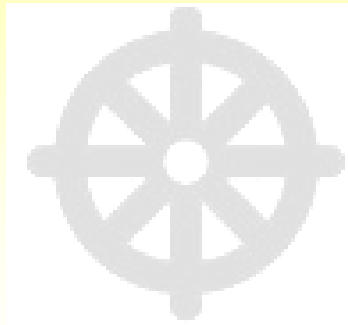


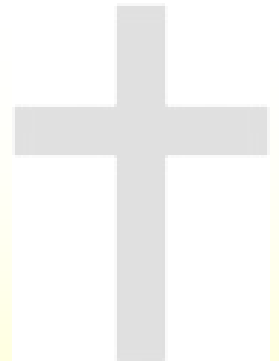
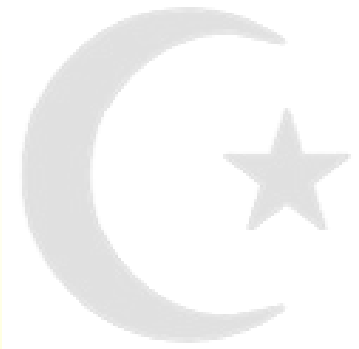
livelihoods

today and tomorrow

December 2008



‘Minority’ Livelihoods!?!



We Cannot Escape Change! - 10

Tamarind Value-Chain - 18

Short On Prognosis And Far Short Of Results - 21



United Nations Security Council has declared certain organizations as terrorist. It appears, more than the yesterday's Kosi Floods that affected lakhs of people, the Mumbai Terror Attack that killed 200 persons, has moved the Indian Public visibly. International Community has given us the confidence that they stand by us.

International Volunteers Day of Economic and Social Development! Human Rights Day! Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid)! Hundreds of thousands of Sheep and Goats purchased in Hyderabad alone!

One out of six in India is a person from Minorities! Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians constitute the most of the Minorities. It appears that we are recognizing essentially religious minorities. While we have minorities in reality in a variety of minorities in terms of caste, ethnicity, occupation, income, education/literacy and poverty etc., these are not recognized as Minorities officially! There are states or territories or districts with the minorities in majority. Even then, the recognition does not change. Naturally, Hindus are the Majority in India. Jains are a religious minority but it appears that they are not recognized as such. Ramakrishnites are recognized as a religious minority by the court. However, various tribes, atheists and agnostics, although minorities by religion, they are recognized as such.

If we go back two-three millenniums, it is broadly assumed any body who lived in India was a Hindu, where it was a way of living broadly. In response to the pathetic situation within the then existing system(s), Jainism and Buddhism have evolved and became separate religions. Within the 3-4 centuries after Christ, many became Syrian Christians. After the birth of Islam, particularly during and after the Moghul dynasty, lots of people became Muslims. After the British entry, many became Christians. Sikhs and Ramakrishnites came from the Hindu foundation itself. There are neo-converts post-independence. Zoroastrians were the only group that migrated in. In this context, if we dig deeper, the foundations of livelihoods of the minorities and the majorities have no real differences. Except for a mere 5-10% livelihoods that have religious overtones, we could not see any real differences in the livelihoods of the minorities and the livelihoods of the majority. However, when more than a half of the minorities dwell in urban settings, when some clusters of minority-dominant have different settings, when the livelihoods are a function of the cultural behaviors etc., then we are able to see some differences in the 'minority' livelihoods vis-à-vis 'majority livelihoods', some expertise and skills in certain clusters of livelihoods in certain clusters. In the indices of quality of life, many minority groups are lagging behind the vis-à-vis the majority's. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored the livelihoods of the minorities.

Anna Hazare is a legendary soldier who has brought the watershed concept to the centre-stage and government taking it to scale to cover the country. Uday Shankar, a natural resource management professional in AFPRO and now in CWS, is an inspiration for many a civil society worker in NRM domain! 'Commitments' is heralding a silent revolution of showing that the 'differently abled' have superior ability when they have supporting environment that includes their collectivization. WADI programme of BAIF guarantees some good income to the farmers through horticulture in dry-land areas. Amartya Sen's 'Development as Freedom' takes development to a new level of thinking – freedom that includes information and ability to make choices. A must for anyone who is a stakeholder in development!

Your association the journey of the going ahead 'livelihoods' has encouraged to continue our journey ahead. With the faith that this association gets stronger, I remain.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. G.', with a horizontal line underneath.

G. Muralidhar

the 'livelihoods' team

‘livelihoods’ team

Editor in Chief	G Muralidhar
Senior Editor	T Nirmala
Working Editor	K Bharathi
Edit Associates	G Bhargava
	B Madhusudhan
	V Muralidhar
	M Vijaybhasker Srinivas
Cartoonist	G Dayanand

Significant Days In December	7
------------------------------	---

Cover Story	12
‘Minority’ Livelihoods!?!	
Minorities in India do not practice livelihoods any different from rest of the majority population. They are engaged in all sectors. ‘livelihoods’ team attempts to understand some significant dimintions of ‘Minority’ Livelihoods.....	

A Rural Tourist Destination	16
Short On Prognosis And Far Short Of Results	22
Managing Volunteer Exit	27

For Private Circulation only

For enquiries contact:

AKSHARA Network for Development Support Services,

HIG II B-25 F-6, APHB Colony, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad - 500044

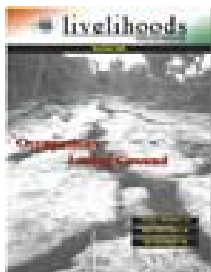
Mobile: 09347802302

www.aksharakriti.org

akshara@aksharakriti.org

Response		4
News		5
Legend	Driving India’s Development - Anna Hazare	8
Intervention	Wadi - Planting Hopes In People	9
Perspectives	We Cannot Escape Change!	10
Interview	People Who ...Work Hard, Never Take Rest!	17
Value Chain	Tamarind	18
Organization	Commitments	20
Policy	National Tourism Policy 2002	26
The Contrasts	“Decorations” Gaining Grandeur!	28
	“Attar” Losing Fragrance!	28
Worker	Udaya Shankar In NRM	29
Books	Development As Freedom	30
Resources	NMDFC	31
Story	Elephantine Decision Making	32
Trends	Irrigation Potential In India	33
Case studies	Disability Is No Barrier!	34
	Grass Is Not Always Greener!	34
‘Yoga’kshemam		35

Response



Thank you very much for sending such an informative news booklet to us. HomeNet Nepal is carrying out various activities to promote the livelihood of poor and marginalized home-based women workers in the country. The newsletter will be instrumental for us.

Om Thapaliya

I think that enormous amount of hard work has gone into the monthly livelihood magazine. Keep it up. I am also working in the livelihood sector and am thankful to you for the observation and analysis that has gone into these documents.

Manish

Your magazine on livelihoods is truly interesting and informative. Thanks. After reading the article on Leh I was amazed by their grit to live in the cold cold desert and in such worst conditions than us in Anantapur.

Rani/ Hilda, CRSD, Anathapur

I am herewith conveying my heartfelt good wishes to the Akshara family for the good work/ research done in the field of livelihood status of poor and continued efforts towards its betterment.

Ashish K. Gharai

Contributions Solicited

If you would like to contribute an article or have something interesting to share, email or mail it to us. If it contains pictures or files please remember to attach them to the email. Please include your name, email, contact information such as phone number, location (nation) and area of expertise. If your article is accepted an editor will prepare the article for publication and may edit it for accuracy, grammar, style, and length.

Email address is akshara@aksharakriti.org ; please include "livelihoods Contribution" in the subject line .
Mailing address is: HIG-II Block 25 Flat 6, APHB Colony, Baghlingampally, HYDERABAD, India 500 044.



“Leadership” — “Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise”

It is estimated that worldwide, more than 15 million children under 18 have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. Widespread migrant labour, prostitution and stigma about sexually-transmitted diseases is causing an explosion in AIDS cases. India is expected to become the next epicenter of the AIDS orphan crisis after African countries. World Bank estimates suggest that the number of children in India orphaned by AIDS is approaching 2 million.

World Congress On Conservation Of Agriculture - New Delhi is hosting the 4th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture from February 4-7, 2009. Earlier, the congress was organized in Spain, Brazil and Kenya and is aimed to address innovations in agriculture for realizing improved efficiency, equity and environment. More than 1,000 delegates representing scientific community, policy advisors, farmers' organizations, corporate leaders and non-governmental organizations from different parts of the world, will gather to share the knowledge to conserve and judiciously use precious natural resources for overcoming the global food crises and alleviating poverty.

Opus Prize For Krishnammal - Krishnammal Jagannathan, a Gandhian activist who has been fighting for Dalit rights in Tamil Nadu for over five decades, has won a \$100,000 prize for her lifelong work. Jagannathan is one of two \$100,000 winners awarded by Seattle University and the Opus Prize Foundation, which also awarded the \$1 million Opus Prize to Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse for her 15 years of work providing safe havens to 30,000 child victims of ethnic strife in Burundi, Africa. The Opus Prize is given annually to recognize unsung heroes of any faith tradition, anywhere in the world, solving today's most persistent social problems. It is the world's largest faith-based, humanitarian award for social innovation.

Tonnes Of Food Grains Damaged In FCI Godowns - In times of spiraling food prices, the Food Corporation of India admits that over 1 million tonnes of food grain was wasted over the past decade despite efforts to limit the damage. The figures came to light following the filing of a right to information application by a Delhi resident. Around 1 million tonnes of food grain, which could have fed over 10 million people for a year, has instead rotted in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns over the past decade, according to official data. The damage occurred despite the FCI

spending Rs 242 crore (Rs 2.42 billion) on attempts to prevent the loss during storage. Ironically, another Rs 2.59 crore was spent on disposing off the rotten grain! The wastage of grain, expenditure on storage and cost of disposal all add up to hundreds of crores of rupees.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Grant To RDI - The Rural Development Institute (RDI), an international non-profit organization working to secure land rights for the world's rural poor, has received a \$6.7 million (about Rs 33.5 crore) grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand its 'micro-land ownership' programme in India. The programme is aimed at helping landless women and their families achieve food security and escape poverty through access to agricultural services on land as small as one-tenth of an acre.

Swaminathan's For Reducing Dependency On Agriculture - Alluding to the risks involved in agriculture and the lack of a safety net for the poor, agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan called for reducing the dependency on agriculture by half and creating employment in other sectors to push up income levels. Mr. Swaminathan was speaking in the context of the 40th anniversary of the Green Revolution of 1968 and the paradigm shift effected.

Asian CSR Award To Bharti Foundation - Bharti Foundation, the philanthropy arm of Bharti Enterprises, India's leading business conglomerate, has won the Asian CSR Award 2008 for the Support and Improvement of Education among the rural communities. Co-presented by the Asian Institute of Management, the Center for Corporate Social Responsibility and Intel Corporation, this prestigious award was presented to Bharti Foundation by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia, at a ceremony held in Singapore. The award recognizes the Satya Bharti School

Program, the flagship program of Bharti Foundation for its contribution to education among the rural communities.

India Ranks 113 In Global Gender Gap Report 2008 - A World Economic Forum study measuring gender equality around the world places India 113th among 130 countries. In its overall ranking, the country ranks lowest among the four BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries, and, shockingly, behind such countries as Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates. India figures among 20 countries in the world where the gender gap is the widest, and stands sixth in economic inequality between men and women, according to the World Economic Forum's 'Global Gender Gap Report 2008'.

Textile Industry To Shed 5 lakh Jobs - The government announced that the textile industry could shed as many as 5 lakh jobs in the next five months. This estimate of the textile ministry, announced by commerce secretary, is the first official admission of the impact of the global financial convulsion on local employment. Around 7 lakh had already lost jobs in the current fiscal and the industry might lay off another 5 lakh, if there was no remedy.

World Crisis To Increase Number Of Poor In China And India - According to the UN Report - World Economic Situation and Prospects 2009 - the number of poor is going up around the world, especially in countries like China and India. World economic growth will slow to 1 per cent in 2009 from 2.5 per cent this year with many rich countries showing a zero growth rate or sliding into recession, the UN report said. Although growth will continue in these countries a major slowdown could worsen the existing high levels of inequality with a small elite benefiting the most.

Process Excellence Award For Ujjivan - Bangalore based microfinance organization Ujjivan—a pioneer in the field in urban India has won the process excellence award from the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) for

successfully combining the best of Grameen Bank's self-help group model with the efficiencies of modern retail banking.

Swaminathan On 'nutrition security': Stressing on the need for food security, renowned agricultural scientist and MP, M S Swaminathan, has said the nation's first responsibility was creating a "nutrition secure India". Delivering the 4th founder's Day Memorial Lecture on "Towards a Nutrition Secure India" at the Thiagarajar School of Management, Madurai, Swaminathan said 4.5 percent growth rate was expected this year in agriculture after years of stagnation.

Chandigarh Receives Award For Water Supply And Waste Water Management - The beautiful city Chandigarh has received the distinction of being top in the areas of water supply and waste water management through effective sewerage drainage systems. The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation received two first prizes at a conference, Urban Mobility India 2008, held by the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Urban Poverty of India in New Delhi.

World Bank To Boost Support for Infrastructure and Poorer States In India - The World Bank launches its new Country Strategy for India for 2009-2012. The new strategy envisages a total proposed lending program of US\$14 billion, for the next three years. The strategy focuses on helping the country to fast-track the development of much-needed infrastructure and to support the seven poorest states achieve higher standards of living for their people.

Citi Micro Entrepreneur Awards 2008 - The 2008 Citi Micro Entrepreneur Awards recognized ten successful micro entrepreneurs at a ceremony presided over by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Celebrating its fifth year, the 2008 event was the largest-ever in terms of applications. Approximately 2500 micro entrepreneurs from 22 states participated in the year-long process, compared with 930 in 2007. Uttar Pradesh contributed the highest number of nominees at 813 while Goa was represented for the first time this year. Nominations of rural micro entrepreneurs outnumbered those by urban micro entrepreneurs.

\$30 Million UN Loans To Microfinance Poor Rural Indian Women - A new United Nations loan of over \$30 million seeks to boost the social and economic power of rural women in India's largest pocket of poverty. Women from an estimated 108,000 poor rural households will be targeted by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) loan, which aims to give women in the Mid-Gangetic Plains of northern India easier access to microfinance and business development services.

