

Happy Children! Parents! Happy Environment! Happy Oceans! Happy Milk! Happy Schools! No Child Labour!

Blood Donation! Happy Yoga! Happy Music! Happy Cooperation!

Monsoon is on. It is above normal, as of now.

Rajanikanthis almost there – in politics. It is Ram Nath Kovind vs Meira Kumar for President.

GST is launched finally. One Nation – One Tax. Can we have goods and services for poor exempt from GST fully?

How many of us are poor? How poor are they? Who will say who are poor? Is 2.25 USD a good enough poverty line? How do we reckon with 60-70% Indians are poor? What can be done? *Universal Basic Income? Sustainable Development Goals? Education? Gurukulums? Residential Schools? Tuitions? Teachers?*

Is the self-help movement enough? NRLM? Does the Aadhaar enrolment suffice? PDS? Pensions? MGNREGS? Does PAN Card guarantee no poverty? *Food-Nutrition-Health Security? Social Enterprises? Micro-enterprises? Hybrid? Start-ups? Hubs?*

Is the skilling a way? *Public Service Institutions? Government Institutions?*

Is the Cooperative Movement useful? FPOs? Cooperatives? MACS? *Development Workers? Livelihoods Workers? Networks?*

Are the Trade Unions, Labour Unions... a way? *Learning Nation? Learning Culture?*

Clusters? Exports? *Or Just Growth? Trickle Down?*

Natural Farming? Integrated Farming? Value-addition? Marketing? *What else?*

Financial Services? Credit? Debt Waiver? Insurance? Mutuals? ***We need to reflect. We need to brainstorm. We need to do our bit towards this agenda. We have to work with more thought leaders, practitioners on scale, entrepreneurial mentors/leader-managers/integrators/ solution providers.***

Digitization?

One more unsung hero. We miss Subbaraju. Subba has been through residential school (Gurukam), Kodigenahalli and AP Residential Junior College, NagarjunaSagar. He was my junior there. Then he went through IITs at Chennai and Mumbai. He came out as a PhD. Introduced to appropriate technology work in IITs, slowly he moved to Chenna Kothapalle. He worked on education to children and farmers. He wrote stories for children. He influenced thousands of them. He has begun to pay back very early. He demonstrated the art of living simply. He was just 50 when the world rested him suddenly, early and rather untimely. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'U Subbaraju'.

Rashmi Bansal's 'Connecting the Dots', is an interesting and inspiring read.

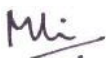
The e-links include VCA - 'Fish'; subsector - 'Rabbit Farming'; e-book – 'State of India Livelihoods Report 2016'; and v-book – 'How 7 Million Women Are Leading CC Hange in Rural Bihar, India'.

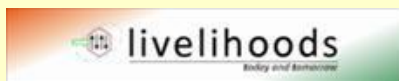
Livelihoods Management Notes (e-link) are on 'Planning'.

Supplements include 'How to take and claim insurance?'; 'Bhal Region', 'Migrant Workers'; and 'Inland Waterways'.

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

the 'livelihoods' team





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Special Supplement	Inland Waterways http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/special_supplement_inland_waterways.pdf	
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VCA	Fish VCA, Kothur http://livelihoods.net.in/sites/default/files/pdf/fish_value_chain_analysis_kothuru.pdf	
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Germany dedicates \$34.8 million to Zambia's renewable energy programme:

The German government will allocate €31 million (\$34.8m) to help implement Zambia's Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT)-Strategy, in a bid to accelerate the country's development of renewables. The funding – which was awarded through the German Development Bank – will be allocated to the GET FIT (Global Energy Transfer Feed-in Tariffs)-programme, a project that is designed to assist the Zambian government promote diversification of the power sector. The programme is a collaborative initiative between the Zambian government, Zesco Limited, the Energy Regulation Board, the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) and KfW. The money is expected to go towards tariff support, grid integration for some projects, and other technical assistance, according to local media reports.

Aquaculture is main driver of mangrove losses: Coastal communities in South East Asia rely on mangroves for their

Family debts main cause of Indian farm suicides: Nearly 70 per cent of India's 90 million agricultural households spend more than they earn on average each month, pushing them towards debt, which is now the primary reason in more than half of all suicides by farmers nationwide, according to an India Spend analysis of various government data.

'Women in Rural India Register Gains In Nutrition, Food Security': Food security for women in rural India increased from 21 percent in 2015 to 53 per cent in 2017, according to a research by Grameen Foundation and Freedom from Hunger India Trust. The same increased for children from 23 per cent to 53 per cent. "These results offer hope for Indian women, more than half of whom suffer from anemia, which can be devastating for mothers and their babies," said AR Nanda, Board Chair of FFHIT. "Simple solutions such as nutrient supplements often fall short. But we have found a cost-effective, holistic approach to solving India's crisis of rural malnutrition." Anemia is a leading cause of maternal deaths in India. In India, half of children under three are either stunted or underweight due to malnutrition, and 79 percent are anemic. The research also said that greater women' decision-making authority in a household, the greater their food security - 39 per cent of women classified as having a high degree of autonomy were food secure, versus only 12 per cent of women with low autonomy.

Farmers in west and central India go slow on kharif sowing:

Though June rainfall so far has been above normal, its delayed progress in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat has caused concerns among farmers and may add to their distress. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast normal rainfall, lack of sufficient rainfall in Maharashtra

and protection against sea-level rise, but the region is also home to mangroves' worst enemy: Aquaculture. Expanding aquaculture in South East Asia over the last two decades has been the main driver of mangrove loss in the world, says a study published in PLOS One this month (June). The study, conducted by a team of scientists at Global Mangrove Watch (GMW), mapped the distribution and changes of mangrove ecosystems in the world during 1996 – 2010 using satellite imagery. The team analysed 1,168 mangrove areas in North, Central and South America, Africa, Middle East, India, and South East Asia.

