

# livelihoods

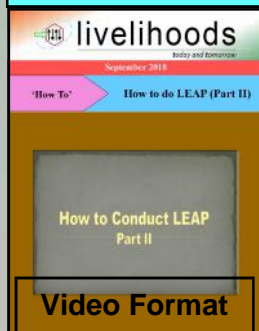
*today and tomorrow*

September 2018

## Agrarian Distress



### Supplements



*Teachers' Day!*

*Happy Krsnaasthami! Happy Ganesh! Muharram!*

*Charity! Peace! Heart!*

*Tourism!*

*Languages! Literacy! Engineers!*

*Blood Donation! Elders! Gandhi! Wildlife! Habitat! Sight! Standards! Food! Savings! Unity!*

*Rest in Peace, Kofi Annan. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Karunanidhi. Somnath Chatterjee. VS Naipaul. Hari Krishna.*

Kerala Floods, a disaster of the century. People's response was heartening.

Drought and Floods are dancing together.

Elections are round the corner. Four states are getting ready for elections in 2018 itself. Telangana is making efforts to have them in 2018 itself. Whole of the country is getting ready for General Elections by April 2019. Opinion polls are ON. A variety of ghatbandhan possibilities across the states are being explored. Promises and promises are being made.

Agriculture is in distress. Chemical Agriculture is showing deterioration in lands. Water efficiency has reduced. Temperatures are going up. Climate stress is growing up. Agricultural productivity is in decline. Uncertainty and risks are increasing. Debts are growing. Costs of debts are going up. Repayments could not be made. Farmer suicides have become commonplace. At the same time, safe and healthy foods is not available. Food and nutrition security is decreasing. Variety of crops are coming down. Green Revolution has shown its full impact of 'distress'. The impact intensifies for tenants, marginal and small farmers. This situation is more intense in eco-fragile and marginalized zones. What governments are doing against this situation is waiver of loans. Some subsidized fertilizers and seeds. Some 'extension'. The real effort to address the distress and crisis is less except for lip sympathy. Some solutions are agro-ecological regenerative practices. They need to be scaled-up quickly. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Agrarian Distress'.

'The Songlines' by Bruce Chatwin is a classic to be read for sure.

Supplements: Sukshetram discusses Tenant Farmers.

Special Supplement: Livelihoods Update (August 2018).

Video - How to Conduct LEAP?

Usual e-links include:

VCA – Mutton VCA of Malla Banas Village; Subsector – Poultry Sector Country Review; e-book: The Prophet by Khalil Gibran; v-book: Strengthening Saal Leaves based livelihood at forest fringe areas in West Bengal

With the faith and hope that you find this and evolving issues of 'livelihoods' useful, we remain.



the 'livelihoods' team



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v-Book	In Rural India, Women Lead the Way to Improve Livelihoods <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCBicWAwOds">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCBicWAwOds</a>	



# Aadesar Vitsar Khet Utapadan Producer Co Ltd

Aadesar Vitsar Khet Utapadan Producer Company Ltd was established as a Farmer Producer Company (FPO) on 14 February 2014 in Aadesar, Rapar taluka, Kutch district, Gujarat. The company is operating in more than 8 villages in 20 Km radius of Aadesar. It has 200 shareholders; most of the farmers are dry land farmers. These 200 farmers sell Cummin and Castor to the FPO. The organization is also involved in marketing of organic cotton. Out of 200 farmers, 154 farmers have organic certification for producing agriculture output.

At present, the FPO is selling castor seeds to the Castor Product Co., and cummins to Safe Harvest. It is providing marketing, training for economies of scale in farming, and training on usage of farm waste. The FPO has Rs. 1,50,00,000 as its turnover, and has earned more than Rs. 10,00,000 from last four years. The farmers are being paid 15% premium on sale of castor seeds. The salaries of CEO and field coordinators are being taken care of by Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan.

Furthermore, the company is planning to go for value addition of green grams and chickpeas produced by the farmers.

Currently, the major challenge that the FPO is facing is that it is not able to market its 'kala' cotton due to lack of awareness about organic cotton in the market.

The FPO is doing an incredible job in empowering farmers. To



Directors of FPO (8 male and 2 female), members, CEO and the field officer.

date, the most impressive achievement of the FPO is that it has created an International Market Linkage for selling its products. The organization has also been receiving Fair for Life Fund for its fair trade practices in the whole value chain. The objective of this fund is to create basic facilities for the villages. The FPO's other milestones include constructing more than 75 farm ponds from the funds, giving computers and benches to the schools in the villages, constructing water tanks and wells for drinking water. ❖

[Mr. Aditya Min, CEO of the FPO ]

## NGO

## RAPID RESPONSE

RAPID RESPONSE (RR) is a registered non-profit organization that was founded in 2013 after the devastating Uttarakhand floods by Mr. Mohamad Farukh, an International Development consultant. It is a premiere agency for disaster response and relief in India and has its head office Pondicherry and Registered office in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

The mission of the organization is to provide immediate, effective and sustainable support to the victims of natural disasters. The vision of the organization is for a safer and disaster-resilient India.

**Disaster Response:** RR responds immediately to the call of families affected by natural disasters with food, water and essential items, and afterwards also works towards rehabilitation of the affected families. Their emergency responses are timely at appropriate scale and scope, providing high quality programs such as: Rescue & Medical Assistance; Relief - Distribution of Food, Relief Kit, Bed Kit, Hygiene Kit & Educational Kits; Rehabilitation - Focusing on Wash & Livelihoods.

