



Livelihoods Lens

Common Persons' Perspectives



Volume I

**Dedicated to coexisting ourselves,
All the beings flowing together**

Let us go towards

**Truth
Light
Liberation
and therefore Bliss**

Walked/walking with us

G Muralidhar

P Mahesh

T Venkateshwarlu

D Narasimha Reddy

V Aravind Kumar

Naval Shaini

M Bhavya

G Pulakeshi

K Chayadevi

T Nirmala

S Laxman

LB Prakash

S Mahidhar Reddy

M Raja Srinivas

K Ramesh

S Rekha

G Swathi

B Ramya

T Vina

B Sai Srinivas

V Ankith

M Siddhardha

T Aparna Gayathri

K Sridevi

K Bharathi

Soumya

G Bhargava

R Swati

Bhima Shankar

M Vijaybhasker

Chandranshu Gupta

K Visweswar Rao

Dharmendhar

A Uma

Glen Shewcheck

S Himabindu

S Janaki

K Krishna Chaithanya

P Kishore

Krishna Murari

M Lavanya

B Madhusudhan

P Madhusudhan

G Madhu Vamsi

Mansi Koushik

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The two volumes of “Livelihoods Lens” contain many images capturing the lives of common man. We thank all those contributors-both from Akshara family and anonymous contributors. We thank numerous people at grassroots, who have always been forthcoming in helping us. We express our deepest gratitude to all the readers who have been motivating us with valuable feedback and continue to do so.

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A. Preface

Livelihoods team in its own modest way has been and continues to be involved with dissemination of knowledge in and around livelihoods. “Livelihoods” e-magazine is part of that effort. The magazine has a special place for a section called as “Focus Articles”. In the last 10 years, there are 127 monthly issues of “livelihoods”. 114 Focus articles from these issues have been selected and compiled into “Livelihoods Lens”, Common Persons’ Perspective. Due to the number of articles, the compilation is divided into two Volumes.

The volumes are further classified under various loosely divided categories. Volume I has articles under sections like 7Ls (Life, Living, Livelihoods, Linkages, Leadership, Learning and Love), Deepening Democracy, Institutions and Capacity Building, Nature and Resources, Policies and Influences. Volume II is categorised as Education and Employment, Farm Livelihoods, Lives and Livelihoods of Tribals, Non Farm Livelihoods, Poor, Poverty and Reduction, Vulnerable Groups.

The direction of these articles has always been to see life through the eyes of Common Person. There are many articles which discussed about the issues faced by women, children, senior citizens...Etc. Apart from these, rural lives have been explored continuously in these issues. In this context, Livelihood Framework has been an underlying current, especially in discussing Contexts, Capitals, Arrows and Continuums. These articles have not only focussed on the current and past scenario but have tried to be futuristic in many of them. In being futuristic, they have suggested solutions, skills, tools, resources and planning to address the problems.

We wrote as we learnt and we learnt as we wrote these articles. The purpose of bringing them as a compilation is to have all the articles at one place. We hope you would find it useful and would like to have a copy of your own.

B. Editorials

7Ls

Livelihoods are a means to living. Living gives us life. Life, Living and Livelihoods are possible by appropriate linkages with context, our reality, our rights and entitlements and our opportunities. Leadership and management make these linkages real. Unlearning and learning take us near to the leadership with competence. This learning is possible with love for the universe; the self; and the poor, marginalized and vulnerable. Love connects and integrates Soul with Universe. Love is an art like music. We are beings of love, dead without love. With love we have four arrows, six capitals, four contexts, continuums and the interventions. Including Collectivization and Communitization. This is Livelihoods Framework with LEAPs, Value-chains, Institutions, Animators and Facilitators. This is the essence of 7Ls. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "7Ls".

*** Editorial April 2017**

Leadership

Poverty eradication calls for organization, animation and facilitation. Organization includes institutions of the poor with capacities. Animation includes competent and accountable community leaders and professionals. Facilitation includes dedicated long-term sensitive support structures and staff within them. Mobilizing all poor, including the transient poor, starting with the poorest, marginalized and vulnerable into their groups, federations, collectives, enterprises etc., is the first critical step. These institutions need to be led and governed. Community professionals and outside professionals are required to deliver their vision and plans. These community leaders and the leaders in the support structures are not readily available. The function of the institution determines the nature of the leaders required. The leadership may be collective with dispersed skill-set. These dispersed leaders need to be identified.

The members of the institutions need to be 'elect' them to lead. Their capacities need to be built. They need to know how to get the work from the staff. They need to ask right questions. They need to identify right staff. They need to vision and plan. They need to seek accountability. The members need to learn to seek the accountability of the leaders. The leaders anchor the institutions towards their self-management, self-reliance and sustainability. They need to hold the members together. They need to protect the boundaries. They need to deal with the external environment. They need to appreciate the fundamentals of the business of the institution they are leading. They need to appreciate that they are leading the change of the status quo. They need to be custodians of the norms and culture of the institution. They need to be the trustees of the wealth of the institutions and members. They need to be democratic role models. They need to be legacy workers. They need to be Tribhuvan Patels of Amuls. They need to be Kuriens of NDDBs. India's millions of institutions need leaders in huge numbers at various levels. There are issues of rewarding the time of the leaders, nurturing leadership competence, and accountability to the members. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'leadership' for institutions of the poor and for the poor.

*** Editorial October 2010**

Learning

Homo sapiens sapiens is a learning being and a knowledge worker genetically. As we move from the pre-agriculture wave to agriculture wave to industrial wave to current knowledge wave, the life, the livelihoods and the learning have picked up dramatic pace. The decision-making is increasingly faster. The learning during the childhood from the parents and grandparents is not enough. The learning in the school/college/university is not enough. The learning during the induction is not enough to carry on with the jobs for life. The pace of life and changing livelihoods demand continuous/continual learning. There is a need for updating information and knowledge, improving skills, techniques, processes and tools, and revised ways of living. This would mean that an individual needs to have 'fish' to eat now, learn 'fishing' to fish tomorrow and figure out 'meta-fishing' (beyond fish and fishing) to anticipate and cope with changes.

Changing micro and macro worlds, relationships, institutional architecture, resource portfolios, governance systems and the concerns of equity and sustainability within the context of right to life (and decent livelihoods) and freedom to associate, called for a paradigm of co-existence with learning coupled with love and care and leadership. We need to improve existing practices, mechanisms, institutions and investments for this learning and new instruments are needed. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'learning'.

*** Editorial December 2011**

Team Learning

Human beings are social animals. Co-existence is a way of life for them. Cooperation and competition are integral in this. Working in groups and teams to fight the enemy and the unknown is learnt very early in life. This learning happens in the family, in the community and in the schools (gurukulams). When all resources are common, all problems are common and therefore, all solutions are common and collective. The community needs to build on its previous learning level to find new solutions. This means the learning of the individual is available to the community and the community's wisdom is available to the individual. However, the individual monopolistic ways of learning and exclusion have begun and became strong, as we moved from community hunting, gathering and farming to individual farming to industry and enterprise to information societies. Despite, this shift to emphasis on individual, the community learning mode of the earlier days is the way in the organizational and collective context. Peter Senge articulates it better.

Community learning (or team learning), if empowered, offers scope for increased intelligence quotient being available to explore complex issues with ease, for productive team culture, team-think and teamwork – innovative and coordinated action, and for building and working with other teams in the network around the area of learning. It builds on the team's shared visioning in the first place. Building on individual's personal mastery and mental models, integrated into systems thinking, shared visioning and team learning achieve our full potential in the work place, in the social space and in the spiritual space. The benefit to the team and team members as a whole is much higher than the sum of the benefit to individuals as a result of individual pursuits. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'team learning'.

*** Editorial August 2012**

Love

Life and livelihoods are sustained by living. Living includes air, water, food, clothes, shelter, company and entertainment. Living is enhanced with living together, living for one another and living for others. Living is in now so that future life lives better. This living is fashioned by learning better ways to live on a constant basis. This living is fashioned by leading 'life' for a better tomorrow for the people who inherit tomorrow. This leading 'life' is a result of 'love' – love of life. When the crunch comes as the resources dwindle, only a few essentials matter. Therefore, sharing the essentials matters. This comes from love of life. When in love of life, you are fair and just to all life. You want social justice and equity in all resources – natural, physical, social, human, financial and spiritual. When in love, you do not accumulate but share whatever you have got. You augment opportunities for access to all.

Love respects and cares life. Love trusts life. Love has faith in the capacity of life. Love nurtures life to grow. Love learns and gives. Love will not let you 'sleep' when there is poverty all around; when there are people struggling with their vulnerabilities; when their right to life is not guaranteed. You remain committed to the cause of life, you become courageous to show commitment, you practice integrity of life and universe, you be in the present and communicate consciously, without having any attachment to outcome.

Love, like any skill (like music, dance, art etc.), needs to be learnt and practiced; with tenacity and self-control; with concentration, discipline and rigour; over a period of time, say 10-20 years.

Loving professionals with capacity in the hands of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable is the need. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'love'.

*** Editorial February 2012**

Changing Village

Over the last 2-3 decades, India has changed. Indian villages have changed. Many things in the village have changed. Some things did not change too. Economic Growth has brought some changes. Education has brought some changes. Targeted work by the state has brought some changes. A lot more needs to be done. A lot has changed that may not be desirable too. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Changing Village'.

*** Editorial August 2014**

TRUE Livelihoods

Livelihoods in India (or outside) could be categorized – tribal livelihoods (livelihoods of the indigenous communities); rural livelihoods (land and water based livelihoods and livelihoods linked/dependent on these); and urban livelihoods (services and enterprises for meeting the needs of the others). They could be categorized as – existing livelihoods and emerging livelihoods. Together Livelihoods are truly TRUE livelihoods. These could be individual-based; family-

based; group-based; collective-based; and employer-employee based. These could be casual labour; skilled labour; contract labour works; self-employed; jobs; jobs in organized sector; enterprises etc. Some require education; some require training; some require apprenticeship; some require capital; some require market; some require infrastructure; some require technology; some require management; some require policy support etc. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'TRUE Livelihoods'.

*** Editorial October 2016**

Gandhian 'livelihoods'

Gandhi has been the inspiration of this country, the developing world and the world at large. Mahatma, the great soul, has his vision for this world and this country. His focus is on inner peace and the last person simultaneously. His emphasis is on needs rather than the greed. His focus is on meeting the basic needs of air, water, food, clothes and shelter from the local resources. He is for living together in a community rather than the private 'lives'. His keenness is to keep track of single pie that comes in and that goes out. Living life the way most can afford rather than to display wealth. His emphasis is on education that is useful for communal living and spiritual enlightenment.

He advocates Gram Swaraj, decentralization to the hilt, but in the realm of Vasudhaika Kutumbakam. He advocates the trusteeship of all the resources, property and wealth, not ownership and therefore, their frugal use. He discusses production for consumption. He visualizes local justice. He is keen about preventive health. He visualizes village Industries, local value-addition, and collectives. He demonstrates maanavaseva as maadhavaseva. He supports nurturing traditional institutions, local and diverse cultures, crafts and practices. Gandhi wants to be an example. Role Model! Personification of simple and non-violent living! He wants peace. He wants co-existence. He wants 'sacrifice' to cater to the needy. He advocates portfolio of livelihoods activities. He is a votary of self-employed nature of Indian population. He wants appropriate technology that meshes with the Indian needs. He wants farming system or livelihoods system approach. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on the Gandhian 'livelihoods'.

*** Editorial October 2011**

Language and Livelihoods

Livelihoods live in language. In songs. In literature. In Books. In folklore. As the livelihoods disappear, the words and their use comes down. The language – the vocabulary in daily use – bring out the dynamics of livelihoods within and outside. The entire thought and concepts are internalized in language. The use of words keep the livelihoods skills and knowledge active in the minds of the people at large and the next generation grows up taking up/appreciating/supporting these livelihoods. Communication about livelihoods in various media promotes changes in livelihoods. Livelihoods make language rich. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "Language and Livelihoods".

*** Editorial February 2018**

Livelihoods in Panchatantra

Stories and arguments are part of our learning system in general and in India in particular. We have all grown up with listening to stories and picking up the lessons relevant for us. Many of them concern our lives and livelihoods. However, Panchatantra stories have a special place for us amongst all of them. Many a lesson in livelihoods could be derived from the stories within the stories in Panachatantra. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Livelihoods in Panchatantra' as a special issue.

*** Editorial July 2013**

Livelihoods in Media

Print, electronic media and communications is the growing industry. It provides a variety of livelihoods. When 1000 million mobiles are used, 200 million are on social media, 1000 million watch television, 1000 million listen to radio, 500 million read papers and magazines so on so forth, the livelihoods in the media could be reckoned at 10 million. A majority of them are poor. The newspaper boy, the mobile repairer, the light boy, the stringer, the web professional, broadband sales man etc., are living on the media. They are not secure jobs. They are not remunerative either. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Livelihoods in Media'.

*** Editorial January 2014**

Livelihoods in Arts

Human being needed entertainment after her/his survival needs (air, water, food, clothe, shelter) have been taken care. Some of them specialized in this. The incentives became wages and the livelihoods emerged. The 'arts' include traditional arts, entertainment shows, plays, circuses, music, dance, drama, story telling, writing, etc. Then came

cinema. Television. Radio. Photography. Video. Heritage. Tourism. The list goes on. Some make huge earnings. Some make extremely paltry earnings. A continuum exists. Some are organized and some are dispersed and unorganized. These livelihoods are less equitable. The number of households living in/on 'arts' could be 200 million across the country, in various pockets, if not more. And quite a lot of them may be going hungry to bed everyday. Quite a lot of them are internally displaced. Many an art form is decline and new art forms are emerging. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Livelihoods in Arts'.

*** Editorial May 2015**

Managing Risks

The risks of the poor include life (human beings and animals), accident, ill-health/disease, loss of income, uncertainties in production, demand and prices, increases in costs of production and consumption, likelihood of not getting work and wages commensurate with work etc. Some of these are idiosyncratic and some covariant.

Mitigating and managing these risks is not similar. Some need to be anticipated and prevented with appropriate intelligence systems. Some need to be reduced. Some need to be worked on to reduce the impact. Some need to be coped with. Some require preparation for coping, relief and rehabilitation. Some require counselling. Some require reconstruction. Some take the proportion of disasters and calamities and some let them push and stay back in poverty for a long time to come. Insurance coverage may help some of these. Some require mutual support.

Some require multiple livelihoods and sources of incomes. In any case, first the poor need to become aware of these risks, reasons for such risks and ways of mitigation. The action may require increasing information, knowledge, skills and resources. Dry-land hinterlands, flood-prone plains, coastal communities etc., need to have their own plans for managing risks and disasters. They need to have capacities and resources for them. They need to be ready to roll-out the plan as soon as they realize the trigger for risk mitigation has to be pressed. Of course, in all these, the communities have to be together as collectives. Some of the existing institutions can take these responsibilities. It is also possible that collectives to manage the risks can also come up. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'managing risks' of the poor.

*** Editorial December 2010**

Risk Continuum

Life and Livelihoods have uncertainties and risks tagged along. No assumptions would remain valid fully. Some of these risks are idiosyncratic and are specific to individuals, families etc., and some others are covariant and occur with communities, villages, areas etc. People need to work against them – prevent, reduce its occurrence, prevent/reduce its impact, bear and cope with it, get relief from the loss/damage, get the assets/lives rehabilitated, and sometimes lives/livelihoods rebuilt. All the people will not face the risks equally. The impacts vary with persons. The abilities to cope with them varies from person-to-person. There appear to be risk continuums on time and space. There appear to various efforts and mechanisms to prevent, deal with, cope with and manage these risk continuums. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Risk Continuum'.

*** Editorial September 2015**

Insurance

In the Livelihoods Framework, risk is an important dimension. Multiple livelihoods, Public services, Social Security and Relationships are important ways to manage risks. Insurance is one other important way. We have Life Insurance, Accident Insurance, Health Insurance, Cattle Insurance, Livestock Insurance, Asset Insurance, Crop Insurance, Credit Insurance etc. We have policies that allow premiums monthly, yearly or one-time. Some are pure risk policies. Some have endowment embedded. Some are linking pensions with these. Some are hybrid/combined multiple risk policies. Some are third party insurances. Some are individual and some are group-based. There is an IRDA to regulate. Community-managed mutuals are also emerging. Some require pooling-up. Some require policy advocacy for better risk covers etc. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Insurance'.

*** Editorial November 2016**

BR Ambedkar

India has been a longstanding idea. Since 1947, we saw it physically as a sovereign entity. It needed governing document, The Constitution of India, adopted by its people. The document was authored broadly by Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, as the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly. It started guiding us since 26 January 1950. BR Ambedkar went on to serve India as its Law Minister. After 50 years of his Mahanirvaana, he became more relevant today. He is considered the architect of Modern India. He is the friend, philosopher and guide to marginalized in the country (and the world) in general and SCs in particular. He became torch light and guiding star of the humanity in this world. In this context, 'livelihoods' is exploring the phenomenon 'BR Ambedkar'.

*** Editorial May 2016**

Rights

We did not need rights and entitlements when there were abundant resources. As we moved and as we moved into have rights on resources and properties, some started to accumulate more than they need, their families need and their generations need. The resources which were collectively owned, or state-owned, or God-owned, they slowly became private resources. Some started to own more resources. Some started to enjoy access to more resources. By physical might! By mental might! By numbers! By not-so-ethical means! The laws themselves were in favour of the 'haves'.

As the democracy set in, as the spirit of democracy set in, as the equality of the human life as an idea gained momentum, the concept of allocation and entitlement has set in. These rights and entitlements are to ensure this idea of equality. All people should have access to all that required to lead a decent life. Our Constitution has enshrined right to life/living as a fundamental right. To ensure this overarching right, we needed several rights and entitlements, through state on its own legislations, amendments in the constitution, directive principles, active judiciary pronouncements, movements of the people, activist groups and solidarity groups, global pressures and conventions etc., and they came in. Some more may be needed. There may be aberrations and gaps. These need to be corrected.

There is also a need to have knowledge, skills, techniques, processes and tools, and resources to tap these rights and entitlements. Imagine they can accrue to all of us automatically! Unfortunately it is not so. State cannot wash its hands by doing a lip service. It needs to provide budgets. It needs to create mechanisms and processes. Therefore, it is making its efforts within its 'means'. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'rights'.

*** Editorial January 2012**

Panchayats

Local Governments are in existence for more than 5000 years. They have been taking care of their needs with least dependence on the king or the state, till recently. This situation has been sought to be restored with the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution. With more than 20 years, since the amendments, restoration is at best partial. 29 subjects (see XI Schedule of the Constitution) were sought to be transferred to the Local Governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions). These included – Farming and related (agriculture, extension, lands and soils, water and watersheds, livestock, fisheries, social and farm forestry, NTFP); Small and cottage Industries; Housing; Drinking water; Fuel and fodder; Roads and communications; electrification; Non-conventional energy; Poverty alleviation; Education; Libraries; Cultural activities; Markets; Health, sanitation and health centres; Family, women and child development; Social Welfare; PDS; and Community assets. Of course, along with these subjects, powers needed to be devolved and funds needed to be made available. But, the progress is varying across the states and the transfer, devolution and allocation seem to be marginal, with minor plus/minus here and there. The progress on the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas is no different.

Also, the system of PRIs is not uniform across. We see the standard 3-tier system in some states. We have two additional intermediate tiers in some states. In some states, the Gram Sabha is real and seems to meet at least. In some other states, it is tokenism. Panchayat Presidents are elected directly somewhere and some other places, representatives elect. The CEO of Zilla Parishad is incharge of development in the district in some states and District Collector is everything in some states. PRIs plan in some states and the plans get consolidated upwards. In some other states, line departments plan. Decentralization is still to cross the stage rhetoric broadly across. However, in the long-run, Visioning, Planning and implementing the plans in the 29 subjects is the key focus of PRIs. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Panchayats'.

*** Editorial March 2012**

Gram Panchayat Development Plan

Village Panchayats are local governments for many centuries now, from the days of Vaishali. Gradually they became the instruments of State Governments and lost their self-reliant character. 73rd and 74th Amendments to Constitution have tried to restore their status as Local Government. It is still a long way to go. Untied funds allocation to the Panchayat from Government of India directly is one more step in that direction. Some Rs.488 per capita/year! This amount is meant for implementing the Gram Sabha-approved Gram Panchayat Development Plan as planned by its members. All including the poor, and vulnerable have a say in this plan. Gram Sabha monitors the implementation of the plan thereafter. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan'.

*** Editorial June 2016**

Partnerships

Co-existence is a way of life for human beings. Partnership for mutual benefit is her/his way of life. State coordinates equity in resources and their use. State builds public infrastructure. State also provides funds for the disadvantaged. Private entrepreneurs and enterprises offer goods and services at a price to meet the needs of the people. People's groups and organizations (community) pool up the needs, services, inputs and other goods people want to buy, and the resources, produce, goods and services people want to sell directly or after some value-addition. Sometimes, state uses the contractors to get the work it wants to do. Some other times, it would like the private entities to partner with the state so that the infrastructure comes in through build, own and operate basis or build, own, operate and transfer basis. The funds for the infrastructure put in by private entity are recovered from the users of the infrastructure over a period of time. It is possible that this private entity could be a community organization at times. It is also possible that the private entity or a corporate may partner with a community organization for doing business – one as a supplier and the other as a buyer etc. The extreme form of partnership is multiple partners delivering the whole, one piece by one, other piece by the second and so on. State may take the role of a facilitator, regulator, donor/part-donor, arbitrator and guarantor, private entity or corporate may take the role of a provider/supplier/buyer/trainer/corporate social responsibility project implementer/ employer, and the community organization/group/panchayat may be the recipient of the services/buyer/seller/trainee/ intermediary between individual families and the private entity.

Thus partners share tasks and resources, complementing each other. Typically the partnership/collaboration/working together/convergence would benefit all the partners. Some partners could be more equal than others. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'public-private-community partnership'.

*** Editorial July 2012**

Information

Interaction, Communication and Information have grown with the life in general and the life of homo-sapiens in particular. Touch, tap, sound, messenger/message, drum beat, fire, smoke, colour, flag, cry, laughter/smile, tears, symbols, signs, pictures, language, music, songs, plays, stories, war signals, letter, morse code, telegram, telephone, cell phone, smartphone, wireless, radio, television, bits and bytes, computer, lap top, tablet, e-mails, sms, video-phone, skype, you tube, internet, files, folders, notes, books, reference books, dictionaries, encyclopaedia, telephone directory, CDs, education, training and capacity building, spying, market intelligence, learning and un-learning, folklore, campaigns, advertisements, boards, newspapers, magazines, audio, video and multi-media, films, online/offline courses, teaching, mentoring, e-governance all of these were/are/would be integral to any society/universe. Basic data organized is information, processed information applied is knowledge and wisdom is higher than the knowledge. Processed/applied information, knowledge and wisdom if available to the poor in their various spheres of life, health, education and livelihoods, would improve their lives and livelihoods. Earlier illiteracy has come in the way. Now, it is the digital divide. In the age of fast changing world, information on time holds the key.

Information is the record of transactions earlier and now, analysed for use. It includes databases. It includes algorithms. It includes the processes of generating knowledge, expertise etc., for processing. It includes best practices for people to follow. It includes do's and don'ts. It includes value-chain analyses and subsector studies. It includes, therefore, way forward, in terms of intervention, training, financing, proposals, management information system/monitoring and learning, results/indicators and performance against indicators, human resources and budget details. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Information'.

*** Editorial April 2012**

Decentralization

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

*** Editorial December 2016**

Community Health

Health is a function of our air, water, food, shelter and work. It begins with genes. It depends on what our mothers had when we were in their wombs. It depends on their health when they were adolescent girls. Cleanliness, sanitation, potable drinking water, and minimal nutrition constitute preventive health. This is manageable by the person, by the family and the community in which we live. State can pitch in a bit. Curative health has some elements in the house. Some quick tips of the grandmother would work. Traditional health practices and medicine would work. Village health worker could help. Family-managed Kitchen Gardens! Primary health centres and sub-centres! Insurance for Health and accidents! Referrals! ArogyaSri! Community-managed health appears necessary and possible as an important element in keeping our communities healthy in a cost effective manner. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Community Health'.

*** Editorial July 2015**

Civil Society

Development of the people is a function of the work pulls and pushes of the State, Market and Civil Society. State regulates. Market responds to the demand. Civil Society that includes Community Collectives remind and pull the State and Market to be responsive to the needs of the people. This is the famous Development Triangle. Together, state, market and civil society constitute the entirety of a society, and the relations between these three components determine the character of a society and its structure. Civil Society includes groups or individuals either performing certain services or trying to influence and improve society, state and market as a whole. A spectrum of organizations from part of these – community organizations, civic groups, trade unions, activist groups, academia, clubs/associations, cooperatives, SHGs, religious organizations, social enterprises, NGOs, training and research organizations, support organizations, trusts/foundations and other voluntary organizations etc. Major categories include NGOs (public benefit), people's organizations (mutual benefit), Their roles vary but include innovation, piloting, ideation, mobilization, institution building, capacity building, skilling, advocacy, contracting in, service delivery, networking, facilitation, welfare, relief and rehabilitation, resource mobilization, countervailing to state and market, public voice, policy influence, communication and articulation etc.

The history of civil society is ancient. The king and the philanthropy shared the responsibility of welfare of the common citizen. Of late, state is doubling as civil society and terms like GONGO have become popular. Corporate Social Responsibility by the Business is also increasing. Large community organizations are taking up mobilization and facilitation into their hands. The roles of the civil society are changing dynamically. E-civil society is also emerging. The tax regime is changing. Donor perceptions are changing. Social enterprises are gaining prominence.

MFI crisis may be an exception! State's regulation on civil society is also changing. Some facilitation in terms of more self-reliant collective laws, some control in terms of treatment of charity, income and foreign contribution and reporting requirements. Private wealth is supporting public gain led by 'giving' efforts. Of course, we also hear about public wealth supporting private gain. While open knowledge, skills and resources is the articulated way of the civil society, we see extreme ways within them. We also see the conflicts and networking within civil society. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'civil society'.

*** Editorial April 2011**

Institutions of the Poor

It is established now that poor meet their needs when they have external facilitators, internal animators and institutions. Of course, they also need favourable policy environment. Poor consume individually basic items and in small quantities. They address their risks with more activities. They save in small livestock, products, chits, grain

banks, in cash or kind in some pot, grain or hut. They borrow money even if it is costly. Because that is the intensity of the need! Yet times desperate! They need services. They need quality products at reasonable rates. They need them in time. They need to improve their bargaining power. They need to realize higher prices for their products that can come from pooling and value-addition. They can access services in bulk, with increased certainty, if they can get together. They need to demonstrate the ownership of demand and supply. They need to have visible collective power. Solidarity, policy advocacy, political economic compulsions work in favour of the poor, then.

Indian constitution provides for coming together (right to associate). Informal getting together for social needs and local needs is common. Self-help groups and joint liability groups are growing around thrift and credit. Movements of cooperatives around economic activities have been around on and off. Credit Cooperatives, Agriculture Cooperatives, Dairy Cooperatives, Weavers' Cooperatives, Craft Cooperatives, Labour Cooperatives, Consumer Cooperatives etc., are there across – some working well and some do not work. New cooperatives under Mutually-aided Cooperative Societies Act (and similar self-reliant cooperatives acts), with least interference from the state are growing. We have trade unions. We have associations. We have people's institutions registered under the Trust Act. We have cooperative banks. Nowadays we have producers' companies. We have tiers of collectives in their federal structures. Some emphasize participatory democracy. Some focus on representative systems. Some combine both. Some seek members taking care of various activities in the entity. Some seek volunteers. Some seek community professionals, resource persons and service providers as staff. Many hire staff, including high-end professionals, with clear distinction between governance and execution/operations. Some are leader-driven and some are system-driven. In any case, their centrality is the member.

We have more institutions than the households in the country. Strange! More than half the households are not able to access any institution. Further, many of them are not effective. Many of them do not have vision or clear plan of action. They may not have adequate capacities and resources. Transparency and accountability within them has to increase. Collective leadership has to be more member-centric. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'institutions (of the poor)'.

*** Editorial July 2010**

Community Animation

For the people who have been blessed with the competencies of survival in difficult circumstances, the support would be required in terms of their own institutions, their own internal animators and their friends – external facilitators. The Internal Animators are the ones who sustain the institutions and ensure their continued relevance to the communities. They may be reluctant in the beginning, once on board, they drive the entire community movement. The leaders, the volunteers, the bookkeepers, the people who get people to meetings, the trainers, the best practitioners, the entrepreneurs, early birds, auditors, monitors, service providers, paraprofessionals, resource persons, hosts, staff in the community institutions on full-time/part-time, members in the committees, watchful eyes, inspirers, supporters and silent articulators etc., constitute this vast internal community animation architecture. About 10-15% of the community would don these roles and take up these tasks. It is ever evolving. Its capacities are ever improving dynamically. It supports the seeding of the community mobilization movement and nurtures it. In its absence, external facilitators would not go far. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Community Animation'.

*** Editorial February 2013**

Communitization

People lead their Lives and Livelihoods and therefore, they need to plan for them and decide for them. Indian villages and communities were self-reliant and self-supporting. They were not interfering with the nature's ability to heal itself and sustain life/future. Innate volunteerism was present. As the poor get together in their institutions to serve as platforms for their better lives and livelihoods for a reasonable time to come, they need to be self-reliant, self-supporting and self-organizing. They need to take over today's activities of the facilitating organizations immediately; they need to have large number (1 per 10 families) of leaders, cadres (paid and unpaid; retained and need-based) with capacities rather than dependent on high cost less reliable professionals from outside; and they need to be supported with less in number but high calibre professionals with abilities of generalist integration, mentoring and being/working with communities. This, referred as communitization, as to be scaled up and extended to local governments, civil society and project staffing. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Communitization'.

Do not forget to read CF Haemendorf's Classic 'Living Among Indian Tribes'.

*** Editorial October 2015**

Elderly Care

We are a young nation of 25+ years but we are becoming old year by year. The elders as a % of Indian population is growing at a fast pace. From about 8%+ now, it is expected to reach 20% by year 2050. Adding 50-60 years band (to be old soon), it is about 30%+. A third of the population needs understanding, appreciation and support. Women elders are more than men elders. The men elders seem more vulnerable than the women elders. Elders work. Active elders, Assisted and Destitute elders have differential ability to work. Life expectancy at 60 is 19 more years now. And with a clear 15-20 years of working life, we need all that we do with the youth and/or the middle aged. We need collectivization. We need skilling. We need Elders for Elders, as in Poor for Poor. Most of them in third career or a fourth career. Their wisdom has a lot of use for the young. They bond with the children better than the middle aged. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Elderly Care'.

*** Editorial February 2015**

'livelihoods' Collectives'

With more than 30 million women and other poor in Self-help Groups and their federal entities, SHGs have become a growing movement. Differently-abled men and women are becoming SHGs and Elderly men and women are becoming SHGs. They are slowly getting linked to banks. They are expanding to take up activities beyond savings, credit, and insurance and these include solidarity, remittance, equity, social security, caring the vulnerable, collective action, collective purchases and sales. However, we have large number of institutions of the poor in the country.

Many more are coming. These include primary agriculture cooperatives, water users associations, farmers' groups, labour groups, shram sakthi sanghas, forest collectives, vana samrakshana samitis, watershed committees, youth/women/senior citizens associations, caste panchayats, MACS, consumers' cooperatives, producers' companies, partnerships, membership-based trusts and societies, marketing cooperatives, ryot-coolie sanghas, education committees, mothers' committees, advocacy groups and associations etc.

Some are registered and some are not. Some are registered in one form or other. Sometimes, suitable forms of association are not available. Tax regime is not fully favourable to all forms of collectives. Some forms have more state control. Some are member-controlled. Some are more democratic and some are leader-centred or manager centred. Some are equity centred. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on the 'livelihoods' Collectives'.

*** Editorial September 2011**

Building Capacities

Building capacities of the poor includes increasing information, knowledge, skills and resources. It is also offering ability to identify the gaps and opportunities on their own, develop a plan of action to tap them and realize the plan. The institutions of the poor emerging need to have capacity for learning, planning and action. The leaders of the people and their institutions need to have capacity to learn, plan, inspire, mobilize, hold and take the people forward. They should have the capacity to decide. The staff working in the institutions and in the support organizations need to have will and capacities to service them. The poor themselves should have the capacity to make their institutions, leaders, service providers and staff to be useful to them. The capacities required may vary from place to place, institution-to-institution, context-to-context and person-to-person. They need to know what are their rights and entitlements and how to tap them. They need to negotiate with the market and non-poor for accessing products and services and supplying/providing products and services. They need to begin organizing themselves on their own. They need to learn on their own. They need capacities for this.

These capacities have to be provided in a variety of ways. Exposures, Theoretical grounding and Practice – all these build their capacities. They need to have examples, pilots and documentation of practices. They need trainers and inspirers. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'building capacities' of the poor and their institutions.

*** Editorial November 2010**

Environment

Environment and ecology is in danger. It is fragile and is busting in the seams. The man who lives in the nature is no longer visible. Glaciers are melting faster. Sea levels are rising. Untimely rains! Irregular but repeated droughts and disasters! Pollution! Non-decaying garbage and plastics! Chemical and pesticide-filled food! Disappearing species, rare species! Decreasing bio-diversity! Increasing pace, decreasing reserves! Burgeoning population, disparities and needs and depleting resources! Forests are dwindling, drinking water, potable water is disappearing, and earth shakes more frequently. Droughts and floods have become routine. Deserts and drought areas are expanding. Food

Security is lost.

Urban areas are up and rural areas are down. The occupations and livelihoods are changing. Environmentalists are getting awards, including Nobel. Campaigns seeking inclusion of environment thought in everything we do are mounting. While we pushed eco-friendly indigenous people deep inside, on to the ridges, or into margins across and made them voiceless, in their native lands, we have begun to feel the pitch of the cracking ecology and environment. We moved from the stage of consuming naturally recycling items to the stage of plundering the nature and the resultant ill-effects are now being felt by many of us in a small way. Some kind of fear of the future has gripped many of us. Fortunately, the time is not completely lost. There is still hope of resurrecting the nature and passing it safely to the next generations.

This requires long-term plans and their implementation. In their absence, the people who are losing livelihoods with no fault of theirs, the people who are not having water to drink/survive, people who are suffering the consequences of ill health etc., are going to revolt. They are in large numbers, in fact, they constitute the majority. Nature wars, eco-wars, water wars are coming!

In relation to this, the livelihoods in environment and conserving and bettering the environment and ecology are growing. Natural Resource Management, Organic Farming, Recycling, Alternative Energy, Labour-intensive industry etc., are growing. They have to grow. It is in this context, the ninth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "environment".

*** Editorial September 2009**

Biodiversity

COP11 Hyderabad Declaration commits to biodiversity protocols with marginal progress on resources! COP11 to Convention on Biodiversity has been just concluded in Hyderabad. Biodiversity has been in the air of Hyderabad for 20 days. Human life is a function of all diverse life and non-life around. Conserving biodiversity needs resources and they are expected from the developed nations and they are not forth coming. However, indigenous communities and local populations, with their frugal and simple lifestyles, are protecting the environment and biodiversity. Also, human life itself is varied and diverse in their various dimensions. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'biodiversity'.

*** Editorial November 2012**

Commons

Entire universe was the common good of the life in the world. All life has rights to it, once upon a time. Gradually, human beings have taken control on most of it limiting access to others. In fact, they started owning other life. Men went about owning women! Groups of human beings went about owning slaves. Gradually, individual acquired properties. Public good has become private patent. But, still the sun is common. The air is common. The blue sky is common. The 'God' is common. In many a place, the coast is common. The hill is common. The forest is common. Theoretically, entire land and, water, the flora and fauna belong to the state. Slowly, universal commons are dwindling. Communal commons are still visible. New collective commons are emerging. Culture continues in the category of commons. The languages!. The unpatented knowledge of the common people! The practices of the people in traditional livelihoods! The open source software! The spectrum that is not sold out (by the state)! The museums! The palaces! The tanks, cascading tanks, the institutions that protect them! The religion, the sects, the pantheons, the spiritual books! The Himalayas, the glaciers, the rivers! The books, the songs, the folk songs, the dance forms, the cassettes – audio and video, the youtubes, the web portals and channels! The poverty, the institutions of the poor, their efforts, their activists, their social capital, the case studies! The civil society! The support structures! Local government, government, judiciary! Philanthropy, Charity! The list goes on!

International Association for the Study of Commons includes Knowledge (indigenous, scientific and modern), Culture, State and people's Institutions, Genetics, Policy framework, Art forms and traditional occupations and State itself.

While commons are disappearing at a fast pace, the poor still depend significantly on the commons, about 30-40%. Some of them are fast encroached and the pace of privatization of commons is the fastest, partly attributable to the tragedy of commons! Some of us are good users of commons but we do not contribute to their management, maintenance and development. Also, it is time we give the ownership back to the communities.

In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'commons'.

*** Editorial February 2011**

Cascades

Land and water go hand in hand. Most of the dry land areas are fed by rains. This rain water has to be harvested and stored in small ponds, tanks and reservoirs. The rainfall is erratic. The rain may come in bouts. In an area, it is more this time and less in other areas. It is also possible that the water from rain areas flows into rain shadow areas. There is more water a structure can hold and the excess water flows forward. This excess water is collected in the next structure rather than allowing it to flow in to a river into the sea. These are not one off examples. Across South India we find tank feeding the next tank, in a cascade of tanks. Thousands of tanks, small and big, were carefully constructed some 300-400 years ago. Some of them date back to more than 1000 years. Unfortunately, more than half of these tanks in the cascades are either encroached, silted or become real estates. As a result, the cascade of water storage does not work and the water flows remain unregulated and does not serve the purpose of water harvesting and use. Floods and droughts are amplified as a result.

These tanks are village tanks serving multiple needs of the village, apart from the irrigation. They are source of fish. They are source to wash clothes. They are a source of drinking water for cattle. They also let people take bath. Tank bund temples are common. The water in the tanks keeps the groundwater level high. Majority of the rural livelihoods have some link with the tanks and the well-being of the tanks.

For many a tank, there are traditional systems of maintenance. There are watermen who regulate water flows. The silt is auctioned. The fish/fishing in the tank is auctioned. There are water users associations for the management of the tanks. Many of them are recognized by the governments. There are systems of sharing the costs of maintenance. Annual tank festivals are also common. Thus, tanks constitute an integral element of rural life.

In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on the tanks and their cascades.

*** Editorial August 2011**

Water

Oxygen, Water and Food are the essential trinity of for any life form. Our body is 50-75% water. We need to drink 3-4 litres water every day to survive/live, we need estimated 50 litres of water for personal and domestic hygiene, and we need water for food production. However, less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use. Civilisations came around water sources and water bodies, including rivers, streams, springs, oases, lakes, tanks and seas. Agriculture and Food productivity is function of water and the cost of the water. Rainfall makes or mars the lives of the farmers. Droughts, Floods, Good years etc., are caused by the variations in water cycle patterns. Human beings have always valued water. Water is treated as Goddess Ganga. From agriculture based on rains, we are harvesting rain water in the tanks and practicing tank-based agriculture. Streams and rivers are stopped with reservoirs and canal-based agriculture has come in. We talk about linking rivers. Sharing water is the key inter-state conflict area in many a state. On the face of it, we have realised the acute necessity of harvesting, conserving, judicious use, and recycling (after treating human, agriculture and industrial waste water) water. We are taking up watershed development/treatment/management on a large scale to cover the entire country.

From having a glass of water at no cost, we have moved on to buy water. Sometimes, we are buying a cola or tea instead. We still have many villages without adequate potable drinking water, while a good number of households waste water. Half of Indians live in a perennial dehydrated state! A majority of our farmers, with access to low cost water, practices water-inefficient farming. Many of our industries pollute this precious life elixir. Our groundwater is over exploited and many of the zones are declared as dark or grey zones. Climate Change projects looming disaster in the horizon, mainly through water crisis, with melting glaciers, rising sea levels, drying Himalayan rivers, flooding peninsular rivers without water most of the year. Water supply has become a profitable business for many. While we have physical water scarcity, we are also generating inequitable economic water scarcity. This in turn is affecting food security adversely for the poor.

Water supply units, water treatment plants, watersheds, water use collectives, water-based industries and food processing units, sanitation, hygiene, hospital, travel, hospitality-based tiny, micro, small, medium, and big enterprises and entrepreneurs offer employment and livelihoods to one in three or four in India. Some of their livelihoods are threatened and some new livelihoods tapping opportunities in the scarce and trying times are emerging. Water to poor is still a big issue. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'water'.

*** Editorial December 2009**

Energy

One of the early discoveries of the human beings is fire, an energy form. Gradually, over a period of time, energy use has been the symbol of 'civilization'. While the five elements have energy in them, energy has multiple forms. Sun, sunlight, wind, burning wood and coal, flowing water, rising wave, thunder, lightning, growing tree, life, harvested produce, oilseeds, oil, oil lamps, electricity, petroleum, bio-diesel, natural gas, atomic energy – energy is there in all of them and/or energy is consumed. Energy needs have grown and are growing. It is clear that the energy reserves will not last long. Efforts for energy conservation are on. Search for alternative energy sources is on. World is trembling with increased energy consumption. Climate and environment are changing. The differences are huge amongst countries, regions, and classes/sections. Now, the energy consumption, particularly the consumption of high energy users, has to come down. The conservation of various energy forms, sources, etc., has to be intensified. Alternative energy sources need to be tapped more intensely and vigorously. Efforts are increasing and gaining momentum. Even then, there are lives with high and unbearable drudgery. Energy based tools and technology can reduce their drudgery.

In actuality, there are no livelihoods which do not use energy. There are livelihoods in energy conservation and alternative energy. At least 10% of the overall livelihoods should be focussing on conservation and alternatives. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'energy'.

Editorial January 2010

Watershed Plus

Human Civilization is all around water! Direct rain water, its flows and/or the ground water provides life to human being. However, some of this water reaches the sea/ocean unused. Paradox is some do not get adequate water.

Some do not get water. Some get 'n' times more than they need. Some do not know how to store for future use. Use of groundwater has increased manifold. These water sources are becoming dry. Many areas are being declared as dark areas or grey areas. Tanks are getting dried up. Broken bunds! Silted tank beds, aqua-ducts! Encroached tank beds and tanks! Water courses that changed their routes and courses! Water-intensity crops! With the water runoff, there is soil runoff. Lands lose their fertility. Even one crop a year is not happening in dry-land rain-fed areas! Major changes in climate! Decreasing rainy days! Decreasing spells of rain! Heavy down pour or no rain! It is now clear to all of us – we need to stop water, rain water, make it walk. Store it. Let it seep or sink into ground. Silt in the tank bed needs to be removed and applied back onto soils. Bunds need to be repaired and renovated. Tank cascades need to be re-established. Moisture in the soil needs to be enhanced. Let the soil remain where it is. Trees need to be increased, especially on the land plots. Watershed treatment needs to be attempted from ridges to valleys, all across the country. In macro-watersheds and micro-watersheds! In river basins!

While doing so, equity cannot be ignored. Wages for the landless are fine. What about improvements in their livelihoods? Now, there are linkages established between watershed plus work and 100-days work of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee. There are also issues of post-watershed productivity – water productivity, land productivity and rupee productivity. Collectivisation in livelihoods is also important. As the watershed plus activities moved from civil society and government departments to Panchayat Raj Institutions, especially at the Gram Panchayat level and now at block level. Integrated and comprehensive watershed plus activities are reaching the nook and corner of the entire country in the coming 15-20 years. It is a massive effort. People's institutions have to take the lion's share in this effort, if government allocates necessary funds. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'watershed plus'.

*** Editorial March 2010**

Climate Change

Climate Change is before us. Erratic Monsoons!. High Temperatures! Melting Glaciers!. El Nino et al!. Reducing Predictability despite increased precision and data sets! Eroding Soils! Falling Water levels! Floods! Reducing Land Vegetation! Depleting Fossil fuels reserves!. Alternative energies are not yet there fully! Less-friendly environment! Growing Eco-fragilities! Increasing Marginalized zones! Increasing 'Hotspots'! Sustainability of the Earth is in debate! However, solutions are in the horizon. We need to work on them. Alternative energies! Natural Farming! Diet controls! Pollution norms! Healthy life styles! Let us live simple is becoming the new ideal despite growing income disparities. Social enterprises around climate changes are emerging. Communities are fighting their battles against the trends. They are demonstrating small examples of climate change resilience in their own way. We are at cross roads and in

transition times and we need to act. Our ways of living in this world have to change. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Climate Change'.

*** Editorial August 2017**

When Disasters Strike

In fluctuating lives and livelihoods, sudden emergencies and events – either natural and/or man-made disasters – earth quakes, cyclones, tsunamis, floods, droughts, plagues, fires, forest fires, wild animals running amuck, activities of the psychos, bomb explosions, anthrax attacks, battles and wars, gas leaks, virus attacks on computers, broken tanks, collapsed buildings and bridges, capsized boats/ships, kidnapped flights, leaders' murders, high-octane fights, etc., - create havoc in a neighbourhood, area, state, country or the world. The life trembles and livelihoods are lost.

Some enter deep depression while some lose lives. Some became disabled. Wealth is lost. Future is lost or becomes uncertain. Poor move further down in their poverty. Middle class slip into poverty ranks. They say – disasters are great levellers!

Some of these disasters are forecastable, some are not, some with less certainty. We have some technology for projecting and forecasting. We can prevent some. We can get ready to face some of them. Some may need preparations for coping when they strike. Social networks, new information and communication technology and satellite communications, infrastructure to face disasters when they strike - like shelters, escape vehicles, vaccines, medical teams etc., responsive state, state machinery, civil society and individuals everywhere and anywhere and importantly the inner urge of a woman/man to secure her/his others are surely helping all of us in disasters, in facing disasters, in coping with and getting over disasters. However, some poor, poorest of the poor, marginalized poor, especially elders, children, disabled, women, animals etc., remain neglected most of the time. They are forgotten and they are not the priority often.

From these disasters, lives and livelihoods emerge or resurrect. There are livelihoods associated with disasters – in forecasting, in preventing/reducing, in coping with, in rescuing, in preparing people, etc. Some may be temporary. At least a 10% of the individuals live on disasters. In this context, in this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'disasters'.

*** Editorial February 2010**

Food For All

Food is a life force and offers life force energy and a must in survival of any life. From the stage of having food from hunting and gathering, to growing crops, to tending animals and to cooking food, humans moved on. From sharing and looting the food, they moved on. From the stage of every location producing enough for itself, specializations and export/imports began. Willy-nilly market mechanisms started off. Farmers and poor producers decreased in numbers and percentages and people who provide non-food products and services increased. We transcended the stage of eating to survive. Our food intake portfolio includes cereals, vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs, meat and related raw, processed and cooked foods. We learnt to store them and store for long periods. We began to savour food for pleasure.

However, all of us are not bestowed equally and we are fulfilling our food needs in a variety of levels, layers and means. Some are starving; some billion-plus are not able to have a proper/full square meal a day; and some others became obese and struggling to burn the calories and fat they are accumulating. We also see huge wastage and spoilage of food. We are moving from green revolution to sustainable food production practices. Rice at Rs.2 a kg and Re.1 a kg are being offered through public distribution system. 100-day employment NREGA, and self-help groups and other collectives and federations of the poor are improving the food security in a small measure. One in three or four is involved in food production, food value-chain and marketing reaching the food consumer. Their livelihoods are threatened with growing climate change and globalization processes. Food shortages and rising prices are still the key issues. Food purchasing power is still an issue. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'food'.

*** Editorial November 2009**

Primary Health

After air, water and food, the people need health to live. Health expenditure is next only to food expenditure, when it comes to poor. Lots of us slip into poverty with health disasters and get stuck over there. For the families who live by the day, health means work; health means income. Otherwise it is starvation; or debts. May be because of this, it is said – poor are never ill. While ill, there is more expenditure and there is no income. While recuperating/recovering from illness, and immediately thereafter, there is no 'space' possibly to get nutrition and nutrients. In their physical,

economic and emotional circumstances, they ignore the early symptoms and get into major mishaps later. This explains partly why the first loans in the groups of the poor go for food and health needs. Next loans go for paying the high cost existing debts. When there is insurance (or someone is picking up costs), many 'non-existent' diseases come out. They bear many of their diseases in their stride, in the absence of facilities, infrastructure and financial stamina, and live with less productive lives with age and old-age showing up much earlier. Their ill-health is a function of lack of facilities; tiresome hardships and burdensome works; inadequate nutrition and nutrients, and vaccines, during the pregnancy, infancy and childhood; going to bed half-hungry and not having balanced diets; risky occupations/lives, accidents, migration, quacks, incomplete treatments, getting to work without complete/adequate cure and rest, habits, life-styles, nonavailability of safe potable water, non-affordable (cost and time) hygiene, difficulties in coping with fluctuating climates and climate changes, etc. All these contribute to the current reality of the poor in health in general and primary health in particular.

However, in 1.2 billion strong India, a large number of people who live on providing services in primary health include – doctors, nurses, compounders, health assistants, pharmacists, anganwadi workers, health 'volunteers', medicine dispensers/medical shops, quacks, herbal/ayurvedic doctors, dais, diagnosis people, medical companies, etc. In government itself, an estimated one-million plus people work. Service providers outside may be another 2.5 million, at the least. It is in this context, the seventh sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "primary health".

*** Editorial July 2009**

Social Security

Social Security is a necessary requirement in any society, in the life cycle of a human being. Society needs to take care of the mother when the child is in the womb. In fact, she needs to be cared in her adolescence so that she is strong enough to bear a healthy child. Then, the child needs to be nurtured till s/he goes to school. The growth of the body and mind is a function of this nutrition. Then, the child needs to be cared as s/he goes through the school with nutrition and quality education. Then, as the adult lives. As they reach oldage, they need to be paid back by the society for their contribution in building the society to this stage. They need to be cared till the natural end of their lives. Some people are more vulnerable than others even if they are not old. They need to be cared by appropriate support. These include disabled, widows, members of deprived communities etc. The society cares through family, the local community, civil society at large and government(s) at various levels. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Social Security' by the State.

*** Editorial December 2014**

India after Independence

In 67 years after independence, India has transformed. GDP increased 20 times. Prices have increased for food and other essentials by about 50 times. Dollar appreciated against Rupee 60 times. Green Revolution to Evergreen Revolution came. There were White Revolution, Yellow, and Blue Revolutions. Technology Missions happened. Amul became a national brand. Life Expectancy increased and crossed 70. But, Population crossed 120 Crore. Literacy increased to more than 70%. Poverty has fallen below 50% mark. Urbanization progressed to near 40%. It produces the most number of scientists in the world. It supplied IT HR to the world. It provides Yoga and spirituality to the world. It offers the low-cost medical treatment to the world. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'India after Independence'.

*** Editorial October 2014**

Social Responsibility

Man is a social animal. Social animal lives in the society. Man exists and helps people around him to co-exist. This is the basic premise of social responsibility. However, this basic human nature needs to be reminded again and again. Someone who lives well for some reason needs to care for others who are not so lucky. This is the need. This is the responsibility. We exist. We live. That is fine. What about our next generations? Our prosperity is a blessing of the society to us. The fruits of this prosperity has to reach all, may be in 3 ways – pay taxes to Government(s) – they in turn take up welfare and development activities (of course, Governments take care of us anyway because we pay taxes!); support development organizations that work for/with people (this is what most donors do, in any case!); and we ourselves do the good to the people directly (what about our work for our living!). The criticality is in achieving this balance.

As I grow and prosper, taking the family, friends, associates and colleagues forward; As we can 't bear the existence of poverty and poor, as it frustrates us, helping them within your means as our contribution; helping the people and

organizations that work with the poor with funds, goods and capacities; devoting time voluntarily for the activities that serve the purposes of the people – an hour a day, a half-day a week, 1-2days a month, a fortnight/month in a year so on; providing time to the people's institutions and community-based organizations; helping these institutions have visions, plans, capacities, resources etc.; providing raw materials, tools, skills, designs, processes, etc., and help them to market and sell their products, goods and services; building markets for the poor; providing items of consumption in a cost-effective manner when they need; bringing changes in the context and fighting for changes in the context; enhancing their six resources/capitals, bringing changes in the four arrows – increasing income, decreasing expenditure, increasing employment and decreasing risks; helping them in disasters and accidents; educating and teaching a person; help the schools to run better; bring health facilities accessible; help them to take up preventive, promotive and curative measures; help them to analyse their current reality and value-chains of goods and services of survival, development, growth and well-being; working for a lower fee; using all the money as capital rather than allow it to lie in a corner; many more. Is there any item that does not fit social responsibility?

Politics, business, secure jobs, occupations ... all these are for existence/survival, for ourselves. Things beyond them, for the sake of being useful to people, society and other lives – all are part of social responsibility. Beyond profits, for people, for planet, is social responsibility. None amongst us who is not socially responsible some time or the other, to some extent. For more than 30% people, their life/survival and social responsibility are identical. They are fully integrated. Of late, lots of corporates talk about social responsibility rather loudly. Some people with money would like to help the social entrepreneurs and social enterprises. Of course, some are discovering new businesses to make money! In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'social responsibility'.

*** Editorial April 2010**

Five Year Plans

Five Year Plans have become a tradition in India since 1952 and we had 12 plans so far. With the replacement of Planning Commission with NITI Aayog, Five year plan may be a casualty. The allocation of funds to states would shift into the hands of the finance commission(s) or finance ministry. Five year plans have established direction of India every five years. Plan Expenditure of the Budget came from the five year plan outlays. We have to wait and watch how NITI Aayog is going to set the direction for India on a regular basis. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Five Year Plans'.

*** Editorial January 2015**

12th Five Year plan

Five Year Plans in India set the direction of planned efforts of Government(s) in India. National Development Council has just (end of December 2012) considered the draft XII Five-year Plan of India. Inclusive Growth is the slogan of the plan. Of course, Plan Expenditure is just about half of the total the public expenditure. Annual Budgets play a major role in how the public expenditures go including the means and vehicles of expenditures. But, we cannot ignore the catalytic and directive effect of the Plan on the budgets. Planning Commission is struggling with defining the poor and figuring out what constitutes poverty and therefore, what needs to be done for a long time now. We also cannot ignore the federal nature of the planning and the allocations based as per agreed criteria including population, tax realized, poverty and backwardness etc. Within this broad framework, the states and local governments could work with more certainty on the flows from the Union Government, while drawing up their budgets. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'XII Five Year Plan'.

*** Editorial January 2013**

Technology

Homo sapiens sapiens is a curious and experimenting animal. From discovering stones to hunt, sharpening them, inventing fire to cook and have light in the night, signal communication, sounds on the stones, trumpets etc., music and dance, the journey is a journey of technology. From pre-agriculture to agriculture, including water harvesting to irrigation, domesticating livestock, milking and drinking milk, eating cooked food, housing, jewellery, safety and security, astronomy and warfare, language, printing, industry, information technology and bio-technology, to social engineering and psychology, all are processes, products and results of technology. Technology has been the great divider and technology has been the great leveller. Technology brought wars and technology brought peace. Technology killed people and technology brought comforts to the humankind. Civilization in essence may mean technology applied for the larger benefit of the mankind. Technology may be neutral but its application makes all the difference. And there is no domain that does not have some technology or the other – simple, appropriate, complex,

cheap, costly, labour-intensive, capital-intensive, energy-intensive.

Some technologies create poverty and some reduce poverty. Some have both results simultaneously. Technology is a key ingredient, either way, in the value-chains of livelihoods of the poor. It can increase employment. It can increase the cost of the labour and retain value-addition locally. It may need capital. It may require trained persons. They may require training. Poor may not be access them. But, they need to access them. They may need to come together at various levels to access them. Technology may improve the institutions. Technology may facilitate governance. Technology may reduce drudgery. Technology may increase transparency and accountability. Technology may reduce duplication and redundancy. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'technology'.

*** Editorial May 2012**

New Government

Elections are over. Democracy danced with increased voter turnout. Voters gave NDA, BJP and Narendra Modi absolute majority. Cabinet has been sworn in. 10 priority areas have been announced. 100-day action plan(s) are being developed. It is expected that NDA pools up the promises in their partner party manifestos and develop a common minimum programme. The budget would be presented shortly. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'New Government'.

*** Editorial May 2014**

Prosperous and Equitable States

1948. 1953. 1956. 1969. 1972. 2014 – it has been a long struggle, from independence from Nizam and joining Indian Dominion; split from Madras State; State Reorganization and emergence of Andhra Pradesh; Jai Telangana movement; Jai Andhra movement; and emergence of two Telugu states – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh now. Both the states are large with more than 40 million people each. Both have the promise of becoming the prosperous inclusive developed states in the next 2 decades if the visions emerge and leaderships seize. If they work together, they would be a formidable and decisive force in Indian political, economic and development scene. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Prosperous and Equitable States'.

*** Editorial February 2014**

Demonetization

Entire 50 days since 8 November 2016, India breathed 'demonetization'. More than Rs.15 lakh crore of old (Rs.500 and Rs.1000) notes have been deposited in the banks. Some Rs.5 lakh crore new currency has come in. Government and RBI has kept on making rules, some 60+, to deal with the emerging status and progress. Still, we can withdraw only Rs.24000 per week and Rs.4500 in a day from ATMs. We are expecting to see the results (sort of a white paper by the Government) whether it has achieved its stated (ever changing) objectives of reducing the black money in currency form, eliminating counterfeit currency, getting more black money into national white economy, increasing tax income, increasing less cash transactions and increasing digitalization of the economy etc. It is an offence to have (10 and more) banned currency. It is being talked that even the new Rs.2000 notes will be banned soon. Rs.200 notes are expected to come. BHIM has been launched. Mobile payment system has been ushered in and apps are growing; transactions are growing. In all livelihoods, the currency will bounce back as a favoured way for small size transactions. Government has to ban use of cash for transactions above certain size. Small currency has to be increased significantly. Digital infrastructure has to be increased and improved across the country. The service charges have to be/become near zero. The families with deaths in the family have to be compensated. Surely, a lot of 'black' continues as new 'black'. There is a danger for increased 'black' with vengeance. In the coming 2-3 months, normalcy is restored, hopefully. We hope all this suffering (especially by the farmers, daily wage earners, petty traders/vendors etc.), increased savings for middle classes, decreased GDP, slump in the market etc. is worth it, and recovers soon. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Demonetization'.