FAO to provide livelihood aid to 900,000 South Sudanese households:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has targeted 900,000 South Sudanese households, or 5.4 million people, with livelihood assistance in a bid to mitigate food crises that hit hard the urban and peri-urban populations. ❖

and Madhya Pradesh has slowed down the pace of kharif sowing in central India and caused concern about the crop already sown. Some weather forecast models indicating less than-normal rainfall in July this year, may add to the worries. Edible oil industry body, Solvent Extractors Association expressed concerns about the progress of monsoon. "The monsoon is not developing in normal way and it is likely that monsoon advance may bypass the important soybean producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Eastern Maharashtra. This may delay so wing operations," it said in a letter to its members.

Government claims to have assisted 91% of India's manual scavengers, without counting 93% of them:

The Central government has claimed that 91% of manual scavengers have been provided a one-time cash payment of Rs 40,000 and 108% of identified scavengers and their dependents have been selected for skill training under the rehabilitation programme for manual scavengers. But the number of manual scavengers identified by the states is just 7% of the households with at least a single member engaged in manual scavenging, according to Census 2011. That leaves out 93% of identified scavengers, who clean sewers and clear human excreta, an act illegal for 24 years now.

Govt Schemes for Elderly Have Few Beneficiaries, Says Report:

Centre's ambitious schemes for elderly aimed at promoting their health, well-being and independence have a minuscule number of beneficiaries. While only about 18% of all the elderly in India are accessing old-age pensions, only a quarter of widowed elderly women are benefitting from the widow pension scheme, revealed a report released by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) ❖

Scheme

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

Roots of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme, dates back to 1925. Gradually, it was implemented after various revisions across the country. In 2008, the scheme made amendments; where in all children are covered, studying in government schools. Sunkanapally village, in Chitayala mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana is also a beneficiary of the scheme. Children numbering 70, are availing benefits from MDM and government spends around Rs. 6.13 /- per student studying in primary school and for students studying in upper school it is Rs.8.18/- Each student gets 100 gram rice for students studying I-V class and 150 grams for students studying VI to VII class.

The school has one cook and one helper; named Subhadra and Yadamma. The cooking menu has a mix of all vitamins and proteins in their diet. Monday: rice, vegetable curry and sambar, Tuesday: egg and sambar, Wednesday: dal and leaf vegetables, Thursday: vegetable curry and sambar, Friday: egg and sambar and Saturday: vegetable and sambar. Daily, Head Master sends students list to Mandal Resource Centre (MRC) and MRC send to higher officers. Students get meal only during school days. Cook and helper have to spend their personal amount for cooking, later they get reimbursement from the government. ❖

Public Service Institution

The Upper Primary School

The Upper Primary School (UPS) is an English medium school situated in Sunkanpally and was established in 1959. There are seventy students who are enrolled and studying in this school. Out of which the number of girls and boys are 33 and 37 respectively. The school is from nursery till VII class. However, the students are not often enrolled in seventh standard. The infrastructure of the school comprises of seven class rooms, furniture (tables and chairs), a bore well, toilets and facility for mineral water. There are five teachers who focus on these seventy children.

The school functions only 220 days in a year and the timings are 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. These students are provided with books, two pair of uniform yearly, and health check up every month for free. Also, quality Mid Day Meal given to the students in the afternoon. The teachers use variety of teaching methods like radio to make the classes interactive and impart quality education. They also focus on student securing low grades and English language. The school monitoring committee manages all the school affairs. The students clean their own classrooms to maintain the cleanliness aspect of the school. The students after seventh standard join Zilla Parishad High School, (ZPHS) at Gundrampally village. ❖

Traditional Institution

Dappu: Folk Dance & Activity

Dappu, is a part of Telangana custom. The Dappu, is made of animal skin, a tambourine-like drum is beaten with sticks, which creates a rhythm that is softened only by the ankle bells, that a group of 16 to 20 dancers wear. This art form hails from district of Nizamabad and the performers wear colourful make-up and even more colorful costumes dance to the musical patterns set by cymbals, table and harmonium. Dappu, is the common instrument used, for making people aware of or publishing any even. This Dappu dance is a complementary to the Dandora Dance in North India and across Andhra Pradesh, it is also known as Tapetta. Sunkanpally village, located in Chityala mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana, has around 146 families. Out of 146 families 42 families are depending on drumming activity for their livelihoods. All 42 families belong to Scheduled Caste (SC) community. The other livelihoods in the village is agriculture work, agriculture labourers and wage labourer. The community performs during all rituals; right from birth to death ceremonies. In the recent past, they also have begun announcing social messages on health; vaccinations, ration distribution day, village meetings and so on. They earn around Rs.200/- per day. ❖

Individual Enterprise

Tailoring Shop

Polepally Sathaiah, aged 34 years, native of Sunkenpally village, Chityala mandal, Nalgonda district, Telangana. He studied up to Intermediate. After completion of Intermediate, his friends suggested him that he learns tailoring. While preparing for exams (supplementary), he also underwent tailoring course at his friends shop, in his native village itself. He completed his Intermediate, all supplementary papers in two years. During the above period, he has learned the skill of tailoring. He migrated to Hyderabad and learnt the skill of piece cutting. Back home, he opened tailoring shop in his native village, as per family member's suggestion in 2013. The capital investment was provided by his parents. He spent around Rs.18,000/- to establish the shop. The details are; tailoring machine Rs.7000/-, over lock machine Rs. 4000/-, cutting table Rs.2000/- fan and motor Rs. 2000/-, other accessories for Rs.2500/- and iron box Rs.500/-. He gets more works at the time of marriages, festivals time, but during remaining time, he has less business. He also works as a labour, when the business is less or nil. He stitches both women and men's clothes as well, he wants to develop his tailoring shop, because he knows his skill. ❖

Mulukanoor Women's Cooperative Dairy

Mulkanoor Women's Cooperative Dairy (MWCD) started milk procurement in 2002. It is located at Bheemadevarapalli village & mandal, Karimnagar district, Telangana state. The Cooperative Development Society (CDS) envisioned MWCD in 1997 and conducted feasibility surveys for establishing a dairy with the technical help of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Shri Late AK Vishwanath Reddy is the founder of MWCD.