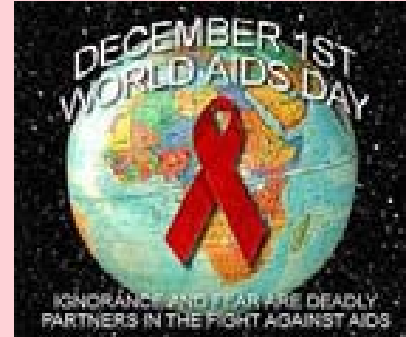
40 Million Hungry In 2008 - Another 40 million people have been pushed into hunger in 2008, bringing the total number of undernourished people in the world to 963 million, according to preliminary estimates of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. In its hunger report entitled "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008," FAO said the increase in the number of hungry people from the 923 million in 2007 could be attributed to higher food prices. FAO further warned that the ongoing global financial and economic meltdown "could tip even more people into hunger and poverty." ■



Significant Days In December

December 1st: World AIDS Day

This day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. The concept of a World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. The theme for this year's World AIDS Day is "Leadership" under the slogan "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise". According to UNAIDS/WHO, in the world the people living with HIV/AIDS in the year 2007 is 33 million. During 2007 more than two and a half million adults and children became infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. By the end of the year, an estimated 33 million people worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS. The year also saw two million deaths from AIDS, despite recent improvements in access to antiretroviral treatment.



December 3rd: International Day Of Person's With Disabilities



The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. The theme for this year's day is "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Dignity and justice for all of us". In India there are 21.9 million disabled according to the census data. This is about 2.13 percent of the total population. A higher percentage of disabled women are in the visually impaired and hearing impaired categories. In the case of males a higher percentage has been reported in the 'movement' and 'mental' categories.

December 5th: International Volunteer Day For Economic & Social Development

This day is designated by United Nations and is being observed since 1985. The declared aim of this activity is to thank the volunteers for their efforts and increase public awareness on their contribution to society. The International Volunteer Day (IVD) provides an opportunity for volunteer-involving organizations and individual volunteers to work together on projects and campaigns promoting their contributions to economic and social development at local, national and international levels.



December 10th: World Human Rights Day

Human rights day is celebrated to promote the universal human rights to live and to do so peacefully. The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10th December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, the first global enunciation of the human rights. This day was declared to raise awareness of human rights and of those who are deprived of these rights.

December 18th: International Migrants Day

The UN General Assembly, taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world, proclaimed 18th December as International Migrants Day. The Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families. Member States, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations are invited to observe International Migrants Day through the dissemination of information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and through the sharing of experiences and designing actions to ensure their protection.



Driving India's Development—Anna Hazare

“It is impossible to change the village without transforming the individual. Similarly it is impossible to transform the country without changing its villages” is what Kisan Baburao Hazare, popularly known as Anna Hazare believes. With that belief Anna Hazare transformed his village into a model village. A truck driver turned social worker, Anna Hazare continues to drive the country's development.

Anna Hazare was born in a poor family on January 15, 1940 in Ralegan Siddhi village of Maharashtra. His family owned 5 acres of land but given the drought conditions of the village they were in extreme poverty. After seven years of schooling, young Hazare left for Mumbai to work for a florist at Dadar. He eventually started his own flower shop. In a couple of years he fell into bad company and started wasting his time and money. Later in the year 1962, he joined the Indian Army as a truck driver.



When he was in army, Anna escaped narrowly from the mouth of death in two incidents while some of his colleagues were killed. He realized that his life was not to be wasted and he came to believe that God considered his life to be precious. Otherwise, he thought, he could have had died along with his colleagues in either of these incidents. During this time Anna happened to read some books of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi. From these two personalities he gained two firm convictions. The first one is that **the purpose of life is to serve others** and the second one is that **never to preach what you did not practice**.

The new-found desire to live beyond his narrow self interest later drove him to seek voluntary retirement from the army and come back to serve his own village. He wanted his native village, Ralegan Siddhi, to improve, but did not know how and where to start. Since the temple represents the cultural heart of a community, Anna felt that renovation of the temple would be the best way to demonstrate his unselfish motives and created an interest in his activities. With his provident fund of Rs.20, 000+/-, Anna began the renovation. Inspired by his selfless devotion, first the youth, then the rest of villagers slowly began to rally around him. Villagers, especially the youth group began gathering around him everyday to discuss their problems and matters related to the welfare of village.

As majority of the people in his village are dependent on agriculture, Anna realized that the only way to increase agricultural production in a sustainable manner was to build better irrigation system. Taking into account the geographical location of Ralegan, located in the foothills, Anna Hazare persuaded villagers to construct a watershed embankment to stop water and allow it to percolate and increase ground water level. Immediately after, about 60 small bunds, check dams, trenches and percolation ponds were built in the village. Within three years farmed acreage grew from 80 to 1300. Farmers gave away over 500 acres in the catchment areas. The catchment areas were engineered by the villagers for harvesting all the rain that fell. Soon they were

raising three crops a year.

As the production of grain increased for most of farmers in the village, a decision was taken in the “Gram Sabha” whereby the farmers who had excess grain were to voluntarily donate grain to the “Grain Bank” which was started in 1983. Villagers who did not have enough grain could “borrow” grain from this bank. The idea was to ensure that no villager would have to borrow money to meet food requirements. The grain from the “Grain Bank” is given in the

form of loan and is monitored by the youth groups.

The villagers of Ralegan also undertook a massive tree plantation drive. Almost 3-4 lakh trees were planted and nurtured. “Social fencing” was introduced whereby villagers voluntarily prevented cattle, goats and sheep from grazing freely. As the next step towards social and economical change, Anna Hazare and the youth group decided to take up the issue of alcoholism. Over thirty liquor brewing units were closed by their owners voluntarily. Along with the removal of alcohol from the village, it was decided to ban sale of tobacco, cigarettes and beedies.

As a secondary occupation, milk production was promoted in Ralegan. Purchase of new cattle and improvement of the existing breed with the help of artificial insemination and timely guidance and assistance by the veterinary doctor has resulted in an improvement in the cattle stock. These efforts helped increase the milk production.

Apart from the above Anna also worked towards improving education facilities, removal of untouchability and promoting collective marriages etc. The interesting thing is that the villagers celebrate the birthday of village on October, 2nd every year. On that day they honour the eldest male and female villagers, distribute clothes to every infant born in the village during past year, honour the students who have been successful in education and the youth who have achieved something special and all the villagers gather in the evening and have dinner together.

For his selfless devotion to the cause of development Anna got so many awards such as Padmashree from Indian government, Krushi Bhushana by Maharashtra government and the World Bank's Jit Gill Memorial Award etc.

With Anna's continuous efforts Ralegan Siddhi, once a drought prone village, now transformed into a model village in all aspects. He has been an inspiration for many people across the country who wants to transform the country from poverty to prosperity. We can say India needs just 6 lakh Anna Hazares out of its 120 crore population to transform itself into a developed country. ■

Wadi - Planting Hopes In People

Majority of tribals in India are dependent on forest resources for their livelihood. But with the depleting forest resources and the restrictions of Government on these resources, tribals are being deprived of their livelihood opportunities. Government and voluntary organizations are making attempts to rehabilitate these tribals and improve their quality of life. 'Wadi' is one such successful attempt that presents a case for a replicable model to rehabilitate the tribals. Wadi has also proved its applicability in dryland and other potential areas.

Wadi is a comprehensive tribal development program launched by Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) in the year 1982 in Vansda block of Valsad district, Gujarat. The core program was development of orchard (locally known as Wadi) on degraded lands of tribals. In the first year only 42 families joined this program. The participating families established drought tolerant fruit crops such as mango, cashew, Indian gooseberry, tamarind, custard apple and ber on 0.4 ha of their degraded land. Inter space was used to cultivate their traditional arable crops. As the fruit crops give yield only after 5 years, these intercrops provided them food security in these years. Hardy shrubs and trees useful for fodder, fuel, timber and herbal medicines were established on field bunds and borders while some thorny species were planted on the outer boundary to serve as a live hedge-cum-wind break. A typical orchard, promoted under this scheme covering 0.4 ha, had 40-80 fruit plants and 500-600 other plant species.

Local youth, particularly women were trained in nursery management, grafting and budding. As the development of water resources is key to nurture these plants, activities like digging farm ponds, channel plugging and nalha bunding were taken up.

After initial establishment of orchards, the responsibility of day to day maintenance was with the women as the men had a tendency of moving to nearby towns and cities to earn wages or to fulfill other social obligations. This means additional burden on women. Further, many women, who were engaged in occasional wage earning as farm and domestic helpers, lost the opportunity of earning additional income. To fill this gap women were organized to generate additional income through individual and group activities.

Wavli is a unique tribal tradition in Gujarat, wherein women enjoy exclusive rights over their income generated from certain activities such as backyard vegetable cultivation. It is their privilege to use this money as per their wish and priorities and men cannot demand a share in this earning. Appreciating this wisdom and custom, women were encouraged to grow vegetable crops in the inter space of their orchards. This ensured regular maintenance of the orchard, while women earned handsome money.

Experiencing the impact of Wavli, several new activities were promoted through SHGs of women. They were trained in fruit and forest nursery management, mushroom production, vermin composting, share cropping on barren lands owned by non-participating families, oilseed collection, etc. Apart from income generation activities, the groups were trained in management of community development activities.

Drudgery reduction and community health were the other major concerns of the women, which also motivated them to

take active part in the development. The SHGs took up the responsibility of organizing Anganwadis, by training local girls who had studied up to secondary school apart from many other health and nutrition activities.

The wadis established in the year 1982 started bearing fruits by 1987. BAIF initiated post production activities and promoted Tribal Cooperatives for processing fruits and vegetables. With hygienic processing of pickle and pulp, establishing link with super markets, food processing became an important activity to support agro forestry.

To overcome the problems of pests and diseases, Integrated Pest Management practices were introduced, while utilizing the traditional knowledge. As the fruit plants started growing, the orchard owners started spending more time in the field. This helped in taking up intensive agriculture in the inter space, between the fruit species. Hence, the food grain yield increased by 50 to 200%, in spite of about 25% area being under tree cover. It was observed that on an average, the tribal families owning 0.4 ha of land used to earn a total income of Rs.8500 before participating in the program. This included Rs.4000 from agriculture and Rs.4500 from non-agriculture, mostly in the form of casual labour. After five years of participation in this programme, these families were able to earn Rs.20,000 per annum from fruits, vegetables, food crops and wood. They did not have to leave their village in search of wages. Instead of migrating to cities, many families built houses in their orchards to spend more time in the field.

In the process of promoting agri-horti-forestry, people's participation was critical for the success of the programme. This was done effectively through people's organizations at various levels. The formation of SHGs and village planning committees has helped in developing better understanding and mutual cooperation among the villagers.

This wadi program has now expanded to many states. Over 0.1 million tribal families have established wadis over 40,000 ha in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The program presents a good case for being a replicable model. However as it has some gestation period the participants need support in the form of employment in the initial years to sustain their basic needs. Once this gestation period completes it will give an annual income of Rs 25,000-30,000 to a family apart from food security. Wadi can be seen not just as a agro-horti-forestry program, but also as an approach to sustainable development. ■



We Cannot Escape Change!

These are difficult times. Financial depression, expected to last a couple of years! Terrorism on its prowl world over! Increasing corruption! Welfare schemes are not able to off-set the slipping well-being! Articulation and organization notwithstanding, 80+% of Indians are reckoned as poor, by one calculation.

The month that went by saw mainly the interactions with the elders, the communities in which they live, their organizations and the organizations that support them in the coastal areas, in the tribal areas and the areas in between. Our engagement with young professionals in appreciating poverty reduction, development and livelihoods management effort continued.

Mumbai witnesses an unprecedented terror attack. This time around, it is no longer bombs. The sixty-two hour encounters caused more than 200 to die – mostly Indians, some foreigners including Americans and Israelites, apart from the 9 terrorists and 20+ security personnel. Marinos and Commandos, South African private security agents, unsuspecting frail ordinary men and women did their best to reduce the death toll. Only one terrorist could be caught alive. There were angry outbursts against the politicians and the 'neighbour'. Solidarity marches, candle light vigils, saluting the martyrs, processions and rallies, 24x7 chats on the channels went on. Some political heads rolled. Chidambaram took charge of internal security! Quite strangely, intelligence and bureaucratic heads remained untouched! The USA and the world said they were with India. UN has banned some organizations. Some action to take on the sources has begun.

Five states went to elections and the results have come. The long-drawn election process in Jammu and Kashmir is still in progress. The voters, it appears, have not taken the 'terror' as an election issue. Local development and performance, the analysts say, have been rewarded. These results keep the two main alliances for the general elections guessing. Slogans have not worked. In fact, the third alternative has picked up quite a bit, to influence the decisions at the local level, making the selection of the candidates, particularly genuine honest and young, important. We need to wait and see what the J&K voters are going to tell us.

Amidst all this, Chief Election Commissioner indicates that the general elections may be in April/May 2009. Constituencies have been re-carved out. Parties have begun to draw their election manifestos. The time has come for setting the agenda for the next five years. We need to think about what we need.

RBI went ahead with its marginal corrections of repo rates and reverse repo rates, expecting the banks to cut interest rates. It has provided Rs.7000 Crore and Rs.4000 Crore to SIDBI and NHB to augment the availability of funds for the



small and medium enterprises. Government of India waived central VAT on automobiles. Still, the jobs continued to be lost in the world and by a small measure in India.

Perspectives

G. Muralidhar

These are difficult times and fasting helps the times and the individuals. Fasting once a week for a whole day – from after the dinner previous night till the breakfast next day – 36 hours - should be the target. We need to gradually move into this regimen, say over 3-4 months. This helps in cleansing the system within, and the toxins, in emptying the energy store house liver so that it wakes up from its dormancy, in being fit and of course, in helping the economy.

As I go through the trials, tribulations, conflicts, chaos and struggles, never did I realize that when the intensified 'mathanam' (churning) takes us through cleansing and testing processes. Then when we become 'yukta', the bliss arrives to remain with you forever. Till such time, one can only intensify the explosive process of churning deep within and around.