*** Editorial January 2017**

Goods and Services Tax

GST – Goods and Services Tax, One Tax for One Nation, has rolled-in on 1 July 2017. People are falling in line. There is initial chaos. Hopefully, things settle down. Systems are getting in and tightened nut by nut. Education in a big way is required. Still some tax rates are not poor-friendly, development friendly and growth friendly. It appears the tax rates are not in favour of the small and middle entrepreneurs, service providers and enterprises. Community enterprises and social enterprises – why do they have to pay GST? There are still ways for undigitalized getaway from the tax net. It is early to make final comments yet. We need to wait and understand. We may be ready for it after

a year. Meanwhile, we need to understand the emerging GST regime. In this context, 'livelihoods' has attempted exploring and presenting 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'.

*** Editorial September 2017**

Banking Transaction Tax

After Demonetization, and GST, the next possible reform will be in direct taxes. It is widely rumoured that it will be Banking Transaction Tax in lieu of Income Tax. Bank Accounts are being linked to Aadhaar. The talk is that one cannot have more than one account in a bank to begin with; and later, one account in any bank in India. Government is discouraging cash transactions. Government/Bank is able to track most of the bank transactions. If a limit on cash withdrawal is made very small, so as not to affect very poor, a tax on banking transaction is possible. It can be limited to only payments. The tax need not be there on deposits. The total volume/vale of the transactions may exceed Rs. 2-3 thousand lakh crore easily. A mere 2% BTT would mean: Rs.20-30 lakh crore – this is more than the national budget by 30-50%. All the hassles of public for payment and of government for collection disappear. People may welcome the idea with ease. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "Banking Transaction Tax".

*** Editorial January 2018**

Election Manifestos

Elections include Manifestos by various contesting parties. While most manifestos remain largely unread by the common voter, the essential content comes across to her/him through campaigns, advertisements, slogans etc. Voter gets one more input for taking her/his decision of voting. The winning party/coalition pools up the promises in their manifestos and develop a Common Minimum Programme for the ruling party/pre-poll/post-poll coalition. Most manifestos present only the intentions and do not tell how they would achieve these. The incumbent ruling parties do not explain the progress against the Common Minimum Programme announced when they took oath. Many a time these are part of formality. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Election Manifestos'.

*** Editorial April 2014**

People's Manifesto

Election mood is catching up in the country. Preparations by all stakeholders are visible. Media is gearing-up. Opinion polls are making some predictions. In this context, 'livelihoods' is presenting People's Manifesto for the next five years, for adaptation in manifestos of the parties, at least in parts.

*** Editorial May 2013**

Major Influences in 25 Years

We have been influenced various people, organizations, interventions, technologies, books, films, etc. Some of them have major influences on us in general and the lives and livelihoods of the poor in particular. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Major influences' over the last 25 years as a special issue.

*** Editorial October 2013**

I.7L

1. 7Ls

(Life, Living, Livelihoods, Linkages, Leadership, Learning and Love)

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We have been focusing on 7Ls i.e. Life, Living, Livelihoods, Linkages, Leadership, Learning and Love for a significant time. This time “livelihoods” makes a humble attempt to understand about 7Ls. All the Ls are interconnected and interdependent, we would like to comprehensively discuss about each L.

Life

What is Life? Some philosophers say life is what exists between birth and death. Mere existence is not life. It is the quality of life, which decides how good a life is and how worth it is living for. Thinking about a life of worth, a question arises: what does a person lives for... What are the elements that

drive a person to live? Many tried to answer this. In one such attempt, Abraham Maslow came up with a loosely arranged needs hierarchy theory. According to him, people are motivated by various needs.

It may be beginning with basic need for physical survival. Physiological level includes meeting the needs of air, water, food, shelter, sleep, clothing, reproduction...etc. Safety level encompasses personal security, employment security, access to resources, good health etc. Love needs may be in the form of need for friendships, intimacy, family, sense of belonging. Esteem needs exist in the form of need for respect, self-esteem, status, recognition, strength, freedom. Self-actualization is realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences. It is the desire to become the most one can be. In later times, Maslow expanded his needs theory by including cognitive needs, aesthetic needs and transcendence needs. Cognitive needs include knowledge and understanding, curiosity, exploration, need for meaning and predictability. Aesthetic needs include appreciation and search for beauty, balance, form, etc. Transcendence needs are in which a person is motivated by values which transcend beyond the personal self (e.g., mystical experiences and certain experiences with nature, aesthetic experiences, service to others, the pursuit of science, religious faith, etc.).

In general, every person strives towards one or more than one of these elements. For some self actualization needs take priority in life. For some basic day to day survival becomes life. For people like Socrates, basic needs may not matter. He spent his life building the tradition of thinking and questioning everything. For people like Mother Teresa, love is not just for self. It is selfless and needs to be spread to everyone. That is what she lived for by tending throughout her life to poor, sick and hungry. For many in politics, esteem needs in the form of recognition, respect, and power may take priority than the self-actualization needs. For a farmer in distress, safety of crop, income, family takes priority. For a person begging for alms, immediate concern of food, shelter, and clothing assume utmost importance. All these show that life means differently to different people and at different times.

But is all human life equal? Ideally it should be! We are supposed to be egalitarian, and we continue to strive for that. But, Inequalities existed and continue to exist in the world in various forms. For instance, differences continue to exist in the form of poor vs. rich, Hindus vs. Muslim, white vs. black, man vs. woman, Tribal vs. Non-Tribal, Hills vs. Plains, literate vs. illiterate, haves vs. have not's and the list goes on. To address these, development of human life is essential.

In one such attempt made in 1990s, the first Human Development Report (HDR) introduced a new approach for advancing human wellbeing. According to this, human development or the human development approach is about

expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. It is an approach, that is focused on people and their opportunities and choices. Human development focuses on, improving the lives people lead rather than assuming that economic growth will lead, automatically, to greater wellbeing for all. Income growth is seen as a means to development, rather than an end in itself. Human development is about giving people more freedom to live lives they value. In effect this means developing people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them. Three foundations for human development are to live a long, healthy and creative life, to be knowledgeable, and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. Though, many other things are important, such as creating the right conditions for human development, once the basics of human development are achieved, they open up opportunities for progress in other aspects of life. Human development is, fundamentally, more about choice. It begins with freedom, opportunities, and choice the individual has to choose from! It is about providing people with opportunities, not insisting that they make use of them. No one can guarantee human happiness, and the choices people make are their own concern. The process of development should at least create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are efforts to achieve that development. Globally, Human development or a meaningful life is increasingly being attached to a happy life. The role of a development worker is to be instrumental in making it happen.

But, should we restrict the meaning of life to just human life? Can human lead life on own and in isolation? Human experience shows, it is not possible. Life should include all beings including plants, animals, microbes...etc. This is emphasized by SDG 14 and 15.

SDG-14 talks about life below water and focuses on conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas and all marine resources. The world's oceans, their temperature, chemistry, currents and life drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity as a whole, and to counter balance the effects of climate change. SDG-15 talks about life on land and aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Land and forests are the foundation of sustainable development. Forests cover 30% of the Earth's surface and, in addition to providing food security and shelter, are key to combating climate change, protecting biodiversity and are home to the indigenous population. Forests are home to more than 80% of all terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. At the same time, around 1.6 billion people also depend on forests for their livelihood, including some 70 million indigenous people. Over 80% of the human diet is provided by plants, with rice, maize and wheat providing 60% of energy intake. In addition, 80% of people living in rural areas in developing countries rely on traditional plant-based medicines to provide their basic healthcare. This shows that, life in all forms needs to be taken care and continuously improved. Life cannot be understood completely without having an idea about living. So, let us try understanding what living is.

Living

Living is a pursuit of a specific kind of lifestyle. It is the way of life. So what is that way of life? Is it living for the sake of living? Is it living with a purpose? Is it living in the moment? Is it living at peace? Is it just being alive? Is it somehow making out a living? Is it day to day living? It is all of these or some of these or one of these depending on how an individual wants to live and can live.

How to live is definitely a choice one makes. A person may freely decide what they want to study, where they want to study, what work they want to do, whom to marry or not to marry, which faith to follow or be an atheist, which political ideology to believe and much more. But, is the choice on how to live one's own always? Many times it is not.

Here are some alternate narratives. For a Syrian refugee, living is coming out alive, through all the treacherous paths and finding a home, where they can start their lives afresh. It is same with Rohingya refugees. But when they do not find a home or are forced to live in refugee camps, they live a "permanently temporary life". For a Transgender in India, living is about finding an identity, finding employment, finding recognition and living without the fear of discrimination. For a patient demanding euthanasia, living is about making a choice on how to live and even how to

end life. For tribals residing in remote areas, living is assimilating their way of life in tune with the way nature functions, because for them it is a symbiotic relationship living. When development encroaches into their way of life, it may no more be a true living for them. For a woman in India, her living is impacted by multiple people and factors from womb to tomb.

A look at the above scenarios makes it clear that living is impacted by numerous external factors. It is a complex web of these factors, which decides the nature of living. What are they?

Firstly, the ability to make a choice on how to live depends on individual's level of aspirations, attitudes, abilities and achievements. If a person is strong willed and decides to work towards coming out of poverty, it would definitely improve some aspects of his/her living. It is evident in the life of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who worked against all odds to study. His education and understanding of world, law, Indian Society made him an eminent person in the annals of Indian constitutional history. Here, he rejected his dismal social status and his predominant will, changed his way of living. But this determination will improve as a person is empowered on all fronts. For example, many women who have been empowered through SHG movement have changed their living styles. The empowerment increased their physical mobility, improved socio economic status, increased their say in family decisions and it would eventually make them a social force.

Secondly, family is a major influence on how people live. Families have an important role in developing personality, inculcating values, imparting emotions, giving education etc. It is the first influence on an individual. It can constrain or expand one's choices. Malala Yousafzai stood against terrorists for her rights and today, she fights for the disadvantaged girls all over the world. Her family's support, courage, values, upbringing definitely have lot to do, with the way she lives today. The motto of live and let live or live to make others' lives better will be a positive influence.

Thirdly, the society we live in has a lot of say on the way we live. In a liberal society, individual's way of life is not hampered with. In a conservative society, there may be moral policing of individual by the society. This is evident in the honour killings of young couples by Khap Panchayats (KP). In a multicultural society like India, coexisting with other religious faiths, compromises are essential to have a peaceful living. The relations within society, social capital influence living. The caste system in India, decide partially on what occupations people should pursue, nature of marriage, status of women, etc., It in a way constrains individual's choices. This is clearly evident in the practice of untouchability, dowry, etc.

Fourthly, religion is one of the key factors. Hinduism ensures moral behaviour through karma philosophy, Islam encourages generosity through the practice of zakat, Christianity encourages the value of hope, Jainism encourages non-violence and Buddhism promotes madhye marg or middle path shunning extremism. But, when these are interpreted wrongly, it leads to conflict in the society and creates discord among communities. It would erode quality of living.

Fifthly, Country, its history, law, constitution, institutions, politics, economy, etc. impact living. In India, the preamble, fundamental rights and directive principles of state policy continuously improve people's living. Article 21 explicitly protects right to life. Supreme Court (SC) of India has expanded its definition over time to make it a right to dignified life. This is an effort to improve quality of living. The right paradigm, evolving in the form of Right to Work under MGNREGS, Right to Information, Right to Education and Universal Health Care (UHC) would increase people's choices in their day to day lives. At the same time, when a nation discourages public opinion, encourages dictatorship in place of rule of law, encourages malpractices, it would suffocate people's living.

Sixthly, as world is becoming a global village, international relations are increasingly influencing individual lives for both good and bad. Radical groups with global base like ISIS are creating terror in the lives of people all over. At the same time, inter-linkages among people, nations are opening up new opportunities for people.

So, it is clear that individual's desire to live better is necessary, but it is not sufficient alone. That desire should be nurtured by all the external factors to make living worthwhile. An important part of living is livelihood.

Livelihoods

If living is a way of life, livelihoods is means to live. Livelihoods are the fuel to run life. Livelihoods are decided by

one's socio economic status, skills and external factors. Understanding livelihoods is important before making an effort to improve it. To understand livelihoods, a livelihoods framework has been developed at Akshara.

Understanding livelihoods:

Livelihoods include all activities and decisions, which an individual or family takes that result in the family acquiring the aspects of Income, Expenditure, Risk, Employment and enabling them to live on. As per the Livelihoods Framework (LF), Livelihoods are a play of Six Capitals towards Four Arrows within the Four Contexts, and involves continuum. The four arrows are: Increasing income, reducing expenditure, Increasing Employment and reducing risk. Six capitals are: Natural capital, Physical capital, Social capital, Human capital, Financial capital and Spiritual capital. Four Contexts are: Environmental and ecological; Techno-economic; Distribution patterns; Investment and expenditure patterns. These 14 elements have to be studied in detail to understand the nuances of livelihoods.

Making an Intervention:

To improve livelihoods of poor, one or more interventions are required. Before making intervention, some of the basics to be understood are:

1. Poor have multiple livelihoods
2. Poor are both consumers and producers
3. Local best practices exist and can be replicated
4. Knowledge, resources and skill should be integrated
5. Micro and Macro could play differently
6. Entire value chain needs to be addressed
7. Interventions need to aim at both collective as well as individual levels
8. Poor need support of service providers
9. Livelihoods of the poor are risky
10. Ideas are more important than finances
11. 'Meta Fish/Skill' is more important.

All these should be understood adopted based on the inputs of the people involved. Development professionals are only catalysts in improving livelihoods. Actual intervention is taken by the individual or family. The intervention strategy, should continuously evolve according to the changing contexts.

Today livelihoods are increasingly threatened by changing contexts. For example, technology can be a disrupter as well as provider of livelihoods. For instance, Automation threatens 69 per cent of the jobs in India, while 77 per cent in China, according to a World Bank research which has said that technology could fundamentally disrupt the pattern of traditional economic path in developing countries. To counter this new livelihoods have to be created and skills have to be imparted in people. Similarly climate change is going to be major player in livelihoods linked to agriculture. Therefore, People have to be trained to continuously adapt to the changing scenario and make themselves and their livelihoods relevant.

Linkages

Linkages are way to optimize the outcome. It is connecting all available elements in an efficient way. We would like to categorize them as Linkages within oneself, Linkages within 7Ls and Linkages externally.

Linkages within oneself:

For every individual, on the professional front, to improve livelihoods, linkages are essential. One has to link their abilities, opportunities, knowledge, social networks, financial resources etc to make decisions to improve one's livelihood. On the personal front linking various emotions, could lead to gain in Emotional Intelligence (EI). Emotional Intelligence is the ability to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in an effective and positive way. A high EI would help individuals to communicate better, reduce their anxiety and stress, defuse conflicts, improve relationships, empathize with others, and effectively overcome life's challenges. This would improve quality of life of

the person, practicing EI and people around him/her.

Linkages within 7Ls:

As we look closely into 7Ls, they are interconnected. One can begin with one of the Ls and reach all the Ls. Let's try attempting the links. Beginning with Love, it is the foundation of life. Love in the form of passion encourages learning. Love for fellow beings, promotes initiative and community leaderships. Love in the form of self respect promotes a self reliant living. Moving on to Learning, it has different meaning for different people. Some learn for life, some learn to make a livelihood, while some learn to live. Some learn to lead. Leadership is vital to make decisions about life, livelihoods or even leading their own life. Livelihoods are definitely means of living. At the same time improvement in livelihoods increases one's confidence and ability to lead. This confidence and empowerment is what we see in the grass root leadership of SHGs. Therefore, to realize full potential of life, all the Ls have to be linked and worked in an integrated manner.

Linkages among stakeholders in Development sector:

Functioning in isolation is not as impactful as working together. Partnerships among all stakeholders are inevitable to understand the issues, arrive at needful interventions, implement in a participatory manner and ensure its sustainability. As many of the development practitioners must have observed, if the links among people are not strong, there is less ownership of any scheme or intervention. Also strong links within the community would promote collectivization and commoditization, where people would take their decisions based on their needs, abilities, possibilities and constraints. The role of development practitioner is to strengthen the existing bonds and bridge the existing gaps.

Linkages among development workers is essential for knowledge sharing, increasing efficiency etc., Similarly partnerships among community, Young Professionals, Livelihood Support Organisations (LSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBO), Advocacy groups, Civil society and Government would reduce duplication, improve outcomes to everyone involved. The practice of Social Audit, involving beneficiaries, Gram Sabha (GS), NGOs, Government is evidence to this. All the linkages have to be continuously recognized, utilized and improved.

Leadership

Leadership is a process by which an executive can direct, guide and influence the behavior and work of others towards accomplishment of specific goals in a given situation. Leadership is the ability of a manager to induce the subordinates to work with confidence and zeal.

Earlier, leadership used to in the mode of leader and follower. But this is continuously undergoing change. Today, a leader should initiate action, maintain integrity, motivate people, build confidence, groom leaders, turn vision into a reality, take responsibility, be open to scrutiny, be participative, be accessible and be a friend, philosopher and guide.

Leadership used to be the domain of a few sections of society. Today, anyone who has the characteristics of a leader can assume leadership role. This is evident in the grassroots leadership of community resource persons, SHG women etc.,. It proves that leaders are not born but are identified, groomed, nurtured. This can be possible by having different layers of leadership. Everyone has to a leader on one's own. They should be able to take their decisions with the wisdom of options available, reasons to choose them and consequences for their decisions. Leadership should begin with leading oneself. If one does not have control over one's own life, it may be difficult to assume a higher order leadership.

A question arises, does all the leaders have uniform way of functioning. No. There are various styles of leadership. Some of the styles are:

Autocratic Leadership: In this style of leadership, a leader has complete command and hold over their employees/team. The team cannot put forward their views even if they are best for the teams or organizational interests. Though, this style has an advantage of speedy decision making, it lacks from hierarchy, lack of interest in rest of the stakeholders. The decisions are not owned by the implementers.

Charismatic Leadership: Here the leader is revered, followed and sometimes worshipped. The decisions are blindly implemented without questioning. But, over time the leaders lack adaptability and decisions become monotonous. As

the leader demises, there is no next level of leadership. The danger here is institutions are dwarfed by individual, which cannot be sustained in the long run

The Laissez Faire Leadership Style: Here, the leader totally trusts their employees/team to perform the job themselves. He just concentrates on the intellectual/rational aspect of his work and does not focus on the management aspect of his work. The team/employees are welcomed to share their views and provide suggestions which are best for organizational interests. This leadership style works only when the employees are skilled, loyal, experienced and intellectual

Democratic/Participative leadership style: The leaders invite and encourage the team members to play an important role in decision-making process, though the ultimate decision-making power rests with the leader. The leader guides the employees on what to perform and how to perform, while the employees communicate to the leader their experience and the suggestions if any. The advantages of this leadership style are that it leads to satisfied, motivated and more skilled employees. It leads to an optimistic work environment and also encourages creativity. This leadership style has the only drawback that it is time-consuming.

Bureaucratic leadership: Here, the leaders strictly adhere to the organizational rules and policies. Also, they make sure that the employees/team also strictly follows the rules and procedures. Promotions take place on the basis of employees' ability to adhere to organizational rules. This leadership style gradually develops over time. This leadership style is more suitable when safe work conditions and quality are required. But this leadership style discourages creativity and does not make employees self-contented.

Which style one has to follow is a question to ponder. There is no hard and fast rule. It depends on the situation. It depends on the person. A better leadership is using all of them as and when required and in various proportions. But in development sector, the leadership should be as participative as it could and involve the community. Emphasis should be on creating leaders among vulnerable groups such as women, dalits, tribals, poor...etc, so that they own and improve their lives. Off late, servant leadership, where just offer services without the expectation of title, role is gaining interest.

Learning

Our ability to learn is what makes us human. We are born curious and our ability to continue learning is what defines us, as individuals, as communities and as societies. Learning can bring us, our families, our organizations and our communities any number of benefits some of which include personal growth and expanded horizons, increased employability and improved career development prospects, a broader range of interests and a wider social life and the ability to create our own future.

Learning is acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information. The ability to learn is possessed by humans, animals and some machines. Learning may occur as a result of habituation or classical conditioning, seen in many animal species, or as a result of more complex activities such as play, seen only in relatively intelligent animals. Learning may occur consciously or without conscious awareness.

The most important learning for the child comes from the family. Parents are the first teachers for an individual. The child learns about his world and how to be a good person from the very day he is born. His sense of self comes from how his parents treat him and respond to him. Play has been approached by several theorists, as the first form of learning. Children play, experiment with the world, learn the rules, and learn to interact. The early years have a crucial influence on later development and learning. Quality early experiences have been found to make a difference to the future achievements of children. Young children are natural and active learners. They enjoy observing, exploring, imagining, discovering, investigating, collecting information and sharing knowledge.

School is where we have our first experience of formal learning, and how things go for us here can affect how we learn throughout our lives. When school is exciting and involving, it gives us confidence in ourselves as learners, but when it isn't, we can be turned off and think we can't learn or that learning is boring. Thus, school environment plays a critical role in building a person's learning ability. The classroom environment should be nurturing, supportive and

successful for all students.

Humans learn the necessary skills to perform as a functioning member of their society from the society itself through a process of socialization. A child learns the attitudes, values and actions appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture from his/ her family, extended family, and peer group and from the other members of the society. Socialization is the most influential learning process one can experience.

People also learn at the work place by formal or informal means. They acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities at the work place from the fellow workers or from their own experiences. Adult learning in the workplace is a building block of lifelong learning. It contributes to employability, mobility in the labour market and the acquisition of key competences which are indispensable for social and labour inclusion. Work place learning becomes very critical in this era of globalization which is characterized by continuous changes that demand lifelong learning to cope up with.

In development sector, continuous learning is vital to adapt to the changing paradigms, processes and people's aspirations. Today, rights approach is overtaking welfare approach. This requires a fundamental change in the thinking of development practitioners. For this learning from community, learning from peers, learning from development literature, learning from failures and best practices etc has to be done continuously.

These days, it is increasingly evident that the skills that we learnt today are becoming obsolete tomorrow thus posing a greater need for lifelong learning of skills. For instance, today the social media, artificial intelligence, climate change challenge us to learn be adaptable to the new scenarios. In this context, it becomes quite critical to acquire the skill of 'learning to learn'. Unless we keep on learning and acquiring new skills and knowledge, we cannot survive in this rapidly changing global environment. Hence there is a need to put greater thrust on imbibing "Meta Skills" early on in life. 'Meta skills' refer to the skills that enable a person to learn and acquire new skills, knowledge that are relevant to the changing circumstances. Unlearning, learning, relearning are inevitable requirements of today's world.

Love

Psychologists and philosophers through the centuries have heatedly debated the nature of love. Some believed that love is restricted to the attraction that is sparked between two people who are "in" love. Others considered it to be something that transcends the senses into a more spiritual, metaphysical state of the human being. Yet, they all concluded that love is an omnipresent and omnipotent force in human life.

Spiritual masters and leaders consider love to be the centre of human existence. They say humans are born out of love and live in love. While the concept of love is itself abstract and difficult to articulate, it is easier to understand that it manifests itself in various forms - compassion, cooperation, understanding, tolerance, respect, generosity, service, etc. All these acts are thought to be born out of love. And every human, even the cruelest dictator and the most stone-hearted criminal performs acts of compassion, generosity at some point or other.

Many Indian concepts give value to broader meaning of love. The Vedic concept of Vasudaiva Kutumbam espoused the values of compassion and a bond of kinship among all human beings. This philosophy considers the whole world to be a family and detests the idea of considering anyone as a "stranger." At the heart of Gandhian philosophy is acceptance and respect towards all forms of life. Gandhian philosophy and other branches of socialism probe and explain, why oppression exists in the world. Similarly, all religions carry the message of peace and love. For this, one needs to scratch beneath the surface of the customs and practices that religion dictates.

Erich Fromm explained love as an art and act which has to be practiced to be achieved. In "The Art of Loving" Erich Fromm elucidates the characteristics of love as care, responsibility, respect, and knowledge.

Love, as care is most evident in the mother-child relationship. The mother's care towards her child is what makes one believe that the mother does indeed love the child. When we love something, or someone, it is in our interest to labour for it and help it grow. Therefore, love is the "active concern" for what we love. Responsibility comes naturally towards what we love. When a responsibility is taken out of love, it ceases to be a burden or duty. When one loves others, she/he responds to others' needs and feels responsible for others' life. Respect for what or whom we love prevents responsibility from transcending into domination. To respect a person, means to accept her/him as she/he is. It does not mean exploiting that person to suit one's own needs. It entails allowing that person to realize her/his

innate skills and honing them to flourish into a loving human being. Rendering this respect for another is born out of knowing that person. This knowledge of the person, of human beings, is knowledge in love. Empathizing with the angry person, understanding the cause of that anger, happens only when our quest for knowledge of the person is not truncated at the periphery but probes into the depths of human nature. Love manifested through knowledge encourages the loved to introspect, analyze their mistakes and scope for improvement.

Practicing care, responsibility, respect and knowledge in love are all characteristics of the mature individual. By nature, these values are closely intertwined; an individual cannot practice any of them in isolation. An individual can work towards learning this “art” of loving. It requires discipline, concentration and patience.

Love holds a solution for humankind’s many problems. It rekindles feelings of belongingness among all of humankind. In the world of development, love holds a significant position. When a development worker integrates love as a core principle in their working, it enables them to reach out to the community in a better manner. Love manifests itself in various forms compassion, cooperation, understanding, tolerance, respect, generosity, service, etc. We cannot have a mechanical approach to development. It is essential to appreciate the various social, political, economic and psychological dynamics in order to design and implement interventions that truly meet the requirements of the community. For any intervention in livelihoods, arriving at a common ground is vital. In a multi layered society like India, this sometimes feels impossible. But, Love conquers divisions through compassion, cooperation, understanding, tolerance, respect, generosity, service, etc. Love builds a connection, between development worker and the community. It brings a sense of ownership among people and lead to better results for every stakeholder. Love is not just a feeling or an experience. Love is an “art”, a philosophy that is to be imbibed intrinsically by the individual. The ability to love improves with practice. Let us all make an attempt to practice it...

***livelihoods April-2018**

2. Leadership

Social mobilization is considered as the effective way to tackle poverty and hence SHGs, their federations, cooperatives, Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS), Producer Companies (PC) and many more member centered institutions are emerging in the country. India is now leading the world in the number of SHGs and other CBOs. However, there is a huge lacuna in terms of people who have the capabilities to lead these institutions. As the country is gearing up to meet the diverse needs of its people through variety of people's institutions.



Man by nature is a social animal and it's a rarity to find someone living in isolation. Humans in the earlier times have lived in groups; hunted in groups; produced in groups. As time progressed man devised ways to maintain a social order by way of creating social institutions like family, marriage, kinship etc., and to govern and manage his folks and social institutions, he created rudimentary form of economy and polity. During the ancient times there did not exist a clear cut difference between an economic and political institution. For instance, during the Rig Vedic period when the need for protection and for social regulation became necessary, the most capable protector was selected as chief or merely a leader of the clan. The Rajan protected the cattle and people from other marauding tribes. His skills lay in protecting the settlement and winning booty. He was entitled to a portion of the booty from successful cattle raids after the shares, had been sorted out, and he was given a share as other members of the tribe.

However, the concentration of power was checked by various assemblies of the clansmen, in particular, vidatha, sabha and samiti which were democratic in nature. While this is so, the Buddhist scriptures also talks about a similar but different kind of theory. A theory possibly the earliest approaching that of social contract. There was a time in the remote past, when complete harmony prevailed among all created beings, men and women having no desires, as everything was provided for.

Gradually, a process of decay began, when needs, wants and desires started manifesting. This led to the notion of ownership that resulted in family, and then led to private property, and this in turn led to disputes and struggles that necessitated law and a controlling authority. Thus, it was decided that, in order to avoid conflict, one person be elected to rule and maintain justice. He was to be the Great Elect (Maha Sammatha) and was given a fixed share in the produce of the land as a wage. As state started to emerge, the leader of the society was transformed into a political head known as Raja or Chakravartin. Further, the process of election has been replaced by heredity and the concept of leadership transformed and became a domain of the few and chosen. Added to this, the caste system in India demarcated the functions of the individuals by virtue of their birth in a Varna order. Even today, most of the leaders in the villages belong to the dominant castes. Thus, the term leader and the concept of leadership have undergone changes as time evolved from the ancient to the modern period. By virtue of India, opting for a democratic form of government, the perception which was hitherto believed and practiced has been changed by the modern laws of democracy, which is manifested in the form of Fundamental Rights, adult franchise, rule of law etc.

Today the buzz words of democracy in India are democratic decentralization and democratic participation for the effective implementation of government policies and programs. This can only be possible by the harmonious interplay of democratic ideals, democratic institutions and democratic practices. Democracy is not the exclusive domain of the government, but each and every player in the society is equally responsible for the effective functioning of democracy in the country. In order to achieve the above, many actors in the society such as the government, CSOs, NGOs etc., have promoted CBOs like SHGs, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), PCs (Producer Companies) Cooperatives and etc. Apart from this, it has been realized in many parts of the world that an effective way to tackle poverty and to enable communities to improve the quality of life, is through social mobilization of disadvantaged people. Governments and NGOs across the world are considering it, as a major strategy for poverty reduction and are mobilizing people into CBO on a big scale. SHGs, their federations, cooperatives, MACS (Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies), PC (Producer Companies) and many more member centered institutions are emerging in the country and are taking up diverse range of activities, that can lead to better standard of living of their members.

At present there are more than 4 million SHGs in India, with a membership base of more than 42 million poor households, which are federated into approximately 70 thousand primary level and more than 2500 secondary institutions. The number of all types of cooperatives in the country increased from 1.81 lakh in 1950-51 to 4.53 lakh in 1996-97. The total membership of cooperative societies increased from 1.55 crore to 20.45 crore during the same

period. The cooperatives have been operating in various areas of the economy such as credit, production, processing, marketing, input distribution, housing, dairying and textiles. Different promoter institutions have different purposes for promoting these people's institutions. Some of the common purposes include economies of scale, cost reduction, providing value added services, and empowerment of the communities with whom they are working. Ultimately these institutions are expected to sustain on their own facilitating withdrawal of the promoter institutions. However, sustainability of these institutions depends on many factors in which leadership development is the most important one. Thus, building strong leadership for collectives, who can organize the functions of collectives with transparency and accountability, is the major task of any agency that is promoting community based institutions. Further, one can observe that the approach of these institutions to deal with various issues has shifted from top down to bottom up. So with the change in the institutions that work for the poor there is a corresponding change in the concept of leadership among these institutions. Then some important questions that come to our mind are what kind of leadership these institutions require? Where are the leaders-outside or within the community? What kind of skills/competencies/ characteristics these leaders should possess? Etc. Though, leadership was once believed as a domain of chosen few, now people started believing that it is a skill anybody can learn and master through practice. With this belief, the organizations that have promoted CBOs are nurturing the community members to become leaders for their own organizations. These organizations are building the leaders by training the community members in certain leadership skills, handholding them for some period of time, providing knowledge and skills that are required to carry on the functions of the institutions effectively etc. However, it is evident through many studies, that though these organizations are mostly focusing on making the first generation leaders to the institutions, a serious issue seems to be the lack of capacity of the second line leadership. While, the initial leaders are excellent and considerable resources are invested in building their capacities, the new leaders elected / selected do not have the same level of support or input, which can hamper the progress of these institution. In SHG federation model, there is a norm called leadership rotation due to which most of the new members get opportunity to take up the leadership roles and responsibilities. However, in practice it is not being done effectively due to which the sustainability of the institutions is at stake. As the country is gearing up to meet the diverse needs of its people through variety of people's institutions it is important to discuss at this point about the kind of leadership that these institutions require.

It has been realized in many parts of the world that an effective way to tackle poverty and to enable communities to improve the quality of life is through social mobilization of disadvantaged people.

Leadership is the ability to influence others. Power is the engine that drives this ability to influence. Thus, to understand the effectiveness of leadership, it is important to examine the sources of power and the relationship of different power sources to leadership effectiveness. There are nine basic types of powers that are available to people in any institution which are as follows: position power, which is based on a person's authority or position in the organization; reinforcement power which is based on a person's capacity to accomplish things, by administering incentives and pressures; assertive power which is based on a person's capacity to be direct and persuasive about desires or ideas;

connection power which is based on a person's relationships or connections with influential persons inside or outside the organization; administration power which is based on a person's character or charisma; information power which is based on a person's possession of or access to information that is perceived as being valuable to others; expert power which is based on a person's possession of expertise, skills or knowledge which are useful to others; enabling power which is based on a person's capacity to provide opportunities for others to increase their willingness and/or ability to use their own personal power and withholding power, which is based on a person's capacity to withhold intentionally the use of any available power type in order to allow certain events to develop without interference or additional biases. An effective leader is someone, who can appreciate the fact that all these powers are available to him/ her may be at varying degrees and uses them according to the situation.

Apart from this, a leader should have the ability to identify the stage in which his team is. Any team passes through 4 stages- Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing. Effectiveness of leadership depends to a large extent on the leaders' ability to understand through which of these four stages his/her group is passing through and provide leadership accordingly. The forming stage of the group is like infancy, where each member in the team is dependent on the leader to perform their role. At this stage, the leader has to direct the team members so that they can perform their role as per the vision of the organization. After crossing the forming stage, the group reaches a stage of storming which is like childhood, where the counter dependency exists among the members. This stage is a very difficult stage where so many conflicts and challenges arise for a leader to resolve. During this stage, a leader has to hold the team in such a way, that the team does not break due to these conflicts. Then the group reaches norming stage, where certain norms are set up for the members by themselves so that they can perform their role in the organization smoothly. At this norming stage a leader has to behave like a coach and guide the members to set the rules in accordance with the vision of the organization. If this function is done properly by the leader then the group set up norms for it, starts to follow them and slowly reaches the performing stage, where all the members of the team start to perform their role independently. At this performing stage, a leader has to delegate the functions to the members as much as possible and monitor the progress.

Though leadership was once believed as a domain of chosen few, now people started believing that it is a skill anybody can learn and master through practice.

Effective leader should be able to identify the stage of his/her group and lead accordingly. It is not enough to build a group with all experts as members for it to perform well, understanding group dynamics is very important for the leader to lead the team towards realizing the vision of the organization. Further, a leader should importantly have two views, one is bird's eye view and the other is worm's view. Bird's eye view gives the leader a big picture about his institution, the factors influencing the functions as well as sustainability of the institution. Worm's view enables the leader to understand the issues of the institution in depth and take decisions based on the ground realities rather than the superficial data. In the changing context of globalization and with the increasing pace of life it becomes very important to continuously monitor the changes that are happening both at macro and micro levels for the survival of any organization. Only when the leader has these two views, he/ she can lead their institution towards sustainability, as their decisions related to institution would be based on this micro-macro understanding and hence would be more realistic in nature.

In addition to this, a leader should facilitate self-directed learning among the members. It is not enough if the leader provides required knowledge and skills to his team members that are required to perform their role but also should provide space for others to learn and to grow. The leader should make others as leaders. This can be achieved by the leader by acting as 'Akartha'. This means a leader should allow his followers to do things on their own though working in less time more efficiently. This act of being 'Akartha' provides a superior learning to the followers, as they learn things by practicing on their own. Thus, a second line leadership will be created in the institutions. This legacy is an important characteristic of a good leader as it is important for sustainability of the institution which he leads.



Further, the essence of leadership is the ability to create vision, inspiration and momentum in a group of people. People are not led by plans and analysis. Rather, they are led by this trinity apart from other things. And the truly effective leader focuses nearly all his actions on creating them-using different skills for each element of the trinity. The first of the three 'vision' is a positive image of what the organization could become, and the path towards that destination. To create a shared vision among the group, the leader is always hungry for novel ideas that fit with the institutions strategy and is smart enough to spot good ones. The second one is the 'inspiration' within the individual that comprises the institution, is what moves people to action. The leader uses his inter-personal skills to excite his people, and helps them to see how they may themselves benefit from both the journey and the arrival. The third is the

'momentum' of the programs of the institutions is what carries the institution to its destination. Using his own energy and problem-solving skills, the leader keeps the mission on course. It is on all three of these dimensions that true leaders deliver strongly. The visionary is not a leader if he cannot inspire. The momentum-sustainer is not a leader, if he cannot create a shared vision. Thus, effective leaders create substantial amounts of vision, inspiration and momentum among the teams in their institutions. Further, a leader should act as a 'Sangraha' (Integrator) which means he should be able to integrate the tasks of the group towards the vision of the organization. Only then the momentum can be sustained in the organization. To achieve the above, a leader should be a follower. Unless the leader follows his followers, especially in member centered organizations, he cannot lead the organization as per the needs of the members and in course of time lose their trust and confidence in the organization, which further leads to the dissolution of the organization. 'To lead, you must serve' is the timeless principle of leadership. This concept of servant leadership says that the first step towards leadership is will, having intentions plus actions, or aligning intentions with actions and choosing the appropriate behavior. With the proper will you choose love, the verb (in this case) that means identifying and meeting the legitimate needs (not wants) of those being lead. The next step in the progression is to serve and sacrifice for others. Through, service one acquires authority or influence over people, and once that is established, one earns the right to be a leader. Thus, to be a great leader one must be ready to serve the people whom he wants to lead.

Today, we have many people's institutions that require good leaders who can lead them towards their vision in a sustainable manner. These institutions require leaders who can create vision, inspiration and momentum in the organization, who can understand both micro and macro situations and who are ready to serve people with love. Do we have these kinds of leaders? Do we know the tools to identify and nurture them? Do we have people who can train them? Do we have any institutions to train the leaders? Answers to these questions lie within these communities itself. As communities have the right to choose their own capable leaders they also have the right to recall them when they are not delivering the goods. The CBOs can further, demand the government or any other private player to build their capacities and capabilities to lead them. Thus, a true social contract is established, between a leader and the community at large for a greater common good.

***Livelihoods October – 2010**

3. Learning

An ancient proverb says “Learning starts in the womb and ends in tomb”. Today’s dynamic world needs lifelong learning, whether formal or informal, to be able to cope with the rapidly changing situations. For this we need structures to support learning, education and training throughout the life time, while you are a child, as young or adults, be it informal, non-formal or formal.



Our ability to learn is what makes us human: we are born curious and our ability to continue learning is what defines us - as individuals, as communities and as societies. Learning can bring us, our families, our organizations and our communities any number of benefits, some of which include personal growth and expanded horizons, increased employability and improved career prospects, a broader range of interests and a wider social life and the ability to create our own future. Learning is acquiring new or modifying existing knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences and may involve synthesizing different types of information. The ability to learn is possessed by humans, animals and some machines. Human learning may occur as part of education, personal development, school or training. It may be goal-oriented and may be aided by motivation. During the last century, we have moved from the Industrial Age through the Information Age to the Knowledge

Age. The ability to obtain, assimilate and apply the right knowledge effectively will become a key skill in the present century. Our ability will no longer be judged, solely by qualifications gained in the past, but will also be assessed by our capacity to learn and adapt in the future. Learning may occur as a result of habit or classical conditioning, seen in many animal species, or as a result of more complex activities such as play, seen only in relatively intelligent animals. Learning may occur consciously or without conscious awareness. There is evidence for human behavioral learning pre-natally, in which habituation has been observed as early as 32 weeks into gestation, indicating that the central nervous system is sufficiently developed and primed for learning and memory to occur very early on in development. We heard of Prahlada in Hindu Mythology, who imbibed path of devotion to Lord Vishnu, when he was in his mother’s womb.

The most important learning for the child comes from the family. Parents are the first teachers for an individual. The child learns about his world and how to be a good person from the very day, he is born. His sense of self comes from, how his parent treats him and responds to him. Play has been approached by several theorists, as the first form of learning. Children play, experiment with the world, learn the rules, and learns to interact. The early years have a crucial influence on later development and learning. Quality early experiences have been found to make a difference to the future achievements of children. Young children are natural and active learners. They enjoy: observing, exploring, imagining, discovering, investigating, collecting information and sharing knowledge. These early learning experiences can be further enhanced by caring adults, who provide high levels of interaction to promote positive attitude to learning; this is achieved through both play and structured learning in an enjoyable and non-threatening environment. School is where; we have our first experience of formal learning, and how things go for us, here can affect how, we learn throughout our lives. When school is exciting and involving, it gives us confidence in ourselves as learners, but when it isn’t, we can be turned off and think we can’t learn or that learning is boring. Thus, school environment plays a critical role in building a person’s learning ability. The classroom environment should be nurturing, supportive and successful for all students. To help make this true for students, teachers may need to make various adaptations to the classroom environment. Setting up small groups, where learning activities are focused on specific skills, may also be an option for providing greater challenges and expansion of content for students, who are high-performers.

Humans learn necessary skills to perform for being a functioning member of the society from the society itself, through a process of socialization. A child learns the attitudes, values and actions appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture from his/ her family, extended family, peer group and from other members of the society. Socialization is the most influential learning process, one can experience. People also learn at work place by formal or informal means. They acquire new knowledge, skills and abilities at work place from the fellow workers or from their own experiences. Adult learning in the workplace is a building block of lifelong learning. It contributes to employability, mobility in the labour market and the acquisition of key competences, which are indispensable for social and labour inclusion. Work place learning becomes very critical in this era of globalization, which is characterized by continuous changes that demands lifelong learning to cope up with. Lifelong learning is based on four pillars: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be. Learning to know, by combining a sufficiently broad general knowledge, with the opportunity to work in depth, on a small number of subjects. This also means learning to learn, so as to benefit from opportunities, education provides throughout life. Learning to do, in order to acquire not only an occupational skill but also, more broadly, the competence to deal with many situations and work in teams. It also means learning to do, in the context of young peoples' various social and work experiences, which may be informal, as a result of the local or national context, or formal, involving courses, alternating study and work. Learning to live together, by developing an understanding of other people and an appreciation of interdependence, carrying out joint projects and learning to manage conflicts in a spirit of respect for values of pluralism, mutual understanding and peace. Learning to be, so as better to develop one's personality and be able to act, with ever greater autonomy, judgment and personal responsibility. In that connection, education must not disregard any aspect of a person's potential: memory, reasoning, aesthetic sense, physical capacities and communication skills.

Learning Methodology	Description
Classroom	Learners participate in classroom setting using listening, visual, and written skills and activities to gain knowledge and awareness.
Skills Lab	Learners demonstrate that competencies are mastered to an acceptable level in the presence of a supervisor or authorized instructor.
Role Playing	Learners engage in experiential or simulated learning through relevant roles and predefined settings to practice skills in a safe environment to foster greater understanding of requirements by performing them.
On-the- Job Training	Learners gain one-on-one training and experience under the supervision of an instructor with opportunity for feedback and performance evaluation.
Mentoring/ Supervision	Learners are assigned an experienced mentor to teach, guide and assess the learner's mastery of competencies at regular intervals. Mentors also offer support, guidance, problem solving techniques and discuss concerns with learners. This may be on phone, e-mail, or one-on-one interactions.
Job Shadowing	Learners observe the work setting first hand, by following a competent employee throughout a typical work day to gain an understanding of the potential scope and demands of particular job. They obtain an introduction to the work environment and requirements, general understanding of policies, values and overview of the role of the employee.
Others	Online learning, Induction trainings, Refresher trainings etc.

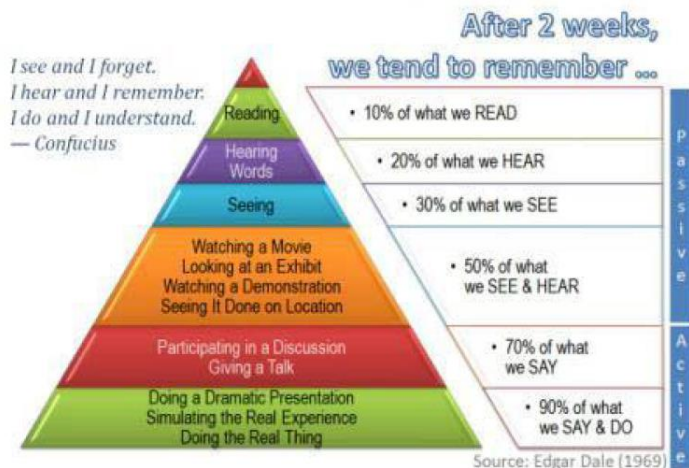
None of us learns in isolation. There are a whole range of factors that help or hinder us in learning. This includes factors, which are within each of us - such as our motivation and our preferred learning styles - as well as external factors - such as the opportunities that exist, for us to learn and other demands that life makes on our time and resources. The key factors affecting people's learning include: their resources, their image of learning, the rewards associated with any learning activity, the availability of information about learning opportunities, availability of appropriate learning environments and climate in, which learning takes place, especially that created by government and employers. For example, in terms of environment, it is acknowledged that we learn best in a high-challenge, low-threat environment. Much thinking has gone into, how that environment can be created. Often, it is an individual teacher's enthusiasm and ability that influences how we learn. Most of us remember a good teacher or a strong role model from, when we were young; someone who got us excited about their subject by teaching us in an interesting way. Equally, many barriers to learning exist, which prevent people from getting started on learning or make it

impossible to continue, however strong that person's determination is. Some of the most commonly recognized barriers to people's learning includes: shortage of money for course fees and related expenses, lack of confidence, lack of provision, lack of tutorial support when studying, lack of personal support and courses organized at inappropriate times and at inaccessible places.

Many people recognize that each person prefers different learning styles and techniques. Learning styles group common ways through which people learn. Everyone has a mix of learning styles. Some people may find that they have a dominant style of learning, with far less use of the other styles. Others may find that, they use different styles in different circumstances. There is no right mix. Nor are their styles fixed. We can develop ability in less dominant styles, as well as further develop styles, that we already use well. These learning styles are broadly categorized as Visual (Spatial-learning using pictures, images and spatial understanding), Aural (Auditory- using sound and music), Verbal (Linguistic-using words, both in speech and writing), Physical (Kinesthetic-using body, hands and sense of touch), Logical (Mathematical-using logic, reasoning and systems), Social (Interpersonal-learning in groups or with other people) and Solitary (Intrapersonal-by working alone and using self-study). These learning styles have more influence than we may realize. Our preferred styles guide the way we learn. They also change the way, we internally represent experiences, the way we recall information and even the words we choose. Thus, understanding the best learning style that suits an individual is very critical in his/her learning process. Learning methodologies also play a significant role, in any person's learning. There are different kinds of methodologies that, we adopt to learn based on our learning styles, competencies and other considerations. Some of these methodologies are discussed in the table. It is not only for the individuals, learning is equally important for organizations to grow and transform themselves according to the changes in external environment. Learning organizations are organizations, where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together.

The Cone of Learning

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Learning organizations provide continuous learning opportunities for their stakeholders, use learning to reach their goals, link individual performance with organizational performance, foster inquiry and dialogue, making it safe for people to share openly and take risks, embrace creative tension as a source of energy and renewal and are continuously aware of and interact with their environment. Whether, it is individual or organization, the most important aspect of learning is the ability of 'learning to learn'. It involves a set of principles and skills which, if understood and used, help learners learn more effectively and so become learners for life. At its heart is the belief, that learning is learnable. We all know that, we learn several skills, so that they help us in earning a livelihood. But these

days, it is increasingly evident, that the skills that we learnt today are becoming obsolete tomorrow, thus, posing a greater need for lifelong learning of skills. In this context, it becomes quite critical to acquire the skill of 'learning to learn'. Unless we keep on learning and acquiring new skills and knowledge, we cannot survive in this rapidly changing global economy. Hence, there is a need to put greater thrust on imbibing "Meta Skills" early on in life. 'Meta skills' refer to the skills that enable a person to learn and acquire new skills/ knowledge that are relevant to the changing circumstances. A wise man once said "Since we cannot know what knowledge will be most needed in the future, it is senseless to try to teach it in advance. Instead, we should try to turn out people who love learning so much and learn so well that they will be able to learn whatever needs to be learned". This is absolutely true and the world today needs mentors, who can facilitate such learning and the society as a whole has a responsibility to put in place appropriate structures, policies and systems that promote lifelong learning for better livelihoods and for better living.

*Livelihoods December-2011

4. Team Learning

The capacity of the organization to learn is measured in terms of its capacity to withstand and take in change. Change and learning are considered relational and not watertight, mutually exclusive processes. How each individual in the organisation responds to the change and what insights she/he brings to the organisation, shape the outlook and systems of the organisation in the future.



When Peter Senge presented the “Fifth Discipline” in 1990, he changed the way the world looked at how and what makes organisations tick. Senge introduced and popularised the “learning organisation” and declared, it the mantra for sustainability and lasting success. Ever since, managers at firms and companies across the world have focussed on getting their employees to *learn*, not just *deliver*. The focus shifted from individual learning to collective or team learning. The premise of organisational learning is simple, “Individuals constitute organisations”. They are life and breathe of the organisation. How the individuals relate and interact with each other determines the character of the organisation. An organisation could be compared to a machine and the individuals who work in it are the various parts of the machine. Only when all the parts work in a synchronised

manner does the machine function well. It is therefore important that the individuals communicate with each other and work together. This is easier said than done. Conventionally, for most individuals, their workplace or organisation is simply the place where they go to earn a living. Some do not take interest in the work they do and are driven by incentives. Elton Mayo’s Hawthorne experiments and the subsequent human relations theory developed in the early 20th Century brought about a seminal change in organisation thinking. The human relations approach to management established that employees are driven by much more than material benefit. They also look for a more congenial work environment and space. The Hawthorne experiments proved that individuals perform better in such an environment. Thereafter, thinking on organisation development made the interest of the individual at workplace and their alignment to the organisation is the central tenet of a successful organisation. What the individual grasps, while at work is their learning.

For an organisation, learning lies in its capacity to adapt and change with the dynamic environment. It reflects its capacity to take in feedback from the environment and make changes accordingly. An oft-asked question in the realm of organisation learning is - who learns? The organisation, or the individuals working in the organisation? The answer is both. Organisation learning is collective learning - the cumulative of the individual learning. Organisations are a group of human beings who come together to achieve a common goal. In the organisation, the individuals have unique roles to play and contribute their skills and personal qualities to the organisation. The collective skills and personal qualities contribute to the character of the organisation itself, apart from its set goals and values. So how an organisation grows and evolves very much depends on the individuals, who make it up and how these individuals interact with the purpose and values of the organisation in the given context. How the organisation acknowledges the collective attitudes and behaviours of its employees determines its capacity to learn. Organisation learning is rooted in the belief that employees are driven to perform better by more wages and incentives. In the process of their work, they absorb a lot of information, undergo unique experiences, and develop perceptions, which would shape their attitude in the future. All these are valuable pieces of information, for the organisation to build upon. It is in the organisation’s interest to create an environment to enable its employees to learn.

...organizations where people continually expand their capacity to create the results they truly desire, where new and expansive patterns of thinking are nurtured, where collective aspiration is set free, and where people are continually learning to see the whole together.

Organisation development strategists identify two levels or “loops” of learning that could occur in an organisation. The first is the obvious- acquiring knowledge/skills to generate immediate improvement in the work or output. This is referred to as first-order or first-loop learning. The other level is referred to as second-loop learning, which is more

subtle and requires individuals to be alert and reflective of their environment. Both loops of learning are right in their own capacity and are required. The first is acquired through traditional modes- trainings, lectures, etc. while the second is done through practice. The capacity of the organisation to learn is measured in terms of its capacity to withstand and take in change. Change and learning are considered relational and not watertight, mutually exclusive processes. How each individual in the organization, responds to the change and what insights she brings to the organisation shape the outlook and systems of the organisation in the future. Organisations alone cannot cope with changes and thus increase their efficiency by strengthening the capacities of individual employees. It is the overall, aggregated learning that makes the difference. This necessitates working on the relationships between co-workers, reading their interactions and creating an environment that enables peer learning. Senge identifies 5 major factors that contribute to transforming an organisation into one that learns-

- Systems thinking
- Personal Mastery
- Mental Models
- Shared vision
- Team Learning

These principles or four “component technologies” can be experienced at three levels-

- Practices: what you do.
- Principles: guiding ideas and insights.
- Essences: the state of being those with high levels of mastery in the discipline

A learning organisation experiences the five disciplines at all the levels.

As organisations become increasingly decentralised and decision-making shifts to teams, it is important that organisation learning be seen in the context of the team also.

Systems thinking build on the systems theory. It implies thinking in “wholes”, realising that the various players in the team or organisation are interconnected and that they do not work in isolation. Adopting a systemic thinking forms the basis for practicing the other four disciplines of a learning organisation and helps in integrating all the other disciplines. It is useful to examine interrelationships between various teams or individuals and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the way the organisation functions. A holistic understanding of the organisation would provide the foundation for appropriate action to better its performance. Essentially, all the tasks in the organisation revolve around the accomplishment of the goal. Each individual or work team do one part of a larger task that leads to the goal. Often, organisations focus on parts and not the system as a whole. Decisions are not taken keeping in mind their repercussions in other parts of the organisation. Cause-and-effect is seen only in short-term and the long-term consequences of a particular move are not taken into account. Senge explains, “We learn best from our experience, but we never directly experience the consequences of our most important decisions.” A primary reason for making decisions which create short-term impact is the kind of feedback we receive. The benefits are often amplified and therefore misleading.

Peter Senge Identifies the Laws of Fifth Discipline as—

1. Today’s problems come from yesterday’s solutions which shift problems from one part of a system to another.
2. The harder you push, the harder the system pushes back, ‘Compensating feedback’: well intentioned interventions which eventually make matters worse.
3. Behaviour grows better before it grows worse short-term benefits of compensating feedback are seen before the long-term disbenefits.
4. The easy way out usually leads back in. Familiar solutions which are easy to implement usually do not solve the problem.
5. The cure can be worse than the disease. Familiar solutions can not only be ineffective; sometimes they are addictive and dangerous.
6. Cause and effect are not closely related in time and space area of a system which is generating the problems is usually distant to the area showing the symptoms.
7. Small changes can produce big results-but the areas of highest leverage are often the least obvious, can be solved by making small changes to an apparently unrelated part of the system.
8. You can have your cake and eat it too - but not at once. Viewed from a systems point of view, as opposed to a single snapshot, can turn out not to be problem at all.
9. Dividing an elephant in half does not produce two small elephants systems’ property depend on the whole.
10. There is no blame individual and the causes of their problems are part of a single svstem.

A systems thinking is the *fifth discipline* that Senge speaks about in his work. It is the linchpin for using the other four disciplines. At every step in developing a learning environment, the organisation needs to keep referring back to this discipline.

Organisations learn through individuals who learn. Though individual learning is not analogous to organisational learning, it is still a crucial building block. Personal mastery is a quality of individuals who learn, it implies personal growth and learning. The term does not imply dominance or achievement of a certain level of excellence. Personal mastery goes beyond skills and competencies though their enhancement is a significant part. Individuals who strive for personal mastery have a "learning attitude" and are driven by vision or purpose. It is a process that involves clarifying and deepening personal vision and channelizing energies to develop patience, skills. Individuals are not born with personal mastery but develop it over time. For an organisation to be a successful learning organisation, it has to be an incubator for individuals who strive for personal mastery. Personal mastery cannot be dictated by the management, it is a matter of individual choice. What an organization does is to create an environment that encourages and enables its employees to pursue personal mastery. For this the organisation will have to rethink its way of working, breaking down hierarchical rigidities and not hold on to rules that suffocate. Often, organisations reward those who provide the answers rather than those raise questions or seek answers. In this process, they often settle for solutions that provide quick results and ignore the larger questions (overlook the concept of "systems"). An integral part of personal mastery is questioning the status quo and bettering it. Therefore, a learning organisation creates an environment that allows the employees to debate, reflect and innovate. The organisation/team could go about building personal mastery through a visioning exercise. The visioning exercise leads the individual to set a vision for themselves. It compels them to examine their current realities and become aware of their strengths, weaknesses and threats. One of the characteristics of personal mastery is that it keeps the individual aware of the "creative tension". Creative tension is the gap between the vision and the current reality of the individual. Reflection and introspection on the current reality will lead the individual to develop an action plan to achieve the vision. Further, aligning individual vision with that of the team is important. It is more likely that the individual will put in more effort when she/he has a stake in performing better. This will encourage the individual to consider others in the organisation and their roles.

We often tend to place the blame for unpleasant events (such as getting fired, failing to deliver on time) on external factors. When these events start to occur more frequently, we call it bad luck. But more often than not, the cause for the problem is stemmed in our thinking and assumptions. As we grow and interact with the world, we develop a set of perceptions and beliefs through which we view the world. Given the kind of environment, we grew up in and our experiences, we assume that our lens is right. This is a "mental map" or mental model. All individuals have one and use it to navigate their way through the world. Senge defines mental maps as "a pane of glass framing and subtly distorting our vision, mental models define what we see." This of course means mental models are unique unto each individual and often come into conflict with each other. Mental models are therefore, by design, flawed. Mental models wield a quiet influence over our attitude to our work and activities. Mental models are probably the most difficult barrier to overcome in the pursuit of instilling a culture of learning in an organisation. The fact that mental models are ubiquitous, intangible and tacit makes them difficult to fathom.

Experts suggest the best way forward in confronting and overcoming mental models is by adopting two techniques – reflection and inquiry. Reflection implies slowing down the thought process and recognising how mental models are formed. Inquiry entails openly discussing mental models and gathering more about others' mental models. Practicing these skills brings a marked change in individuals and allows for democratic decision-making in the organisation or team. Decisions are no more made by virtue of seniority or better position. An organisation that probes mental models takes into account the various viewpoints on a particular matter and then reaches a conclusion. In such a scenario, the communication flows more freely and the assumptions of all the stakeholders are heeded. It is not just the result that is discussed, but also the assumptions and logic behind it are discussed. Like personal mastery, understanding mental models cannot be imparted to the employees through trainings or instructions. The organisation needs to create situations, which demand employees to recognise and understand mental models. Such a scenario cannot be created overnight. Of the five disciplines, mental models is the most difficult to master and requires a great deal of perseverance. This is attributed to the fact that most of us are not accustomed to practicing reflection and inquiry. Therefore, the first step is by encouraging employees to introspect on their reactions both in the public and private spheres. Even if one gets a glimpse of their mental model, it is highly difficult to behave differently immediately.

The process needs to be carefully facilitated over a period of months. The teams should be continuously opening up channels of communication and create a tolerant environment for divergent views. Shared vision; The vision of an organisation is its long term goal, what it hopes to achieve. Developing the vision is an iterative process and is usually done over a span of few months. It requires deep introspection on the organisation and its purpose. In the context of a learning organisation, the vision is to be shared. In other words, the vision is arrived at in a democratic manner and consults employees at various levels. A shared vision binds the employees with a purpose. A leader might impose a vision, but achieving it becomes a daunting task because the vehicles of reaching the vision are often not considered when it is made. The vision is usually derived from a deeper purpose the organisation exists to serve. For instance, all hospitals exist to improve human health. Shared vision has the potential to bind and drive its employees, towards

greater performance. They may not refer or ponder over the vision on a day-to-day basis, but they register the underlying purpose of the organisation.