MWCD was initiated with 67 village dairy cooperatives. Presently, there are 110 dairy cooperatives, with a membership of over 21,000, and its operational radius is 30 km around Mulukanoor. The average membership fee of a cooperative is Rs. 200/-. A primary cooperative has a 10 member board and two full-time paid employers for day to day milk collection business. MWCD's aim is to improve overall quality of life of dairy producers and consumers by running a sustainable self sufficient and managed women cooperative union, setting an example for collective action and rural women capacity. MWCD's vision is to become the best valued contribution in India for dairy services. MWCD's products are marketed under Swakrushi brand name. It offers three categories of products like milk, curd and value added products such as butter milk, ghee. Its market areas are -



Warangal, Hanumakonda, Siddipet, Godavarikhani, Karimnagar, Medak, Adilabad districts of Telangana, India.

On its first day, MWCD received milk of 1400 litres and received first payment of Rs.8.47/- lakh for milk supplied. It pays fortnightly to village level cooperatives and in the same way, cooperatives pay fortnightly to their members. It collects milk daily, two times from the producers through village level primary milk cooperatives. Currently, each cooperative collects an average of 300 Litre Per Day (LPD) and receives an average payment per cooperative of Rs.1,14,369/- fortnightly. The sale of milk of the MWCD is increasing drastically.

MWCD provides many services to its members such as feed and fodder distribution, medical services and first aid for cattle, cattle insurance, members insurance, artificial insemination programs etc. In their villages, veterinary helpers and 110 veterinary medical assistants were trained in primary health care of milch cattle. It received National Cooperative Excellence (NCE) Award 2012 by NCDC, and was recognized as an ISO 9001-2008 certified dairy. ❖

Anyay Rahit Zindagi

Anyay Rahit Zindagi (ARZ) is a social work organization started in Goa in 1997 by Development Professionals of Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai. It works on combating trafficking of persons for the purpose of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. Initially ARZ worked only in Goa, but later extended its services to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Odisha states of India and also in neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh. Its key areas of operations are prevention, protection, rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation, health, after-care, re-integration, prosecution of perpetrators, legal counselling, economic rehabilitation, research, documentation, training and advocacy.

ARZ's activities:

Ankur: Prevention of trafficking by working with children, adolescent girls and vocational training of youth.

Mukti: Anti-trafficking work in Baina and other parts of Goa and working with the system to make anti-trafficking work more effective.

Prabhat: Work in protective homes with rescued victims towards their rehabilitation.

Swift Wash: Economic rehabilitation programme with trafficked victims. In 2006, ARZ implemented The Economic Rehabilitation Programme economic empowerment of victims of sexual exploitation. Under this programme, ARZ established one fully mechanised laundry unit in Sancoale which provides employment

for 35 women and 15 men.

Tuitions: ARZ runs tuition classes in the community at Baina in English, Hindi, Marathi, Konkani, Kannada languages for children. Every year, 150 children benefit from these classes.

ARZ provides vocational trainings to the trafficked victims and their children based on their education, skills and interest. It runs tailoring classes for adolescent girls and repairing of home appliances for adolescent girls and boys and as well as youth. It provides livelihood supporting services like jewellery making, placement agency for providing employment, beauty parlour training, and placement of women in petrol pumps as petrol fillers.

Goa police department has appointed ARZ organization as the nodal NGO in the Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Unit to provide witnesses, conducting rescue operations.

ARZ has networked with NGOs within the state and across the country on the basis of the needs of the client group. It has had to carry out issues-based campaign, lobby with state and non-state actors, works at advocacy level, towards law and policy change, etc.

ARZ received a National Award by The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for outstanding work in the field of Anti-Human Trafficking for the year 2011. ❖

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

Unsung Hero - U Subbaraju

On 05 May 2017, Dr. U Subbaraju, a pioneer of alternate education, succumbed to brain hemorrhage in Bengaluru. A huge loss to the education community, our nation, and especially the children, whose lives he changed! Subbaraju was a teacher, engineer and an inspiration. He was always smiling, devoted his life to educate and support thousands of children from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly in Chennekothapalli mandal (CK Palli). During his 15 years' engagement with Timbaktu Collective and later, during his stay in CK Palli village, he developed several spaces and forums to enable children to have a happy and joyful childhood from Nature School (NS), the Timbaktu School (later, it was merged with Nature School), the Children's Resource Centre (CRC) and the 'Kothapalli' e-magazine for children, one of the first Telugu publications for and by rural children. In this regard, 'livelihoods' is focusing on Subbaraju, as an Unsung Hero.



In 1995, Dr Subbaraju (L) joined the Timbaktu Collective, an NGO that works for rural education and development. (R) Students from Nature school in Anantpur where he taught

On 05 May 2017, Dr. U Subbaraju, a pioneer of alternate education, succumbed to Brain hemorrhage in Bengaluru. A huge loss to the education community, our nation, and especially the children, whose lives he changed! Subbaraju was a teacher, engineer and an inspiration. He was always smiling, devoted his life to educate and support thousands of children from marginalized and disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly in Chennekothapalli (CK Palli) mandal. During his 15 years' engagement with Timbaktu Collective, and later, during his stay in CK Palli village, he developed several spaces and forums to enable children to have a happy and joyful childhood from Nature School, the Timbaktu School (later, it was merged with the Nature School), the Children's Resource Centre (CRC) and the 'Kothapalli' e-magazine for children, one of the first Telugu publications for and by rural children.