As part of our attempt to understand the current reality of elders, particularly the assisted/dependent elders, we are numbed to listen to an elderly woman saying I starve so that my bowel movement is less frequent. Another elder has to move to four houses, one after the other every 15 days or so. This ensures that the four children get the rightful claim on her property for taking care of her now. She dreads each shift and silently and loudly she wishes her death is sooner than later. An elderly man does not take medicines because he could not eat. He can not afford and he was not provided for. Another man longs to live even in a far away age-care home. Aged and arthritis-driven old man has to take care of his spouse who is bed-ridden and immobile although children are well-to-do. It became clear that the next generation is looking at the elderly as a burden to get rid of, at a best a burden to live with. Then, our hopes zeroed on the younger generation – children and youth. We do not know how this generation reacts. And this is the case of a rich Godavari area of Andhra Pradesh! State Government

just passes on Rs.200 per month pension from the Central Government without adding their share of Rs.200. Will the ration suffice? How will it be cooked? What about other needs?

Hindu Mythology talks of 84 lakh life species. Of these, the human species is bestowed with highest ability of making choices and discretion. It can see the possibilities. It can in a sense guide future possibilities. And this person is rarely aware of it; if aware, rarely uses it; if uses, mostly for meeting now and base level needs; and these are not to ensure well-being of others now, but for the well-being of self. Strange! So much for our wisdom! How do we explain such glaring differences? When we are blessed with a 'different' gift, knowledge, insight, skill, competence, wealth, why are we not able to see it as a blessing by the universe to serve the universe and its human species and other life forms now and in future?

Human Rights Day emphasizes our belief that every family has a right to live a life without poverty. The agenda for the next five years should, therefore, include:

- * Smaller administrative units. For example, AP may have some 50 districts. Elsewhere, blocks have to become small.
- * Smaller states. 1-2 Crore population states are feasible, viable and sustainable. Governance is superior.
- * Federal Polity with limited Union items
- * Regional Unions like South Asia as Confederations with common currency, free trade and free movement.
- * Empowered Local Governments with clear sources of funds and responsibilities
- * Comprehensive Livelihoods Plans in each habitation/ cluster of habitations, consolidated at the sub-district and district levels and their implementation
- * Quality Education to All in Mother Tongue and Offering English Language Skills, Computing Skills etc., as part of Education
- * Access to Quality Healthcare to All in their cluster of habitations/neighborhood
- * Schools for 3000+ vocations; paraprofessionals and community leaders – at least one per 10 families
- * 100% Drinking Water and Sanitation
- * Re-organized local economy to meet local needs
- * Development/Livelihoods Professionals – at least one per 100 families
- * Adequate social security to all who need
- * Community Mobilisation of all poor – women and youth and support mechanisms for planning and accessing resource support
- * Increased % of consumer rupee to producer/service provider – at least 60%

- * Increased % of government rupee to the poor – at least 75%

Universe and Nature has a way of telling us to take rest. A 10-day acute bronchitis taught me how nature works its way. You can not push it hard. It knows how to push you back. As the vocal chords went silent for a while, as every inch of the body cried for attention and care, and as 'necessary breaks' extend the period of 'rest', reinforced my realization that nothing is more important to us than what universe is asking you to do. We are happy struggling to survive. We can be generous only if we are happy. I remember the faith reinforced by the Ladakhis, the Spitiens, the Jharkhandis, the tribals in Dandakaranya, the elders in our midst - faith in the capacity of people and their ability to surrender and live in harmony with nature. **Why can't we?**

Silently, we have allowed the international volunteer day for economic and social development to let go. We know that we get benefited by little help from others. We also know that we can help others a bit to better their situation. How do we build platforms that bring out this mutual volunteerism – in minutes, in hours, in days or in insights, knowledge, skills etc.?

We, as part of the common people, are at a loss. We are globalizing. We have become aware The food producer, the educator, the health care provider, the people who help people to meet basic needs do not get rewarded adequately. We do not seem to have a way of influencing these processes. Most of the products and services by the poor are less competitive in the global market. We have no clue what-so-ever about the services and products in which we have a global competitive edge. Does it not mean, as the bubble bursts/expands, most of us, the poor, continue to poor or become poorer with no productive choices except to be a slave in a less competitive and therefore less rewarding product or service chain? How can be the products and services that are competitive because of low labour cost continue to fulfill the aspirations of the poor? As usual, as ever, we need the best brains cracking this nut or these nuts! Can we hurry up, before we lose out? Of course, one option is to revert to our earlier system - produce locally and consume locally, because this offers the most of the consumer rupee to the producer/service provider. **Can it withstand the rolling global juggernaut? Can we find ways, including ways to build coalitions, networks, solidarity groups, collectives etc., that have inherent mechanisms of mutual support and cross production and consumptions within? How do we decentralize further? How do we preserve diversities?** What is going to help us in this pursuit? **Is it the new leadership?**

Therefore, to my mind, it appears critical that we concentrate on building the first generation leaders who are concerned about the world and about ourselves. All of us are aware - it is a lot of hard work, over long periods of time. These leaders can talk and bring the legacy of change we are yearning for. **We need to put ourselves to this task diligently – from thought, conceptualization, articulation, campaign, action, plan and follow-up.** ■

‘Minority’ Livelihoods!?!

Minorities in India do not practice livelihoods any different from rest of the majority population. Most minorities in India live in the urban areas. They are engaged in all sectors including agriculture, industry and some minorities are more predominantly found in the service sector. However, this is not to gainsay the fact that some livelihoods are exclusively practiced by minorities to service their respective religions’. At the same time one cannot overlook the inter-religion exchange of services that also take place. Religious conversions have not made a serious dent in the occupations that people traditionally followed. Religion-based educational institutions did make some impact on the way different minorities have placed themselves in different sectors. ‘livelihoods’ teams attempts to understand some significant dimensions associated with ‘minority’ livelihoods and how they come into play with respect to livelihoods in general.



India as a nation inherited the ethos of pluralism and diversity. Post-independent India realized the importance of safeguarding the rights of some groups that suffer numerical weakness and social disadvantage due to various reasons. Accordingly, India recognizes three types of minorities: religious, caste based and linguistic. According to the National Minorities Commission, the designated minority religions are Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and Zoroastrians.

	Population %	Literacy %	Work Participation %
India		64	39.1
Muslims	13.4	59.1	31.3
Christians	2.3	80.3	39.7
Sikhs	1.9	69.4	37.7
Buddhists	0.8	72.7	40.6
Zoroastrians	0.007	97.9	35.2

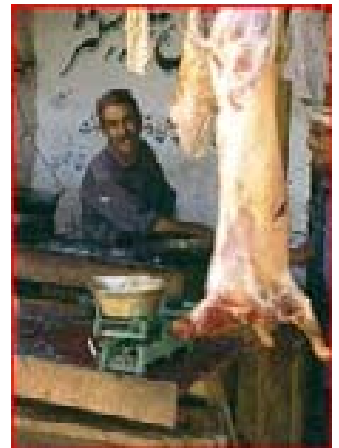
(Source - Ministry of Minority Affairs)

The Constitution of India does not explicitly define minorities. However, apart from the rights that are applicable to all citizens of India, the Constitution has made certain exclusive provisions for protecting the minority rights. For instance, under Article 29, any section of the citizens have right to conserve their distinct language, script and culture. Similarly, under Article 30 all religious and linguistic minorities have right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice and these minority-managed institutions cannot be discriminated by the state in the matters of receiving aid.

The authors of the Constitution of India envisaged that the minority determination shall be done at the national level. However the 103 Amendment to the Constitution proposes a change in the way minorities are specified. According to the Amendment, a minority will be specified as such in relation to a particular state or union territory by a presidential notification issued after consultation with the state government. This state-specific conception of minorities has invited critical debates across.

Minorities in India are engaged in every kind of livelihood as the rest of the population. While majority of the minorities live

in urban areas, those living in rural areas range from owners of land and livestock, agricultural labourers, weavers etc. In the urban centers minorities are engaged in manufacturing, trading and predominantly in service sector like restaurants, travel agencies, hospitals and educational institutions.



However, some livelihoods are exclusive to certain groups for religious reasons. For instance, halal (permissible animal slaughter in a ritual way called Zibah in Islam) can be taken up by only those practicing Islam faith. Similarly exchange of services between religions traditionally have provided for some livelihoods. In parts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan the Marwadi community traditionally procure new books of accounts from the Muslim communities on Diwali day. Further in some areas we still see Pir Sahib (Muslim babas) being approached by people from all faiths for taveez (amulet) to cure a sick person.

Religious conversions have made very little impact on the traditional livelihoods practiced by the minorities. For instance people practicing cotton carding continue their occupation in spite of taking up the faith of Islam. Similarly many dalits that converted into Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are continuing with their age-old occupations. In fact, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) states that except for their cultural practices, conversion has not brought much change in the socio-economic status of dalits. According to the NCM report, 39.6 per cent Dalit Muslims and 30.1 Christians in rural India continue to belong to the below the poverty line (BPL) category with a monthly per capita expenditure less than Rs.356.30 and in urban areas, 46.8 per cent Dalit Muslims and 32.3 Dalit Christians live below the BPL with a monthly per capita expenditure of less than Rs.538.60.

Religion-based educational institutions have made an interesting impact in the sphere of livelihoods. Students from Christian educational institutions/Missionaries have proved to be doing well in the service and soft skills domain. Many of them have taken up interactive professions like primary



Distribution of Workers in each Socio-Religious Category by Industry Groups in Rural and Urban Areas 2004-05

(all workers aged 15-64)

Industry Group	All Hindus	Muslims	Other Minorities	All
Urban				
Agriculture, livestock, forestry	8.9	5.6	7.6	8.4
Mining & quarrying	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.8
Manufacturing	23.5	32.4	17.5	24.4
Electricity, gas & water	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7
Construction	8.2	7.6	8.6	8.2
Wholesale & retail trade	19.9	28.1	23.9	21.3
Hotels & restaurants	3.3	2.2	2.8	3.1
Transportation, storage & communications	8.7	10.3	7.8	8.8
Finance, insurance, real estate	5.6	2.8	7.1	5.3
Community, social & personal services	20.1	10.3	23.7	18.9
Total	100	100	100	100
Rural				
Agriculture, livestock, forestry	73.7	56.3	72.3	72.1
Mining & quarrying	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Manufacturing	7.6	14.7	6.3	8.1
Electricity, gas & water	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Construction	4.9	6.4	5.3	5.1
Wholesale & retail trade	4.9	11.3	5.0	5.5
Hotels & restaurants	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7
Transportation, storage & communications	2.4	4.5	3.1	2.6
Finance, insurance, real estate	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.5
Community, social & personal services	4.6	5.1	5.8	4.7
Total	100	100	100	100

Source - Sachar Committee Report



States & UTs Where A Minority Is A Majority		
Name of State/UT	Total Population of Minorities	% of Total Population
Jammu & Kashmir	7134480	70.36
Meghalaya	1735968	75.12
Mizoram	853728	96.17
Nagaland	1827862	91.98
Punjab	15308719	62.97
Lakshadweep	58419	96.23
INDIA	189439193	18.42

(Source - Ministry of Minority Affairs)



schools teachers, nurses etc. Some minorities on the contrary could not for various reasons latch on to the educational opportunities and their representation in the job sector remains dismal. According to Sachar Committee the representation of Muslims in government jobs is only 4.9%.

On the basis of 2001 census the Ministry of Minority Affairs prepared a list of 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs). As a part of PM's 15 Point Program which aims at



educational, economic and employment improvement for minorities, a Rs.3780 crore multi-sectoral development program is envisaged in the MCDs. Nationalized banks are stepping up efforts to increase lending to minorities and also to increase the number of branches in MCDs.

While minorities in India are occupying space in all livelihoods as rest of the population, one however cannot downplay the fact that some minorities have fallen behind in terms of educational and economic opportunities. This aspect in some ways has created and is continuing to create a feeling of alienation among the minorities which in turn hampers inclusive development. Efforts should be made by all the stakeholders including the Governments, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, Religious heads, Majority communities and also the Minority communities to ensure that every citizen gets a fair share in the growth process and her/his access to resources is created and protected. ■



A Rural Tourist Destination

Whenever we think of tourist places hill stations like Shimla, Kullu & Manali or Darjeeling or Kodaikanal etc or the metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc or pilgrimages like Varanasi, Tirupathi, Puri etc come across our mind. But the rural tourism spots which exhibit our rich heritage and culture are less known to many. Government of India identified certain villages which have some rare skills and developed them as tourist destinations. Ballavpur Danga of West Bengal is one such rural tourist destination which offers the pristine beauty of rural Bengal with an engrossing experience of cultural heritage.

We reached Kolkata from Hyderabad and from there continued our journey to Bholpur – Santhinikethan. This place needs no introduction for many. Yes! this is the very Santhinikethan founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, the hot seat of Bangla literature, music and learning. From Shanthinikethan we headed to Ballavpur Danga village in a taxi that charge about Rs 70 per hour.



A Santhal adivasi tribal village located at a distance of 3 km from Bholpur, under Ruppur Gram Panchayat, Birbhum district of West Bengal, Ballavpur Danga is a very small and beautiful village located in the midst of the Sonajhuri forest. 'Sona' means gold and 'Jhuri' means stream. The trees in the forest bear yellow flowers which resemble gold and when they fall, it looks like a stream of gold flowing gently. Struck with this enthralling beauty of nature, Rabindranath christened the trees as Sonajhuri and the forest thereafter came to be known as Sonajhuri forest.

The village has 119 families. Except for some ten families all others are Santhal households. As we were entering the village, to our pleasant surprise we received warm traditional welcome from the tribal women. They gave us flowers and played drums. Their warm reception filled our hearts with lots of joy. The people here speak their native language called "Alchiki". Later, we went along with them to the interpretation center established by the tourism department. The center is a beautiful house designed along the lines of Santhal house. The house exhibited ornaments made with bena grass, date leaf and various kinds of seeds and items made of leather and wood by the tribal women.

We then walked around the village and visited several houses. Each house has beautiful paintings on its walls made of mud. The paintings reflected their history and culture and are made of cow dung and red earth. It was a real surprise to know that each and every Santhal is skilled to paint the pictures. Some families even constructed two and three storied houses with mud. This wonderful skill is passed on from generation to generation.