To put it simply, shared vision is building a shared meaning in the organisation. Shared meaning is a “collective sense of what is important and why”. The shift lies in handing down the meaning to the management for creating the meaning itself. Many organisations have discovered that working through networks, rather than hierarchical structures helps this cause. When the employees are given the leverage to create and develop shared meaning, they are also given the responsibility that comes with fulfilling the vision. The results came closer home and employees are encouraged to collectively work towards realizing the vision. Team learning is what brings the other five disciplines together. It is based on the concept of alignment – functioning as a whole. Team learning builds on the other four disciplines and transforms the skills into capabilities. Team learning is not group thinking or team working, though it includes both. It is a tacit form of grasping skills and capabilities from others in the team. Knowledge dissemination through formal and informal, and subtle and direct manner is important to support team learning. The communication is not to be only within the members of the team but also with external factors. Teams, like individuals do not exist in isolation. Therefore, it is important that communication channels with the external world are as efficient as the ones within.

There are three dimensions of team learning:

- The ability to think insightfully about complex issues.
- The ability to take innovative, coordinated action
- The ability to create a network that will allow other teams to take action as well.

When faced with a challenging situation, the individuals of the team might as well employ their own skills (personal mastery) to diffuse the crisis. But, democratic decision-making, problem solving are the cornerstones of developing a learning environment. Collective problem solving would help the team in discovering better and more creative solutions to the problem. The primary vehicle for team learning is improved conversation. Improved conversation has two components – dialogue and skillful conversation. Both involve open discussions and better understanding of different perspective before concluding. The five disciplines to enhance team or organisation learning seem rather simple to imbibe and follow. However, experiments have proven otherwise. Building a learning organisation or team is not a mechanical project. It does not have a fixed route to the goal. It involves painstaking navigation of diverse and sometimes diverse psychological configurations that make the task daunting. The barriers to learning could be structural, managerial or cultural. The most obvious is the lack of will to promote learning at work. At the end of the day, outputs are given far more weightage than learning. The former is merely tolerated. The leaders of the team of an organisation may themselves not be inclined to learning or fail to set an examples for the others.

There is also a tendency to leave difficult topics out of meetings. This prevents democratic decision-making which in turn leads to lack of information going to every member of the team. This process of alienating and atomizing??? the individual employee limits the chances of learning. Inertia among the employees is a major restricting factor for learning in a team. Though, on the face of it, the individuals may seem to be aligned to vision of the organisation, but at their level they may be resistant to change, refuse to reflect or introspect. Despite the fact that team/organisational learning had caught the imagination of management experts and leaders across the spectre, it is still a long shot before the idea takes a stranglehold. True, it has brought about significant changes in the way organisations work and perceive their employees, but there are few organisations that successfully incorporate the learning agenda.

***Livelihoods August-2012**

5. Love

Psychologists & philosophers through the centuries have heatedly debated the nature of love. Some believed that love is restricted to the attraction, i.e. spark between two people who are “in” love. Others consider it to be something that transcends the senses into a more spiritual, metaphysical state of the human being. Yet, they all concluded that love is an omnipresent and omnipotent force in human life.



Spiritual masters and leaders consider love to be the centre of human existence. They say humans are born out of love and live in love. Jealousy, anger and hatred are only distorted forms of love and none of these would exist, if human beings cease to love. For the root of jealousy is in our inability to possess what we love, anger and hatred arise out of the harm done to what we love. History, as well as the world today, is replete with instances of war, conflict, poverty and cruelty towards certain communities, enough to shake our belief in love. It is naïve to attribute to the modern age, the deteriorated existence of humankind. If anything, human existence that is devoid of sense of belongingness with fellow beings has only worsened in the modern age and only accentuated by ideals such as “individualism” and (negative) liberty. Of course, these ideals are rooted in a long and arduous struggle of the individual, the most basic unit of society, to break from the shackles of Church, State and societal institutions, such as caste. But, it is interesting and revealing to probe further into the prevailing disbelief in love

and its many manifestations that humankind has imbibed and holds so dear.

While the concept of love is itself abstract and difficult to articulate, it is easier to understand that it manifests itself in various forms- compassion, cooperation, understanding, tolerance, respect, generosity, service, etc. All these acts are thought to be born out of love. And every human, even the cruelest dictator and the most stone-hearted criminal performs acts of compassion, generosity to some others. Somehow, individuals have failed to feel this kind of belongingness for all other humans and indeed all other beings on the planet. This partly explains, why human suffering finds, such an integral part in our world.

The Vedic concept of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam espoused the values of compassion and a bond of kinship among all human beings. This philosophy considers the whole world to be a family and detests the idea of considering anyone as a “stranger.” At the heart of Gandhian philosophy, is acceptance and respect towards all forms of life. Gandhian philosophy and other branches of socialism probe and explain why oppression exists in the world. While some of these philosophies advocate violent methods to “overthrow the bourgeoisie” most advocate achieving their ideals in a peaceful manner. The core principles of socialism are cooperation as against competition amongst individuals and fair sharing of available resources.

Similarly, all religions carry the message of peace and love. For this, one needs to scratch beneath the surface of the customs and practices that religion dictates. Unfortunately, most religious persons do not dwell into the deeper meaning and values of a religion.

The understanding of love in contemporary times is predominantly limited to it being romantic and as a sense of strong attraction between two individuals. This concept is reiterated through art and popular media such as television, music, cinema, etc. and has led to crass commercialization of love. As Erich Fromm in his book “The Art of Loving” rightly points out, there is no greater endeavor than love that people start with great hopes but more often than not results in failure. Romantic love is born out of the liking individuals associate with particular traits of others- such as having a beautiful face or voice, just as these characteristics are ephemeral and wither away eventually, so will the love associated with them. This combined with the forces of individualism and a strong sense of competition

that has set in modern economy has further deteriorated the understanding and perception of love. Still, there are examples of Gandhi, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama, who had strived to get across the message of true love among human beings and its importance for maintaining harmony with the world. Further, psychologists like Erich Fromm have attempted to deconstruct the myths associated with love and reveal, what it truly comprises of. There is a consensus emerging that love is an important force for humankind and the entire planet.

When one is in the business of development of others and works to alleviate their suffering, imbuing love as a core principle is of utmost importance. This is especially because development personnel work directly with people and attempt to improve their lives. This they cannot afford to do with a mechanical approach. Love is thus an “art”, a philosophy that is to be imbibed intrinsically by the individual. The action part of love is service. And the service, we render to the world should reflect our love.

A loving person always has faith in the loved. She/he trusts the capacities of the other to develop, this evident in the lover's tireless pursuit and efforts towards what she/he loves. A loving person believes that only certain individuals are bad/evil but not humankind itself.

Love is not just a feeling or an experience. It is an activity. An activity, that gives, without expectation to receive. While in love, people generally expect to receive from others, they have certain expectations which when not met disappoints them. In fact, this notion of receiving in love is so entrenched in our psyche that for most of us, it is unfathomable that love is in fact giving and not expecting to receive. By nature, love is free. A true relationship of love never binds an individual but lets the individual flourish. In this state of constantly expecting something from the other, most individuals fail to actually give. And the

cumulative effect of this is distrust and ill-feelings among individuals.

Productivity is a defining feature of love. Love is in itself giving- i.e. love produces love. This orientation towards love is possible only when the individual has attained superior level of personality development and is not driven by primarily narcissist motives. The loving person derives joy in giving. For a human being, the greatest and most precious thing she/he can give to the world is herself/himself- their time, skills, labour, etc.

In the “Art of Loving” Erich Fromm elucidates the characteristics of love as care, responsibility, respect, and knowledge.

Love, as care is most evident in the mother-child relationship. The mother's care towards her child is what makes one believe that the mother does indeed love the child. Else, no number of verbal assurances would suffice to prove the mother's love for her child. When we love something, or someone, it is in our interest to labour for it and help it grow. Therefore, love is the “active concern” for what we love.

Responsibility comes naturally towards what we love. When a responsibility is taken out of love, it ceases to be a burden or duty. When one loves others, she/he responds to others' needs and feels responsible for others' life. Respect for what or whom we love prevents responsibility from transcending into domination. To respect a person, means to accept her/him as she/he is. It does not mean exploiting that person to suit one's own needs. It entails allowing that person to realize her/his innate skills and honing them to flourish into a loving human being. When one abuses another by virtue of being responsible for her/him, one is simply asserting her/his influence over the other to meet one's own requirements.

Learning to be responsible towards the other and respecting the other for what she/he is possible when one is independent and does not require support from another to survive. In an exploitative relationship, the exploiter feels the need to exploit in order to feel complete. Responsibility in love has no space for such abuse.

Rendering this respect for another is born out of knowing that person. Full knowledge of the other is something that is attainable either through extreme sadism- i.e. absolute control over the person or through love. In love, individuals willingly open up to each other. In love, we know that the other's anger is only a facade for her/his anxiety regarding something. This knowledge of the person, of human beings, is knowledge in love. Empathizing with the angry person, understanding the cause of that anger happens only when our quest for knowledge of the person is not truncated at the periphery, but probes into the depths of human nature.

When love is thus practiced, it makes the loving person reliable. She/he would not make false promises. Love encourages the loved to introspect, analyze their mistakes and thus scope for improvement. A loving person always

has faith in the loved. She/he trusts the capacities of the other to develop: this is evident in the lover's tireless pursuit and efforts towards what she/he loves. A loving person believes that only certain individuals are bad/evil, but not humankind itself. This faith is empowering and educative to the loved.

This kind of love requires courage and patience; courage to put in the required effort for the required period of time without expecting to receive much in return. It requires courage to accept one's mistakes and act upon them, the courage to bear frustration, pain and discomfort.

Practicing care, responsibility, respect and knowledge in love are all characteristics of the mature individual. A loving individual lives and breathes all these principles. By nature, these values are closely intertwined; an individual cannot practice any of them in isolation. The individual, who understands love in this sense is humble, not driven by avarice and realizes that only a share of the resource pool and not all of it is available to her/him.

An individual can work towards learning this "art" of loving. It requires discipline, concentration and patience. For this kind of love to be realized, one should attempt to dissolve the differences between various facets of life- personal and professional. For the development worker, the development of the community should be her/his interest and not just a task at hand. When this realization occurs, development will happen on its own. For the lover relentlessly toils and pursues what she/he loves. One need to develop sensitivity, that whatever other work is at hand, the core activity is to give love. One's attitude should be like that of a mother's towards her child. Whatever else the mother may be involved in, she instinctively knows when her child needs to be fed, what it requires.

Being the most basic and most natural of emotions, ignoring love's role in every sphere of human activity comes at a heavy price. In the economic sphere, love is in sharing of the available resources, in society, love entails considering all individuals equal. The

modern world is riddled with alarming disparities and deprivation. When we attempt to understand this condition with a perspective of love, it is safe to conclude that those, who have the advantage do not care for the well-being of entire humankind. The same holds true when we analyze man's attitude towards nature. The crisis of global warming is the culmination of humankind's relentless and unchecked manipulation of natural resources. It is almost as if, man had forgotten that he was just a part of a grander scheme of nature which was based on the principle of interdependence among various species. Humankind failed to show care, responsibility and respect for the beings it shares this planet with.

Mother Teresa is oft quoted to have said that the "hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread." Many a time, we adopt a mechanized approach in our efforts to reduce poverty & suffering and build egalitarian societies. The challenge is not limited to only ensuring physical infrastructure and benefits to the poor, but also creating an atmosphere that allows them to grow. Focus should also be on how these communities are made to feel secure and do not live in the constant fear of external factor infringing on their rights & resources. In all the talk about mainstreaming the vulnerable, we are actually suggesting that these communities give up their ways of life and take to a stream of life that is entirely alien to them. Naturally, they are bound to fall behind and perceive the disparities in society. And it is here that conflict arises. To make these communities feel loved is to create spaces for them to grow at their own pace and within their own contexts.

Love holds a solution for humankind's many problems. But it has too few takers. It is to be lamented that love as a concept beyond romantic love is lost to many individuals. The question here is to rekindle feelings of belongingness among all of humankind. It is to make humankind responsible for their kind- reduce the depravities, suffering and poverty and respect other beings- nature.

***Livelihoods February-2012**

Man is born as a freak of nature, being within nature and yet transcending it. He has to find principles of action and decision making which replace the principles of instincts. He has to have a frame of orientation which permits him to organize a consistent picture of the world as a condition for consistent actions. He has to fight not only against the dangers of dying, starving, and being hurt, but also against another anger which is specifically human: that of becoming insane. In other words, he has to protect himself not only against the danger of losing his life but also against the danger of losing his mind. (Erich Fromm)

6. Changing Villages

Villages are the back-bone of India. These days many changes are happening in the villages, in sectors such as agriculture, wage-labour, artisan works, livestock-rearing, non-farm works, services, infrastructure, education, health facilities, food habits, dressing styles, housing patterns, technology, machinery, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), commons and Public Representative Institutions (PRIs) etc.



Villages are the back-bone of India. These days many changes are happening in the villages, in sectors such as agriculture, wage-labour, artisan's work, livestock-rearing, non-farm works, services, infrastructure, education, health facilities, food habits, dressing styles, housing patterns, technology, machinery, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), commons and Public Representative Institutions (PRIs) etc. Particularly, in this article we are focusing on the changes after the 1990s. These two and half decades have facilitated many changes in the country, particularly in the villages. We studied almost 100 villages across the country, as part of doing the Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP) to map the gaps and opportunities in

the villages. In these studies, we found many changes. Also, before writing this article, we stayed for one week in two villages to study the changing villages. Here 'livelihoods' brings to you the changes we perceived in villages, from 1990s to 2014.

The soul of India is in its villages. About, 69% percent of the people are living in villages. Indian villages have a very beautiful and attractive lifestyle. Villages are the anchors of India. Our elders say '*Janani Janma Bhumicha Sargadapi Gariyasee*'- which means villages are equal to heaven. Mahatma Gandhi said that Indian Villages are the back-bone of India. Earlier in the villages, people used to live closer to the nature. Villages were very beautiful with greenery, peace, old-world charm, peoples' affections, attachments, joint-families. Villagers were busy with their livelihoods' works such as agriculture, livestock-rearing, dairy, artisanship etc. But now, it is hard to find the beautiful villages like earlier found, as a lot of changes are happening with time.

Nowadays, villages seem to have lost their sparkle. Goreti Venkanna composed a song on changing villages - '*Palle Kanneeru Pedutudo Kanipinchani Kutrala*'. In the song, he describes the changes in artisan's work, which were earlier providing livelihoods to the highest number of people after agriculture. Eventually, villages are losing their existence due to industrialization. A lot of changes are happening in the villages with time. Presently, seasonal changes are not happening on time because of greenhouse effect, environmental extinctions, trees-cutting, etc. There are a lot of changes, both positive and negative, in the villages. Positive changes can be seen in health, education, nutrition, food habits, water and sanitation etc., while negative changes can be seen in culture, traditions, lifestyle, agriculture, service sector development, non-farm livelihoods etc. Peoples' dependency on agriculture is decreasing, due to lack of reasonable rates for produce and the increase of input costs. Also, a lot of changes are happening in the practice of agriculture and harvesting.

Earlier, about 78% of the Indian population was living in the villages, but now the number has come down to 69%, due to migration. People are migrating from villages to towns, cities, states and even other countries. Migration is

increasing day by day in the villages. Most of the people are migrating in search of better livelihoods to urban areas, while some people are migrating for higher income. Mainly, livelihood opportunities are shrinking in the villages and thus unavailability of sufficient works for the people. People are also migrating to urban areas for better educational facilities for their children. Along with livelihoods, good infrastructure and better services are also attracting people from the villages to towns and cities. Population has increased from 84.63 to 121 crore. But rural population is decreasing. In 1991, the rural population was 74.5% and in 2011 the rural population is 68.8%. About, 83 crore people were living in villages as in 1991 census, in 2011 63 crore people were living in the villages. Nowadays, Nuclear families are on rise. There are many causes for emerging nuclear families such as people migrating to urban areas for livelihoods, weakening traditional bondages, affections, increasing individuality, growing market influence, increasing money requirement, more focus on self-interests, higher ambitions etc.

Villages' size: The size of the villages has been increasing for the last 25 years. People are interested in constructing houses separately, as they prefer nuclear families over joint-families. Some people are constructing new houses as they do not want to live in old houses. Due to these factors, the greenery in the villages is disappearing.

House type: The people in villages are interested in constructing pucca houses with roof and floor. Around 65% of the houses are pucca houses here now, as Government is also helping in constructing houses in rural areas. That is the reason pucca houses are increasing in villages. The remaining people are living in tiled houses, huts, mud houses. Earlier, houses in villages were eco-friendly in nature, these houses were made by bamboos and mud. The types of roofs were thatched roofs, tiled roofs and mud roofs. Walls of houses were painted by a mixture of red soil, cow or buffaloes dung and lime.

Livelihoods: Villagers are mostly dependent on various livelihoods, such as agriculture, agri-related livelihoods, wage-labour, dairy, livestock-rearing, poultry maintenance, artisan works, non-farm livelihoods etc. But nowadays, a lot of changes are happening in the shape and scope of livelihoods in the villages. Earlier, agriculture provided livelihoods to many people in villages, but the practice of agriculture is decreasing day by day, due to lack of good rainfalls. According to the 2011 census, 118 million farmers are cultivating and 144 million people are dependent on agriculture-labour work. While, according to the 1991 census, 110 million people were cultivating and 75 million people were dependent on agriculture-labour work. It shows that farmers are decreasing and agriculture-labourers are increasing with time in rural India, due to various reasons.

Agriculture: Agriculture is the most important livelihood for villagers, as most of the people are dependent on agriculture and related livelihoods such as agriculture-labourers, dairy, poultry etc. Even now, 70 percent of the people are dependent on agriculture works in the rural areas. Families are shifting from agriculture to other livelihoods, such as construction workers, drivers, running or working in small enterprises, services providers, wage-labourers, running small dairies etc. Now, most of the farmers are using tractors for ploughing, levelling, tilling etc., but earlier they used oxen. Earlier, farmers used their own farm seeds, but now they are using company seeds. Sometimes, these company seeds are failing to give good produce. Earlier, most of the farmers were sowing or planting manually but now most are using machines for sowing and planting. Farmers are using more fertilizers to grow crop, but earlier they were using livestock-manure and a very less quantity of fertilizers. They are using more pesticide to control pest, but earlier they were practicing traditional methods to control pest. Now, they are using harvesters for harvesting crops and are using very less labourers, whereas they were harvesting only with the help of labourers at the time of harvesting. Farmers are dependent on rainfall for irrigation, but nowadays rainfall is decreasing. So most of the people are dependent on bore wells for irrigation purposes and a very less percent of the farmers are depending on canals, open wells etc., for irrigation purposes. The cost of labour is also increasing now as women take Rs 100-200 per day and men take Rs 150-300 per day, whereas earlier, women took only Rs 15 per day and men took Rs 50 per day. Agriculture market is available for farmers for selling and buying produce. Farmers can easily get anything from market as everything is available within a short distance. Farmers can get seed packets, pesticide and fertilizers within the village. Farmers are selling their produce in the nearby markets or to middle men. Earlier, farmers were mostly using own seeds and using livestock manure as organic fertilizers, so the investment

cost was very less. But nowadays, the investment on agriculture is increasing. Sometimes, farmers do not even get back the investment cost by the yield. Also the use of technology in agriculture is increasing. Earlier, they spent very less investment on agriculture. Farmers are saying that agriculture is not a profitable livelihood nowadays. They take loans for agriculture purposes at high interest rates but they cannot pay the interest, at the same time money lenders put pressure on farmers to pay-back the loans. India is an agrarian country with around 60% of its people depending directly and indirectly on agriculture. Studies are saying that a number of conflicting reasons are behind farmers' suicides such as monsoon failure, high debt burdens, genetically modified crops, Government policies, public mental health, personal issues and family problems.

Animal Husbandry: A large number of farmers in India depend on animal husbandry as their supplementary livelihood. They rear cows, goats, sheep, poultry, pigs etc. They get milk, meat, eggs, wool, skin etc., from the livestock. Animal husbandry plays an important role in the rural economy, as it is an alternative livelihood for poor people in rural areas. It plays an important role in the Indian economy, for socio-economic development. According to the 1992 census, total bovines were 289 million, sheep were 50.78 million, goats were 115.28 million and poultry was 307.07 million. Now according to the 2007 census, total bovines are 304.42 million, sheep are 71.56 million, goats are 140.54 million and poultry is 468.88 million. According to the 1991 census, total milk production was 54 million tonnes, eggs were 21 billion, wool was 41.2 million kilo grams. According to the 2012-13 census, total milk production is 132.4 million tonnes, eggs are 69.7 billions, wool is 46 million kilo grams, in the country.

Buffaloes and Cows: People are rearing buffaloes and cows in the villages. Earlier, people were rearing buffaloes for milk consumption and cows for ploughing land in the villages. But nowadays milk production is increasing but people do not get milk in villages, as they sell all their milk to milk collection centres. Earlier, in every village one or two families were taking almost all livestock to grazing land. These families were taking food grains and money from the owners of the livestock. In those times grazing lands were easily available for animals to graze. Every day, these people took animals to grazing land and sent the animals to the owners' home in the evening. People did not rear animals for income but for milk, curd and ghee. Mostly, they reared for self-consumption and only sometimes sold for money. Earlier, people did not invest money on animal health, fodder etc. Nowadays, according to the animal husbandry census, livestock is increasing in the villages. People are rearing livestock for income in villages. People are interested to buy hybrid livestock, as these animals give more milk at the same time the cost for fodder, health, shed etc., is also more. Regular checkups are needed for the maintenance of the animals. Men take animals to veterinary hospitals or to veterinary doctors, who visit villages. Veterinary services are available in the villages. People maintain small dairies with four to five buffaloes or cows.

Goats and Sheep: People depend on goats and sheep for livelihood in the villages. Mostly, poor people depend on this livelihood. There is a lot of difference between goat-rearing and sheep-rearing. While sheds are needed for goats to stay, sheds are not needed for sheep. Sheep-rearing is hard work compared to goat-rearing, as they have to be taken to a grazing land, but grazing lands are very far from villages. In summer, shepherds take sheep out of the village as there are no fodder and water facilities for months. Shepherd family children are discontinuing their livelihoods and adopting other livelihoods such as agriculture, agriculture labour, driving etc. Goat-rearing is increasing gradually in the villages. Every poor family depends on goat-rearing in the villages. Some families have two to ten goats. They sell goat kids for income in the nearby market.

Poultry: Nowadays, poultry farming has increased ten-fold in villages. Big farmers have established poultry farms in villages, while small farmers are also running small poultry farms. The maintenance cost has increased, while at the same time income level has also increased. But sometimes farmers are facing problems due to cyclones, diseases etc. Earlier, villagers were rearing poultry mostly for consumption purpose only. Almost, every family had poultry. Now individual poultry has decreased and poultry farms have increased.

Artisanship: India has different type of artisans such as weavers, carpenters, potters, barbers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, brass-makers, washer men etc. Now these works are decreasing due to industrialization. Artisans are

migrating from villages to towns, While, some are continuing their works in towns, some are shifting to other occupations such as construction works, works in companies etc.

Weaving: After agriculture, handloom is the largest employment provider in India. It is estimated to provide employment to 12.5 million people in the country. More than 40 per cent of the weavers are women. Our country is home to 84 per cent of the handlooms in the world, producing an average of 54,000 sq km of cloth per year.

Present-weaving is decreasing in villages because of power looms. A lot of families have shifted from weaving to other livelihoods in villages. Earlier, villagers wore only weaved clothes, but now people are not interested in wearing handloom clothes.

Carpenters: Earlier, Carpenters had a lot of work in the villages, as farmers were dependent on bullock carts for agriculture work; also earlier wooden implements were used for ploughing, leveling etc. They were also repairing agricultural tools like tiller, plough; also making household furniture, doors, windows etc. But now farmers are depending on tractors for cultivating and people are using readymade furniture etc., which is the reason carpenters do not have work in the villages. Only elder carpenters are doing some work.

Potters: Potters are facing problems such as input-scarcity, loan availability and marketing. Earlier, people were using mud utensils for cooking, water pots, storages, pickles etc. But now people are using steel, plastic and aluminum utensils. Only one or two families are doing pottery works in the villages.

Other livelihoods: Most of the blacksmiths and goldsmiths have also migrated to towns to get some work, as they don't have any work in the villages.

Barbers are working in the villages, but there are some changes in the way they work. Now they have opened saloons, within the villages or headquarters or towns for hair cutting. While some have shifted to towns, elder barbers are continuing their work in the villages. Now they are getting a good income from their saloons. Young people are learning new styles of cutting, shaving etc. Earlier, barbers used to go to houses for cutting hair and got money or grains once or twice a year from the families. They were going to upper caste houses for hair cutting. Presently, with the establishment of saloons, BC, SC and ST people are also able to access their services. Women are not involved in this work. Washermen are facing problems such as scarcity of water, common places for drying etc. Almost all washermen have discontinued their work as they do not get sufficient income in the villages for their work. A lot of families migrated to towns and are working there, as they get a good income in the towns. People call washermen to work during marriages, death etc., as according to some traditions washermen have to do some chores, during that time. Earlier, washer men were washing clothes of villagers for food grains. They were washing clothes at irrigation tanks or streams or canals etc. Villagers were giving food grains for washermen for their work once or twice a year. Earlier, they did not need money but nowadays money-needs are increasing.

The people of Erukala caste make different types of baskets, broomsticks, mats etc with toddy leafs in the villages. Now, they also are not doing their work, because people are not using these articles, as they prefer plastic items. Only poor families are using these types of items. Earlier, they sold those items for food grains, but now they sell for money, as money-needs are increasing in the villages. The children of these families' get Government jobs easily by utilizing their reservations. Older people are still making these articles, but toddy leaf is not easily available in the villages.

Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP): Tribal People are dependent on forests for firewood, adda leafs, tunika leafs etc., for food items and livelihood purposes in tribal areas and villages. Earlier, people got forest produce, according to the season. But, now the size of the forests have decreased, due to various reasons. Much forest products are not available in forests.

Changes in livelihoods: At present, a lot of changes are happening in livelihoods in Indian villages. Old livelihoods are dying and new livelihoods are emerging in villages. Earlier, most of the people were dependent on agriculture, agriculture-labour, dairy, livestock, artisanship etc. Nowadays, people are working as drivers, auto drivers,

construction workers; they are running businesses like hotels, tea shops, kirana shops, mobile shops, band malem, tailoring; they are working as RMP doctors, working in seed companies, fertilizers shops, kirana shops, working in rice mills, hamali, cycle repair shops, selling vegetables, barber shops, sari shops; working as field staff in non-Government organizations etc., along-with traditional livelihoods such as agriculture, labours, dairy, artisanship etc. Youth are not interested to continue their occupations in villages.

Emerging New Livelihoods;

Drivers: At present, youth are working as drivers in villages and towns. Some youth are working as car drivers, lorry drivers, school bus drivers, proclainer drivers in nearby cities. Some youth are working as tractor drivers, auto drivers and jeep drivers in their villages. Some youth are also working as Government drivers. Earlier, people working as drivers were less in villages. Presently, youth get good salaries as drivers in cities.

Construction workers: Currently, the construction workers are increasing. Village people migrate from villages to towns to do construction works in cities. Nowadays, people are interested in constructing slab houses in villages. Earlier, only separate caste people were constructing houses in villages but nowadays there is no caste feeling for constructing houses. Mostly, youth are involved in construction works.

Small Entrepreneurs: Small entrepreneurs are increasing in villages. Village people are establishing tea stalls, hotels, vegetable shops, electronic shops, kirana shops, mechanics shops, mobile shops, cycle and motor repairing shops, tailoring shops, barber shop, sari shops etc in villages. Earlier, only kirana shops, tea shops, hotels, cycle repair shops were available in villages.

Grassroots workers: Currently, youth are working as grassroot workers such as RMP doctors, vidya Volunteers, SHG book-keepers in seeds/pesticides/fertilizers companies and shops, Asha workers, Saksharabharath village coordinators, LIC agents, village level employers in different projects etc. Earlier, grassroot jobs were limited in villages. But, now youth get employment in different sectors in villages.

Private employees: In the villages or near-by villages many small and medium enterprises, factories and industries are establishing. Most of the young people are working in these enterprises, as private employees with minimum educational qualification. People are going to near-by towns and working in the private schools, hospitals and enterprises as private employees. Some people are running small and medium enterprises in the towns.

Education: The preset education scenario is good in villages. As Government have established schools in villages. There is an increase in the number of school going children in the villages. About 30 years back, children from poor families did not send their children to school because of poverty, as they sent their children to agriculture works, labour, to care for animals etc. Children were working as child labour in the villages. Now, the number of children doing child labour is very less. Although, there are schools in villages, the quality of the education is decreasing in Government schools. So people are sending their children to private schools. So, the class strength of Government schools is decreasing, leading to closure of Government schools in many villages. The literacy rate in villages is increasing.

Health:The current health situation is good in the villages. Health awareness has also increased in the villages. In the villages, ANMs, RMP doctors, 104 and 108 services, anganwadi teachers and Asha workers etc., are available for health purposes. Earlier, these systems were there, but there were no monitoring systems. People were suffering with viral fevers, jaundice and seasonal diseases, but now precautions are being taken in the villages.

Overall, the peoples' lifestyle has seen a change in many areas such as food habits, dressing, celebrating festivals, functions, culture and traditions over the last 30 years. People are spending more money on these items.

Food habits: Presently, we can see a lot of changes in peoples' food habits in the villages. Earlier, they used to eat roti, rice, dal, and vegetables. They used only jowar, wheat, foxtail millets (korralu), green gram, bengal gram, red gram, finger millets (raagulu), store rice etc., but they are now using rice, jowar, red gram, bpt rice, store rice etc. Rice consumption is increasing, but at the same time healthy food is not available for people, as almost every food item is

contaminated. Earlier, almost all the families were using firewood for cooking but now most of the families are using kerosene stoves and gas stoves. Earlier, women were using clay pots as vessels for cooking, but now they are using aluminium vessels and steel vessels. Earlier, stone grinder was used for grinding grains now most of the people are using electronic mixers and grinders for grinding and also using fridge, coolers, cookers, electrical rice cookers etc.

Dressing Style: With the advent of western culture, dressing styles have changed in villages. Earlier, elders were using only cotton vests daily, but now elders are using polyester, silk clothes etc. Earlier, they had only two or three pair of shirts, but now they have more. Men are also wearing lungi, shirts and pants. Young boys wear jeans, T-shirts, shirts, shorts, night pants, etc. Earlier, women used to wear only low-cost cotton saris, but now they use all types of saris. Girls are following the dressing styles of cities in villages.

Occasions: Earlier, people were mainly celebrating festivals, but now people are celebrating birthdays, marriage days, new year functions in villages. Currently, people are spending a lot of money on social occasions in villages.

Natural Resources/Common Property Resources: Villages have natural resources like land, water, forest etc. Natural resources are very useful to people. Villagers depend on natural resources for livelihoods. They are also affected by changes with time. Land fertility is decreasing, due to which farmers are not getting a good yield. Land size is also decreasing for agriculture, as there is only limited water to cultivate. Water is a major necessity for cultivation and household needs. Earlier, in villages water was available through rains, canals, streams, open wells, bore wells etc. Ground water level also was good in villages. Earlier, the rains were coming on time. At present, water scarcity is severe in villages. Open wells have almost dried; rivers, streams flow only in rainy season. Bore wells are increasing in villages but ground water level is decreasing. Earlier, water was available at a depth of 150 feet, but now it is not available even below 300 feet.

Village infrastructure: Presently, villages have average infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water, communication, transportation etc. The road connectivity, communication and electricity facilities are better than what they were 30 years ago.

Roads: At present, all villages have road connectivity. There is connectivity to main roads or other villages. These roads are made by tar. These roads are constructed under PMGSY in rural areas. Earlier, the road connectivity was not good. At that time only kaccha roads were there.

Electricity: Almost all villages have electricity. During the 1990s, only some families had electricity facilities, most of the people were using kerosene lamps at night. Now almost all families have electricity connections and are paying electricity bills. But power shortage is the main problem in villages. They depend on kerosene lamps and candles for light, during power cuts. Most of the time, they do not get sufficient power for agriculture purposes. Electricity is needed for agriculture and other activities in rural areas -for running irrigation pump sets, small and medium industries, khadi and village industries, cold chains, health care and education facilities etc.

Drinking water facility: The present drinking water situation is sad. Drinking water is not available easily, as the quality of water is not good. In the 1990s, villagers were drinking water from open wells, tanks and later from hand pumps. But now they get water from bore wells or most of the families buy filtered water from water plants, as some villages have established water plants with the support of donors. Some families have individual tap connections, while some use public tap connection. Water comes from nearby rivers or bore wells. GPs have established bore wells for drinking water purposes in villages. Some villages collect a fixed amount from families for tap connections. But still some villages are facing shortage of drinking water; the people have to walk long distances for water in summer.

Communication: Currently, the communication system is developing in villages. Each family has at least one or two mobiles. They utilize mobiles for communication. Earlier, there were no mobiles only upper caste families were using landline phones during the 1990s. But most of the families were using post cards for communication purposes. Earlier, land phones, STD shops, one rupee coin phones were used for communication purposes in the villages.

Transportation: The present transportation system is good in villages. It is also one of the main sources for development. Transportation is available to go from one village to another village or town. Now buses are going to villages, but there is still no bus facility for some villages in the country, autos are fulfilling that gap. Autos transport people from villages to nearby towns. Earlier, there were no transportation facilities in the villages. Only cycles, bullock carts were there, but some big families were using two wheeler vehicles in the 1990s. People were walking from villages to nearby towns for any work such hospitals, shopping etc. During a medical emergency people were facing a lot of problems, as patients were not receiving timely medical attention because of transportation problems.

Sanitation: The present sanitation situation is average. As most of the families, do not have individual toilets in the villages. But, present situation is better than earlier. Drainage system is also improving in the villages. Some people are still doing open defecation.

Nutrition: At present, the nutrition situation is good in villages. Most of the families get food three times a day. Earlier, most families did not get nutritious food. Sometimes, they did not even eat three times a day. Now the Government is providing nutritious food to children (below 6 years), pregnant women and lactating women through anganwadi centres in the villages. Government schools are providing mid-day meal for school children in the villages and rice and other items are being provided for BPL families through the PDS in the villages. Earlier, nutritious food was not available properly for the poor. Non-vegetarian shops are also present in the villages, whereas earlier non-vegetarian shops were absent. Earlier, there was a lack of awareness about nutrition in the villages and also anganwadi centres were not there.

Community Based Organizations: Presently, CBOs are there in the villages. People are empowered by CBOs. Women SHGs farmers' organizations, youth organizations, caste groups, WUAs, watershed groups, CIGs, elders groups etc have been formed in the villages. These groups are working for their members' development. But earlier, there were no CBOs, only caste groups were working in the villages. These days, the role of the community based organizations in development is increasing.

Migration: Migration is increasing in the villages. People are going to towns within the country and also going to other countries from villages. Mostly, the reason for migration is search of work. Nowadays, work is not available throughout the year in the villages. But earlier, there were lots of work available for people. At that time, people were busy with agriculture works, livestock works, artisan works etc. But now people do not get work in the villages, as farmers are depending on technology in every stage of cultivation and labour cost, has also increased. Earlier, farmers got profits in agriculture, but now they have to invest more on agriculture, but do not get much profit, sometimes, they do not even get back the investment amount in the villages.

Women situation: Presently, women empowerment is increasing, they are involved in decision making, ownership of assets, governance, participate in development, health, education, sanitation etc., in villages. Earlier, the situation of women was very bad as they did not have any power in the villages. Earlier, men were dominating women as we had a patriarchal society in India. But now, that situation is gradually decreasing in India. Earlier, women were doing household works, agriculture works, livestock works etc., but not allowed to take any decisions and men did not took any suggestions from women. After 1990s, women were oriented on different issues by orientation programmes. Government and non-Government organizations worked on women empowerment SHGs movement also played an important role in women empowerment. At the same time, violence on women is also increasing in villages. Currently, women are playing an important role in rural development. Women contested and won as Sarpanchs, MLAs, MPs in elections to lead their villages & constituencies in India.

Changes are happening in culture, traditions, agricultural practices, livelihoods, artisans, food habits etc., in villages. Lots of changes are happening in livelihoods and new livelihoods are being practiced in villages. Agriculture is decreasing, but at the same time non-farm sector is increasing in villages. Inorganic farming is increasing for more products. Farmers have more debts as they have to put more investment on agriculture. Farmers' suicides are also increasing due to crop failure, more debts etc. Artisans are decreasing or almost declining in villages. Technology is

involved in every livelihood. Migration is also increasing from villages to towns. Cash needs are increasing, even in villages. Gradually, the faces of the villages are changing by industrialization in India. Currently, almost all services are available in villages. Gradually, villages are also urbanizing from the past 3 decades.

***Livelihoods August-2014**

7. TRUE livelihoods

(Tribal, Rural, Urban and Emerging livelihoods)

We as a society are interdependent on each other, broadly there are three categories i.e., tribal, rural and urban societies. These are based on geographical surroundings, social, economic, political, cultural and livelihoods situations. Mostly, tribal societies are situated in hilly, remote, forested, difficult areas and people depend on forest based and farm based livelihoods. Rural societies are considered as village societies and they are mainly dependent on-farm and off-farm based livelihoods. Urban societies are emerging and expanding in and around towns and cities, the population is dependent on service and manufacturing sector for livelihoods. These three societies are interdependent and have been witnessing changes in geographic and livelihoods contexts, extensively and intensively in last three decades. Emergence of new technologies is creating impact on existing livelihoods and facilitating evaluation of emerging livelihoods.

We as a society are interdependent on each other, broadly there are three categories i.e., tribal, rural and urban societies. These are based on geographical surroundings, social, economic, political, cultural and livelihoods situations. Mostly, tribal societies are situated in hilly, remote, forested, difficult areas and people depend on forest based and farm based livelihoods. Rural societies are considered as village societies and they are mainly dependent on-farm and off-farm based livelihoods. Urban societies are emerging and expanding in and around towns and cities, the populations are dependent on service and manufacturing sector for livelihoods. These three societies are interdependent and have been witnessing changes in geographically and livelihoods contexts, extensively and intensively in last three decades. Emergence of new technologies is creating, impact on existing livelihoods and facilitating evaluation of emerging livelihoods.



According to National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 2011 -1 2, our country has 47.41 crore workforce employed in three sectors i.e. agriculture and allied sectors (23.18 crore), industrial sector (11.50 crore) and service sector (12.73 crore). Out of 47.41 crore of total workforce, 39.69 crore workers are in rural areas and 13.72 crore workers are in urban areas. Out of this workforce, women workers are 15 crore including rural (12.2 crore) and urban (2.8 crore). According to Employment Report 2014, large percentage of workers (49%) depends on agriculture (Contributes 16% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)), 27% of workers depend on service sector (Contributes 58% to GDP) and 13% workers depend on manufacturing sector (Contributes 16% to GDP). According to National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) report, 92% of total workforce is in informal sector or unorganized sector. These informal sector workers are getting low wages without social protection, in tribal, rural and urban areas.

Tribals (Adivasis) is an umbrella term, used for heterogeneous set of ethnic and tribal groups, who are considered as the aboriginal population of South Asia and they make up the 8.6% of India's population, according to the 2011 census. Tribals are found all across India.

To safeguard interests of tribals, after dawn of Independence, Constitution of India envisaged Article 366 (25), which defined ST as tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under 342 to be STs for the purpose of the Constitution. Under Constitution of India, a substantial number of people are recognized as tribals. They are found in all regions. One stretch along the Himalayas, stretching through the Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakand in the west .In northeast, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura,

Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland, where more than 90% of the population is tribal. The Jharkand and West Bengal have other tribal populations. Central Indian states have country's largest tribal population. In south India, smaller number of tribal population is found, in western belt too along with UTs. The tribes across India, who maintain a distinctive cultural identity, have been classified as PVTGs, as they remain more isolated from the wider community. As on date, Gol has identified around 75 tribal communities as PVTGs in different states of India. In the context of livelihoods of tribals over the centuries, if we look at the history or ancient India, it is clear that tribals enjoyed autonomy and depended on the region, evolved themselves and mixed the hunting, gathering, foraging, livestock rearing and farming economies and controlled their lands as a joint patrimony of the tribe. In few regions across India, it was inevitable but to secure adivasi approval and support was considered crucial by the local rulers.

The British, as early as 18th century, consolidated the feudalism in India i.e., Jagirdari and Zamindari system and began imposing Permanent Settlement, initially in Bengal and Bihar. Gradually, it became a template for deepening of feudalism throughout the India, thereby bringing the older social and economic system in our country to alteration in a radical form. It is this form of alteration, that lead to both land and forest natural rights of tribals were severely axed. The colonial era, witnessed that farmland belonging to non-tribal peasants, rapidly made the legal property of British-designated Zamindars (landlords), who moved to extract the maximum economic benefit possible from their new found property and subjects. This period, brought in maximum impact on tribal livelihoods, with legislation backing. With growing influx of non-tribal settlers by the Zamindars, began the exploitation of tribals lands, forests and labours. The tribals were deprived of the forests and resources, which they traditionally depended on and sometimes coerced to pay taxes. Moneylenders, settlement in native habitats of tribals, forced them to become bonded labourers for the Zamindars. The legislations set in by the colonial rulers, brought a major shift in livelihoods of tribals.

Tribals reform and rebellion movement during the period of the colonial rulers, made them participate in Indian Independence movement too. With the dawn of Independence, land dispossession and subjugation during the colonial period, dispossession from their native habitats and curtailment on natural rights continued. The economic deprivation in tribal belts across India triggered internal adivasi migrations. Tribals, who were and today also are concentrated in heavily forested areas, combined with inaccessibility and limited political or economic significance, had always subsisted on hunting, gathering and foraging activities. This subsistence based living, has been and is currently also being taken over by market economy. Tribal communities are unique and their livelihoods too. As we know, that each tribe is related to the resource based on its utilization and on type of work.

The forests, since time immemorial have been providing them with food and livelihood security. The communities, who have been living in close proximity with the forests, have over the centuries evolved local specific and livelihood strategies based on their indigenous knowledge. Tribals, whose lives revolved around forests, provided them with key livelihoods. Forests formed an important primary resource. The various products from forests contributes to various livelihoods needs i.e., fuel wood, timber, vegetables, medicinal herbs. During lean months, collection of NTFP is a key source of income. Hunting and fishing is a major livelihood activity, foraging activity involves collection of food items, seasonal fruits, collection of meat from hunting. Fishing in local streams, ponds and rivers is another significant livelihood activity for majority of the tribes in different regions across the country.

Various forest laws enacted during colonial period and subsequent amendments to forest laws in post- colonial period continue to impose restrictions and restrict access to forests with classification of forests into reserved, protected and village forests. Many of the tribals domesticate animals and animal husbandry is another important livelihood activity. This livelihood occupies an important position in their economy. Some tribal communities have animals in the form of assets. Apart, from milch animals, pigs, goats, yak and poultry are also extensively reared. Settled agriculture, introduced by colonial rulers, is another important livelihood activity for many tribes across different regions in our country. The paradox here is that, land is a primary resource for agriculture activity and landlessness is a major problem faced by the tribal communities.

Agriculture as an important livelihood activity provides food security to many tribal families and the crop produce is both used for domestic consumption and for sale too. In many regions of tribal areas, due to restrained access to cultivable land, cultivation in small plots is pre-dominant form of agriculture. Problems faced by tribals are growing land alienation, deprivation of land ownership, low investment in agriculture, caught in the web of penury and bonded labour, agriculture as a major livelihood activity remains a challenge, due to ineffective and inadequate measures placed in the system. Making of artifacts, with the forest resources is another important livelihood activity for tribes, but due to reduced access to forests, this livelihood is also under threat for many of the tribes, who are predominantly dependent on this, for survival. Collection of NTFP is another important livelihood activity and

provides income to many tribal families. Many tribes across India depend on shifting cultivation for livelihoods and food security; in some cases the dependency is partial or full. In the name of forest conservation and development, both during colonial and post-colonial times the government had devised policies and laws seeking to eradicate shifting cultivation. Due to rapid socio-economic transformation, even today shifting cultivation still plays an important role in providing livelihood and food security. It is beyond economic concerns and is an intricate part of their way of life and closely tied to their cultural identity. The challenges and problems faced by tribal communities have started during the Mughal era, colonial period and continue even after independence. Various protective measures, taken during colonial period were carried forward in Independent India.

After Independence, development of STs was clearly enunciated by the first Prime Minister of Independent India five principles known as "Tribal Panchasheel." As early as 1956, measures were taken for development of STs as Special Multipurpose Tribal Blocks (SMTBs), which had designed multifarious activities for tribal communities. The creation of separate Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs) in Special Five Year Plan (SFYP) (1956-61) and a Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) within the state plan in Five Five Year Plan (FFYP) (1974-79), and formation of Large Sized Agriculture Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), Tribal Development Agencies (TDAs), Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and various micro projects for PVTGs clearly reflected the tribal development as an important agenda for administration in the country. The other developmental approaches were also initiated in the form of strategies such as top-down, regional planning, target group approach, integrated development, participatory development, Joint Forest Management (JFM), watershed management and various other poverty alleviation programmes focused on tribal development and livelihoods.

Further, Independent India had issued two orders, to assist tribals enjoy their existing rights without any hindrance from others through summary process and to protect and promote their interests, the first President of Independent India had issued two orders i.e., the Scheduled Areas (part A States) order, 1950 and the Schedule Areas (part B States) order 1950 (as amended). These two orders of Scheduled Areas, which are included in the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (Article- 244) declares certain tribal areas as Scheduled Areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. Similarly Article 244(2) provides various provisions under Sixth Schedule for the administration and control of Schedule Tribes (ST) in the North-Eastern (NE) states.

On the basis of expert advice, as contained in the Bhuria Committee Report, 1995, an Amendment to the Act was enacted in December 1996 enabling extension of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, in a modified form to the Scheduled Areas. The Act extends Panchayat to the Scheduled Areas (SA) of eight states namely, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (including recently formed State of Chattisgarh), Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar (including the recently formed State of Jharkhand), Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, which intends to empower the Gram Sabha (GS) and Gram Panchayat (GP) in tribal societies to preserve their customs, values and traditions and ensure their traditional rights over natural resources. The main motto of all these initiatives is to bring sustainable development in tribal areas and, especially, to sustain the livelihoods of tribal communities.

There have been livelihoods changes, in the context of drivers, constraints and opportunities. The problems in tribal livelihoods, have been alarming, since colonial days, as the traditional means of obtaining livelihoods have been threatened. Access to land and control over the natural resources, has undergone significant changes, backed with legislative measures. On the other hand, state has been monopolizing and consolidating its ownership over nature. The large influx of non-tribals in pristine habitats of native dwellers has led to ecological degradation in large volumes. The emphasis on urbanization and industrialization has caused displacement of tribal population from their habitats. In the name of development, they have been evicted from their native habitats and the continued pace of growth in the name of industrialization, urbanization, cash economy/market economy has affected and impacted the tribal livelihoods.

The impact also has led to diversification of livelihoods partly out of necessity and partly out of choice. Scarcity of land is an external driving force, behind current livelihood changes. The other external factor is the market integration as tribal communities are trying to seize new opportunities to increase and supplement their income and improve their living conditions. The internal factors are that among the young tribal population, education and mainstream media is influencing the views and values of the young and are changing their outlook towards livelihoods preferences. The factors such as landless, laws, policies, privatization of land, landlessness and labour, migration, education and employment are providing base for emerging livelihoods for tribal communities.

In the contemporary times, the tribals are receiving many options for their livelihoods, the emergence of new industries and options of being a migrant to eke out new livelihood as an industrial worker, daily wage worker,

agricultural labour, entrepreneur, government job opportunities and etc. Introduction of MGNREGA, as a lean season activity, introduction of other developmental projects like those of Anthodaya schemes, BPL rice schemes and many other both state and central government schemes, have widened their scope of livelihoods.

Sadly, few PVTGs have become beggars in their own native habitats, as they are finding it difficult to cope with streamlining. A few of the government schemes, might have reduced the rate of migration in native habitats, but the communities continue to remain vulnerable, marginalized and exploited. Many of the tribal communities migrate, till date to their block or locality and still continue to depend on agriculture & NTFP collection as a primary source of livelihood. In order to sustain their livelihoods, for future generations to come, key and pragmatic measures should be initiated and implemented with true spirit. They are in the areas of strengthening policy advocacy at national, regional and global levels on land tenure, food security and livelihood. Support and strengthen tribal institutions and their leadership. Review various laws, policies and programs to guarantee their rights. The above measures are needed, as planning process in India, has failed to reduce the disparity between the tribal and non-tribal populations.

New livelihoods have emerged in tribal belts and they are mining, where in cheap labour is required, the tribals are engaged in these mining sites. The tribals, have become labourers in their own home land. In few other belts, eco-tourism projects have been established and the local tribal populations, work as tourist guides on minimum wages. Tribal women, in the era of globalization and liberalization, have been forced into sex trade. Many tribal girls and women are trapped in this web. The induced development in tribal areas, has led to mass displacement, impoverishment, exploitation and threat to their livelihoods.

The tribal communities till date have not managed to sustain their livelihoods, as they practice varieties of livelihoods in different regions, living in different environments. At one end, we have tribal livelihoods, who are continuing with their struggle and developing coping mechanisms to adopt and some tribal communities are on verge of extinction. In case of rural areas, with rural populations, the pace of migration has doubled in recent years, as they are also struggling to sustain their livelihoods in rural settings, unlike tribal communities they too are continuing with their struggle, adaptations, coping mechanisms have become a daily feature in their lives.

Rural: In our country over 60-70% of the population live in rural areas. They do not have adequate land holdings nor any alternatives or opportunities to produce or either to procure these commodities. The rural population has their own set of challenges, coping mechanism, strategies of adaptation. With increasing population, the demand for basic needs has been steeply rising in Independent India and the growing populations' needs of shelter, food, fuel and fodder for the rural livestock continues to remain a challenge.

Prior to Independent India and even after dawn of Independence, the highly stratified rural society always had linkages both with the local populations and as well as the outsiders. These two external and internal factors have always exploited the rural poor of the situations. Few instances, which need a mention is the landlord's attitude of not favouring infrastructure development, which would adversely benefit the poor, and may not get cheap labour to work in their farms. Moneylenders resist alternate financial institutions to provide cheaper credit needed by the poor. Rural poor continued to live in the clutches of the powerful, thus they avoided confrontation and preferred to remain voiceless and suppressed.

Rural populations in rural areas earn their living in various ways i.e., on-farm and off-farm activities. Sixty percent of the population in rural areas is directly engaged in agriculture. We have small, medium and large farmers. Large farmers own huge farms, they also run various businesses. Many labourers and small farmers depend upon collection of different types of forest produce, animal husbandry, livestock rearing, dairy produce, fishing and other tasks to earn additional income.

Today, in the absence of adequate employment opportunities, the rural populations are unable to generate enough wages to sustain their livelihoods. Agriculture, which is the main stay economic activity and also a predominantly rain-fed activity, the poverty in rural areas persists. This is mainly due to limited and inequitable access to productive resources, such as land, water, improved inputs, technologies and micro-finance. Coupled, with the above are vulnerability to drought and other natural disasters. The rural populations have poor levels of literacy and skills that conspire to keep people in the poverty trap and prevent them from claiming their basic rights or from embarking on new activities to earn income or build assets.

Agriculture, which is the major source of livelihood in rural areas, has not been a success for many farmers economically, due to unavailability of comprehensive support from government. Secondly, as much as 60 million ha., of agriculture lands are located in arid zone, which are mostly owned by the poor families. Given the chances of crop failure in arid zones, many poor and marginal farmers, do not opt for high investment in areas of inputs, such as

improved seeds, fertilizers and plant protection measures and end up with poor crop yields, even during normal years. Agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and labour costs have been increasing for decades and farmers produce is not matching the market price. From both the end, the farmer is at a loss i.e., purchasing time and time of sale. Gradually small, marginal and medium farmers are getting caught in debt trap. Farmers are facing crisis situation and almost 3 lakh farmer's suicides occurred in last three decades, because of the crisis. Farmers are selling their lands and migrating to urban areas for survival. Environmental changes like drought, floods, new disease infestations to crops have been bringing more losses to farmers. Farmers are the most vulnerable victims of environmental changes.

Apart from agriculture, the rural populations are also engaged in off-farm activities for fuel and fodder collection and this is taken up in private land holdings, pastures and common lands, which are owned by the government and the communities. Over exploitation and denudation of the pastures has become a common feature, due to poor management capacities of the communities. Huge wastelands in rural areas are another severe constraint for rural livelihoods, which are under-utilized and serve as no productive zones. As management of these waste lands can revive the supply of fodder and fuel, facilitate percolation of rainwater, improve agriculture production and provide seasonal fishing activity for many rural communities.

Rural population's huge dependence on agriculture activity makes water a critical input and vested interests have always taken advantage of these water resources for their own benefits and making the poor not utilizing their share, thus accelerating the economic imbalance between the small and large landholders. This has always remained one of the biggest livelihood challenges for rural populations.

Forests, serve as an important lifeline for many rural communities as they provide both direct and indirect benefits to rural communities. However, deforestation has been a growing challenge and is directly suppressing agricultural production. Forests, which are under the ownership of the government, are degrading, due to lack of participation from local communities to conserve it. Livestock forms an important livelihood activity, for the rural population and is an important source of supplementary income. As mixed farming is an insurance against natural calamities, the livestock also is a buffer stay for many rural population communities. Milk, bullock powers are essential for diet and as well as for farming and rural transportation. These are uneconomical due to low genetic base and poor management. The poor and landless rural poor prefer to maintain sheep and goats, pigs and let them loose for grazing on community pastures.

Various artisans i.e., potters, washer men, weavers, blacksmith, goldsmith, daily wage laborers, scavengers, barbers, priests, toddy tappers, entertainers, carpenters, utensil sellers, traditional healers, cobblers are rural populations, who have been earning their livelihood through traditional occupation, but in last one decade, due to globalization and liberalization reforms and also agriculture crisis, it has adversely affected rural populations. Forcing many of the rural populations for distress migration in search of various other livelihoods

Lakhs of people particularly, downtrodden communities' people are doing drudgery, dangerous and inhuman works like scavenging, drainage cleaning and removing animals' carcasses. People are doing these works for merely to survive, these works do not give much income and also not good for health. Both in rural and urban areas these works are continuing. Presently, some organizations are demanding to abolish such inhuman works and to do these works with machines instead of human beings. In case of farmers, the poor productivity of the land, livestock and inefficient use of forests have caused seasonal employment in villages and sustaining livelihoods has become a struggle and in order to earn additional wages, they began migrating to urban areas.

The migration pattern among the rural population varies from region to region, based on opportunities and socio-economic status of the families. As the poorest families, especially the landless and marginal holders migrate with entire family and in urban setting work as construction workers and return back at the onset of monsoon, but in recent trends, this is not the pattern, that has been observed as migration from rural to urban areas now is for settlement for life with quality. After independence, various poverty alleviation programmes were implemented with the major agenda to alleviate poverty. Therefore, various community development programmes were initiated to build the capabilities of the poor. The programmes aimed at skill oriented training to build capabilities of rural communities.

Different programmes initiated by the (GoI), focused on the goal of assuring livelihoods. Keeping this goal, various multi-disciplinary programmes were initiated such as kitchen garden, vermin-composting, homestead horticulture and many agriculture allied activities. One of the largest programme for poverty alleviation is MNREGA, which is promoting rural livelihoods across India. In spite, of such a large scale of programme, which is being implemented, the migration from rural to urban areas continues. It is bringing in new ideas, poor quality of life and many more

challenges to life and livelihoods.

Urban Livelihoods: Urbanization in our country has been taking place rapidly, since Independence. Urban population has doubled in the last seven decades. People are migrating from rural areas to urban areas in search of livelihoods, education, health facilities, market, connectivity, entertainment and other factors. Particularly, in rural areas agriculture and allied sectors' growth rate is declining. These sectors are not in a position to ensure stable income and growth for the families. People are leaving these sectors and migrating to urban areas. For the last seven decades urban population as percentage of total population has been increasing. According to 2011 -12 statistics, 80% of urban workforce is formally employed. Overall 51% , workforce is depending on self-employment and remaining 49% of the workforce is depending on wage employment. Home based work and domestic works are largest employment segments in urban areas.

In urban areas, we can see thousands of livelihoods. Urban people predominately depend on manufacture and service sectors. Particularly service sector has been increasing in post-independent era. Changes in people's life style and habits created large number of service based livelihoods and new markets across the country in cities. There are various service based livelihoods such as health, education, communication, electricity, transport, retail business, real estate, sports and games, hotels, tourism, courier services, child care, elderly persons' care, logistical support, pilgrims visits, religious gatherings, construction works, e-seva centers, domestic services, events management, rag pickers, waste managers, , career counselling, call centers, finance, print and electronic media and entertainment etc. In service sector there are large number of people engaged, who are unskilled or semi-skilled workers.

Construction sector is providing more employment opportunities when compared to other urban livelihoods. In urban areas, everywhere new shopping complexes, apartments, educational institutions, waterways, industries, industrial plants, dams, bridges, hospitals, roads, buildings and drainages etc., are being established. These works are providing various types of livelihoods such as masonry, centering, plumbing, carpentry, designing, painting, electrician etc., It is providing livelihoods for both skilled and unskilled workers. Large numbers of shopping complexes, big bazaars, hyper-markets, educational institutions, retail shops, vegetable markets, e-seva centers, function halls, hotels, restaurants and hospitals are established in urban areas because of need of infrastructure facilities. These establishments are always demanding for various types of workers i.e., sales persons to watchmen.