**Disaster Preparedness:** In non-crisis situations, it actively engages with vulnerable communities and trains them to cope with emergencies. With the following programs, the organization is preparing the vulnerable communities to manage disasters better and minimise the impact of natural disasters. i.e., Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Program; Comprehensive School Safety Program for Children;

SMS based Disaster Preparedness and Early Warning System; Promoting Mangroves for Coastal Defence; Formation of Disaster Resilient Villages.

RR's major achievement is that it responds to major disasters within 24 hours of the event. Which are Uttarakhand floods (2013), Jammu & Kashmir floods (2014), Chennai floods (2015), Assam floods (2016), Marathwada drought (2016), Bihar floods (2016), Cyclone Vardah (2016), Tamil Nadu drought (2017), Gujarat floods (2017), Bihar floods (2017), Assam floods (2017).

**Disaster preparedness projects:** CMDRR program, school safety program, ICT for disaster preparedness.

**Special initiatives:** the blanket project, national volunteers.

RR's impact is immense till date as the organisation has executed 11 disaster relief operations, implemented 7 disaster preparedness projects and impacted 4 lakhs lives. They have distributed 60,000+ food packets, 11,500 relief kits (dry ration), 4220 bed kits, 2400 education kits, conducted 124 medical camps and 621 livelihoods support programmes.

RAPID RESPONSE is an N/Core Alpha Winner, recognized as one of the most promising non-profits in India and rated as one of the 20 non-profits solving India's greatest challenges.

Their most recent interventions is for Kerala floods and the efforts are still going on. ❖

## Agrarian Distress

Farmer protesting on streets, throwing away their produce on roads, ending their lives.. all point towards looming agricultural distress. This month, 'livelihoods' puts a focus on stories of agrarian distress, status of distress, reasons for the crisis and welcomes readers to explore ways to reduce agricultural distress and move towards an era of zero farmer suicide in the country.



*A farmer in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh preparing his land for transplanting paddy*



Chandrudu is a farmer of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. He owns 3 acres of land of which 2 acres are located at one place and remaining one acre of inferior land is located at another place. He always owned 2 bullocks and maintained 2 desi cows. Chandrudu, his wife seeta, the bullocks and occasionally his 2 daughters tulasi and karuna were all the farm labour he had. In the early 1960s, he used to grow millets, pulses and oilseeds especially finger millet, sorghum, ragi, red gram and groundnut. He used the manure from the cattle as fertiliser and whatever he got from land was consumed by the family. Any surplus was used to buy essentials and even stored for drought years. He was happy and worked hard every year.

**He is turning old, his methods seem irrelevant, and his bullocks are old. But the farmer in him takes him to the field every day... he looks at the hard soil... crops....low prices....and feels sad. But he wishes for better days... After all farming is the only way of life, living, livelihood and true love for chandrudu.**

With time, he moved on to grow only groundnut and later only sunflower. He availed subsidised seeds and fertilisers from the government. He started applying chemical fertilisers and pesticides. When both groundnut and sunflower started failing year after year in the previous decade, chandrudu began growing chickpea. His costs of production increased as inputs, irrigation, labour, credit and everything needed for farming cost him more. His family expenditures also increased rapidly for buying food, meeting health needs and social occasions like wedding of his two daughters. The yields of chickpea which increased in the beginning plateaued now. Even the prices started fluctuating like the rain. When he had to sell the produce

during demonetization, he had to sell at 20% less than the market prices to get immediate returns in cash. The farmers with large acreage and produce could dare to store the produce so that they can get more returns and today after two years the prices are so low that the returns will not

even meet their input costs. He saw many droughts in his life but low prices are troubling him much more than low rain. Chandrudu is slowly coming to a conclusion that its better sit idle as there are no returns and only toil. He is turning old, his methods seem irrelevant, and his bullocks are old. But the farmer in him takes him to the field every day...he looks at the hard soil...poor crops....low prices....and feels sad. But he wishes for better days... after all farming is the only way of life,

living, livelihood and true love for chandrudu.

This is not only the situation of chandrudu, but of millions of farmers and agricultural labour across lakhs of villages in the country resulting in a distress situation. The agrarian distress continues to loom over the agriculture community leading to increasing farm suicides, large number of people leaving agriculture, landowners becoming agriculture labourers, increasing indebtedness of farmers, agriculture becoming non-remunerative.

#### **The Distress Situation:**

##### **Farmer Suicides**



As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) the number of farm suicides between 1995 and 2014 is close to 300000. Even the central government told Supreme Court that every year there are 12000 suicides. The farm suicides include both farm cultivators and agriculture labourers. In 2015 alone 12602 persons have committed suicide of which 8007 were farmers/cultivators and 4595 agricultural labourers. Of the total farm suicides, six states; Maharashtra (4291), Karnataka (1569), Telangana (1290), Chhattisgarh (954), Andhra Pradesh (916), Tamil Nadu (606) contributed to 87.5% of the total suicides. The suicides during 2015 were much higher than the previous year's 2014 & 2013 even with states like Jharkhand, West Bengal along with 7 other states & 7 UTs declaring zero farm suicides. These are just the official numbers. Many suicides go unreported.