Traditionally these people were hunter gatherers. But now except few, all of them are engaged in agriculture labour. Only few of them have lands. The total land owned by Santhals of this village is 40 bighas. Paddy, wheat, mustard and vegetables are the major crops grown. Though some people are rearing sheep, goats, buffalos and pigs, majority families rear cows. All the milk produced is being consumed within the village. About 10 people are working as

construction labour in the near by towns. Some 15 youth were trained as guides by the tourism department. The village has one primary school and one anganwadi center. Only 60% families have electricity and they have only one bulb. There is not a single street light in the village. In the night the village lives in darkness. Interestingly, we learnt from the local NGO that the village community is against fixing bulbs in the streets. This reflects their strong desire

to lead a natural life. It was also interesting to know that there is no discrimination against women in their community. Men treat women as equals. Our day concluded with the traditional tribal dance by the Santhal girls around open fire. It was a real feast to our eyes!

The next day we went to 'Amar Kutir' which is just a kilometer away from Ballavpur. This is a handicrafts society. Beautiful items of leather, wood and cloth are made in this society by the craft persons. Amar Kutir is a 38 year old strong and vibrant society from which our societies, which are becoming defunct in one or two years of coming into being, have a lot to learn. We also visited 'Amader Hatt' through which the handicrafts of Santhals are being marketed. Later we went to the beautiful and peaceful Santhinikethan (Viswa Bharathi University). We saw so many paintings of Tagore, the items used by him and the Nobel Prize (the original prize has been stolen) in the Rabindra Bhavan Museum. We also saw the five houses where Tagore lived namely Udayini, Shyamali, Udchichi, Konark and Punascha. From Santhinikethan we reached the National Tribal Museum where the Santhal's history, culture and traditions were well displayed.

The Santhal's main food is rice. They are fond of the locally made drink, namely Hariya, which they drink during festivals. Santhals perform their traditional dances during festivals. The community is rich in the tradition of art, crafts and culture. Indigenous art forms can be seen in the commodities of daily use by adivasis. They are skilled in mat weaving, broom binding, making ornaments apart from painting.

On the whole, Ballavpur Danga offers a rustic beauty of Bengal and the amazing painting skill of adivasis greatly surprised us. The Kopai River referred many times in Rabindranath's literature is very close to this village. Anyone touring West Bengal will seldom miss visiting Santhinikethan. You can now add Ballavpur Danga to your itinerary. Help promote responsible rural tourism, help promote rural livelihoods! ■

People Who... Work Hard, Never Take Rest!

Ginjupalli is a small Lambada tribal village situated on the banks of the River Krishna in Achampet mandal of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. The village has 102 families which are mostly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Bhukya Hanuma Naik is a 60 year old man who is the head of this community. "livelihoods" team interviews this old man to know more about his life and his village.

Question: What is your name and age?

Answer: My name is Bhukya Hanuma Naik.

Q: How old are you, Bhukya ?

A: I am 60 years old.

Q: Since how long have you been residing in this village?

A: Since 1920. Our fore fathers were also residing in this village.

Q: Tell us about your family?

A: I have two daughters and two sons. All of them are married. I have distributed my property to all of them equally. Now I am living here with my wife without depending on any one.

Q: How much land do you have?

A: We are three siblings. Our father gave us 2 acres of land each.

Q: Are you still cultivating those two acres land?

A: My father gave me 2 acres some 40 years back. I have now increased my land to 9 acres. Yes, I cultivate this land.

Q: What crops do you grow?

A: I am growing cotton and chillies

Q: How did you manage to increase your acreage?

A: Previously I used to cultivate minor millets, jowar, pearl millet and ragi. With these crops I used to get very meager income which was just sufficient for me and my family to survive. Therefore, after the cropping season I used to go to neighboring Krishna district to work as an agricultural labour. By working as a labourer I managed to save some money. Apart from doing labour work in Krishna district I also took the opportunity to observe the farmers who are cultivating chilli and cotton and with time learnt the process of cultivating these crops. The following year I started cultivating these crops in my field. I used fertilizers and pesticides in time and got good yield. Gradually I have expanded my land to 9 acres with the additional income I got from these crops. Many people of my village changed their crops after seeing my success.

Q: How is the market for your crops?

A: We have lot of difficulty in marketing our produce. Market



yard is very far off from our village. Hence we have to depend on the middlemen to market our produce. These middlemen are not giving us the fair price. Their price is much less than the market price. The producer of the crop is not getting his due share and losing out.

Q: Your village is just beside the River Krishna. But why are you cultivating chilli and cotton which are known as dry land crops?

A: We only have to enjoy the beauty of the river by standing on the bank. Apart from that we are not getting any water from this river, neither for drinking nor for irrigation.

Q: Why don't you approach the Government for lift irrigation?

A: We asked so many times. We filed lots and lots of applications with the Government. But we got no response. No one cares for us.

Q: You are born in this village and you are living here since almost 60 years. Have you done anything for your village?

A: Yes. If there is any problem in the village, people come to me seeking my suggestions. I have resolved lots of family and village issues. I have constructed two temples in the village. One is Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple and the other is Satyanarayana Swamy temple. Every year the entire village comes together and celebrates the temple festivals. I also established a hand pump in the temple premises for the purpose of drinking water.

Q: You are now 60 years old. Are you thinking of taking retirement from work?

A: The people who have a tendency to work hard never take rest. I want to work till I die. I want to see my village as a developed village. I will work towards the welfare of my people and my village till my last breath.

Bhukya Hanuma Naik stands as an inspiration for all those who despite being physically and mentally able, resign to retirement in life at 60 and above. He is also an inspiration for those having better access to resources but have not thought beyond themselves or are lost in the struggle of where to begin or lack proper planning. Bhukya's life can probably give some needed answers! ■

Tamarind

Tamarind is the true friend of poor families. Every part of the tree is useful. The tender leaves and flowers are used as vegetables. The pod (fruit) is also useful at various stages of its development. When tender, it is used as vegetable. When it has grown big, but before it ripens, it is pickled and stored to be used at times when availability of vegetables is low, or the family does not have enough money to purchase the vegetables. After ripening, the fruit is used in culinary preparations. As food, tamarind is particularly important in south India. The ingredients in the pulp make it one of the cheapest multi-vitamin & multi-mineral diet for the poor. It is also credited with properties that reduce the negative impact



of excessive fluoride in the water.

Flowers come in very handy when other vegetables are difficult to purchase, i.e., in June-July. They are also the source of small cash during the summer months for the families that own the trees or collect these from the forest lands. Several dry land farmers in south-western parts of Andhra Pradesh, and north-eastern

parts of Karnataka sell tamarind as standing crop in the month of July and thus meet the cash required to purchase the seeds and fertilizers. Small entrepreneurs test the waters by investing in the purchase of standing crop as this business has almost no losses. The ripe fruit is harvested in the months of March to May, and provides the much needed labour for the poor during the lean season in plucking as well

as de-seeding stages. About 280,000 MT to 300,000 MT of tamarind is processed, and lot of labour is engaged in this processing. The leaves that are shed by the tree are good source of composting material in dry areas that have limited farm residues to make composts. Since the smaller branches do not break easily, they are preferred to support the creepers being cultivated, both at the fields and kitchen gardens. Being a tree of dense foliage, the tree attracts several birds. These birds are hunted for food. The timber of the tree fetches a good price, and sold by families in the case of dire need of high amount of cash (as in the case of meeting expenses for surgeries). In summary, for the poor a tamarind tree is the equivalent of the goose that lays golden eggs.

Being drought hardy and requiring almost no regular support after it is about a year old, it is a tree that can be grown even in the farmlands and backyards of those poor who regularly migrate. Without any investment, the poor can get regular income if they own a tamarind tree. Being suitable for cultivation in degraded soils also, an acre of tamarind plantation is estimated to yield up to Rs.12,000 to Rs.15,000.

In addition to being useful as a source of livelihood and as food to the poor, tamarind also has several uses. The seed, which is the main by-product of tamarind, contains about 70% kernel and 30% of hard brown testa. There are three major products from tamarind seed. Tamarind kernel powder (TKP), Seed testa, and Kernel oil.

A good part of India's production of tamarind is exported to West Asia, Europe and America. Tamarind products possess good export potential. Even though, traditional processing is widespread, its commercial uses are unknown and underdeveloped. The major products for export are the dried

Inputs	Pre-Collection	Collection	Marketing	Value-Addition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing credit required for investment . Local money lenders, middlemen are the credit providers. Loan is generally taken for a period of 3-4 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying the trees and fixing the price. Usually the price determination depends on the area and the fruit bearing capacity of the tree. If the trees are in the land owned by some farmer, he will have all the rights on the trees. But if the trees are on the road side the forest department will have rights on that trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fruits come in the period of February - April. Collection of tamarind happen in two or three stages. Six to seven men and three to four women labour are required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First sales—Selling to a local trader or contractor. Second sales—90% of tamarind will be sold to wholesalers and contractors. Third sales— The traders keep the purchased tamarind in cold storages The wholesalers separate the seeds from the tamarind fruit and sell to the retailers to be sold to final consumers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peeling the fruit and separating seeds from the fruit.

pulp, seed and seed powder. Fresh tamarind is also a favourite in countries like Italy, Iraq, United Kingdom, USA and Germany.

It grows wild in the forests of central India, and is found in the village lands in several parts of India. Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Orissa are the major producers. It is one of the items collected by tribals from the villages. In India tamarind is dealt by Spice Board. While it is a monopoly product and is handled by a Tribal Cooperative (or like institution) in some states, there are no such restrictions in some other states. Bastar is a very large market for tamarind in the tribal areas of Central India. Tumkur (in Karnataka), Hindupur and Kalyandurg (in Andhra Pradesh) are the larger markets in non-tribal areas.

Above the block level trader, all tamarind traded is in standard packs of 40 kgs in jute bags. Jute bags and baskets made from bamboo or palmyra palm is the preferred packaging medium, as plastic bags react with tamarind and degrade the quality. A price rise of nearly 70 - 90% is observed in the chain from primary collector to mandi.



For best price, tamarind should be de-fibred and de-seeded. The traders employ local women to do this. After sun drying for about two days, the tamarind is de-fibred. The de-fibred fruits are

split open for de-seeding by beating with round and short wooden blocks/iron pipes. Good quality de-seeded and de-fibred tamarind is called flower tamarind where white portion of tamarind is clearly visible. Hence, this process is also referred to as deflowering.

Tamarind is perishable in nature and if in contact with moisture becomes sticky and develops fungus on itself. So it is stored in cold storages. The old stocked tamarind generally costs more than the new stock because there is some moisture loss in cold storage.

Interventions relating to the value-chain of tamarind include:

- ◆ Promoting planting of new trees, in both private and public lands, increases the trees available.

Tamarind trees start yielding after 12-14 years, with good yields starting from about 20 years. The tree gives fruits for the next 60-70 years. With two trees in our farmland, I get an income of Rs.6,000 to Rs.7,000 per year. This is equal to the annual income of many houses in this area. You have to work for 30 to 40 years in government to get a pension. I have not even worked for one year to safeguard the trees, but have a pension now.

- Balaraj, Anantapur district, AP.

Institutions involved in research related to marketing are:

- ◆ CFTRI, Mysore has developed the technology for making tamarind concentrate. The recovery is 60% of the pulp. Investment required is about Rs.8 lakh and profit after tax and depreciation is about Rs.2 lakh.
- ◆ Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow undertakes basic and applied research, to enhance productivity and develop value chain of major and minor fruit crops, viz., mango, guava, papaya, aonla, bael and underutilized fruits (Jamun, phalsa, tamarind, mahua, chironji, khirnee, etc.); acts as national repository of fruit crops; acts as a centre for human resource development and provides consultancy to stakeholders; to develop linkages with National and International agencies.

- ◆ Encouraging tamarind as a horticulture plantation crop, using short gestation varieties and practices that reduce the height but increase the foliage.
- ◆ Dispelling the belief that agriculture cannot be done under a tamarind tree. Several farmers plant the trees in such a manner that they do not obstruct agriculture. Several low level plants can be grown under a tree.
- ◆ Harvesting tamarind without undue damage to the trees.
- ◆ Selectively harvesting the tender leaves and flowers in a controlled manner so that the tamarind yield is not affected adversely.
- ◆ Reintroducing tender leaves and flowers in the diet of the poor, which has gone down in the recent decades under the undue influence of urbanization.
- ◆ Providing credit support at the right time for agricultural operations. By selling the standing crop of tamarind, the farmers lose about Rs.3,000 per tree. This can be avoided by arranging for credit support.
- ◆ Encouraging the collectors/owners to engage in the processing to obtain higher value.
- ◆ Encouraging the processors to process under hygienic conditions and avoid mud contamination during drying the tamarind.
- ◆ Providing credit support to the small entrepreneurs who purchase standing crop.
- ◆ Lobbying for situation of cold storage facilities in the vicinity of production centres. At present, the cold storage facilities are not situated at the place of collection/ production of tamarind.
- ◆ Lobbying for promotion of processing facilities for production of tamarind kernel powder, tamarind concentrate, tamarind powder, tamarind oil, etc.
- ◆ Encouraging collective processing of tamarind (de-fibre and de-seed) and collective sale.
- ◆ Linking the villages where tamarind is not locally available with villages where tamarind is produced a lot.

Value chain analysis is an examination of different stages in a good or service till it reaches the customer. In this analysis, backward and forward linkages are studied to identify gaps and possible interventions.

COMMITMENTS

Persons with Disabilities in India are subject to deprivation in various dimensions of their lives. Social attitude and stigma plays an important role in limiting the opportunities of disabled people for full participation in social and economic life, often even within their own families. 'Commitments' in Andhra Pradesh is trying to empower the disabled to break the barriers that are limiting them to participate in social and economic activities and help themselves transform into self reliant individuals.

'Commitments' was established as a public Charitable Trust in 1984 with the objectives of extending economic and social services to strengthen and enhance the livelihoods of rural poor, facilitate building of participatory, self-managed institutions among rural poor and the disabled, initiate programs for sustainable development of rural poor and disabled etc. 'Commitments' shares the vision of similar public organizations that the poor and the disadvantaged communities are enthusiastic to overcome the social, economic, cultural and psychological barriers through their own efforts and self-managed institutions. They are capable of attaining higher productivity with improved skills, better asset base and capabilities to utilize the resources to full potential and gain access to services.

The mission of 'Commitments' is to enable the poor and disadvantaged communities to perceive possibilities for change and bring about desired change by exercising informed choices through collective action.