Subbaraju was born in Tirupati, Chittoor district. His parents were small farmers and labourers. Though they had land, but it was unproductive. In this situation, his father became itinerant coolie in various towns. Doing that work, he used to send small sums of money to home. Unfortunately, when Subbaraju was five years old, his father passed away. This loss had affected the family and his mother was left with the responsibility of raising the family. A few years after his father's death, an eight year old Subbaraju was sent to Navodaya Residential School (NRS), run by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). Subbaraju never let his problems come in the way of his hopes and aspirations. After completing his schooling in Tirupati and then in Kodaganahalli, Besur tehsil, Karnataka, he went to residential school.

Throughout his near penniless childhood, Dr. Subbaraju fought all odds and secured a rank and seat in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, where he received a B.Tech in Civil Engineering (CE). He was a gold medalist in Civil Engineering (CE). He wanted to work in development field/sector. After completion of his CE course, he got qualified through the National Entrance Exam (NEE), and went to pursue his M.Tech and then a Ph.D from the Energy Systems Engineering Department at IIT, Powai, Mumbai. His Doctoral Thesis got the best thesis award in 1996 and outstanding and also, Best Alumnus Award from his Department in 2008

After completion of his Ph.D, he did not choose to go abroad, USA or did not join any Corporate sector, but stuck to his passion to serve for the community and his



motivation was internal, thus he joined Development sector. Earlier, he used to work part-time with many NGOs. The turning point of his life came, when he met Mr. Bablu Ganguly, Chief Functionary (CF), Timbaktu Collective at a conference on Organic Farming (OF). Dr. Subbaraju, was impressed with Mr. Bablu's contribution, expressed his interest to work with him and work for Rural Development (RD) and rural children for education. After discussion, Mr. Bablu welcomed him to Timbaktu Collective. After joining, Dr. Subbaraju went to work in Timbaktu Collective in Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh and began fulfilling his dream to work in the area of RD. He founded and spearheaded the education initiative of Timbaktu, by setting up a school for children abandoned by their families.

Association Timbaktu Collectives: Subbaraju and the Timbaktu Collective are so interconnected, that his biography would be incomplete without elaborating on this wonderful initiative. The Timbaktu Collective is a registered Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) initiated in 1990. It is working for sustainable development in the drought prone Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. This organization works in over 150 villages of CK Palli, Roddam and Ramagiri mandals of Ananthapuramu district, reaching and serving about 20,000 marginalised families. The Collective works with, some of most affected people of chronic drought, unproductive land, unemployment and poor infrastructural facilities in the region, among them the landless, small and marginal farmers with special emphasis on women, children, youth and Dalits. With local self-governance as the underlying theme, the Collective develops models that address the rights of most disadvantaged rural people.



The organization's models:

1. Ecological restoration of waste lands
2. Organic farming and marketing
3. Alternative banking
4. Credit creation
5. Legal aid and counselling for women
6. Child friendly education and spaces
7. Livelihood through animal husbandry
8. Disability support

As part of its strategy, the Timbaktu Collective has formed numerous village based organizations for rural poor, promoted producer owned mutually aided business enterprises and revived cooperative movement.

This Timbaktu was more than a home for Subbaraju. It was the place, where he was at his most creative self, and where he spent almost every waking hour in the selfless service of children. It was here that he met Mrs. Ancy – and where they lived after they got married in Timbaktu Collective. They had their daughters here (named Geethika, Nandana). And later, it was here that his children did schooling.

Subbaraju continued his involvement with children after moving to CK Palli, where his house was an open space for learning and knowledge. After working some days there, Subbaraju, Mary (Chairperson of Timbaktu Collective) and Bablu started a Children's Resource Centre (CRC) in CK Palli mandal, Ananthapuramu district with a library, computer centre, arts and crafts center and games area. Subbaraju, a longtime member of the Timbaktu Collective is worth more than a mere mention. His life is a rare Indian cameo.

Nature School: The Nature School or Prakruthi Badi is an alternative learning centre for underprivileged children located in the agro-forest environment of Timbaktu Collective and it was initiated in 1992. This centre provides children a unique opportunity to make learning a hands-on experience and to get

sensitized to environmental and ecological issues. Currently, in the centre there are 40 residential and 20 day scholars.

Subbaraju joined Timbaktu Collective in 1995; he did not go to work in the school directly, but used to spend time with children in the centre. After six months, he began to sit with teachers and used to interact with them weekly on various ideas of education. Fortunately, the teachers were aware of alternative ideas in education; it was a great experience for Subbaraju to exchange valuable ideas with the teachers and get ideas from them.

Subbaraju strongly believed that a student's basic academics should be thorough and then children could go ahead with a clear vision.

The school has been a space for education. In the beginning, only primary classes were conducted at the school. During the time, Timbaktu Collective was in a nascent stage in the field of education and did not have expertise in the sector. Decisions regarding issues like operations of school, to determine the age criteria of children to match up the standard in which he/she should study was difficult at this stage. Hence, Timbaktu Collective decided to focus on providing basic education, necessary abilities of reading, writing were given to the children. A variety of skills, activities and orientation were provided to children. But, as children were growing and looking forward to join a mainstream school, Timbaktu Collective decided to give the schooling till 10th standard.

In this school, children are taught skills like carpentry, gardening, tailoring, music, et al in the post-lunch periods. Craft work done by older children is sold. Students are allotted land to grow fruits and vegetables. The money from the sale of produce is deposited on the child's name. After class 10, the accumulated money is given to the child for further studies or to start a business.