In urban areas, we witness a number of labour addas (centers), where the migrant rural population gathers in small number (10-25) with masonry tools, in search of livelihood as a daily wage labourer and one can see them hanging in labour addas from 8.00 to 10.00 AM. They are picked up, by different people of local locations either for construction works, domestic works or any other work, terms and conditions are discussed then and there. Many a times, the migrant labourers, do not find any work, thus they go back homes or either agree to work on very minimal wage. Urban areas are hot spots for manufacturing units, as a number of small and medium sized industries are situated in cities or city outskirts. Large number of migrant population and urban population work in the industries. A few of the population, after having gained some experience, they venture to start their own business enterprise and engage other people

Youth in urban areas are involved in part -time and full-time base livelihoods like paper boys, milk boys, courier boys and etc. Event managements and movers and packers today have become reasonably big businesses, as people are constantly on a move, in search of better life and livelihood. Thus, these sectors too are providing good livelihood to many urban populations. In urban areas, people have to move from one place to another place for livelihoods, education, health, entertainment and shopping. Large quantities of products have to be supplied to super markets, hyper markets, shopping complexes, shops, hospitals, educational institutions, vegetables markets etc. Transport sector plays key role in moving. Lakhs of autos, seven seater autos, cars, buses, trolleys, mini-lorries and lorries have to be placed in this business. Huge number of drivers, cleaners, mechanics and porters are required. Information and Technology (IT) centers are situated in urban areas. These centers may provide livelihoods to less number of people those, who availed certain educational and technical qualifications. But, many people livelihoods depend on IT based livelihoods at second, third etc., levels.

In urban areas rich and middle class families did not have time for household works including taking care of kids and elderly people. In most of the middle class families, both wife and husband have to go for jobs for long distances. This situation attracts lakhs of domestic workers to do household works and taking care of kids. Women of poor families involve in these works. Hotels and mobile vending is another big livelihoods opportunity in urban areas. Everywhere we can see hotels and mobile food vendors. Lakhs of people are involved in this business in urban areas across the country.

Mobile vending is in itself, a big livelihood opportunity for many people in urban areas. People sell vegetables, flowers, pots, toys, ornaments, plastic ware, vessels, kitchen items, snacks, clothes, sandals and sweet items etc., Many poor people are dependent on mobile vending for livelihood. We can see large number of poor people doing various livelihoods activities in busy centers in the city. Most of these livelihoods require minimum investment. For example in busy street of the city, within half kilometer area, we can find many livelihoods for the urban poor.

Migrant workers condition is more vulnerable in urban areas. In work place they have to work for 10 to 14 hours without proper facilities for marginal wages. They do not have any insurance facilities and pension facilities. Employers easily cheat the migrant workers and many a times, they do not pay the agreed amount to the workers. At work places if migrant workers, meet with accidents, they do not get any compensation. Many of the migrant workers do not have proper housing and other basic infrastructure facilities. Being migrants, they depend on Public Distribution System (PDS) card, Aadhar card, gas connection, pension at concerned urban offices. But, most of the migrant workers are unable to access authorized cards to avail their entitlements from government and ensure their rights.

In urban areas, women workers condition is vulnerable at work places. Most of the women are engaged in domestic works, where there are no official procedures defining domestic workers' working hours, payment, leaves and other entitlements. There is always high chance of sexual harassment in these places. Even at labour addas, the daily wage workers face sexual harassments, which are very common and frequent, but there are no measures in place to safeguard these vulnerable women. They are many issues and problems which are prevalent in urban based livelihoods. Above half of the workforce is depending on self-employment with less investment and marginal income. Most of these entrepreneurs do not have any insurance for their business activities, assets, health and life. They cannot access loans from formal banks, they have to depend on money lenders for investment. They have to pay more interest, roughly on an average 36% to 60% per year depending on the lender and credit emergency. They do not have licenses for their businesses and most of their businesses run at footpath areas or mobile vending carts. They face many problems from municipal and police people and local leaders to run their businesses. They are the first victims of natural and social environmental disasters.

Technological changes, government policies and hyper markets, big bazaar are affecting livelihoods' of the small entrepreneurs. They have to compete with big bazaars for selling their products, which is becoming tough. Large number of people used to make products at their homes for companies, if those companies bring in new technology to make the products they may lose their livelihoods. In the above context of tribal, rural and urban livelihoods, there are also livelihoods which are emerging, in all the three regions and how are these emerging livelihoods shaping up?

Emerging Livelihoods: Twenty first century technological revolutions made a huge difference in the human history. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) created big impact on livelihoods and lives of the common persons. Along with ICT, developments in genetics, robotics, 3D printing and bio- technology gave birth to various new livelihoods and altered many existing livelihoods. These technological changes diminished some traditional livelihoods and facilitated new livelihoods. These technological based livelihoods require minimum education and skills.

According to the latest survey, till May 2016, out of 1340 million total population, above 1058 million are mobile subscribers in the country. Almost, in six lakh villages, almost every village, slums and market places have mobile recharge center or mobile sales and service center in the cities across the country, particularly in cities there are many mobile showrooms situated, mobile phone companies established mobile manufacturing units. These shops, showrooms and manufacture units are providing livelihoods to lakhs of people in sales repair and manufacture segments. Mobile phones connect people to internet world. Internet user's number is rapidly growing. India is second largest country having internet subscribers in the world with 462 million (Till July 2016) internet users (35% in total country population).

Initially, when mobiles were launched in India, it was considered an instrument only for the rich, but now it has become a necessary commodity of the common person. It is becoming clearer that, almost all mobile number occupied persons' identity. Mobile phones are providing number a of services to many people such as farmers, vegetable and fruits vendors, catering people, electricians, plumbers, construction workers, artisans, domestic workers, fishermen, data operators, consultants, migrant workers, milk vendors, paper boys, tailors etc., in their livelihoods and lives. These people are benefiting in both ways i.e., sale and purchase. By using mobile phones, they get new orders from consumers to sell their products or items and also they access prices and quality of the items to purchase. Mobile reduces vendors' time, travel cost, energy and money by providing products information of purchase and sell.

Various services provider are using mobile for giving many services such career counselling, coaching, legal support, health services, counselling to overcome from problems, religious information and distance learning courses etc. Online shopping became common in present world. People prefer to purchase products from online shops such as www.flipkart.com, www.amazon.in, www.ebay.in, www.mantra.in, www.snapdeal.com, www.naaptol.com and paytm.com etc., every big showroom owners started to sell their products from clothes to food items through their own online shops or through others' online shops. Corporate company owners like Flipkart and Amazon are establishing their stores at important cities and selling all products of the consumers' choices across the country. Many people are working in central stores and in delivering orders to the consumers.

Mobile food vending and curry points are increasing in the country. Life became busy in rural and urban areas, particularly in urban areas people have to commute for two to four hours journey in a day to do jobs. In many families both husband and wife have to do jobs. These people are the consumers for mobile food vending and curry points. These businesses did not require huge infrastructure and Human Resource (HR) and with minimum investment, these businesses can run. So, they can sell food items at reasonable prices. Event management is one of emerging livelihood in the cities. Joint families are declining at the same time nuclear families are increasing. People became busy with their works and life. So, people do not have sufficient time to conduct functions. This situation facilitated, the rise of event management companies to conduct different functions from birth to marriage day. Event management people will take all works including stage decoration, food and water arrangements, entertainment show and other facilities. Different types of skilled, semi – skilled and unskilled people are required in the event management profession.

Religious gatherings like puskaralu (Once in twelve years on rivers name) and setting Ganapathi idols or other idols has been increasing in last two decades. Kumbhmela is largest gathering (nearly 10 crore people) in the world. Lakhs and crores of people are participating in these religious events. People are doing number of livelihoods, such as selling coconuts and other items, food items, travel arrangements etc. Disc Jockey (DJ) team importance is increasing in functions like marriages, wedding anniversaries, birthday functions, corporate events, religious events, celebrations and engagement functions etc., People are preferring DJ in functions instead of traditional musical systems. DJ team performs highest quality sound with lighting systems by using modern musical tools. DJ, now popular in villages and people without any caste constrain are participating in this livelihood profession.

Uber, Ola, Meru and Easy Cabs companies' business has been increasing in transport sector for the last one decade. These companies are connecting consumers and cabs drivers with mobile internet facility with minimum investment. It increases business to cab drivers and also it reduces consumers' time and money. Consumers can access Uber and Ola cabs services within minutes by using Always A Pleasure (AAP). People prefer this business. Media and Entertainment (M&E) industry is one of the fastest growing industry in the country. It is one of the biggest emerging sectors in the country with various organs such as print media, electronic media, cinema and Television (TV) etc. Different skills and talents people are working in M& E industry. In media particularly, electronic media is showing growth. Above, 1000 TV channels exists and nearly 10 lakh people are depending on electronic media in the country. There are various types of jobs in electric media as follows:

- Security persons
- Canteen staff
- OB Van drivers
- Voiceover artists
- Camera persons
- Studio camera persons
- Graphics designers
- Makeup artists
- Coordination staff
- Penal board operators
- Video editors
- Advertising & Marketing persons
- Sub-editors

- Anchors

Technological changes not only created new livelihoods and provided support in information accessibility and availability. These changes enhanced productivity from five to eight times in agriculture, manufacture and service sectors. These changes reduced burden, drudgery, time and energy. In agriculture, farmers are using machines at all stages in cultivation from developing land to harvesting. Electricians and carpenters are using sophisticated machines in their works. Globalization creating new opportunities to workforce, earlier monopoly corporate companies used to export their products to other countries. Now, they changed their strategy, instead of exporting products, they are establishing manufacturing units in developing countries, where cheap labour, resources and markets are available. India is one of the ideal countries for Multi-National Companies (MNC) to establish their manufacturing units.

Emerging livelihoods requires minimum education qualification and operating skills. But these are lacking in most of the people. Because 92% working force is in unorganized sector, where there is no formal training system. Few people are able to access skills. Particularly, in the time of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) era, changes are happening in technologies at speed. Within years existing technologies becoming outdated and new technologies replacing. Indian workers have to compete with Global workforce. Corporate companies are adopting advanced technologies. Poor people, those who are running small enterprises with less investment and low technology are unable to compete with corporate companies in business.

Globalization, changes in economic policies, technological revolutions, increasing population, environmental changes and new living styles, brought deep changes in livelihoods of tribal, rural and urban populations and also facilitated emerging livelihoods in three areas particularly, in urban areas. These changes impact is not same on these three areas. Tribal and rural areas people's livelihoods are continuing to be affected more severely than urban people's livelihoods. Coping with new situations is critical for survival of poor people across three areas. Imparting education, skills, financial assistance, linkage with market, connecting to various departments, ensuring social protection and inclusion into Community Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), collectives, cooperatives, associations, unions, collective enterprises, collectivization has to become an important initiative in present context, for survival of poor and to sustain their livelihoods.

***livelihoods October-2016**

8. Gandhian Livelihoods

Most often, any debate pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi is fixated upon the twin ideals of non-violence and truth, which he actively promoted and practiced. But did the man, who spearheaded the independence movement for a little over two decades have nothing in mind for the future of an independent India? Rarely are his ideas on polity and economy discussed or even taught in our schools. This explains the near absolute ignorance of the masses (with the exception of those who choose to dwell deeper into Gandhian thought) by the decentralized system of governance and economy that Gandhi had envisaged.



Some might dismiss his idea of Ram Rajya (village republics) as utopian and implausible in a globalized world, but the fact remains that in all the talks about decentralized planning and handing over the reins of implementation to those at the grassroots, is reminiscent of Gandhi's ideology. It is exactly what we're struggling to achieve in the confines of a system that is federal in letter, but unitary in spirit. The premise of Gandhian thought lies in, the knowledge of disturbance and ultimate collapse of equilibrium in Indian economy with coming of British and the elements of industrialization they brought in tow. This, along with ideals of modern thoughts such as liberty, justice and freedom sculpted Gandhi's thoughts. Gandhi pinpointed and

theorized the elements of Indian economy prior to the arrival of British that made it self-sustaining. He concluded that basic ethics and consideration for one another was a panacea to removing poverty and to ensure that each person had enough to eat and clothe themselves. He believed in maximization of social welfare. The relevance of Gandhian thought to livelihoods emerges from his concept of village industries. Gandhi was a staunch opponent of industrial growth that was capital intensive. He feared the advent of machines and their potential to replace labour. This is a fear that has been realized in this continually mechanized world, where employees being laid off due to the introduction of machines for higher and uniform production of goods. Labour is to be a master of the machine and not vice-versa. He said, it was important that each man earn his bread himself should not rely on others for his basic needs. Gandhi believed that the development of the individual would definitely lead to the development of the society, but the reverse may not be true. He expressly opined that each individual should eat bread of his own labour. Khadi in a way symbolizes this self-reliance. Gandhi urged his followers to do away with mill woven clothes and instead revert to homespun khadi. In the post Independence period also, the government and private organizations have taken measures to promote the fabric. The Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body that was established in 1957, with the objective of providing employment to the poor by encouraging them to engage in producing saleable products with focus on creating self-reliance among the poor.

Among its various activities, KVIC is involved in planning and implementing programs to promote khadi, providing raw material to producers if needed, encourage research in new techniques for khadi production, etc. KVIC also provides assistance to organizations that wish to initiate village industries. KVIC has under its purview mineral based industries, agro based and food processing industries, polymer and chemical based industries, forest based industries, rural technology industries and also service industry. KVIC works through a network of 33 KVIC boards that are located in all states and UT's in the country. It also supports organizations such as the Khadi Gramudhyog Sangh. Khadi Gramudhyog Bhavan (as it was known earlier), based in Chennai was under the jurisdiction of KVIC from 1957 until 1969. In 1969, it registered as the Khadi Gram Udyog Sangh (KGUS) and is engaged in promotion of khadi and village industries products. It has tried to tune khadi and village industries to current tastes and preferences of consumers. However, it is not just a marketing outlet for khadi products but also is committed to work towards a "non-violent and non-exploitative social order." The organization was the first to introduce readymade khadi

garments. It organizes exhibitions to showcase various products such as dolls (especially during Dussehra), sandalwood, rosewood and teak products, herbal honey, jewellery, leather goods, etc. The Bhavan has also started canteens in Chennai that serve nutritious food at low prices. It believes that wide participation augments the growth of an organization and has engaged voluntary associations such as Guild of Service Seva Samajam (GSSS) for production of vegetarian bakery products, Gopalapuram Women & Artisans combine for production of condiment powders. To keep alive Gandhian thought, Bhavan has also initiated a Youth Forum for Gandhian Studies. It also recruits, its employees from khadi producing communities. Gandhi envisaged an economy, in which villages were independent economic units. The villages would engage in those activities that were conducive to local resources and talents. They would also cater to the local market and not aim to supply to a greater market as this would harm the producers of that area. Therefore, focus would be on khadi, handicrafts, handlooms, agro processing, etc.

Manibhai Desai, a disciple of Gandhi founded Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) a non-profit organization in 1967 with the vision of "building a self-reliant rural society assured of food security, safe drinking water, good health, gender equity, low child mortality, literacy, high moral values and clean environment." Its initial focus was on cattle development but later expanded its focus to conservation of natural resources for promoting sustainable livelihoods. BAIF has blossomed to become a highly respected organization in India that is engaged with the community, particularly with the vulnerable groups and has helped them enhance and create gainful self-employment opportunities. BAIF is very particular about ensuring that the local resources be tapped in the community's endeavours to augment their livelihoods opportunities. For this, BAIF conducts extensive research as to how the locally available resources can prove productive for the community. Currently, BAIF has presence in 16 states where it works through 4,500 employees and 9 associates. It also has research centres across with a central a research station at Urulikanchan. Gandhi viewed education as a much more complex concept than just mere literacy. Literacy is not education in itself; it is just a tool that aids education. Education is a process that results in holistic development of an individual. Literacy can be defined as the proficiency in the three R's- writing, reading and arithmetic. Gandhi proposed a new system of education called NaiTalim as the answer to holistic education to develop the individual. NaiTalim would include craft, health and art apart from literacy with aim to develop the body, mind and soul unlike the modern education system which nurtures only the mind. He believed that the economy should be decentralized, powered by village industries, Gandhi also advocated taking Vidyapeeth to the villages. In line with these ideas, Gandhi founded the Gujarat Vidyapith in 1920 in Ahmedabad. It imbibed truth and non-violence as its core values. Also, it was decided that the curriculum would correspond to the need of villagers and all teaching would be in the mother tongue. The education at Gujarat Vidyapeeth, was designed to develop the personality of the individual and includes regular participation in community work, residential life, social service, community prayers, simple and self reliant living, study tours and field studies, hand spinning and training in craft work. The Vidyapeeth experiments in various realms of education with a view to develop the application of Gandhian thought.

In 1956, the Gandhigram Rural Institute was inaugurated with the sole purpose of imparting education by adopting Naitalim. The founders were two Gandhians Dr. T Soundaram and G. Ramachandran. The institute, now a university has developed academic programmes in Rural Development, Rural Economics and Extension Education, Rural Oriented Sciences, Cooperation, Development Administration, Rural Sociology, English and Communicative Studies, and, Tamil and Indian Languages. Students who graduate from the university usually work in the rural development sector in various capacities. Today, it is recognized as one of the pioneer academic institutes for rural development research. In our quest to eradicate desperate poverty and making our economic system fair, we struggle to come up with solutions for pressing questions like equal distribution of resources. During Gandhi's time, zamindari system was deep-rooted with its repercussions playing out on a massive chunk of farmers. He sensed the distress of the peasants and warned that the days of this oppressive system were numbered, as it would be foolish to expect the peasants to be dormant forever. As a solution, he advocated a system, whereby the zamindars, would be trustees of the tillers and would not be entitled to anymore than what the tillers entitle them to. Gandhi envisaged an amiable relationship between the zamindars and tillers. Trusteeship, as Gandhi termed this system, was born out of the Mahatma's belief that an action is just when it does not harm others.

This idea of Gandhi's was realized by an ardent follower, Vinoba Bhave who initiated the Bhoodan-Gramdan movement. In 1951, he announced that he would walk across the violence-stricken Telangana region to spread the message of peace and non-violence. During the course of this mission, Vinoba happened to stop over at Pochampally, a village in the badly hit Nalgonda district. Upon interacting with the Harijan community of the village, it was revealed that the, whole community was landless and all it wished for was to have 40 acres for the forty families in the community. At the same meeting, a zamindar in the village offered to give 100 acres to the community. This sparked the bhoodan movement. Soon, Vinoba took this as an example and persuaded zamindars in other villages to follow suit. An improvisation of the bhoodan movement was the gramdan movement under which all the land in the village would be handed over to 75% of the population who would then be responsible for redistribution of the land amongst themselves. Though the movement couldn't sustain momentum after 1974, it played a crucial role in changing the mindset of many in rural areas. The movement held close to Gandhian principle of no man having more land than he can till as the basis for the redistribution of land. Jayaprakash Narayan, one of India's leading political

leaders came to be actively associated with the movement. Apart from bhoodan and gramdan, the movement also encompassed other practices such as Sampattidan (wealth), Shramdan (labour), Jeevandan (sacrifice of labour for life to the village).

Often, the lack of redress of violation of rights adds insult to the injury of violation of rights itself. Gandhi lamented that the modern legal system became a string of formalities that did not meet the objective of delivering justice. He vouched for reinstating the system of arbitrating disputes through village councils that existed in ancient India. Therefore, Gandhi took the idea of social justice a step further by handing over delivery of justice to the people. Harivallabh Parekh, a Gandhian started People's Court in east Gujarat, where he also started his ashram, Anand Niketan. Parekh gradually won over a hostile community and in a span of decades he reached out to 1.5 million people across 1, 100 villages through various developmental activities. However, his most significant contribution remains the concept of Peoples Courts which solved over 30,000 disputes which were mostly about family disputes, land disputes and sometimes even criminal cases. He adopted extremely fair means and ensured that the verdict had no adverse consequences on the family of the guilty. The recent anti-corruption protests in the country spearheaded by Anna Hazare have brought Gandhian methods and principles back into focus. True, corruption has reached alarming levels, but it is to be understood that corruption is not something that can be met with legislation but requires a change in the system. Gandhi saw corruption as inevitable in a system that is so vast, with red tapism being the order of the day. It is often observed that for the Indian National Congress, Gandhian practices were only a means to achieving a political goal and for Gandhi and his followers a way of life. Therein lies the reason as to why the Gandhian philosophy was not adopted by free India. Indeed, a difficult task to accomplish what Gandhi envisaged but it has the capacity to stimulate our thought process in line with decentralization with power in the hands of the people. There are still examples in the country that have empowered the local communities by letting the management of resources to the community. In some parts of Maharashtra, in true Gandhian spirit, ground water of the village is considered that of the village and distributed equitably unlike in other parts where it belongs to the person under whose land it flows. Slowly, the belief that members of the local community who are affected by large so-called development projects should be absorbed into the industry is also setting in. These are encouraging signs that decentralization in certain processes is possible and that the role of the state need not be overbearing in all aspects of an individual. Of course, macro matters such as defence, transport, coinage and communications could be handled by the state but there is potential to devolve other aspects to the people.

It is sad to note that today, far from implementing these ideas, we live in a world that even refuses to recognize and make efforts towards making the world more equitable. Individualism has taken our society by storm and has induced an inalienable sense of competition that is only deterring whatever little chances we have of achieving a peaceful world. Peace or security for Gandhi didn't just meant disarmament. Instead, it was the empowerment of the people and providing him with the basic needs— food and shelter. It is often said that the seeds of violence and insecurity lies in deprivation. When a society is as disparate as it is today, there is bound to be insecurity. Those, who do not receive their fair share of the pie are bound to speak out in the face of such obnoxious displays of wealth by some in the society. How can we justify that Rs. 32 is enough for survival, when the wealthy few spend thousands and indeed lakhs in a day? Why can't all of us have the right to nutritious food instead of it being the privilege of the few? A society which follows principles of Sarvodaya will have no space for such instances.

***Livelihoods October-2011**

9. Livelihoods Landscape

India has experienced a period of rapid growth in the past few decades. The opening up of the economy, technology and knowledge revolutions have changed the contours of life and livelihoods in the country. Some have been good and others disadvantageous. How much have the livelihoods of the country changed?



The past two decades have seen the country swing from economic laggardness to economic vibrancy. Of course, much of this is attributable to the economic reforms, that began in the 80s and culminated in the 90s, but other factors, such as the technological and knowledge revolutions have catalyzed this change. The economic reforms of 1991 brought about fundamental changes in the way our economy functions. They resulted in a mercurial rise in our economic indicators. Since then, the economy has quadrupled, the size of the middle-class has swelled dramatically, absolute poverty has reduced, technology has become accessible and transportation has become more efficient. Scratch the surface, and a more complex set of sociological and cultural

changes are revealed. We are 30% urban today, compared to 17% back then. More number of Indians own cars - and a variety of them, their options are not restricted to a Maruti 800 or an Ambassador, nuclear families and single-parent households are on the rise, multiplexes have cropped up across the country. In short, the way we live, what we eat, how we travel, how we communicate and indeed, our livelihoods have undergone a dramatic change.

While the past two decades has witnessed, creation of vast amounts of wealth, it has not resulted in increased parity. In fact, in the new globalised, liberalized economy the existing divides – economic and social – deepen and the emergence of many more divides – knowledge, technology and etc. Sometimes, one feeds the other. While absolute poverty has decreased (from 45% in 1990s to 29% now) relative poverty is increasing at an alarming rate. According to a DFID report (in 2007), India exists in a three-level continuum – a rich India, that is at par with the well-to-do, Western world; a developing India, with low incomes that barely make ends meet, but definitely upwardly mobile; and there is the marginalized India, comprising of urban slum dwellers, small farmers and producers in rural India. The fruits of the “economic boom” have barely touched the last section of the continuum. With the onset of the new economic era, as the country revealed in the new-found riches, the most marginalized descended into more poverty and squalor. This section of population carries the weight of centuries old discrimination and inequality on their backs. That discrimination and inequality prevented them from accessing and controlling, resources vital to survival in an open economy. The receding role of the state made matters worse.

A large chunk of the rural poor population has migrated out of their traditional livelihoods to ensure their survival. The most striking feature of the rural livelihoods landscape of the past twenty years has been the sharp decline in farm-based livelihoods. With the government promoting rapid industrialization, its focus on agriculture - once the backbone of the economy - has decreased. Today, agriculture is growing at just 2.5% and contributes just 17% to the GDP about half of what, it used to during the 90s. This happened at a time, when global food grain prices touched record highs. The agriculture prosperity brought on by the Green Revolution has given way to dismal productivity, declining acreage under cultivation and a collapsed farm sector.

Development efforts and workers have taken note of this scenario, and channelized their energy to pull the bottom, out of the pyramid into the mainstream. This wave of development has essentially focused on building physical capital (infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, etc.) and social capital (cooperatives, SHGs, etc.). The opening up of the economy did not mean that the ills of the older system vanished or even faded. Small farmers are still resource poor. They have no access to the variety of seeds and technology that large farmers and commercial agriculture have. Collapse of the farm sector also affected the food security of the farmer's household. The Green Revolution had ensured national food sufficiency. However, national food sufficiency has not translated into household food security. For agriculturists and policy makers, introduction of modern scientific innovations seemed the way out of poor agriculture productivity and ensuring food sufficiency. Ideally, a farmer household cultivates commercial crops only after it reaches a threshold of food security. Any talk of cash crops prior to that is detrimental to its own well-being. In the period since the reforms, the Agriculture Department of the Government has encouraged farmers to grow cash crops to improve their economic status. But this policy has taken toll on the food security of the household: earlier, farmers would retain a part of the produce for their own consumption.

Further, many farmers themselves have shifted out of practicing agriculture to pursue other activities – including wage labour. The inhumane side of this has been the rise of farmers' suicides in the country. High costs of cultivation, low returns have driven many a farmer to take loans at high rates from local moneylenders to make ends meet. Unable to bear the burden of repaying these loans, they resort to suicide. It is estimated that some 3 lakh farmers have taken this dire step in the past ten years. The same is true of handloom weavers. The advent of power looms and other machine-produced clothes have sent the entire handloom into a tizzy. Handloom weavers across the country have found it difficult to cope with this changing scenario. This story rings true for numerous artisans in the country. So where have all the erstwhile farmers and artisans shifted? Most have migrated to nearby towns and cities in search of better opportunities. Every year, millions of poor families lock their homes and travel to distant places with meager belongings to eke out a living. The working conditions at the new workplace are unsafe, the terms of work unfair and the wages too low. Unfortunately, regularization of the norms in the sector has not been on the agenda of the government or civil society. The workers continue to be at the mercy of their employers. Further, the rampant practice of sub-contracting in the sector gives a blurred picture of who is responsible for exploiting workers.

While those with higher education qualifications moved out of agriculture, youth with minimum education also did not prefer agriculture as a livelihood. Since the 1980s, the Government has encouraged the growth of the Rural Non-farm Sector. Back then, it employed about 18% of the population. By the 2000s this number increased to 27%. Sector-wise employment statistics show that farm sector's loss has been the construction and manufacturing industries' gain. Together, these two industries employ 63% of the rural poor. India's labour force (in the organised sector) has swelled by almost half (from 24 million in the early 90s to 46 million today) since the time of the reforms. Initially, jobs remained elusive to the country despite steady growth, the turn of the century brought with it better opportunities. Sectors as manufacturing, textiles, etc. gained precedence. Large numbers of "unskilled" or semi-skilled labourers, who were shifting from agriculture and migrating to cities, were recruited into these factories. This paved way for skill training programmes. Large numbers of unemployed youth in the rural areas were taken on board to be made "employable". The youth would be trained in a particular skill (tailoring, toy-making, electrical repairs, etc.) and soft skills required for the job. It is estimated that 500 million such jobs would be created by 2020. While this signals a positive shift in employment rates, whether these new livelihoods are helping attain better standards of living needs to be debated.

The big gainers of this boom in jobs in the country have been women. Nearly 15 million women have entered the workforce since 2000. In urban areas, female workers have increased by 5% while in rural areas they have risen by about 3%. While the number of women in the workforce has certainly increased, when examined over a longer period, the increase is only marginal. There are twin aspects with regard to women in the labour force – employment and participation. Much of female labour continues to be informal, more in the nature of participation than regular employment. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in the farm sector. As more and more rural men migrate out of their villages, women are substituting them on the fields. The number of men engaged in agriculture has decreased to 66% (from 76%) and the involvement of women has gone up to 86%. Further, a significant proportion (8%) of female labourers is subsidiary workers rather than principal workers. A striking feature of women's employment is the number pursuing self-employment activities. 74% women in rural areas and 50% in urban areas are self-employed. The sectors in which women enter are also worth noting from a sociological point of view. There is a tendency to stick to production and related work. Agricultural labour, plantation and forestry work, laundry, building caretakers, sweeping, tailoring, beedi/agarbatti making, nursing and teaching constitute a majority of the portfolio of women's occupation. Women in professional/managerial activities and directorial posts are dismally low. This is due to the fact that for most women, household responsibilities continue to be the fulcrum of all activities. Increasing women in the workforce and even education have not translated into attitudinal shifts in the perception of the role of women in the society. Women are still primarily recognized with their biological roles. Most choose professions that are not adversarial to their responsibilities at home. Thus, we have a situation, where women are doubly burdened. Measures have been taken at the workplace to accommodate interests of women but they have proven to be too far and few.

The past few decades have seen a great deal of efforts to empower rural women. For the first time, women have been recognized as agents of development and not passive receivers of benefits of schemes. Thus, women have become the new face of the household. The concept of SHGs of women gained ground and has now become a tried and tested therapy for empowering women and overall development of the community. There are nearly 2.3 million SHGs with a corpus of Rs. 5,000 crores. These numbers speak volumes of the extent the Groups have gone to fulfill the credit needs of the poor. Women's groups have now begun to extend beyond their financial role and are taking up social and village development activities as well. In states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, where the movement has been especially strong, women's groups have become a formidable force in local level politics as well. The co-operative movement also received a much needed boost in the past decades. Cooperatives have taken on new forms as producer companies or 'livelihoods collectives'. The MACS Act passed in 1995 in Andhra Pradesh brought about pressing reforms in the manner cooperatives function. It made them independent of Government interference and called for non-partisan management of the cooperatives. The success of the dairy cooperative model called for it to be replicated for other sectors as well. Though, experiments have been made, the model has not been as successful. The balance is generally shifting in favour of more collectives, built on the expanding self-help movement.

The past few decades have also seen the emergence of microfinance companies. Though earlier in doldrums now in the decade of the 90s and 2000s they are rapidly growing. Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) aimed at bringing credit, insurance and other financial services within the reach of the poor. They took off to a flying start, but soon lost steam thanks to unfair lending and loan recovery practices. A new breed of entrepreneurs – social entrepreneurs came into being. Social entrepreneurs essentially believe that poverty reduction needn't be a process of austerity. These entrepreneurs came up with cost-effective and even profitable approaches to solve pressing issues of society. The past decades have also been a period of exceptional growth in the fields of technology. *Roti, kapda, makan* to mobile phones. This swing in the promises politicians make to win votes encapsulates the changing definition of "basic necessities". Even until the late 90s, owning a landline connection was a distant dream for a large number of Indians. Then, mobile phones entered the market and were thought to be a luxury. However, soon, with de-regularization of the telecom sector, more number of players entering the market, mobile phones came within the reach of millions of Indians. A recent survey revealed that Indians have access to more number of phones than toilets. This burgeoning industry gave rise to a number of new livelihoods. In the initial phase (80s-90s) of the communication revolution, millions of STD/PCO centers mushroomed across the country. Similarly, as new technology like Xerox made in-roads into the country, more and more of the centers started to be set up. When the mobile phone became an affordable commodity, many lamented that it led to the death of the STD/PCO booth. However, many of these owners were quick to sense, the change in the trend and introduced/switched to selling services for the mobile phone – repairs, recharge, etc.

Rural road connectivity has been one of the hallmarks of development in the past three decades. Today, tarred/metal roads connect remotest of habitations with their nearest trade centers/towns/cities. Since Independence, building roads has been on the agenda of the state. It found place in all FYPs and budgets were allocated accordingly. Despite this, the promised roads seemed to vanish into oblivion. Things began to take a turn for the better in 2004, when the then NDA government announced the ambitious and now successful Pradhan Mantri Sadak Grameen Yojana (PMSGY). What the scheme proposed to achieve was what had been gathering dust for years – connecting every habitation in India with a road. Today, the project has led to the creation of a 26,50,000 km long road network crisscrossing about 5 lakh habitations in the country. For long, it was held those roads, or the lack of them, were the bane of rural areas. Transport was a logistical nightmare at best and impossible at worst. Needless to say, this has changed the way rural producers conduct their business. Many have started going the extra distance to earn more profits. With better roads, four-wheelers have made in-roads, into these remote areas and have made goods transport a reality. Technology is also playing an instrumental role, in bridging the knowledge divide. Knowledge dissemination had become increasingly digitalized during this period. With technology mostly being available to the rich, the already resource-poor had been left out of the knowledge era as well. However, low-cost gadgets and efforts to better infrastructure made technology accessible to the poor and lessened the knowledge gap. Recent trends show that more knowledge relevant to the needs of the poor is on the rise and is being delivered to the poor via various modes – internet, mobile phones, etc.

While, the past few decades have been positive in certain aspects, it has also jeopardized the livelihoods of the millions of small enterprises. Increasingly, the balance is shifting in favour of large corporate houses entering various sectors. This is evident when, government proposed to increase FDI in the retail sector. It is estimated that this move would put 40 million tiny players in the retail sector out of work. Of course, the supporters of the policy claim that it would create at least 2 million jobs. But, that figure appears minuscule when compared with the number of people who would lose their livelihoods. Further, supporters of opening up the retail sector insist that the entry of the big businesses would bring along better supply chain management that is absent in the retail service sector. This is a misconception. In India, there is "retail democracy". The sector is highly decentralized and self-organized. The country has the highest shop density in the world, at 11 outlets for every 1000 people. While the retail chains haven't entirely wiped out small grocery stores, they have certainly snatched a share of their profits. However, the havoc brought about by large, centralized companies delivering services is more evident in the TV sector. The pace of change in the livelihoods landscape, since 1980s is astonishing. True, many livelihoods were at peril back then, but the swiftness with which they have declined is alarming. While the shift to an open economy had been to the disadvantage of the poor, efforts are also being made to assimilate the poor into this new reality. Social enterprises, the self-help movement, etc. are attempting to bring poor and vulnerable producers on a level-playing field by providing them with the required resources. The challenge however, is to cope with the constantly changing market environment. Overcoming these new barriers with weight of historic discrimination and inequality is the challenge.

***Livelihoods September-2012**

10.Languages and Livelihoods

Language is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. Every language possesses a unique world view and is a repository of traditional knowledge and learning. Human life would have been impossible and unconceivable without language. It is language that made the growth of civilizations possible and society developed. Language made it possible to transfer this knowledge from one generation to another. Centuries old livelihoods have been able to survive and thrive, because of this transfer mechanism in various forms. Language strengthened itself as these livelihoods helped form its own rules and syntax to help people communicate, what they are trying to express. Thus, livelihoods and languages have a symbiotic relationship with each other.

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Livelihoods with languages

In the district of Barmer and Jaisalmer regions in Western Rajasthan in the heart of Thar desert the tribes of Langas (meaning 'song givers') and Manganiyars (meaning 'those who ask for alms') are multi generational families of skilled musicians who earn their livelihoods by singing raw, throaty vocals depicting stories of love and war accompanied by instruments that produce the trademark gypsy music of the desert .

They learnt various techniques of farming, understood cropping patterns, seasonality etc. thus developing songs and rhythms inspired from the images and metaphors of plough, wet clay and young grain shooting from the ground swaying gracefully in the breeze. Harvesting season, became celebratory in nature due to the result of the hard work put in the fields. These practices started giving rise to rituals and practices which was passed on to other generations as they grew up. Moreover, the varna system formed the basis for division of labour in the society. So transfer of specific knowledge about their professions got restricted to their own varna.

Livelihoods knowledge through language:

Ropni songs are sung while sowing the crop in the field by women who get together to sow many fields. *Pani Patalu* (meaning work songs) are songs sung by labours carrying heavy weights. *Indunis* are songs sung by women as they walk to fetch water. *Jantsar* songs are sung while the women are at the 'Chhakki'. *Hudka* is a form of song where a main singer sings with his *hudka* while all the men or women repeat after him.

Priest taught his son spiritual teaching while the carpenters or blacksmiths taught their art form to only their offspring. This differential knowledge started giving identity as well as bargaining power to the communities. Years after years this

wisdom has been transferred either orally or through texts and fused with the societal fibre, resulting language into a social , cultural and linguistic capital.

Language as a social capital, Language acquired productive value as it safeguards .Livelihoods with languages: Those livelihoods which are directly depended on languages for its survival. Livelihood knowledge through language: Those livelihoods which language supports indirectly by means of documentation and knowledge transfer Ways of documenting language, conventionally knowledge transfer was done in the following ways:

What is language?

Language is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences; this combination then answers ideas into thoughts –

English scholar Henry Sweet

1. Literature: Spoken language and word of mouth became an important way through which thoughts were expressed. Songs became one of the most popular way through which various emotions were displayed. These songs also helped people during work to divert their minds of the tedious labour and hardship. They also reflected the socio-economic aspects of life and livelihoods of the rural community. Due to the subsidiary nature of the livelihoods the songs went beyond agriculture and talked about other work like Naga Pounding Songs, Sadra work, Ovi Grinding songs, boatman songs,

Chhad Peta songs, Gangireddu songs, Punjabi folk songs etc.

Poetry, prose, proverbs captured major events of life like birth, puberty, wedding and death. These were rendered by the villagers or musical tribes, which specialise in them. Proverbs like kaam na kaaj ka, dushman anaaj ka (meaning 'useless person')started developing to define characteristic traits of people related to their work.

2. Chronicles and texts: Stories imparting morals and life lessons became an important source of information eg. Panchatantra tales, Jaataka tales, nani/dadi ki kahaniy',Uggu katha, Burra katha. Books and novels depicted the lives and struggles of people and communities. Texts like Sangam literature dealt with emotional and material topics such as love, war, governance, trade and bereavement while, Vedas formed a large body of knowledge texts, Susrutha Samhita talks about ancient medicinal knowledge.

As times has changed the advent of industrialization and technology has changed the pattern of language and livelihoods.

Cinema, television and theatre, became a popular mechanism of documentation of livelihoods. Over the years hindi movies like Do Bigha Zameen, Ankur, Lagaan

and regional cinema in Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and other depicted stories of struggle and survival among occupation, class and categories.

Forms of languages

a. Speech: Speech is the basis of all language. It likely developed along with physiological changes in the throat, tongue, teeth and lips which made a range of sounds more diverse.

b. Written: Speech involves symbolic thinking, writing involves processing the thoughts to an even higher degree. Each letter creates a visual representation of a sound, something one hears but don't see, so they interpret these visual symbols to form the sound that symbolically represents a real object

c. Gestures: Gestures are physical motions used to communicate.

Dead language

On January 26, 2010, when 85-year-old Boa Sr passed away at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, many things died with her. The most important of the cultural heritage that faded into oblivion with her passing away was her language - Bo, of the Great Andamanese family of which she was the last speaker. And with that an endangered language had met its end.

Source: Times of India

Internet has become an efficient repository of information which is accessible anywhere and anytime. Government of India (GOI) has also started separate channels and programmes related to agriculture,

handloom, pottery and other livelihoods to ensure effective practices and archiving traditional practices on its national television channel.

Language in Agriculture Perspective: India being an agrarian country, it is essential to speak about language in agriculture perspective. Since agriculture is predominantly the major livelihood in rural areas the language, it is inherently fused with the rural culture and life in metaphors and rituals. Songs being

the most popular method, sung in rhythmic cappella to increase productivity along with reducing boredom. Most of the agricultural work songs were sung during the sowing and harvesting seasons. These songs also built camaraderie among the village community, as they toiled together in harsh weather.

For example, Tabo which is an agriculture song from Tabo, Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. In these

songs the women sing while digging the soil. The song is rounder in style, overlapping one another and roughly translates as “forgive us for all our sins because we’re simple people and we don’t know what we do, and please don’t let our sins mix into the soil and let us have a good crop”.

Other forms of folk songs are stories of farmers capturing their varied emotions. When, farmers are worried about their fields during land preparation, uncertainty about monsoon, because of its delay planting of paddy saplings getting delayed. This folklore also brings their emotions like fear and pain, having tears in their eyes. It also describes the moments of rejoice, when the clouds showered his fields with rainwater and the trees became green again. The songs also carry important messages of planting more trees and saving the land and conserving water etc.

Language capturing Life cycles events: Oral/Folk epic songs have captured the life cycle events in ways of Epic songs. The three features of these variants are: An epic is narrative, it is poetic, and it is heroic. Although epic performances are dominated by song, many also include significant prose and non-sung sections (vaykhyanam, varta, arthav), which are used to explain or elaborate the sung material.

Dying Language, Dying Livelihoods: Even after these construed efforts India is on a verge of a silent mishap. India especially rural India is diverse in many sense, than one. Around 833 million people along with several communities speak languages, which are several thousand years old.

According to the People’s Linguistic Survey of India there are 780 languages spoken along with 86 different scripts. Of these 780 languages currently only 4% of the languages are covered in the existing educational system. There are many main languages spoken by millions of people but at the margins of these languages are several unique tribal languages spoken by fewer number of populations.

This diversity of language is visible in their occupations, arts and crafts, culture, literature, legend, transportation, and other fields. Due to the changing times many of these features are disappearing. For example ,traditional weaving communities are facing real threat along with occupations of professional storytellers, poets and singers.

Then there are livelihoods known only to few like toddy tapper climbing palm trees daily to make palm jaggery or fermented liquor along with those of potters, metal workers and other skilled craftsmen. The uniqueness and diversity of these communities would be gone, since there is no systematic documentation in visual or oral form.

When an old women dies a library burns to the ground – African proverb

The above proverb subtly indicates the loss of ancient wisdom as the older generation dies. A language is considered critically endangered if the youngest speakers are grandparents or older and they speak the language partially and infrequently. Endangered languages not only affects livelihoods of people but also a loss of culture and knowledge, and social and economic imbalance.

Thousands of years has been spent on developing these languages which took a large amount of human effort of our ancestors. The implications of a lost language, is a loss to the human capital along with that of the cultural capital.

With languages dying there would be a number of livelihoods, which would be threatened especially the coastal and the tribals communities as they are the foremost communities who face the direct

implication of any change be it social, political, economical or environmental.

It would be culturally devastating as the dead language is the key that can unlock medicinal secrets, ecological wisdom, weather and climate patterns, spiritual attitudes, and artistic and mythological histories of the communities. Language also enhances the bargaining power of the people with various stakeholders.

Major reasons for languages dying: Rural Distress: One of the biggest drawbacks of rural distress is migration. Migration means the community has to leave its existing habitat and livelihood and move to another place for survival. In this process they have to let go of their indigenous knowledge and way of life. Their knowledge loses its relevance in the new place leading to disassociation of their identity.

Advent of English/Hindi: It would be difficult to debunk the theory that English is destroying the Indian languages. The advent of globalization has brought the craze for English language which is resulting into communities shedding their mother tongues and learning English to make themselves relevant. The tussle between Hindi versus other regional language supporting the one nation- one language theory also have resulted into weakening of dialects as they struggle to become popular.

Changing times: Due to the change in lifestyle and globalization the youth are more attracted towards cosmopolitan ways of living in comparison to a rural way. This has resulted into languages which has no script on the verge of

extinction as the younger generations do show inhibition to learn their mother tongue. The advent of internet but the lack of content in native language and the lack of electronic accessibility tools also played an important factor in stopping a large number of people from accessing information and contributing to languages.

Reclaiming languages and livelihoods, keeping the above points in mind the desperate need of the hour is to reverse this alarming rate at which languages are disappearing. There are multilevel solutions required through which language revitalization would be possible along with multi stake holder involvement.

Life cycle event	Tradition
Birth songs	These are ceremonial songs usually sung before, during, or right after the birth of the child. They celebrate the arrival of the new member into the family. They can also be in the form of lullabies, where the mother prays for the protection of her child, and also in the form of stories, where she urges the child to go to sleep.
Puberty rituals	Puberty rituals are coming of age ceremonies performed to mark certain important transitions in a child's life. Some of the common ceremonies practiced in India include the Thread ceremony (Janeu) and the First hair cut ceremony (Mundan).
Weddings	Weddings provide one of the most important contexts for music and song in India. The various ceremonies and rituals leading up to the wedding, during the wedding and after are all accompanied by songs sung by women or in many cases by professional musicians. The departure of a bride from her natal home is one of the most emotive motifs of these songs.
Death	There are many forms of folk traditions that deal with the subject of death. The theme of safe passing, from one world to the next, is characteristic of most funeral rituals. The beliefs and methods of performing these rituals vary from region to region. Source: http://vmis.in/ArceCategories/mus 1

Digitization: To start with creation of audio-visual documentation of some of the most important socio-cultural aspects of the language is a must. Technology can be used to make applications, which are in native languages and are user friendly. The internet has been playing a pioneer role connecting the rich linguistic heritage and the knowledge surrounding it to the outer world and allowing a level playing field to the vulnerable communities, through which it can help attract the younger generations.

Governmental Role: Government has been lacking, when it comes to saving endangered languages. It should play a pivotal role in promoting not just the 22 official languages but also encourage speakers of various sub languages and dialects to document their language. Moreover the government needs to commit to lessen the rural distress and cater to the migration issue in the rural areas. It should strengthen the existing livelihoods of people along with reviving the dying livelihoods and ensure that the knowledge of important livelihoods doesn't get destroyed.

Intervention of civil societies and NGOs: There has been several ground breaking initiatives nationally and internationally to ensure saving of vulnerable languages. Internationally global language hotspots by The Living Tongues Institute For Endangered Languages (TLTIFEL) and National Geographic (NG) have started documentation of the endangered languages in India.

There are several Indian initiatives to preserve language in its various forms:

PARI is a living journal and an archive. It generates and host reporting on the countryside, that is current and contemporary, while also creating a database of already published stories, reports, videos and audios from as many sources as they can.

Anahad Foundation is a music organisation which works for the recognition, preservation and evolution of cultural, classical and folk music of India for the contemporary mass.

Rhythms of Rajasthan is an Initiative to collaborate with the various folk performing artists of Rajasthan.

The Virtual Museum of Images and Sound (VMIS) is a virtual museum created by using the resources of two image and sound archives of the AIIS – the Center for Art and Archaeology (CAA), Gaon connection and the Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology (ARCE).

Way forward: It is going to take extreme scale, scope and energy along with several form of media and

communication to ensure that the rich historical heritage and knowledge is not lost. The question as an individual, we need to ask ourselves is how do we contribute to saving our dying language.

***livelihoods February-2018**

10. Livelihoods in Panchatantra

Panchatantra is a collection of ancient short stories written by Vishnu Sharma. The central characters of the stories are usually animals and each story conveys an important moral. Panchatantra stories are staple reading for children, for they encourage moralistic behavior and induce sound values. The Panchatantra stories are a repository of spiritual, human and social capital. Many stories depict the importance of these capitals and how they complement each other. In this sense, the stories provide important lessons for the livelihoods/development worker. Importantly, these stories remind us of the significance of the simpler and more commonplace elements in life such as common sense, valuing relationships, unity, rational behavior, etc. Often, 'higher' knowledge brushes away these basic elements, rendering the knowledge useless. Yet, it is these basic elements that lend maturity to a livelihoods/development worker.



The Crow and The Snake

Once upon a time, there lived a pair of crows with their young ones on a huge peepal tree on the outskirts of a small village. And at the root of the tree there lived a big black serpent in a deep hole. Every time the crows laid their eggs, the serpent crept up the tree and ate all the eggs and the young ones. With the result, the crows were never able to raise their young ones. This made crows very sad. They thought that they can only get rid of the killer serpent not with physical strength but with intelligence.

Nearby this tree, King's palace was situated. One day the crow observed the queen taking bath in an open swimming pool, inside the palace. The queen, while taking bath always removes all her ornaments and keeps them by the side of the pool. While she was busy taking her bath, the crows swept down upon the lake and picked up two diamond ornaments and flew towards the snake's

hole. The guards ran after the crows brandishing their sticks and swords. They chased the crows and soon reached that big peepal tree, where the big black snake lived. They found the diamond necklaces, lying inside the serpent's hole. Afraid of the snake, they first killed the snake by sticks and swords and then took out the ornaments and returned to the palace.

The crows thus got rid of the snake and lived happily in the peepal tree, thereafter.

"Intelligence Is Greater Than Strength"

Doves and the Fowler

Once, a fowler came to take a rest there. He also had a huge net with him. He set his net under the tree and strewed some grains of rice to lure the birds. A crow living in the tree saw it and cautioned his friends not to go down to eat the rice.

But at the same moment, a flock of doves came flying over the banyan tree. They saw grains of rice strewn around and without losing a moment, descended on the ground to eat the grains of rice. As soon as they started eating the rice, a huge net fell over them and they were all trapped. They tried everything to come out of the net, but in vain. They saw the fowler coming towards them. He was very happy to find a large number of doves trapped inside the net.

However, the king of doves was very intelligent and clever. He said to other doves, "We must do something immediately to free ourselves from the clutches of this fowler. I've an idea. We should all fly up together clutching the net in our beaks. We will decide our next course of action later. Now, come on friends, let's fly."

So each dove picked up a part of the huge net in his beak and they all flew up together. Seeing the birds flying along with the whole net, the fowler was surprised. He could never imagine this. He ran after the flying birds, shouting madly, but could not catch them. Soon the birds flew out of his sight.

When the king dove saw that the fowler had given up the chase, he said to his friends, "Now we all have to get out of this net. There lives a mouse on the nearby hillock. He is my friend. Let's go to him for his help."

All the doves flew on to meet the mouse. When the mouse heard the doves making noise in front of his hole, he got frightened and hid himself deeper into the hole. He came out only when he heard the king dove saying, "Friend, it's I, the king dove. We're in great difficulty. Please come out and help us."

Hearing the dove, his friend's voice, the mouse came out of his hole and saw the king dove and his friends trapped in the net.

"Oh!", said the mouse, "Who's done all this to you?"

The king dove narrated the whole story. The mouse immediately started nibbling at the net around the king dove. The king dove said, "No, my friend. First set my followers free. A king cannot keep his subjects in pain and enjoy the freedom for himself."

The mouse praised the king dove for his nobleness and nibbled at the portion of the net, which would set free the other doves first. And only at last, he freed the king dove.

All the doves were very grateful to the mouse. They thanked the mouse and then flew for their destination happily.

"Unity Is Strength"

Lion that came back to life

Long, long ago, there lived four friends in a village. Three of them were very learned, but they absolutely lacked the common sense. The fourth one, although not much learned, had a lot of common sense. He, at least, knew what was good and what was bad and was practical to quite an extent.

Once the three learned friends decided to travel to far off towns and cities to make their fortunes. They were not ready to take their fourth friend with them, because he was not learned, but ultimately agreed to do so, considering that he was their childhood friend.

Soon the four friends set out on a long journey. They walked from one city to another, looking for an opportunity to amass wealth. Once, while they were passing through a dense forest, they came across a heap of bones lying under a tree.

One of the learned friends observed the bones and said, "Here is a fine opportunity to test our knowledge. These are the bones of a lion. Let's bring this lion back to life."

Then he assembled all the bones together to make it into a skeleton of a lion and chanted some mantras.

The second learned man chanted some other mantras and put skin, flesh and blood into the skeleton. Now it looked like a lion, but lifeless.

And the third learned man got up to do the final act of putting life into the lifeless body of the animal.

As he started chanting the mantras, the fourth friend shouted, "Stop! Please don't do this. It might prove dangerous to bring this beast back to life."

"Shut up, you fool," said all the three friends. "What do you know in the field of learning and knowledge. Better you keep your mouth shut." "Wait a minute please," said the fourth friend and quickly climbed up a nearby tall tree.

His three friends laughed. They put life into the lifeless body of the lion. As soon as the huge lion came back to life, he roared loudly and killed all the three learned men. He ate their flesh and disappeared behind the thick bushes.

"Knowledge Without Common Sense Is Useless"

The horse that dragged a lion to death

Long ago, there was a farmer who had an old horse with him. As the horse had become old, the farmer told the horse to leave his house and live in some forest. The horse became very sad. He said to his master, "Master, I'm your old servant. I have served you all my life. I have always been faithful to you and there has been no slackness on my part in carrying out my duties. As long as I was physically strong, you had all your affections for me but as soon as you realised that I have become physically infirm; I, no longer, have that vigour and vitality in me, you asked me to leave your house and go and live in some forest. Is this a reward for the services rendered by me with all my honesty and faithfulness?"

The farmer was at a loss of words. He had no logical answer.

"All right!" the farmer said to the horse. "You can stay in my house provided you bring me a lion. I want a lion's skin."

So the worried horse set out for the forest. There he met a fox. The fox took pity on the horse and enquired from him the reason of his sadness. The horse narrated the whole story.

The fox being good natured offered to help the horse. He said to the horse. "You lie down here on the ground as if you were dead."

The horse followed the advice of the fox and lay there on the ground as if he were dead.

Then the fox met king lion and said "Your Majesty, there is a dead horse lying in an open field. It's better you come and see for yourself."

When the fox and the lion reached the spot, where the horse was laying pretending to be dead, the fox said, "Let us pull this horse and put it behind the bushes so that we could have a peaceful meal. What I'll do is that I'll tie your tail to the tail of the horse."

"Yes, I agree with you," said the lion.

So the fox, instead of tying lion's tail to that of the horse, tied the horse's tail with the leg of the lion. Then he asked the horse to get up and run fast.

The horse at once got up and started running as fast as he could.

All this happened so suddenly that the lion didn't get a chance to balance himself. The horse was running so fast that lion was literally being dragged like a dead animal. His body slammed against big rocks so many times and was caught by thorny bushes in the way. He was getting injuries after injuries and was bleeding profusely.

The lion began to cry and threaten, but the horse didn't stop. At last, the lion couldn't take any more of it and succumbed to death. The horse stopped at his master's house with the dead lion tied to its tail. The farmer was very happy to see the dead lion. He permitted the horse to stay at his house as long as he wished.

"Mind Is Mightier Than Body"

Brahmin and his wife

Once upon a time, there lived a poor Brahmin in a village. He used to perform poojas and hawans in the nearby villages. Once another Brahmin came to his house and said, "I've to perform some pooja. Will you kindly allow me to stay in your house for a few days?"

The Brahmin gladly received him and allowed him to stay in his house.

One day, the Brahmin said to his wife, "Today is Sankranti. See that our Brahmin guest is fed well. A guest is equivalent to God. So be courteous to him."

The Brahmin's wife became angry to hear this and said, "It's not enough to be courteous only. There must be something in the house to offer to the guest for eating. Unfortunately, I've nothing in my kitchen to offer. Besides, you never made ornaments for me nor did you ever buy good clothes for me. Such is the situation in this house. And you ask me to take full care of your guest."

She argued with the Brahmin but he kept his cool.

The Brahmin consoled his wife, "Dear, I know, we're poor but even then we should offer some food to our guest. It's more of the expression of our good feelings than the real food."

Then the Brahmin's wife said, "I've a little sesame seed in the house. I'll make some dish of it and offer to the Brahmin guest."

She prepared the sweet dish from the sesame seeds and offered it to the guest.

"Courtesy Is the Sign Of Good Behavior"

Barber and the Monks

Once upon a time, there lived a merchant called by the name of Manibhadra, in a town known as Patliputra. He was of charitable nature. But, somehow, due to misfortune, he lost all his wealth and became a pauper. His status in the society gradually came down. He became sad and dejected.

One night, as he lay in his bed, he started cursing his fate and thought of committing suicide by starving himself to death.

While thinking this, he fell asleep. A Jain monk appeared in his dream and said to him, "Don't worry! I'm the wealth, gathered by your forefathers. You are their legitimate heir. It's your legal right to possess me. Tomorrow, I shall come to your house in the guise of a Jain monk. Just hit me on my head with a stick and I'll turn into solid gold."

The next morning, when the merchant woke up he felt pain in his head. He didn't believe his dream. In the meantime, his wife had called in a barber to massage her feet. Soon after the arrival of the barber, a Jain monk came to the merchant's house. The merchant welcomed the monk. He offered him seat and a glass of water. Then he hit the monk's head with a stick. The monk fell down and turned into gold from head to toe.

The merchant picked up the gold and hid it in a basement room.

The barber who was a witness to all this thought to himself: 'I'll also invite these magical monks to my home to dine with me. When they come, I'll hit them on their heads, to turn them in gold. Soon I'll be a wealthy man'.

Then the barber went to the head monk and invited him and other monks to his house to dine with him. But the head monk refused the invitation. He said, "We are no Brahmins, who're invited to the houses to eat. Everyday,, we collect alms and accept food only from the first devotee of the day. We eat to live only and do not live to eat."

The barber then waited outside the monastery. When the monks came out, he requested them to come to his house and conduct prayers. A few monks agreed to it and went to the barber's house.

As soon as the monks entered the house, the barber hit them on their heads with a heavy stick. A few monks died, whereas a few others were badly injured.

The news of the barber hitting the monks spread in the town like wild fire. The barber was arrested by the authorities and taken to the court of law.

The judges, in the court, asked the barber, "Why did you do this?"

The barber then narrated the whole story. He said, "I did it because I saw the merchant doing it."

Then the merchant was ordered to appear before the court. The merchant narrated the whole story.

The judges then ordered, "Let this wicked barber be hanged till death." The barber was then hanged to death.

"A Blind Imitation Is Always Dangerous"

How crows became enemies to owls

Long, long ago, all the birds of a jungle gathered to choose a new bird as their king. They were not happy with their king the Garuda, who they thought always enjoyed his time in the heaven and never cared for the birds. So, they thought it was better to choose a new bird as their king.

A heated discussion followed in the meeting and ultimately it was decided to make owl the king of birds. The birds started making preparation for the coronation of the newly elected king.

Just then a crow flew in and raised an objection in the meeting. He said laughing, "What a bird you've chosen as your king, an ugly fellow. He also goes blind during the day. Moreover, owls are birds of prey. He might kill other birds for his meals rather than save them. Didn't peacocks and swans suit as your king?"

The crow's arguments made the birds think over their decision again. It was decided to choose the king on some other occasion and hence the coronation ceremony was postponed.

The owl chosen as the king of birds, still waited for his coronation as king. He realized all of a sudden that there was absolute quiet around him. No one was talking, nothing was happening. Since, it was day time he couldn't see anything around him. He grew very impatient and a little suspicious also. At last, overcome by his curiosity and eagerness for his coronation as king, he enquired from one of his attendants, the reason behind the delay.

"Sir," his attendant said, "The coronation ceremony has been postponed. All the birds have decided to choose a new king. Now not even a single bird is here. They have all gone back to their respective places.

"Why?" the owl asked angrily.

"A crow put up arguments against us, -the owl family. He said we're ugly and killers."

The 'would be' king owl further lost his temper and said to the smiling crow who was still present there, "You've deprived me of the honor of becoming a king. So, from now on, we are sworn enemies of each other. Beware of us."

The crow realized his folly, but it was too late now.