Commitments started its work in the year 2000 in five mandals of Mahabubnagar district in AP. The staff of Commitments set up a series of meetings with the local leaders of the women self help groups which were already active in that area and at the same time identified a few youth and gave them training in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). With the help of women leaders and the trained activists, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) were identified in the villages of these five mandals. Then, as a follow up to the identification, the disabled persons in these villages were provided with medical certificates, aids and appliances. Persons who needed surgeries were identified and surgeries were conducted at the appropriate hospitals and all the necessary post-operative care as well as all other rehabilitation services were extended to the PWD.

As the first step 50 PWD were encouraged to form into groups and support was taken from the activists trained to support the women's groups in the formation of the SHGs of the PWD and their further strengthening. The members of the groups were encouraged to discuss various issues ranging from personal to family to community level. Also discussed were the possible solutions to their problems, including issues relating to health and their possible

rehabilitation. In 2003, the Mandal Vikalangula Samakhya (MVS), the federal body, consisting of members from all the groups of the entire mandal, was formed and got registered as an independent body. After this, programs such as strengthening of groups, rehabilitation, and income generation were taken up with 196 groups of the disabled persons.

Once the MVSs were formed and strengthened, all the activities of Commitments were implemented through these federations. The members of the groups of PWD were encouraged to develop micro credit plans in order to ensure

sustained livelihoods for each and every member of their groups. These plans were called 'Brathuku Baata' (Way for Life) and were aimed at bringing a change for the better in each and every disabled person's life. The planning included not just aspects regarding livelihoods but education of their children, health for each and every

disabled person as well as their family members along with relevant trainings for selected members. Based on the prepared micro credit plans, funds were given to the SHGs of PWD which contributed to the economic development of the PWD themselves as well as their families thus leading to the self-sustainability of the groups of PWD. The initial investment is being rotated, by borrowing and repayment, within the groups of PWD, whereby it is ensured that each and every disabled member of the groups is able to access the amount through borrowing, towards establishing the livelihood of their choice. Today, the overall amount of money being rotated within the groups of persons with disabilities in all the 5 Mandals has reached to the tune of Rupees 1.42 Crores.

The Panchayat Raj or village level self-governance institutions play a large role in the development of every individual at the village level, be it personal, social or economic. Therefore the MVS leaders were given a thorough training in the various aspects of Panchayat Raj by the reputed institution called PRIA – Participatory Research Institute of Asia. Some of the areas covered extensively include, the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions, their role in the development of the village, the participation of disabled persons in these institutions, along with the schemes being



implemented by these institutions.

Very few people, let alone the disabled persons have complete or even bare knowledge of what are the different schemes that are at present implemented by the Government, be it State or the Center, and even less of how to access these schemes, where to go and what to do. So information

regarding the different schemes that are being implemented by different departments of the government, how to access these schemes, which offices and officials to approach, etc is imparted to the disabled persons as well as to their parents by the CBR workers, leaders of PWD groups, anganwadi workers along with the village activists/workers.

The MVSs, under the guidance of Commitments, have taken up diverse activities such as distribution of text books and required equipment to the poor students who are disabled, making home-based adaptations of aids and appliances, rehabilitation services, Kalajathas (cultural programs) etc. Commitments has conducted various training programs on the issues of inclusive education, PWD Act 1995 and about various government schemes.

Another successful activity taken up by Commitments is the formation of Sahajeevana Sanghams. The Sahajeevana Sangham is a group of all the parents of the intellectually disabled children and these groups were formed in each of the three clusters for every mandal in the year 2006. There are 192 parents who are members of these groups all over the 5 Mandals under the operational area of the organization. There are 5 Groups, one for each Mandal, where the members of these groups are already members of the disabled groups in their respective villages and the SHG Federations for PWD but are also members of the Parents' Groups, as their children are intellectually disabled (as such much more severely disabled than the persons with other disabilities). The children with intellectual disabilities like Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Disabilities and Intellectual Disabilities are members of these groups along with their parents. These groups select a specific day in the month,



respectively and hold a meeting where review is done of what was learnt in the previous month, what were the developments observed in their children when they attended these trainings, and ideas. All the issues are shared by the parents and the children alike in a participatory way. At the same time, agendas are prepared

by the parents as to what activities have to be taken up for the next month and the support of the experts, including the physiotherapist, speech therapist, special educator and CBR Worker, is taken to prepare the action plan for the next month.

After the NREGS scheme was introduced in the state of AP 213 members with disabilities from the operational area of the organization applied for job cards under this scheme and were provided the same and were able to take up the works specified under this scheme.

Commitments successfully forged a working relationship between the non-disabled and disabled people. It has established strong and vibrant SHGs of PWDs. Through these groups Commitments is trying to bring about a change in the lives of the PWDs. District level federations of PWD groups are also formed in recent years and are actively lobbying with government and officials for the rights and entitlements of disabled people.

Recognizing the importance of barrier free environment for PWD, Commitments has taken up activities to bring awareness and sensitization to both government and non-government personnel and individuals regarding the importance and implementation of a barrier free environment in all government and private buildings and places right from the panchayat to the district levels.

'Commitments' continues to work towards development of disabled people in one of the poorest district's of AP and is proving to the world that these Persons with Disabilities are not just differently 'abled' but they show superior performance when they have a supporting environment. ■

40 People with Disabilities (PWD) took up work under the APREGS Scheme in de-silting lake beds after they got the job cards but even after working for 25 days they were not given their weekly wages. So, they sent in letters explaining the situation to the Field Assistant, the District Collector and the Principal Secretary. After this a technical assistant recorded their work and decided a wage of Rs.13 per day per member. The PWD took a documentary of the work done by them and the non-disabled and showed the differences in the work styles to the District Collector. This enabled the PWD to demand higher wages. They were successful in getting Rs.70/- per person per day after one month. This incident not only boosted the morale of the disabled who took up work under this scheme but also encouraged other disabled persons to apply for and get job cards and participate in more works under the APREGS Scheme.

Short On Prognosis And Far Short Of Results

a Review on National Textile Policy 2000

Through his vast experience in the handloom sector, the author Dr D Narasimha Reddy makes a critical review of National Textile Policy and presents an idea on how handloom sector is being neglected by policy makers. Dr Narasimha Reddy leads a handloom advocacy organization CHIP (Center for Handloom and Policy Advocacy) in Andhra Pradesh.

Background: Indian textile and clothing (T&C) industry contributes about 4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and 14 percent of industrial output and it is the second largest employer after agriculture. It is estimated that T&C industry provides direct employment to 35 million people including substantial segments of weaker sections of society. With a very low import-intensity of about 1.5 percent, it is the largest net foreign exchange earner in India, earning almost 35 percent of foreign exchange.

Indian textile industry is diverse, ranging from handloom production to modern mills, including entire chains of production related to different fibres such as cotton, polyester, jute, silk and wool etc.

After 1995, government initiated serious efforts to restructure the textile industry in anticipation of growth through exports, as promised by the trade negotiations at global level and the Agreement on T&C. The challenge as seen then was to raise productivity through gains in efficiency that will still allow the industry to compete at home and abroad in the face of higher cotton prices resulting from policy adjustment to WTO rules and demand pressures. Given the various linkages to the industry from cotton production, technology, labour and investment aspects, government appointed a Committee of Experts to recommend the best possible course for Indian textile industry. Based on the report submitted by this Committee in 1999, a National Textile Policy (NTP) was announced in 2000. While this document remains the basic premise of the policy, a number of policy announcements have added to the direction of the Indian textile policy in the subsequent years. The report of the Committee of Experts was itself based on a World Bank study on Indian textile industry published in 1997.

National Textile Policy 2000: The National Textile Policy 2000 aims at facilitating the Indian Textile Industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing by withstanding pressures of import penetration and maintain a dominant presence in the domestic market. The overall objective is to liberalize controls and regulations so that the different segments of the textile industry are enabled to perform in a greater competitive environment. Given the competition over fibres, the policy has the objective of developing a strong multi-fibre base with thrust on product up-gradation and diversification.

Following such a trend of thinking, National Textile Policy 2000 has identified the thrust areas, which include: technological up-gradation; enhancement of productivity; quality consciousness; strengthening of the raw material base; product diversification; increase in exports and innovative marketing strategies; financing arrangements; maximizing employment opportunities; and integrated human



resource development.

A number of new schemes such as apparel and textile parks, technology up-gradation funds, credit schemes, and decrease in tax structures were announced.

Issues in Indian textile sector and the NTP 2000

National Textile policy 2000 was brought out five years ago when India signed the Agreement on T&C. This policy looked towards energizing the Indian textile sector in the next five years, i.e. by 2005, in order for it to face the free global textile trade and its consequences.

Lack of Competition: Under rationalization of textile policy and textile industry structure in India, which is supposed to 'strengthen the entire sector' to face the international competition in the quota-free market in 2005, government has brought in policies to withdraw welfare schemes, and reduce budget allocations and active promotion of capital-intensive sectors. At the same time, government is shying away from saying this boldly. Every assessment shows that handloom sector is ridden with crisis because of unfair practices of power looms and mill sector, lax enforcement machinery, governmental interference in cooperative societies and corruption.

There is a deliberate attempt to blur the differentiation between power loom and handloom products by resorting to improper labeling of other products as handloom products. While there is a general eulogisation of the tradition, skill and the finery of the handloom products, nothing is being done to protect them from cheap imitations and false claims.

Big is beautiful, small out of fashion: In the era of liberalization and globalization, there is a general thinking among the bureaucrats and policy makers that some sectors, which have been given primacy in the previous years of governance, should not be given any more policy benefits. The justification given is that subsidy to unorganized sector had not helped the growth of Indian economy, and its continuation in future would not help in gaining benefits from the integration of domestic economy with the global economy.

While the NTP 2000 policy appears to have developed a balanced objective, it has created a **race for policy sops** among the competitors within Indian textile industry. Presently, power loom lobby, which were vociferous about liberalization, are demanding that import tariffs should not be reduced, lest the competition from imports wrecks them. Competition has become a convenient tool to be used, and the losers in this game are people who are competitive and do not understand the need for policy support to be competitive.

Preparation for the free textile trade: One of the objectives of the national textile policy 2000 is to prepare the Indian textile industry for the global competition. Knowledge is the key to prepare for competition. But, there is not even a minimum programme of information sharing with the industry. A large number of people involved in the Indian textile sector are not aware of the provisions of the Agreement on T&C. No assessment has been done, on the implications of WTO-related T&C Agreements.

It is expected that both developed and some developing economies might resort increasingly to defensive trade strategies, notably anti-dumping measures, which unfortunately takes time to get implemented, and which are likely to be significantly modified in the medium term. But there is no platform in India for such issues.

Imperfect competition is a major concern. Not much work has been done on how competitiveness of a sub-sector of Indian textile sector would affect the other sub-sector. Also, strategies are yet to be developed on how Indian textile industry can maintain a dominant domestic presence, given cheap competition from imports.

Competitiveness and Competition: Quite aside from some of the state-led changes, in the global marketplace, retailers are becoming stronger. It means that suppliers not only need to increase their variety but also are price competitive. In order to grow, Indian firms need to acquire new tools, skill sets and strategies to sustain their business. This still remains a challenge.

National policy measures are necessary to improve the competitiveness of Indian T&C industries. However, many of the distortions that reduce the efficiency of the sector are quite complex, and assessments of their impact require detailed studies of the sectors.

However, recommendations to 'westernize' the sector brings in pitfalls and problems arising out of such 'alien' system of production. The success of South Asian countries, even in industrial products, shows that assembly-line production can be avoided. There are many ways and methods in India, which can help us to meet the demands of the market in post-



2005 scenario. Current public policies would destroy the Indian textile sector, and wipe out its advantages and enable dumping of western textiles.

Productivity and Efficiency: Though small scale sector is better suited to meet the changing demands of the global fashion garments market but the 'consistency' in capabilities of the employees in textile industry impedes its ability to meet these requirements. Firm level analysis carried out within Indian T&C sector also reveals that higher wages rates are one of the determinants of better export performance of Indian garment units. India is one of lowest wage labour paying countries in the world.

The relative lower quality of the technical workforce and the operators is directly linked with low investment in training by Indian firms. On the average, Chinese textile firms give 70 hours of training each year to an experienced worker as opposed to 32 hours in Canada and 10 hours in India. Studies have attributed that higher wage rates would lead to better and indispensable skills of designers, pattern makers and craftsmen, as well as to better-trained cutters and tailors employed by exporting firms.

Competitiveness in Indian textile sector is comparatively low. Sometimes what is perceived as a weakness is also strength. Low wages are considered as advantageous. In fact, most global analyses attribute favorable trade atmosphere to China and India because of this factor. But, studies show that low wages are not directly linked to low skills. Secondly, a weakness at the firm level cannot be the issue of the policy.

Productivity and efficiency at the firm level is generally made out to be a policy issue, particularly in a liberal state. A government that wants the market to decide on many issues can at best encourage firms to be more efficient and productive. Productivity at a sectoral level means various issues and cannot be limited to per unit of output. NTP 2000 fails to differentiate this and tries to 'own up' objectives, which are essentially tilted towards firms.

In principle, NTP 2000 is lopsided, not merely because it discriminates against the handloom sector, but it is destroying the strengths of the Indian textile sector, and at the same time weakening the 'immune system' of the sector to withstand international economic fluctuations.

T&C was and is a labour intensive sector. But it has increasingly become capital intensive over the last few

Suicidal Policy and Weaver Suicides

Parallel to these macro-developments, there have been a number of suicides by handloom weavers across the country. In Andhra Pradesh, in the period between 1997-99, more than 100 weavers had committed suicides. In 2005-06, Centre for Handloom Information and Policy Advocacy (CHIP), Chirala, Andhra Pradesh, recorded suicides of more than 400 weavers in Andhra Pradesh alone. Many more families are living on meager incomes. A five-member family is facing precarious situation, in Eethamukkkala village, Kothapatnam revenue mandal in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. This village is known for handloom industry. Venkatasubbaiah used to work for 12 hours a day to weave plain cloth of 25 yards, which takes about five days and pre-loom processing consumes another couple of days. For this, he gets paid Rs.280. Thus, he would earn Rs.1020 per month, which works out to Rs 34 per day.

This was bare enough to sustain the family needs. Adilakshmi, Venkatasubbaiah's wife, was forced to seek work as agricultural labour to earn Rs 25 per day. Yet they could not provide sufficient food to their children. Adilakshmi used to forego her dinner to feed the children, without the knowledge of her husband. Her elder son did notice that and understood the problem of food scarcity. He decided not to attend the school. Eventually, lack of food impacted on her health.