The facilities like library, science lab, computers and playground along with regular workshops were provided for the overall development of children at Timbaktu Collective. So, any child of any age, can come to this school. So this is the place where the children can pursue their interest in their own way. It is a very interesting experimental institution, where children can shine with a guidance in a free learning environment. The idea is to provide good education to children in an environment, where they have to think of the logic, rather than just focusing on rote-learning, which is the scenario in most of Indian education institutions.

The motive of school is to protect childhood, by making 'extra-curricular' activities main part of curriculum. The children here have sports and physical education as part of studies and are taught to perform local arts such as 'Kolatham' and 'Thappeta' with aplomb.

This school has been doing quite well and many people from



various places have been visiting this children school and get motivated to setup such schools in their areas. There is a need to replicate school' idea to improve our education system. Subbaraju's contribution to shaping of education at the centre and schools of NGO is immeasurable.

Under Subbaraju's mentoring, school's children participated in 'Balala Natakotsavalu' (Children's Theater Festival) at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad. He wanted the children, he taught to go forward in their careers and in turn, help other underprivileged children achieve their dream.

More than 1,000 students at Nature School of the NGO were trained by Subbaraju and team. He also trained hundreds of teachers in both states about

reforms in education system. Subbaraju stayed and taught there, and afterwards his own children too were part of that school. The most abiding impression of any visitor to school was how happy all the children were. His approach to teaching was holistic and experiential. Renowned educators who visited, said that the workshops at Subbaraju's school were perhaps the most innovative they had ever seen. Stacks of old newspapers to make paper caps. Old magazines for origami projects! Every bottle, old pen, cycle tube, etc. lovingly kept so that children could innovatively use and re-use them.

Visitors found Subbaraju's house as minimalist as the man himself. His life and work was a living example of Schumacher and Gandhi. Indeed, he once sent postcards on Gandhi Jayanti to all his friends with the Gandhian slogan "Live simply, that others may simply live".

Subbaraju participated in a workshop with CHIGURU Team on the topic of education, and in the 'Teacher Mentoring Programme' organized by Multiversity in Bangalore; it was a three day workshop to train the teachers in alternative schools

Subbaraju started helping SPREADS, a voluntary organization in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, that has been working on children's education. The organization is running a school for children.

Currently, five batches have completed 10th standard and passed out of school. The school has achieved stability in academics as well as arts and crafts. The school is planning to reach out to more people. Through this school and other avenues, idea of creating space for children is being promoted. In this school, children are from all the villages in our mandal. The children have achieved great success and are in limelight, since 2002.

Subbaraju was a man with a quiet conviction, but wasn't a fanatic. His approach was scientific, humane and filled with



empathy for fellow human beings. Subbaraju served for 15 years for improving education and agriculture for Timbaktu Collective and contributed to the schooling system in Andhra Pradesh.

Even at IIT Bombay, he touched lives of many students, co-workers and staff. He was a lover of mother Earth, planted vegetables and fruit trees in vacant spaces around the hostel. One of his more well-known initiatives was to plant saplings on barren hill behind hostel 3. After the rains, he rallied a volunteer force to take up water in buckets up the hill. He gifted Jean Giono's precious book *The Man Who Planted Trees* to hundreds of his friends.

Kottapalli e-magazine: Kottapalli e-magazine is an attempt to preserve the traditional stories and songs that were sung by the village children. With advent of modern education in villages, these stories and songs are fast disappearing. Apart from stories and songs, children are preserving rich art of Kolatam and Chekka Bhajana dance of this region. The children from Prakruthi Badi in CK Palli started a Noble initiative, where they learn folk stories, folk songs from their village elders, document and print them using an ink jet printer.

Subbaraju stands apart for his simplicity, honesty and most importantly his love for children. Indeed, his life was a continuous feedback from theory to practice and back, with great willingness to learn, and eagerness to do. A person, who actually lived the principles, he taught in his own quiet life, who always carried a gentle smile and a helping hand. The death of this unsung hero, who worked for RD and played a huge role especially for rural children's education, is a great loss to development sector and also to the Nation. At a time, when we grapple with the tradeoffs of development and trees, the best tribute to Subbaraju would be to imbibe his insights in our daily lives. He was snatched away far too soon, for he was just 50 years old. ❖

Common Person

MGNREGS is a Boon for My Life

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Baddi Gadappa S/o Narsappa. I am 63 years old. I am illiterate. I am native of Chikurthi village, Nyalakal mandal, Medak district, Telangana state.

Can you tell us about your family?

I am living with my wife, sons and grand children. I have three sons and one daughter. My eldest son is pursuing his Post Graduation (PG) in Hyderabad; he's not yet married. My other sons are married and are working in a hotel in Hyderabad. They visit our village once in few months and send us, some money for family expenditure. My daughter and her husband passed away a few years back due to ill health, leaving their two daughters behind and we take care of them. My elder granddaughter is studying in Government Gurukul School and younger granddaughter is studying in Government school in the village itself. I do not have any "land" as an asset. My wife is providing ample support to my family.

What are you doing?

Presently, I am a wage labourer in my village. Since childhood, I have been working as a labourer. For close to four decades, I worked as a labourer in landlord's house for Rs.100 /- per year.



I was exploited and managed to come out from landlord's house. During summer months, I work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for 100 days. It is a boon for my life. Through, this scheme, I am able to get more workdays and good wages in my village, so I am able to sustain my family with the labour work.

What are your problems?

After the death of my daughter, I and my wife are taking care of our grand daughters. But my health is not supporting me these days. I have some responsibilities towards my family and granddaughters; I don't know, how I am going to fulfill them.

Did you avail any government schemes?

Yes, I have availed old age pension, aadhaar card, ration card and voter card.

What are your future plans?