If we try to understand the reasons for which the farmers/cultivators committed suicide 38.7% of them committed suicide because of Bankruptcy or Indebtedness, 19.5% of them of farming related issues, 11.7 % of them of family problems, 10.5% of Illness and etc., The small and marginal farmers who own up to 2 hectares i.e. 5 acres alone constitute 72.6% of the total farmer suicides. In 2016, there is a sudden drop in the no. of farm suicides to 11370. Over time though the government sources claim a reduction in the number of farm suicides but experts say that is much to do with the change in the way the government calculates them. But, in reality the number is much worse than what they claim.

### Low Returns

On one hand we continue to boast to inform the world that we have crossed France and in the next year we will cross Britain to become the world's fifth largest economy. But, on the other hand, agriculture still continues to contribute substantial 16% of the country's GDP employing more than 50% of the country's population. The growth in economy is not duly reflected in the growth of agriculture and incomes of the farmers. As per NITI Aayog, think tank of the Government the average income growth of farming family between 2011 and 2016 was merely 0.44% percent but on the other hand month on month food inflation is at 2.8%. If we also look at a recent report published by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) the average monthly income of rural households is Rs 8059 only 23% of the incomes come from cultivation and livestock rearing and if we specifically look at Agriculture households

the contribution of cultivation and livestock rearing is 43% and remaining 57% is from non-agricultural sources. These two clearly depicts how agriculture is becoming a non-remunerative livelihood.

**As per NITI Aayog, think tank of Government of India, average income growth of farming family between 2011 and 2016 was merely 0.44% while the month on month food inflation stands at 2.8%.**

### Decrease in Number of Cultivators

Moving on to one more important thing, the number of main cultivators continue to decrease from 2001 to 2011 (no) and 1991 to 2001 i.e. 15 million main cultivators have reduced from 1991 to 2011 and at the same

time the number of agriculture labourers continue to increase during the same period. When a farmer is asked the question whether he/she wants their kids to take up agriculture as their livelihoods, the answer most of the time is 'NO'. Agriculture turned out to be last resort.

### Distress Migration to Cities

The signs of Agriculture distress are clearly visible in the Census of India, 2011. As per the Census, 2011 for the first time since Independence, the absolute increase is more in urban areas than rural areas. The rural constitute 68.84% and urban 31.16% of the total households. The level of urbanization has increased from 27.81% in 2001 to 31.16% in 2011. In contrast, the proportion of rural population has declined from 72.19% in 2001 to 68.84% in 2011. As the economic activities are revolving around urban areas and services sector, these are leading to people moving out of rural areas for better employment opportunities. The people moving to urban areas are majorly men leaving the agriculture work to women. Unabated migration from rural to urban areas in search of low paying jobs and the prospect of living in congested areas show the distress situation in rural India and agriculture in particular.

### Factors contributing to Agricultural Distress:

#### People-Planet Driven Distress

Climate is changing rapidly. IPCC found anthropogenic factors are responsible for 90% of the climate change. The effects of climate change will add more woes to the ailing



farm incomes. Climate change will lead to increase in temperatures, decrease in average rainfall and increase in number of dry days further leading to increased precipitation, pest and disease attack and decreased yields. There is also increased intensity of extreme events like droughts, cyclones, floods...etc. As per the Economic Survey 2017 – 18 for every 01 degree Celsius increase in temperature the farmer incomes would fall by 6.2 percent during the Kharif season and 6% during the Rabi season. Similarly, in a year when rainfall levels were 100 mm less than average, farmer incomes would fall by 15% during Kharif and by 7% during Rabi season. The impacts of this will be much worse in unirrigated areas with 20 – 25% decrease in farming incomes. Gloomier water crisis adds to the problem. This will majorly depend on how India increases its area under irrigation against a backdrop of rising water scarcity and decreasing water resources and also how do we move towards sustainable methods of agriculture which are tolerant to climate change.