"Think Twice Before You Do Or Say Anything"

Friends and the Bear

Golu and Molu were fast friends. Golu was a lean and thin boy, whereas Molu was fat. People, in the village laughed at this combination. For a major period of the day, they would be seen together.

Everyone admired their friendship. Once, they got an invitation from one of their friends, who had invited them to attend his sister's marriage.

The marriage was to take place in a nearby village.

But in order to reach the village, one had to pass through a forest, which was full of wild animals like tigers, bears and etc.

While walking through the forest, Golu and Molu saw a bear coming towards them. Both of them got frightened.

Golu who was lean and skinny, ran towards a big tree and climbed on it.

Poor Molu being fat could not run fast and climb up the tree. But he showed his presence of mind.

He had heard that bears did not eat dead bodies. So he lay down still on the ground and held his breath for a while, feigning himself dead.

The bear came near Molu growling. He sniffed at his face and body.

He took Molu to be a dead body and went away.

When the bear had gone away, Golu climbed down the tree. He went to Molu and asked, "I saw the bear talking to you.

What did he say to you, my friend?"

"Don't call me a friend", said Molu. "And that is what the bear also told me.

He had said to me, 'Don't trust Golu. He is not your friend.'" Golu was very ashamed. He felt sorry to have left his friend alone when in danger. Thus, their friendship ended forever.

"A Friend In Need Is A Friend Indeed"

The Horse Who Wanted To Be More Beautiful

A cosmic god had a horse. The horse was beautiful and also it had many good qualities. But it wanted to be more perfect in every way. It especially wanted to become beauty unparalleled.

One day the horse said to the cosmic god, "O Lord, you have given me beauty. I am so grateful to you.

But I would be extremely, extremely grateful if you could make me more beautiful."

The cosmic god said, "I am more than ready to make you more beautiful. Tell me in what way you want to be changed."

The horse said, "It seems to me that I am not well proportioned.

My neck is too short. If you can make my neck a little longer, my upper body will be infinitely more beautiful.

And if you can make my legs much longer and thinner, then I will look infinitely more beautiful in my lower body."

The cosmic god said, "Amen!" Then immediately he made a camel appear in place of the horse.

The horse was so disheartened that it started to cry, "O Lord, I wanted to become more beautiful.

In what way is this kind of outer form more beautiful?"

The cosmic god said, "This is exactly what you asked for. You have become a camel."

The horse cried, "Oh no, I do not want to become a camel I wish to remain a horse. As a horse, everybody appreciated my good qualities. Nobody will appreciate me as a camel."

The cosmic god said: ***"Never try to achieve or receive more than I have given you. If you want to lead a desire-life, then at every moment you will want more and more. But you have no idea what the outcome will be. If you cry for a longer neck and legs, this is what will happen. Each thing in my creation has its own good qualities. The camel is not as beautiful as you are, but it carries heavy loads and has a tremendous sense of responsibility."***

The Farmer's Dog

A farmer had a dog who used to sit by the roadside waiting for vehicles to come around. As soon as one came he would run down the road, barking and trying to overtake it.

One day a neighbor asked the farmer "Do you think your dog is ever going to catch a car?" The farmer replied, "That is not what bothers me. What bothers me is what he would do if he ever caught one."

Many people in life behave like that dog who was pursuing meaningless goals.

"Life is hard by the yard, but by the inch, it's a cinch."

Three Fish and the Fishermen

Long, long ago, there lived three fish with their families in a pond. Their names were Anagatavidhata, Pratyutpannamati and Yadbhavishya. Anagatavidhata was very practical. She always planned her actions in advance.

Pratyutpannamati too was practical and always tendered good advices to her elder sister Anagatavidhata. Yadbhavishya, the youngest of them all, loved to laze around only. She didn't like to work at all.

One day, some fishermen came to the pond. One of them said, "This is the pond I was telling you about. There are many fish in this pond. Let's come here tomorrow and catch all of them."

Anagatavidhata overheard the fishermen's talk. She gathered all the fish in the pond and narrated to them what she had heard about.

She said, "It's better that we move out of here to some other safer pond. Our life will, at least, be safe." Everybody agreed to this proposal including Pratyutpannamati.

But Yadbhavishya said, "Why should we run like cowards from this pond. Let the fishermen come.

We'll see to it together that we're not caught in the net.

Besides, who knows the fishermen would really turn up here. After all, everyone has to die one day. So why be afraid of death."

But Anagatavidhata and Pratyutpannamati didn't agree with Yadbhavishya's ideas.

They moved out to another pond with their families to live with their other near and dear ones.

The next morning, the fishermen came to the pond. They cast their net in the pond and trapped Yadbhavishya and her family along with a large number of other fish living in the pond.

"Always Plan Your Future Intelligently"

The Giant and The Helpless Brahmin

Once, a Brahmin was passing through a jungle to reach another town, when a huge and cruel giant hiding somewhere behind the thick bushes, attacked him and jumped upon his shoulders. The giant dangled both his legs in front of the Brahmin and sat comfortably on his shoulders.

The Brahmin began trembling with fear, but he was helpless. He didn't know what to do. The giant said to the Brahmin, "I'm very fond of human flesh. But before killing and eating you I wish to have a joy ride on your shoulders. So take me where I say."

The Brahmin had no choice, but to obey the giant. So he kept on walking. While walking the Brahmin noticed that the giant's feet were extraordinarily small and soft. The Brahmin asked the giant, "I'm very surprised to see that you're so huge, but your feet are so small and delicate. How is it?" The giant thought, there was no harm in revealing the secret of his feet to Brahmin since very soon the Brahmin is going to be killed and eaten up by him. So he said, "I never walk on ground with my feet wet. Walking or running with my feet wet, gives me great pain."

The Brahmin kept the giant's words firmly in his mind and kept on walking. After walking quite a distance they reached on the banks of a river. The giant said to the Brahmin, "Let me down here and you yourself stay here, till I come back, after taking my bath." The Brahmin became very happy seeing the giant taking a dive in the river. By the time the giant took another dive in the water, the Brahmin took to his heels and ran away to save his life.

The giant saw the Brahmin running away from the river bank, but he could do nothing to stop him. He was wet all over because he was taking his bath. In this situation, with his feet wet the giant was quite helpless to chase the Brahmin. Thus, the Brahmin escaped from the clutches of the giant and saved his life.

"It Always Pays to be Alert"

The Fake King

There lived a jackal in a jungle. His name was Chandarava. One day, he hadn't eaten anything since morning and was so hungry that he wandered and wandered across the jungle, but couldn't find anything to eat. He thought it better to walk a little farther and find something to eat in some village. He reached a nearby small village. There on its outskirts he ate some food, but the quantity was not sufficient and he was still very hungry. Then he entered another village with the hope of getting some more food.

As soon as the jackal entered the village, a few dogs roaming there charged at him barking loudly. The jackal was terribly frightened. He began running through lanes in order to save himself from the dogs. Soon he saw a house. The door of the house was open. It was a washerman's house. 'This is the right place for me to hide', the jackal thought to himself and ran into the open door.

While trying to hide himself, the jackal slipped and fell into a tank full of blue colour, which the washerman had kept ready to dye the clothes.

Soon the barking of the dogs ceased. The jackal saw them going away. He came out of the tub. There was a big mirror fixed on a wall of a room. There was no one around. The jackal entered the room and saw his image in the mirror. He was surprised to see his colour. He looked blue. He came out of the house and ran back to the jungle.

When the animals of the jungle saw the blue jackal they were frightened. They had never seen such an animal. Even the lions and tigers were no exceptions. They too were scared of the seemingly strange animal.

The jackal was quick to realise the change in the behaviour of the other animals. He decided to take advantage of this funny situation.

"Dear friends", said the blue jackal, "don't be afraid of me. I'm your well-wisher. Lord Brahma has sent me to look after your well-being. He has appointed me as your king."

All the animals of the jungle developed unshakable faith in the blue jackal and accepted him as their king. They brought presents for him and obeyed his commands. The blue jackal appointed the lion as his commander-in-chief; the wolf was appointed the defence minister and the elephant the home minister.

Thus, the blue jackal began living in luxury with the lions and tigers also at his command. What to talk of the smaller animals? The tigers and leopards brought him delicious food everyday.

The blue jackal now was ruling the jungle. He used to hold daily darbar. All the animals were like his servants. Even the lion hunted small animals and gave them to the blue jackal to eat.

Once, when the blue jackal was holding his famous darbar, he heard a pack of jackals howling outside his palace. Those jackals had come from some other jungle and were howling, singing and dancing.

The blue jackal forgot that he was a king and not an ordinary jackal any more. Instinctively, he too began howling, singing and dancing. All the animals were surprised to see their king howling like a jackal. Soon the word spread around that their king was simply a jackal and not a representative of Lord Brahma. He had fooled the animals. All the animals, in a fit of rage, killed the blue jackal immediately.

"One Can't Fool All the People All the Time"

The Donkey Who Sang a Song

Once upon a time, there lived a washer man in a village. He had a donkey by the name of Udhata. He used to carry loads of clothes to the river bank and back home everyday.

The donkey was not satisfied with the food that was given to him by his master to eat. So he wandered into the nearby fields stealthily and ate the crops growing there.

Once, the donkey, while wandering around, happened to meet a fox. Soon, both of them became friends and began to wander together in search of delicious food.

One night, the donkey and the fox were eating water-melons in a field.

The water-melons were so tasty, that the donkey ate many watermelons. . Having eaten to his appetite, the donkey became so happy that he was compelled by an intense desire to sing. He told the fox that he was in such a good mood that he had to express his happiness in a melodious tone. "Don't be a fool. If you sing, the people sleeping in and around this field will wake up and beat us black and blue with sticks:" said the fox worriedly.

"You are a dull fellow", the donkey said hearing the words of fox. "Singing makes one happy and healthy. No matter what comes, I'll definitely sing a song."

The fox became worried to see the donkey adamant on singing a song in the midst of the field, while the owner was still sleeping only a little distance away.

Seeing his adamance, he said to the donkey, "Friend, wait a minute before you start. First, let me jump over to the other side of the fence for my safety."

Saying so the fox jumped over to the other side of the fence without losing a moment.

The donkey began in his so-called melodious tone. Hearing, suddenly, a donkey braying in the field, the owner woke up from his sleep. He picked up his stick lying by his side and ran towards the donkey who was still braying happily. He became very angry and beat him so ruthlessly that the donkey was physically incapacitated temporarily. He, somehow, managed to drag himself out of the field with great difficulty.

The fox looked at the donkey and said in a sympathetic tone, "I'm sorry to see you in this pitiable condition. I had already warned you, but you didn't listen to my advice." The donkey too realised his folly and hung his head in shame. **Moral: "Think Before You Act"**

The Prince and the Seedling

Once upon a time there was a king whose son was very ill-tempered and bad mannered. The king, the courtiers and many other eminent citizens tried to reform the prince and made him understand the bad impression of his ill manners and wicked ways would create on the public.

But the prince paid no heed to their sensible advices.

One day, the king saw a sage walking in front of the palace. He had an alms bowl in his hand. The king saw his glowing with radiance face and was very much impressed with the way the sage was walking. His gait suggested that the sage was full of confidence and divine knowledge. The king asked one of his ministers to invite the sage to his court.

The sage came to the king's court. He was received with great honor by the king and his courtiers.

When the king came to know that the sage was trying to find out a good dwelling place for himself, he offered him a hermitage in his palace. The sage accepted the offer of the king and started living in the hermitage.

One day, the king said to the sage, "You would have probably come to know by now, that my son is very ill-tempered and bad mannered. The people of my kingdom call him an unworthy prince. They don't want him to succeed me as king. I request you kindly to teach the prince to mend his ways." Then the king discussed other matters of his kingdom with the sage and left his son under his direct care and guidance with a confidence that the sage will definitely ameliorate the prince and bring a positive reform in him.

The next day, the sage took the prince for a walk through the garden of the palace. Pointing to a tiny plant the sage said to the prince, "Eat a leaf of this plant and tell me how it tastes."

The moment the prince tasted the leaf he immediately spat it on the ground. "It seems to be a poisonous seedling. If it is allowed to grow into a big tree, it may prove dangerous for the health of many people." The prince pulled the tiny plant out of the ground and tore it to pieces.

Then the sage picked up the torn and mutilated plant and said to the prince, "As you've reacted in the case of this plant, the people of your kingdom may, one day, react in the same manner with you, because they think you are a wicked prince. They may not allow you to rule the kingdom and may send you to exile. So it is much better that you mend your ways to create a feeling of mercy, compassion and kind heartedness all around"

The prince understood the message of the sage. From that day onwards, he tried to grow humble and kind hearted, full of mercy and love.

The king was pleased and extremely happy to see such a big change in his son. He thanked the sage and expressed his gratefulness for his kindness.

"Bad Temper Doesn't Win the Hearts of People"

The Broken Pot

In a village, there lived a poor brahmin. He used to beg for living and one day somebody gave him lots of wheat flour. After he finished his dinner, there was still lot of wheat flour left so he hung the remaining flour in an earthen pot with a hook in the ceiling above his bed. As night progressed, he could not take away his eyes from the pot. All the while he started thinking about his future.

He started making grand plans, "This pot will be filled to the brim with wheat flour soon. I wish, if a famine should come to the land, then I would sell it for a hundred bucks. Then with that money I would buy a pair of goats. The pair of goats would breed and soon I would have an entire herd of goats. I shall then sell the goats and buy cows and cows will give birth to calves. Once I have lots of cows, I'll trade them for buffalo. With buffalo, I'll buy horses and then elephants. Eventually I shall sell the elephants too and get lots of money. He kept dreaming....

He dreamed that with his money he'd buy a large house and marry a beautiful girl and have kids. He kept dreaming about playing with his kids and suddenly kicked in air in excitement.

He kicked on the pot and all the flour fell on him, and he woke up to his reality.

"One Should Not Build Castles In The Air"

Hello..! Cave

Long ago, there lived a lion by the name of Kharanakhara. He had been trying to hunt for his prey for the last two days, but could not succeed due to his old age and physical infirmity. He was no longer strong to hunt for his food. He was quite dejected and disappointed. He thought that he would die of starving. One day, while he was wandering in the jungle hopelessly, he came across a cave.

'There must be some animal who lives in this cave!'; so thought the lion. 'I will hide myself inside it and wait for its occupant to enter. And as soon as the occupant enters the cave, I shall kill him and eat his flesh.' Thinking this, the lion entered the cave and hid himself carefully.

After sometime, a fox came near the cave. The cave belonged to her. The fox was surprised to find the foot-marks of a lion pointing towards the cave. 'Some lion has stealthily entered my cave', she thought to herself. But to make sure of the presence of the lion inside the cave, the fox played upon a trick.

The fox stood at some distance from the cave to save herself in case of a sudden attack and shouted, "Hello cave! I've come back. Speak to me as you have been doing earlier. Why are you keeping silent, my dear cave? May I come in and occupy my residence?"

Hearing the fox calling the cave, the lion thought to himself, that the cave he was hiding in, must in reality be a talking cave. The cave might be keeping quiet because of his kingly presence inside.

Therefore, if the cave didn't answer to the fox's question, the fox might go away to occupy some other cave and thus, he would have to go without a meal once again.

Trying to be wise, the lion answered in a roaring voice on behalf of the cave, "I've not forgotten my practice of speaking to you when you come, my dear fox. Come in and be at home, please."

Thus, the clever fox confirmed the presence of the lion hiding in his cave and ran away without losing a single moment, saying, "Only a fool would believe that a cave speaks."

"Presence Of Mind Is The Best Weapon To Guard Oneself In Every Sphere Of Life"

The Dhobi's Donkey

Once upon a time, there lived a dhobi in a village. He had a donkey and a dog as his pets. The dog guarded his master's house and accompanied him wherever he went. The donkey used to carry the load of clothes. The dhobi loved his dog very much. And the dog, whenever, he saw his master, would bark a little and wag his tail. He would raise his front legs and put them on the chest of his master. And the dhobi would pat his dog in return, for his loving gesture.

This made the donkey jealous of the dog's fate. He cursed his ill-fate; 'What a bad luck I've. My master doesn't love me in spite of my putting in hard labour. Now, I must do what this dog does to please my master.'

So, the next time, when he saw his master coming, he ran towards him. He brayed a little and tried to wag his tail. He raised his front legs and put them on his master's body.

The dhobi got frightened to see his donkey's abnormal behaviour. He thought that the donkey might have gone crazy. So he picked up a lathi and beat up the donkey till it fell on the ground.

"Jealousy Is Harmful"

The Sage And The Mouse

There lived a famous sage in the dense forest. Every day, the animals of the forest came to him to listen to his spiritual preaching.

They would gather around the meditating sage and the sage would tell them the good things of life.

There was also a little mouse living in the same forest. He too used to go to the sage daily to listen to his preaching.

One day, while he was roaming in the forest to collect berries for the sage, he was attacked by a big cat, who was watching him from behind the thick bushes. The mouse was scared. He ran straight to the ashram of the sage. There he lay prostrate before the sage and narrated to him the whole story in a trembling voice. In the meantime, the cat also arrived there and requested the sage to allow him to take his prey.

The sage was in a fix. He thought for a moment and then with his divine powers transformed the mouse into a bigger cat.

Seeing a huge cat before him the other cat ran away.

Now the mouse was carefree. He began to roam about in the forest like a big cat. He meowed loudly to frighten other animals. He fought with other cats to take revenge on them and in this way killed many of them.

The mouse had hardly enjoyed a few carefree days of his life, when one day, a fox pounced upon him. This was a new problem. He had never taken into account that there were yet bigger animals who could easily maul him and tear him into pieces. He, ran for his life,- He, somehow, saved himself from the fox and ran straight to the sage for help. The fox too was in his hot pursuit. Soon both of them stood before the sage.

The sage seeing the plight of the mouse this time transformed the mouse into a bigger fox. Seeing a big fox before him the other fox ran away.

The mouse became more carefree and began roaming about in the forest more freely with his newly acquired status of a big fox. But, his happiness was short-lived.

One day, while he was moving around in the forest freely, a tiger pounced upon him. The mouse, somehow, managed to save his life and as usual ran to take shelter in the ashram of the sage.

The sage, once again, took pity on the mouse and transformed him into a tiger.

Now, the mouse after acquiring the status of a tiger, roamed fearlessly in the forest. He killed many animals in the forest unnecessarily.

After having been transformed into a tiger, the mouse had become all-powerful for the -forest animals. He behaved like a king and commanded his subjects. But one thing always bothered his mind and kept him worried; and that was, the divine powers of the sage. "What, if, one day for some reason or the other, the sage becomes angry with me and brings me back to my original status," he would think worriedly. Ultimately, he decided something and one day, he came to the sage roaring loudly. He said to the sage, "I'm hungry. I want to eat you, so that I could enjoy all those divine powers, which you do. Allow me to kill you."

Hearing these words the sage became very angry. Sensing tiger's evil designs, he immediately transformed the tiger back into the mouse.

The worst had happened. Now the mouse realised his folly. He apologised to the saint for his evil actions and requested him to change him again into a tiger. But the sage drove the mouse away by beating him with a stick.

"One should not forget their roots"

Sparrows that killed an Elephant

In the middle of the jungle there stood a big peepal tree. A pair of sparrows lived on one of its branches. They had built a strong and comfortable nest and had two beautiful nestlings. They roamed the whole day in the jungle, collecting food to feed their young ones in the evening.

One day a huge elephant came to take rest under that big tree. He was hungry. So he tore off the branch on which the sparrows had built their nest. The branch fell on to the ground and the young ones of the birds were killed.

When the sparrows returned home in the evening, they found their young ones dead. They saw a big elephant lying under the tree and taking rest. Everything became crystal clear now. The elephant was the cause of the death of their loved young ones. The mother sparrow was grief-stricken. She began wailing over the loss of her nestlings.

Seeing her weeping bitterly, a woodpecker, who lived in a nearby tree, came to her to know the reason of her sorrow. The sparrows narrated the whole story. They expressed their wish to take revenge upon the elephant, for his cruel act. They wanted to see him dead.

"You're right", said the woodpecker. "This elephant has no consideration for others. He might, one day, kill my young ones too. Come with me. There is a sweet honey bee around here who's my friend.

She is very intelligent. She might be able to tell us how the cruel elephant can be killed."

Having decided upon this, they went to meet the sweet honey bee. They narrated the whole story to her and expressed their wish to revenge themselves on the rogue. The bee consoled them and said, "Don't worry. I've a plan to kill that elephant-Listen, first I'll go to the elephant and sing a song in his ears. The elephant will close his eyes to listen attentively to my melody and when I have hummed him to sleep, the Woodpecker would poke his long beak into the elephant's eyes. This will turn him blind. Once he is blinded our job will be easy. I will go and express my sympathies and tell him to pour a few drops of the extract of a particular plant in his eyes to cure them. The elephant will go to fetch that plant. There will be a huge pit full of water lying on his way to the plant. When the elephant goes to collect the plant he will fall into the pit. Since, he will not be able to come out of it, he will die."

Then, as planned, the honey bee sang a song into the ears of the elephant. The elephant closed his eyes to listen to the melody more intently, and the woodpecker, without losing a single moment, made him blind by pecking at his eyes.

The cruel elephant shrieked with pain. He began crying-'Oh, I have lost my eyes. I cannot see anything. Is there anyone who can help me?'

Immediately, thereafter, the honey bee again flew to the elephant, who on the advice of the bee set out to fetch the miraculous plant. But in the way the blind elephant fell into the pit and died.

Thus, the sparrows avenged the untimely death of their young ones by causing death to the cruel and foolish elephant; they saved many more lives of innocent creatures.

"United We Stand: Divided We Fall"

The Louse And The Bed-Bug

There lived a white louse by the name of Mandarisarpini in the spacious bedroom of a mighty king. She used to live in the corner of the bed sheet spread over the king's beautiful bedstead. Everyday, when the king was fast asleep, the louse sipped his blood and crept back again into a corner of the bed-cover to hide herself.

One night, a bed-bug by the name of Agnimukha strolled into the bedroom of the king. The louse saw him and told him to get out since the whole of the bedroom was her territory only. But the bed-bug said to her cleverly, "Look, you ought to be a little courteous to your guests. I'm your guest tonight."

The louse got carried away by the bed-bug's sweet talks. She gave him shelter saying, "It's all right. You can stay here tonight. But, you will not bite the king to suck his blood."

"But I'm your guest. What will you give me to eat?" the clever bedbug asked. "What better food you can serve me than the king's blood."

"Well!" replied the louse. "You can suck the king's blood silently. He must not get hurt in anyway."

"Agreed", said the clever bed-bug and waited for the king to arrive in the bedroom and sleep on the bed.

When the night fell, the king entered into his bedroom and slept on the bed. The greedy bed-bug forgot all about his promises and bit the sleeping king hard to suck his blood.

"It's a royal blood", thought the bed-bug and continued sucking till the king felt a terrible itching in his skin. The king woke up and then ordered his servants to find the bed-bug and kill it. But the bed-bug hid himself very cunningly into the joints of the bedstead and thus escaped his detection. The servants of the king, instead, found the louse on the bed sheet. They caught her and killed her.

"Never Trust The Strangers"

Clever Fox

Long ago, there lived a lion in a dense forest. One morning his wife told him that his breath was bad and unpleasant. The lion became very angry and got embarrassed to hear this comment. He wanted to check this fact with his councilors, as well. So he summoned them one by one to his court.

First came the sheep.

"Hello friend sheep," said the lion, opening his mouth wide, "tell me, if my mouth smells bad?"

The sheep thought that king lion wanted an honest answer from him, so he said, "Yes, Your Majesty. There seems to be something wrong with your breath."

This plain speak did not go well with king lion. He pounced upon the sheep, killed him and ate him.

Then king lion then called the wolf and said, "What do you think? Have I a bad breath?"

The wolf knew the fate his colleague, the sheep, had met. He wanted to be very cautious in answering a royal question.

So, the wolf said, "Who says that Your Majesty's breath is unpleasant. It's as sweet as the smell of roses."

When the king lion heard the reply he roared in anger and immediately attacked the wolf and killed it. "The flatterer!" growled king lion.

Finally, came the turn of the fox, who was lion's third councillor. When the fox came, the lion asked him the same question.

The fox was well aware of the fate of his two colleagues. So he coughed and cleared his throat again and again and then said, "Your Majesty, for the last few days, I have been having a very bad cold. Due to this, I can't smell anything, pleasant or unpleasant."

The king lion spared the fox's life.

"One Should Keep Quiet In Times Of Danger"

Crow and the Water Pot

Long ago, there lived a crow in the jungle. Once he was wandering in search of water to quench his thirst. At last, he came flying over a village. There he saw a pitcher lying in front of a house.

There was some water in it. The crow tried to reach the water, but couldn't succeed. The water level was too low in the pitcher.

The crow began to think of some practical device and finally came up with a bright idea.

He looked around and found a pebble. He picked up the pebble in his beak and dropped it into the pitcher.

The crow realised that the water level had risen a little. So he dropped more pebbles in the pitcher till the water level was high enough for his beak to touch it.

The thirsty crow then drank the water to his heart's content and flew away.

"Necessity Is The Mother Of Invention"

Stag and Its Beautiful Antlers

Once upon a time, there lived a stag in the dense forest. One day, he went to a nearby lake to quench his thirst. There he saw his reflection in the water and thought to himself; 'I've got beautiful antlers, but my legs are ugly. I can't understand why God has given me such thin legs.'

Just then, he heard a lion roaring at a short distance. The stag knew that if he stayed there, the lion will kill him. So he started running. The lion too started chasing the stag.

The stag ran faster and faster and soon he outdistanced the lion. But alas! All of a sudden, the antlers of the stag got entangled with the overhanging branches of a tree.

The stag struggled hard, but could not free his antlers from the branches. He thought to himself, 'my thin legs helped me get away from the danger, but my antlers proved dangerous for me.'

By that time the lion had already reached there.

He pounced upon the stag and killed him.

"A Beautiful Thing Might Not Always Be Useful Also"

Who Will Bell The Cat

Once upon a time, there lived many mice in a grocer's shop. There in the shop, they ate delicious wheat rice, pulses, nuts, bread, butter and biscuits. They grew fat day by day.

One day, the grocer thought about the heavy losses that he had to suffer because of the menace of the mice. This angered him so much, that the next day, he brought a big fat cat to his shop.

The big fat cat began to catch and kill the fat mice everyday.

The mice became worried. They called a meeting to discuss the problem.

"Let's get rid of this cruel fat cat," the leader of the mice said.

"But how?" the other mice asked.

All of them began to think. Then one mouse said, "We should tie a bell round the neck of the fat cat. So, whenever she would move towards us, the bell would ring and we will run into our holes immediately." All the mice became very happy to hear this. They began dancing with joy. But their joy was short-lived. An old and experienced mouse interrupted their merry-making and shouted, "Fools, stop it and tell me, who'll bell the cat?"

No mouse had the answer to this big question.

"Making A Plan Is One Thing, But Executing It Is Something Entirely Different"

The Rich Mohan and The Poor Sohan

Long ago, there lived two friends in a village. They were known as Mohan and Sohan. Mohan was a jeweller and was very rich, while Sohan was very poor. Once, on the occasion of his sister's marriage,

Sohan took a few gold ornaments worth rupees five thousand from Mohan and promised to pay the price of it within six months from the date of buying on credit.

But only a few days after the marriage of Sohan's sister, Mohan began asking for the money which he was supposed to get from Sohan for the gold ornaments bought by him on credit.

"You know, I am a poor man," said Sohan. "How can I make the payment so soon.

Moreover, if I remember correctly, I had already told you that I shall be able to pay you back in six months' time.

Anyway please give me some more time. I'll pay the money."

But Mohan had an evil design on Sohan's properties.

He wanted Sohan to sign some documents in the court of law, saying that he mortgaged his house and other properties against the gold ornaments.

Sohan again pleaded his helplessness, but Mohan was adamant on his demand.

So, seeing no way out Sohan said to Mohan, "How will I go to the court? I don't even have a horse to reach the court."

"You can take my horse to ride to the court," said Mohan.

"I don't have nice clothes to wear," said Sohan.

"You can put on my clothes," said Mohan.

"I don't even have shoes to wear," said Sohan.

"Take my shoes," said Mohan.

Now Sohan agreed to go to the court. He put on Mohan's clothes and shoes and rode to the court on Mohan's horse.

When the judge called the name of Sohan, he said, "My Lord, I want to ask Mohan certain questions."

"Go ahead," said the judge and ordered Mohan to answer to the questions put up by Sohan.

"Tell me, Mohan," asked Sohan, "to whom do these clothes, I'm wearing, belong?"

"They're mine," replied Mohan.

"To whom do these shoes, I'm wearing, belong?" .. "They're mine," said Mohan.

"And the horse that I rode to the court?" .. "The horse too belongs to me," shouted Mohan.

The people present in the court began to laugh.

Sohan said to the judge, "My Lord, you can yourself judge the mental state of Mohan. He thinks everything that I possess belongs to him only."

The judge also laughed and dismissed the case saying that Mohan had lost his mental balance and has started thinking that everything that Sohan owned belonged to him.

Thus, Sohan foiled Mohan's evil designs.

"Greed Is Evil. It Must Be Destroyed With Shrewdness"

The Bird With Two Heads

Long, long ago, there lived a strange bird on a huge banyan tree. The tree stood beside a river. The strange bird had two heads, but only one stomach.

Once, while the bird was flying high in the sky, he saw an apple shaped fruit lying on the bank of the river. The bird swooped down, picked up the fruit and began to eat it. This was the most delicious fruit the bird had ever eaten.

As the bird had two heads, the other head protested, "I'm your brother head. Why don't you let me also eat this tasty fruit?"

The first head of the bird replied, "Shut up. You know that we've only one stomach. Whichever head eats, the fruit will go to the same stomach. So it doesn't matter as to which head eats it. Moreover, I'm the one who found this fruit. So I've the first right to eat it."

Hearing this, the other head became silent. But this kind of selfishness on the part of the first head pinched him very much. One day, while flying, the other head spotted a tree bearing poisonous fruits. The other head immediately descended upon the tree and plucked a fruit from it.

"Please don't eat this poisonous fruit," cried the first head. "If you eat it, both of us will die, because we've a common stomach to digest it."

"Shut up!" shouted the other head. "Since I've plucked this fruit, I've every right to eat it."

The first head began to weep, but the other head didn't care. He wanted to take revenge.

"People Living In A Family Should Never Quarrel Among Themselves"

The Golden Bird And The King

Long, long ago, there lived a magic bird by the name of Sindhuka in a thick forest. It laid golden eggs.

Once, a fowler came to the forest. While hunting, he came near the tree in which lived the magic bird. He saw the bird laying golden eggs. He caught the bird in his net and returned home. But he was afraid of keeping the bird in his captivity.

He thought that the magic bird would lay him golden eggs. Soon he would be rich.

The king might think that he became rich by stealing others' money. He might send him to jail.

So it was better that he himself presented the magic bird to the king.

Thinking thus, the fowler presented the magic bird to the king. The king was very happy to have such a magic bird.

He ordered his servants to take care of the bird, so that it laid more and more golden eggs.

But the attendants said to the king, "Your Majesty, this is all a hoax. How can a bird lay golden eggs?" This created doubts in the mind of the king.

He ordered his attendants to release the bird in the woods.

The attendants, thereafter, released the bird in the woods.

The bird flew in the sky and thought to itself, "This seems to be a fool's kingdom. The fowler knew that I laid golden eggs, but he gifted me to the king.

The king in turn gave me to the attendants to release me in the woods. The attendants too didn't ever believe in my magical qualities and spoke to the king against me. And the biggest fool of them was I, who landed into the fowler's net."

"Take A Decision After Verifying The Facts"

The Golden Birds And The Golden Swans

Once upon a time there lived a mighty king in the state of Rajasthan. He had a beautiful palace in the 'city of lakes'. One such lake surrounded his palace with a beautiful garden around it. There were many golden swans living at this lake. These golden swans used to shed golden feathers every day.

The king collected all such feathers and kept them in his state treasury.

Once, a huge golden bird came flying to the lake. He perched on the branch of a tall tree standing near the lake. He liked the lake's sweet water very much and decided to make the lake his home.

But the other swans didn't tolerate his presence there. "Who're you?" the golden swans asked the golden bird. "What for have you come here? Better get out otherwise, we'll beat you."

"Why? Is this not king's palace ground?" the golden bird asked. "It was," the swans replied, "but, not now. We've bought this place from the king. Now even he can't enter the lake area without our permission.

Do you understand? Now get out of this place."

The golden bird then flew to the palace garden and waited for the king to arrive to take a walk in the garden. Soon the king came there with his armed guards and began to take morning stroll in the garden.

The golden bird then flew to the king and said to him, "Your Majesty, I came to your beautiful kingdom from a foreign land. I wanted to settle here. But, the golden swans already living here drove me out of the lake.

They are very arrogant. They say that they have bought the lake from you and now even you can't enter the lake without their permission. I advised them not to speak ill, but still they talk arrogantly."

Hearing this the king became very angry. He ordered his soldiers to go to the lake and kill all those arrogant golden swans, because they had spoken ill of him.

However an elderly swan guarding the lake saw the soldiers coming towards the lake with naked swords in their hands. He was quick to know what was going to happen. He called a gathering of golden swans and said to them, "Let's fly to some other lake.

The king's soldiers are coming to kill us."

Acting upon his good advice, all the golden swans took to their wings, well before the king's soldiers arrived there to kill them. It was a great loss for the king, for he believed a stranger blindly and ordered his soldiers to kill the golden swans. Now he would never get those golden feathers.

The golden swans too had to abandon the beautiful royal lake because of their arrogant nature.

The king became so dejected to lose those golden swans that he asked the golden bird to find a different home for himself somewhere else.

"Never Act Hastily Believing a Stranger's Words. It's Also Undesirable to Be As Arrogant As The Golden Swans Were"

The Four Foolish Brahmins

Once upon a time, there lived four Brahmin friends in a village. They were learned persons, but were not satisfied with the knowledge they possessed. So one day, they decided to join some good university in some other part of the country for the sake of learning.

The next day, they travelled to Kanyakubja. There they got admission in the university. They studied at the university for ten long years.

One day, they said to each other, 'We've now acquired enough knowledge of Sanskrit and other subjects. Let us go back to our native village.'

The four learned friends, then, set off for the long journey. After travelling for hours they arrived at a place, where two roads met. The four pandits got puzzled. They didn't know which road to follow. At the same time, a funeral procession passed by on its way to crematorium. There were some prominent citizens walking along with the procession.

One of the Brahmins consulted his shastras: 'Follow the road, which is followed by eminent people.' So all of them started following the procession. When they reached the crematorium, they saw a donkey standing there. They didn't

know what to do with the donkey. So the other Brahmin took out his Shastra and began to read it: 'Whosoever meets you at the crematorium is your true friend.'

And so, while one of the Brahmins put his arms round the donkey's neck, the others touched his feet with respect. Just then, they saw, at a distance, a camel moving quickly towards the crematorium.

The third Brahmin, then consulted his books, which said: 'Religion spreads rapidly. It must be tied with something friendly.'

So the four Brahmins thought that the camel was the religion because it was walking swiftly and so the friendly donkey should be introduced to the camel - the religion. When the camel came nearer, they tied its neck together with the donkey's neck.

When the owner of the donkey, a washerman, came to know of this, he picked up a stick and started chasing the Brahmins. All the four Brahmins ran for their lives.

While being chased by the washerman, the four Brahmins came to a river. There in the river, they saw a Palash Leaf floating on the surface of water. One of the Brahmins said, "This leaf is like a raft. It'll save our lives." And with these words, he jumped on to the leaf. As a result, the Brahmin began to drown as he did not know how to swim.

The second Brahmin, then, caught hold of his hair and said, "When a thing is going to be fully destroyed, a wise man saves at least half of it." So he cut the drowning Brahmin into two halves with a sword.

The remaining three Brahmins proceeded further on their journey. They reached a village, where they were welcomed by the villagers and invited for lunch and dinner.

One of the Brahmins was served with a noodle like long substance. The Brahmin, then, consulted his Shastras and read out the verse, which said: 'Anything lengthy is a cause of destruction.' So he didn't take his meal and went away hungry.

The second Brahmin was served a coconut dish in his lunch. Seeing the dish, the Brahmin remembered the verse that said: 'Frothy things have temporary life.'

So, the Brahmin left his food and went away without eating anything.

The third Brahmin was served with a dish round in shape. Seeing the hole in the middle of the cake like round rice and pulse dish, the Brahmin thought of the verse which meant: 'the holes are like defects and are a sure sign of approaching disaster'.

So, the third Brahmin also left the village without taking his meals.

In the end, the three learned idiots had to go hungry for days till they returned to their native village.

"Theoretical Knowledge Without The Practical Experience And Commonsense Is Useless"

Hare And Tortoise

Once upon a time, there lived a Hare. He was proud that he could run fast and beat several of the animals in his surroundings. He always used to ridicule the tortoise, a poor fellow who could not carry his bulk with agility and hence could not win others.

To make fun of the tortoise, the hare once invited the tortoise for a race. Never to say no, the friendly tortoise agreed. Both of them started the race on the appointed time. The hare shot ahead briskly for some time. After running for a while, the hare saw that the tortoise was far behind. "Poor guy! He will not be able to catch up with me even if I have a nap," thought the hare. He sat under a tree to relax before continuing with the race. Under the tree, he soon fell asleep.

The slow tortoise, unmindful of the sleeping hare, continued to walk. By the time, the hare woke up, it was very late. He ran as fast as he could, only to find the smiling and friendly tortoise at the goal post. Alas! The fastest buddy in the surroundings lost! The tortoise emerged as the undisputed champ!!

The moral: Slow and steady wins the race.

The story till now is familiar to all of us. But, the story does not end here.

With a crushed ego, the hare wanted to take revenge. The hare analyzed the reasons for his defeat and found that his lackadaisical attitude and resting in between resulted in his defeat. If he had not taken things for granted, there was no way that the tortoise could have beaten him. Having realized this, the hare once again challenged the tortoise to a race. The tortoise readily agreed again, not knowing the learning of the hare.

They raced again. This time, the hare implemented his learning; shun his attitude of superiority and did not rest till he reached the goal post. After a long time the tortoise came lumbering around, only to find the hare already at the goal post.

The hare won by several minutes.

Moral: Fast and consistent will always beat the slow and steady. If you have two people in your organization, one slow methodical and reliable, and the other fast and still reliable in what he does, the fast and reliable chap will consistently climb the organizational ladder faster than the slow and methodical person.

Thus, it is good to be slow and steady. But it is better to be fast and reliable.

The story does not even end here!

The tortoise analyzed his failure. He realized that there was no way he could beat the hare in a race in its present format, i.e., on the ground. The structure of the race had to change for him to win - he could win easily if the race was in water. Having realized this, the tortoise challenged the hare for a race once more, but this time, on a slightly different track. The hare agreed.

They started off. In keeping with his self-made commitment, the hare took off and ran at top speed until he came to a broad river. The finishing line was a couple of kilometers on the other side of the river. The hare sat there wondering what to do. In the meantime, the tortoise trundled along, got into the river, swam to the opposite side, continued walking and finished the race.

The moral: First recognize your core competence, then change the playing field and rules of the game to suit your core competence. In an organization, if you are a good speaker, make sure you create opportunities to give presentations to enable the senior management to notice you. If your strength is analysis, make sure you do some sort of research and send the report to the top.

Working on your strengths will not only get you noticed, but will also create opportunities for growth and advancement.

The story has still not ended.

The hare and the tortoise, by this time, had become pretty good friends. They did some thinking together. Both realized that the last race could have been run much better. So they decided to do the last race again, but to run as a team this time.

They started off, and this time, the hare carried the tortoise on its back till the river bank. There, the tortoise took over and swam across with the hare on his back. On the opposite bank, the hare again carried the tortoise and they reached the finishing line together. They both felt a greater sense of satisfaction than they had felt earlier.

The moral: It is good to be individually brilliant and to have strong core competencies; but unless you are able to work in a team and harness each other's core competencies, you will always perform below par because there will be situations at which you will do poorly and someone else does well. Team work is mainly about situational leadership, letting the person with the relevant core competency for a situation take leadership. Pooling resources and working as a team will always beat individual performers.

There are more lessons to learn from this story. Note that neither the hare nor the tortoise have given up after failures. The hare decided to work harder and put in more effort after each failure. The tortoise changed his strategy because he was already working as hard as he could. In life, when faced with failure, sometimes it is appropriate to work harder and put in more effort. Sometimes it is appropriate to change strategy and try something different. And sometimes, it is appropriate to do both.

“Slow and steady wins the race; but fast and consistent is much better. Individual strengths pave way for opportunities; teamwork rules. The hare and tortoise story also offers another important lesson. When we

stop competing against a rival but compete against the situation, we perform far better. Thus, the race for the hare was not against tortoise. Rather, it was against the time clocked earlier.

Being Of The 'Nothing'!

Once upon a time there was a fish. And just because it was a fish, it had lived all its life in the water and knew nothing about things outside water. And one day as it swam about in the lake where all its days had been spent, it happened to meet a turtle of its acquaintance who had just come back from a little excursion on the land.

"Good day, Mr. Turtle!" said the fish. "I have not seen you for a long time.. Where have you been?"

"Oh", said the turtle, "I have just been for a trip on dry land." "On dry land!" exclaimed the fish.

"What do you mean by on dry land? There is no dry land. I had never seen such a thing. Dry land is nothing."

"Well," said the turtle good-naturedly. "If you want to think so, of course you may; there is no one who can hinder you. But that's where I've been, all the same." "Oh, come," said the fish. "Try to talk sense. Just tell me now what is this land of yours like? Is it all wet?" "No, it is not wet," said the turtle. "Is it nice and fresh and cool?" asked the fish. "No, it is not nice and fresh and cool," the turtle replied. "Is it clear so that light can come through it?" "No, it is not clear? Light cannot come through it."

"Is it soft and yielding, so that I can move my fins about in it and push my nose through it?"

"No, it is not soft and yielding. You could not swim in it."

"Does it move or flow in streams?" "No, it neither moves nor flows in streams."

"Does it ever rise up into waves then, with white foams in them?" asked the fish, impatient at this string of No's.

"No!" replied the turtle, truthfully. "It never rises up into waves that I have seen."

"There now," exclaimed the fish triumphantly. "Didn't I tell you that this land of yours was just nothing? I have just asked, and you have answered me that it is neither wet nor cool, not clear nor soft and that it does not flow in streams or rise up into waves. And if it isn't a single one of these things what else is it but nothing? Don't tell me."

"Well, well", said the turtle, "If you are determined to think that dry land is nothing, I suppose you must just go on thinking so. But anyone who knows what is water and what is land would say you were just a silly fish, for you think that anything you have never known is nothing just because you have never known it." And with that the turtle turned away and, leaving the fish behind in its little pond of water, set out on another excursion over the dry land that was nothing.

"For many the unknown does not exist. But this is a fallacy. No one person can have all the knowledge and capacities to know the 'whole'. We learn as we go along through direct or indirect experiences, through interactions and many more ways. Learning at times also come the hard way. What is important is to have an open mind to learn and unlearn. Learning is a lifelong phenomenon."

The Honest Woodcutter

Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked for a job with a timber merchant, and he got it. His salary was really good and so were the working conditions. For that reason, the woodcutter was determined to do his best.

His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to fell the trees.

The first day, the woodcutter brought fifteen trees.

"Congratulations," the boss said, "Carry on with your work!"

Highly motivated by the words of his boss, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he only could bring ten (10) trees.

The third day he tried even harder, but he was only able to bring seven (7) trees. Day after day he was bringing less and less trees.

"I must be losing my strength." The woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

"When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the boss asked.

"Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees..."

Most of us never update our skills. We think that whatever we have learned is enough. But good is not good when better is expected. Updating our skills from time to time is the key to success.

So 'keep sharpening the axe'.

"Most of us never update our skills. We think whatever we learnt is enough to lead the life forever. However, this is not true. If we do not update our skills our efficiency will reduce, forbidding our growth. This short story of the woodcutter tells us this fact."

Only One Move

This is a story of one 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training, the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "Shouldn't I be learning more moves?"

"This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the Sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training.

Several months later, the Sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals.

This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the Sensei intervened. "No," the Sensei insisted, "Let him continue."

Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion.

On the way home, the boy and Sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?" "You won for two reasons," the Sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all of judo. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm."

The boy's greatest weakness had become his greatest strength.

"We sometimes allow our weaknesses to be our downfall rather than using them to our advantage. We tell ourselves we cannot do something because we do not feel it is our strength. But, if we didn't dwell on our weaknesses, we may find that we could succeed. We tend to give up rather than persevere. We all need to be reminded that sometimes what we perceive as our weakness could actually turn out to be our strength. This inspirational short story offers words of wisdom about our strengths and weaknesses."

Know Your Value

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a Rupee 500 note. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this Rupee 500 note?"

Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this note to one of you but first let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the note up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?"

Still the hands were up in the air.

“Well,” he replied, “What if I do this?” And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty.

“Now who still wants it?” Still the hands went into the air.

“My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth Rupee 500/-.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and grounded into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

You may feel as though you are worthless! But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.

“You are special. Don’t ever forget it!

Never let yesterday’s disappointments overshadow tomorrow’s dreams.”

***Livelihoods July-2013**

12. Livelihoods in Media

Communication is the best tool to develop, change and enhance the existing situation. Particularly it facilitates the social and economical development. Media is a crucial instrument in communication and it reflects the society. It exists from ancient times. Media has been playing an important role in exchanging information over space and time. In ancient times oral exchange of information through messengers was the common method. Media including print media and electronic media both play key role in communication.



Media consists of publishing books, brochure, newspapers, journals, periodicals, sound recordings, motion picture, video activities, news agencies, entertainment activities, library, sporting activities, cultural activities and other recreational activities. Modern media started in India at the end of 18th Century. Print media used to be the largest and most important media for decades. After the invention of radio and television electronic media developed at large scale, but the print media did not lose its relevance in electronic age and has developed in an unimaginable way. Print media in developing countries, like India print media did not get affected much by the internet as in developed countries where media depend on English language. Global scale print media has been

declining for decades because of online publications whereas in India it has been gradually showing growth because of publishing in regional languages. Print media has been showing an average of 10 to 15% growth per year with this advantage. Daily almost 90 million copies are circulating across the country. In print media, India is the second largest country in the world standing only next to China. India holds 17 out of 100, of world's largest circulated newspapers. The first news paper was published in 1780 in Calcutta, West Bengal state and it was brought as weekly publication. Currently, there are 70,000 periodicals published including 5364 daily newspapers and more than 690 electronic channels including 80 news channels.. These periodicals are published in more than 100 languages (including dialects). In India, largest newspapers are published in Hindi, English, Marathi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Telugu languages. 90% of the readers prefer Hindi and regional languages in the country. These newspapers are available at low prices and one can get a newspaper for Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 and magazines for Rs. 15 to Rs. 50.

There are various periodicals and newspapers published in the country as shown below:

- Evening News papers,
- Daily News papers,
- Weekly magazines,
- Fortnightly magazines,
- Monthly magazines,
- By-monthly magazines,
- Quarterly, half yearly and yearly periodicals

S. No	Newspaper	Language	Daily Readership (in million)	S. No	Newspaper	Language	Daily Readership (in million)
1	Dainik Jagran	Hindi	16.37	16	Daily Sakal	Marathi	4.469
2	Dainik Bhaskar	Hindi	14.416	17	Hindustan Times	English	3.82
3	Hindustan	Hindi	12.246	18	Punjab Kesari	Hindi	3.323
4	Malayala Manorama	Malayalam	9.76	19	PrabhatKhabar	Hindi	2.859
5	Amar Ujala	Hindi	8.434	20	Navbharat Times	Hindi	2.633
6	Times of India	English	7.615	21	The Hindu	English	2.164
7	Daily Thanthi	Tamil	7.334	22	Patrika	Hindi	2.068
8	Lokmat	Marathi	7.313	23	NaiDunia	Hindi	1.358
9	Rajasthan Patrika	Hindi	6.837	24	The Telegraph	English	1.265
10	Mathrubhumi	Malayalam	6.334	25	Deccan Chronicle	English	1.02
11	Eenadu	Telugu	5.972	26	DNA	English	0.972
12	Ananda Bazar Patrika	Bengali	5.75	27	Mumbai Mirror	English	0.819
13	Sakshi	Telugu	5.379	28	Economic Times	English	0.735
14	Gujarat Samachar	Gujarati	5.114	29	The Tribune	English	0.671
15	Dinakaran	Tamil	4.816	30	The New Indian Express	English	0.652

The daily newspaper industry has above 180 million readers in the country and it is achieving 5% growth rate per annum. Hindi newspapers have largest circulation compared to English and other languages. Regarding readership Hindi daily newspapers have 57 million readers, Marathi 18.3 million and Malayalam 17.2 million. In daily newspaper industry regional languages are gradually increasing than English language. The magazines have above 1.2 million readers. In magazines category regional languages have more readership than English language. Malayalam language has the largest magazine (Fortnightly) magazine with 29 million readers in the country. There are various periodicals with different subjects like entertainment, health, education, agriculture, religious preaching's, livelihoods, employment, personality development, technology, environment, political matters, literature, science, organizations and political parties' magazines, sports, tourism, business etc. Periodicals are covering huge number of subjects. There are periodicals on almost every subject and all big organizations, institutions and political parties have periodicals. Though the newspapers use local reporters to collect news, they also depend on the country's authorized news agencies:

- Press Trust of India,
- United News of India,
- Samachar Bharati,
- Hindustan Samachar,

In daily newspapers and periodicals particularly in newspapers there are various types of workforce involved such as reporters, staff reporters, stringers, DTP operators, designing and graphic experts, photographers, cartoonists, advertisements collecting persons, content writers, columns writers, feature writers, sub-editors, editors, page make-up persons, printing workers, packing workers, store in-charges, librarians, canteen staff, drivers, security guards, paper promoting and marketing persons, paper agents, news papers & periodicals selling persons and paper boys. Different types of education qualifications and skills are required in the print media for different activities like reporting, advertisements collection, content writing, designing, printing, filing, transporting, and distributing. These people are working at different levels such as village, mandal / block, district, state and national level. Some people represent even in international level though their number may be very less and they belong to high-end employees' category.

Along with fulltime works, part time works are also available in print media. For example, paper boys have to work daily 1 to 2 hours and earn Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month in paper distribution. In the same way drivers, column writers and paper agents are involved in print media as part time workers.

Livelihoods in Print Media				
S. No	Name of The Job	Average No of People	Qualifications	Salary / /Commission Ranges in Rs.
1	Paper Boys	1000 to 3000	No education/ 2 hours per day at early morning	Per Paper Rs.5 per month – Rs 300 to 600 as commission
2	Paper Agents	200 to 600	Minimum education/ part time work	5000 to 20000 as commission
3	Paper Van Drivers	80 to 200	Driving / part time work	10000 to 15000
4	Office Assistants	100 to 200	Minimum Education	3000 to 5000
5	Packing & Printing Workers	600 to 1500	Minimum education	5000 to 10000
6	Security Guards & Store in – charges	150 to 250	Minimum education	10000 to 12500
7	Canteen Staff	50 to 100	Cooking skill	7500 to 10000
8	Electricians and Mission Operators	30 to 50	Electrician and Other technical qualifications	10000 to 15000
9	Camera Persons	50 to 100	Photography	Per colour photo Rs. 30 and black & white Rs.15
10	DTP Operators	100 to 200	DTP	4500 to 6000
11	Librarians	50 to 100	B. Lib	10000 to 15000
12	Proof Readers	50 to 100	Degree and language knowledge	15000 to 25000
13	Cartoonists	25 to 50	Cartoonist	7500 to 10000
14	Reporters	500 to 1000	Degree	10000 to 30000
15	Sub- editors	100 to 200	Degree & Journalism	10000 to 50000
16	Page Makeup Persons	10 to 20	Degree & Multi Media	10000 to 20000
17	Advertisement Employees	30 to 40	MBA & Communication	20000 to 50000
18	Sales Wing Employees	5 to 10	Degree	10000 + Commission

Along with regular staff there are many temporary employees or associates like reporters, camera persons, writers who are not considered as regular staff in newspapers department. They get income based on work quantity and performance. For example, newspapers pay non- regular or part time reporters based on news size (on centimeter basis after editing) and importance of the news. In the same way private photographers get an income of Rs. 30/- (per colour photo) and Rs. 15 /- (Black and white). If the photos are very important they will get extra incentives. Writers of column, main article etc will receive Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 /- depending on their professionalism. Advertisement persons get an extra commission on collected advertisement amount along with salary. Many newspaper managements give salaries according to government wage board recommended pay-scale, providing Employees' State Insurance (ESI), Provident Fund (PF), Travelling Allowance (TA), Dearness Allowance (DA) and other incentives basing on their performance. There are many other types of services providing people plumbers, mechanics, messengers, water-boys, store –in chargers, Xerox operators, clerks, managers and assistant managers

for different wings involve in print media related activities and get income. In the similar way, periodicals provide livelihoods to many people such as sales persons, workers, designers, DTP operators, writers, printing workers, operators, packing persons, store keepers, drivers, sales agents, security persons etc.

There are above 5364 newspapers in our country. An average newspaper provides employment to 1500 to 2000 persons including skilled, semi-skilled, regular employees, part time employees, commission based, honorarium based income earning persons. It means that newspapers are providing livelihoods to above 80 lakhs to 1.07 crore people across the country.

Though periodicals may not provide large number of livelihoods as that of newspapers, they can provide to 50 to 100 persons which may come up to 64 lakh by 64636 periodicals. Total print media including newspapers and periodicals is providing employment to above 1.5 crore persons in the country.

In the country, major daily newspaper managements are also running journalism colleges to train the people on journalism. After the training they are providing employment as apprentice in their papers with bond agreement. In that apprentice period they get a nominal amount of fixed salary. Along with these journalism colleges major universities are also offering journalism courses and even some universities are offering journalism from degree onwards. . Regarding technical trainings number of private training institutions like DTP training centers and multi-media learning centers are providing trainings to improve technical skills which are suitable and required for the print media in all major towns across the country. Security persons are getting training and accessing employment as security guards through security agencies in the print media establishments and particularly edition centers. Drivers, camera persons, marketing professional are getting qualifications or skills in different ways.

Electronic media:

Livelihoods in Electronic Media				
S. No	Name of The Job	Average No of People	Qualifications	Salary in Rs.
1	Security Persons	20 to 30	Minimum education	7000 to 10000
2	Canteen Staff	10 to 20	Minimum education	7000 to 10000
3	OB Van Drivers	10 to 20	Driving	10000 to 15000
4	Voiceover Artists	10 to 20	Nice voicing skill	15000 to 25000
5	Camera Persons	10 to 15	Photography	20000 to 30000
6	Studio Camera Persons	7 to 10	Photography	20000 to 30000
7	Graphics Designers	20 to 30	Multimedia	20000 to 30000
8	Makeup Artists	6 to 10	Makeup skills	20000 to 30000
9	Coordination Staff	10 to 15	Degree	20000 to 30000
10	Penal Board Operators	20 to 25	Degree & Technical skills	10000 to 50000
11	Video Editors	70 to 100	Videography	20000 to 50000
12	Advertising & Marketing	20 to 25	MBA	20000 to 50000
13	Sub-editors	100 to 150	Degree & Journalism	10000 to 600000
14	Anchors	10 to 15	Degree & Communication skills	25000 to 100000

In the country there are above 690 television channels of which above 80 channels are news channels. These channels are running in all languages like English, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Kannada etc. representing the diversity and complexity of languages in the country. Hindi news channels are having biggest market and English and regional languages channels come after Hindi channels in market size. In 1991 central government introduced New Economic Policies (NEP) and implemented Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization (LPG). These policies provided huge market opportunities to electronic channels. These channels are able to meet the requirement of instant sharing of news, information and entertainment to the present generation. There are channels on various

subjects like news, entertainment, devotion (Bhakti), health, education, business, sports, history, music, film, science, fashion and tourism etc. Some channels are mixing with multiple subjects and some channels are focusing only one subject. Through these channels news, information and entertainment became more accessible at any time in 365 days. People are getting up to date news and information through electronic channels. Electronic media, particularly news channels provide various types of employment opportunities to the people with different communication skills, technical skills, semi-skills, educational qualifications, communications skills and other arts. People are working at different levels and getting salaries based on their experience, technical skills, communicational skills, performance and educational qualifications and even appearance is also one of the qualifications in these channels. Mostly young generation prefers placements in electronic media than old generation. Electronic media is able to provide employment or work or chances to number of people having various talents and skills comparing with print media.

Of all these channels, news channels are known to provide more livelihood opportunities compared to other entertainment channels because they need to gather news from every corner of the country. In electronic media, there are many kinds of employees, apart from famous positions like news reader, anchor, actors etc. They are reporters, camera persons, sub-editors, video editors, graphic designers, voice artists, anchors, panel board operators, OB van drivers, studio camera persons, make-up artists, security persons, managers, canteen staff, coordination staff and advertising wing employees in the news channels. Electronic media employees get more income compared to print media due to their wide reach and more income from advertisements and subscriptions. The qualifications, average number of employees and income ranges in a channel are given below table.

In 80 news channels, if we calculate average employees to be 650 to 1000 in a channel and almost it is above half of the lakh people are getting livelihoods in news channels. But these news channels are only 12% in total electronic channels. Mainly, these channels focus on large categories of educational, informational and entertainment. Entertainment channels are large in number in non-news channels category. These channels provide employment to number of artists like singers, dancers, actors, anchors, fashion designers, guides, teachers etc. Many types of talented persons are getting chances to showcase their talents. Entertainment channels are not only providing chances to talented people but also it provides income to those persons. Daily, day by day and weekly serials are providing income to many artists. It may not exaggerate to say that it became a mini movie industry. It also provides chances to all age people, from children to middle aged persons. Electronic media provides more employment opportunities to women in comparison to print media. Women apparently are the largest viewers of electronic media—as well.

There are many training institutions like music learning centers, dance institutions, DTP centers, multi-media learning centers; videography and journalism colleges are providing required skills to the people willing to join in the electronic media. Even print media people are migrating to electronic channels because of the higher wages paid to them. Along with income scale the pressures are also high on employees in electronic channels. Employee's retention rate is low as compared to print media. Because of availability of more channels employees often change from one channel to another channel.