I want to provide education to my grandchildren and perform their marriages. These are my major responsibilities. ❖

Vulnerable Person

Need Support From Government

Can you introduce yourself?

I am Batharaju Narsamma W/o Bikshapathi, and I am 68 years old. My native place is Panthangi village Choutuppal mandal, Yadadri-Bhongiri district, Telangana.

**Can you tell us about your family?**

I am living alone. My husband expired 80 years ago. I have one daughter. I also had two sons; both of them died in a road accident three years ago. We do not have land assets. My elder daughter-in-law is doing labour work and dhobi work to sustain herself and her children, and is living separately in the village. My younger daughter-in-law is doing labour work to sustain herself and her children, and is living in Choutuppal village.

My daughter is living in her in-law's house in Vayillapally village in Narayanpur mandal. She visits me every few months. My son-in-law is a mason and is working in Hyderabad. Once in 15 days, he comes to their village.

A few months back, I have taken membership in Mallikarjuna Elderly Self Help Group (ESHG) in our village, I am saving Rs. 105 per month. However, the group has been providing me, with emotional support and as a result of the above, I gained

confidence after joining the group; therefore, I am happy to have joined it.

What are the problems you are facing?

My problems are both emotional and physical too. I suffer from body pains and arthritis and no one takes care of me. Many times I feel lonely. Very rarely, I visit my daughter's place and I feel better.

Did you get any benefits from the Government?

Yes, I have availed aadhar, voter card, anthyodaya card and MGNREGS Job card. I also avail old age pension.

How do you survive your daily life?

I have no livelihood. My age is not supporting me in doing physical works. I get rice from Public Distribution System (PDS). I also get old age pension very month, which is providing much-needed support to my life. The local health volunteer is providing medicines and also helping me in availing medicines from Help age India Mobile Medical Unit (MMU). These two services are a boon to me.

What are your future plans?

I have no future plans. No one is taking care of me in my old age. Therefore, I want support from Government. ❖

Want to Solve Elder's Problems

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Riyaz Patan, and I am 57 years old. I am a native of Pahapal village, Kelapur block, Pandarkhawada tehsil, Yavatmal district, Maharashtra state. My family consists of my wife, three sons, one daughter and mother.



gram (Tuvar dal) mill enterprise in Shibla village in Jari block. It was established in 2011. It is operated by two workers. In the mill, daily one quintal of dal is processed and sent for marketing through the VLF. By this enterprise, we are striving to give empowerment and identity to the elders.

What are you doing?

Presently, I am working as the president of District Level Federation (DLF) of Elders. And, also the president of Village Level Federation (VLF).

Can you tell us about your responsibilities at DLF?

The DLF was registered in December 2016. It has 208 ESHGs and 26 VLFs. There are nearly 2090 members in Elders Self Help Groups (ESHGs). My responsibilities are to conduct meetings with district level executive body; facilitate smooth functioning of meetings; solve elder's problems with the VLF members and villagers; conduct meeting in Yavatmal on 15th of every month; coordinate with VLFs; inform all VLFs about, whatever resolution has been taken at DLF; solve any problems that arise with the VLF and people; support the savings of elders and fight for their rights and entitlements. I have taken elders' issues to local administration and so far facilitated the elders pensions and bus transport concession. Till now, elders are saving a total of Rs. 3.5 lakh per month in the all ESHGs.

In our district, Shibla Village Level Federation (VLF) runs Red

Did you do any field visits?

Yes, I visit VLFs and solve ESHGs' problems and support them in running their activities at the ground level. I try to improve elders' situation through local VLFs and ESHGs. The elders' children are neglecting their parents. I have tried to be inclusive of all elders in the ESHGs and facilitate them in getting health services, rights and entitlements from Government.

Do you face any problems?

I do not have any personal problems. On the work front, the local people and officials do not cooperate, at times.

Did you receive any training?

Yes, I have received training on leadership for three days.

Did you avail any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have availed ration, aadhar, election voter card.

What are your future plans?

I want to develop DLF, solve elders' problems and help them get empowered. ❖

Want to Provide Service to People

Can you introduce yourself?

I am Shapuri Gangamma W/o Manik and I am 33 years old. My native place is Chikurthi village, Nyalakal mandal, Medak district, Telangana. I completed my Intermediate through distance mode. I am living with my husband and son in Chikurthi village. My husband is working as a Rythu Mithra (RM).



Village Revenue Assistant (VRA) job notification was advertised. I had applied for the job, qualified the exam and got the job. After joining the job, I completed intermediate through distance mode education.

What are the problems you face in your daily work?

When works on the ground, are not done properly, I am answerable to local people and most of the times, local people do not coordinate with me. Moreover, I have to face a lot of pressure during census survey, land survey, elections, etc.

Did you get any training?

Yes, I have received training for one month on Village Revenue Assistant (VRA) in Nyalakal. Training is proving to be very useful now.

Did you get any benefits from the Government?

Yes, I have availed aadhar and voter card.

What are your future plans?

I want to get the promotion of Village Revenue Officer (VRO) and provide service to people and get a good name from the villagers. ❖

Want to Work in Skill Sector

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Arpita Ray and I am 48 years old. My native place is Kolkata, West Bengal state. I did my Honors in Political Science from City College of Kolkata and later completed Masters in Bengali Literature and Journalism.

My father, late Ashok Kr. Ray, was an advertisement professional and my mother, late Dr. Meera Ray, was a Gynecologist. I have two sisters; elder one is working as a teacher in a Higher Secondary school in Kalyani, and younger sister is physically and mentally challenged and lives with me in Kolkata.

What are you doing presently?

Currently, I am associate with Skill Development program under Skill India with different NGOs over India. Apart from that, I have my own organization named 'AABOHO', it is a Non Government Organization (NGO) working on health issues and promoting skill development among poor people in urban and rural areas of Kolkata.