### Productivity Driven Distress

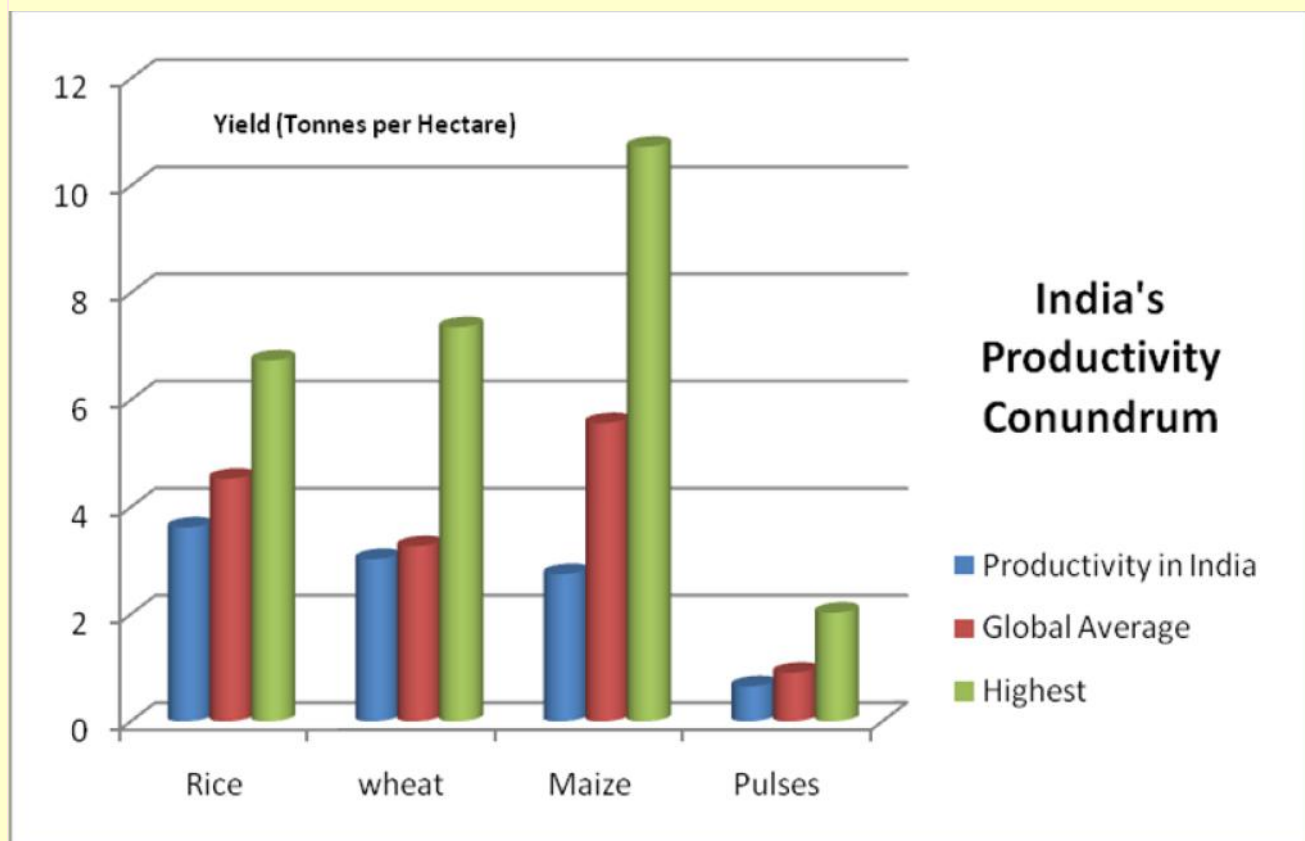
as millets we have not improved much. In some crops yields have temporarily increased but later remained stagnant. Increasing productivity remains a challenge as the landholding size is continuously decreasing.

### Policy Driven Distress

Though government has started talking about agriculture and farmers welfare, actionable elements have been missing.

Firstly, Free Trade Agreements, liberalisation of export import policy, unscientific and untimely trade restrictions have exposed Indian farmers to the global price fluctuations. This has been done without special safeguards for the vulnerable farmers especially small and marginal.

Secondly, the entire calculation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) is itself questionable. Assuming that the MSP will help the farmers and the government's recent initiative to increase the MSP by 50 percent for 14 crops in Kharif is a welcome move. But, the question arises is declaring MSP



India is largest producer, consumer and importer of pulses, which is the main crop in dry land agriculture. But we have barely improved the yields of pulses in the last 50 odd years. We are proud of phenomenal increase in the cereal production especially in rice and wheat but we stand poorly when compared to global highest like china. In crops such

alone will suffice the purpose, there is also a greater need for opening of procurement centres or else the farmers have to depend up on the market to sell them at very less prices.

Thirdly, negative impacts of Green revolution continue in the form of mono cropping. The input intensive agriculture



continues to deplete water, erode soil and even degrade the health of farmers as in Punjab. Malwa region of Punjab, which is the cotton belt of Punjab uses extremely high amount of pesticides. Trains full of cancer patients from this region are witness to the negative fallouts of green revolution.

“Gaon Bandh” or recent *padyatra* of around 40000 farmers from Nashik to Mumbai are all accumulating in to a mega march of a million of them to Delhi seeking a 21 day special session of parliament to discuss on the rural distress. Something urgently needs to be done to farmers and farming.

### Train carrying cancer affected Punjab farmers



Fourthly, the efficacy of Priority Sector Lending is questionable when most of the loans are taken by agri businesses, large farmers and even non farmers who claim to be farmers just because they own some land. Though loan waivers provide relief to farmers, RBI study found that politically motivated loan waivers could result in reluctance of banks to lend further to farmers. This may push farmers towards informal credit sources such as money lenders.

Apart from these issues, there is an increase in social expenditure by the farmers. Even the health issues are costing them much more. So, what is required is not just technical solution but something beyond it.

#### **Future of Agriculture and Farmers in India:**

During the last two years the farmers agitations have gained momentum either it was the farmers from Tamilnadu who protested at Jantar Mantar for more than 100 days or farmers in Madhya Pradesh after 5 farmers were shot in Mandsaur agitation or 10 day

Feminisation of agriculture, both in farming and agricultural labour is a reality. As more and more men migrate to cities, it is women who are left in villages to take care of lands, kids and elders. They have to be given land rights and



assistance so that our agriculture, food security are in safe hands. Will integrated farming practices alleviate the crisis?



Will increasing MSP help?

Can land reforms augur well for Indian Agriculture?

Will land consolidation, redistribution help improve condition of farmers?

What happens if we do away with chemical fertilisers, pesticides?

Can Farmer Producer Companies eliminate distress?

