

Decentralization



Happy Kaarthika! Happy Children's Day! National Milk Day! We remember Dr K, as the one who brought a PM for a night stay in the village. National Constitution Day!

Trump is the President-elect in US.

PM Narendra Modi has scrapped Rs.500 and Rs.1000 currency notes in the country at 8 PM on 8 November 2016, with effect from the mid-night. This has withdrawn 86% (about Rs.15 lakh crore) from the circulating money in the country. Of this, we were told some 60% has been deposited in the banks towards the end of November and some Rs.3 lakh crore new currency has come in. People have window till 30 December to deposit their cash into their accounts. Some could exchange the old with the new. Hope the counterfeited notes have gone away and new counterfeiting is difficult. Varying estimates of Black Money – about Rs. 50-150 lakh crore and about 6% of it is in currency form – Rs.3-9 lakh crore. Hope at least the black money in currency form is completely wiped out by this 'demonetization'. The government will pursue, PM emphasizes repeatedly, black money to its logical conclusion. We believe him. If he could go to Parliament and talk in the Parliament, it would have been nicer. We hope he will also bring in black money outside India soon.

There are some difficulties in implementation. New notes were Rs.2000 notes initially. Exchange queues and deposit queues were long. Allowed withdrawals were limited and in small quantities. ATMs were dispensing smaller amounts. ATMs needed to be recalibrated for the new notes. Many were not having accounts. Many do not have the bandwidth for electronic payments and receipts. Mobile payments are increasing. We are inching towards less cash society. Will it last after 30 December? Now the new Rs.500 notes are also coming. The news says we will have Rs.1000 notes too. We may have Rs.200 notes too.

We hear that 'black' is coming into Jan Dhan accounts; we have benami exchanges; we have cash coolies; we have low income people losing time and energy in getting their cash; we have ATMs with no cash; we have bank branches with low cash; we have many deposits up to Rs.2.5 lakh per account without being penalized; we have advances; we have advance loans with no interest or reverse commission; we have new 'agents' for making black from black; so on. We have daily wage earners suffering a bit; we have farmers being troubled for seeds and inputs for Rabi; some farmers have to struggle and go for loans although they have their own money; small and petty traders – struggled a bit on account of lack of small money in the system; there is reduced expenditure in the middle class and lower middle class segments – some savings for them; and some reduced GDP; slump in the market and recovery could take a longer time.

But the losers of black money could become smarter and come back with vengeance as the days progressed. Most of us slowly get used to e-receipts and payments; and m-receipts and payments. Government may start own mobile 'banks' soon. We still may have black money and new ways of black economy, but on a small scale. We still may not see big fish not penalized/punished enough. Let us see more of this, appreciate and explore this in the coming months.

In Livelihoods Agenda, decentralization ensures governance in the hands of the people. The situation level and decision level should be the same. But, the decision makers should have access to all the knowledge that is available. It is not enough a country decides. It is not enough a state decides. It is not enough a block decides. It is not enough a village decides. It is important that every level decides on items that are relevant to that level – these levels include – individual, family, group, village, watershed, block, district, state, country and the world. Decentralization areas include planning, access to resources, implementation, support, audit, monitoring and learning. Its end is community taking over its destiny into its capable hands with sensitive heart, integrating mind and the spirit of synergy. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Decentralization'.

Please read still relevant Margaret Fullers' Classic 'Woman in the Nineteenth Century'.

The e-links include VCA - Dairy at Vedadri Village; subsector - 'Fisheries'; e-book – 'Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-being'; and v-book – 'MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu'.

Livelihoods Management Notes (e-link) are on 'Understanding Livelihoods'.

Supplements include 'How to Conduct a Gram Sabha?'; 'Purulia Region' and 'Denotified Tribes'; and 'Vedadri IVDP'.



As you are aware, this is the second issue in the new pattern.

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

the 'livelihoods' team

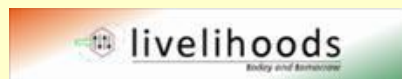
Response



Thank you S. Laxman Ji,
Really this magazine has lot of information is very beneficial for our work domain.
Regards,
Vijay

Dear Laxman,
Greetings of the Seasons from Felix Kerketta!
Thank you for the livelihoods. Great to get new and updated information.
Thanks and regards to All.

Dear Akshara Team,
Greetings and thanks for your wonderful and informative Livelihoods e-magazines. Pl. upkeep high spirits with your developmental work.
Best regards.
Sincerely
Dr. Mohd. Mujahid Ali LL.M., Ph.D - Law



'livelihoods' team

Editor-in-Chief	G Muralidhar
Working Editor	T Venkateshwarlu
Edit Associates	V Aravind Kumar
	K Chayadevi
	S Laxman
	K Ramesh
	G Swathi
	T Vina

Walked/walking with us

T Aparna Gayathri	P Mahesh
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G Madhu Vamsi	K Visweswar Rao
Mansi Koushik	A Uma

Private Circulation

Contact:

Akshara Livelihoods Pvt Ltd (ALPL)

HIG-II B12/F1 APHB Colony
Baghlingampally

Hyderabad - 500044

09951819345/ 9848930034

aksharakriti@gmail.com

www.aksharakriti.org
www.livelihoods.net.in

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Purulia Region

Sukshetram

De-notified Tribes

[http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/
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Special Supplement

Vedadri 'IVDP'

[http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/
special_supplement_vedadri_vdp_dec_2016.pdf](http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/special_supplement_vedadri_vdp_dec_2016.pdf)

e-links

VCA

VCA of Dairy at Vedadri Village

http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/vca_of_dairy_vedadri_village.pdf

Sub-sector

The Fisheries Sub-sector

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-ai563e/ai563e04.pdf>

e-Book

Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-Being

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/am085e/am085e.pdf>

v-Book

MGNREGA in Tamil Nadu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGxwBw4Yfe0>

Livelihoods Management Notes

Understanding livelihoods

[http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/
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e-course

e-livelihoods learning course Capsule No: 393 - 412

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Donald Trump Is Elected President in Stunning Repudiation of the Establishment:

Donald John Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States in a stunning culmination of an explosive, populist and polarizing campaign that took relentless aim at the institutions and long-held ideals of American democracy. The surprise outcome, defying late polls that showed Hillary Clinton with a modest but persistent edge, threatened convulsions throughout the country and the world, where skeptics had watched with alarm as Mr. Trump's unvarnished overtures to disillusioned voters took hold.

Agriculture victim of and solution to climate change:

Diplomatic wrangling this week will make the headlines in the fight against climate change, but experts say a bigger but largely unseen battle is set to unfold on the world's farms. Agriculture holds the double distinction of being highly vulnerable to climate

change but also offering a solution to the problem, they say. In a report ahead of the November 7-18 UN climate talks in Marrakesh, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) had a blunt warning about the risks to the food supply from drought, flood, soil depletion, desertification and rising demand. "There is no doubt climate change affects food security," the agency's chief, Jose Graziano da Silva, said.