The third child did not get proper nutrition because of Adilakshmi's burden of work and emaciated condition, and was always 'sick'. This became a burden on the family. As the agricultural labour work was not available all the time, Adilakshmi could not earn on a regular basis.

The family decided to migrate to Chirala in pursuit of better employment prospects. Eldest son was employed at the age of 12 years in a hardware shop to earn Rs 400 per month. This income was used to repay loans. They paid Rs 200 for house rent, Rs 150 for electricity and Rs 50 to clear the loans, out of a total income of Rs 1500. The balance was not sufficient to cater to the food and clothing needs of the family, leave alone the emergencies. This kind of perennial problems led families to commit suicides.

decades as a result of which there have been dramatic falls in employment levels worldwide. Even in China, around 3 million people have left the sector since mid-1990s constituting a 50 percent reduction in the size of the workforce.

During the past 20 years, the distribution of T&C production has undergone radical change. While EU output dropped by 32.4 percent over the period, the outputs of Asia and US increased by 97.7 percent and 76.3 percent respectively. Figures show that Europe's share of world output fell from 53 percent in 1980 to 29 percent in 1995 (ILO, 2000). With reduced production comes an inevitable decline in employment.

The European industry now faces the challenge of maintaining and improving its position in the market *vis-à-vis* increasing international competition.

By 2005-06, Indian performance on export front has been marginal, albeit there are predictions that this would rise. Secondly, even after five years of heavy investment of more than Rs 10, 000 crores (US\$2.2bn) in various forms, employment has not risen commensurately. However, because of this policy, livelihoods are at stake, creating unemployment in rural and semi-urban areas.

Given the complexities involved in the textile sector and preponderant role of the government and its policies, there have been conflicts across different segments of the sector. Presently, the unevenness in the playing field has shifted to modern sectors.

In 2005, these neo-liberal sectors have already started feeling the heat of price pressure. The imminent prospect of

reduction in import custom duties and tariffs is being opposed by these sectors, though they continue to carry the slogan of 'growth through liberalization'. This is not strange – just that the history is repeated. Indian corporates have been and continue to be dependent on the 'crutches of government support'.

As a corollary to competition, knitwear, garment and hosiery sectors have started importing fabric for their sectors, leaving their erstwhile suppliers high and dry. Mill and power loom sector are worried about this shift. Textile machinery sector is troubled because with lowering of tariffs; imports of second-hand machinery have affected their business. Further, on the strength of the so-called 'rationalization'



sops, the segment of man-made fibres (MMF) has strengthened itself.

Presently, with mounting price pressure and related responses, lobbying for 'biased' policies have increased. Leaders of textile sector who championed liberalization and rationalization currently find themselves asking for firm-level favorable policies and sectoral policy tilt. However, neither these leaders nor the government seem to recognize the strengths of diversity and the difference between 'fragmented' policies and policies that enable competition.

Drawbacks of NTP 2000

NTP 2000 is silent on this issue, and this is where a prognosis would have been helpful. But, most studies, analyses and opinions on which this policy seems to have based have been led on the wrong path. There has been no neutral, national interest oriented study to properly plan for the growth of Indian textile sector. NTP 2000 completely ignores the domestic markets and how Indian textile sector needs to respond to domestic demands, imports and sectoral conflicts.

While there is a estimate on the investment needed to achieve this growth in exports, about Rs1,94,000 crores, (US\$43.2bn) there is no commensurate estimates of how much fibre, machinery, and human resources are required. There is no estimation on the intensive usage of energy required for this investment, and how that will be provided for. Cotton being the main fibre for Indian textile sector, there is no estimate on the how much cotton is required to achieve these targets. It includes lack of any estimation with regard to number of acres required, investment on agricultural inputs, infrastructural investments (transport and processing) and the human resources required for supporting such export-led growth.

NTP 2000 has failed to integrate itself into the overall growth and development policies. Appallingly, both the 10th and 11th Plans do not seem to be of any consequence here.

NTP 2000 became a tool for convenient policy measures. It has failed to weave the interests and needs of the handloom, silk, jute and woolen sectors into the Indian textile sector growth. It is discriminatory liberalization in practice and the schemes and strategies that have flown out re-emphasize the primacy given to corporate interests. Because of this policy, suicides among handloom weavers have increased and they are likely to increase in the coming years as well.

Measures with regard to streamlining of transport, shipping and customs clearance, including the aspect of trade facilitation have not been integrated into NTP 2000.

Because of this policy, livelihoods are at stake, creating unemployment in rural and semi-urban areas. Labour market implications of the NTP 2000 in general and its effects on access to employment, in particular, have been neglected completely. This includes the gender composition of the workforce and how the NTP 2000 would impact on this composition.

The NTP 2000 and the corporate thinking are similar, leaving out small-scale, non-corporate entities and unorganized sector. NTP 2000 has failed to understand and bring in issues concerning these sectors. Though it mentions all the

sub-sectors, the effort is not commensurate. Thus, there is discrimination in the policy. The principles are also applied selectively. Liberalization of the state functions is not done across the board. Government through various means has merely shifted its focus – from declared subsidies based on social growth approach to indirect subsidies based on export growth.

Conclusions and Recommendations

NTP 2000 needs to be reviewed. It needs to incorporate the following recommendations:

- * It is known that Indian textile growth is predicated on increasing access to EU and US markets. For this to happen, principally, it has to contend with the competition from China and other countries, discriminatory policies of US and EU (in the form of FTAs, RTAs, WTO provisos such as environmental and labour standards, GSP schemes, etc.), weaknesses and deficiencies in Indian textile sector, and competition in domestic market.
- * India needs a proper textile policymaking body that takes care of country interests and a policy, which maximizes the strengths and rectifies weaknesses. Maintaining the diversity is the key to the growth of Indian textile sector. Ideologues and ideologies do not help.
- * Developing countries such as India have the advantage of low labour costs, but eventually developed countries gain by externalizing the environmental costs. This relative advantage may not last long, if the western industry starts insisting on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, as well as strict implementation of environmental laws in developing countries. Export-led growth is possible only when environmental issues become an essential part of textile growth policies.
- * In India, an integrated approach has not been undertaken before on environmental impacts of textile manufacturing and has never previously been associated with textile production and use. A comprehensive analysis of the environmental impact of textile manufacturing activity should be done, which includes an analysis of the degradation by air pollution, wind, water and other agents.
- * A complete survey of how developments in the textile industry and consumers of its products have affected the environment in the past needs to be taken up. This should also cover the most recent solutions adopted by the industry to alleviate the problems. This is important given the high textile production targets post 2005, and the ways in which the industry is responding to the environmental challenge. It will help the national textile policy and the growth of textile industry as well.

For Indian textile sector, the main drivers for environmentally benign growth can be the growth of handloom sector, Competition, Pressure exerted down the supply chain by the consumer, Reducing production costs, Meeting current and anticipated legislative requirements, and Concern for the global and local environment. ■

National Tourism Policy 2002

Tourism has great capacity to create employment of diverse kind – from the most specialized to the unskilled. If its potential is fully utilized Tourism can be a major engine of economic growth. Hence to harness its direct and multiplier effects for employment and poverty eradication in an environmentally sustainable manner a National Tourism Policy has been formulated in the year 2002 by the Government of India.

National Tourism Policy seeks to enhance employment potential within the tourism sector as well as to foster economic integration through developing linkages with other sectors. Broadly the policy attempts to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth, provide impetus to rural tourism, focus on domestic tourism as a major driver of tourism growth, position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel trade and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination.

This policy opined that the focus of India tourism should be to substantially increase the proportion of the urban resident leisure and pilgrimage tourism to rural areas not just in terms of volume but also in terms of length of stay and expenditure, substantially increase the volume of high-yielding international tourists based on the identified travel interests.

The National Tourism policy stated the Government of India's vision for the development of tourism sector as to achieve a superior quality of life for India's people through tourism which would provide a unique opportunity for physical invigoration, mental rejuvenation, cultural enrichment and spiritual elevation.

To achieve the overall vision for tourism development, it is important to position tourism as a national priority by including tourism in the concurrent list of the constitution of India which will help in channeling the development of tourism in a systematic manner and enable the central government to legislate for tourism development. The policy felt that positioning tourism as a national priority is needed to provide effective linkages and close coordination between departments. It also suggested to constitute a tourism advisory council with key stake holders to act as a think tank and to plan and implement a professionally managed integrated communications strategy to be called the 'National Tourism Awareness Campaign'.

The tourism policy strongly felt that it is important to enhance India's competitiveness as tourist destination. Hence it suggested certain measures towards achieving this such as formulating strategies for the fast issuance of visas and permits, increasing the seat capacity from major destinations, improving facilities at major domestic and international airports and creating special tourism police force to ensure tourists security etc.

In relation to the development of products that are related to the special interests of the target markets, the policy suggested some product development strategies such as expanding cultural tourism by conservation, preservation and developing the area around the country's 22 world heritage

sites, developing sustainable beach and coastal tourism in the regions where there is air access, capitalizing through package of India's traditional cuisines, actively promoting village tourism, exploiting the full potential of the greatest variety of fauna that exist in India for tourism, promoting adventure tourism in Himalayan region and making eco tourism as a priority tourism etc.

The policy recognized business travel also as a form of tourism and suggested to improve urban planning processes by including tourism interests and requirements. Recognizing the importance of creating world class infrastructure for tourism development the policy suggested strategic actions that can be taken to improve roads, railways, water ways, power and electricity, water supply, sewage and telecommunications etc.

To compete effectively in the tourism markets, the policy opined that India should shift its traditional marketing approach to one that is more aggressive and competitive. It suggested that India should have a positioning statement that captures the essence of its tourism product to convey an image of the product to a potential customer. Accordingly in the later years India has set its positioning statement as "Incredible India". The policy suggested to undertake an extensive marketing research program in India's primary source markets and also to use digital technology for marketing.

Uncontrolled tourism growth could damage India's social-cultural structure, degrade its tangible and intangible culture and natural heritage, and lead to adverse economic impacts such as high importation costs, and weakening inter-industry linkages. On the other hand, when the industry is properly planned, developed and managed at all levels of government in partnership with the private sector, it will strengthen India's socio-cultural structure. It would valorize its tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage, and lead to positive economic impacts including enhanced employment and income opportunities in rural areas, lower importation costs and stronger inter-industry linkages.

There is a great potential for creating enormous number of jobs through travel and tourism. The employment potential is high in tourism sector and India has the potential to more than triple its travel and tourism jobs. The recent terror attacks might create a temporary lull in the sector. But the overall potential of tourism in India seems promising. However, governments should formulate programs in true spirit of the National Tourism Policy and implement them with integrity to realize the positive benefits of tourism. ■

Managing Volunteer Exit

Ganesh worked as an organizer in an NGO for its community development project that started three years ago. The project was to be implemented in 30 new villages. As a part of this project, Ganesh entered the village Nayagaon.

After studying the village and its situation for about 4-5 months, Ganesh identified Raji as a volunteer who could further help her and the community in various project activities. Raji was a widow with two children in their early teens, and belonged to the disadvantaged section of the community. Her family depended on agriculture in the two acres she had. Hence, she could spend some time during non-agricultural season.

Having taken the opinion of others in the village about involving Raji as volunteer, Ganesh approached her to be a volunteer. At this time, Ganesh made it clear that Raji would not receive any payment for being a volunteer. The neighbours convinced her to be a volunteer saying that she benefit by increased recognition in the community, and could even talk directly to the Sarpanch and the government officials at the block. Even her children supported the idea of Raji being a volunteer. Finally, Raji reluctantly accepted to be volunteer. Having been recommended by Ganesh, Raji attended the week long training meant for the volunteers under the project. In the volunteers' training, Raji was considered a good person with an orientation was suitable for the volunteers. Raji, on her part, tried to follow and understand the training in a good spirit.

Returning from the training, Raji helped Ganesh in various project activities. Raji promoted 8 SHGs and followed them up regularly for their meetings, savings and loans. She encouraged the leaders of the SHGs to come out and discuss various issues. She used to discuss with several others in the village and in the SHG meetings to get the list of beneficiaries for various government schemes and activities promoted under the project. In addition to Raziya and Manna, her friends who helped her in the initial days of her work as a volunteer, she could motivate a few more women also to help her.

Raji had to brave several problems from the community in the initial days. She attracted ridicule of some people as they did not like a widow moving out of her house to get involved in general village affairs.

After Raji worked for some months, the community started respecting her for the work she was doing. Several people started depending on her for their work at the block headquarters. Even the Sarpanch started to entrust the work of identification of beneficiaries for various government programs and filling-up the forms required to Raji. Work of Raji helped the project get laurels in the mid-term review.

But this was the situation about six months ago. These days, Ganesh faced a lot of problems in the village. He was being taken to task by the Project Coordinator as the work in Nayagaon came to a stand still. The SHGs become non-

functional. Some members were angry that their savings were not being accounted for and that the SHG records were not updated with several irregularities. Beneficiaries selected by Raji were no longer the ones that meet the project criteria, but people close to her. There was a rumour that she was even demanding bribes for getting the things done at the block level from people belonging to neighbouring villages. It was reported that Manna had collected more money from the beneficiaries than is required under the government schemes. When Ganesh confronted Manna on the issue, she evaded a detailed account and simply said that she had to incur other expenses that were not reimbursed by any one.

Ganesh sensed the situation in the early days, and started asking Raji to update the SHG records. But he could not exercise any control over Raji, as the organization did not pay any remuneration to the volunteers. Recognizing the situation, Ganesh initiated dialogue with community members to identify fresh volunteers. But, Raji would discourage people from volunteering - sometimes, she would even threaten them citing her influence at the block level. More initiatives by Ganesh were only making Raji more adamant. As a reply to the allegations of several SHG members, she publicly stated that she did not have any SHG records. A few of the SHG leaders feared that she had purposefully destroyed the records. In the recent past, Raji even started a campaign to malign the NGO.

This is a typical case, with over 80% of the development workers acknowledging that they have faced this problem at least once. While the projects have budgets to train and reimburse expenses of only one volunteer, depending on one volunteer only can lead to situations described above. But, having more than one volunteer on the rolls of the organization from a village may also not work if both of them are not friendly towards each other.