Does strengthening of Lab to Lands and Farm to Fork linkages help farmers?

Will value addition benefit farmers?

Will a rejuvenated food processing industry revive agriculture?

There is no specific answer. There are no clear solutions. But some or combinations of these would definitely benefit farmers. Which ones to choose? It depends on local contexts.

Can improving water use efficiency reduce the crisis?

What are the solutions to agriculture distress?

The objective of policy makers implementers and professionals is to give farmers choices and build their



Does implementing “Action Plan for Doubling Framers’ Income” solve the problem?

Does adopting practices of organic farming, natural farming address the issue?

Does horticulture give better income to farmers?

capacities to be resilient to climate, to withstand the forces of market and become sustainable.

**As M S Swaminathan called for, all our efforts should be towards “Serving farmers and Saving farming”.**

**Jai Kisan ❖**



Common Person

## Provide Regular Work



### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Sailu w/o Mogulji. I am 45 years old. I belong to BC community. I am illiterate. My native place is Lachan village, Bichkunda mandal, Kamareddy district, Telangana.

### Can you tell us about your family?

I am married and living with my husband. I have six daughters. I performed two daughters' marriages, while the remaining four daughters are studying in government school.

I am my husband's second wife; first wife died a few years ago and had 4 daughters. Later, my husband married me. I tried hard for having a male baby. Unfortunately, my male baby died due to lack medical treatment.

### What are you doing at present?

Presently, I am engaged in daily wage labour activities; my husband is also doing labour work. Earlier, I had agriculture land. I had to sell it to due for doing my daughters' marriages.

My husband is not getting work regularly, and when he does get work, he uses the money to play cards and for drinking alcohol. I told him several times to stop drinking but he ignored me and started harassing me. So, I left him. He comes home, eats, and goes outside. He never thinks about our daughters' lives. Our family migrated from Vadalam village, Pitlam mandal 30 years ago. I have built an asbestos sheet house, but it is leaking in rainy season. So, I have covered the roof with Polythene sheet to overcome the leakage problem.

Earlier, my husband had worked as a mason. He had learned this alcohol habit from his friends. When he worked as a mason, he used to be wounded regularly. So, he left the mason work and started doing daily wage labour.

### Do you have any problems?

Yes, I do not have sufficient works to sustain my family; moreover, my husband's bad habits are causing problems.

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

Yes, I have availed MGNREGS job card; PDS ration card, aadhar and election card.

### What are your future goals?

I do MGNREGS work but I am not getting enough works. I request government to give regular works for me. I also request the government to help my family. ❖

Vulnerable Person

## Want to Construct a House



### Can you tell about yourself?

My name is Sasi Nayak. I am 80 years old and I am illiterate. I belong to Scheduled Caste (SC) community. I do not have any assets. My native place is Gadatorihan village, Badasirubaila block, Nimapara district, Odisha state.

### Can you tell us about your family?

I have only one daughter. My daughter is 60 years old and her husband expired. She is staying with me.

### What are you doing?

As I am very old, I cannot do any livelihoods activity at this age. I am getting old age pension of Rs. 300 per month. It is the only source of income for me. My daughter is working as a daily laborer. But that work is not available throughout the year. Though we have Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) card, we are unable to do MGNREGS work because of my and my daughter's advancing age. We are trying to cultivate vegetables for sale in an empty space in our house. But we are unable to cultivate a good quantity of vegetables for consumption and sale.

### What challenges you are facing?

We are facing many problems. We do not have any consistent, regular livelihood source. With our limited resources, we are unable to get two sufficient meals a day. I have one granddaughter, aged 35 years. She is a physically and mentally challenged person by birth. She also stays along with us. She is unable to do any livelihoods activity. People used to mock and disrespect her because of her disability. She did not care about their comments. Most of the people are unkind towards us due to our condition. They practice discrimination against us. As a physically and mentally challenged woman, my granddaughter is facing many problems.

### How did you overcome the problems?

We are struggling to overcome the problems. I am getting old age pension of Rs. 300 per month, my daughter is getting widow pension of Rs. 300 per month and my grand daughter is getting disabled persons pension of Rs. 300 per month. The total pension of Rs. 900 per month is helping us survive along-with my daughter's daily wage labour work. I joined an Elderly Self Help Group (ESHG) called Maa Dulladei. I am saving Rs. 20 per month. My daughter is also a member in our ESHG.

### Did you avail government entitlements?

Yes. I availed monthly old age pension, aadhaar card, ration card and MGNREGS card.

### What are your future goals?

We want to build a small house under India Awas Yojana housing scheme. ❖

[Dikshya Priyadarshini, HelpAge India, Odisha]



## To Build an Office for Elders



### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Musuku Gopal Reddy. I am 75 years old. I am native of Tangedupalli village, Choutuppal Mandal, Yadadri Bhongir district, Telangana. I have three daughters and a son. All are married and settled. My wife expired 20 years ago. I am living with my son's family.

### What are you doing?

I am the president of Thangedupally Village Level Federation (VLF) of Elders since September 2016 and also the president of Sri Hanuman Elders Self Help Group (ESHG). The VLF was registered in December 2016. It has 18 ESHGs under it, with 230 members. All ESHGs members save Rs 100 and the total amount deposit in District Cooperative Bank.