Can you explain your previous works?

I have been working in the development sector for the past 25 years. During these years, I have worked with different Government organizations and NGOs with different social research projects and programs.

I started my career in 1991, working as a research assistant in "Diby - Chhaya" organization which works for the welfare of physically and mentally challenged children. From 1996-97, I was associated as an operational manager in Global Matrix. I worked as a research coordinator in primary data collection for several research fellows of International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai between 1993-1999. I worked as a Project In-Charge between 1998-2002 in industrial and social research in Dalal Mott Macdonald, an international research and consultant group. I have also, worked in various organizations and projects like Development Management Consultant (DMC) in Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) program, Talor Nelson & Sofres (TNS) India Ltd, Institute of Social Science (ISS) Kolkata, Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN) and Kolkata Environment Improvement Project (KEIP), West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) and The Action Research Unit (TARU).

I also worked as a freelance journalist in a few Bengali daily newspapers such as Aajkal, Bartoman and Anand Bazar Patrika. Moreover, I worked as a Resource Person in trainings in health



awareness, sanitation, skill development, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and elderly SHGs management.

How did you start your organization?

My mother was my main inspiration to come to development sector. She always told me to help poor people who are seeking support from society as she believed in the motto "service to man is service to God." This inspired me to start AABOHO in 2008.

Can you describe your organization's works?

Our organization AABOHO is working on health issues of people and promoting skill development programs of poor people in urban and rural areas around Kolkata. Under health program, I organize "Free Health Camps" for poor mothers and children under the name of my mother "Dr. Meera Ray Memorial Health Camps" because it was my mother's dream project. We also conduct research in health issues and organize skill development trainings to urban and rural youth, especially to young girls.

I have been elected as a Secretary of AABOHO in 2017. I am also the main program executive of the organization.

Who supports your work?

We get support from government departments and NGOs in West Bengal and other states. We get major income from research studies for government departments, research institutions and NGOs.

What are the challenges and issues?

I feel very helpless, when I visit villages, people request me for benefits even though my job is limited to data collection and unable to contribute to their direct development. Besides this, in Muslim areas, mother and children's healthcare is really being neglected, which is the most concern issue.

Can you explain your achievements?

With my organization, I have conducted many skill development programs as well as awareness camps for health in the villages. Gradually, the villagers are getting awareness on health.

What is your vision?

My vision is to work in Skill sector in association with state and central governments. In this regard, I am working with some NGOs to develop skill of poor, urban and rural youth. Moreover, the development of livelihoods among poor youth over coastal areas, and international borderline areas is very interesting. ❖

Connect the Dots

The book "Connect the dots" was written by Rashmi Bansal, an Indian non-fiction writer, entrepreneur and a youth expert. She is the author of seven books on entrepreneurship. The title of the book is inspired by Apple founder, Steve Jobs' commencement speech given at Stanford University in 2005. In his speech, Jobs said, 'You can't connect the dots by looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust in something your gut, destiny, life, karma.' It traces the progress of 20 entrepreneurs without MBA qualification. The book is divided into 3 parts "Jugaad" "Junoon" and "Zubaan". Each of these sections talks about individuals, who created their own platform to express themselves.

Bansal begins the book with covering stories of entrepreneurs, who have no formal training in business. And excelled in enterprises through observation, experimentation and application of mind. She describes them as Jugaad Entrepreneurs (JE). Jugaad covers the stories of nine entrepreneurs: Prem Ganapathy (Dosa Plaza), Kunwer Sachdev (Su-Kam), Ganesh Ram (Veta), Sunita Ramnathkar (Fem Care Pharma), N Mahadevan (Oriental Cuisines), Hammant Gaikwad (Bharat Vikas Group), Ranjiv Ramchandani (Tantra T shirts), Suresh Kamath (Laser Soft Info systems), Raghu Khanna (Cashurdrive).

Junoon entrepreneurs are those, who are driven by ideas well-ahead of their time. It covers the stories of seven entrepreneurs: R Sriram (Crossword), Saurabh Vyas & Gaurav Rathore (Political EDGE), Satyajit Singh (Shakti Sudha Industries), Sunil Bhu



(Flanders Dairy), Chetna Maini (Reva Electrical Car Company), Mahima Mehra (Haathi Chaap), Samar Gupta (Trikaya Agriculture)

The Zubaan entrepreneurs are the creative minds. It covers the story of four entrepreneurs: Abhijit Bansod (Studio ABD), Paresh Mokashi (Harishchandrachhi Factory), Krishna Reddy (Prince Dance Group), Kalyan Varma (Wildlife Photographer).

Overall, the book conveys the stories of courage, determination and inspiration and is a must-read for people, who are scared of achieving their dreams due to lack of professional degrees. ❖