Japan gives \$2m for Ugandan skills boost: Uganda has received a \$2.875 million grant from Japan through the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) which is administered by the World Bank writes SAM OKWAKOL. "Japan is committed to supporting efforts by the government of Uganda to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are felt by all citizens, in a direct and tangible way," Kazuaki Kameda, the Ambassador of Japan to Uganda said in a statement. ❖

Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 notes demonetized: Justifying the last-minute announcement to demonetise the currency notes, a government official said that the move was necessary to stop terrorists and drug cartels "in their tracks." "An element of surprise is essential, or else they would have made necessary arrangements," he said. The government official described the action as a "surgery since the tumour had to be removed to prevent recurrence". The official claimed that this will result in a reduction of inflation as conspicuous consumption will come down. He said the "tumour of corruption could not be fought through tried, tested and failed methods" and it was time to employ new methods to defeat the enemies of India. Till March 2016, Rs. 14 lakh crore out of Rs. 16 lakh crore worth currency issued by the RBI were in denominations of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, as per the central bank's official data. Meanwhile, Justice M.B. Shah (retired), chief of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team on black money, said there is no other alternative to curb black money than to scrap the Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 currency notes.

Rs. 35,000 cr. to ease rural cash crunch: Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley directed commercial bank chiefs to focus their attention on rural India's cash crunch over the next 40 days, with a war chest of Rs. 35,000 crore for providing credit to farmers by December. The Centre also relaxed its demonetisation policy for high-value currency notes further by allowing farmers to buy seeds for the rabi sowing season using the old Rs. 500 notes. Mr. Jaitley, who held a video conference, also asked banks to provide Rs. 5,000 crore to the currency chests of district central co-operative banks to ensure farmers face no cash shortages for the rabi season. "The government is keen that farmers don't face any shortage of funds for sowing. Clearly, the focus is to get the rural economy back on track," said a banker. Separately, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) eased asset classification norms for loans less than Rs. 1 crore to allow businesses, home loan borrowers and farmers 60 more days to pay instalments for November and December, to prevent them from being classified as non-performing assets owing to the ongoing cash crisis.

More differently abled attend schools than before: Census:

Nearly two-thirds of the disabled population in the age-group of 5-19 in 2011 were attending educational institutions, according to new census data released on Monday. As many as 40.2 lakh (61.2 per cent) out of the total of 65.7 lakh disabled population in the specified age group were attending educational institutions in 2011. This is an improvement of 11 percentage points from 2001 when 33 lakh (50 per cent) of the 65.3 lakh differently abled persons had attended educational institutions. The enrolment figure is 10 percentage points lower than that of the total population — 71 per cent attending educational institutions. Data show those who reported to have 'any other disability' has the highest percentage (71.2 per cent) of the people attending any educational institution. This was followed by those having visual disability (68 per cent) and hearing difficulty (67 per cent). Twenty-seven per cent of the disabled people in the age group of 5-19, however, have never attended any educational institute, as per the 2011 census data. Around half of the people with 'multiple disability' (54.4 per cent) and 'mental illness' (50.3 per cent) did not attend any educational institute.

Farmers can now use old Rs 500 notes to buy seeds: Days after allowing farmers to make cash withdrawals up to Rs 25,000 per week against sanctioned crop loans, the Centre announced that they will now be allowed to use old high denomination notes for purchasing seeds. Farmers can now use old Rs 500 notes at state-owned outlets towards the purchase of seeds, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Around 13.58 crore children have access to gender segregated

toilets: Prakash Javadekar: About 13.58 crore children in 11.08 lakh government schools have access to gender segregated toilets, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said in Lok Sabha. Under Swachh Vidyalaya initiative, 4,17,796 toilets were constructed in 2,61,400 elementary and secondary government schools between August 2014 and August 2015, thus ensuring that every government school has separate functional toilets for girls and boys, he said during Question Hour. ❖

<div>Scheme</div> <div>MGNREGS</div>	<div>Public Service Institution</div> <div>Girls ZP High School</div>
<p>The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is being implemented in Anthwar village, Narayanakhed mandal, Sangareddy district since 2006. The village consists of 142 households. At present, there are 588 job cards, and 1046 workers are working under this scheme. But active job cards are 200 and active workers are 56; out of them, 54 members belonging to SC community people, two members belonging to ST community, and 29 women are involved in this scheme. There are 12 Shrama Shakthi Sanghalu (SSS) in the village. A mate leads each SSS group. The current, field assistant is Putti Pavulu. The workers are getting their wage twice a month from the post office. Most of the works are available in summer season. The average wage rate is Rs.125/- per day in the village under the scheme. MGNREGS has provided 8396 person days of work in the village in 2015-16. Each household has received an average of 44 person days of works. Around 12 households have completed 100 days of works in 2015-16 in the village, while the remaining households did not complete 100 days of work. So far, the workers have got wages of Rs.2.09 lakh since project was first implemented. In 2016-17, 55 total works have been taken up, out of which 28 works have been completed and 27 ongoing works are there. Under this scheme, the workers have completed road works between Anthwar and Panchaga, constructed pits in agriculture lands, cleared stones in agriculture lands, took up land leveling works, jungle clearance etc.. ❖</p>	<p>The Girls Zilla Parishath High School was established in 1991 in Ghatkesar village & mandal, Medchal district, Telangana. There are classes from 6th to 10th standard in English & Telugu medium in the school. Around 536 students are studying in the school, while 22 teachers are working here, consisting of one male headmaster and 21 female teachers. The school timings from 9:30am to 4:45pm. Facilities including nine computers, internet, digital classes, television, toilets and filtered water are also available. The Midday-Meal Scheme is being implementing in the school since 2009. Under the scheme, they provide food like rice, sambar, vegetable curries, dal, etc., daily. Children also get an egg and a banana twice a week. Children are coming from around 20 surrounding villages from this mandal. Last year, the Indo-American Foundation (IAF) has provided the school with four of its computers and projector, and also provides digital classes and educational content of maths, science, social subjects for 6th to 10th standard. The Personal Hygiene Health programme (PHH) is being implementing in the school through government support, and under this scheme, they provide model toilet room. ECIL provides computer teacher for teaching computer classes. Government conducts health camps once in a month on 2nd or 4th week. SC and ST students can avail merit scholarships by passing a test. Last year, the 10th standard results were 80% in the school. A children's cultural team was also selected to perform in Kalautsav programme at Delhi from this school. MA Ravooof, the Headmaster, has played a key role in the school's success. ❖</p>
<div>Traditional Institution</div> <div>Nayee Brahmins: 'Barbers'</div>	<div>Individual Enterprise</div> <div>Vegetable Shop</div>
<p>The Boodhan Pochampally village in Yadadri-Bhongir District, Telangana State, is home to ten families belonging to the barber's community (Nayee Brahmin). This community has the traditional customary rights in the village. The family members along with saloon works also perform various socio-ritual customs which are their hereditary rights. The various socio-ritual customs include helping pregnant women in easing pre-delivery pains, delivering the babies at homes, and taking their customary ritual fees for a male baby ranging between Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 4000/- and for a female between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 800/- depending on the financial status of the family. They also do purification ceremony, naming of the child, ritual bathing to both mother & baby. Rituals are also performed for young adolescent boys and girls at the time of attaining puberty. The community, even as of date, holds customary rights in both marriages and death ceremonies too. All the ten families have a clear division of services to be provided for the entire village, and they have their own traditional institution called as "Nayee Brahmin Sangham"; the council is headed by the elders of the community, and they discuss and resolve any of the disputes that arise. This community also provide their services in nearby villages if they get a request to do so. The community member earn in cash & sometimes even procure harvest of grains in lieu of services provided during Kharif & Rabi Season. Today, both barter and cash are accepted by the community members. ❖</p>	<p>Adavi Venkateshwar Rao is a 30 year old and B.Sc graduate, who has been running a vegetable shop at Baghlingampally, Hyderabad, Telangana. His family migrated to Hyderabad in 1992 from Krishna district. Presently, he is staying along with his mother in a rented house. He has been running the vegetable shop since 2003, and selling all kinds of vegetables like tomato, brinjal, chilli, bitter gourd, cucumber, drumsticks, cabbage, cauliflower, ladyfingers, leafy vegetables, etc.. He sells only fresh vegetables. The timings of the shop are from morning 6:30 am to night 10 pm daily. He opens shop on all days, and only closes down the shop in case of any emergencies. He goes to Bowenpally and Charminar vegetable market to buy vegetables. His capital investment on vegetables daily is around Rs.15,000/-. He has his own auto, and uses it for transportation of vegetables from the market. When he goes out on some chores, there are two boys (hired helps), along with Venkateshwar's mother, who maintain the shop. He pays a monthly rent of Rs. 3000/- for the shop, and pays Rs. 6000/- per month to each of the workers. He earns a profit of Rs.15,000-20,000/- per month. Vegetables are perishable items, and if he is unable to sell the vegetables in first three days, he incurs losses. He says that it is a profitable business, if one puts enough hard work. In future, he wants to expand his vegetable business. ❖</p>