### Can you tell us about your responsibilities at VLF?

My responsibilities include conducting VLF meetings with VLF office bearers on the 20th of every month; facilitating smooth functioning of meetings; solving elders' problems with the help of VLF and villagers and in case, the problem is not solved, approaching Mandal Level Federation (MLF) for support; coordinating with ESHGs and VLF office bearers; and mediating between MLF and VLF. I support savings of elders, and fight for their rights and entitlements. I attend the MLF meetings on 28-29 of every month in Lakkaram HelpAge office.

Every fortnight, I facilitate Gram Chikistha health camps in the village with the support of HelpAge India. Our elders utilize the services at a minimal cost Rs. 30 per head, which is used towards doctors' fee. Most of the elders are suffering with old-age problems like BP, sugar, arthritis, etc. Till now, with the support of HelpAge India, our VLF has provided ankle pain relief jackets to 10 members, facilitated eye cataract operations for 38 members and given walking sticks to 30 elders. All these beneficiaries have become more active than earlier.

Out of 18 ESHGs 17 have received 'A' Grade and received seed capital of Rs. 12000 from HelpAge India, while one ESHG, which got 'B' Grade, received Rs. 9000. This amount is used for ESHGs' livelihoods. Our VLF has been running a grain bank with the support of HelpAge India. The ESHG members can purchase items such as rice, oil, groceries, atta etc. from the grain bank on lesser rate compared to open market. Some elders are running individual enterprises including two Provision shops, one shoe shop, one rice selling shops in VLF range for empowerment.

### Did you receive any training?

Yes, I have received various trainings on ESHG, VLF, MS, ECRP and Bookkeeping for 20 days.

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

Yes, I have ration, aadhar, voter card, and I am availing old-age pension.

### What are your future plans?

As a leader of VLF, I want to build an office for ESHG members in the village with the support of HelpAge India. Recently, the local Gram Panchayat has given the land for this. ❖

## Develop More Entrepreneurs



### Can you introduce yourself?

I am Shabnam Bano, a native of Basohli village, Basohli block, Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir. I am 38 years old. I lost my father at the age of 19. I live with my mother, younger brother and sister-in-law. I was born with only one hand.

### How did you become a community worker?

Initially, I was interested in volunteering and working for the community and began working with UMEED (State Rural Livelihoods Mission in Jammu & Kashmir). I have worked in different areas of community development and understanding of all the community institutions over time.

### What are you doing at present?

Presently, I am working as a CRP-Entrepreneurs Programme (EP) in Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP) which involves extensive travel in the block to anchor community meetings, meet entrepreneurs and prepare their business plans and to support them in their enterprises. I have anchored 150 community meetings till date. I have prepared 15 business plans of which six have received Block Resource Cell (BRC) approval. Currently, I am providing handholding support to four entrepreneurs and have also identified eight potential entrepreneurs to start new enterprises and looking forward to working with them.

### What are the challenges you faced and how did you overcome?

I am being with single hand, it has never discouraged me from achieving my goals. My role as a CRP-EP is challenging but rewarding at the same time. Basholi is a hilly region and the weather can be harsh. Transportation in my block is limited and it is not uncommon for me to walk 10-15 Kms a day to complete the work. If I get lucky, people from in and around the village give me a lift when they see me walking between villages. Initially, entrepreneurs were hesitant to give me financial and operational details. I was disappointed after a few visits, but didn't lose heart and was able to convince them slowly. Now, sharing information easily with me. The confidence and support my mother provides is my biggest asset. I like interacting with entrepreneurs and applying the theoretical aspects of training in the field. In spite of challenging terrain, harsh climates, unfair prejudices and gender biases, I continue to work diligently and with focus and want to give my best so that I can benefit the community through my work and provide financial support to my family. My block mentor and the community have recognized me to be reliable and responsive. I received accolades for completing my work on time and always being present during meetings. All this has motivated me a lot over the years.

### Did you participate in training programs?

Yes, I have participated in trainings of CRP and ICRP given by SVEP.

### What is your future goal?

I wish to develop more successful entrepreneurs in my block and want to be an independent woman. ❖

# Develop Hunger and Poverty-free Society

## Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Shiv Govind (34). I am a native of Lalganj town, Raebareli district in Uttar Pradesh. I graduated from Allahabad University and did PG diploma in NGO management from Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)-Gandhinagar, Gujarat in 2008.

I am from a joint family. I am married and have one daughter and a son. My father and younger brother are handling agriculture and a small business in village.

## What are you doing?

I am working with Heifer International organisation in Bihar Socio Economic Development (BSED) project which is being implemented at five districts of Hajipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Purnea in Bihar with partner organisations. The objective of the project is to bring 6000 families out of poverty. These families will then help 18000 families in achieving sustainable income, with goat rearing being a major source of livelihood. I am supporting the implementing organisation, SATHEE, working in Purnea district and providing technical assistance to FPOs in all five districts. My main role is to provide handhold support to partner organisation and work as a bridge between Heifer and partner in Purnea in project related approvals, financial transactions, project monitoring and evaluation.

I am providing professional support in institutional development and backward and forward linkages in the value chain of commodities (majorly goat value chain, but some partners are also working in vegetable, maize and chilli cultivation) which is being adopted by all FPOs across all partner organisations. Apart from this, I help in liaising with other organisation working for same cause and supporting partner in raising parallel co-funding for the project, helping partner in documentation and reporting.

## Can you tell us about your work experience?

I started my career in Development Sector as a Team Leader with BAIF development research foundation in 2008; I worked in two projects there; 1. Multi Activity Approach for Poverty Alleviation (MAAPA) project, funded by MoRD and technical support from NABARD, aimed to cover 2000 BPL families in a cluster and support them by providing inputs in promoting agriculture and dairy based livelihood. 2. GODHAN project, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), aimed to develop dairy development cluster followed by breed development and help farmers in forward linkages ;Later, I worked in Pragya, Rajeev Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana (RGMVP) and Villgro organisations where I learned different themes of development, experienced challenges like working for poverty alleviation in high altitude of Himalayas, participated in biggest SHG movement in Uttar Pradesh and experienced working with India's oldest social enterprise incubator.

## Can you discuss about trainings and workshops?

I have participated in numerous trainings for sharpening my knowledge and skills including: Management of Natural Resource initiatives in 2007 by DSC, Ahmedabad; Participatory training and Techniques in 2007 by Aga Khan Rural Support; Social Entrepreneurship in 2008 by IIM Ahmedabad; Gender and Development in 2009 by BAIF; Sustainable livelihood approaches in 2010 by BIRD and NABARD; Best Practices of Dairy and Livestock management in 2011 by University of Wisconsin; Migration, Issues and approaches in 2012 by Sri Dorabji Tata Trust; Training on Leadership in 2012 by American Express Leadership Academy; Conceptualizing Farmers Producers Company in 2015 by BIRD, NABARD; Winter School of Impact Evaluation (use of quantities and qualitative methods for impact evaluation) in 2015 by IRMA, Gujarat; Project Monitoring and Design (PMD-pro) in 2016 by APM Group Limited; Implementation of Link methodology (focusing on inclusive business model development) in 2016 by Certified trainers of Heifer International (Module developed by CIAT and CGIAR)



## Do you face any issues?

In my experience, I noticed that several NGOs who have developed CBOs for insuring sustainable development have very poor exit strategy. Sometimes, they don't want to make CBOs independent for several reasons. This issue bothers me and I am trying to develop a solution for this.

## Who monitors your work?

The Regional Manager of Heifer International monitors my work regularly.

## Can you tell us about your notable achievements?

In my career, I have achieved many milestones including—Got best team worker award while working in Pragya; Linked 2000 farmers with Mother dairy while working in BAIF. Due to this, the number of dairy farmers doubled in 2 years in a cluster of Sultanpur district in UP; Established a processing unit of Aounla (Gooseberry) while working with RGMVP in Pratapgarh district in UP. Presently, more than 3000 women producers are jointly manufacturing by-products of gooseberry; Providing sustainable business solutions to FPO in Purnea by linking them with Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata (IIM-C), which will help producers in capacity building and business development by providing mentoring and incubation support.

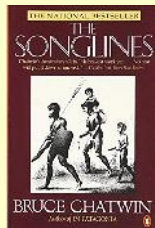
## What is your vision?

I want to contribute in developing a hunger and poverty-free society with sustainable use of natural resources with zero pollution. ❖

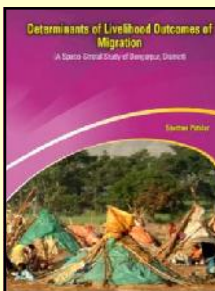
# The Songlines

The book, 'The Songlines', was written in 1987 by Bruce Chatwin, a well-known British writer and journalist, who found his calling in semi-fictional travel writing. Chatwin was a recipient of James Tait Black Memorial Prize and had also been nominated for Man Booker Prize. In 2008, he was included in The Times' list of 50 Greatest British Writers since 1945. Chatwin, who was a travel enthusiast, wanted to understand his love for travel through gaining insights into nomadic communities the world over, and was of the view that human beings were a migrant species early on, but with the onset of civilisation began tying themselves down to one place, which according to him was the reason for greed, violence and other human vices.

The book depicts the fictionalised version of Chatwin's journey through Australia for gaining knowledge about the Aborigines of Australia and their way of life; more specifically, Songlines, which are said to be the paths the creators of the world traversed as they 'sang' the places and people into creation in Australian Aborigines' mythology. Through these songs which are passed on from generation to generation Aborigines preserved and mapped their areas. In this journey, he is helped by an Australian of Russian ancestry called Arkady Volchok, who has knowledge about Aborigines having been their friend since childhood. Arkady helps Chatwin visit Aborigines settlements and talk with them about their history, culture and present day conditions. What makes this book different from other travel books or books about Aborigines is the fact that he adds his feelings about philosophy, human evolution and his other ideas



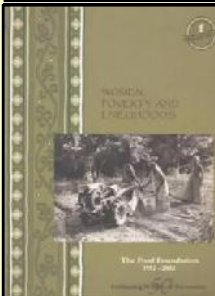
to connect the dots towards reaching his hypothesis about human beings' love for travelling from what he sees in Australia. However, the flip side of coin to this way of writing is that the narrative is coloured by his pre-conceived notions and his slightly colonised view of looking at things and forming opinions. The book also includes excerpts from his notebooks about his various musings, and is considered to be one of the classic books that tried to give us a peek into the life of Australian Aborigines and which brought the customs and traditions into popular culture. ❖



**Book Name:** Determinants of Livelihood Outcomes of Migration

**Author:** Savitree Patidar

**Publisher:** Himanshu Publications



**Book Name:** Women, Poverty And Livelihoods

**Author:** Manoshi Mitra

**Publisher:** The Ford Foundation

# An Old Man Lived in the Village



An old man lived in the village. He was one of the most unfortunate people in the world. The whole village was tired of him; he was always gloomy, he constantly complained and was always in a bad mood.