Latest

Book Name: Drought Vulnerability and Livelihoods

Author: Mrutyunjay Swain

Publisher: VDM Verlag

Book Name: Role of Social Capital in Rural Livelihood Promotion

Author: Kirti Singh

Publisher: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing

Story

The Musical Donkey

There lived a washerman's donkey, whose name was Uddhata. During the day, the donkey would carry the washerman's bags, but during the night, he was set free to eat the green grass in a nearby field. However, instead of grazing in the nearby fields, he crept into nearby farms and ate vegetables of his choice. Before day-break it would come back to the washerman's house. One night, the donkey met a jackal while wandering in a nearby farm. They became good friends, and started meeting every night. The donkey, being fat, was able to break the fences of the farms. While he ate on the vegetable, the jackal would enter through the broken fence and ate the poultry on the farm. Before day-break, they would return to their respective home to meet again next night. This continued for many days. One night, the donkey said to the jackal, "Nephew, I feel like singing on nights like tonight, when the moon is full and beautiful. What Raaga (note combination) shall I sing?" The jackal cautioned, "Uncle, we are here to steal. Thieves should keep as quiet as possible. I may add, your voice is not as pleasant as you think, and sounds like conch being blown! Your voice can be heard over a long distance. It will awaken the farmers who are sleeping, and you will have us caught." The jackal assured, "Please uncle, eat as much as you like, and forget about singing!" This annoyed the donkey and he said, "Dear nephew, it is because you are a wild animal that you don't appreciate music. I shall sing a melodious Raaga. Wait till you hear it!" Observing that the donkey was determined to sing; the jackal did not risk staying there anymore. He said, "Uncle, if you must sing, please wait till I go outside the fence and keep a watch on the farmers." He ran outside the fence, and hide himself. Then, the donkey started to bray at the top of his voice. When the farmers heard the donkey braying, they could see easily in the fullmoon-lit farm that the donkey was in their farm. The angry farmers chased the donkey with sticks, and beat him so hard that he fell on the ground. Then, they tied a wooden mortar around his neck and let him go. When the donkey was returning through the broken fence, the jackal laughed, "Musical uncle! That was a great Raaga! I see the farmers have rewarded you with this necklace!"

The wise indeed say: There is always a proper place and time for doing anything. ❖

[Link: <http://www.talesofpanchatantra.com/the-musical-donkey>]

‘Yoga’kshemam

Let us work for better environment! Happy Blood Donation!

Let us fight Drought! Happy Music! Happy Yoga! Let us do yoga and be in yoga! Happy Cooperation! Let us collectivize! Let us have milk!

Let us welcome GST – one nation one tax.

BKS Iyengar writes about the Core of the Yoga Sutras, introducing the Philosophy of Yoga. Yoga is defined as the cessation of waves and movements of consciousness. Mental fluctuations are connected to the subtle body. The practice of yoga develops four types of Samadhi – self-analysis, synthesis, bliss and the experience of a Pure Being. Through cultivation of friendliness, compassion, joy and indifference to pleasure and pain, virtue and vice, consciousness become favourably disposed, serene and benevolent.

- Yoga acts as a means to lift the chitta from klesachitta to manovrittichitta to nirodhachitta to divyachitta.
- Human transits through four asramas – brahmacharya, grihastha, vanaprastha and sanyasi. The four aims (purusharthas) of life are dharma artha, kaama and moksha.
- We move through, as we practice yoga, samaadhi, saadhana, vibhutiadkaivalya. Kaivalya means freedom from infatuations and to reach the final freedom, moksha.
- Then the accomplished saadhaka/yogi lives in satyam (truth), sivam (eternal) and sundaram (beauty of life).
- A yogi also transits from karma (general action), to vikarma (action with pleasant motivation), to sukarma (good actions with auspicious motivations), to akarma (actions free from expectations of reactions and rewards, performed effortlessly).
- Further, a yogi also transits through jnana (knowledge of objects) to vijnaana (scientific enquiry) to sujnaana (spiritual knowledge) to prajnaana (experiential wisdom).
- A yogi also transits through states of relationship with God – saalokya (feeling God) to saameepya (closeness to God) to saarupya (embracing God) to saayujya (living in God).
- A yogi also transits through Paripakva Karma (ripe action) to Para Jnaana (true knowledge) to Para Bhakti (utter devotion) to Saranaagati (total surrender fully).
- All these culminate and lead to fifth purushartha - Aatmadarshana and Viswaatmadarshana.
- Fix the gaze on the tip of the nose. This non-movement of the eyes pacifies and quietens the brain, stabilizing the mind and consciousness. If the eyes flicker, the brain, mind and consciousness also flicker and are perturbed. Steady

eyes with restfulness release stress from the brain and stabilize the mind to be attentive to its means and goal.

- Yoga is a way to maintain an even temper and oneness in one’s word, work and thought.
- The meaning of yoga is to restrain oneself from all bonds of pain and sorrow.
- Yoga is a mental discipline for restraining the fluctuations of thoughts so that consciousness is kept in an unoscillated, steady and stable state.
- The brain has four lobes – vitarka (analysis, argumentation); vichaara (logical insight, synthesis); aananda (seat of joy); and asmata (seat of the self).
- Heart’s emotional divisions are – friendliness (maitri), compassion (karuna), gladness (mudita) and indifference (upeksa) towards pleasure and pain. These have to be harmonized.
- Life is a continuous process.
- Five elements – earth, water, fire, air and ether; Five vayus – apaana, praana, samaana, udaana, vyaana; five kosa – annamaya, praanamaya, manomaya, vijnaanamaya and aanandamaya.
- Bahiranga, Antaranga and Antaratma Saadhana; Saadhanakarma includes tapas, svaadhyaya of aasana, pranayama and dhyana, and being one with the core; Tapas covers yama, niyama, aasana and pranayama.
- We are yogis – karma yogis, jnaana yogis, kriya yogis, and bhakti yogis. May be all rolled-into one. We seek oneness with the innermost and the universe. We know they are identical.

G Muralidhar

We are yogis; we can be yogis; we follow asthanga; we are practitioners; we practice; we lead practitioners; we mentor leads. We are learners; and we are in learning mode till the end. We pursue our purposes of life.

This is nijayogam.

Can we be there? Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga. We are always there! If we want! If we plan! If we pursue! If we learn! If we practice! If we practice oneness of actions, words and thoughts! If we practice to be self-aware of our thoughts, words and actions! If we connect with all life, care for it and learn from it! If we connect with five elements! If we practice transits of yoga! If we learn to practice and practice to learn! Krsna confirms that he is yogeswar and a yogi is one with yogeswar and merges in Krsnaviswam.

Join us in the world of yoga –for flowing in the flow of being aware, practice and transiting forward – towards Krsnaishwaryayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖

