** lack of model rehabilitation and resettlement of urban dwellers, addressing the needs of the affected communities; **k)** the Bill fails to address the disrupted communities' social and economic ties; **l)** the urban infrastructure projects lack information, communication and learning processes with key stakeholders i.e., urban dwellers.

Overall, the Bill's objective of speedy eviction of unauthorized occupation for developing urban infrastructure, undermines the key stakeholders' role i.e., urban dwellers and their environments in the context of their socio-economic-cultural point of view, and many of the urban infrastructure projects do not benefit the resettled dwellers and tend to leave them in ambiguous environments and in complete dysfunctionality of their lives, with poor rehabilitation in place. The displaced and relocated dwellers are isolated from project benefits, once the infrastructure projects are completed. There is a need to develop processes where the key stakeholders can reap the benefits of the completed infrastructure projects. ❖

## Avagaahana

The AVAGAAHANA GROUP is a Community-Based Organization (CBO), based at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, in Telangana state. It works towards the welfare of the Transgender, Hijra, Gay (males) and male sex worker communities. It registered as a Society in 2009, with the Registration No. 647/09.

The objectives of Avagaahana are — to work for the Health & Welfare of the sexual minority communities such as Transgender, MSM, Hijras in Hyderabad and Secunderabad; to work for PLHA (People Living With HIV and AIDS) who are in need; to promote awareness of sexual health and HIV-AIDS and Care and Support Programme through Medical Camp awareness programs; to take up Advocacy Human Rights programs; to run shelter homes for sexual minority & PLHA; and to establish resource and cultural training centers.

Any sexual minority member can become a member of Avagaahana by paying Rs.5 as membership fee per year; Avagaahana uses the membership fee for its corpus. The corpus

fund is used only to maintain the organization. Avagaahana has a 10 member board. The board meets every quarter to take decisions, or meets whenever there is any need.

Since 2011, Avagaahana is executing the Pehchan program from India HIV/AIDS Alliance; under this program, Avagaahana executes various educational programs such as Support Group Meetings, Health Camps, STI Referrals and individual and group counseling etc.. Recently, the State AIDS Control Society did an assessment of Avagaahana and a new Targeted Intervention program is being expected this year.

Avagaahana is involved actively in the welfare activities of the community. It performs stage shows during festive seasons to raise funds for the organization. It uses these funds for creating Income Generation Activities for a small group of TG/Hijra communities in Old city area of Hyderabad. ❖



### Support Organization

## Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra

Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra (NBJK) was established in 1971 in Jharkhand by 4 engineering graduates, to work for the causes of disparity, exploitation and poverty. NBJK mission is “to educate and empower the rural poor by promoting development as a liberating force for achieving social justice, economic growth and self-reliance”.

The broad areas of work of NBJK are Health, Education, Livelihood, Agriculture and Micro Credit, Environment, Advocacy-and-Networking. The organization is working in 10 districts of Jharkhand and Bihar, and has a presence in an additional 40 districts through a network of 400 voluntary organizations and groups.

Following are a few key activities during the year 2014-15:

- NBJK has contributed to the elimination of avoidable blindness significantly, with 45,497 OPDs, 500 cases of diabetic retinopathy and 8,584 cataract surgeries. It is running 2 primary schools covering 12 villages. It is running a “Jeevan Jyoti Health Clinic” for access to essential health care among rural communities, covering 13 villages. It is running eye hospitals

“Loknayak Jaiprakash Eye Hospital” in Hazaribagh & Dumka areas since 2005.



- It has promoted sustainable livelihoods and food self-reliance among 1024 poor tribal farmers in 16 villages. It has provided low cost housing credit support to 243 dwellers in 10 slums of Ranchi. It has established 10 centres for providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to unemployed youth in 857 villages; producing 5400 skilled workforce every year.
- NBJK is working to increase the family income of around 2500 tribal households in Khunti district, to up to Rs.1,20,000 by 2020. Additionally, it is running a Sustainable Livelihood Program for 21,600 unemployed youth linking skill development.

NBJK's is associated with 15 international donor agencies and national level donors. It is working with central and state governments to achieve its objectives. ❖

### Training Organizations

1. South Vihar Welfare for Tribals:

<http://svwst.org/team.html>

2. Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra:

<http://nbjk.org/livelihood-agriculture-and-micro-credit/skill-development-and-livelihood/>

3. Adivasi Jan Kalyan Samiti:

<http://www.ajks.org.in/>

4. Social Education, Training and Cultural Institute (SAMARPAN):

<http://www.samarpanjharkhand.org/>

# Devarampally Village Organization

Sri Ramanjaneya Village Organization (VO) was formed in 2013 in Devarampally village, Kataram mandal, Karimnagar district, Telangana. It has 18 member SHGs under it; with a total of 192 members.

The Office Bearers (OB) comprises of the President- Rajamani, Secretary- J.Sammakka, and Treasurer- S.Sammakka; Executive Committee comprises of SHG leaders; Each SHG pays Rs.100/- as share capital to the VO and each member pays Rs.10/- as membership fee to the VO.

The VO conducts a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of every month, and collects Rs.20/- as fine from members who are absent during meetings. The VO has taken a membership in the Mandal Samakhya (MS) by paying a membership fee of Rs.100/-. The VO has its premises in a rented building and pays Rs.500/- towards rent. It pays Rs.2000/- per month to the Community Activist (CA).

The VO has taken a credit of Rs. 1,00,000/- from the bank. In 2013, the VO has received a loan amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- from Mandal Samakhya (MS) at 6% interest rate and gave loans to SHGs at 12% interest rate. The VO has also availed Rs. 5,00,000/- from Streenidhi fund. Two SHGs availed Rs.22,00,000/-

towards goat rearing expenditure for ST/SC members under Unnathi scheme. Last year, the VO made a profit of Rs.2,00,980/- by procuring paddy from paddy procurement centres.

The VO also provides SC & ST loans, Streenidhi loans, internal funds, Community Investment Fund (CIF) to its members. The VO maintains paddy purchasing centres. A total of 40 children studying between 7<sup>th</sup> grade to graduation are availing scholarships; around 18 members have been covered under Swalambhana insurance scheme; 30 members are availing Abhayastham pension; and a dead member's family members received an amount of Rs.30,000/- for natural death.

The VO has seven sub committees, each sub committee comprising of four members, 1) Gender Sub Committee 2) Insurance Sub Committee 3) Poorest of the Poor (POP) Sub Committee 4) Audit Sub Committee 5) Health and Nutrition Sub Committee 6) Marketing Sub Committee and 7) Recovery Sub Committee.

Through this VO, women are empowered on their rights, financial management, education, health, questioning power, decision making power, village development etc. ❖

Scheme

Facility

## Balika Samruddhi Yojana

The Balika Samruddhi Yojana (BSY) scheme is being implemented in rural and urban areas across India; furthermore, the scheme had been amended to bring about increased benefits to the girl child. In 1997, the BSY scheme was initiated in Devarampally village, Kataram Mandal, Karimnagar District, Telangana.

The eligibility criteria and other details are as follows:

Girls born after 15<sup>th</sup> August 1997 and whose families are living below the poverty line can avail the scheme; moreover, two daughters from a single family can also avail scheme benefits. The girl child can avail scholarship till completion of graduation and will also receive an amount for marriage after completion of 18 years. Beneficiaries should attach birth certificate, caste certificate, income certificate with the application form. They have to open a bank account in the nearest bank, so that the scholarship amount gets deposited directly in their account.

In Devarampally, a total of 23 girl children are availing benefits from the BSY scheme. The scheme is being implemented through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the application forms are available with Anganwadi workers in the village. ❖

## Anganwadi Centre

In October 1984, an Anganwadi Centre (AWC) was established in Devarampally village, Kataram mandal, Karimnagar district, Telangana. The teacher Kamaladevi and the aaya Laxmi are managing the AWC since its inception.

The timings of the AWC are from morning 9.00 AM to evening 4.00 PM. At present, around 24 children are attending the AWC daily; out of these 24 children, 11 are girls and 13 are boys. Furthermore, around 9 pregnant women and 7 lactating women are taking nutritious food from the AWC. The AWC provides eggs daily at 10 AM; full-fledged meal in the afternoon at 12 PM; and snacks in the evening at 3 PM for children, pregnant and lactating women.

There are 8 children in this village, who have secured scholarship from 9<sup>th</sup> grade till the completion of graduation and are availing a sum of Rs. 30,000/- from Balika Samruddhi Yojana Scheme. The AWC staff's work is monitored by the CDPO and the Supervisors.

The total population of Devarampally village is 1,314. The ICDS allots one AWC for every 1000 people in the rural areas. The food is supplied from Mahadevpur ICDS project office, under Gangaram cluster, Kataram Mandal. ❖

## Packers and Movers

Home shifting services in India are available in abundance, and are offered by packers and movers companies, who take assignments of domestic/ local home shifting. It is a process of shifting of household materials in which all types of household goods like TVs, refrigerators, washing machines, cots, beds, mattresses, dining tables, kitchen utensils, and other types of home appliances and furniture are packed and moved safely. Packers and movers companies are available across all the major cities, towns or suburbs surrounding cities in India. Packers and movers companies play a very important role in getting customer goods relocated safely and in a good condition. They save the customers from the hassles during shifting of going to look after everything related to packing and moving from selecting packing materials to buying transit insurance, so they are much in demand.

Nowadays, packers and movers services are creating new livelihood opportunities for poor and middle class individuals, directly and indirectly. It is now one of the most promising and growing businesses in cities and towns.

With the growing population, the number of packers and movers companies are also burgeoning. These companies have the feasibility to establish their business with low/ very minimal establishment cost. In addition, they can provide training on packing and moving at a very low cost. Most of the livelihoods in these companies do not require technical skills; therefore, a good number of uneducated youth are getting employment through these services and a reasonable pay in cities and towns. They are recruiting drivers, packers, labour for loading and unloading goods and supervisors.

These days, people are constantly shifting from one city to

another, be it in search of better employment opportunities, children's educational needs, or for business purposes. These people, with busy lives and limited time, are finding it a labourious task to shift furniture and other articles without damaging them, so they are opting for packers and movers companies to do the work instead; furthermore, the non-availability of skilled labour in packing is another reason for people to increasingly depend on these services. Thus, these services are helping people save time and be stress-free.



The companies train workers to know the right way to pack fragile, heavy and other types of household items. They know the best quality of packing materials and tools to do the job; thereby, packing and moving household items in an appropriate manner. Rates of the packers and movers are not fixed because of multiple factors like the volume of goods, distance between places, and the transportation route between source and destination. Nowadays, many offices and companies are paying employee relocation costs under HR policies. Many corporate offices have set corporate pacts with packers and mover companies.

Packers and movers are also providing storage facility at source and destination places, if any case customers need to vacate in advance a source location, OR if they face a delay in occupying the house at destination. There are a many number of companies, which are delivering services with ISO standards. Many innovations are being adopted for providing better services to the customer, such as usage of metallic containers for better protections of goods, etc. ♦

### Individual Enterprise



Tiffin Centre

### Collective Enterprise



Diesel Pump Set Rent Business by ESHG Members



# Appreciation of Hard Work

One young academically excellent person went to apply for a managerial position in a big company. He passed the first interview; the director did the last interview, made the last decision. The director discovered from the CV that the youth's academic achievements were excellent all the way, from the secondary school until the postgraduate research, Never had a year when he did not score.

The director asked, "Did you obtain any scholarships in school?" The youth answered "none".

The director asked, "Was it your father who paid for your school fees?" The youth answered, "My father passed away when I was one year old, it was my mother who paid for my school fees".

The director asked, "Where did your mother work?" The youth answered, "My mother worked as clothes cleaner. The director requested the youth to show his hands. The youth showed a pair of hands that were smooth and perfect".

The director asked, "Have you ever helped your mother wash the clothes before?" The youth answered, "Never, my mother always wanted me to study and read more books. Furthermore, my mother can wash clothes faster than me".

The director said, "I have a request. When you go back today, go and clean your mother's hands, and then see me tomorrow morning".

The youth felt that his chance of landing the job was high. When he went back, he happily requested his mother to let

him clean her hands. His

mother felt strange, happy but with mixed feelings, she

showed her hands to the kid. The youth cleaned his mother's hands slowly. His tear fell as he did that. It was the first time he noticed that his mother's hands were so wrinkled, and there were so many bruises in her hands. Some bruises were so painful that his mother shivered when they were cleaned with water.

This was the first time the youth realized that it was this pair of hands that washed the clothes everyday to enable him to pay the school fee. The bruises in the mother's hands were the price that the mother had to pay for his graduation, academic excellence and his future. After finishing the cleaning of his mother's hands, the youth quietly washed all the remaining clothes for his mother. That night, mother and son talked for a very long time. Next morning, the youth went to the director's office.

The Director noticed the tears in the youth's eyes, asked: "Can you tell me what have you done and learned yesterday in your house?" The youth answered, "I cleaned my mother's hand, and also finished cleaning all the remaining clothes".

The Director asked, "please tell me your feelings". The youth said, "Number 1, I know now what is appreciation. Without my mother, there would not the successful me today. Number 2, By working together and helping my mother, only I now realize how difficult and tough it is to get something done. Number 3, I have come to appreciate the importance and value of family relationship".

The director said, "This is what I am looking for to be my manager. I want to recruit a person who can appreciate the help of others, a person who knows the sufferings of others to get things done, and a person who would not put money as his only goal in life. You are hired". Later on, this young person worked very hard, and received the respect of his subordinates. Every employee worked diligently and as a team. The company's performance improved tremendously.

Moral: If one doesn't understand and experience the difficulty it takes to earn the comfort provided by their loved ones, than they will never value it. The most important thing is to experience the difficulty and learn to value hard work behind all the given comfort. ❖



## Social Enterprise



**Community Health Workers  
by Need India Organization**

## The Penguin History of Early India

Author: **Romila Thapar.**

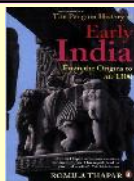
"The Penguin History Of Early India: From The Origins To AD 1300", is a book about the history of India, and is concerned not only with the past, but also with the interaction of the past and the present. The writer Romila Thapar takes the readers on a glorious ride and gives them an idea about India's past right from prehistoric times to the emergence of India as a great nation through this book.

It examines and compares the religious practices and beliefs, as well as the economical status and lifestyle pattern of people during various periods. It depicts the emergence of great dynasties like Mauryas, Cholas and Guptas and their contribution in the development of Indian history. It also explains the creation of great epics such as Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc., and the lives of various scholars and saints, and the role they played in shaping the lives of their followers such as Gautam Buddha, King Ashoka and so on..

The book brings to life thousands of years of history, tracing India's evolution before their contact with modern Europe was established; its prehistoric beginnings; the great cities of the Indus civilization. Thapar introduces remarkable visionary leaders and notable figures who shaped Indian history and provides an incomparably vivid and nuanced picture of India and shows the rich mosaic of diverse kingdoms, landscapes, languages, and beliefs.

The book ends with the narration of events in 1300 AD, with the reign of the last Chola ruler Rajendra III.

This updated edition contains added research on the history of India based on new excavation data, new methods of interpretation of history and changes in academic understanding of the discipline. This book is useful to the students of history and to those interested in Indian history. ❖



## Sustainable Livelihood Approach

Authors : **Stephen Morse, Nora McNamara.**

The book 'Book Name : Sustainable Livelihood Approach: A Critique of Theory and Practice' provides practical answers by explaining the precepts of the 'Sustainable Livelihood Approach' (SLA) through the case studies of a microfinance scheme in Africa.

It explains how people can apply the principles of sustainability in the real world, at the sharp end of communities in developing nations, where income insecurity is the troubled norm. It also explores some of the central challenges of putting SLA into practice.

This book is relevant to development practitioners, policy-makers, scholars and researchers. ❖



## A Systematic Review of Rural Development Research

Authors: **Evans, Neus, Lasen, Michelle, Tsey, Komla**

The book 'A Systematic Review of Rural Development Research: Characteristics, Design Quality and Engagement with Sustainability.' is an expanded version of the 2013 Sustainability Collection International Award for Excellence in New Research and Thinking winning paper. It examines the nature and quality of publication output across the field of rural development globally over time. The aim is to determine the extent to which rural development, as an academic and practice discipline, is developing in a way as to potentially facilitate evidence-based decision-making regarding local, national, and global challenges of our times. It relevant to policy makers, practitioners, teachers, scholars and researchers. ❖



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# ‘Yoga’kshemam

*Happy National Unity Day!*

*Happy Children’s Day!*

*Happy Deepaavali! Happy Kaarthik Purnima!*

*Happy Constitution Day!*

*Let us remember Dr V Kurien!*

Recently Modi recounts Idea of India eloquently in the Parliament –

- ♦ Satyameva Jayathe (Truth);
- ♦ Ahimsa Paramo Dharmah (Non-violence);
- ♦ Paudommein Paramaatma (God in Plants);
- ♦ Let good thoughts come from everywhere in the world;
- ♦ Sarva Panth Samabhavah (All spiritual paths are treated equal);
- ♦ Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (World is one family);
- ♦ Sarve Bhavanthu Sukhinah Sarve Santhu Niraamayah (Happiness, Prosperity, Health to All);
- ♦ Sahanaavathu Sahanaubhunakthu Sahaveeryam Karavaavahi Tejaswinaavadheetamastu Maavidwishaavahai (Protection and Nourishment to All, Working together with high energy, Sharpened intellect without hostility to All);
- ♦ Happiness in reducing the pain and suffering of all living beings;
- ♦ Devotion in God through empathy of the suffering of others;
- ♦ Daridraanarayan Seva (Serving the God in the poor);
- ♦ By actions, human becomes God;
- ♦ Naari Tu Naaraayani (Woman is Goddess);
- ♦ Yatra Naaryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devataah (Where women are respected, there divinity blossoms);and
- ♦ Janani Janmabhoomi Swargaadapi Gariyasi (Mother and Motherland are more than Heaven)

Hope India works to this Idea of India with dignity to all. Hope we along with Modi move India of 12+1 religions, 122 languages and 1600 dialects with socio-cultural-economic diversity of various hues and nuances to this Idea of India truly.

Each one of us could extend our ‘self’ to this Idea of India

truly. Each one of us could demonstrate and contribute our bit to this Idea of India.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore’s poem is remembered -

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high*

*Where knowledge is free*

*Where the world has not been broken up into fragments*

*By narrow domestic walls*

*Where words come out from the depth of truth*

*Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection*

*Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way*

*Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit*

*Where the mind is led forward by thee*

*Into ever-widening thought and action*

*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake*

This Idea of India be real and let us work towards it. In this India, we have our individual identities; we are not lonely (we care and support others truly); we have capacity (ability – knowledge, skills, resources); we have our rights (and entitlements) secured/ accessed; we have our dignified well-being (decent livelihoods and lives) and we have freedom and choice(s).

This is bhaaratyatayogam. This is viswajaneenata. Having hope in our ability to extend ourselves and widening and deepening ourselves for caring India and the universe, the life in India and the universe and the humanity in India and the universe without moral pressure, unconsciously, subconsciously and consciously!

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we practice usefulness! If we practice focusing on being useful! If we practice usefulness consciously! If we practice to be useful to the universe with all senses - seeing, hearing, smelling, taste, touch and consciously! If we practice to see no difference in self and the universe! If we act useful without any pressure! If we widen and deepen ourselves to be useful effortlessly! If we transcend ourselves! If we play along with the infinite intelligence of the universe! Krsna confirms useful free individual in joy is always with the universe.

Join us in the world of yoga – for flowing in the free and joyous universe – towards viswajaneenayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

**G Muralidhar**





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