In the absence of any control mechanism over the volunteers, an NGO cannot ensure that the records are updated regularly or that the volunteer publicly acknowledges the transfer of responsibility to the new volunteer. In the case of displeasure, the old volunteer will not even help the new volunteer learn the project processes. The new volunteer will have to fend for herself, as the point person from the NGO generally loses touch with the grassroots.

NGOs need to watch out and avoid circumstances where the volunteers turn against the non profit itself or become too dominant in the community. The nonprofits could consider steps like having a team of volunteers work together with specific policy for rotation of volunteers. Making the volunteer work under a community based organization and asking the CBO to review the performance of the volunteer on a regular basis could be considered. The volunteer would have no inhibitions in the beginning. A system to ensure compulsory audit of all records regularly could ensure smooth transition when a volunteer leaves. ■

“Decorations” Gaining Grandeur

Shining Livelihoods



“Attar” Losing Fragrance

Declining Livelihoods



Udaya Shankar In NRM

Udaya Shankar was born in Bahu Balendruni Gudem village of Krishna district, AP in the year 1946. Even though he belongs to a remote village, he proved his talent in education since his early childhood. With his excellence in education, Udaya Shankar went on to complete Masters in M.Sc (Tech) in Geophysics from the Post Graduate College of Science and Technology of Visakhapatnam.

After completing Masters Udaya Shankar worked as Research Scholar in Andhra and Osmania Universities from the year 1971 to 1974. Later he joined Action for Food Production (AFPRO) as a Geophysicist. His job was to bring awareness to village level organizations in the issues of management of drinking and irrigation water, soil conservation, livestock, education and health etc. From 1974 to till 2003 i.e. for a period of about 30 years he worked in AFPRO in various designations. During that time he visited many villages. He spent days and days in the villages campaigning on these issues. Under his leadership AFPRO has taken up various issues at state and national levels.

Agriculture is the key factor to rural economy. Majority of rural people depend on agriculture and allied activities. Majority of farming in India is rain-fed. If there are rains, there are crops and only if there are crops there are works. But with climate changes rainfall is becoming erratic and also seems to be decreasing. Many rural people are not adequately aware of rain water harvesting which they can use in the seasons when there are no rains. In many cases, even the governments and NGOs are not completely educated about the process of harvesting the rain water. After the rainy season people are forced to migrate in search of work. The women groups and youth groups that exist in the villages don't know how to face the drought conditions and increase the incomes of people. In these circumstances AFPRO started sensitizing people in various villages on these issues. Trainings were also given on the issues of water resource management, soil management and livestock management etc.

The first watershed program by AFPRO was implemented in Revnav village of Maharashtra in the year 1970 under the leadership of Udaya Shankar. The program was successful. By seeing its success the villagers of Devsampulagav came forward to implement the same kind of program in their village. AFPRO has succeeded in making people more participative in the implementation by motivating them towards watersheds. AFPRO formed user groups in the

villages, trained them in the watershed management issues, provided technical support and handed over the responsibility of managing the watersheds to these groups.

The watershed programs of AFPRO are quite successful that people started harvesting two crops in a year from the land where it was once upon a time, difficult to cultivate even single crop. The barren lands started becoming green. Livestock increased. Many organizations from all over the country and even some international organizations, visited these villages to learn about this successful program. Udaya Shankar played a key role in designing the watershed program as a successful model for poverty reduction.



Apart from water conservation programs, AFPRO also implemented various other programs relating to health, education etc.

Udaya Shankar successfully led all these programs. He also presented many papers on Water management, Forest management, Fisheries and Coastal Regulation and Remote Sensing in Noel river basin study etc. He has formulated the Water Resource Development Manual for UNICEF as its official coordinator. He also worked as an adviser to many national and international organizations and also participated in the evaluation of many programs of various organizations.

Udaya Shankar worked in AFPRO for almost 30 years i.e. from 1974 to 2003 in different capacities. When he was a unit manager of Hyderabad unit in 1980 he nurtured his team as the best team in the entire country. Since 2005 Udaya Shankar is working in Center for World Solidarity (CWS), a Hyderabad based NGO, as its NRM (Natural Resource Management) adviser. Water, Forests, Environment and Fertilizers are his core areas of work. He has in-depth understanding about these issues.

Udaya Shankar's philosophy is that , 'what ever work one can take up, he/she should do it with full commitment'. Before taking up any activity he always poses two questions: Is it going to increase the number of days of employment of the rural poor? and Is it going to benefit poor in any way?

Udaya Shankar believes that India's history is based on water. He envisages a Comprehensive River Based Management System. With more than 30 years of experience in development sector and with many successes to his credit Udaya Shankar continues to inspire us as a renowned NRM worker and yet so humble. ■

Books

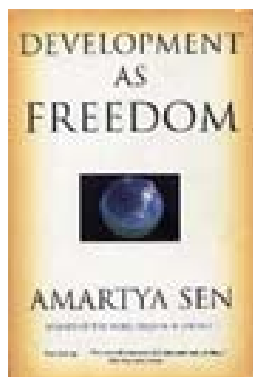
Book Summary

Name: **Development As Freedom**

Author: **Amartya Sen**

Publisher: **Anchor Books**

Through his book *Development As Freedom*, Amartya Sen, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Science presents a great work that makes



individual freedom the center of today's development. Development according to the author is the process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy. It also means

removal of major sources of unfreedom – poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities as well as systematic social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or over-activity of repressive states.

The book investigates five types of instrumental freedoms – political freedoms, economic facilities, social opportunities, transparency guarantees and protective security and how these freedoms complement each other through empirical studies. For instance political freedoms like free speech and elections help to promote economic security and social opportunities like education and health facilities facilitate economic participation and economic facilities like opportunities for participation in trade and production can help generate personal abundance and public resources for social facilities. Several illustrations from various countries are presented in the book for the reader to better appreciate how instrumental freedoms enhance human capabilities, how they supplement one another and also reinforce one another and eventually lead to development.

According to the author the expansion of freedom is both the primary end and

the principal means of development which he calls as constitutive role and instrumental role respectively. The constitutive role refers to the basic freedoms like avoiding deprivations like starvation, undernourishment, being literate and numerate and enjoying political participation etc that enrich human life. The instrumental role of freedom concerns the way different kinds of rights, opportunities and entitlements contribute to the expansion of human freedom thus promoting development.

The book explores the various evaluative approaches for evaluating social and economic policies including utilitarianism, libertarianism and Rawlsian justice and their merits and shortcomings. Amartya Sen brings in “capability approach” as an alternative which concentrates on the capabilities of the people to do things and the freedom to lead lives that they have reason to value. According to him poverty must be seen as the deprivation of basic capabilities and income poverty is one component of capability poverty. Various other factors like personal heterogeneities, environmental diversities, variations in social climate, differences in relational perspectives and distributions within the family play an influencing role. The existence of various institutions like the market, the democratic system, the media or the public distribution system and their functioning also significantly influence the opportunities and prospects of an individual.

The book makes a in depth analysis of how undernourishment, starvation and famine are influenced by the working of the entire economy and society and not just by food production and agricultural activities. Adequate recognition of political, economic and social participation and leadership of women is recognized as crucial aspect of “development as freedom”. The book also deals elaborately on the problems of population growth, the recognition of cultural and human rights etc all of which are crucial to promote substantive freedoms of the people.

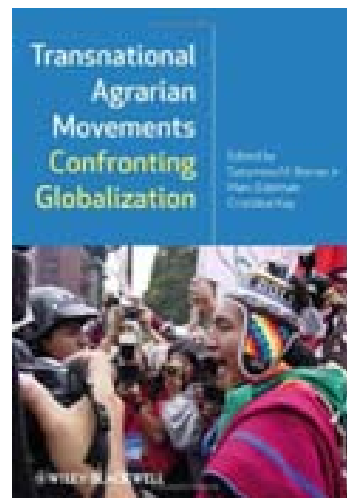
Development As Freedom gives a new, thoughtful and humanistic way of perceiving development. ■

New Books

Name: **Transnational Agrarian Movements Confronting Globalization**

Editors: **Saturnino M. Jr. Borrás, Marc Edleman, Cristobal Kay**

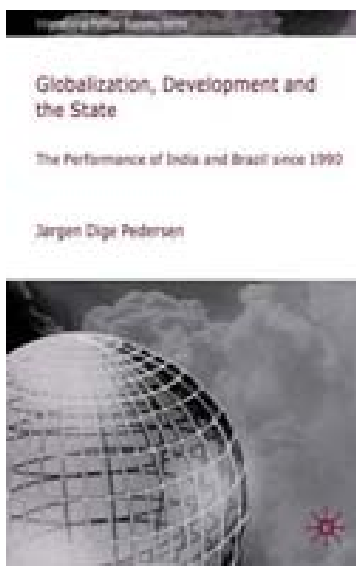
Publishers: **Wiley-Blackwell**



Name: **Globalization, Development and the State: The Performance of India and Brazil**

Author: **Jorgen Dige Pedersen**

Publishers: **Paulgrave MACmillan**



NMDFC

National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was incorporated in 1994 under the Section 25 of the Companies Act, with the main objective to promote economic development of the poorer sections of the minorities. To enhance focus on the issues relating to the minorities, the GOI set-up a new Ministry called the "Ministry of Minority Affairs" in the year 2005 and the NMDFC functions under its administrative control and directions to achieve its aims and objectives.

The target group for NMDFC with regard to direct benefit are the persons belonging to the minority communities and living Below Double the Poverty Line. Minority communities as per the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992 are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. At present families having annual income less than Rs 40,000/- in rural areas and Rs 55,000/- in urban areas are categorized as Below Double the Poverty Line.

The schemes available to minorities can be broadly categorized into two types - Lending Schemes and the Promotional Schemes.

There are six types of **Lending Schemes**

- ♦ **Term Loan Scheme:** Under this scheme, projects costing up to Rs 5 lakhs are considered. The beneficiary has to contribute a minimum of 5% of the project cost. Rate of interest charged from the beneficiaries is 6% per annum on reducing balance. Assistance under term loan scheme is available for any commercially viable and technically feasible venture in the sectors of agriculture, technical trade, small business, artisans & traditional occupations and transport & service sector.
- ♦ **Margin Money Scheme:** Margin money assistance is provided to beneficiaries availing bank finance. Generally public sector banks finance up to 60% of the project cost and seek 40% from the beneficiaries. Under this Scheme, NMDFC provides loan to the eligible beneficiaries to meet the requirement of margin asked by the bankers. Loan up to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of 1.25 lakhs per unit is available. The SCA and the beneficiary are expected to contribute the remaining amount. Rate of Interest charged from the beneficiaries is 3% p.a. on reducing balance.
- ♦ **Educational Loan Scheme:** The scheme envisages maximum loan of Rs. 2.5 lakhs i.e., Rs. 50,000/- every year for pursuing professional and technical courses of duration not exceeding 5 years. Funds for this purpose are made available to the SCAs at interest of 1% for lending to the beneficiaries at 3%. The loan is repayable maximum in 5 years after the completion of the course.
- ♦ **Micro Financing Scheme:** It is an informal loan scheme which ensures quick delivery of loan at the door steps of the beneficiaries with constant follow up. It also envisages a pre-requisite that the beneficiaries are first



organized into SHGs and get into the habit of regular savings, however small. Under the scheme, loan up to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- per beneficiary can be provided. The funds are made available to the NGOs at 1% interest p.a. who further lend to the SHGs at 5% interest p.a. The repayment period is a maximum of 36 months.

- ♦ **Interest Free Loans for Promotion of SHGs:** Interest Free Loan is provided to the NGOs for promotion of SHGs. The maximum amount of loan available is Rs. 2.15 lakhs for promotion of 50 SHGs of about 1000 members. The loan is repayable after one year and is adjusted by way of grant at the rate of 25% of the loan advanced by the SHGs and 5% on their growth of savings.
- ♦ **Mahila Samrudhi Yojna (MSY):** Under MSY, training is given to a group of around 20 women in any suitable craft activity. The group is formed into SHG during the training itself and after the training, micro-credit is provided to the members of the group. A stipend is also provided to the women during the training period.

There are three types of **Promotional Schemes**

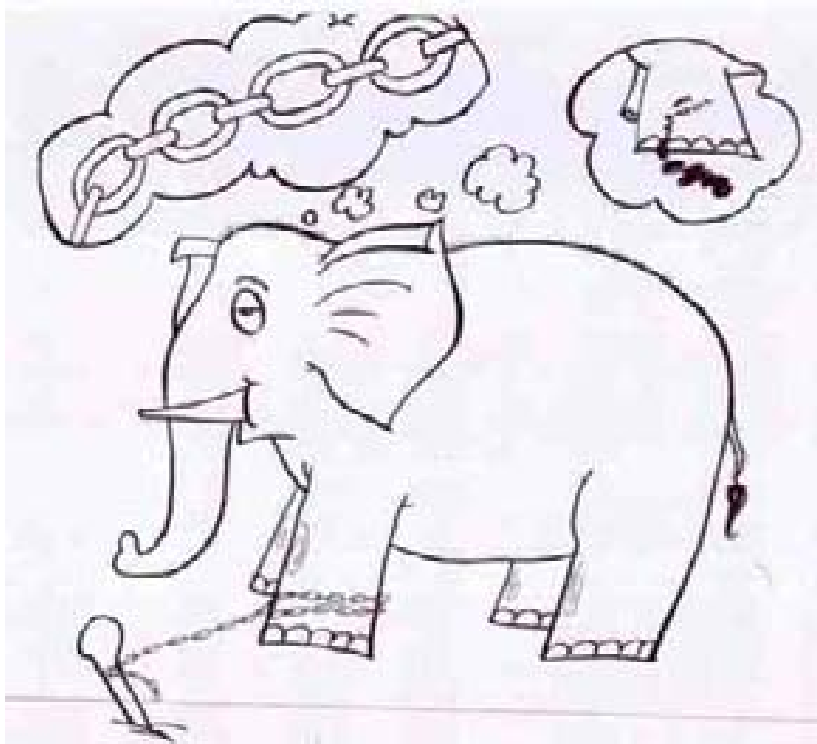
- ♦ **Vocational Training:** Under this, SCAs organize need based vocational training programmes in their respective states with the help of locally recognized training institutions. Such programmes are generally of duration of six months. 85% of the cost of the training is met by NMDFC as grant while remaining 15% of the cost is borne by the SCA.
- ♦ **Marketing Assistance to Craft Persons:** NMDFC welcomes proposals from SCAs as well as NGOs for organizing exhibitions at selected locations where handloom and handicraft items of minority craft persons are exhibited to promote their market.
- ♦ **Assistance for Design Development and Skill Up-gradation:** NMDFC reviews proposals from SCAs as well as NGOs for organizing design development / skill development training programme for the craft persons of minority communities. After due appraisal, depending upon the merit of the proposals, NMDFC provides grant for organizing such programmes. ■

Elephantine Decision Making

Quiet a few executives are overly dependent on old facts, on outmoded conventions, or are still basing decisions on what worked twenty years ago. This amounts to elephantine decision making. This story of a baby elephant precisely says the point....