Bhangar Vegetable Producers Company

Bhangar Vegetable Producers' Company (BVPC) was formed by farmers in 2012 in Bhangar block II, district of South 24 Parganas in West Bengal state. It is headed by a Board of 10 members. The farmers were mobilized to form into Farmers Producer Organization (FPO), supported by the State Department of Horticulture and Food Processing (H&FP) in association with Access Development Services (ADS). It is registered under Part IXA of the Indian Companies Act (ICA).

BVPC is the first company registered under the National Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (NVIUC). It has a membership of 1750 marginal farmers. These marginal farmers own less than five acres of land on an average. Nature of business of BVPC is vegetable production, procurement and supply. Farmers cultivate chilli, brinjal, capsicum, cucumber, cauliflower, tomato, cabbage and bitter guard etc. ADS integrated 1750 farmers in 117 Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) across six selected GPs covering 48 villages into this BPCL. Members of the Producer Company (PC) are aware of overall objectives of their PC and their roles, they were strongly motivated to contribute towards the growth of PC. They are participating in meetings actively and PC activities, they are saving regularly within their groups.

BVPC's objectives are, to reduce the production cost of vegetables, to promote use of modern agricultural practices

and agri-infrastructure, to promote direct market linkage for agri-input and service procurement as well as output market, for promotion of organic farming and encouraging use of crop planning and technical advisory services to its members.

BVPC's total cultivable area is 18,800 sqm, which includes 94 poly shade net houses, five hi-tech poly houses have also been constructed. The FPO received a subsidy of Rs.121.65 lakh from the Government of West Bengal. There are many reasons for success of the BVPC, project team hard work, local government and banks support, pooling of resources by small producers, improved technology and good crop planning, selling produces directly to the consumer and providing end-to-end solutions to farmers.

BVPC submitted proposal to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) project for Rs.31.75 lakh for establishing a pack-house and sorting grading centre and purchasing six static vending carts and six refrigerated carts. Impact of BVPC, earlier, farmer received an average of 7500kg of crop in the open in a season, after the intervention, same farmer is able to grow more than 9500kg crop. The size and quality of vegetables is also good, to what was earlier produced. Farmer was earning Rs.22,000/- before intervention in 140 days, after intervention, the farmers now earns Rs.85,000/- in 120 days. ❖

Pragathi Welfare Society (PWS)

Pragathi Welfare Society (PWS) was established in 2006 by Dr. Alok Agarwal, a professor of Bright University and a social entrepreneur. PWS is working in Burugula Gram Panchayat (GP) and hamlets, located in Farooqnagar mandal, Shamshabad district, Telangana. GP has Kasireddyguda, Nerella Cheruvu hamlet villages, and also seven tribal thandas i.e. Kadiyalakunta, Thimmajipally, Pothurajugadda, Muchoniguda, Devunigundu, Kundelukunta, and Nallamettala. People depend on farming, agriculture wage labour, daily wage labour, working in industries and poultry farms. The PWS is undertaking the following activities:

Education programme: PWS is providing teaching volunteers, conducting science exhibitions, improving English education, constructing classrooms, providing foot ware; starting library, science lab; improving quality of mid-day-meal, providing safe drinking water, building toilets, supporting cultural activities, etc.. It has also provided 126 cycles, desks, chairs to students in schools.

Women empowerment programme: PWS is supporting Self Help Groups (SHGs) and assisting in creating strategies for village transformation, skill improvement and income generation. It puts special focus on education of girls. It provides linkage with Grameen Vikas Bank for micro credit, provides awareness on personal hygiene to adolescent girls, set exposure visits to NIRD and Seva Mela trip; provided 200 sewing machines to women for self employment, conducted training on stitching and sewing;

providing micro credit with zero interest for small businesses; constructed Mahila Mandali building in Kasireddyguda village.

Youth employment programme: PWS trained 80 youth on basic computer skills; provided four personal computers to well trained youth to help others; assisted 112 young men and women obtain driving license and find employment for some of them; started a stitching centre; conducted sports competitions involving neighboring villages; trained 10 girls on fashion tailoring, maggam works, zardosi hand crafts work, beauty parlor skills; four boys got jobs in mobile phones and computer repairing shops.

Health care programme: It has conducted cataract surgeries and distributed spectacles; Asthama and Allergies camp, dental hygiene camp to children, periodic hemoglobin checks for children; conducting blood donation camps, awareness on immunization, alcohol cessation programmes; providing safe drinking water in health centre; provided computer to health worker, etc..

PWS has set up a drinking water plant in Burgula village for five thousand people with support from Wheels Global Foundation in 2015. Villagers get 20 litres of water for only Rs.2/-. PWS encourages people to clean their places. Two part time employers collect waste every morning, keep drains clean, etc. PWS is encouraging community to participate in village development plan and activities, and is increasing employment in these villages. ❖

Decentralization

Decentralization means the transfer of powers from central government to lower levels in political, administrative and territorial hierarchy. It facilitates the transfer of responsibilities for planning, managing, utilizing resources, allocation of funds, implementation of programs and mobilization of funds from central government to lower levels of government. It increases the quality and effectiveness of the governance by enhancing capacities and authorities of the local governments. It restructures authority based on subsidiary principles, which facilitates maximum transfer of power to local political institutions. In post-independence India, decentralization started in 1959 through the setting up of local governance system across the country. Parliament passed the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1993 to empower rural public representative bodies - the Gram Panchayats (GPs). In this issue, 'livelihoods' explores to understand 'Decentralization'.

Decentralization, can broadly be classified into three categories; political, administrative and fiscal decentralization. The details are as follows:

- Political decentralization: Transfer of policy and legislative powers to autonomous lower level assemblies, local councils, which are democratically elected by the people.
- Administrative decentralization: Transfer of planning and implementation powers to civil servants, who work under the jurisdiction of elected local governments.
- Fiscal decentralization: Transfer of revenue and expenditure authority to intermediate and local governments.

The process of Decentralization started in India with the evolution of Panchayat Raj system. In pre-independence India, decentralization was not an immediate agenda in freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi said that, real development in the country was possible through 'Gram Swaraj'. In his concept, state government has to only exercise its powers on those matters which are beyond the scope and capacities of local governments. Rural local governments (Panchayats) were included in the Directive Principles of the State Policy (Article 40). The Decentralization process had started in the country much before independence in 1882 when a resolution was taken on local self government. For making decentralization more effective following initiatives were taken:

Year	Efforts
1882	The resolution on local self – government.
1907	The Royal Commission on decentralization.
1948	Constitutional debate between Gandhi and Ambedkhar on “Gram Swaraj” and “Self – Rule”.
1957	Balwant Rai Mehta Commission: Introduced Panchayat structure at district and block levels.
1963	K. Santhanam Committee: Recommended more powers for Panchayats and suggested to establish State Panchayat Raj Finance Corporations (SPRFCs).
1978	Ashoka Mehta Committee: Conducted study on weaknesses of PRIs and recommended that, district should serve as an administrative unit in PRI structure.
1985	G.V.K. Rao Committee: Recommended powers to Block Development Officer (BDO) for rural development programs planning, implementing and monitoring.
1986	L.M. Singvi Committee: Recommended that, local self – government should be Constitutionally placed and Gram Sabha (Villagers' Assembly) should base to the decentralized democracy in the country.
1993	73 rd Constitutional Amendment Act: Provided Constitutional status to PRIs at district, block and village level. 74 th Constitutional Amendment Act: Provided Constitutional status to municipal bodies.
1996	Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act or PESA: Ensured self-governance tribal people through tribal Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas (SA) in the country.

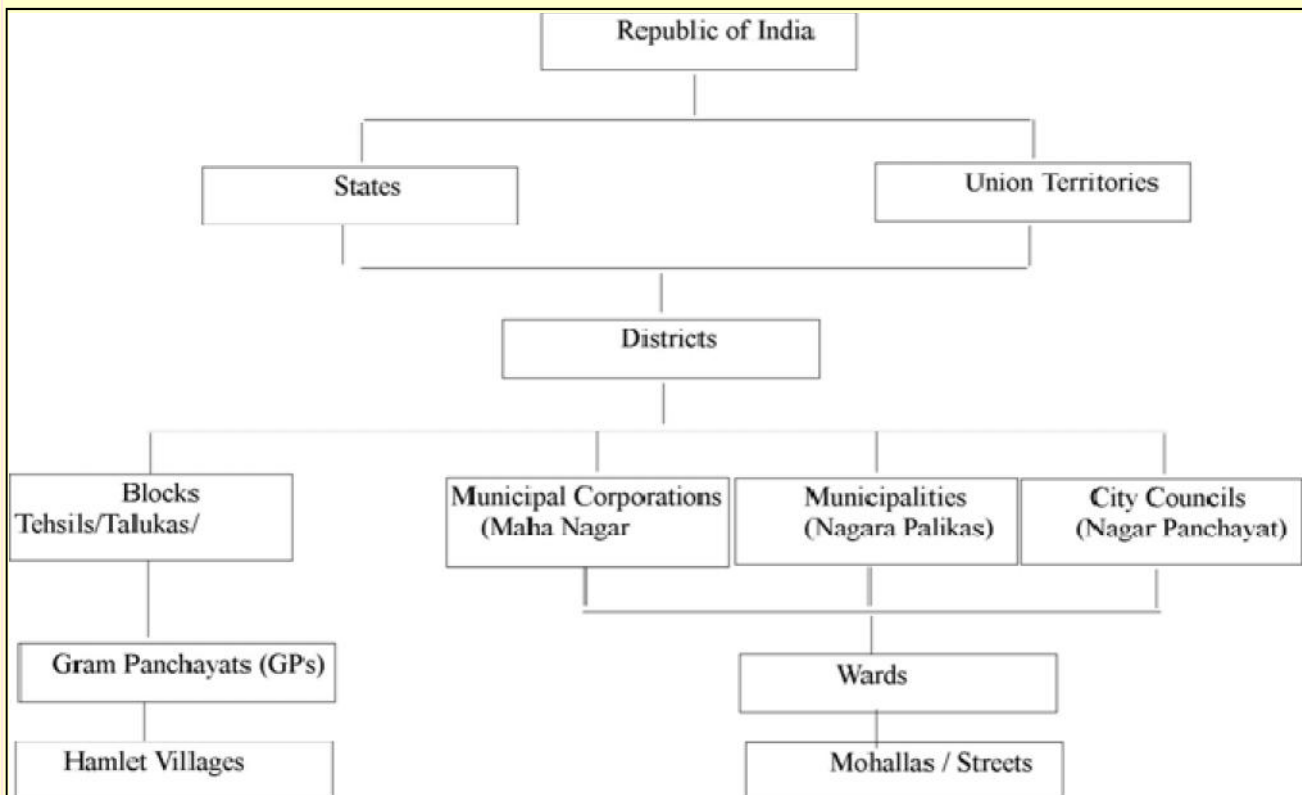
All the states enacted Panchayat Acts, and Panchayats were established across the country by 1960. Administrative decentralization had started with the recommendations. Parliament enacted the landmark Act, 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1993. The salient features of the Act are as follows.:

- Panchayats as units of self government.
- Social and economical development related 29 subjects transferred to Panchayats.
- Provisions for sharing resources between Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and State and Central governments.
- Regular elections to local bodies.
- Reservations for socially disadvantaged groups and women.



The Act had given high importance to Gram Sabha (GS) to ensure people's participation in the local governance process. It facilitated decentralization in governance and reiterated GPs as institutions of self government. In 2004, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj had conducted seven Round Table (RT) meetings with State Ministers of Panchayats for better decentralization. These series of meetings identified the following necessary conditions for effective decentralization...

- Serious political commitment required from higher level authorities in government.
- Autonomy to local political bodies in decision making and schemes and programs' implementation at local level.
- Availability of revenue mobilization at local level.
- Accountability from elected representatives and bureaucrats.
- People's active participation in voting, attending meetings, campaigning, running office and lobbying for public representatives.
- Existence of the competitive political parties with the support of the poor people.



- Community Based Institutions' (CBOs) role in creating conditions for downward accountability.
- 5,00,000 GPs

We need more homogenous units of administration as shown:

In the different dimensions of decentralization, political decentralization is the key element, which aims to give more powers to citizens in decision making. It transfers political power from higher level to lower levels of the government. Relatively, small units ensure more decentralization. It facilitates people to participate in decision making process and provides services' availability to the people. In this process, lower level administrative units such as districts, blocks / talukas and GPs came in to existence. First, district is an administrative division for Indian state. Later blocks / talukas / mandals and GPs came into existence in administrative process. The administration works through state governments to GPs.

Small administration units play a vital role in ensuring availability of government services, peoples' participation in governance, efficient administration and accountability. Recognizing the importance of smaller administration units, governments are dividing administrative units into smaller units. In this process, more number of states, districts, blocks/talukas, GPs are being formed by governments. We need more states, districts, blocks and GPs as follows:

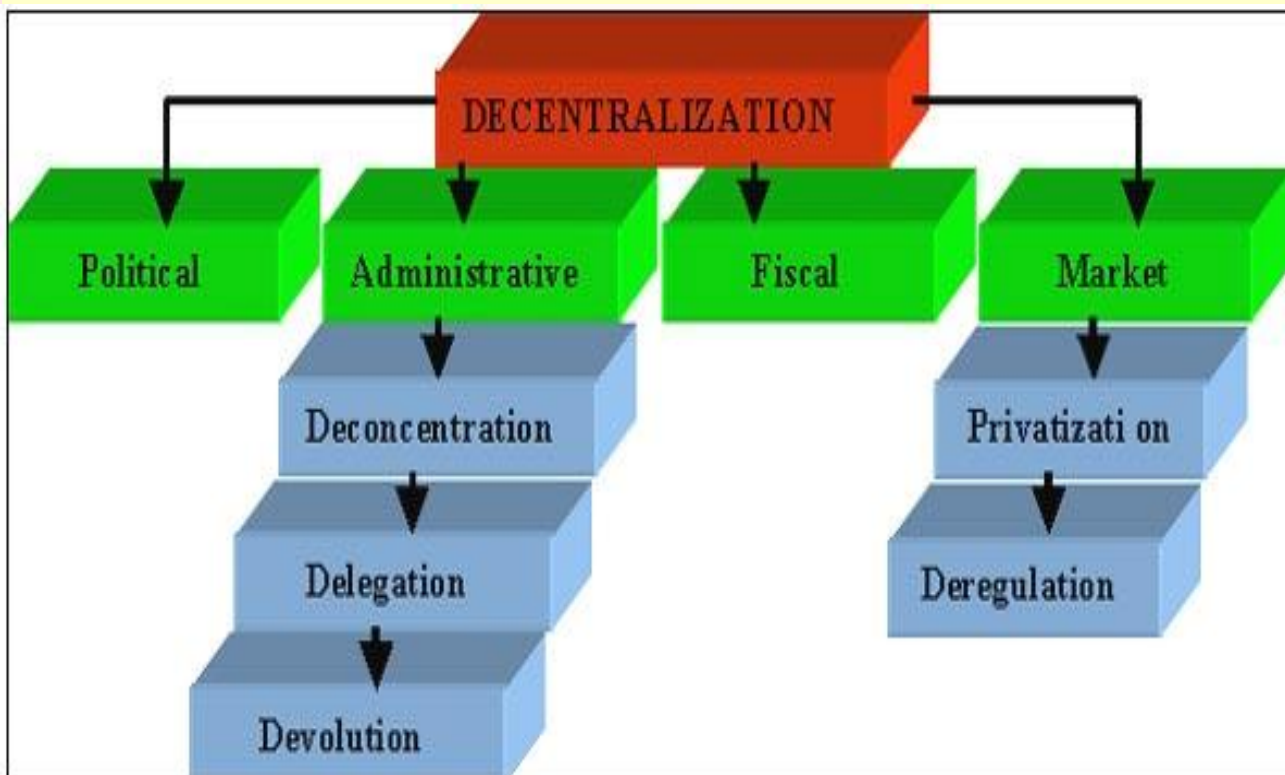
- 50 states
- 1000 districts
- 15,000 blocks

Administration Unit	Tribal	Rural	Urban
District	10,00,000	15,00,000	20,00,000

Block unit may suffice less than 50,000 population, and any habitation village with 100 households (400 population) is enough in GP. In tribal habitations, 50 to 60 households would be enough for better administration. In big villages, more wards should be formed.

Decentralization has many benefits such as enhancement of people's participation, particularly marginalized sections, in local political process, improvement in government services through setting up of people's institutions, increase in powers of local political bodies and creation of systems and governance which work more effectively, and take care of the local people's needs, interests, etc.. Ultimately, decentralization is critical in facilitating poverty reduction in tribal, rural and urban areas. Along with these prospects, following benefits can be achieved through decentralization.

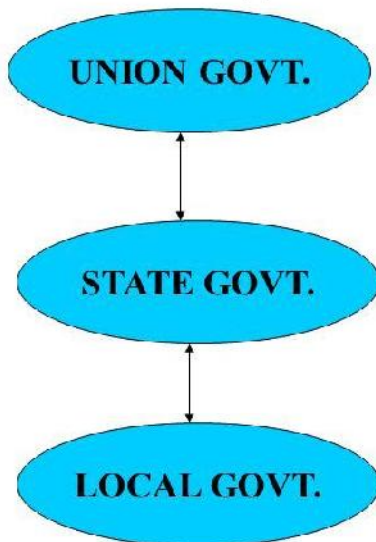
- Reduces administration burden of Chief Executives Officers (CEOs) or political leaders at higher levels, and ensures time and scope for higher level administrative affairs.
- Facilitates people from lower level units and downtrodden communities to become leaders by providing powers to be involved in local governance.



WHAT IS DECENTRALIZATION?

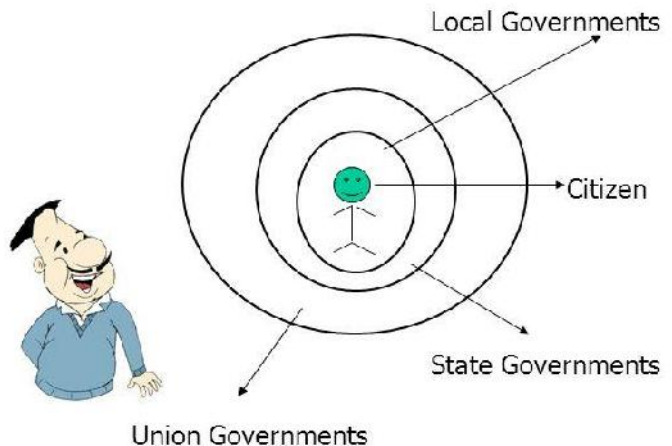
• *Common Understanding*

– Hierarchical Approach



• *The right understanding*

– Citizen should be the focus in governance process



- Ensures effective control by providing more space for people's participation from designing plans to implementation through Gram Sabha.
- Provides managerial skills by giving powers to manage local administration.
- Provides space to express interests to different groups and communities, and give opportunities to practice their leadership skills and wisdom.
- Reduces time to take decisions regarding local matters.

Decentralization creates pluralistic political conditions which facilitate competitive groups to voice and express their interests through democratic forums. Secondly, it also creates institutions which reflect local needs and preferences. and lastly, it creates institutions to formalize relationship between public servants and citizens. People had assumed that greater participation in local political affairs would improve the quality and availability of government services to the poor and downtrodden communities in the country; but these results depend on the active participation of citizens, financial and political support from higher level authorities from government, and competitive support from political parties which truly represent poor people.

There are some problems and constraints in decentralization, as central and state governments have more political and financial powers. Even local democratic bodies can't control government authorities at local level. There is limited financial, administrative

and technical support to local bodies for village development. Mostly, programs and schemes are designed and implemented by higher level administrative units. There is no full clarity regarding functions of GPs and other level administrative units of government. State governments have reserved powers to withdraw functions of GPs.

Regarding taxation; GPs at all levels did not have adequate powers, and also did not have autonomous budgeting powers.

Another important factor is that decentralization has facilitated political space for downtrodden communities, but within those communities, the elite sections are grabbing the political opportunities, or still socially and economically sound persons controlling elected downtrodden people, or male persons controlling women representatives. Illiteracy and traditions are putting hurdles in the path of decentralization. The nature of bureaucracy in public servants is also a bottleneck in decentralization.

Civil society, including CBOs' participation is more required for better results from decentralization. Existing economical, social, political and cultural conditions decide civil society's role in political participation for better governance. Secondly, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) can mobilize, empower poor, downtrodden communities and connect them to the wider networks to create more effective political pressure. Lastly, encouraging poor people to involve themselves in collective actions and empowering them on their Constitutional rights, potential networks and political opportunities. ❖

Be a Good Human Being!

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Pulla Vijayamma, aged 56 years old. I am illiterate, and belong to the SC community. My native place is Bapatla in Guntur district. My husband expired 26 years ago.

How did you manage after your husband's demise?

After my husband's death, I returned back to my parents' house in Sullurpet along with my three daughters. My parents supported me till they breathed their last. With no income to run the house, I began to work as an agriculture labour in nearby villages. My daily earnings were around Rs. 50/- to Rs. 100/- per day based on the type of agriculture labour work, that I would undertake, such as sowing, weeding, planting, nursery work, harvesting and other work. Apart from agriculture labour works, I also used to work for MGNREGS during lean months. All my three daughters are married now. My elder daughter stays in Bangalore with her husband; both of them are working there. My second daughter resides in Tondurr with her husband, and works in SIRI city as a daily wage worker, and earns 125/- per day. I have a house which my parents had constructed for me, and my youngest daughter and her daughter stay with me.

What are you doing at present?

I am getting old, so I found it difficult to continue as a daily wage agriculture labourer; thus, since the past one year, I have been working as a Domestic Maid, and earning Rs. 4000/- per month.

My job involves doing domestic work, cooking, cleaning both rooms, house and office, etc..

Do you have any problems?

Yes, I have many problems. I have old age related health problems. Additionally, my youngest son-in-law is an alcoholic and doesn't do any work. As a result, he has stopped taking care of his wife (my youngest daughter) and his daughter. So both my daughter and grand-daughter are staying with me at Sullurpet. Earlier, my daughter used to work in SIRI (SEZ) city as a daily wage worker, but due to a bad peer group there, my daughter got addicted to tobacco, and has become irresponsible and stopped working and isn't even taking care of her child. The entire burden of earning a livelihood and raising my grand-daughter (including her schooling) has fallen on me. Thus, I am still working. My other two daughters are putting pressure on me to sell my house, which was given by my parents, and distribute the money equally among them. If I sell the house, where will I stay when I grow older, as I do not have anyone to take care of me.

Did you avail any benefits from the Government?

Yes, I have availed ration, aadhar and election card. And also, availing the widow pension monthly.

What are your future goals?

I want to be a good human being and help people. ❖

Suffers By Irresponsible Family

Boya Roshamma is around 45 years old, and is an illiterate woman. She belongs to the Backward Caste (BC). She is unmarried. Her native place is Paipad village, Waddepally mandal, Jogulamba district, Telangana state. She is a Person With Disability (PWD) woman, she is dumb and also mentally challenged, and saliva comes from her mouth continuously. She has been suffering from these problems since birth. Her late parents had visited numerous hospitals but could not get her cured. Her parents died when she was young. Presently, she is staying with her elder brother, sister-in-law and niece. She is unable to earn a livelihood. Her brother is working as a Village Revenue Officer (VRO), sister-in-law is working as agriculture labourer, and her niece is studying intermediate. She can do her personal chores like eating, bathing, washing her clothes, bringing water for drinking and washing purposes from public tap, etc.. She is facing problems from her brother's family as they do not treat her well. They do not allow her inside their house because she cannot maintain personal hygiene. They provide food only twice a day. She sleeps in an open place in their compound in all seasons, and suffers a lot in winter and rainy seasons. She does not even have good clothes and blankets. She visits neighbour houses to get food daily in the morning and evening. Her family



members have given her cooking plate and bowl, which she has to put separately in a shelf. She washes her clothes and bathes in an open place in their compound. She cannot tell her problems to anyone as there is no other people she can go to. Sometimes, she smiles when children are playing and cries when she gets into trouble.

She is now around 45 years but she is not active. She protects her brother's house and plants from livestock. Some people come to their house for plucking flowers, at that time she guards them. Earlier, she was collecting dung of buffalo and oxen for many years. She used to walk on roads in the village to collect dung after animals went to grazing land and return to shed daily twice. She used a basket or plastic bag to bring dung daily. Her family members were selling dung to farmers in summer. But they did not give money to her; they do not even give proper clothes and washing and bathing soaps. She is bathing without soap. Sometimes, she gets angry on her family members, at that time she makes only a noise as she cannot speak. She has availed aadhar card, ration card, election card. Earlier, she was availing disabled pension but now she is not availing pension. Her family members are utilizing her entitlements but do not care for her properly. ❖

Federations Should be Model in India

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Anusuya, I am 38 years old. I have completed my 10th standard. My native village is Akkaraipettai, Nagapattinam block & district, Tamil Nadu state. My family consists of my father in-law, mother in-law and two children. My husband passed away in an accident 14 years ago. My father in-law does daily wage labour and my mother in-law also does labour work and goes for MGNREGS works in the village. Both my sons are studying diploma in engineering.

What is your occupation?

I am working as a Field Staff (FS) in District Level Federation (DLF), called as Sudar Oli Muthiyor Nalalyakkam, Nagapattinam (SOMN). The federation was promoted by HelpAge India. It is supported by Elders for Elders Foundation (EfEF).

How did you get this job?

In 2006, my mother in-law joined at Matha Elders Self Help Group (ESHG). The ESHG meeting was held nearby my house, and sometimes, I used to assist the elders in updating their books. Besides this, I used to participate in health camps arrangements, etc. This made me have an affinity with ESHGs, and also gave me an interest to work with elders. Fortunately, the leader of the Village Level Federation (VLF) appointed me as a Book Keeper (BK) for the village namely Akkaraipettai VLF.

Can you tell us about your roles and responsibilities?

My roles and responsibilities as FS in SOMN, include looking after 42 ESHGs. I am assisting the ESHGs and VLFs' in updating their books. And I have been supporting the VLF for their services like health camps and palliative care. Moreover, I am participating in the VLFs meeting, facilitating in their planning, advocacy activities with support of Office Bearers (OB) and Executive Members (EC). I am also involved in the process of ESHGs for their bank linkage in respective banks. Besides this, I facilitate ESHGs to avail benefits from the government schemes.

Who will monitor to your job/work in the field level?

EfEF appointed a District Manager for looking the DLF, VLFs and ESHGs functions and activities. The Manager is monitor on my work in the field level.

What are the problems you are facing in your job?

I am facing problems at field level. However, the biggest difficulty is convincing the elders to trust us and to form ESHGs.

Did you avail any benefits from the Government?

Yes, I availed ration card, aadhar card and election card. Moreover, I am availing widow pension and the Chief Minister Insurance Card from the government.

What are your future aspirations?

My aspirations include that our elders' federation and groups should grow at a high level, and should become a model to the rest of the elderly groups in the country. ❖

Establish Collective Enterprises

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is R. Valli, and I am 67 years old. I am a native of Akkaraipettai village, Nagapattinam block/district, Tamil Nadu state. My family consists of my son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. I stay with my son's family.

What are you doing?

Presently, I am serving as the President in Akkaraipettai Elders Village Level Federation (VLF) in Akkaraipettai village. Since 2007, I have been President to Valarpirai Elders Self Help Group (ESHG) too. My family belongs to fishermen community. I collect fish from my family members and do fish vending in the village.

Can you tell us about your responsibilities at VLF?

My responsibilities in VLF include conducting the monthly meetings with Office Bearer (OB) in first week of every month; doing savings regularly; keeping the book of records updated; facilitating the members to avail financial support from MFIs/Banks; preparing Micro Credit Plan (MCP) and livelihoods plan for the VLF; drawing welfare schemes for the destitute elders; raising funds from the local philanthropists; organizing medical camps at the village level, etc..

What are the achievements of your VLF?

Our VLF is facilitating credit linkages for the ESHGs with NABFINS and Bank. Along with this, our VLF is successfully running health camps for 400 elders. We are running palliative care services for about 11 bed ridden patients since 2009. And our VLF continues advocacy with local government and sanctioned Old Age Pension (OAP) to 87 elders. Moreover, our VLF has been providing dry rations to 13 destitute elderly in the village since 2007.

Did you face any problems?

So far, as far as VLF and ESHGs are concerned they are supporting me well and I did not face any problems. I am getting support from elders in my VLF as well as ESHG too. Moreover, I am getting continued support from local donors also.

Did you receive any training?

Yes, I have received training on ESHG concept, VLF and DLF management with support of Elders for Elders Foundation (EfEF).

Did you avail any benefits from the government?

Yes, I availed ration, aadhar, election and MGNREGS cards.

What are your future plans?

My future plan is to increase ESHGs in my village. Moreover, I want to establish group and collective livelihood activities in the village. ❖

Marginalized Groups Should Be Empowered...

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Kuppu Rao Usha, I am a native of Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu. I am 47 years old, and have studied up to Intermediate.

Where are you working at present? Tell us about your organization?

I am working with the Cultural Association for Mass Education and Liberation (CAMEL) organization as an Organizer in Pulicat MACS. The organization, which works towards the promotion of sustainable development, was established in 1990. Its operational area is in Andhra Pradesh. I have been working for CAMEL for the past decade.

Can you elaborate on your roles and responsibilities in the job?

I had worked under CAMEL, TDH Project for a period of six years in the highland areas of Sullurpet area. The project involved working with children; the education situation in the tribal settlements was pathetic as firstly there weren't many schools and even if there were schools, no teacher would attend the school and teach; however, after formation of CBOs in Yanadi settlements, we fought with Government authorities for construction of schools in left out areas, and in areas where there were schools, we fought for teachers to attend the school regularly. Prior to TDH project, I had worked in Andheri Hilf Project in Naidupet and worked with Yanadi tribe; my job included formation of SHGs, CBOs and enhancing livelihood activities and providing support.

What are your achievements?

My achievements with my team are many, some of which are: 1. Formation of youth groups in village and making them representatives in various public forums and in Government departments; this made the District authorities to comply and



take necessary action. 2. Middle men used to exploit the Yanadi fishermen community, so we had formed CBOs in the hamlets and under collective units, the price of fish was decided by the community and sold at an appropriate price; thereby, eliminating role of middle men to a large extent. 3. In a SC village, there was no water facility and the villagers had to trek for 10 km for drinking water. After a one & half year efforts the district authorities took up the issue and one overhead water tank, valued at 15 lakhs was constructed. 4. In Naiydupeta, there was no road in SC colony, after persistence efforts Rs.30,000/- worth road clearance was sanctioned under MNREGA. Today, the SC colony, has a paved pucca road.

What are the challenges and issues?

The very serious challenge and issue we face is that of local political pressure mostly from two dominant caste groups i.e., Reddys & Naidus, who have threatened the workers as well as the community people.

How did you overcome the problems?

Through organizing the marginalized communities into groups we could overcome the problem somewhat. Secondly, we discussed the issue and problem both at the community level as well as with the organization staff and other government officials (convergence) to overcome the political lobbying. The CBOs and Federations have helped us in overcoming the problems.

What are your future goals?

I want to provide quality education to my children and see them well settled, and I also want to continue to work for the marginalized communities as it gives me immense satisfaction to see the marginalized groups empowered. ❖

Marginal Livelihoods (CS)

Yerukula Tribe; Palm Date Twigs

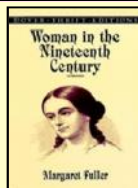
Yerukula is one among the 33 tribes inhabiting the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The early reference to Yerukulas dates back to the epic Mahabharata. The word Yerukula means "sooth sayer". The economy of Yerukulas was dependent on forest, and was based on subsistence. From the colonial times, due to classification of forests and restricted access, with time, Yerukulas have settled in fringe villages of forests, and took to settled agriculture or petty trades and developed trading relations with plains people. Yerukulas are divided into functional endogamous sub-divisions, with each sub-division named after the commodity which they traded in and the occupation they adopted. In Allagadda town, Kurnool District, there are 10 families belonging to "Eethapullala Yerukula" (Date twigs); who make baskets and handmade fans from wild date leaves. Due to rapid urbanization & restricted access to forest resources, what was once a major livelihood

activity, today, bamboo weaving has become a marginal livelihood. Each family (members of two) used to weave around 10 bamboo handmade fans around per day and sell each piece at Rs. 5/-; thus, earning Rs. 50/- per day (monthly Rs. 1500/- per family). In present context, each family earns around Rs. 500/- 600/- per month/per family. With rapid deforestation and poor availability of resources, they sell their products in nearby pilgrimage centres during festive season. With time, their products have lost relevance; instability has increased at household level due to poor demand of their products, and the families have been pushed high on vulnerability scale. Their products are in demand only during festival season, and it is neither continuous, nor consistent. Their practice of barter exchange too has lost its relevance as their main livelihood has become a marginal livelihood. Worsening scenario of unemployment just adds fuel to the fire! ❖

Woman in the Nineteenth Century

Author : Margaret Fuller

The book 'Woman in the Nineteenth Century' was written by Margaret Fuller, an American feminist, writer, editor, literary and social critic, journalist, poet, etc., and is considered as the first major feminist work in the United States.



The book discusses the situation and social position of the women in the nineteenth century, when women couldn't vote and couldn't own property, and were pretty much confined to being housewives for their entire lives.

It also conveys how bad the situation of women was by comparing them to slaves who seemed "freer", but in fact, were restricted in so many ways and essentially "owned" by men.

The book argues for the equality of men and women, finding variations of masculinity and femininity in both sexes, and acknowledges gender differences and discusses the issues of prostitution, slavery, but more essentially marriage and employment reform for women.

It justifies education for women, and points out how education will improve them as wives and mothers and states that there are roles for women outside that of wife and mother.

The book contains predominately religious overtones that might put some people off, but is still a marvellous argument for the equality of men and women. It explains that the path to true enlightenment will only take place when both sexes enjoy all the same rights and privileges.

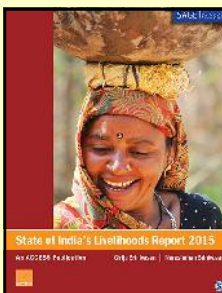
She argued that if women were given more intellectual and spiritual freedom, the effect would be to enlighten all of

mankind. It also argues that by making women the property of men, society is not only depriving women of their full potential, but also men of having equal partners.

It narrates that for a true union, each person must be an individual and self-dependent unit and for women to become such individuals, men need to remove their dominating influence, but women also need to claim themselves as self-dependent and remove themselves from men's influence.

The book truly was an important milestone in the shaping of feminist thinking, and continues to be a must-read to understand the situation of women in the nineteenth century and also the development of feminism. ❖

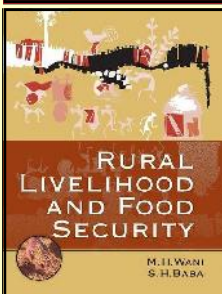
Latest



Book Name: **State of India's Livelihoods Report 2015**

Editors: Girija Srinivasan

Publisher: SAGE India



Book Name: **Rural Livelihood and Food Security**

Editors: Masood Haq Wani

Publisher: New India Publishing Agency

Story

Big John and the Bus Driver

One fine day, a bus driver went to the bus garage, started his bus, and drove off along the route. No problems for the first few stops-a few people got on, a few got off, and things went generally well. At the next stop, however, a big hulk of a guy got on. Six feet height, built like a wrestler, arms hanging down to the ground. He glared at the driver and said, "Big John doesn't need to pay!" and sat down at the back. Did I mention that the driver was five feet three, thin, and basically meek? Well, he was.!



Naturally, he didn't argue with Big John, but he wasn't happy about it. The next day the same thing happened-Big John got on again, made a show of refusing to pay, and sat down. And the next day, and the one after that and so forth.!

This grated on the bus driver, who started losing sleep over the way Big John was taking advantage of him. Finally he could stand it no longer. He signed up for body building courses, karate, judo, and all that good stuff. By the end of the summer, he had become quite strong; what's more, he felt really good about himself. So on the next Monday, when Big John once Again got on the bus and said, "Big John doesn't pay!," The driver stood up, glared back at the passenger, and screamed, "And why not?"

With a surprised look on his face, Big John replied, "Big John has a bus pass."*

Be sure of what is a problem in the first place before working hard to solve one.

Quite often in life we over-evaluate the problems and start working on huge solutions spending time, money, efforts, energy and focus, whereas, in actual, problems eventually are not that big!

Most of Our life is actually as above story! ❖ [Source: <http://swayamsat.org/blog.item.92/check-whether-there-is-problem-or-not.html>]

‘Yoga’kshemam

Kaarthika! Children’s Day! Let us remember Guru Nanak. National Milk Day! Let us remember Dr Kurien. National Constitution Day!

Deep Trivedi’s ‘I am the Mind’ is emphatic – The Mind is much more powerful than the brain. ‘Once I am Set – All Set... No Failures – No Frustration’. The main import includes -

- *The seven states of the Mind – Three tempestuous states - Conscious; Sub-conscious; and Unconscious; Four Power States - Super Conscious; Collective Conscious; Spontaneous; and Ultimate.*
- *Our life outcomes are a function of the state of the mind in which we dwell*
- *Child is born with the Super Conscious state of the Mind. Slowly s/he learns to dwell in other states.*
- *The Mind and the Brain are two absolutely different entities.*
- *Getting into Power States needs practice.*
- *The Mind does not have any physical existence in the body.*
- *The Mind is fuelled by the energy of a human being.*
- *The Mind has nothing to do with society or with traditions.*
- *In fact, the Mind has nothing to do with anyone else. It is complete in itself.*
- *The Mind is absolutely creative and spontaneous. It works for its joy.*
- *The Mind simply flows. The finest creations simply flow from within the Mind.*
- *The Mind is simple and straightforward. It is the way it is.*
- *The Mind and the brain are engaged in constant battle for dominance over one another.*
- *Therefore, it is crucial for a human being to fine-tune and maintain the harmony between these two powerful entities.*
- *The Mind is the ultimate controller of the life. We cannot suppress it for long. It resurfaces in other ways, may be in more monstrous forms.*
- *If we know the Mind, we know ‘all’.*
- *Unconditioning of the Mind and brain is the way for progress in life.*
- *Life is nothing but the ‘present’.*
- *The future is absolutely uncertain and nothing can be more foolish than pondering over it. An effort to accommodate the past or the future in the present is the root cause of all miseries.*
- *Even the most intelligent of human beings cannot live more than a moment at a time.*
- *If we do not possess a strong inner personality, we will be exploited by the entire world like mere objects.*
- *We are not machines to be switched on and off by others.*
- *Only if we are capable of standing alone in a crowd, we can attain a great success.*
- *Every one of us is exceptional.*
- *We need to accept ourselves as we truly are and move ahead.*

G Muralidhar

- *There is no reason why we have to feel superior. Comparison is the problem monger.*
 - *No one can be ever ours other than ourselves.*
 - *No individual or thing possesses the power to make a person unhappy.*
 - *A human being is unhappy because of her/his involvement with things and people.*
 - *Greater the involvement, it brings more miseries.*
 - *Any kind of choice or having any kind of preference fuels our involvement.*
 - *Expectation inevitably brings miseries in its wake.*
 - *Nothing can fulfill our expectations.*
 - *Our acceptance or non-acceptance does not change the reality at all.*
 - *Know what can be changed and expect to change those that can be changed.*
 - *The one who recognizes how and when to use water is far more intelligent than the one who knows its formula.*
 - *The one who can differentiate between the essential and the non-essential is the one who is intelligent.*
 - *It is important to eradicate all that is unnecessary from life.*
 - *Hypocrisy is not the solution to any problem.*
 - *Frittering away time and energy in frivolous tasks leads to a life of despair.*
 - *Our life is meant to accomplish legendary and creative legacy.*
 - *We are endowed with the power of creativity and we need to harness it.*
 - *Due diligence before putting belief is critical.*
 - *Creativity simply flows. Allow it to start flowing.*
 - *Concentration is the greatest magic a human being can perform. This is possible only in the field of our interest. Only if we have energy in us.*
 - *While we are in concentration, no energy is lost. Be absorbed and practice being absorbed.*
 - *Ambitious are less successful. Wholehearted pursuit takes us to unprecedented peaks of success.*
 - *Even all the formidable powers of nature put together cannot enslave man.*
 - *Confidence increases with growing experience and pursuing the field with our potentiality.*
 - *We are absolutely free.*
 - *Contentment moves us on the ladder of success. It is guide to finding the right pursuit for us.*
 - *Life is living.*
- This is antaryogam.
- Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we are willing! Krsna confirms that we are the Universe.
- Join us in the world of yoga – for flowing – towards krsnaantaryogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