The longer he lived, the more bile he was becoming and the more poisonous were his words. People avoided him, because his misfortune became contagious. It was even unnatural and insulting to be happy next to him.

He created the feeling of unhappiness in others.

But one day, when he turned eighty years old, an incredible thing happened. Instantly everyone started hearing the rumour: "An Old Man is happy today, he doesn't complain about anything, smiles, and even his face is freshened up."

The whole village gathered together. The old man was asked:

Villager: What happened to you?

"Nothing special. Eighty years I've been chasing happiness, and it was useless. And then I decided to live without happiness and just enjoy life. That's why I'm happy now." – An Old Man

Moral of the story: Don't chase happiness. Enjoy your life. ❖

[Source: <https://wealthygorilla.com/best-short-moral-stories/> ]



# ‘Yoga’kshemam

*Teachers’ Day! Krishnaasthami! Ganesh! Muharram!*

*Charity! Peace! Heart!*

*Tourism! Languages! Literacy! Engineers!*

*Blood Donation! Elders! Gandhi!*

*Wildlife! Habitat! Sight! Standards! Food! Savings! Unity!*

*Let us meet – all livelihoods-poverty reduction-development associates of life. Co-students. Colleagues. Co-volunteers. Friends. Community Coordinators. Livelihoods Associates. Project Executives and Project Managers. Young Professionals. Students. Teachers. Mentors. Can we meet on 29 September? 30 September? 1 October? 2 October? 2 October may be the best date. At Hyderabad. Let us connect and reflect together. Let us see how we are flowing and how we want to flow.*

*As I gather thoughts on the above, I remembered Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore. Some of the key thoughts there include:*

*“You have made me endless, such is your pleasure...You have breathed through the little flute in your hands, melodies eternally new. At the immortal touch of your hands, my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable. ....*

*I forget myself and call you, friend.... Life of my life, your living touch is upon all my limbs... it shall be my endeavour to reveal you in my actions....*

*I ask for a moment's indulgence to sit by thy side. The works that I have in hand I will finish afterwards.... Now it is time to sit quiet. Face to face with you. ...*

*I live in the hope of meeting you; but this meeting is not yet. ...I am only waiting for love to give myself up at last into your hands....*

*You came and sat by my side but I woke not. ... why are my nights all thus lost? why do I ever miss your sight whose breath touches my sleep? .... For all the care I take, I lose sight of my true being....*

*They try to hold me secure in this world. But it is otherwise with your love which is greater than theirs, and you keep me free.... your love for me still waits for my love....*

*Let only that little be left of my will whereby I may feel you on every side, and come to you in everything, and offer to you my love every moment....*

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by you into ever-widening thought and action---Into that heaven of freedom, let my country awake. ...*

*Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service... And give me the strength to surrender my strength to your will with love. ...*

*Ah, my sleep, precious sleep, which only waits for your touch to vanish.... At last, when I woke from my slumber and opened my eyes, I saw you standing by me, flooding my sleep with your smile....*

*This golden light that dances upon the leaves, these idle clouds sailing across the sky, this passing breeze leaving its coolness upon my forehead. The morning light has flooded my eyes .... Your eyes look down on my eyes, and my heart has touched your feet.... when I kiss you to make you smile. ...*

*When one knows you, then alien there is none, then no door is shut.... Pray I may never lose the bliss of the touch of the one in the play of many.... You give yourself to me in love and then feel your own entire sweetness in me. ...*

*The same stream of life that runs through my veins night and day runs through the world and dances in rhythmic measures. It is the same life that shoots in joy through the dust of the earth in numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of leaves and flowers. It is the same life that is rocked in the ocean-cradle of birth and of death, in ebb and in flow. ...*

*With the tune of you and me all the air is vibrant, and all ages pass with the hiding and seeking of you and me. ...*

*The innermost one, you awaken my being with your deep hidden touches. ... I feel the embrace of freedom in a thousand bonds of delight....*

*I was tired and sleeping .... In the morning, I woke up and found my garden full with wonders of flowers. ...*

*All that I am, that I have, that I hope and all my love have ever flowed towards you in depth of secrecy. One final glance from your eyes and my life will be ever yours own....*

*I have tasted of the hidden honey of this lotus that expands on the ocean of light, and thus am I blessed. ... and if the end comes here, let it come. ... And you sit there smiling. ... Let all my senses spread out and touch this world at your feet....”*

**Let us be. Let us be with our innermost. Let us be with the Universe. Let us Love. Let us smile. Let us be simple, one with nature. Let us be deliberately useful. Let us be perpetually useful. Let us live.**

*This is anjaliyoga. This is flowing together. This is gitanjaliyogam.*

*Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we love life, all life! If we lead all to love all life! If we flow in the flow of love! If we are purposefully, deliberately useful! If we and inner us merge and achieve oneness! If we keep flowing! Krsna confirms all flows are unto him.*

*Join us in the world of yoga – for life – towards Krsnagitayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖*

**G Muralidhar**