A circus keeps a baby elephant from running away by chaining it to a stake. When the animal pulls at the chain the cuff chafes its leg, and the baby elephant concludes that to avoid pain it best stay put.

But when the elephant grows up, the circus still chains it to the same small stake. The mature elephant could now pull the stake out of the ground like a toothpick, but the elephant remembers the pain and is too dumb to use the new set of facts. It did not perceive the new and changed circumstances. The tiny stake continues to keep a two-ton elephant at bay just as effectively as it did the baby elephant!



Most development workers continue to do what they had done at the start of their career. In order that one should not suffer from the traits of 'elephantine decision making', one should keep on learning. Some cross learning needs to happen among those working at the grassroots and among those working in different organizations and circumstances. But, unfortunately while some core few get the chance of exposure, many remain deprived of such exposure.

Another important lesson is regarding the behaviour of the community and community leaders. In the initial stages, they depend on the staff of the NGO to guide them. If right from that time, the staff of the NGO do not encourage the community to be on its own, the community is likely to develop the trait of 'elephantine decision making' – and be ever dependent on the development worker. Though one could argue that the community do not have enough knowledge and capacity to be on its own, the development worker has to be aware that the alternative to pushing the community be on its own (and providing support without the community recognizing it) is the community developing the trait of 'elephantine decision making'. A development actor needs to be always keep this in mind and balance his priorities. Hence, the importance of initiating appropriate processes right from the beginning in any community development project. One can also see why a belief in the capacities of the community (and the poor) is important! ■

Irrigation Potential In India

Irrigation potential, created and utilized in India

(Area in 000 hectares)

Sl.No	State/UT	Potential	Till IX plan		Till X plan		Change (X plan—IX plan)	
			Created	Utilized	Created	Utilized	Change in % created	Change in % utilized
1	Jarkhand	2460.00	3706.52	1772.19	3722.03	1782.90	0.00	0.00
2	Kerala	2679.00	3643.03	2708.35	3750.03	2766.45	4.00	0.00
3	Maharashtra	8952.00	6181.6	4704.96	6549.75	4961.21	4.00	0.00
4	Punjab	5967.00	5970.4	5853.81	6004.75	5878.72	1.00	0.00
5	Tamilnadu	5532.00	3672.69	3668.81	3699.89	3685.33	1.00	0.00
6	West Bengal	6918.00	5475.81	4625.24	5777.49	4855.86	5.00	0.00
7	Andhra Pradesh	11260.00	6322.68	5832.81	6692.63	6088.55	3.00	-1.00
8	Bihar	10887.00	7396.44	5474.29	7637.78	5608.26	2.00	-1.00
9	Haryana	4512.00	3730.44	3428.09	3831.37	3476.75	2.00	-1.00
10	Uttar Pradesh	29635.00	29509.49	23613.62	32385.64	25680.68	9.00	-1.00
11	Uttaranchal	864	781.28	586.21	807.73	599.9	3.00	-1.00
12	Arunachal Pradesh	168	99.52	77.4	115.57	87.39	10.00	-2.00
13	Assam	2870.00	847.54	668.48	934.67	719.5	3.00	-2.00
14	Himachal Pradesh	353	174.35	145.81	186.54	153	4.00	-2.00
15	Manipur	604	166.64	135.25	199.24	154.71	5.00	-3.00
16	Orissa	8803.00	3300.68	3131.72	3623.27	3320.69	4.00	-3.00
17	Rajasthan	5128.00	4929.25	4675.67	5329.48	4900.53	8.00	-3.00
18	Tripura	281	114.55	100.59	149.03	126.8	12.00	-3.00
19	Gujarat	6103.00	3429.29	3176.97	4249.92	3727.90	14.00	-5.00
20	Meghalaya	168	50.97	47.31	61.57	53.89	7.00	-5.00
21	Union Territories	144	50.22	39.35	57.63	42.2	5.00	-5.00
22	Goa	116	40.31	35.33	55.08	45.11	12.00	-6.00
23	Sikkim	70	29.67	23.61	34.47	25.62	7.00	-6.00
24	Madhya Pradesh	16214.07	1410.2	1198.49	2039.95	1564.00	4.00	-8.00
25	Jammu& Kashmir	1358.00	562.14	535.52	677.66	580.61	9.00	-9.00
26	Nagaland	85	76.56	65.63	93.17	72.2	20.00	-9.00
27	Chattisgarh	1717.93	943.34	1231.83	1226.90	1474.57	16.00	-11.00
28	Mizoram	70	16.69	14.08	21.26	14.95	6.00	-14.00
29	Karnataka	5974.00	1249.51	2448.58	1822.95	2773.94	10.00	-44.00
30	Total	139893	93881.45	80020	101737.45	85222.21	6.00	-1.00

Only in 6 states the utilization of irrigation potential created did not worsen. In all other states, this has worsened. This shows that the emphasis of the government has been more on creation and not so much on promoting its sustainable use. There is a definite role for the NGOs to play in mobilizing the communities towards improving the utilization of the potential created. Livelihoods of a lot of families can be improved by utilizing the irrigation opportunity created. In some cases, this non utilization is due to lack of synchronization between the time of irrigation availability and the availability of other inputs. ■

Source: Annual plan documents by the states and UT's and working group report on water resources for XI plan available from mospi.gov.in

Out of Poverty

Disability Is No Barrier!

Polio struck Subbanna when he was an infant and disabled him for life. But it also proved to be a "perpetual spur in himself to rescue and deliver himself from scorn" That infant evoking pity from near and dear ones and scorn from others, today, half a century later, draws forth all-round admiration. He is a prominent and prosperous industrialist - provider of jobs to others and a source of inspiration to other disabled people struggling to survive and earn their livelihood.

During his childhood in Bangarupeta village of Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh, whenever he saw other children playing merrily tears would well up in Subbanna's eyes. Pitying looks were all that he could see with his blurred eyes.

There was no joy in his infancy. Subbanna has had very little formal education for the simple reason that he was physically unable to attend school. While the children in the village went to school daily, he had to crawl from one hospital to another and plead desperately with doctors to cure him of the seemingly un-healable disability.

The local doctors in Nellore town, which is a little away from his native village, expressed their helplessness and advised him to go to Mumbai or Delhi for treatment. The hope of overcoming the disability looked frustratingly remote.

But that hope, however distant and unattainable, still animated him. Propelled by that hope, one day Subbanna, still in his teens, crawled out of home and struggled on to a bus to Tirumala to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateshwara. From there he embarked on the long journey to the Institute of physical medicine and

rehabilitation, Mumbai. After a few surgeries at Mumbai and Delhi he returned to Hyderabad.

Back in Hyderabad, he approached the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (VRCH) for undergoing training in carpentry. After the training, he joined the Federal Sports Industries for a monthly salary of Rs.250. Later, the VRCH helped him to obtain a loan of Rs.15,000 from the State Finance Corporation to start a small woodwork unit. Fortune began to smile on him. He built up his business painstakingly. He started receiving orders for manufacturing tables, cane chairs and metal furniture from various schools and industries.

Subbanna registered himself as a contractor with various nationalized banks. With his annual turnover now touching Rs. One crore, he has become a source of abundant inspiration to many handicapped both in India and abroad.

Subbanna married an orphan. And his marriage has proved to be a happy one. The couple have a daughter and a son both of whom are now graduates. The small family radiates cheerfulness, which is undoubtedly the fruit of ceaseless toil.

Subbanna received two prestigious awards one from the Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI) for the Best Self-Employed Person in the State, and the other founded by the National Society for Equal opportunities for Handicapped persons (NASEOH), Mumbai, for the Best Self-Employed Disabled Person in the Country. ■

Courtesy: Commitments

Broken Lives

Grass Is Not Always Greener!

Satyavathi is the wife of Venkateswarlu who belongs to Bhimavaram town of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. They used to practice their traditional livelihood of washing and ironing of clothes. They used to wash the clothes of rich people of the town and earn a minimum of Rs.1000/- every month. Apart from money they used to get rice and other provisions from some farmers. With this they were leading a happy and peaceful life.

But Satyavathi was not happy with what they were earning. She wanted to earn more and more money as she desired to lead a luxurious life. Satyavathi was always nagging her husband to earn more money by migrating to a city.

One day a relative of them who belongs to the same town came to them and told that they can earn more money if they go to Hyderabad city as there is more demand for washer men in Hyderabad. He also told that many people in the city wear only ironed clothes so that they will always get work. He convinced them to go to city and also told them that he knows many people in Hyderabad and therefore can recommend work for them. Hearing to his words Satyavathi forced her husband, Venkateswarulu to migrate to city.

With the relative's help Venkateswarulu reached the city. Satyavathi felt very happy for realizing her dream.

But life was not smooth in the city as expected. The relative who brought them to the city disappeared without showing them any work or any place to start their work. They thought of starting an ironing shop on their own, but they needed some one to introduce them to the people of that particular area where they wanted to start the shop. Because they did not know anybody who can introduce them they could not open the shop.

Life became tough for them as they were not even getting anything to eat. In those circumstances Venkateswarlu started working as a daily labourer to feed his family. Satyavathi also started working as a maid servant in two houses. With that meager income the family is spending their days with feeble hope.

Recently Satyavathi's father who had no one to look after him came to the city and started living with them. With income hardly enough to fee two, their burden increased with the coming of her father. However they thought it is their responsibility to look after that old man.

Satyavathi's family now is leading a miserable life in the city in place of a happy and peaceful life they once led in their home town. Grass was definitely not greener in the city as dreamt! ■

26/11. Terrorists have moved from Bombs to Attacks. Mumbai Terror Strikes have jolted Mumbai, and India. A mere 10 terrorists could cause more than 200 people to lose their lives, apart from the Mumbai Anti-Terror Squad Chief and his deputies and the commandos/merinos. Aam Admi responded with grief, candle light vigils and solidarity marches. For the first time in the recent past, aam admi has put aside the 'politician'. Some heads rolled. Home Minister of India, Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra gave way to others. Strangely, bureaucrats remained outside the head-rolling game. Chidambaram moves from managing the financial crisis to managing the internal security crisis! Results of the elections to some states confirm that voters wanted to get going. Development is the key.

Some of the important international/world days during the month have been: 25/11 – International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women; 1/12 – World AIDS Day; 3/12 – International Day of Disabled Persons; 5/12 – International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development; 10/12 – Human Rights Day.

The month that was spent in four parts – one to go through a test of mentoring; two to go through an overwhelming explosion that one is part of a whole and the whole takes charge, occupying many a part, dimension and aspect and spreading; three to think about eldercare solutions around their variety of needs including medical needs; and four to take forced rest and keep the vocal chords at rest. Universe knows when to tell you 'shut up'. Simultaneously the course of way forward emanated from the sub-zero reflection is finding its way steadily.

I chanced upon the working of the human physiology which is talking about the need to cause the energy store houses in the body need to empty themselves so that their functioning improves. The storehouses include liver. This emptying is possible only with fasting – something like a 36 hour fast, may be with some water and less calorie liquids. This can be weekly. But one has to gradually reach there, starting with skipping lunch or dinner or breakfast and upping week by week. Fasting supplements/complements yogic pursuit and I have begun the fasting process in this month!

We wish all life peace, joy and love for ever. To achieve this, we need to overcome or at least handle anger, jealousy, possessiveness and greed. It is not easy to make these four zeroes despite best efforts. With some diligent practice, it is possible to handle jealousy and greed. One can bring them down to an insignificant level. Greed and jealousy go together. Limiting to one's survival, learning and universal good needs, you get into fair desires and intents/visions.

Then, sharing is possible. When the greed is not fulfilled, it generates an ill-feeling of jealousy. On the other hand, non-greed desires, when pursued, and someone else achieves them, it generates a feeling of deep appreciation. Possessiveness is a trait acquired over a period of time. It will take a huge time, say 5-6 years, to get over it, with intense practice. Anger is the most difficult to get over. Partial limiting is the best one can aspire for. Anger can come from a variety of sources, a variety of dimensions and a variety of reasons. It is visible. Your body speaks it. Your emotion speaks it. Your writing speaks it. It is important to channel this into productive ends. Many a time anger does help. And if we master it, we become realized masters. To overcome these, we need to practice loving. Practice loving life. Practice loving awareness. Practice loving universe. Practice loving the whole. Then the peace and joy, er.. bliss will be ours. As it did the other night - the night rained nectar! A stream of tides crossed the sea! A river flowed! Eyes soaked! Soul 'lost'!

Can this peace and bliss be ours? Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga. If you taste it once, you do not want to be out of it. This 'atma' yoga calls for one seeking yoga in thoughts, words,

actions, insights, devotion and of course yoga in the spirit of being in all dimensions that are of consequence. We need to develop a pure and clear window of yoga where this union, merger, confluence can be visualized so that we are aware of what we are seeking as yoga.

Radha and Krishna have practiced Atma Yoga in partnership. As they practiced yoga, Krishna blossomed into Yoga Jagatguru.

Krishna advises the atma yoga practitioners to fix their minds only on their guides/partners. Their intellect also should 'dwell' only in their guides/partners. That is, they should prepare themselves mentally to belong to their yogic circle. The practitioner has to practice 'samadhi' and fix his thought steadily on his/her mentor, as required for that stage of training - to identify oneself with universal thoughts, outlook and ideology. In the beginning, to get mastery, the practitioner has to perform and deliver one's mentor's calling without any doubt in mind. By doing such work, the practitioners fall in track of yogic perfection.

Thus, we need to enter atma yoga where we are in union with our co-practitioners/mentors in all dimensions of our being. This is yoga for us.

Join us in the world of yoga – in all dimensions of being – a union of purpose, practice and practitioners. You will not regret it. ■

G Muralidhar

We may never be strong enough to be entirely non-violent in thought, word and deed.
But we must keep non-violence as our goal and make strong progress towards it.