FM radios also provide good opportunities to the people especially energetic youth with good language and communication skills. Particularly in our country, mobile phones are increasing in an unimaginable way. Almost one person is buying a mobile phone in every three in the country. Many people depend on mobile phones sales and services. Though, now FM radio coverage is limited to some areas, there is scope for its wide reach and spread to every nook and corner of the country. Many people are working in FM radio stations across the country. This has opened doors for young people to earn income by working in FM radios for part time such as RJ, Jingles, dubbing for advertisements. Apart from providing direct employment to the people, print and electronic media enhances or provides livelihoods opportunities to the people by providing information, publishing relative articles, guidelines and model question papers for competitive exam aspirants, skills required to increase income from the existing livelihoods of the people. Because of electronic channels, illiterate people from rural, tribal or slum areas also are able to easily learn new things. Generally, for any person it is easy to learn by seeing the things, best practices and students also learning through electronic channels instead of listing or reading. The competition between the channels is facilitating new initiatives and more innovations in information and entertainment. Actually media does not get sufficient income by its products selling. This income is below half of the production cost. The major income comes to media through its advertisements. There is huge demand for committed, talented and skilled people in all forms of media. Not only English, it has become difficult to find people with good knowledge of regional languages. Declining of literature reading and increasing of English as a medium may be the causes to scarcity of the qualified persons in the media.

***Livelihoods January-2014**

13. Livelihoods in Arts

Art industry is the largest segment and provides livelihoods to nearly 3% of the population in the country. This industry comprises of three broad categories i.e., film industry, television and traditional folkart. Different types of skilled people and unskilled people are surviving on various types of livelihoods as full time and as well as part time employment in this industry.



The art industry is one the largest segment providing livelihoods to nearly 3% of the population in the country. This industry comprises of three broad categories i.e., film industry, television industry and traditional folk art industry. Different types of skilled and unskilled people are surviving on various types of livelihoods on full as well as part time employment in these industries. Most of the people are unable to access employment guarantee, minimum wage, health and life insurance, pension and other entitlements. Particularly, the situation of traditional art practitioners is more vulnerable as their livelihoods have been declining for the last four decades due to the changes happening in the economic arena, technology and priorities of people. In this context, “livelihoods” attempts to understand the situation of people’s livelihoods in the art industry.

Our country has always been known as the land, which portrayed cultural and traditional vibrancy through its conventional art forms. The states and Union Territories (UT) sprawled across the country have their own distinct cultural and traditional identities, which are displayed through various forms of art prevalent there. Living traditions occupy a very prominent place in our social system, as we know that any living tradition have a natural flow and the fact that traditional art forms reflect the ideals of the society.

The traditional folk art is all about nature, the vagaries and changes of seasons, the hopes, beliefs, aspirations of the simple rural folks; it is a reminder of the past and a facilitating link to the present. The traditional art forms are characterized by their raw vigour, splash of colours and spontaneous movements. There are many other art forms, relatively quiet, less vibrant and still-clinging on to religious roots, but there are few practitioners of these arts who carry every beat of the age in which they sprung, preserving every imprint of that socio-cultural society in which they are created. We are well-versed that drama, fine arts and cinema and continue to be a powerful means of communication and also mirrors the society. They have been a strong cultural agent of change, subject matter and source of history. Prior to Indian cinema, traditional performing arts in India were full of dance and music. The tradition of Jatra, a form of itinerant theatre which borrowed tales from the epics, mythology and folk stories often with an objective to present a reformist – social or religious message (popular in Bengal during the 18th and 19th centuries). The other variants of popular theatre were spread all over India, such as Nautanki in Uttar Pradesh, Tamasha in Maharashtra, lila in Orissa, Swant in Punjab, Yakshagana in Karnataka, Kathakali in Kerala etc., in which itinerant troupes moved from place to place to present their shows. These kinds of performing arts used to provide onstage and off stage artists with livelihoods in India. Performing arts is an important source of livelihood for many, who are involved with a popular objective to bring about social and religious reforms in far-flung rural areas. The traditional folk art forms are mainly classified into Folk-songs (simple songs, ballads, and oral epic songs), Burrakathas and other folk art forms. The main purpose of these traditional art forms is to entertain people.

The traditional art forms of particular communities had their own significance and importance. As all the traditional theatre-forms, songs and art of singing used to have an important role to play and the traditional music of theatre was an expression of the feelings of the community. The determination to survive pushed various traditional arts to

accommodate the idea of contemporary relevance, blending themselves with dance, drama and music in structure with astonishing diversity of themes, with social consciousness of the performers. The bardic recitals (Burrakathalu) regained immense popularity after 1940s as they transformed them-self with the times. This traditional art evolved called "Yakshaganam" which dates back to the 15th century when Saivism was at its zenith. The various traditional art forms provide seasonal livelihoods to artists of some of the caste groups and for others throughout the year. Seasonal- livelihoods were linked to agriculture, clan, linkage, caste system embedded in social fabric. The traditional art forms were interwoven with rituals and ceremonies. Their association began with life and ended with death, completing the cycle of life and death. During the cycle, the art forms expressed the feelings of the community and secured livelihoods (barter-exchange) for many traditional artists. With gradual transformation in the micro-cultures, that retained our cultural identity and with the passage of time, the lives of the traditional artists, who subsisted on barter-exchange for livelihoods, had become vulnerable because of subjugation by a synthetic macro-

S.No.	Film Frames	Organized/ Unorganized Labour (On/Off Screen Contributors)
1.	Production	Producer, Executive Producer
2.	Production Office	Line producer, Production Assistant.
3.	Production Management	Production Manager, Assistant Production Manager, Unit Manager, Production Co-ordinator
4.	Assistant Direction	First Assistant Director, Second Assistant Director., Other Assistant Director.
5.	Accounting	Production Accountant, Assistant Accounts, Clerks,
6.	Locations	Location Manager. Assistant Location Manager, Location Accountant, Location Assistant, Location Production Assistant.
7.	Additional Production Credits	Unit Publicist, Legal Counsel, System Administration.
8.	Casting	Casting Director.
9.	Camera & Lighting	Director of Photography
10.	Continuity	Script Supervision
11.	Art Department	Production Designer
12.	Art	Art Director, Standby Art Director, Assistant Art Director, Set Designer, Illustrator.
13.	Sets	Set Decorator, Buyer, Lead Man, Set Dresser, Greensman.
14.	Construction	Construction co-ordinator, Head Carp, Key Scenic
15.	Property	Master, Material, Weapons Master
16.	Camera	Camera Operator, First Assistant Camera Second Assistant Camera
17.	Film Loader	Camera Production Assistant, Digital Imaging Technician, Steadi-cam operator
18.	Lighting	Gaffer, Best Boy, Lighting Technician.
19.	Electrical	
20.	Electricians	
21.	Costume Department	Costume Designer, Supervisor, Key customer Costume standby, Breakdown artist, Cost buyer Cutter
22.	Hair and Make – Up	Key makeup artist, Special make up effects artist, Make-up supervisor, Make-up artist, Key hair, Hair stylist.
23.	Special Effects	Supervisor, Assistant.
24.	Stunts	Stunts co-ordinator
25.	Production Sound	Sound mixer, Boom operator, Utility sound.
26.	Post- Production	Supervisor
27.	Editorial	Film Editor, Negative Cutter, Colorist, Telecine colorist.
28.	Visual Effects	Producer, Creative director, Visual effects supervisor, Editor, Compositor, Rotoscope artists Paint artists, Matte painter.

culture. The determination of the traditional arts forms to survive was taken over by Indian cinema when it emerged. India has the largest film industry in the world, the film industry makes an average of 1000 feature films and 1500 short films per year. According to Central Board of Film Certification, there are 35 different languages/dialects. In these, almost 90% of the films are releasing in nine languages (Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, Bhojpuri and Gujarati). According to statistics, Indian film and television industries' gross output reached Rs. 1,14,748 crore and they are providing employment to 18.82 lakh workers in the country. Presently, 75% of the films are digitalized. It facilitates wider distribution. The digitalization has increased the cost of production of films by about three to four times.

The Indian cinema appropriated the traditional art's heritage of song and dance and it became an intrinsic characteristic of Indian films. It was in 1920s that a number of talented people entered the field of cinema and it was during this time that all genres of films were attempted i.e., historical, social, comedy and action. Thus, an emergence of studio system came into effect. These studios employed individuals on a monthly salary, on more or less permanent basis and they covered all facets of filmmaking from acting, technical know-how to exhibition. Gradually, all the performing theatre artists were absorbed into the field of cinema, more so as unorganized labour, having uncertain employment and with no livelihood security is not much attractive. By year 1921, twenty one such studios existed in India. A few of these studios were big empires and in due course of time, they grew in size and influence. It was during

this time, cinema was also brought under the purview of Indian Cinematograph Act (ICA), enacted in year 1918, which provided for censorship of Indian and imported films and licensing of cinema halls and “The Board of Film Censors” were established in four port cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon to examine the films for certification. Another key aspect of 1920s and early 1930s cinema was that the lead roles were played by women. As the empire of cinemas expanded, by growing in size and the influence on common person, there was creation of more livelihoods. The cinema came under the ambit of 24 frames. There was also an import of sound technology and trained technicians as it became essential for both production and exhibition of films in the decade of 1930s. As many camera and sound technicians of this period were trained by working as assistants for the topical films and newsreels that American and European studios were shooting in India. Thus, employing both professionals and unprofessional (daily wage labour).

The journey of the Indian talkie began on 14th March 1931, when a full length talkie “AlamAra” was released. The talkies in India were loaded with songs, dances and music. Large number of unorganized labour with no security started working in the talkie, moving away from the secured livelihood of performing arts to the insecurities in the field of cinema, paving way for setting up of organized cinema empire. Various artisanal skills and conventions were employed or hired in the service of cinema; like in early 1940s the emergence of a new vocation was started, of hand-colouring film prints, though it was short-lived. The first Indian colour film was “KisanKanya” produced in 1937. The scarcity of raw stock and lack of colour processing labs in the country had halted its progress during the war years. In few instances, the film producers got song sequences hand painted on the black and white print by Bohra artisans, providing them with livelihood opportunities. As cinema became a source of supplementary income for many artists, whose calling was in pre-cinema art forms that were less remunerative. Many writers, musicians, film technicians and artists were under employment contracts of studios, for multiple films. When the fortunes of the studios fluctuated, so did the patterns of payment to their work force, thus there were rampant cases of desertion and as well poaching of trained technicians and directors. As the influence of cinema grew, in the year 1936 the Progressive Writers Association (PWA) was formed in Lucknow, under the President ship of Munshi Prem Chand and the Indian Peoples Theatre Association (IPTA) was formed in 1943, both of which influenced cinema. The PWA brought the young and aspiring writers and poets under its umbrella and became the first major cultural initiative to introduce political awareness and social realism through theatre in the society. The association’s aim was to create a theatre not only for the people, but also of and by the people, through its efforts theatres came out of the closed halls to open skies.

Hence, many like-minded individuals took to open theatre, as India was caught in the freedom struggle. The emergence of open skies indirectly and directly created livelihoods for many who were engaged in freedom struggle. Gradually, competition too grew. It was during the beginning of 20th century, that cinema emerged as an influential medium of information, news, entertainment, education and historical memory. The significance and social importance of culture and identity in the modern world had opened new vistas for the study of cinema. The genre of stunt or action films was another significant trend in cinema, and they attracted a large number of illiterate audiences, the roots of the formula films of today can be traced back to the second World War (WW-II). With the flow of the war time money, a class of capitalists came into being. The independent producers (outside the studio system) entered the film market by investing huge unaccounted war profits and with the sole intention of utilizing their black money and earning huge profits from it. This new genre of businessmen started hiring actors at competitive prices for one film at a time and thus the emergence of star system came into force. The dubious source of funding brought in a culture of adrenalin-driven speculation at the business end and gave birth to the idea of “rags to riches” at the talent, skill and labour end. On the other front, the nationalist fervor helped to counter the social stigma attached to filmmaking and a larger number of people from the elite and intellectual classes entered the field of cinema in various capacities. The new class of businessmen, whose ulterior motive was to utilize their black money and earn huge profits from it, wanted to become film-makers despite no knowledge whatsoever as to how to make films, started the trend of “formula films”. The action films required a different trade of “double take” thus, providing employment opportunities for extra artistes, who were willing to risk their lives for stunt based movies. The extra artistes were termed as unprofessional, worked on daily wage basis, with no security of life or regular employment and faced intense competition among their cadre.

Even today junior artistes/extra artistes, who came to work in films with dreams of being “stars”, act as extras in movies and contribute as part of the background crowd in a musical number or among the faceless masses in a street scene,. They work on daily wage basis and are willing to put up with the hardships i.e., of sleeping on pavements, hunger, illness, rather than return defeated to their hometowns. Eventually, many of them pay hefty membership fees to join the Junior Artist Association, but with changing scenarios, Indian movies are becoming glossier and younger, the producers feel that extras should also be glossy and new. This emerging trend has forced many older junior artists to find alternative jobs at a pittance as they find it difficult to be in the new cinematic order. In

Independent India, the nationalist stance of film stalwarts received a jolt, when the state refused to acknowledge cinema as a worthwhile industry with cultural and financial implications. The Indian state made no investment in infrastructure, import facilities or financial aid for cinema, neither did it frame any labour policy addressing issues concerning workers in the film industry. Instead, they enacted stringent censorship laws, by ousting broadcast of Hindi songs on AIR in favour of classical music, by imposing a freeze on construction of movie theatres and hike in entertainment taxes.

The Independent Indian Government founded the Films Division (FD), Bombay and its mandate was to produce newsreels and documentaries conforming to the state's agenda of nation building. FD took the trained labour from British war cinema initiatives and many prominent filmmakers and technicians moved to FD, who were allotted Rs. 27/- per foot for producing in-house films. This studio system, collapsed slowly and the unorganized labour lost their livelihoods, until there was a need to develop internal mechanisms to protect the larger group of businessmen's economic interests. It was in the year 1955, that the Bombay state government launched an "Enquiry into the Conditions of Labour in the Cinema Industry in Bombay State." The findings of the enquiry report showed that the employment conditions of the technical staff working in studios were better than that of freelance workers, as 62.3 percent of the freelance workers were underemployed. This enquiry specifically examined the status of junior artists especially women, who were more of a floating population and were categorized into classes of A, B, C and D. The daily wages were from Rs. 5/- to Rs.40/- respectively and the average monthly earnings of these artistes ranged from Rs. 17/- (ordinary girls) to Rs. 194/-, with the suppliers siphoning off a portion of the artistes' salary. As the field of cinema expanded, by the early 1960s, revenues from film exhibition, especially in urban areas increased substantially. The purchasing power of people in the industrial sector and the public sector rose. This was coupled with the vibrant trade union movement in Bombay city during the period, as unorganized workers, who were employed by the exhibitors and theatre owners i.e., projectionists, ushers, canteen workers began to mobilize themselves as units of larger unions of workers. However, the production and post-production workers i.e., editing, sound recording, negative cutting, processing remained largely semi-organized as their sector-wise collectives were autonomous of any political affiliation and functioned merely as bodies of arbitration in cases of disputes. This group affiliated itself with the feudal structure of filmdom and was part of the grievance committee. This era also witnessed the influence of exhibitors for bookings and their influence was expanded to matters of filmmaking. They began making demands for stars and salable plots. Due to this, the highest payment went to the stars (31 to 50 percent) of the total budget of the production. Second in line were music directors. Due to the rising prices of stars, the producers were forced to cut corners at the production end, affecting the livelihoods of suppliers, technicians and workers. It was in 1966-69, that the first Indian National Commission on Labour defined "unorganized sector workforce" as "those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest, due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments."

Workers in the film industry fall under the above category, thus there were uncertainties in their livelihoods. But in the first place why were they so vulnerable. It was mainly due to the informal sort of employment that they were engaged in, the employment included; a) own-account workers working in their own informal enterprise; b) own-account workers producing goods exclusively for own final use by their household; c) contributing family workers, irrespective of whether they work in formal or informal sector enterprises; d) members of informal producer's co-operatives; e) employees holding informal jobs, whether employed by formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises or as domestic workers employed by households; f) wage work for informal enterprises; g) domestic work without a regular contract; h) casual day labour without a fixed employer; i) unregistered or undeclared work for formal or informal firms; j) temporary and part-time work for formal firms. The employees are considered in informal employment when their employment relationship, in law or practice, is not subject to the following: National Labour Legislation, Income taxation, social protection or entitlement to certain employment benefits e.g., paid annual leave, sick leave etc., no formal wage policy set by the government, wages set by state governments as per some cost of living calculation and central government directives on minimum wages. The Constitution of India (Article 41) laid down/ clearly states that the state shall make effective provision for securing the rights i.e., a) Article 41 Right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement; b) Article 42 provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief. The Indian government took several steps in compliance of the constitutional requirements. The Indian Ministry of labour from time to time had set up welfare funds for five specific categories of unorganized workers. These workers include building and other construction workers, beedi workers, cine workers and certain categories of non-coal mine workers. It was in the year 1981, the unorganized labour in the arts and drama field were brought under the purview of a few acts. The acts were "Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act", "Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act". In early 1970s, the film world became

synonymous with the subcontinent and many migrants came to the city of dreams for trying their fortunes in the film industry, which was attractive to many, mostly unskilled, migrant labours. The craft-based associations began to fear about their livelihoods as there would be reduction in their competitive wages due to influx of newly arrived aspirants. The growing competition from outsiders challenged the existing unorganized labourers' livelihoods. In the Indian context, the trade archives were not systematically organized and preserved. The cinema field changed over the time in the areas of cinema owners, managers, workers, booking agents, distributors, and publicity people. As the empire grew, it entailed thick descriptions of everyday practices of work, organization, cultural engagement and spatial networks. The field of cinema involved a great number of different people working and contributing to 24 frames. They broadly ranged from daily wage labourers to technical professionals to post production people handling publicity costs, promotional costs, distributors and exhibitors.

A film crew consisted of a group of people, who are hired by a production company for the purpose of producing a film, with the crew being different from the cast, as the cast is understood to be the actors, who appear in front of the camera or provide voices for characters in the film. The crew is also separate from the producers, as the producers are the ones who own a portion of either the film company or the film's intellectual property rights. A film crew is divided into different departments each of which specializes in a specific aspect of the production. The film crew's positions have evolved over the years, spurred by the technological change, but many traditional jobs date from the early 20th century and are common across jurisdictions and film-making cultures. The various compartments of film-making involve both organized and unorganized labour. A study of the 100 top-grossing films of each year between 1994 and 2013 found that there were averages of 588 crew credits per film, however profitable independent films have been made with crews of less than a dozen. The directors, being separate entities and not within the film crews' departmental structure, hold the responsibility of overseeing the creative aspects of a film and hold a great deal of power as they are ultimately subordinated to the film producer. Budgeting and promotional costs are the key pillars of the Cinema Empire and the gross benefits are shared only among the top cream of the empire, leaving the rest to lead a hand to mouth existence. In the decades of the 1980s, the field of cinema suffered due to the mushrooming of the video parlours that showed pirated VHS copies at much cheaper rates. Additionally, film-based television programmes and serials too reduced the footfalls in cinema halls, affecting livelihoods of many. Many of the unorganized workers changed their nomenclature from being only "cine" to "cine and TV". The changing tastes of audiences and the demand of the markets are compelling many to keep introducing newer attractions. For instance, the preference for white-skinned female dancers, eventually led to decline of Indian dancers who thus lost their livelihoods. The thin line between the mercurial market of entertainment and the under-defined mandate of unions & workers rights in the manufacturing and exhibition sectors of cinema field remain either rhetorical or an occasional privilege itself. The Era of Corporatization started in the Indian Film Industry in 2001, when the Government of India (GoI) granted "Industry" status to the Indian Film Industry. It had earlier established the National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC) in 1975 to produce and coproduce films. The institutional funding for the films increased only after it was granted the industry status in 2001 and RBI formulated guidelines for the banks for funding the film. This led to the adoption of market-driven practices, professionalism, efficiency in film making, paving way for entry of corporate entities in all sections of film industry. Corporatization led to the increase in film screens, ticket prices being driven by market economics, leading to higher revenue and profitability for films, encouraging higher participation from corporates in the film industry. This era broke the monopoly of big producers and stars in the industry, giving way for new and talented film-makers.

Corporate participation in the Indian film industry has increased the revenues of corporates involved in film production which has increased at a rate of about 16 percent per annum (US \$ 679 million 2008 to US \$ 1.05 billion in 2011). As cinema, which continues to influence the masses and generate awareness among the masses, has in its fold the highest unpaid labour and supports their livelihood without any security. The workers, technicians and extra-artists are termed as unorganized labour, the feed group comprising of senior technicians, actors, actresses, directors, dialogue writers, song writers and singers are classified as professionals. The number of films produced annually have increased dramatically with budgets in film making also having gone up, which has led to a highly volatile market, intense competition, poor quality versus high costs and involves a high risk (huge losses). The cinema field involving huge losses continues to support and provide livelihoods to the largest base of cinema field's unorganized daily wage labour. Today, the unorganized daily wage labourers' livelihoods are being threatened by dubbing films; with there being no takers of traditional arts and theatre. The traditional art forms have been progressively displaced by increasing penetration of media and radio. Their determination to survive, its ethos, emotions have led their gradual displacement. A very few numbers of families have taken to other livelihood options, which are still relatively quiet, less vibrant and are clinging on to religious roots, for instance: Jangam community from Karnataka. A few other traditional art practitioners of these arts are carrying every beat of the age in which they have

sprung, preserving every imprint of that socio-cultural society in which they were created. Some traditional art forms are dying a natural death, for instance: the reading of the Blaveli (hereditary profession) is one such folk art perennially relevant and needs to be cherished and preserved. But due to rapid changes in the society, breakdown of the joint families, resulting in loss of promotion and patronage has put this very crude and ancient folk art form into the endangered list of rural art forms, with many having lost their traditional livelihoods. The current generation, with no patience to sit for longer hours and appreciate rare art forms, has contributed mightily to the decline and death of many traditional art forms. The traditional art forms used to provide an important source of livelihood, entertainment & moral-value for many people at the time of traditional festivals, when mythological plays, songs and dances used to be performed. But now the situation has changed, with people preferring revelries during traditional festivals, with many resorting to betting and gambling for entertainment and the organizers of these festivals started inviting orchestra groups or theatre groups to perform non-religious, filmy or general plays with no message whatsoever.

Globalization has emerged as a tempestuous, endangering the diverse cultures of our areas, displacing local people, under the pressure of market force, as globally endorsed monoculture is silently creeping into the minds of the common people, thus effacing the interface between locally defined culture, which had constituted our identities and supported the livelihoods throughout the year. In recent years, various trusts have emerged, one such being Dorabji Trust which is laying special focus on promoting the art scholarships and building archival facilities, protecting and conserving India's cultural heritage and dying art forms. Various conservation related initiatives, reviving the traditional system of the "guru-shishyaparampara" and traditional art forms have been encouraged over the past few years. In the era of fast disappearing cultures, restoring and preserving various traditional art forms through dissemination of information about processes and technologies is essential to preserve the architectural and cultural landscape. These measures aim for comprehensive models that would enable the socio-economic-cultural development of the marginalized and disadvantaged.

*** livelihoods May-2015**

14. Managing Risk

Risk is intrinsic to every livelihood practiced. The degree of risk may vary, but it's always there. The element of risk is for; the most part grossly understated in development/ livelihood studies/initiatives thus far. Efforts, if any taken in sphere of risk, are more focused on post-risk reactive methods. However, times have changed and so should the approach to risk in development. Increase in natural disasters and erratic rainfall, globalization, volatile and rapidly changing markets are influencing the realm of livelihoods of the poor on a wider scale. While, some risks have morphed many new risks have emerged.



Risk is intrinsic to every livelihood practiced. The degree of risk, may vary but it's always there. While, some risks are tangible others remain in intangible forms. The element of risk is for the most part, grossly understated in development/ livelihood studies/initiatives thus far. Efforts if any in the sphere of risk, are more focused on post-risk reactive methods. However, times have changed and so should the approach to risk in development. Increase in natural disasters and erratic rainfall - thanks to global warming; globalization, volatile and rapidly changing markets are influencing the realm of livelihoods of the poor on a wider scale. While some risks, have morphed many new risks have emerged. These trends force us to understand risk as a structured process starting from risk identification and analysis to risk coping, with several stages in between. Any

attempt to understand and analyze livelihoods of the poor, without risk element in the framework is futile. Livelihoods include all activities and decisions, which the family takes that result in the family acquiring the four characteristics: Income, Expenditure, Employment and Risk - and enabling the family to live on. Livelihoods improvement would mean changes in these characteristics in appropriate directions i.e. increase in income, decrease in expenditure, increase in employment and decrease in risk. The livelihoods are sustainable, when the family is able to continue with at least , existing level in these characteristics, even when things outside its control have changed adversely, i.e., the family is able to learn and adapt to new situation, acquire required capacity to practice new learning to continue at least at the existing level.

Many development/ livelihood interventions majorly focus on income and employment aspects of the livelihoods. There are certain interventions that are focused on reducing the expenditure, of the households related to production and consumption. However, there are very few interventions that address the risk aspect of livelihoods. Unless the risk is addressed, there are greater chances that the households again fall back into poverty. Vulnerability is closely related to the concept of risk. A person with high risk exposure is expected to have greater income variance; hence he or she will be more vulnerable to poverty. But there is also a reverse effect –poverty brings more exposure to risk. Most of the poor people live in unhealthy and unsafe environments, which expose them to a greater risk of health and security. Risk, as defined by the UNISDR (2003), is “the probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human induced hazards and vulnerable conditions. Beyond expressing a possibility of physical harm, it is essential to appreciate that risks are always created or exist within social systems”. It is important to consider the social context in which risks occur and that people therefore do not necessarily share the same perceptions of risks and their underlying causes. Jaeger et al. (2001) have therefore defined risk as “a situation or event in which something of human values (including the humans themselves) has been put at stake and where the outcome is uncertain.” The risks can be grouped in several ways. One is grouping of the risks based on the place of their occurrence. Certain risks, such as vehicle accidents occur in public places where as risks due to fire accidents etc., happen inside the house (private spaces). Risks can also be categorized into idiosyncratic and covariant risks, the former refers to the risks that are specific to an individual person/ family whereas, the later

Though risks exist in each and every livelihood, the nature of risk varies depending on the livelihood itself. While some have life at risk, some have bread at risk and some have income at risk. Some livelihoods can cause temporary to permanent disability.

refers to the risks that are common to all people living in a particular area or practicing a particular livelihood.

Some risks can be anticipated and certain measures can be taken up to mitigate their impact or effect, while other risks could be beyond the comprehension of common people and therefore unexpected. Certain risks such as risk of death, risk of ill-health/ accident, risk of theft are common to all sections of the people irrespective of the livelihood they practice. But it is critical to appreciate that even among the common risks, the degree of risk varies from livelihood to livelihood and more often the livelihoods of the poor are associated with higher degree of risk. However, certain risks are specific to the individual/ household that practices a particular livelihood. For example, dry land farmers who depend on rain for cultivation always face the risk of crop failure. If we look at a toddy tapper, honey collector or coal mine worker they have their life at risk. A daily wage labourer has a risk of not finding work on any particular day. A dairy farmer faces the risk of disease to the cattle, risk of increase in the price of the fodder etc. All these cases refer to the individual/ household risks and thus are called idiosyncratic risks. There are other risks that are called covariant risks which affect the entire community in a particular area or a large section of people. We all have seen the impact of tsunami that severely affected the livelihoods of the entire first line fishing community and also some non-fishing communities in the coastal regions. It is important for any development worker, to plan for certain interventions that can reduce the risk in the livelihoods of the poor or plan for certain mechanisms that help the poor to cope with the risks associated with their livelihoods. There are various dimensions that need to be analyzed to understand the risks in livelihoods of the poor. Both the idiosyncratic and covariant risks that are associated with the poor households need to be analyzed. Other dimensions of risk for analysis are: The preparedness of the community and household to face risk, to reduce the chances of the risk happening, to improve risk bearing capacity, the options of relief in the case of risk happening and the flexibility to re-evolve after the risk happened (rehabilitation) etc. This analysis can be the basis for planning, proper intervention to help the household towards four arrows i.e. in increasing their income, reducing expenditure, increasing the number of days of employment and decreasing the risk.

	Individuals and Households	Group-based
Mitigating risks Diversification Insurance	Crop and plot diversification Income source diversification Investment in physical and human capital Marriage and extended family Sharecropper tenancy Buffer stocks	Occupational associations Rotating savings and credit associations Investment in social capital (Networks, associations, rituals, reciprocal gift giving)
Coping with shocks	Sale of assets Loans from money lenders Child labour Reduced food consumption Seasonal or temporary migration	Transfers from networks or mutual support

There are certain sources of risks to households' livelihood security. Some the sources of risks identified are the high prevalence of diseases, declining quality of services of public health and education institutions, natural resource degradation, price shocks, food shortage, seasonal and climatic fluctuation in employment opportunities. Livelihoods/ Enterprise risks are varied in nature. These include the possibility of the skill becoming irrelevant, obsolete technology, staff turnover, enterprise itself becoming irrelevant, reduction in the demand for the produce/ service, shortage of raw material, increase in input prices etc. Though risk exists in each and every livelihood, the nature of risk varies depending on the livelihood itself. While some have life at risk, some have bread at risk and some have income at risk. Some livelihoods can cause temporary to permanent disability. For example continuous weaving on the loom for years together can harm the eye sight of weavers. So is the case with goldsmiths. Small vendors of perishable items such as fruits, vegetables etc. have their income at risk because of the perishable nature of their produce. Risk also varies depending on the ability of the individual or the household to cope up with the risk. For instance a rich farmer may afford a crop loss one year, but small farmers can easily fall into debt trap. Similarly, people with adequate savings can cope with risk of losing a job, relatively more easily than wage or casual labourer depending on their daily wages for living. Whether they are wealthy or poor, people cannot avoid risk. But people can manage risk. Risk management can be classified into risk mitigation (*ex-ante*) and risk coping (*ex-post*). The main difference between the rich and poor people in managing risk is that the latter have more limited access to formal mechanisms of risk management. Formal risk management mechanisms include those that are available in the market or publicly provided. Private insurance, bank credits and pension funds are example of market-based formal mechanisms. Examples of publicly provided mechanisms are public health care or social security systems. The lack of access to these formal mechanisms makes poor people rely mostly on informal mechanisms of risk management.

Poor individuals or households mitigate the effects of income shocks by diversifying their sources of income. In rural agricultural areas, farmers often diversify their crops and use multiple seed varieties. In some cases, they also diversify their occupations. For example, in addition to work in farms, rural agricultural people tend to work as part-time workers in the nearby towns.

If a shock occurs, the poor cope with falling income by adjusting their expenditure. Usually, adjusting expenditure means spending less for non-basic needs, eating less or making dietary changes, like consuming less meat and other side dishes. This also may mean abrupt end to education of children particularly of the girl child, distress migration for work leaving the women folks and old behind and other forms of social disruptions. In some cases we see people resorting to extreme steps like suicides. Another way of coping is working for longer hours. If there are not too many alternatives to work available in one's native village, they usually move to the other places seasonally or temporarily. Income shocks also create the need for the other family members who were previously not working to search for a job. This in turn creates the increase in the number of child labor or school drop-out rate during economic shocks. Even though income fluctuates, people would try to smooth consumption level over time. People smooth their consumption by saving some of the current income instead of consuming everything they earn today. During bad times, they eat up some or all of what they have saved. Or, they may borrow from someone else and repay it back later in the future. Wealthier people have access to the saving, credit and insurance do their consumption smoothing through financial market. They save some of their wealth into bank deposits or other financial assets. Then during periods of low income they use their savings or ask for credits. However, poor people generally lack access to formal financial system. As a result, they cannot save in modern financial assets or instruments. Instead, they try to save their wealth in terms of land, cattle or durable goods and other valuables assets like jewelries. They will sell their assets or consume their cattle when bad time comes.

The above illustrations are examples of how poor people manage risks individually. Though, poor people manage the risk individually to some extent, in most cases they rely on the others in the group or community in managing their risk. In the most common case, poor people borrow from their extended family members, distant relatives or neighbors when facing financial hardships. Apart from that, there are also social institutions that serve as community based risk management arrangements. The World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) 2000/2001 lists some examples of informal mechanisms of risk management which are common in developing societies which are presented in the table below. One example of informal risk managing arrangement is agricultural contracting like sharecropping or land tenancy. In many agricultural societies, sharecropping or land tenancy is a means of sharing risk between landlords and tenants. Contracting is also popular among agricultural communities, because it is often interlinked with credit provision – landlords are also suppliers of credit to share tenants. It is a mutual arrangement, because when tenants receive credits, they can be wealthier and more productive. This means higher income for the landlords as well. Another form of interlinking in agricultural contracts is marketing by landlords. Landlords are the exclusive buyers of tenants' output on a given price. Usually, but not always, the price is set lower than the market price. The landlords would then sell the output in the market. This scheme benefits both – tenants have the certainty and landlords get the profit margin.

There are certain interventions that are implemented by both the government and non-government agencies that are aimed at reducing the risks involved in the life and livelihoods of the poor. Crop insurance, cattle insurance, providing safety kits for the people, who are in hazardous occupations, providing trainings on the precautionary measures that need to be taken during the work, disaster preparedness etc., are some of the examples of such interventions. However, many of these interventions are implemented only on a limited scale and hence most of the poor still depend on informal mechanisms for managing their risks. Though these informal mechanisms serve as important tools for managing risks for the poor they have many limitations. They may protect the poor from small income shocks, but not from big or persistence shocks. Since poor people by definition own only a few number of assets, their ability to maintain the level of consumption is close to nothing if the income shock is substantially large. Furthermore, if a shock persists for more than one period, assets they have might not last beyond the first period so the poor are left with no protection against income fluctuation in the latter periods. Another limitation of informal mechanisms is that they often imply a trade-off between risk mitigation and efficient production. Mitigating risk through crop diversification typically lowers the expected profits. Farmers grow some crops which are less risky but yield lower profits. Expected profits are also lower because poor farmers tend to be reluctant in adopting new technologies and taking advantage of new economic opportunities.

Community-based informal mechanisms are also limited. They are ineffective to protect against covariate shocks such as big natural disaster or economic crisis that affect everybody in the community. Moreover, since informal mechanisms are based on local rules which are sometimes unwritten, enforcement sometimes becomes the problem. All these limitations give the room for interventions. There is a wide range of possible policy interventions. Policies can improve risk management indirectly. Prudent monetary and fiscal policy helps controlling inflation, which reduces the risk of falling real income. Education policy improves human capital, which then brings poor people to a wider range of job options. Public health quality improvement helps reducing the risk of illness. But policies should also directly improve the ability of the poor to manage risk. Three main areas of policy intervention for helping poor people managing risk are providing mechanisms for saving, access to credit and insurance. The role of saving is serving as the means for accumulation of asset and precautionary purpose. Asset accumulation is important for an individual or

household to provide income security during the old age or to finance children's education etc. Precautionary motive is driven by the needs to smooth consumption when a shock occurs. The importance of credit is quite obvious. Production credit relaxes the liquidity constraint that prevents the poor to be productive. Consumption credit serves as an external source of consumption smoothing when there is an income shock. Meanwhile, the presence of insurance maintains a degree of income certainty over a period of time. When access to insurance exists, agents do not need to sacrifice more productive and profitable economic activities for the more certain income.

Since access to the markets of saving, credit and insurance are generally not available to the poor they rely on informal mechanisms of risk management, which are built on the community's social capital. Two important components of social capital are network and trust. The above examples of community credit association, contracting and marriage reflect the importance of social networks and trust for the poor people in providing protection against risk. Networks provide the basis of building the institutions, and trust is what makes the institutions sustained. A good and effective intervention should be built on the existing social capital. Further, the other major intervention that is required is providing information to the communities regarding the risks and mechanisms to address them. This information plays a key role in preparing the individuals/communities to address the risks involved in their livelihoods. Globalization, increasing pace of life, climate change etc., are posing new risks to the traditional livelihoods as well as emerging livelihoods. Thus, managing risks as a science and as a concept is gaining momentum and it needs greater attention from all the stakeholders of development. Providing information related to risks and the ways to address those risks plays a key role in the efforts of poverty reduction and livelihoods enhancement.

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15. Risk Continuum...

Risks of health, life and livelihoods have been on the rise, as the society is progressing. Every individual lives in risks of snake hood, but the poor people are more nearer to various types of risks i.e., health, life and livelihoods. They are easily caught-up by the risks and loose employment days, assets and get into the vicious cycle of debt trap. Their lives become more vulnerable and are drown in poverty. Most of the risk victims are poor, and they do not have adequate coping mechanisms, especially insurances and other support systems. They have to build risk coping mechanisms, with the support of governments and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) at individual and collective level.



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from, lack of access to public facilities and programs or from the denial of civil and economic liberties. There are many factors, which combine to explain the dynamics of wealth and the poverty associated with it. Therefore, understanding risk is one of the important factors. As risk is one of these factors. High risk environment, is an important characteristic of the developing countries. Thus, introduction in the analytical mix is a necessary, if the objective is to fully understand the dynamics, by which households move in and out of poverty or remain chronically poor; thus risk continuum.

From the above context, it is crucial to understand how risk and vulnerability work, as a natural complement to traditional poverty analysis that can add value to policy dialogue and to look at the role of risk in understanding dynamics of poverty vis-à-vis the different strategies households use and adopt to address the exposure to various sources of risk. In many cases, if households have the option to insure against the negative consequences of shocks, certainly risks will have a limited impact on welfare. Therefore, it is the exposure to uninsured risk that causes undesirable welfare outcomes i.e., income poverty, malnutrition, low education levels or low life expectancy. These linkages between poverty and risk define, the concept of vulnerability. Vulnerability is defined as “exposure to risk and stress, and the lack of ability to cope with the consequences of risk.” (Chambers 1988; Webb and Harinarayan, 1999). There is an increasing recognition that chronic poverty results from cumulative impact of discrimination, risk, vulnerability and exclusion across an individual’s life-cycle and between generations. Therefore, the multiple factors contributing to vulnerability across the life cycle are just not only related to chronological age and life stages. It becomes paramount to consider, as to how social and cultural factors, such as ethnicity, gender, disability and religion interact with chronological age and life-stages. Thereby, bringing in significant changes in

individual and household life-cycles influencing vulnerability. There are also changing risks and vulnerabilities across life-cycle, age, stage etc. These vulnerabilities begin early in age, from birth onwards till death.

In situations of complex emergencies, there are basic causes of vulnerability and risks such as emergencies characterized by the breakdown or failure of state structures; inter-communal violence, disputed legitimacy of authority, the potential for assistance to be misused or used to prolong the conflict, abuse of human rights and deliberate targeting of civilian populations by military forces. Thereby, leading to destruction of livelihoods, assets and institutions of civilian populations and creation of Chronically Vulnerable Areas (CVA), which continuously experience shocks and emergencies of either natural or man-made origin or a combination of the two i.e., droughts, floods and epidemics, coupled or accelerated with conflicts or complex political emergencies. Therefore, the above mentioned scenario of vulnerability and risk arises from both natural and political root causes. Risk in livelihoods is very high in the unorganized sector. The unorganized sector itself is a very broad area and is one of the most vulnerable sections, which needs social security. The people working in the unorganized sectors have very high risks involved in their daily livelihoods as their socio-economic conditions are miserable and ridiculous in terms of lack of social security, welfare provisions and government plans to take them into account. This group is bound to work from early morning up-to late night, during odd hours, and during extreme and rough weather conditions, mostly without any protection or safety. This group which is highly marginalized due to illiteracy and lack of formal representation faces lots of difficulties in daily life while eking out a livelihood. The livelihoods of the informal or unorganized labourers are deplorable and even the livelihood options are extremely few or less. This sector differs widely in terms of their income, status of employment, types of work, size, place of work, social protection and employment protection.

As per the 2007-08 and 2012-13 economic surveys, 93% of India's workforce comprises of self-employed people and those employed in unorganized sector, generating 50.6% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Overall, 86% of the Indian population works in the unorganized sector. This group, which contributes nearly half of the GDP, consists of a variety of workers such as unorganized industry workers; small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, share croppers, fishermen, livestock rearers; beedi workers, labeling workers, packaging workers, tannery workers, construction workers, weavers, artisans, salt workers, brick kiln workers, stone quarry workers, oil and saw mill workers and so on. The most distressed workers in this sector are toddy tappers, scavengers, carriers of head-loads, drivers of animal driven vehicles, domestic workers, and vegetable and fruit vendors. The large sizable group in the unorganized sector, with risk continuum, while eking out a daily livelihood, has serious health issues and potential loss of livelihoods. The working conditions of this group are very poor and the situation has not changed much over a period of time, as most of the times they are unable to save money for their future and end up meeting bare minimum requirements with great difficulty on a day to day basis. This hand to mouth existence raises their risk in earning their daily livelihood. The livelihood compulsions mainly arise out of poverty, lack of skills and absence of a better choice. Thus, risk continuum, throughout the life-cycle of human being. Risk, vulnerabilities continuum, affects the life cycle of human beings, as transition between one activity and another keeps taking place. In a full life cycle, the risk and vulnerabilities range widely; these are poor maternal health and lack of early nutrition, leading to stunted growth and other life-long negative health impacts, followed by poor cognitive development, if early care and stimulation is inadequate, the consequences will be borne life-long; creating acute risk and vulnerability to disease and infection, coupled with poor access to health services.

The exposure to hazardous environments, relating to poor housing or parents' working conditions, increases the risk from loss of parent, career, or disability through lack of early intervention. In the case of girls, the vulnerabilities involve neglect and discrimination of girls, who have a risk of not attending school, due to domestic or income-earning responsibilities or lack of household income to pay for school related costs, inability to benefit from schooling, due to added burden of domestic or income-earning responsibilities and the risk continues, thereby the vulnerabilities too. If the girls are not prioritized for -1.investment in education, 2. domestic responsibilities, 3. vulnerability to sexual exploitation, when attending schools can increase their risk and vulnerability. Insufficient food or poor diet increases the likelihood of illness, the dependency of risk from loss of parent/career for adolescents. In case of children, the vulnerability to early withdrawal from school, due to lack of parents, family income result in heavy impact of triple burden of work, unpaid care and schooling. The risks from early marriage and child bearing, lack of access to training, formal employment leading to entry into high risk employment categories, increased risk of HIV and AIDS infection, as individuals become sexually active and also the increasing vulnerability of girls, due to gender-based violence. In case of young adults, it is about lack of access to credit, lack of asset building opportunities, lack of employment and further training and development, loss of employment, reduced income earning potential for women because of pregnancy and child care, reduced household income, related to HIV and AIDS prevalence and other

illnesses.

During the middle phase of life, adults' loss of employment or employment insecurity because of caring for younger and older family members (particularly women), loss of partner's support because of temporary or cyclical migration as well as death, illness, abandonment leading to increased responsibility of dependents and disability due to hazardous employment or other practices. In case of older people, the loss of income, when work is lost due to age discrimination, fragility, illness etc..Work in informal sector throughout life means that there is no contributory pension provision, poor health in later life due to poor nutrition, multiple childbirth, poor working environment and lack of health care in earlier years, continuous work to support self and dependents in low-income earning and often physically disabling jobs. Discrimination against widows/lack of inheritance rights for women, widows' lack of access to late husbands' family resources induces risks and vulnerabilities.Increased child care responsibilities, where middle age adults have been lost to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), leaving dependent children in care of grandparents. Increased likelihood for age-related disability and chronic illness contributes towards risk continuum. It is important to understand that the nature of risk and vulnerability is influenced by interlinked lifecycle, inter-generational and social exclusion factors, as there is a very crucial link in the evolution of life-cycles between generations and between breadwinners and dependents. The burden of care, which is often characterized by intergenerational links, is a major factor in determining vulnerability. We are witnessing, that in the absence of significant investment by governments in social policy, the benefits of economic growth do not "trickle down" to bring about improved social and human development. The poor and socially excluded groups find it increasingly difficult to escape the chronic poverty trap which, in the context of climate change and soaring food prices, puts large number of people, who live just above the poverty line at risk of sliding into poverty. The kind of development and rapid pace of change that is happening is leading to growing uncertainties, accelerating the risk and vulnerability for those who are already trapped in poverty or those who are on the brink of it. As an instance we can see that there are changing trends in demographic composition, with different countries at different stages of demographic transition. For many of the poorest and most fragile countries, there are a growing number of younger people who are struggling to find work, but this trend will reverse and the older people in developing world will more than double from the present rates to over 20% of the total population and the proportion of children will drop by 10%. It becomes imperative to understand as to how and to what extent the poor are able to participate in economic growth or be recipients of family and government support, which is critical.

Risk, vulnerability continuum and the failure to break the cycle of chronic poverty will hold back economic growth and widen the gap between those who benefit and those who do not. As poor people are more into risk and will remain trapped in low-return activities and will be unable to increase their productivity and contribute towards economic growth by investing and or taking economic risks. It is important to understand life-cycle analysis to understand vulnerability, risk and exclusion which can help in highlighting the links between investments in human capital and social capital development.

Risk Reduction: Social protection systems have a crucial role to play in tackling the chronic poverty and exclusion, which hold back economic growth. Failure to break the cycle of chronic poverty will hold back economic growth and widen the gap between those that benefit and those who do not. Poor people remain trapped in low-return activities and continue to fail to increase their productivity and contribute to economic growth by investing or taking economic risks. So, how do we reduce risk and prevent it? It is important to understand that unlocking economic growth potential in poor and middle income countries depends on investments to be put in human and social capital for development.Thus, life-cycle analysis is crucial in understanding vulnerability, risk and exclusion, which can help in highlighting the links between investments in human capital development and productivity at key points of the life-cycle and contribute to pro-poor growth.Thereby, in order to reduce risk and to prevent it, life-cycle approach to vulnerability analysis is required as it will help in laying specific emphasis on intergenerational issues, which can lead to a greater recognition of the economy of care. Thus, call for focussing on the productive capacity and potential of human capital, less attention is paid to the re-productive activities necessary to support production, and this includes the provision of care to children and other dependents. Hence, mapping risks and coping with disasters is necessary.

How do we map risk and cope with disasters? The role of social protection plays a very important and critical role in tackling vulnerability across the life-cycle. If we have to contribute and significantly break the intergenerational transmission of poverty, a package of social protection instruments is needed to create impact at critical stages of the life-cycle. They can be in the form of secure incomes in various instrumental forms such as Child support grants; Disability grants; Non-contributory pensions (referred to as social pensions).For unemployed or working age support, there should be free access to healthcare services, to create a global social floor by reaching all, who are living in

poverty and exclusion, as the impact can be created by a way, in which the different mechanisms interact with and support one another in reducing vulnerability across the life-cycle, in such a way that the benefits are cumulative. The social instruments prevent already poor households from falling deeper into poverty as well as reduce the risk of those households on the brink of poverty from sliding back into poverty, when they are faced with shocks linked to life-cycle changes. Thus, to arrest the “cause and effect” vicious cycle, these instruments of schemes provide regular and predictable household income, enabling households to use and invest this income, at different key life-stages (eg., education of children) and to build the assets needed (physical, human and social) to reduce their vulnerability. As these social mechanisms contribute to a process of empowerment as individuals and households make their own decisions, when it comes to making the investments needed to break the cycle of poverty.

For instance, there is a large and growing body of evidence that child-oriented social transfer programmes increase nutritional, health and educational status of children with long-term developmental benefits. The other example is that of social pension programmes that contributes to overall household income and support education, improved food intake, health and income generation and reduces inter-generational poverty. Thus, these mechanisms/instruments work together to address vulnerability against specific risks across the life-cycle of the individual and household and across the generations. The case of social transfers improve nutritional status among both adults and children and encourage food production, while stabilizing local demand for food and encouraging higher-risk/higher-return market enterprise. Government social insurance schemes have a very significant and prominent role to play in prevention, mitigation and coping strategies for risk and vulnerabilities continuum. But the larger question is that, as to why the central and state governments’ spending on various developmental and social insurance mechanisms largely fail. Is the quantum of funds allocated less? Or the fulfillments of targets are not reached or do we need to do a social cost-benefit analysis for each of these social insurances? Though many of the social insurance schemes which have become operational, (covering housing, sanitation, pension, wage employment, water supply, etc.) the fundamental shortcomings in the system can be observed in failure of long-term planning for these mechanisms to be put in place, secondly modifications taking place every now and then, failure of the review systems on grants and subsidies allocated. For example, the subsidy made under the “Indira AwasYojana” (IAY) for rural housing was not reviewed since 1996 and thus the subsidy provided of Rs. 20,000/- to build a house is insufficient. The other example is of provisions made for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), where the proportion of loan to subsidy provided and allocation towards SC/ST groups, lending guidelines for banks, change almost every year, which makes the vulnerable and poor confused and leaves many of the beneficiaries in lurch. The other most populist scheme is of “Employment Guarantee Scheme” (EGS), re-launched in year 1993 and modified in year 1999, often ended up being redundant, due to offer of wage employment to the unemployed poor by undertaking village-level infrastructural activities.

Understandably, the constant changes and modifications in the schemes, which are done in the best interest of the beneficiaries or the end users, ends up in creating confusion in the minds of the administrative set-up at the ground level. Therefore, it becomes nightmarish and worse for the vulnerable, poor, illiterate villagers to understand the complexities from year to year. Hence it is a major challenge to the scheme designs itself and to the delivery systems. Some of the successful models have been demonstrated through collectives such as Anand Milk- producers Union Ltd (AMUL), Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), LijjatPapad, Dabbawala, Elders for Elders Foundation (EEF) and many more in our country. Thereby, it becomes all the more important to understand the nature of government social insurance mechanisms from the scheme point of view, fund allocation, social cost-benefit analysis and the end user. Largely, we have measured success of mechanisms through targets in numbers, money spent and end user in numbers. We have failed to evaluate and monitor the wider impact of the mechanisms reached; both singly and collectively on the vulnerable poor. In order to break the vicious cycle of poverty, a livelihoods approach is key with long-term development programming; from “relief to development continuum”. Helping people to protect their assets more effectively and reduce the need for relief in response to shocks, then to post-emergency recovery time, which would be reduced and long-term improvements would be more sustainable. In order to reach the poor, emphasis has to be laid on intermediate activities as a category of interventions in their own right, particularly rehabilitation. It is about as to how the shift from left to right along the continuum, moving away from relief and towards long-term improvements is crucial. In the above situations, a certain amount of emergency preparedness may be part of programmes, which are mostly aimed at promoting long-term development or improvements in capacities and assets. Promotion and protection of livelihoods may be possible under situations of severe to chronic emergency as well. Thereby, we need a mix of all the above, as dealing with short-term impacts of crises and reducing long-term vulnerability will be the ultimate objectives of a livelihoods approach to programming in CVAs. Not only the former, an emergency preparedness and response, but early warning, mitigation, rehabilitation

and long term development and to have timing of critical programming factor for CVAs, that is as to how and when to start transition between one activity and another.

One of the key lacunae that exists in risk continuum is lack of systematic intervention, across the life-cycle i.e., interplay between social protection interventions at different stages of an individual's life-cycle or longer-term intergenerational impacts. Because of absence of systematic life-cycle analysis, little is known about the success of social protection programmes in setting train for sustained improvements in households' ability to withstand shocks. What we need is prevention strategies, which are implemented before a risk event occurs, as reducing the probability of an adverse risk has intrinsic welfare benefits and increases people's expected income and reduces their income variance. The solutions at individual level and community level include various interventions, and various measures, for instance to lessen the risk of unemployment for instance, preventive health care (vaccination, use of mosquito nets, awareness campaigns) etc., Various mitigation strategies have to be adopted, as these aim to address the risk before it occurs, as preventive ones reduce the probability of the risk occurring, while mitigation help individuals reduce the impact of a future risky event such as when a household or individuals save money as a precaution for a rainy day or when food is stored in preparation for an adverse weather event. The coping strategies also need to be adopted as they relieve the impact of the risk once it has occurred. The key form of coping consists of individual saving, borrowing or relying on public or private transfers. These informal arrangements have existed for a long time and still constitute the main source of risk management for the majority of the vulnerable population. This is where the government has an important role to play, i.e., when households do not have enough to handle repeated catastrophic risks. Government can provide social insurance programmes for covering risks such as unemployment, old age, work injury, disability, widowhood and sickness. These kinds of mandatory participation in a risk pool can help to circumvent issues of adverse selection. The risk and vulnerabilities can be reduced, through government's legislative abilities; right from preventive, mitigation and coping stages through implementation of sectoral government programs. However, participatory development is crucial for the above and to create demand from the vulnerable poor is equally important, to ensure that the beneficiaries perceive a need for the benefits. Therefore, it is a must to create a universal social security mechanism for the vulnerable poor to overcome the risk continuum.

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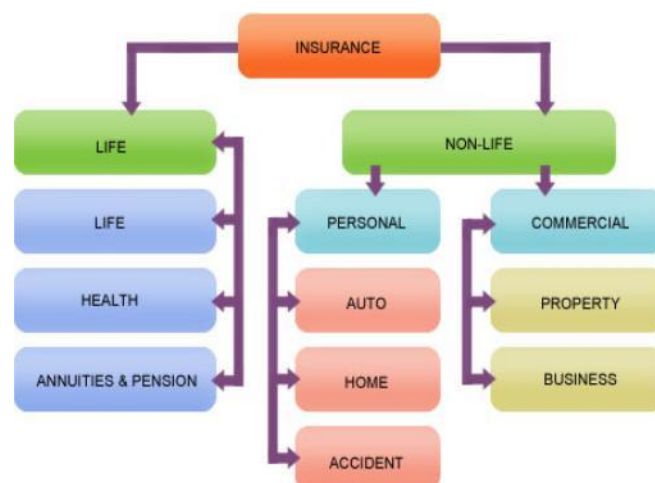
16. Insurance

Insurance is a form of risk management tool for people. Risks are more common in all aspects of life and livelihoods of poor people. Economical, cultural, technological and environmental changes attract more risks in people's lives and livelihoods. In our country, 94% of workforce is involved in the unorganized sector, without any social and economic protection and their livelihoods are effected easily due to environmental changes. This situation demands 100% insurance to manage risks. Sadly, in our country, insurance does not reach poor households on a large-scale; insurance is mainly limited to middle and rich class of people. On the whole, only 30% of population is accessing any one of insurance schemes. According, to the global analytical company CRISIL report, 2015, in our country, insurance per capita is less than 1% of the annual income and in developed countries like United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK), it is 7% and 12% respectively.

People need assured income from their livelihoods to be free from risk, but in livelihoods, such as agriculture, enterprises, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), fishery, construction, handloom work, wage labour, occupational works and livestock etc., there is no guarantee of income. People may not get assured income because of risks such as drought, floods, earthquakes, crop diseases, forest policies, social unrest, competition with big players, changes in technology, price fluctuations in market, etc. Due to these risks, many a times, people may lose income, assets, houses, employment and livestock.

People are witnessing multiple effects of risks and getting into debt trap. It pushes them into vicious circle of poverty. Loss of earning member in the family or loss of livelihood affects the family's financial condition, social status, living standard, health care, nutritious food intake, children education etc., further pushing the family into poverty. Lack of any social protection schemes and frequent risks make people's life more vulnerable. People need to lead a secure life with an assured income throughout their life to have better health, as adverse financial conditions increases stress and ill-health. Multiple insurance schemes protect people and ensure secured life to them. They require insurance in many aspects such as life, livelihoods, assets, livestock, crop, health, enterprises, vehicles, goods, secured life at old age etc.

In our country's economic development, insurance sector has played an important role by mobilizing savings, promoting investments, stabilizing markets and managing financial and social risks. Realizing the importance of insurance sector in country's development, the Government of India (GOI) has designed many initiatives for the insurance sector. Particularly, insurance sector has witnessed changes from 1993 onwards, when Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Act, 1993 was enacted. Earlier, there were only two major companies i.e., Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) in insurance sectors. With IRDAI Act, GOI allowed private companies to come into insurance sector, and later, it also allowed foreign companies in insurance sector. GOI increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 26 % to 49% in 2015 and got Rs. 8031 crore in insurance sector. In our country, insurance sector has a hundred year old history and has witnessed a number of important milestones in its journey, as given below:



Year	Important events
1912	The Life Insurance Companies Act was passed.
1938	The Insurance Act, 1938 provided strict state control over insurance businesses.
1959	Life insurance was completely nationalized. All 245 existing insurance companies merged into Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
1957	The General Insurance Council (GIC) was formed to frame code and conducts in insurance business.
1968	Insurance Act, 1938 was amended to regulate investments. The Tariff Advisory Committee was also established.
1972	The General Insurance Business Act was passed. The Act facilitated the formation of four companies such as National Insurance Company Ltd (NICAL), Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL), New India Assurance Company Ltd (NIACL) and United India Insurance Company Ltd (UIICL).
1993	GOI set up RN Malhotra committee to propose recommendations in insurance sector.
1996	Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) was set up. IRDA was established to regulate and develop insurance industry.
2004	21 private insurance companies entered into insurance industry
2014	GOI increased FDI from 26% to 49% in insurance sector

Presently, there are many companies including private sector and public sector companies, who are involved in the insurance industry. These companies are implementing different types of insurance schemes, and providing a number of insurance products to the policy holders. Insurance schemes, can be divided into two broad categories like life insurance schemes and general (non-life) insurance schemes. As on 2016, in insurance sector, a total of 53 insurance companies (Both public and private sector companies) are operating, including 24 life insurance companies and 29 non-life insurance companies, registered by IRDA India. In life insurance, there are three categories, such as life insurance or term insurance for life risk coverage and saving plus insurance. In life insurance, per year, policy holder has to pay a certain amount as premium based on her/his age and payment capacity. Insurance amount is based on the premium amount. Insurance company provides the insured amount to policy holders or their nominees if she/he gets natural or accidental death or in case of permanent disability. The insurance protects the family from financial vulnerability, because of loss of earning capacity of the individual. However, under this scheme, the policy holder may not get paid insurance amount, if she/he did not get any life risks in the time period specified and paid for.

In savings plus insurance policy or endowment insurance policy, policy holders get paid money along with insurance amount. Insurance companies pay the money back to the policy holder once in a specified time period. The time period is designed based on policy holders' age and period range is 12 to 35 years. For example, 50 years old individuals cannot avail 35 years of period policy. Policies are designed for individuals of different ages, right from the day old baby to a 55 year old individual. For age proof, policy holder has to submit any authorized certificate such as school certificate, Aadhar card, pan card or driving licence. Some insurance products provide monthly pension after premium period. Pension is based on premium amount. There are three to four types of premium payment methods in insurances, such as one-time payment, short-term, medium and long-term. Policy holders can choose according to their payment capacity and earning method, and premium amount is decided according to payment period.

In life insurance, to claim amount, policy holder or nominee should inform the insurance company about the accident or death along with policy number and risk details, and send letter to insurance office within 15 days. In case death of policy holder, his / her nominee has to submit the death certificate from an authorized department, legal heir certificate, Aadhar card and bank account details in insurance office. Claim settlement takes up to one month. There are two types of claims, such as early claim and non-early claim. Death below three years from the time of taking policy or revival policy is considered as early claim. In early claims, insurance people do rigorous scrutiny. Death after three years from the time of taking policy is non-early claim. Irregularities are treated as early claims. Policy holders can revive their policies by paying all due amounts, interest and fine amount based on terms and conditions.

Life Insurers	Non-life Insurers
Public Sector:	Public Sector:
Life Insurance Corporation of India	National Insurance Company Ltd
	The New India Assurance Company Ltd
	The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd
	United India Insurance Company Ltd
Private Sector:	Private Sector:
Aegon Life Insurance Company Ltd	Agricultural Insurance Company India Ltd
Aviva Life Insurance Company Ltd	Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co Ltd
Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Ltd	BharatiAlliang General Insurance Co Ltd
Bharati AXA Life Insurance Company Ltd	BharatiAxa General Insurance Co Ltd
Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Ltd	Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co Ltd
Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Ltd	Cigna TTK Health Insurance Company Ltd
DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance Company Ltd	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd
EdeiweissTokio Life Insurance Company Ltd	Future General India Insurance Company Ltd
Exide Life Insurance Company Ltd	HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Ltd
Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd
HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company Ltd	IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Ltd
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd	L&T General Insurance Company Ltd
IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd	Liberty Videocon General Insurance Company Ltd
India First Life Insurance Company Ltd	Magma HDI General Insurance Company Ltd
Kotak Mahindra Old Mutual Life Insurance Company Ltd	Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd
Max New York Life Insurance Co Ltd	Raheja QBE General Insurance Company Ltd
PNB MetLife Insurance Company Ltd	Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd
Reliance Life Insurance Company Ltd	Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd
Sahara India Life Insurance Company Ltd	RoyalSundaram Alliance Insurance Company Ltd
SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd	SBI General Insurance Company Ltd
Shriram Life Insurance Company Ltd	Shriram General Insurance Company Ltd
Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd	Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd
Tata AIG LIFE Insurance Company Ltd	Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd
Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd	Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Ltd

In case of general insurance, people use insurance on many items such as properties, storages, crops, livestock, enterprises, loans, health problems, etc., People also insure various goods such as Television (TV), refrigerator, houses, phones, vehicles etc., During sale of these goods, the seller deducts insurance amount and in case of other goods, the buyer has to decide on the risk factors, such as droughts, theft, accident, etc. If the insured item gets damaged, policy holder can get another item, according to the terms and conditions. Motor insurance has been made mandatory in the country, and occupied a major part 43% (2013-14) in non-life insurance industry. Due to unhygienic conditions, malnutrition, unhealthy lifestyle, lack of preventive health care and environment changes people got sick a

lot more frequently nowadays. They require free and quality medical treatment and compensation for losing employment days. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS), 2016, in our country, 80% of the people are not covered in any health related insurance scheme. Accessing quality and timely health care cannot be a privilege. It should become a fundamental right of every citizen. Society must provide health care services to every one without any discrimination on the basis of financial status.

Health insurance is another segment under the life insurance category. In health insurance, policy holder has to pay a certain amount based on her/his age and payment capacity. Insurance amount is decided based on premium amount. After taking the policy, in the first year, insurance company permits for limited diseases, and later gradually more diseases are included in the coverage list. Insurance companies pay insured amount for medical treatment to the hospitals in two methods -direct payment of the assured amount to the hospitals by insurance companies, or initial payment of medical treatment by policy holder, the policy holder makes a claim to the insurance company, the company then reimburses agreed amount to the policy holder. In health insurance, some people take medical insurance for different organs of their body.

Agriculture insurance is an important insurance category in our country. Nearly 60% of our citizens live in villages, a large chunk of which is dependent on agriculture; sadly, agriculture, which is the backbone of our country, is full of risks, which may include droughts, floods, cyclones, temperature fluctuations, hailstorms, prices fluctuations, pest attacks, earthquakes, fires, etc., There are two categories of insurance schemes available to farmers - single-peril and multi-peril coverage.

Largely, we see farmers opting for multi-peril coverage insurance schemes they see agriculture having multiple risks. Additionally, GOI has designed various agricultural insurance schemes. First Individual Approach Scheme (FIAS) was initiated in 1972 for H-4 cotton. Later, it included groundnut, wheat and potato. In 1979, Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) was designed based on an area based approach to provide insurance against crop decline. Recently, the GOI has designed and created the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide financial support to farmers suffering from crop loss / damage. It covers all crops including food crops, oil seeds and commercial / horticulture crops. All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers are covered under this scheme.

Millions of people are dependent on livestock rearing as primary/secondary livelihood. People are getting losses because of non-availability of inputs such as dry and green fodder, diseases, natural calamities and fluctuations in milk and meat prices. The main objective of the insurance scheme is to provide financial support to farmers in case of livestock lose. Only 5% of cattle are insured in the country. Not only agriculture and allied sectors, but there are also different insurance schemes for various occupations, such as construction, toddy tapping, fishing, handlooms, etc. Government has initiated the insurance scheme 'Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY)' for handloom workers. Every handloom worker aged between 18 – 59 years with 50% of income on handloom work is eligible for it. The policy holder has to pay a premium amount Rs. 80/- per year out of the total premium of Rs. 470/-, while the remaining premium amount is paid by both the central government (Rs.290/-) and LIC (Rs.100/-). LIC pays Rs. 1,50,000/- to nominee/ policy holder in case of death / permanent disability due to accident; Rs. 75,000/- to policy holder in the case of partial disability due to accident; Rs. 60,000/- to nominee in case of natural death; and a scholarship of Rs. 100/- per month to children of the beneficiary studying between 9th to 12th grade or Industrial Training Institution (ITI) courses in insurance sector, cooperatives, collectives, Self Help Groups' (SHGs) federations, etc., can play a vital role. For example, in Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and Mission for Poverty Elimination in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) projects, SHGs federations are implementing different types of insurance schemes, such as Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY), Abhaya Hastam Pension Scheme (AHPS) and loan credit insurance.

AABY is one of the most important group insurance schemes for poor families in tribal, rural and urban areas implemented by SERP and MEPMA at state level, and through 'SHGs' at village level and Zilla Samakhya (ZS) at district level. AABY was introduced in March 2008 by GOI, in partnership with LIC in erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. The primary objective of the scheme was to support poor families during tough times such as death /disability, and also to provide support to children of beneficiaries who are studying. AABY covers various types of occupational people.

The scheme is being successfully implemented through Community Based organizations (CBOs) model. SERP is acting as the nodal agency in facilitating, monitoring and evaluating AABY at state level. ZS is working as the nodal agency at district level. LIC processes insurance claims and payments. At grassroots level, SHGs, Village Organizations (VOs) and Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) participate in AABY scheme's implementation.

Insurance claim takes up to 30 to 36 days. ZS had setup a call centre with a toll free number at district headquarters. It had printed the toll free number at the backside of every policy bond paper. At district level, District Project Manager (DPM) monitors the AABY scheme.

ZS appoints a SHG member as Bima Mitra (BM) at village level to facilitate taking AABY policy and to provide claims to the beneficiary families. Death or disability should be recorded within 24 hours through BM and VO's oral certification. Call centre operators do the preliminary verification of policy holder's documents and inform the BM, who withdraws Rs. 5000/- from a nearby ATM and visits the claimant's house along with VO member to confirm cause of death and verify policy documents. After verification in front of VO members, BM gives money to nominee. Within seven days, BM collects documents like death certificate, First Information Report (FIR) in case of accidental death and post – mortem report or medical report (In case of disability) and uploads documents in the portal at MMS office. Call centre operator verifies documents and sends those documents to LIC. The LIC operator downloads documents and verifies it. After verification, LIC operator uploads voucher details on website. LIC officer transfers claim amount to SERP to transfer to nominee's account through Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS).

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and MEPMA are implanting Abhaya Hastam insurance scheme to provide monthly pension to poor people. SHG women above 18 years of age can apply to this policy/ scheme. The SHG women have to pay Rs. 30/- and government has to pay Rs.30/- per month as premium. She gets a minimum pension of Rs. 500/- per month from the time she turns 60.

In Visakhapatnam district, the ZS is running a community managed health insurance scheme called 'Sanjeevani' to provide medical services to rural poor families with maximum family size of five members. Sanjeevani was initiated in 2007, and it is providing health services through 27 private hospitals and 40 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Area Hospitals (AHs) to more than 75000 policy holders' families. A total of 133 ailments are covered under the scheme. Policy holders have to pay Rs. 310/- per year. Policy holders can avail up to Rs. 35,000/- for surgery services and Rs. 5000/- for medical services through private and government hospitals. In a few places, cooperatives are implementing insurance schemes in different ways. They run collective purchasing, selling centres and the profits from these centres goes into paying insurance premium. Collectives and cooperatives can play a vital role in life insurance and general insurance, and AABY has proved it successfully. If there are large number of people, may be in thousands, cooperatives can implement insurance schemes independently without any external institutions LIC and GIC.

There are many issues and challenges in insurance sector. Though there is much improvement in the sector compared to earlier times, people are not still fully aware about the various insurance products. Individual insurance premiums are higher than group insurance schemes, and people are more concerned with money returns as savings, rather than investing only for risks. Some private insurance companies like Peerless and Sahara insurance companies have created negative impact on insurance companies due to their dubious works. A majority of workers are in unorganized sector for whom there are no life and health insurance schemes available. Solving problems, such as lack of sufficient mechanism to create awareness, and settling claims without delay, particularly in general insurance will lead to improvement in number of policy holders. Both central and state governments have to enhance their role to ensure insurance coverage to all by establishing linkage mechanisms, networks, propaganda. Moreover, reducing premium amount, particularly individual insurance schemes; ensuring claim settlements on time; controlling private insurance companies' cheating; directing entrepreneurs to pay insurance to their employees; promoting collectives and cooperatives to implement insurance schemes to their members, etc., will help vulnerable people a lot. Support Organizations (SOs) too have to facilitate CBOs to take insurance schemes, as it is one of the most important initiatives, which will lead towards poverty reduction.

***livelihoods November-2016**

17. B R Ambedkar

Dr Bhīma Rao Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was one of the chief architects of Indian Constitution. He was a well-known politician and an eminent jurist. Ambedkar's efforts to eradicate social evils like untouchability and caste restrictions were remarkable in the country. He has contributed in many walks of life as a scholar, journalist, economist, activist, legal luminary, social reformer and political leader. His biggest and most important contribution was in his role as the chairman of Drafting Committee of Constitution of India.

One of the Chief Architects of Indian Constitution is Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, famously known as Babasaheb Ambedkar. He strived to eradicate social evils in Indian society i.e., untouchability and caste restrictions, which were rampantly present in our country. Dr. Ambedkar, throughout his life, fought for rights of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (SC & ST). He was a well-known Politician and an eminent jurist and was the first law minister of India. Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (BR Ambedkar/Babasaheb) was born on 14 April 1891, in Mhow village, Madhya Pradesh. He was the 14th and last child among 14 siblings in his family. His parents were Ramji Maloji Sakpal and his mother name was Bhimabai Murbadka, as his father worked as Subedar in Indian Army. He was native of Ambavade, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra, India. He belonged to Mahar Community (SC) and his family moved to Mhow Military Cantonment Area, prior to his birth, due to practice of untouchability. His surname was Ambavadekar, as he was a native of Ambavade, it was during his school days, that his teacher changed his surname to Ambedkar. It was in 1894 that his mother expired, followed by his father in year 1913, after completion of his graduation.



BR Ambedkar passed his matriculation examination in Elphinstone High School, Mumbai in 1907 and after that he joined in Elphinstone College for higher studies, and it was affiliated to University of Bombay. Dada Keluskar presented a biography of Buddha to Ambedkar, Dada Keluskar was a family friend of him and also author of this book.

In 1912, he was awarded Degree in Economics and Political Science from the then Bombay University, later he earned a job in Bank, Baroda State Government. It was again in 1915 he completed his Post-Graduation (PG) in Economics from Columbia University and availed scholarship from Baroda State Government for a period of three years under the King Sayajirao Gaekwad –III. Later with the help of King, he left for United States of America (USA) to pursue his Post-Graduation at the age of 22 in 1913 and completed his course in Sociology, History, Philosophy and Anthropology during his course of stay in USA. Ambedkar was influenced by John Dewey and his works on “Democracy.” While, studying the course, he presented a three Thesis; first one was on “Ancient Indian Commerce.” In 1916, it was on “National Dividend of India – A Historic Analytical Study.” Third one being “The Problem of Rupee” and for that he received his Ph.D in Economics in 1927. Later, he also completed his Bar at Law too.

Dr. Ambedkar, was married to Rambai in 1906, when he was all of 15 years and his wife was nine years old. She died after brief illness in 1935. After, his wife death, Ambedkar was suffering from insomnia, as a result of this; he visited Bombay for treatment, as he completed Indian Constitution in late 1940s. During this time, he married Dr. Sharada Kabir in 1948 to support him and she was a Bhramin. Ambedkar continued to suffer from serious health problems i.e., diabetes, loss of vision and, it was on 06 December 1956, he expired, just three days prior to completion of his final manuscript “The Buddha and His Dhamma.” His funeral ceremony was attended by hundreds of thousands of supporters, activists and admirers.

Ambedkar, himself was a victim of untouchability and this experience of his own and many others who were victims of

untouchability, had deep impact and as a result, he wanted to work toward development of SCs and other socially backward communities. It was in 1923, that he began practicing Law and also devoted himself for upliftment of SCs and poor marginalized people. He favoured, the concept of providing reservations for SCs and other backward communities and as well as religious communities, as he choose this strategy to fight against caste discrimination in India. Ambedkar, devised method to reach to people through newspaper called "Mooknayak" and make them understand the drawbacks of social evils i.e., caste discrimination.

Ambedkar was appointed as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to finalize the Indian Constitution and Ambedkar spent most of his time in writing Constitution and the text prepared by Ambedkar seek constitutional guarantees and protections of a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, which included freedom of religion, abolition of untouchability and outlawing all forms of discrimination. Ambedkar, had extensively argued for social rights of women and extensive economic support and for this, he won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservations in Jobs for the Members of SCs and STs. Ambedkar provided an inspiring preamble ensuring justice, social, economic, political, liberty, equality and fraternity.

It was in 1930, that Ambedkar became President of All India Depressed Class Association (AIDCA) .On 25th September 1932, agreement known as Poona Pact was signed between Ambedkar (on behalf of the depressed classes) and Madan Mohan Malaviya (on behalf of the other Hindus). The agreement gave reserved seats for depressed classes in Provisional Legislatures, within the general electorate. From that time onwards, untouchables were called SC and ST under India Act, 1935. In 1936, Ambedkar formed "Independent Labor Party" and it was his party that had won 15 seats in 1937 elections to Central Legislative Assembly. Later the party was renamed to "All India Schedule Caste Federation" and it had performed poorly in 1946 elections. Ambedkar objected to the decision of Congress and Gandhi to name untouchables as "HARIJANS", as he argued that untouchable community members were same as other members of society.

Ambedkar, could vision the future of SCs and other BCs in Independent India, though he had provided all the Constitutional Provisions safeguarded. He took to conversion into Buddhism, as he strongly believed that Buddhism provided equality to all SCs and other BC groups. This drew him to travel to Sri Lanka in year 1950 to attend convention of Buddhist scholars and monks. Around 1950s Ambedkar studied about Buddhism. He was thinking that Buddhism, only way for SCs and other BCs to gain equality. Ambedkar, adopted Buddhism on May 1956 on occasion of Buddha Jayanti in Bombay and it was on October 14, 1956 he embraced Buddhism along with many followers. On the same day, he organized a public ceremony to convert around five lakh of his supporters, followers into Buddhism in Dheekshaboomi, Nagpur. Dr. Ambedkar prescribed 22 vows for these converts, and read many books, related to Buddhism, visited to places like Ceylon, Burma, Kathmandu and Nepal and also participated in World Fellowship of Buddhists conferences. He had written books on Buddhism, like "The Buddha and His Dhamma" in 1956, which was published after he died, he founded the Buddhist Society of India in 1955. Ambedkar's, untimely death, barely after six weeks after his conversion in Nagpur also saw the Buddhist movement lost momentum, when it was crucial point in history. Conversion ceremonies in other major Indian cities, that were planned to follow the Nagpur event failed to take place. Following his death, Ambedkar movement was divided and lacked direction and there were few Buddhist teachers to educate millions of followers in new faith. Ambedkar was a great scholar lawyer, and freedom fighter along with hundreds of thousands of Mahar's untouchable caste and converted to Buddhism and changed the face of Buddhism in India. Ambedkar's conversion was a symbolic protest to the oppression of caste inequality and his efforts to eradicate social evils were remarkable and that was the reason, he was called "messaiah" of SCs and STs.

According to him, participation of women in economic development was important as without developing their social status and equality, it was impossible for any nation's growth. Ambedkar clearly visualized, that due to bad economic conditions of women in India, India's economic progress was hampered. Thus, it was important to improve economic conditions of women and provide them with equal rights and freedom of occupation. Ambedkar, who himself faced caste based discrimination and witnessed women as the victims of oppressive, caste based and rigid hierarchical social system. Ambedkar, argued for extensive economic and social rights for women and according to him, the most significant feature of the fundamental rights, made it more justifiable. Throughout his life, he worked for their rights and also discussed numerous problems women face and also sought their solutions in Bombay Legislative Council (BLC) and also as a Chairman of Drafting Committee (DC) and also in Parliament as the first law minister of Independent India.

Ambedkar key arguments on the Maternity Benefit Bill and on the Birth were critical, but quite relevant to recognize the dignity of women. His untiring struggle started yielding results, as gradually women began participating in

Sathyagraha and also formed women's associations for untouchable women for spreading education and awareness among themselves. Ambedkar, in All India Depressed Women's Conference (AIDWC) held at Nagpur in July 1940, stated that "I am great believer in women's organizations I know that what they can do to improve the condition of the society if they are convinced. They should educate their children." In 1932, hundreds of women participated in meetings after Ambedkar returned to India from round table conference. Ambedkar was thinking on women, status of women, as the chairman of the drafting committee, he tried and added adequate inclusion of women's rights in the politics and constitution of India. Therefore, by considering women's equality both in formal and substantial sense, he included special provisions for women, while all other general provisions are applicable to them, as to men constitutional provisions.

Ambedkar was a great thinker, leader and intellectual person, during his time and continues to be one of the greatest legend, as he not only changed the life of millions of SCs and STs, but shaped India as a biggest democratic nation by writing its constitution. Many of them know that Ambedkar fights against caste system in India, but people do not know that Dr. Ambedkar had also impacted Indian economy. Ambedkar had conducted studies in Indian Agriculture system and he wrote articles, organized seminars and conferences to solve problems of agriculture and farmers and also led farmer's movements in India. We can see his thoughts on agriculture in his articles like "Small holdings in India and their remedies" and also in "Status and Minorities". He said that holding of lands by few people is an acute problem of Indian agriculture which has various disadvantages, like difficulties in cultivation and utilization of resources, increasing cost, low productivity, inadequate income, low standard of living and etc. Ambedkar agriculture productivity is related not only with the size of land holding but also with the other factors like capita, labour, and other inputs. Therefore, if capital or labours are not available in adequate quantity and quality, even large size of land can become unproductive. On other side small size lands become productive if these resources are available. With this thought the 'Land ceiling Act' was passed after independence.

Ambedkar pointed out, that the slavery and exploitation of labour bonded under caste system was not appropriate for economic development of our country and his suggestion was that agriculture problem could be resolved by way of collective farming, economical holding of land size or equal distribution of land, large scale industrialization, provision of money, water, seeds and fertilizers by the government, cultivation of waste land and also by allocation of waste land to landless labour, minimum wages to be provided for labourers and also through control and regulation of private lenders. His focus and belief was, that strategy for India's economic development was based on eradication of property, elimination of inequities and ending exploitation of masses. Thus, he laid emphasis on exploitation and all forms of exploitation should be eliminated.

Dr Ambedkar presented democratic state socialism to the constitution committee. The main points were:

- All basic industries should be owned and run by the state.
- Insurance and agriculture should be nationalized and managed by the state.
- Maintenance of productive resources by state.
- Just distribution of common produce.
- Provision for compensation of land or industry acquisition in the form of bonds.
- Distribution of land among the families in a village for collective farming.
- No discrimination as landlord, tenants, and agriculture labourers.
- All agriculture input like capital, seeds, fertilizers etc. should be provided to collective farms by the government.
- Distribution of agriculture income only after payment of land revenue tax.
- Punishment according to rules who do not follow.

Ambedkar was the first person in India to complete economics, as he thought about agriculture, industrialization growth for increase in Indian economy. He stressed on the need for more investment in agriculture sector and Ambedkar's vision was to help the government towards achieving food security for all. He strongly advocated for national, economic and social development, calling for the need to stress on importance of education, public hygiene, community health, residential facilities and basic needs.

Ambedkar thesis was "The problem of Rupee" its origin and solution "examines the causes for the rupee's fall in value". He proved the importance of price and stability over exchange stability. He also analysed the silver and gold exchange rates and their effect on the economy. He established Finance Commission of India (FCI) in 1951. He opposed income tax for low income group in India. He played important role in land reforms and in state economic

development. He emphasized equal rights for women with men for economic development. Ambedkar created good impact on Indian currency system, under British rule, when India Government was struggling with falling value of Indian rupee.

Ambedkar focused his studies and research on the condition of Indian currency, during British India. He wrote research thesis on it. In his thesis, he discussed that the gold exchange standard does not have stability. The developing countries like India cannot afford gold exchange standards, and besides this, it also increases the risk of inflation and price rise. He proved with statistics data and reasons how the Indian Rupee has lost its value and hence the purchasing power of Rupee is falling. He suggested that, Government deficit should be regulated and money should have a circular flow. He also suggested more attention, should be given on price stability than exchange rate stability. His book 'The problem of Rupee' eventually leads to the establishment of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Dr Ambedkar had written a number of books and articles. Furthermore, several movies, plays, and other works have been based on the life and thoughts of Ambedkar. The books and articles are as follows.....

- *Administration and Finance of the East India Company*
- *Ancient Indian Commerce*
- *Caste in India; Their mechanism, Genesis and Development*
- *Small Holding in India and their Remedies*
- *Mr Russell and the Reconstruction of Society*
- *The Present Problem in India Currency -I*
- *The Present Problem in India Currency –II*
- *Review: Currency and Exchange by HL Chablani*
- *The Evolution of Provisional Finance in British India: A Study in the Provincial Decentralization of Imperial Finance*
- *Statement of Evidence to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency*
- *Statement of Evidence to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency on 15 December 1925*
- *Review Report: Report of the taxation Enquiry Committee, 1926*
- *Untouchables or the Children of India's Ghetto*
- *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Social*
- *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Political*
- *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Religious*
- *Philosophy of Hinduism*
- *India and Pre-Requisite of Communism*
- *Revolution and counter-Revolution*
- *Buddha or Karl Marx*
- *Riddles in Hinduism*
- *The Untouchables and the Pax Britannica*
- *Manu and the Shudras*
- *Lectures on English Constitution*
- *Paramourty and the Claim of the Indian States to be Independent*
- *Notes on Acts and Laws*
- *Annihilation of Caste*
- *Federation versus Freedom*
- *Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah*
- *Mr Gandhi and the emancipation of the Untouchables*
- *Communal Deadlock and a Way to Solve it*

- *What Congress and Gandhi have done to the Untouchables*
- *Who were the Shudras?*
- *Foreword: commodity Exchange by PG Salve*
- *The Problem of Rupee: Its Origin and its Solution*
- *History of Indian Currency and Banking*
- *States and Minorities: What are their Rights and How to secure them in the Constitution of Free India*
- *Foreword: Social Insurance and India by MR Idgunji*
- *The Untouchables: Who were they and why they became Untouchables?*
- *Maharashtra as a Linguistic Province (Statement Submitted to the Linguistic Provinces Commission)*
- *Pakistan or the Partition of India*
- *Note on the Annexure (Chapter IX: A plea to the foreigner-Additional Chapter in Second Edition of What Congress and Gandhi...)*
- *Commercial relations of India in the Middle Ages or the rise of Islam and the Expansion of Western Europe*
- *Indian on the Eve of the Crown Government*
- *Waiting for a Visa: Autobiographical notes*
- *The Constitution of British India*
- *Notes on Parliamentary Procedure*
- *Notes on History of India*
- *Preservation of Social Order With the Hindus Frustration*
- *The Problem of Political Suppression*
- *Which is worse? Slavery or Untouchability*
- *Need for Checks and Balances-Article on Linguistic State*
- *Thoughts on Linguistics States*
- *Buddha and his Dhamma*

Ambedkar, contribution to the Nation has been highly inspirational and his legacy continues in various forms as in our country many schools, colleges, universities, associations and clubs are established on his name, this is also found in country like Hungary and Even The President of USA, Mr Barak Obama acknowledged Ambedkar as the father of Indian Constitution. Prof. Arnest Walker dedicated the Preamble of Indian Constitution to his book "The Principles of social and Political Theory". It is accepted by the whole world that, Dr Ambedkar's political and constitutional vision is at par with the world philosophers, his vision and wisdom to foresee the future is unmatched in all over the world and therefore whole world reveres him as a constitutional father and a philosophical mastermind, Who has given this world the Masterpiece Gem of Parliamentary Democracy in the form of Indian Constitution. It is sign of every great personality that they do not take credit for their work. They always give credit to others. Ambedkar also did the same thing by acknowledging every member of the committee for making up the constitution. It was his big heart that he acknowledged every member, but it is sad and unfortunate that the Indian society and so called educated people like us does not acknowledge nor be thankful to BR Ambedkar for his great work. Rather people feel great honor by criticizing the constitution and its father. He gave free India its legal framework, and the people, the basis of their freedom. To this end, his contribution was significant, substantial, and spectacular.

Ambedkar's contribution to the evolution of free India lies in his striving for making justice – social, economic and political accessible to one and all. We can say that the Indian Constitution was the product of Ambedkar. It was fully influenced by the philosophy of Ambedkar. He had a vision for future India. When he was elected as a Chairman of the Drafting Committee he forgot his personal anxiety and joined hands with Congress in general and Pandit Nehru agreed to work together for the betterment of the newly born nation. Many public institutions are named in his honour, in Nagpur Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International airport, Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jalandhar is also named in his honour. The Maharashtra government has acquired house where Ambedkar lived during his days as a student in London, 1920. Though, he struggled throughout his life for seeking justice for the SCs and other socially backward communities, the plight of downtrodden, even today remains grim in spite of having

many rights and entitlements to the backward communities in various forms.

Chairman of Constitution of India:

India celebrated independence on 15 August 1947 and initially, Congress party led the government. Prime Minister of India, Nehru invited Ambedkar to serve the nation as first law minister. And also He was chairman of Indian constitution drafting committee. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 by the Constituent Assembly and came into effect on 26 January 1950. The Constituent Assembly took time almost three years (2 years, 11 months and 18 days) to complete the drafting the Constitution for India. The people of India were given eight months to discuss the draft and propose amendments. As many as 7635 amendments were proposed and 2473 were actually discussed. These all amendments were checked and studied by Dr. BR Ambedkar alone during the making and this has been accepted by the whole constitution assembly. If we compare the duration of writing the other world constitutions and the Indian constitution (having 395 Articles and eight Schedules and several parts) it is difficult task to complete writing such a vast constitution. Ambedkar was the Father/Chief of Indian Constitution. He was appointed as chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee on 29 August in 1947 by Assembly to write free India's constitution. The seven members of drafting committee, including the chairman of the drafting committee were follows...

- *BR Ambedkar*
- *N Gopaldaswamy*
- *AKrishnaswamyAyyar*
- *KMMunshi*
- *SaijioMolaSaadullah*
- *NMadhavaRao*
- *DP Khitan.*

Dr Ambedkar played key and important role in the framing of the Indian Constitution. Dr Ambedkar used all his experience and knowledge in drafting the Indian Constitution. Draft prepared by Ambedkar also offered constitutional assurance and security for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, which included freedom of religion, the elimination of untouchability and the banning of all types of discrimination. Dr. Ambedkar also worked for widespread financial and social rights for women, and also won the support of Assembly for bringing in a system of job reservations in the Indian Civil Services, schools and colleges for members of planned caste and scheduled tribes, a system similar to positive discrimination. Ambedkar also had central role in guiding his committee towards the sort of socialistic, idealistic vision. He emphasized and took initiative and very deliberatively introduced the principle of reservation for Dalits in parliament, educational institutional and in government jobs.

Constitutional Provisions:

The Constitution of Indian contains various provisions, which provide for equal rights and opportunities for both men and women.

- *Article 14 guarantees that the state shall not deny equality before the law and equal protection of the laws;*
- *Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the ground of sex;*
- *Article 15 (3) empowers the state to make positive discrimination in favour of women and children;*
- *Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity in matters of public employment;*
- *Article 23 prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour;*
- *Article 39 (a) and (d) enjoins the state to provide equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work;*
- *Article 42 enjoins upon the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, and maternity relief;*
- *Article 51 A(e) imposes a Fundamental Duty on every citizen to renounce the practice derogatory to the dignity of women;*
- *Article 243D (3) provides that not less than 1/3 of the total number of seats to be filled by direct elections in every Panchayat to be reserved for women, and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat;*
- *Article 243T (3) also same in Municipality ;*

- *Article 243T (4) provides reservation of offices of Chairperson in Municipalities for SC, ST, Women in such manner as the legislature of a state, may by law provide;* Now they are developing stage, because they are utilizing reservation and getting aware about the importance of education system. Ambedkar's effort was thus beyond their development. Central and state governments implement schemes and subsidy to them to eliminate poverty in their community. They improve in livelihoods, education, but still they are facing lot of problems after 69 years of independence. In political scenario, very few numbers of people are participating in elections, government provides particular reservation to low caste.

Various welfare schemes for the Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) have been implemented by the central and state governments in India. Since independence, government has been supporting poor people, to give better life to them through various schemes.

Schemes for Schedule Castes:

- Special central assistance for Schedule Caste sub plan
- Pre and Post-matric scholarships for SC students
- Free coaching for SC students
- Special educational development programme for SCs girls belonging to low literacy levels
- Venture capital fund for SCs
- Rajiv Gandhi national Fellowship Programme for higher education for SC students
- Self employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers
- In 2015-16 Financial year, Government allocated suppurate union budget for SCs Rs.30,850
- Establishing vocational training centres for SC youth
- Central Government launch "Stand up India" scheme for SCs, STs and women. It provides loans through banks to start new enterprises.
- In Maharashtra, state government reserved 20% of industrial plots for schedule caste and schedule tribes of small and medium enterprises. The policy, which is named as Dr. BabasahebAmbedkar Special Group Entrepreneurship Scheme (BASGES)

Schemes for Schedule Tribes (STs):

- Institutional support for development and marketing of tribal product scheme
- Establishing vocational training centres in tribal areas
- Equity support to NSTFDC/STFDC of tribals to start income generation activities
- Direct Benefit Transfer for post matric scholarship, top class education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and pre matric scholarships for class IX & X students
- Establish Model Residential Schools (MRS) for tribal students
- Scheme of Strengthening education among ST girls in low literacy districts
- Centrally sponsored scheme of hostels for ST boys and ST girls
- Establishment of Ashram schools in Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) areas
- Scheme of development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Now, as per 2011 census 20.14 crore people belongs to various Schedule Caste (SC) in India. There are 9.79 crore women, among the total SC population. Now a day's so many dalits have been converted to Christianity, that today majority of the Christian population of India is Dalits. There are 10.4 crore people belonging to various Schedule Tribes (ST) as per 2011 census. Even today, there are lot of differences between SC children and higher caste children in schools. In some places in India, other caste children do not eat, if SC people made food and higher caste children do not sit along with lower caste children in mid meal school even in class rooms. In a few districts of Madhya Pradesh (MP), SC children are reportedly served food from a distance in schools. Such caste biases in school will not only deprive these children of education, but also fill their minds with pessimism about society at a tender age. Ambedkar throughout his life advised downtrodden people to get educated before agitating for their rights.

Still in India, some practices are carried on by SC people like manual scavenging, dumping dead bodies of feral animals, cobbler works etc. Manual scavengers collect human excreta, with their broom sticks and tin plate and carry it for disposal. These work divisions continues based upon the traditional Hindu social order. Ambedkar said that “in India, a man is not a scavenger because of his work. He is a scavenger because of his birth irrespective of the question whether he does scavenging or not.” A depressing fact as revealed in the 2011 census data on households is, that an estimated eight lakh people are traditionally engaged in manual removal of night soil — a great embarrassment to the state governments, that are still in denial mode. The census data shows that Uttar Pradesh (UP) continues to have the dubious distinction of leading the list with approximately 3.2 lakh people still involved in manually removing human waste. The 1993, Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act has provision for punishment, including fine, for employing scavengers or constructing dry toilets. However, manual scavengers are continued to be employed to this day by municipalities, the Railways and Defence establishments.

Ambedkar is considered the “messiah” of downtrodden communities for his efforts to bring equal opportunity and social justice to dalits and other low caste groups. We do not forget his efforts in writing Indian Constitution and as chairman of the constitutional drafting committee he gave shape to our country and also downtrodden communities’ development. Dr. Ambedkar’s name will be written in golden letters in history of India as the creator of social justice. He was a true son of India, who spent his whole life for betterment of his fellow citizens, especially the poor, exploited, discriminated etc. Thus, Dr. Ambedkar’s contribution to India, especially his role in the Indian Constitution, is undoubtedly of the highest order. Indeed he deserves to be called a messiah and the “Father of Indian Constitution”. United Nations (UN) celebrated BR Ambedkar’s 125th birthday anniversary, in its headquarters based at New York. It declared BR Ambedkar as a global ‘icon’ for marginalized people. On occasion of BR Ambedkar’s birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released, commemorative coins on BR Ambedkar and launched new program called ‘Gram Uday se Bharat UdayAbhiyan’ in Ambedkar’s birth place Mhow in Madhya Pradesh state. The program aims to empower rural people.

BR Ambedkar’s efforts continue to play vital role for downtrodden people, who are in crores across the country. Ambedkar reached to the hearts of marginalized people and strived for betterment of lives and livelihoods of all sections such as students, employees, workers, political leaders etc. and continues to influence lakhs of people to work for social justice in the country. He facilitated our nation’s movement towards modernity and has shown direction to many other nations to work for marginalized sections of society. He has gone down in the history as a “chief architect of modern and democratic” India. He will always influence and continue to inspire futuristic political direction and social revolution in the country.

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II Deepening Democracy

18. Rights

Rights are instruments that create an atmosphere conducive for human development. A democratic setup rests firmly on a system of rights. Rights govern modern perception of what can and cannot be done in the public sphere. Often, rights are considered a utility that gives certain actions their legitimacy. This is a very limited understanding of the term. Rights are claims, but they are claims that are recognized by society and often guaranteed by state. Every right has a corresponding duty. While freedom of speech is a right for one, it is the duty of the other to listen. Without this corresponding duty, the right would have little meaning.



Some rights are positive, i.e. they permit certain actions (eg. right to form associations) and some others are negative, i.e. they forbid certain actions (eg. right against exploitation). Rights differ from country to country and time to time. What is legitimate in one country or at a particular time may not be so in another. Rights can be classified according to their source and the kind of actions they permit (or not). In the former, scholars and philosophers across the ages have said rights are natural i.e. inherent to every human being; while others explain that they are derived- either, from a constitution or through a contract. The Constitution of India guarantees six broad fundamental rights in Part Three. These rights form the

core of the freedoms and protection the Indian state provides to its citizens. The Fundamental Rights (FR) are inviolable and irrevocable by the state, unless at the time of Emergency. These rights cannot even be amended by Parliament. Apart from the fundamental rights, the Constitution also guarantees certain other rights which are amendable, these are constitutional rights. The fundamental and constitutional rights are justiciable rights, i.e. the violation of these rights can be brought to the courts' notice, which will then attempt to redress the breach of rights.

Further, rights may be classified as political, economic and social rights. Political rights broadly entail the right to elect, be elected, voice opinions and so on thus forming the base of political freedom in a democratic setup. Economic rights allow one the freedom to carry out a livelihood she/he deems viable, be paid wages for her/his labour, be given an amiable atmosphere at work. Finally, social rights include the right to food, nutrition, health, education, etc. All these rights are important in their own right. It is difficult to say, that one of them can be enjoyed in isolation of the others. History is replete with examples of conflict and violence in the quest of achieving these rights. Today, of these three categories, political rights are most easily recognized by the states. However, there is a long road ahead for achieving economic rights and social rights for all.

Post World War 2, much of the world's leadership started to lay emphasis on the inalienability of certain basic human rights. The philosophy behind human rights is that every human is born with certain inherent rights that guarantee dignity and self-respect to the individual. Therefore, human rights should not only be perceived as *entitlements*, but also as the basic necessary condition for development of the human personality. Human rights first came into the international limelight, with the ratification of the Human Rights Declaration on 10th December 1948. This marked a huge step forward in the quest to recognize the rights, of all the citizens of the world. Finally, there was a set of

rights– right to equality, freedom of speech, association, education, health care, etc., that was considered to be uniform across the board for all individuals.

Human rights are closely related to human development. While human rights exist as protection for people against abuse and exploitation, human development aims to establish a society that provides freedom and equal opportunities to all. The right to development, which primarily includes the right to food, to education and health care, is more than a collection of rights. It is a rights-based process to development. It is the right to a process of development that enables a safer environment for individuals to realize their capabilities and improve their well-being. Essentially, the right to development entails rights such as right to food, education, housing, health care, etc. These rights may not all be realized at once, but can be realized separately. This approach seeks to bring about development, through a combination of efforts from both the state and civil society.

This approach rests on four ideas:

- Equity;
- Non-discrimination;
- Participation;
- Accountability; and
- Transparency.

Development policies must ensure that resources are distributed equitably and the target should be the deprived and vulnerable sections of society. Equity is the basis of an egalitarian society, which whole development process proposes to achieve. For all individuals, access to an environment conducive for their development, should not be a point of discrimination. Further, the rights based approach to development advocates participation of community in the process of achieving a society that is egalitarian and just. Accountability and transparency are two other pillars of this approach. Accountability in the sense, that someone is answerable to the violation of these rights and transparency in terms of implementation of these rights without favoring, certain sections of the community. Three rights in the realm of right to development-i.e. the right to food, education and health care are considered to be realized immediately for other rights to build upon. Advocates of the approach unanimously agree that the crux of human development begins with the realization of these rights.

The right to food is recognized as a fundamental human right in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The right to food advocates that all individuals must lead a life that is free from hunger, malnourishment and food insecurity. The right to food implies three state obligations-

- The obligation to respect- that all individuals, irrespective of their social or economic background deserve to be protected from hunger and malnutrition;
- The obligation to protect- the state will take measures that will safeguard food sources and the access to these sources;
- The obligation to fulfill- the state must strive to provide nutritious food to all citizens.

In India, right to food is not a fundamental right but the Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV) of the Constitution call on the state to provide or ensure access to nutritional food to all citizens. Further, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Right to Life under article 21 to include the right to food and education among others. The state too has sought to provide food security to the poor and vulnerable communities through numerous schemes like; Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) (earlier PDS) was initiated in 1997 to provide food grains and essential commodities at subsidized rates to families enlisted as BPL. Mid-day Meal Scheme-The government had introduced the mid-day meal scheme which guarantees the provision of one meal to school children. This was also a measure to attract children to attend school. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) provides 35 kg of food grain to poor families every month. Similarly, the Annapurna scheme is meant to support elders, who have no income by providing them with 10 Kg of food grain. While, these are schemes that attempt to achieve food security directly, other schemes provide pensions and other monetary benefits to the deprived to meet basic needs, including food. Presently, the UPA government is moving National Food Security Bill (NFSB) (2011) proposing that the PDS cover 75% of BPL (as per Social and Economic Caste Census, 2011) and also Gol proposed categorization of households into priority and general households. The Bill has been cleared by the Cabinet, but is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

A second and equally important right is that of education. It is widely accepted, that education plays a key role in enhancing the competencies of a person to actively participate in the public sphere. The right to education is

considered an empowerment right. Just as the right to food, the right to education also finds mention in both the UNHRD and the ICESCR. The right to education also implies obligations of respect, protection and fulfillment on the state. The state must accept the fact that education is a necessity for all; it must ensure that the accessibility of education is protected by the state and it should also take measures to provide education for all. In 2008, the Indian Parliament passed the landmark 93rd amendment, which established that the Right to Education would be a fundamental right under article 21 A of the Constitution. The right entails the availability of primary education (upto class 8) to all, irrespective of their socio-economic status. This puts an obligation on the state to ensure that all children, who are eligible to attend school, must have access to a school. The government runs its own schools and also funds schools. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to achieve 100% enrollment of children, between 6 and 14 years in primary schools. Right to health, is also recognized to be one of the fundamental human rights required to create an enabling atmosphere for development. The right to health is frequently, associated with the access to health care. This is only one aspect of the right to health, it also includes access to:

- Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation;
- Safe food;
- Adequate nutrition and housing;
- Healthy working and environmental conditions;
- Health-related education and information;
- Gender equality.

Given the ambit of the right to health, realizing this right is the cornerstone of achieving overall development of the individual. The Constitution does not recognize the right to health as a fundamental right, but has directed the state to formulate policy to provide quality health care to all. Over the years, the state has taken numerous measures to ensure that not only health care, but also preventive measures reached the deprived and vulnerable sections. Health care centres at various levels- Sub-Centres (for every 5,000 people), Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) (for every 30, 000 people) and Community Health Centres(CHC) (for every lakh persons) have been established in rural areas.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was initiated in 2005 by the Central government with the aim of reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), universalize access to primary health care to the rural population, prevent the spread of disease, etc. The Mission, which completes its tenure this year, proposed to achieve its objectives through strengthening existing PHCs, by employing female health activists (ASHA), making village health plans that deal with health in a holistic manner to include, hygiene, sanitation, availability of potable water, etc. Special measures have also been taken to make available clean drinking water in rural areas (National Rural Drinking Water Programme), secure *pakka* housing to the poor (Indira Awas Yojana), maternal care, health care for children, health care for the disabled, etc. Further, the state has also taken measures for ensuring sanitation facilities (Total Sanitation Campaign) and preventive health care such as administering polio drops, vaccination drives etc. While we all accept that these rights lie at the heart of human development, there is still a long road ahead for these rights to be fully realized. For them to be fully realized, numerous other political, social and economic changes need to be undertaken. For instance, the right to food can only be guaranteed when the country realizes self-sufficiency in food. Today, India is more or less self-sufficient in cereals, but still depends on imports for pulses and vegetables. Added to this, the gradually shrinking agriculture sector, which may not be able to meet the rising demand in the years to come. Similarly, part of the responsibility of educating all children also needs to rest with the parents of the children. Parents should be willing to send their children to school and consider it an investment and not as an expense— something that is ingrained in the psychology of many across the country. The right to education should also go beyond the primary education. In a world, where employment is increasingly dependent on higher education qualifications, how far can elementary education go in addressing issues of development of the individual to participate in the economy? As for health, deaths due to disease such as brain fever, dengue, etc. are still common without any particular body being accountable for them. Further, there are still instances of starvation deaths in large numbers. Therefore, it is clear that the onus of realization of these rights should be shared by the civil society and the state. Of course, the state's role is greater in terms of the authority, it has to enforce these rights, and civil society too is responsible to create an environment, where these rights can be enjoyed. It should also be understood that economic development does not automatically translate into the development of individuals. Many a time, though individuals advance economically, they fare low on other indicators such as health, education, nutrition, awareness of social issues, etc. Empowerment in terms of access to rights, should be integral to efforts to support the deprived and

vulnerable build their livelihoods. Sometimes, lack of information on the rights and entitlements available to the individual may mitigate the impact of the development she/he has witnessed.

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19. Gram Panchayat

The idea of local self-government had existed in India from ancient times. Even if we accept its beginning as an organizational concept, with the Ripon's resolution it is more than a century and two decades old. In its tumultuous existence, it has seen many ups and downs. In spite of a formal inauguration by the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1959, after the Balvant Rai Mehta committee recommendations in 1957, this institution could not take proper root in the country.



Some of the scholars even declared that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) were like failed God. The Janata Government appointed Ashok Mehta committee to rejuvenate the PRIs. But the 73rd and 74th amendment, which were passed in 1992 and came into force in April 1994, have virtually revolutionized the idea of local self-government - both rural and urban - by bestowing constitutional status on them. These amendments were passed, in the light of the experience of the Local-Self Governing Institutions (LSGI) in India. The 73rd and 74th amendments also contained provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to rural (PRI's) and urban (Nagarpalikas) local self- government institutions. These

amendments respectively provided that the Panchayat's at village, block and district levels would have 29 subjects of rural importance as listed in the 11th schedule and municipalities would have 18 subjects of urban importance as listed in the 12th schedule. These amendments bestowed upon the local self- governing bodies - both rural and urban - the responsibility to prepare and implement a number of development plans based on the needs of local people.

The main features of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act:

- Establishment of a three tier structure (Village Panchayat, Block Samiti and Zilla Parishad) in states which have a population of 20 lakh and above.
- Regular elections to Panchayat's every 5 years.
- Reservations of seats and office of chairperson for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their population.
- Reservation of more than 1/3rd seats of members and office of chairperson for women.
- Constitution of state finance commissions every five years to recommend measures to improve the finances of Panchayat's.
- A State Election Commission has to be constituted in every State and Union Territory (UT), to supervise, direct and control the regular and smooth elections to Panchayat's.
- Gram Sabha or village assembly as a deliberative body to decentralize governance has been envisaged as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj System.

- To promote bottom-up planning, the District Planning Committee (DPC) in every district has been accorded constitutional status.

An indicative list of 29 items has been given in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Panchayat's are expected to play an effective role in the planning and implementation of works related to these 29 items.

Subjects as per Eleventh Schedule (Article 243G)

1. Agriculture including agricultural extension. 2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation 3. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development 4. Animal Husbandry, dairying and poultry 5. Fisheries 6. Social forestry and farm forestry 7. Minor Forest Produce 8. Small Scale industries including food-processing industries 9. Khadi, village and cottage industries 10. Rural Housing 11. Drinking Water 12. Fuel and Fodder 13. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication 14. Rural electrification including distribution of electricity 15. Non-conventional energy sources 16. Poverty alleviation programs 17. Education including primary and secondary schools 18. Technical training and vocational education 19. Adult and non-formal education 20. Libraries 21. Cultural activities 22. Markets and fairs 23. Health and Sanitation including hospitals, primary health centers and dispensaries 24. Family Welfare 25. Women and Child Development 26. Social Welfare including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded 27. Welfare of the weaker sections and in particular of the SCs and STs 28. Public Distribution System 29. Maintenance of community assets.

Democracy, decentralization and development are in a triangular relationship.

The PRIs had been functioning in West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh with varying degree of success. But the experience in the field of local self governing institutions is qualitatively different after the 73rd and 74th amendments, became acts because they made parliamentary democracy in our country participatory in the real sense. These amendments gave substance and meaning to the local self-governing institutions. These amendments removed the bottlenecks from the path of empowerment of the weaker sections of society like the Dalits, tribal's and the women.

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act: intends to conserve tribals' traditional rights over natural resources like forest, water, land and minerals in their areas. It gives full self-governance powers to the tribal community so that they can exercise their Rights and livelihoods.

The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) envisages channelizing the flow of outlays and benefits from all the sectors of development in the Annual Plans of States/UTs and Central Ministries to the SC's at least in proportion to their population both in physical and financial terms. Implementation of SCSP and TSP is not being done uniformly in all States/UTs. Different States have adopted different mechanism without exploring effective mechanism, which can ensure quantification of funds for SCSP and TSP, monitoring of expenditure, avert diversion of funds to unintended ventures etc.

The strategy of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) evolved in 1979 aims at:

- (a) Economic development through beneficiary oriented programs for raising their income and creating assets;
- (b) Basti-oriented schemes for infrastructure development through provision of drinking water supply, like link roads house sites, housing etc.
- (c) Educational and Social development: activities like establishment of primary schools, health centers, vocational centers, community halls, women work place etc.

The President of India in her Address to the Parliament on 4th June, 2009 had mentioned the intent to provide fifty percent reservation to women in Panchayat's as women suffers from multiple deprivations of class, caste and gender and, enhancing reservation in Panchayat's will lead to more women entering the public sphere. Accordingly, a Bill to amend Article 243D for providing 50 % reservation for women in seats and also offices of Chairpersons in all 3 tiers of Panchayat's was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 26.11.2009. Presently, out of approx 28.18 lakhs elected representatives of Panchayat's, 36.87% (around 10 lacs) are women. With the proposed Constitutional Amendment, the number of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) is expected to rise to more than 14 Lakhs. A number of steps are necessary for empowerment of women, such as:

- A provision of women component plans in PRI budgets.
- Linkages with SHGs in all levels of PRIs.
- Adequate training and capacity building of EWR.
- Political parties to put up women candidates.

- Women candidates be given opportunity to serve a full term.
- Mahila Sabhas be encouraged to facilitate women's concerns be raised as priority in meetings of Gram/Ward Sabhas.
- Separate quorum for women's participation in Gram/Ward Sabhas.
- In many of the states local level functionaries of government departments have been placed under the control of Panchayat's.

Functions of PRIs in Gram Panchayat, Block and District Levels:

Gram Panchayat (GP) prepares annual development plans for GP based on Gram Sabha priorities and prepares annual budget for the implementation of plans. It sends annual development plans, to block panchayat. It organizes relief activities at times of natural disaster.

It removes encroachments of the common properties and resources such as pasture lands, grasslands, graveyards, common pathways, water bodies and forest in the village. It mobilizes community contributions for development works. It plans and implements various schemes for poverty reduction. It conducts Ward Sabha and Gram Sabha (GS) meetings to prepare village development and gender responsive plans.

Block Panchayat (BP) consolidates the GP annual development plans of the block and prepares annual development plans for block panchayat. It sends annual plan to the district panchayat. It prepares annual budget for the block panchayat annual development plans.

It receives grants from state and central governments and distributes to the GP in the block. It ensures time bound utilization of funds in GP. It organizes BP meetings and also ensures to conduct GS, Ward Sabha meetings.

District Panchayat prepares district development plans both 5 yearly perspective plan and annual development plan to promote development in rural areas in the district. It coordinates with all concerned departments to prepare and implement the district development plan.

It mobilizes funds from central and state governments and distributes funds to block and gram panchayats in the district. It gives leadership to the all panchayats in the district at block and village level.

Limitations of the Amendments

In spite of the revolutionary changes brought about by the 73rd Amendment it suffers from some serious limitations. Ambiguity about the functional jurisdiction of Panchayat's is one of its serious limitations. In the absence of properly defined jurisdiction, it is dependent upon the discretion of state legislatures for its functions. This act does not mention powers and functions of the GS. This amendment mentions that the GS will perform the functions which may be assigned to it by the State legislature. The provision relating to G Sin the laws enacted by most of the states reduce the GS to a powerless body which will routinely rubber stamp the decisions taken up by the GP. The Chief Ministers' Conference held in August 1997 at New Delhi ruled that it would be necessary to vest in GS the powers to sanction and disburse benefits in open meetings, to decide location of drinking water hand pumps etc., without having to refer the matter to officials or other authorities. Even the new amendment does not evolve any source of revenue for the PRIs. It has left these to be considered by the state finance commission. The urban local governing institutions are also faced with paucity due to increase in population and with people from rural areas coming to the cities in search of jobs and better life.

Why are the Panchayats not delivering in many States?

Some reasons for their uninspiring performance are:

Lack of adequate devolution: Many States have not taken adequate steps to devolve 3Fs to the PRIs, to enable them to discharge their constitutionally stipulated function. Further, it is imperative that the PRIs do not have resources to match the responsibilities entrusted to them. While SFCs have submitted their recommendations, only few States have implemented these or taken steps to ensure the PRI's fiscal viability.

Effective Devolution:

- i) The number of subjects listed for devolution is less important than securing effective devolution of functions related to these subjects. States may, therefore, prepare a five-year plan for effective devolution, aimed at accomplishing full devolution of functions, functionaries and finances for all devolved subjects in pre-determined annual stages over the next five years.
- ii) For devolution to the PRIs, there should be a clear demarcation subject-wise of functions devolved to each of the three tiers of the PRIs. Such demarcation would be essential in determining the contingent devolution of functionaries and finances to each of the three tiers of the system. Technically, this is called 'activity mapping'. A

working group of the Union Ministry of Rural Development has undertaken a detailed illustrative exercise in activity mapping. Based on that model, States should initiate activity mapping within this calendar year with the aim of completing the exercise as soon as possible.

- iii) Devolution should be based on the principle of “subsidiary”, that is, whatever can be accomplished at a lower level should be entrusted to that level. Only that which cannot be effectively implemented at a lower tier might be taken to a higher tier.
- iv) Devolution may also be made irreversible: a function once devolved should not be arbitrarily taken back. Therefore, it would be preferable to make provision for devolution through legislation rather than administrative orders.

Excessive control by bureaucracy: Wide powers of suspension and dismissal have been vested in the State bureaucracy, placing the PRIs in a position of disadvantage vis-a-vis even middle rung functionaries of the State Governments. In some States, even GP have been placed in a position of subordination: Gram Panchayat Sarpanch's have to spend extraordinary amount of time visiting Block Offices (BO) for funds and/or technical approval. These interactions with the Block staff office distort the role of a Sarpanchs as elected representatives.

Tied nature of funds: This has two implications. The activities stated under a certain scheme are not always appropriate for all parts of the district. This results in unsuitable activities being promoted or an under-spending of the funds.

Overwhelming dependency on government funding: A review of money received and owned source funds show the overwhelming dependence of Panchayats on government funding. When Panchayats do not raise resources and instead receive funds from outside, people are less likely to request a social audit.

Reluctance to use fiscal powers: An important power devolved to GP is the right to levy tax on property, business, markets, fairs and also for services provided, like street lighting or public toilets, etc. Very few Panchayats use their fiscal power to levy new taxes. The argument pushed by Panchayat-heads, is that it is difficult to levy tax on your own constituency, especially, when you live in the community

Status of the Gram Sabha: Empowering GS could have been a powerful weapon for transparency, accountability and for involvement of the marginalized sections. However, a number of the State Acts have not spelt the powers of GS nor have any procedures been laid down for the functioning of these bodies.

Devolution is a form of decentralization which seeks to create independent level of authority of government with functions and responsibilities. It is an arrangement for Central or State Governments to relinquish some of its functions to the new units of government that are outside its control. This can be achieved by providing for it in the Constitution itself or by ordinary law of the land. One of the major reasons for the failure of the local self-government institutions in India has been half-hearted devolution of powers to the Panchayat's as mentioned earlier.

Relationship between panchayats and citizens / stakeholder groups/ Community based organizations / other civil society bodies:

A large number of NGOs and stakeholder groups / CBOs like SHGs, User Groups, SHG's etc are functioning in the villages. Very often these organizations are involved in implementing various state/central government programs/schemes.

Steps should be taken to institutionalize the coordinating mechanism between such stakeholder groups/organizations and the Panchayat's, but the question is “Will it be appropriate if these bodies are asked to attend gram Sabha / intermediate Panchayat meetings and brief the members on their ongoing activities in the area?”. Could they be co-opted as special invitees of the Panchayat's or their Standing Committees? Do you think it will create an environment of complementary? What could be the modalities for such interactions? Will the Co-ordination between stakeholders / CBO groups and PRIs will lead to convergence of various development programs in the area? What are the implications if such organizations function under the overall umbrella of the local government?

SHG and PRI:

States are charged to prepare plans to cover at least one member from each rural BPL family under SHGs during the 11th Five-Year Plan. To cover all the BPL families there is a need to form 20 lakh more SHGs, which is an enormous task in the light of the resource availability and the delivery mechanism that exists.

Institution Building:

The entire program is built on the foundation of community owned and managed institutions with a role for poor women to take initiatives in planning, implementing and monitoring the development programs. Community institutions have been developed into a four-tier structure.

All SHGs at the hamlet level are organized into a Village Organization (VO). There can be more than one VO in a village, depending on the numbers. The VOs in one Mandal are then federated to form the Mandal Samakhya (MS), which typically has 4,000 to 6,000 women as members. Around 20 MS's form the Zilla Samakhya (ZS). A key design feature is the deployment of a large number of animators, group leaders, community resource persons, etc selected from the target villages to support the CBOs. The strategy is to ensure that the institutions are formed around a system of local ownership and support and are not dependent on external sources forever.

As of April 2008, the program has mobilized 88 Lakh members into seven Lakh SHGs, 34,269 VOs, 1,086 MSs and 22 ZSs. A unique feature of the program has been the focus on the poorest of the poor, SCs, STs, single women and the disabled. The percentage of total SC and ST households mobilized into SHGs account for 90 per cent of the total of such rural households. These institutional arrangements have enabled the poor to access a range of services, resources and expertise from both the public and the private sector.

Build on existing livelihoods:

IKP has identified a number of livelihood initiatives, which are aimed at building on the existing livelihood patterns of the poor. Availing financial support through SHGs, the households have invested predominantly in agriculture, dairy, non-farm trade, and sheep-rearing with agriculture and dairy taking a predominant share. The program has contributed to the de-linking of exploitative inter-linked credit and commodity markets. CBOs are permitted to act as authorized procurement and marketing agents by line departments and para-statal agencies like the dairy corporation which assures communities price benefits. The collective activities have cumulatively benefited about 300,000 poor households in the project area. The turnover has increased from Rs 16 Crore in 2004'05 to Rs 320 Crore as on March 2008.

Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA):

The major intervention under CMSA has been promotion of Non-Pesticide Management practices (NPMP), which replaces chemical and other external inputs with local knowledge and natural methods of pest management. The partnership between NGOs and MSs as a community-managed extension program, covers 2.05 Lakh acres benefiting nearly 90000 farmers. The cost of cultivation has reduced to a substantial extent, leading to a 40-to-60-per cent increase in the income of a farmer.

The sustainable agriculture intervention is now being looked at as a comprehensive program, which is dovetailing various other elements such as natural resource management of soil and water, setting up community seed banks to maintain crop and varietal diversity, post harvest management pilots in paddy and millet processing and integrating food security programs by supplying essential commodities to poor households.

Schemes/programs implemented by PRI:

PRIs implementing major development programs, related to education, health, housing, employment and livelihoods. The SSA and Right to education focus on the education of girl child and weaker sections of society. Health is covered under NRHM and it has impacted working capacity of women. ASHA is working at village level for the pregnant and lactating women. Similarly, MGNREGA is for wage employment and NRLM is for livelihood to improve social status of women by making reservation for them. In livelihoods point of view the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian job guarantee scheme, enacted on August 25, 2005. The Act directs state governments to implement MGNREGA "schemes". Under the MGNREGA many rural poor people are getting livelihood, the Central Government meets the cost towards the payment of wage, 3/4 of material cost and some percentage of administrative cost.

Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), which ran from 1980 to 1999 was a comprehensive self-employment scheme targeted at Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Their modified and refined successors are NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The conventional approach to the stimulation of rural livelihoods has been essentially a targeted supply-side one – a pattern sought to be broken by NREGA which has been developed and positioned as a rights-based social security program. A recently introduced program – the Backward Regions Grants Fund (BRGF) "seeks to fill the gaps in infrastructure implementation of programs through PRIs . In addition the government runs a large number of programs aimed at the development of underprivileged castes and communities, undeveloped regions and in sub-sectors with a large number of workers, such as handloom and handicrafts.

Panchayats should take up livelihoods development, for that they can promote collective farming among small and marginal farmers, develop dairy and poultry sector, and ensure accessibility of credit at the time of requirement and forming SHGs and Farmers co-operative for sustainable livelihoods.

Livelihoods and Panchayat:

Rural Business Hubs

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992, has mandated Panchayat's as Institutions of Self Government to plan and implement programs of economic development and social justice. Over 14 years, Panchayat's across the country have achieved varying levels of success in delivering basic services. Though some of Panchayat's have also been promoting economic development of local people by supporting micro-credit and micro-enterprises etc, government interventions in the directions of promoting rural industry and economic growth have largely been ignored or neglected by the Panchayat's. The need has been to encourage and involve Panchayat's in economic development of rural areas and also to help private and public sector entrepreneurs to link with Panchayat's, for enhancing local business potential. Further, the private and public sector lacks liaison, with elected representatives of the people at the local level.

Therefore, in June 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Hon'ble Prime Minister initiated the concept of the Rural Business Hubs (RBH) aimed to promote rural industries and increase rural non-farm incomes through providing regular livelihood opportunities. RBH involves a bottom-up approach where private, public and PRI's participate as main stakeholders. Panchayat's are local units for decentralized governance at village, block and district levels, and are managed by elected representatives of the people.

The partnership envisages involving local organizations, companies, NGOs and the government for local economic development, through identification of industrial clusters and involving poor households in cluster development. Local firms are thus utilized for enterprise development and augmenting skills of the poor. Infrastructure development is overseen by the Panchayat's, and inward investment is provided through seed capital by the ministry, and further funds flow as envisaged in other official schemes for poverty reduction, regional development and cluster development.

Mostly the PRI's are the implementing agencies, as there is no devolution of power and funds to the PRI's.

***Livelihoods March-2012**

20. Gram Panchayat Development Plan

Gram Panchayat (GP) is a basic unit of rural administration in India. It means that GP is a local self governing body of the country. The development of a GP depends upon many factors like villagers' participation, local resources' proper utilization, administrative support and political will. Village development requires proper planning. In Constitution of India, Article 243 G, describes about development of GP. The GPs' development depends upon successful implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). GPDP is designed by local community, according to their requirements and available resources, which is later formally approved by the Gram Sabha (GS).

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Development Plan reflects a villager's needs and priorities. It prioritizes community needs and taps funds from various resources including different schemes from Governments. In India, local Government is of two types i.e. three tier and two tier system. In three tier system, we have District, Block and GP. In two tier system, we have District and Block levels. Local bodies were formed according to directions provided by the 73rd and 74th amendment Acts, 1992. Both the amendments created uniformity in structures of Panchayat Raj (PR) and Nagarpalika institutions (Urban Local Governments) across the country. The State Legislature considers 29 matters illustratively, set out in the 11th Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats for planning and implementation of schemes, for economic progress and social justice. State Finance Commission (SFC) provides grant amount to villages through District level and Block level bodies. The grants flow from apex to bottom. All GPs get financial resources from the Government. Tribal areas have exclusive powers as per the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996. In our country, local bodies' GPDPs have clear components, such as addressing vulnerable and marginalized communities', prioritizes livelihoods opportunities, while also focusses on poverty reduction and convergence, such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGS).

Government implements various developmental programmes at the panchayat level, however it is not as effective, at village level, primarily due to lack of coordination, among the villagers and local officials. The GP also, is not effective in monitoring all the departmental activities at GP level. Due to lack of accountability and transparency of programmes at ground level by the GPs, the concept of sustainable development at operational level is not possible, thus, if a plan is developed by the villagers at GS level, then it can pave way for replication of empowerment and sustainable development of the village. The villagers' decision plays a key role in GPDP, as community is aware of its needs, discontents, and priorities at Panchayat level. Community can provide a clear direction for development of

village; inclusive mobilization of financial, technical and multiple resources and can avail better services at the village level. The GPDP is a road map for development of local innovations as shown below:

*It provides platform for discussion of local issues, needs, discontents, importance and their priorities.

*It provides preference to local people's needs, and local people are accountable and there is increased transparency.

*It provides forward and backward linkages through effective mechanism.

*It provides horizontal/ vertical, spatial/ temporal integration of different sectors.

*It provides an opportunity for matching of priorities and resources.

GPDP goals and objectives to be achieved shall be affordable, efficient, effective and sustainable.

One of GPDP's principle priority is Antyodaya. It provides space for local people's voice, their priorities, needs, local development issues, analysis of their problems and finding solutions. It requires collective vision for mobilization of various resources and proper utilization towards enhancing village prosperity. Its significant role is to pool up existing resources, and plan for additional resources from the Government and other agencies. A locally generated plan would also be, the only way to use united resources efficiently and for accountability. It has added advantage of orienting the departments for local needs and inducing competition among GPs to improve performance. The GPDP has many advantages and benefits, some of which are listed below:

- It becomes a systematic way to converge local people's needs and demands;
- It helps to reach, the unreached/ excluded people within a Panchayat area;
- It reflects different people's needs and their importance;
- It mobilizes all sections and encourages their participation in local governance;
- It provides space to villagers in decision making;
- It facilitates access to rights/ entitlements/ services;
- It mobilizes financial resources from various sources;
- It helps forge better bond between Panchayats and local citizens;
- It encourages local self-governance;
- It enhances local resource mobilization;
- It encourages village economic growth and efficiency;
- It gives accountability to local villagers;
- It facilitates GS in decision making and implementation at village level;
- It reduces officials' over-involvement;
- It improves service delivery;
- It enhances feeling of citizenship;
- It motivates volunteerism;
- It creates space for an alliance of people's institutions and groups and
- It improves governance at local level.

The key component of GPDP has its roots, linked to year 1992, when GPs were given several powers and functions for development of their respective areas. With specific reference to Sections 45 to Sections 59 of the Act, which makes it possible to communicate to local population various powers and functions of GP. Section 45 of the Act outlines mandatory functions of GP. The various types of plans fulfill needs of common people living in villages. GPDP provides a perspective change in people's lives and provides a sustainable view to GP. One of the biggest challenges, that panchayats had always faced was, that of financial resources. Today, GPs are involved in tapping various financial resources. GPDP helps in funds mobilization from various sources. Convergence is key element in GPDP. GPs have to mobilize resources from line departments and various institutions. GPDP improves GPs' funds mobilization from various financial sources such as fees, fine, taxes and non-taxes.

Central and State Schemes:

- Funds under various Central and State schemes spent by various departments at GP level like National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), etc., can be included in GPDP.
- The funds available under all schemes shall be made available to each GP to enable it, to prioritize needs under basic services etc.,

Focus Areas of the GPDP:

For achieving overall development of the village, planning exercise at GP level should focus on following areas to begin with:

- I. Sanitation and Drinking Water.
- II. Natural Resource Management (NRM).
- III. Human Resource Development (HRD).
- IV. Health and Nutrition.
- V. Agriculture.
- VI. Social Security and Poverty Reduction.

GPDP's main processes and various stages are given below.

1. Public mobilization: Active participation of all villagers in development is the first step in planning and planning process begins with mobilization of local communities; followed by generation of awareness and formation of coordination committees. The committees collect basic data of GP and existing financial resources of GP.

2. Sensitization & Capacity building: All the elected representatives and officials are involved in planning. They are sensitized through training and Capacity Building (CB), which is done as per the state Panchayati Raj Institution's (PRI) guidance.

3. Gram Sabha (GS): The villagers are involved in planning, discussing their needs, issues, discontent, priorities and their need-based infrastructure. The villagers form various committees with respective elected members to discuss about various matters like livelihoods analysis, development issues, village problems etc.

Analysing of problems and finding solutions is key to creation of plan. The plan is then submitted to the Panchayat Secretary (PS). GPDP sets clear targets and milestones to the GP. It shows clearly, the commitment of GP to improve quantity and quality of basic services, which are mandated by the Panchayati Raj (PR) Act.

Later, the official notes on "Situation" in GP shall be given by different important departments like Health, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Agriculture, School Education, Women and Child Welfare, SC/ ST Welfare etc. through Mandal Officers (MO) concerned. After situational analysis, the officers assess needs of the community in GP. Block level officials assess requirements for the community. The officials analyze pending works and based on the above, work is taken up on priority basis. Later, funds are released from central and state governments, and allocation of funds is based on work phases for effective execution on the ground.

Preparation of the Draft GPDP, after the Projectisation and Prioritization, the draft plan is prepared by line departments for the concerned sectors. Draft plan indicates works identified in each of focus areas, fund allocation, timelines for completion of works, output and outcome of the works. The consolidated draft plan prepared by the Mandal or Block line departments is placed, before GP for verification. A special meeting of GP is held to discuss draft plan for finalization and approval. The approved plan is placed before GS for validation. Proposed Administrative Arrangements for GPDP is given below:

a. Human Resources: The following categories of officers available at district level shall be utilized for carrying out planning exercise:

- i. Functionaries of GP under GP control;
- ii. Functionaries at GP Level not under GP Control;
- iii. Functionaries at Mandal Level;
- iv. Functionaries at Divisional Level;

From resource pool of above, officers the following administrative arrangements made.

b. Panchayat Secretary (PS): The PS makes all necessary arrangements required for carrying out planning exercise at GP level, as per the instructions given by higher authorities from time to time. PS takes all logistic support to conduct GS, Functional Committee (FC) activities and any other activities related to planning process.

c. Special Officer (SO): A SO is appointed for every GP, as was done during Village Development Plan (VDP). The PS provides all required support and assistance to the SO. The SO facilitates the proceedings conducted by the FC of GP.

d. Functional committee (FC): The FC shall be constituted as follows:

- i. One or three Ward members;
- ii. One or two SHG leaders;
- iii. Any retired officer in the village;
- iv. Any person having experience in the subject concerned;
- v. The Village/ Mandal level Officer concerned shall be the Convener: The strength of each FC shall not be more than seven members.

e. Extension Officer (EO): Primarily responsible for smooth conduct of planning exercises in all GPs at the Block or Mandal level, implementation of all instructions of the higher authorities and ensure that planning exercise is conducted as per the guidelines. EO is also responsible for submission of reports and required data entry on planning.

f. Block/ Mandal Line Departments: To consolidate the work of functional group, the Mandal line departments such as:

1. Block/ Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) - Convener;
2. Tehsildars;
3. Extension Officer (Panchayati Raj Rural Development);
4. Assistant Engineer (Panchayati Raj);
5. Assistant Engineer (Rural Water Service);
6. Assistant Engineer (Electricity);
7. Medical Officer (Primary Health Center);
8. Agriculture Officer;
9. Assistant Project Manager (Poverty Alleviation Programme).

Block Change Agent (BCA): A change agent appointed for each Mandal, the BCA coordinates progress of GPDP. BCA is instrumental in igniting, the collective energy of people and channelizing it, for betterment of the society. BCA conducts GS and motivates people to participate in development, and he/ she has to coordinate between various departments in all blocks and GP level departments. BCA is the mediator between districts and blocks. BCA facilitates the preparation of GPDPs.

Divisional Panchayat Officer (DPO): DPO is responsible for coordinating all activities of planning in the Division. DPO liaisons with all senior officers of line departments' to ensure that all departmental functionaries actively participate in planning process, as per the roles and responsibilities assigned to them. DPO resolves every coordination issue and immediately reports, the unresolved issues to higher authorities. GPDP's implementation is a Herculean task as lack of funds/ or inadequate funds from various sources from within the GP are major roadblocks to it. Due to the above, GPs cannot sustain themselves by Income Generating Activities (IGAs), thus GPs require more funds for development, as per the GPDP, and funds are sanctioned as per the financial requirements. The funds are given by the central and state financial commission.

What is the importance of the 14th Finance Commission (FFC):

Key to GPDP's successful implementation is the financial resources being in place. The GPs are availing, its resources from the respective state governments and as well as from central government. It is the State Finance Commission (SFC), which grants the amount to respective district as per the guidelines of Finance Commission (FC) and local state government. Currently, we have the 14th Finance Commission (14 FC), which performs a key role in implementation of activities at the ground level. It has so far recommended 2,00,292.20 crore to devolution to GPs constituted under part IX of the Constitution, which amounts to an assistance of Rs. 488 per capita/ year . The Union Finance (UF) commission, keenly observes SFC and analyses main reasons as to, why grants are not being put

to proper use. The Central Finance Commission (CFC) releases funds to SFC and the SFC grants, fund to districts, and further the division level officials further distribute amount to block level and later, it finally reaches the GP.

Functions of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC):

- To facilitate the implementation of GPDP's resolution;
- To ensure sub-district or division levels are following DLCC's orders;
- To facilitate convergence of all schemes;
- To respond to issues from field and to undertake troubleshooting and crisis management if any required;
- To find out problems from the ground and solve it;
- To ensure that necessary human resource required for GPDP processes are available as required, in all GPs and clear cut responsibilities are fixed;
- To coordinate Capacity Building of all concerned;
- To get GP wise secondary data relevant to GPDP as per the state guidelines;
- To provide support to technical appraisal and approval of projects on time;
- To monitor and steer entire GPDP process at district level;
- To monitor implementation of GPDP;
- To give feedback and best practices report status of GPDP at district level.

Functions of Block Level Coordination Committee (BLCC):

- To ensure coordination of various departments at the block and GP level;
- To ensure presence of cluster level technical support teams for GPDP process in the Block;
- To ensure presence of technical support teams for monitoring GPDP process in cluster and block level;
- To ensure convergence of schemes and resources MGNREGS, NRHM, NRLM, ICDS, SSA and SBM etc.;
- To ensure any issues from the field level are identified and rectified, and if not resolved, send to district level authorities to solve them;
- To ensure that, whatever human resources are required are sent to GP as per its needs, then fulfill local gaps and their arrangements;
- To provide basic infrastructure and equipment, and technical resources for GPDP;
- To make logistic arrangements for Capacity Building (CB) at the cluster, GP and sub-GP level;
- To coordinate and promote environment friendly activities at the Block and grassroots level.

Review, Monitoring and Evaluation: The GPDP's success depends upon effective implementation and its monitoring. However, the villagers are keenly observing GPDP's implementation at every stage at the grass root level, so that they can easily capture, evaluate and provide feedback to local and higher official for smooth and effective implementation of it, as per the villagers' decision. This kind of review is for effective development of GP at all levels. The following things play an important role in proper implementation of GPDP.

- i. Gram Sabha (GS);
- ii. GP;
- iii. Intermediate Panchayat;
- iv. District Collector (DC)/ Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Zilla Parishad (ZP)/ Community Development Officer (CDO);
- v. State;

Identifying the best GPDP's performance: Whichever, GPDP is documented as the most effective in its implementation at the village level, will be identified and nurtured as a beacon of Panchayat. It is taken as a role model for GPs. It will be adopted, as local school of practice. Sometimes, GPs are arranging exposure visits to best performing GPs within the state and neighboring states. The top GPs get the best performance award and ranking also. And the officials working for top GP, are taken as Resource Persons (RP).

Capacity Building: The success of a GPDP also depends upon systematic CB unit. However, the CB units are only effective with trained officers. Apart from that, the state level stakeholders' coordination, such as PRIs, trained expert officers, policy makers, Head of the Department (HoD) and senior officers, District Chief Executive Officer (DCEO), DC, Community Development Officers (CDO) is a very important aspect in success of GPDPs. In a similar way, the coordination of Block Development Officer (BDO), Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO), PS, various department's engineers, technical assistant, Gram Sevak (GS), Gram Rojgar Sahayaks (GRS), Anganwadi workers, Primary Health Center (PHC) Doctors, ANM/ASHA workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Organization (VO) leaders and members, School Teachers, Agriculture Officer (AO), Veterinary Officer (VO), Assistant and Forest Officer, etc., are important. Moreover, the elected representatives have a key role to play in implementation of GPDP. The CB programme of GPs is one of the most important areas for successful implementation of GPDP. The state officials, select a resource person, as they themselves cannot possibly participate in the entire state level GPs. So, they impart training to RPs. State level officials are called as the Master Trainers (MT) and the ground level implementation activists are called RPs. The RPs identify those, who are working with the community, at the ground level actively like health workers, MGNREGS, sanitation, livelihoods, watershed, literacy, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NRLM elected representatives like SHGs, VO and Mandal Samakhya (MS). The entire CB trainings avail funds pooled from Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikarn Abhiyaan (RGPSA), MGNREGS, NRLM and SBM.

Convergence in the GPDP: There are many schemes, which are being implemented in the villages. Convergence with those schemes is important for village development. The schemes such as MGNREGS, NRLM, Pradhan Manthri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Manthri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Rajeev Gandhi Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) etc., are creating public assets and provide services to development model of villages.

GPDP results: Till now, 24 states are designing GPDP out of 26 states. Whatever, plan is designed is implemented at the ground level. All the states give importance to basic services like water, sanitation, roads, street lights, play grounds, parks, burial grounds, etc. These development activities are done by the funds, from various sources like own resources, central and state governments' schemes, 14th Finance Commission, SFC and poverty reduction. The GPDPs focuses on reduction of poverty. However, our Government keeps introducing various schemes and programmes for poor people, so schemes and entitlements are converging for effectively providing services to poor people. These programmes give entitlements and rights to poor people like forest rights, social security, food security, education, nutrition, health and shelter. Moreover, the MGNREGS and NRLM programmes are providing livelihoods and Community Based Institutions (CBOs) are also playing an important role. The GPDPs also focus on literacy, education, skill development, child health, public health, food and nutrition. It also facilitates creation of quality human resources. These aspects are especially shown in developing anganwadis, schools, hospitals and etc. If this kind of basic infrastructure develop, automatically the respective state governments will achieve the targets within time. GPDP should aim at improving the wellbeing of vulnerable and marginalized groups like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), minorities and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), elderly people, women, children and vulnerable groups like bonded labourers, child labourers, de-notified tribes and nomads, distress-migrants, manual scavengers, trans-genders, victims of trafficking etc.,.

Economic development: The GPs promote activities of local people, their produces, productivity, employment, market-accessibility, value addition, livestock, fisheries, land development activities, irrigation tanks, ponds, wells, etc., They also develop agriculture, allied sectors, traditional works and also financial inclusion.

Public service delivery: GPDP give priority to public services, apart from maximizing local development through minimum investment, like distribution of birth and death certificates, trade license, permits, welfare services, social security pension schemes through the electronic machines.

Good Governance (GG): Along with effective public service delivery, the GPs need to develop processes and systems related to participation, particularly of marginalized groups, transparency and proactive disclosures, community based monitoring and due processes in budget and expenditure. Close partnership with institutions of the poor, particularly SHGs and women is also necessary. This calls for a 'Good Governance' plan for each GP, including Citizens' charters.

Challenges of GPDP: Implementation of the plan on ground has been one of the key challenges of GPDP, mainly due to limited financial resources, political interference, defective methods in elections, inadequate co-operation between the officials and non-officials and lack of coordination at block level and non-conductance of GS at village level. On the other front, many of the GPs are not collecting taxes and local communities are under the impression

that GPs have to avail funds only from SFC or from central government. Thus, many of the local communities are evading tax payments as a result of this, GPs are not able to effectively pay wages to its workers. Political interference has been identified as another major challenge for effective implementation of GPDP. The panchayat secretaries are in connivance with local administration, and there has been mis utilization of funds in flagship programmes. On the whole, challenges in GPDP are acting as a deterrent factor in realization of true spirit of GPDP, which can be addressed, through technology and standardization of procedures.

The concept of self-empowerment, which was Mahatma Gandhi's aim, has been accelerated through GPDP. The GPDP's innovation lies in people's planning for themselves, by way of utilizing local, natural, physical, social, human, spiritual and economical resources, mobilizing resources through convergence with line departments and different organizations are going a long way towards development. The GPDP has given people power through GS, by way of involving all the key stakeholders. The GPDP has strengthened GPs and to a large extent facilitated decentralization of governance. The decision making power in hands of GS has made village development possible and has accentuated villagers' rights and entitlements, and betterment of services.

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21. Partnerships

Partnership has become a viable model to provide improved quality services and facilities like education, health, infrastructure, tourism and telecommunication, poverty eradication programs etc. Increasing population, financial difficulties, human resources low capacities, inefficient monitoring and evolution methods are major cause for partnerships, between public and private in public sector.



Partnership is an agreement between two or more entities to further their mutual interests and accomplish a certain goal. Partnership, as a strategy to pursue common interests has always existed and proven to be effective in reaching goals efficiently. Partnerships exist between governments, private, community, NGOs and academic or scientific communities. Here, we are focusing partnership between public entity, private sector, NGOs, CBOs and communities. These partnerships provide various services to the people and play a key role in the country's development. We can see the partnerships in every sector like education, health, infrastructure, electricity and livelihoods interventions. In these partnerships, Public Private Partnership model has

evolved as one of the major partnership models in the country.

The public sector is riddled with inefficiency and red tapism that prevent it from delivering effectively. Moreover, the public sector generally resists change and fails to adapt to rapidly changing contexts— new technologies, market competition, rise in literacy levels, etc., Further, public sector initiatives often grapple with financial crunches due to their not-for profit motive and also mismanagement of funds.

PPP is an arrangement between government entities and private entities to share resources and skills to deliver benefits. It is designed to provide quality and timely services to the target group, by providing scope to the private sector to utilize resources and the public sector to employ the expertise of the private partner. Over the years, the world has gradually moved from state owned industries to partnerships, public-private ownerships and private ownerships in service sector.

The PPP model is an attempt to fuse the best of both the sectors. This partnership has given birth to different organizational structure and a new business ethic. It is a different structure, which includes various types of partnerships in the enterprises. It is designed on the basis of specific agreements between the partners.

The salient features of the PPP model are given below:

- They have mutual cooperation and collaboration between public and private sector in maintenance and delivering services. These contracts and collaborations are designed to provide quality services to the people. These arrangements are prepared to develop expertise and capacities. These are designed for specified period from 15 to 30 years
- The responsibilities are shared between public and private bodies. In some cases, the private sector may share more responsibility, but ultimately the government is accountable and responsible in meeting the needs of the people
- The risks in designing, construction and management is transferred from public sector to private sector and managed by the skill and expertise of private sector
- Flexible ownership systems are an important feature of the PPP model. In some cases, private operators may implement the project, hand it over to the public body for maintenance or private body may maintain enterprise or government may run the enterprise

Partnerships can be made with private agencies, NGOs, communities and panchayats. There are different models of partnerships existing in funding, maintaining and managing the enterprises.-

Design - Build (DB): The private sector designs and builds asset and hands its over to the public body at a fixed price. In this model, risks are transferred to the private sector agency.

Operation & Maintenance (O&P): Private agency takes charge of maintaining and operating the assets of the public body. The asset is owned by the public entity.

Design-Build- Finance-Operate (DBFO): The private partner design and finance to build the infrastructure. After establishing the infrastructure, private partner operates the project and collects service fee according to the mutual agreement at the time partnership preparation. Generally, these agreements prepare long term leasing system. After completion of contract period private partner handovers the asset to the public sector body.

Build-Own-Operate (BOO): The private partner finances and builds the infrastructure and after the infrastructure establishment private partner owns it and operates it. In this partnership public sector plays a regulatory role.

Build- Own-Operate- Transfer (BOOT): The private sector partner design, finance, builds the infrastructure and for a specified period as mentioned in the agreement with public sector operates the infrastructure. In that time the private operator collect the service charges from the users. After the agreement period time completion, the ownership is transferred back to the public sector partner.

Buy-Build- Operate (BBO): The public sector owned assets are transferred to private partner to operate for a specified period of time as per agreement.

Build- Lease-Operate- Transfer (BLOT): The private sector partner leases the public land for a specified period of time and finance, build and operates the infrastructure. After agreement period completion, the private partner returns back to the public sector partner.

Operation license: This model used in information technology sector. Private partner get permission to operate the public service facility for a specified period.

Finance: The private sector partner gives only finance service to the infrastructure and collects charges from the public sector, for its funds utilization.

The process of establishing the partnership is broadly categorized into 4 stages- identification stage, development stage, procurement stage, and management & monitoring stage.

The **identification stage** includes plan designing, feasibility analysis, financial assessment, partnership suitability check and internal clearances.

Development stage includes technology feasibility and financial viability, designing project structure, preparation of contractual documents, getting project clearance and approval.

In the **procurement stage** covers accountability, transparency, non-discriminatory and timely service delivery mechanism and it also facilitates maximum private sector participation.

Management and monitoring stage covers efficient and effective governance process.

The PPP model is not just transactions or contract between public and private sector. It needs shared vision, objectives, investments, risks and rewards. Genuine partnership needs suitable environment and requires-

- A suitable environment allowing the partners to pursue their interest
- Facilitating trust and suitable attitude between public and private partners
- Making transparent and accountable management and financial systems
- Establishing an authorization process and well planned structures, which ensures service delivery
- Developing managerial skills in public and private partners
- Establishing suitable environment, which facilitates shared responsibility, investment and accountability

One of the prominent examples of PPP has been in the infrastructure development sector. The shortage of infrastructure prevents economic growth and restricts access to services, such as telecommunications and opportunities i.e., marketing and services in rural areas.

The country is planning to increase budget on infrastructure development from 5% to 9% of the GDP. But the government does not have sufficient financial resources and management capacities to establish and operate infrastructure. This situation leads to number of PPPs in many sectors like transport (road, port and civil aviation), ports, telecom and power in the infrastructure sector.

The government started different types of partnership models in the infrastructure sector like public contracting, private partner maintenance, and public –private joint ventures and long term contract agreements. More than Rs. 1000 billion worth partnership enterprises are operating across the country. Both central and state governments are scaling up the partnership enterprises to develop the infrastructure sector.

STATE WISE FIGURES						
States	Total Number of Projects based on value of contracts					
	Total Number of Projects	Based on 100 crore	Between 100 to 250 crore	Between 251 to 500 crore	More than 500 crore	Value of contacts
Andhra Pradesh	63	1062.93	1554.27	3188.53	33473.7	39279.43
Bihar	2	4	0	418.04	0	422.04
Chandigarh	14	15	0	0	0	15
Chhattisgarh	4	70	304	464	0	838
Delhi	9	95	0	408.2	10374	10877.2
Goa	2	30	220	0	0	250
Gujarat	27	130.06	277.22	3360.9	14943.71	18711.89
Haryana	2	0	0-	756	0	756
Jharkhand	6	131	550	0	0	681
Karnataka	95	980.39	1692.55	12203.31	24615.6	39491.85
Kerala	11	114	112	615.5	11131	11972.5
Madhya Pradesh	37	1027.32	1117.28	2694.95	2949	7788.55
Maharashtra	285	118.5	745.5	1099.84	32061.95	34025.79
Orissa	16	235.1	0	500	6888.34	7623.44
Pudducherry	2	0	0	419	1867	2286
Punjab	19	537.26	434.72	572	0	1543.98
Rajasthan	49	523.92	783.79	833	3112.7	5253.41
Sikkim	24	175.59	558	2669	13708	17110.59
Tamil Nadu	30	143.31	555.6	6412.87	5340	12451.78
Uttar Pradesh	5	0	0	1458.57	649.21	2107.78
West Bengal	5	0	200	1214.4	641	2055.4
Inter-State	13	160.45	195	2294.67	5984	8634.12
Total	450	5638.83	9299.93	41582.78	167739.21	224175.8

Source: <http://www.pppinindia.com/>

Health sector is second to infrastructure sector in PPP. GoI is working through several partnership models in clinical contraception, contracting slum level health centers in urban areas and rural health centers, social marketing and providing pediatric emergency services.

The clinical contraception intervention is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh. The Department of Health and Family Welfare (DHFV) is providing sterilization and intra-uterine services to the rural poor in partnership with private hospitals and nursing homes. Urban slum level health centers are running in Andhra Pradesh. In this model, the government built well-equipped health centers in slums. It then hands them over to local NGOs/development organizations to maintain the centers and provide health services to the poor. The government pays 70% of the cost and the remaining cost is borne by the NGOs/development organization.

The 108 and 104 health services are another example of PPP in the health sector. These agencies provide emergency medical services and give regular medical services in remote areas. Here, government spends 95% and private partners provide technical and management support.

SECTOR WISE FIGURES						
Sector	Total Number of Projects	Based on 100 crore	Between 100 to 250 crore	Between 251 to 500 crore	More than 500 crore	Value of contacts
Airports	5	0	0	303	18808	19111
Education	1	93.32	0	0	0	93.32
Energy	24	175.59	558	2669	13708	17110.59
Ports	43	96	970	2440	62992.95	66498.95
Railways	4	0	102.22	905	594.34	1601.56
Roads	271	3162.5	5526.49	32861.87	60453.92	102004.7
Tourism	29	742.56	674.52	0	1050	2467.08
Urban Development	73	1283.86	1468.7	2403.91	10132	15288.47
Total	450	5638.83	9299.93	41582.78	167739.21	224175.8

Source: <http://www.pppinindia.com/>

In education sector, government entered into partnerships with development organizations to fulfill its agenda of universal education. Mostly, the government provides financial support and private parties manage education institutions.

Government has also planned partnership models for placement oriented trainings in partnership with NGOs. These NGOs agree with the Government and its agencies to train and place unemployed youth in rural and urban areas. Organizations like DRF and IIF run, many such training centers and provide placements. They depend on the government for funds.

Government of India set NRLM to support the livelihoods of 7 Crore poor families across the country through providing financial and other services by creating strong institutional platforms for the poor. NRLM has entered into

partnerships with Resource Organizations (RO) on five broad fields like training and capacity building of the staff, community professionals and other stakeholders, developing knowledge management and learning systems, developing best practices model and immersion locations, implementing support in specific activities and locations and technical assistance in thematic areas.

Government is also implementing watershed programmes through partnerships with local organizations and community. It promotes the formation of WUGs and devolves operation and maintenance of the watershed to these groups.

The government supports groups financially. Similarly, government also promotes community participation in the forest protection. Vana Samrakshana Samiti is formed with local communities.

Public-Private Partnership benefits in many ways to both public and private sectors. It mobilizes the resources efficiently. PPPs create stable growth in the private sector business and private sector also learns to run big enterprises and innovative designing and delivery mechanisms.

There are issues in the PPP, sometimes the partnership results in transfer of ownership from the public sector to private partner. The public sector role becomes limited, and there is no scope to intervene in the management. Partnerships planning, appraisal, approval and implementation may take more time and become expensive. It increases the cost of the enterprises. Some public services demand more transparency and accountability, which may be difficult in private partnerships.

Some problems in PPP are as follows:

- Disputes and misunderstandings may arise between the partners leading to the enterprises becoming inefficient
- The expected results in the agreement period may not be achieved
- Performance improving possibilities might be lost

In public sector also there are more problems, which prevent the success of the partnership model. We can see these problems in the public sector from designing to management and monitoring to evaluation and lack of adaptation according to the changing conditions.

In most of the partnership programs local communities' participation is absent or negligible.

The low community participation dilutes the quality and effectiveness of the services. It also affects the sustainability of the enterprise. This situation demands more participation, from local communities in the enterprise. The regular monitoring can be possible by the involvement of the community. Enterprise can adopt new changes, when it gives more space to the community involvement. Community participation enhances the transparency and accountability.

Particularly communities should own the enterprises. It is the base for sustainability of the enterprise. This leads to Public Private Community Participation (PPCP) in enterprises. The PPCP enhances the transparency and accountability in the project. More community's involvement gives scope for higher sustainability.

***Livelihoods July-2012**

22. Information

Knowledge is an important prerequisite for making informed, rational decisions. The 21st century has seen the industrial economy take on new dimension-knowledge as a key input in production. Knowledge is being considered as a catalyst for greater efficiency. The world in general has shifted into a “knowledge era”.



Knowledge is an important prerequisite for making informed, rational decisions. The 21st century has seen the industrial economy take on new dimension-knowledge as a key input in production. In large-scale industries, knowledge is being considered as a catalyst for greater efficiency. The world in general has shifted into a “knowledge era”.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, mass communication had already made information creation and access less tedious. With the introduction of user-friendly IT, information access and creation has become

uncomplicated. However, this is just one side of the coin. Many believe that online knowledge platforms, such as Wikipedia and social networking sites have the ratio of internet usage, newspaper readership, radio listeners, TV viewership is highly skewed in favor of the developed nations. 88% of all internet users live in the rich world. A demographic analysis of the other 12% will reveal that they are the rich in developing country. Put together, a new dimension of poverty has emerged- information poverty. Information is the currency that an individual requires to be an active participant in society. Knowledge is empowerment. This is evident in the amount of money and resources spent on awareness generation in development programs. Poor suffer due to this lack of access to knowledge at multiple levels. They are people with little options so they resort to local, outdated sources of knowledge and this quite often leads to their exploitation. Due to their lack of awareness, they sell their produce at prices that are well below the market rates. In reality, the so-called knowledge revolution has encompassed only a fraction of the world’s population. It is the portion of the population that already had access to numerous knowledge resources and could afford access and use modern technology. Moreover, knowledge platforms are managed and influenced by educated, middle and upper strata of society. Therefore, it is not surprising that the media mostly panders to the needs of only a section of the society. Despite the depth of knowledge in the modern age, it has failed to cover the needs of a wider audience.

The Development Support Centre (DSC), Gujarat runs a radio program titled -“*Sajjata No Sang Lave Kheti Ma Rang*” that is aired every Thursday evening for 15 minutes on All-India Radio. It is broadcasted from Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Rajkot Stations. It covers the entire state of Gujarat and reaches over half a million listeners. The main aim of the radio program is to promote improved agricultural practices amongst farmers, with particular focus on the needs and priorities of small and marginal farmers in drought-prone regions. There is also a feature of the ‘SMS’ service. Sajjata Sangh has tied-up with RMC (Reuters Market Light) and farmers can get SMSes on agriculture related issues. They can also call and speak with an expert.

DSC has organized ‘Shrota Mandals’ (listeners’ groups) around this radio program and has groomed one person as a village contact to popularize and anchor the radio program in the village. The program is aired from Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Rajkot Stations in the “Kheduth Mandal” (Farmers Organization) section at 7:20 PM. It covers the entire state of Gujarat and reaches over half a million listeners.

When we talk about reaching out to the poor with knowledge or spreading awareness among the poor, it is first important that we understand that the poor’s knowledge needs are distinct from the “mainstream”. Their vulnerabilities and realities determine their knowledge requirements and access to resources. They need useful and simplified knowledge, that is easily available at various platforms. Traditional sources of knowledge among the poor, such as local resource persons, leaders, etc. that often carry outdated information and are fast losing relevance in a world, where the shelf-life of information has reduced greatly. To add to this are high-levels of illiteracy, among poor that has prevented them from making use of knowledge resources such as newspapers. This is why audio-visual media, such as TV and radio have become popular among the poor. While these media have gone a long way in bringing awareness among the poor, there is still a vacuum left by the absence of a knowledge platform that meets the specific, local needs of

the poor, in their language. Given the centralized operation of TV, radio and newspapers, the information they carry is usually nationally relevant. Further, web content (the dominant knowledge resource) is often analogous to English content. This in itself is a major constraint in a country, where only a little above 10% know English. Therefore, the challenge in ushering the poor into the knowledge era needs to be dealt at multiple levels. New developments, such as the rapid spread of mobile technology among the poor and a growing consciousness among development functionaries to bridge the knowledge gap are positive trends.

The poor have already shown their capacity to use the Information Communication Technology (ICT) medium in other spheres, such as microfinance and livelihoods. With penetration of mobile phones to remote areas, poor have been able to carry out financial and business transactions. There have already been numerous initiatives in the country to provide poor with relevant knowledge at easily accessible entry points. These initiatives have mostly concentrated on providing valuable information on livelihoods or on other dimensions of development, such as health, nutrition and education. On the whole however, much of this has been in an “awareness generation” mode rather than have a trained focus on creating a tangible knowledge platform for the poor. Broadly, knowledge dissemination to the poor is working at three levels: establishing the infrastructure to access ICT, providing relevant knowledge to the poor and creating an environment, that is conducive to accessing information (Right to Information). For long, knowledge dissemination to the poor was primarily through mass media such as print, TV and radio. Given the high production costs in these media, very few ventured into meeting specific knowledge needs of the poor. Moreover, low literacy among the poor prevented them from making full use of these media. Internet, with its potential for hosting a wide variety of information in numerous languages, came as a solution. Though easy to use, the IT medium needed some basic infrastructure- computer and an internet network- too lavish for a country that is grappling to provide drinking water and sanitation to all its citizens. Slowly, the potential for IT to be an effective channel for knowledge delivery was realized and efforts were put to build infrastructure to support this medium. The government has taken an interest in reaching the poor with ICT applications, especially in establishing infrastructure for ICT. It introduced the Village Knowledge Centres (VKC) scheme with the aim of establishing tele-centres in every village of the country. The purpose of setting up the VKC is to not just to disseminate knowledge to the poor but to establish the infrastructure for them to access the IT medium. The knowledge centre is equipped with VSAT technology and internet facilities. It is connected to a central studio that receives and answers the queries of the villagers. Similarly, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has established Village Resource Centres (VRC) to provide “space enabled technology services directly to the rural population”. While ISRO provides the physical infrastructure and technical support, it has tied with a number of development organizations and education institutions to provide the knowledge inputs. 275 VRCs have been set up till date across 16 states and 3,000 programs, such as e-Governance, tele-fisheries, weather forecasting, and land and resource management have been conducted through the VRCs.

Under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), the government has set up Common Service Centres (CSCs) at the village level. The CSCs provide video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment. They also provide other services, including selling application forms, certificates, and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills. A Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model has been adopted for establishing and running these centres, allowing private players and NGOs to be partners in the project. Each CSC is to be operated by a Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) who would help the community in using the web/ICT sources at the centre. The CSC project was approved in 2006 and hoped that 100,000 CSCs would roll out by March 2011. As of 2012, only 97,558 have been established in 33 state and UTs. One of the important partners of ISRO in the VRC project is the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation which started the Grameen Gyan Abhiyan (GGA) initiative in 2007 to make “every village a knowledge centre”. The GGA floated the National Alliance for Grameen Gyan Abhiyan (NAGGA) that has brought together organizations working towards bridging the rural-urban digital divide. The alliance points to an important trend that knowledge platforms need to take into consideration. There are numerous infamous diaries that the poor have access to- service providers, local leaders, media (print and electronic), government departments, etc. In order to ensure that the knowledge divide is effectively filled, it is important that these diverse players are brought on the same plane. The

In Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, grassroots journalism is gaining momentum. Navodayam (which means ‘new dawn’ in Telugu) is a local newspaper run by SHG women and was launched on August 15, 2001. Navodayam aims (a) to amplify the voice of the rural poor; (b) to put rural women in charge of news coverage; (c) to place information within the reach of the rural poor; and (d) to adapt journalism as a tool for empowerment of women. Though the project is totally sponsored by the government, the women involved with the newsletter have been able to retain their independence and there is no editorial interference from the government. What makes Navodayam distinct from other magazines is it is the first of its kind news letter that is completely managed by the poor, not much educated women.

Launched as a quarterly newsletter in Telugu with just eight pages, it has grown to a 24-page monthly magazine. More than 60 reporters have worked for the magazine so far and it currently has 10 staff reporters and 20 contributors. The magazine prints 20,000 copies and has a readership of more than 200,000 - much more than the state wide readership figures of some of the leading AP dailies. It won the UNFPA Laadli Media Special Jurv Award for the year 2009

knowledge creation and dissemination sector by itself is huge. To add to it, the dimension of meeting the requirements of such a large, diverse population makes it even more gigantic. Further, the purpose of creating and disseminating this knowledge is to help the poor graduate out of poverty. This calls for concerted efforts from various quarters. No one player can entirely take up the responsibility of meeting the entire knowledge needs of the poor, but this responsibility can be broken down into several tasks, with organizations having different expertise doing their bit.

In the bid to make poor an informed part of the citizenry and to bring them at par with the "mainstream" the repositories of knowledge that exist with the poor should not be ignored. Many a time, knowledge platforms are used to propagate a certain kind of lifestyle and try to impose on society what is right and what is not. The answer to this partly lies in one of the distinct characteristics of the knowledge era- democratization of knowledge platforms. Websites, such as Wikipedia are testimony to this democratic trend, wherein people are enabled to decide the content and monitor it. Increasing literacy and IT literacy and the spread of mobile phones are promising trends that would aid in making knowledge platforms an instrument of empowerment in the hands of the poor. This trend of knowledge of the poor, by the poor and for the poor is already visible in the community radio initiatives. For long, many NGOs and CSOs demanded for the right to set up community radio stations, which finally culminated in a Supreme Court verdict that vindicated their stand. Even though there is no formal legislation to create a space for community radios, quite a few have been initiated by NGOs across the country to aid the development process. Myrada's *Namma Dhwani* in Kolar, Karnataka, Deccan Development Society's Sangham Radio, and Ujjas Radio by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan are a few examples.

A major challenge in creating a knowledge platform for the poor is to make the content relevant to poor. The linguistic, cultural and regional diversity of the poor in our country further adds to the challenge. The vulnerabilities of the various demographic sections determine their knowledge requirements and their access to knowledge. Meeting such micro-knowledge requirements requires that there should be knowledge generating and disseminating forces working closely with the poor. Knowledge creation and dissemination too ought to be decentralized, in order to meet locale-specific knowledge needs. Further, the knowledge should be available to the poor, in various forms and through various entry points. ITC's e-Choupal is an example of how relevant and easily accessible information can transform the livelihoods of the poor for the better. The agriculture scenario in India is plagued by many perils- fragmented lands, lack of proper infrastructure, uncertain weather conditions and too many intermediaries (or middle-men). Instituting a source of information easily accessible to the farmers could go a long way in reducing these hurdles. ITC realized that the internet could help filling this gap. Still, low literacy levels among the poor would prevent them from actually using these information kiosks. A Choupal Sanchalak (the chief farmer) was appointed to facilitate the interface between the website and the farmers in the village. The Sanchalak is provided with the necessary inputs from the Choupal's functionaries at the cluster and higher levels. Today, ITC reaches out to 4 million farmers in 40,000 villages through 6,500 e-Choupal kiosks. The farmers receive information regarding weather conditions, market prices and other relevant bits of information that have significantly contributed to the decision-making power of the farmers. Not only does e-Choupal provide information on the market prices, but it also provides information on the prices the farmer's produce can fetch elsewhere. This motivates the farmers to adopt better methods of agriculture that will yield high-quality crops. The e-Choupal provides inputs to the farmers to enhance their agricultural practices. Therefore, e-Choupal provides holistic solutions to small farmers, helping them with valuable information at all stages. The e-Choupal model has proved to naysayers that given the right platform, the poor too can make good use of IT and be knowledge-seeking citizens. E-Choupal basically first tried to meet the generic needs- market information, weather information, etc. of the farmers. Once engaged, it tried to solve farmer-specific or area specific needs of the farmers. It helps farmers aim at selling at bigger markets and not buckle under pressure to sell in the local markets. India Development Gateway (InDG) is a multi-lingual online knowledge platform that aims at meeting the knowledge needs of the poor. The portal provides information and knowledge in numerous domains of social development in 10 languages (9 Indian languages + English). The portal works through a network of tele-centre operators and grass root organizations in order to reach out to the poor. InDG also allows the users to upload and share content on the portal, an important move towards the "Communitization" of knowledge platform.

One of the first moves to create a democratic environment for accessing information came in the form of Right to Information. The passage of the Right to Information Act (RIA) in 2005 hoped to usher in a new era of transparency in the country. The Act empowers, the common man to seek information from the government. Besides empowering the average citizen, the Act especially hopes to empower the vulnerable and marginalized. Government departments are an important source of information for the poor. Often, the poor are harassed by the government officials and are forced to give bribes to retrieve valuable information. The Right to Information Act sought to put an end to such instances. But, 7 years into its implementation, questions are being raised about its effectiveness, in helping the poor access information. To be able to use the RTI to fight for rights (to entitlements) one needs to have basic literacy, a luxury for most poor. It is often the case that government departments produce volumes of department orders and memos as "information" rather than providing information in a simplified manner. Knowledge is considered to be instrumental in the development process of the poor and aiding their graduation out of poverty. For long, spreading knowledge among the poor has been through mass media, such as print and electronic media. As print media requires minimum literacy which most poor lack, audio-visual media such as TV and radio grew to be widely accepted and used by the poor making knowledge dissemination much simpler. Yet, due to high costs of producing programs

on these media, the information delivered to the poor is often generic. Internet, with its potential for ubiquitous reach and low investment costs, has enough space to host demographic and geography specific knowledge. This opportunity has not been reaped well by non-poor. Over the past decade or so, the web has grown beyond being an enabling communication medium. This tremendous growth of the web, has not been augmented by parallel developments in the electronic industry, that have made mobile phones and laptops affordable, encompassing hitherto excluded vulnerable sections of the population. This promising trend provides, hope for the creation of knowledge platforms for the poor, managed by the poor. When it comes to knowledge for the poor, the challenge goes beyond making information & knowledge resources available to the poor but also to make it relevant to their needs.

***Livelihoods April-2012**

23. Decentralization

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

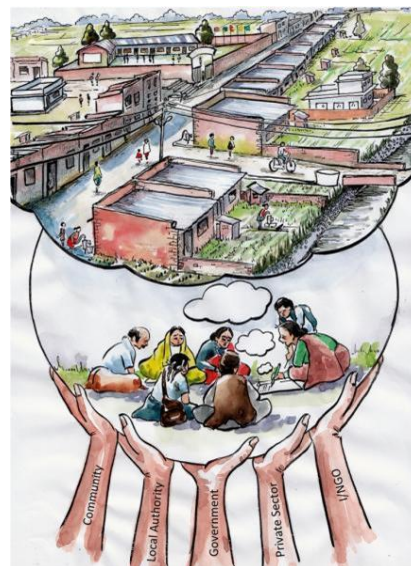
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Year	Efforts
1882	The resolution on local self – government.
1907	The Royal Commission on decentralization.
1948	Constitutional debate between Gandhi and Ambedkhar on “Gram Swaraj” and “Self – Rule”.
1957	Balwant Rai Mehta Commission: Introduced Panchayat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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

/ mandals and GPs came into existence in administrative process. The administration works through state governments to GPs.

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

- 50 states
- 1000 districts
- 15,000 blocks
- 5,00,000 GPs

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

We need more homogenous units of administration as shown:

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

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

- Reduces administration burden of Chief Executives Officers (CEOs) or political leaders at higher levels, and ensures time and scope for higher level administrative affairs.
- Facilitates people from lower level units and downtrodden communities, to become leaders by providing powers to be involved in local governance.
- Ensures effective control by providing more space for people's participation from designing plans to implementation through Gram Sabha.
- Provides managerial skills by giving powers to manage local administration.
- Provides space to express interests to different groups and communities, and give opportunities to practice their leadership skills and wisdom.
- Reduces time to take decisions regarding local matters.

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

There are some problems and constraints in decentralization, as central and state governments have more political and financial powers. Even local democratic bodies can't control government authorities at local level. There is limited financial, administrative and technical support to local bodies for village development. Mostly, programs and schemes are designed and implemented by higher level administrative units. There is no full clarity regarding functions of GPs and other level administrative units of government. State governments have reserved powers to withdraw functions of GPs.

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

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

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

***livelihoods December-2016**

III Institutions & Capacity Building

24. Community Health

Community health is an important aspect for all of us. Irrespective of any geographical area, tribal, rural and urban people focus on their health, as it increases their workdays and life span. India is the second most populous country in the world after China. We have our established ancient traditional healing methods spanning generations of symbiotic relationship with nature. This harmony with nature brings in the significance of community health in a populous country of ours.



Community health is an important aspect for all of us. Irrespective of any geographical area, tribal, rural and urban people focus on their health care, as it increases their workdays and life span. India is the second most populous country in the world after China. We have our established ancient traditional healing methods spanning generations of symbiotic relationship with nature. This harmony with nature brings in the significance of community health in a populous country of ours. Being one of the populous country in the world, many people cannot affordability highly specialized western health care and also that the socio-cultural fabric of our country, makes its population depend on traditional health care systems. In this context, the role of community health care systems holds significance. In pre-independence and post independent era, Government and Non

Government Organizations (NGOs) have been providing health care facilities for all. However, there reach has not been adequate and accessible. Access to affordable and effective health care is a basic human right.

A nation's economic progress is measured, according to people's health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the definition of health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The health status of any community is influenced by the interplay between health consciousness of the people, socio-cultural, demographic, economic, educational and political factors. The common beliefs, traditional customs, myths, practices related to health and disease in-turn influence the health seeking behaviour of people. Health is an essential component of the well-being of mankind and is a prerequisite for human development. There are various types of healing methods and different types of health treatments available such as Allopathic and Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH). Individuals, across India try out various methods of treatment in health care and a few restrict themselves to some popular methods for health care in India.

Tribal, rural and urban-poor communities do not have the required level of access to basic health facilities from the government. The most exploited, neglected people are highly vulnerable to diseases with high degree of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality. They face problems like poverty, illiteracy, ignorance of causes of diseases, hostile environment, poor sanitation, lack of safe drinking water and blind beliefs, etc. These areas witness high maternal mortality rate, poor nutritional status, low haemoglobin (anaemia), unhygienic and primitive practices for parturition. These populations are not in the accessible zone of affordable and effective health treatment. Though the life span of individuals has been on rise steadily, but it continues to be challenged by various types of health problems. People suffer with different disease, they approach traditional healers or doctors for treatment, but most of the individuals use traditional medicine due to economic problems. In the initial stages, many individuals use traditional health treatments in their houses, if there is no respite from the problem then they visits sub centres, primary health centres (PHC), Community Health Centres (CHC), general hospitals, private clinics, trained health volunteers and traditional healers. Many a times, they visit traditional healers and hospitals at the same time for

health cure. India being home to traditional knowledge and this knowledge was gained by our ancient elders from nature. All the traditional healing methods were symbiotic in nature. Populations depended and continue to depend on traditional healers for treatment. Due to inaccessibility and high costs for health care and non-affordability, many continue to approach traditional healers for treatment at low price. Most of the people, first approach traditional healers or they use their own knowledge to cure diseases, they meet doctors only, if they do not get cured by traditional treatment. Traditional healers are especially significant in developing countries, because they are more accessible and affordable. In addition, they are more socially accepted as compared to formally trained health workers from the urban areas. Traditional healers are more affordable, especially for the poor. For example, professional or qualified doctors take more money. Traditional healers are defined as those, who are recognized by the community. They provide health care by using plants' roots, leaves, fruits, flowers, vegetables, goat milk, cow urine, mineral substances and certain other methods based on the social, cultural and religious backgrounds as well as the prevailing knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding physical, mental and social well-being and the causation of disease and disability in the community. They have extensive knowledge on the use of plants and herbs for medicinal and nutritional purposes.

Most of the people are dependent on local health traditions in India. Local health traditions are based on practices, beliefs and customs related to health specific to each locality. These local traditional health methods convey information from generation to generation by word of mouth and other methods. Thousands of specialised traditional healers are available in India and they are skilled in traditional treatment. There are over a million community based traditional health workers, including 60,000 village bone setters, 60,000 herbal medicine practitioners specialising in jaundice, paralytic conditions, children's diseases, eye diseases, poison healing, dentistry, etc. and around 7,00,000 midwives in India. They are called as Indian barefoot doctors or Natu Vaidyas. These traditional healers assist in around 80% of all rural home deliveries; treat over 40% of broken bones and 50% of snake bites, scorpion bites, bee bites and dog bites. They apply suitable methods to overcome these problems. Few of the Traditional healers are working full time as most of the traditional healers do not take medical service as a full time work. The healer may be a farmer, a barber, a shop keeper, a blacksmith, a priest etc., They take less fee for treatment from patients, the medical service they give, though not free of charge, is performed on ethical grounds and is non commercial in nature. The low cost is one of the reasons, why the tradition is also large and widespread. The traditional medical knowledge is also diverse and specific to each eco-system and ethnic community, because of the special characteristics of resources, health needs and belief systems. There are certain common features, however, such as a very strict code of conduct followed by most barefoot doctors. They extend health care irrespective of a patient's personal work, caste, money and time. Certain prayers and offerings usually follow the collection of the medical plants and administration. Patients believe that certain healers have special healing powers, which is known as the power of the hand. Traditional healers pass on their knowledge to younger successors, who are selected on ethical criteria, which include qualities such as patience, strong faith in God, courage and a love for mankind.

Presently, all traditional healers of this community are not performing the same functions. Each of them has their own field of expertise. Even the techniques employed differ considerably. They have their own methods of diagnosis and their own particular medicine. There are different types of traditional healers on the basis of their expertise in India. Traditional healers treat all age groups and all problems, using and administering medicines that are readily available and affordable. Their treatment is comprehensive and has curative, protective and preventive elements, and can be either natural or ritual or both, depending on the cause of the disease. It includes among others, ritual sacrifice to appease the ancestors, ritual and magical strengthening of people and possessions, steaming, purification (e.g. ritual washing, or the use of emetics and purgatives), sniffing of substances, cuts, wearing charms and piercing. Most of the plant products after formulation are used orally, whereas for skin disease and bone fracture medicines are not prescribed for oral consumption. It was found, that in most of the cases the plant products are prepared with combination of some other plants or some other products. The plants used in mixtures all may not contain the properties to provide relief from a particular disease, but some might be having reduced side effects on treatment. Even though traditional medical knowledge serves a vast majority of the India population, government support for these traditions is very meagre (limited). Only around 4% of the annual health budget is allocated to the codified Indian systems of medicines, while the existence of local healers and local knowledge is not recognised in the Indian national health policy. As today also, there has hardly been any effort to recognise and codify the local health traditions in India. They invest money on health care, some people meet traditional healers for spending less on health.

Government provides AYUSH methods for health care. Some people follow these methods, but many are unaware

about these methods.

A section of rural people in all social cases, including the poor, are giving up traditional health practices and turning to allopathic medicine. But this medical system is increasingly unaffordable for common people. Socio-economic surveys, indicate that the single and largest cause of rural indebtedness in India is health expenditure. This expense can be brought down considerably by promoting effective local health practices. Presently, government provides health facilities for utilization by people in villages. Sub centres, PHC, CHC etc are being run for people's health care. In these institutions there are doctors, nurses, Auxiliary Mid Wives (ANMs), compounders, lab technicians, etc for providing treatments. Sub centres exist in large Gram Panchayats (GP), PHCs exist in mandal/block, head quarters, community hospitals and district hospitals exist at district levels. Government and NGOs train people of the community as health volunteers for basic treatment. In villages, ANMs provide treatment for general complaints like fever, stomach pain, headache, pains, etc. Asha workers create awareness on deliveries and prevention of diseases, trained dayas conduct deliveries in villages. Anganwadi Centre (AWC) workers spread awareness on nutritious food and prevention of diseases. In some places, trained health volunteers give basic treatment and refer to hospitals if and when necessary. The National Health Mission is one of the important programs initiated by GoI. The NRHM flagship programme of GoI, aims to provide equitable, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable groups. National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) seeks to improve the health status of the urban population, particularly slum dwellers and other vulnerable sections by facilitating their access to quality primary health care. Apart from the above, GoI is also focusing on community health care, by way of providing many health services for tribal, rural and urban people. It is also implementing different types of schemes for communities. It provides different health services for children, mothers, adolescent girls, elders, etc. It also provides health cards for free treatment to people. They can get treatment for any of the major diseases in government hospitals and private hospitals. It also runs call centres to provide information about the nearest health facilities available and to give health information.

Government provides health facilities in tribal, rural and urban areas of India. But in tribal areas health facilities are not really as accessible to tribal people as compared to rural and urban areas. The scheduled tribes are at different stages of social, cultural and economic development. The cultural pattern varies from tribe to tribe and region to region. The economic life of the tribals depends on the nature. The health status of the tribal populations is very poor, especially the health condition of primitive tribes is abysmal, due to various reasons like isolation, remoteness, lack of awareness and being largely unaffected by the developmental process going on in India. Tribal communities in general and primitive tribal groups in particular are highly disease prone. Additionally, they do not have the required level of access to basic health facilities provided by the government. They are the most exploited, neglected, and are highly vulnerable to diseases with high degree of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality. They face problems like poverty, illiteracy, ignorance of causes of diseases, hostile environment, poor sanitation, lack of safe drinking water and blind beliefs, etc. The chief causes of high maternal mortality rate are found to be poor nutritional status, low haemoglobin (anaemia), unhygienic and primitive practices for parturition. India has just one doctor for every 1700 people, which is one of the major problems. A few doctors are migrating to other countries for green pastures. In India, the number of health professionals/volunteers is very less. Many NGOs put in a lot of efforts on community health care and create their own innovations for health care. Barefoot college and Jamkhed model are good examples for health interventions.

Since 1973, the Barefoot College health care programme has provided basic health services to more than 150 villages in Rajasthan, through a team of Barefoot doctors, health workers, midwives, pathologists and dentists with little or no educational background. The College has demystified medical technologies and equipped rural communities with basic health facilities. Through a network of grassroots leaders in the barefoot health team, the Barefoot College has fostered health awareness among rural men, women and children on issues such as hygiene, food and nutrition, mother and child care, immunization, oral health, family planning, HIV/AIDS and midwifery. 260 Barefoot doctors have been trained to treat patients with common ailments. They can administer allopathic, homeopathic and bio-chemic medicines. Barefoot doctors care for patients from rural communities, and for children studying in barefoot night schools, day schools and rural crèches. These doctors are semi-literate with little education and no medical degrees. The College has been training men and women from villages across the globe, so that rural communities can become less dependent on external aid. Their involvement in planning, implementation and supervision of all programmes has not only generated employment within rural communities, but also reduced migration and strengthened local economies. The Comprehensive Rural Health Project, Jamkhed (CRHP), has been working among the rural poor and marginalized for over 40 years. Founded in 1970 by Doctors Raj and Mabelle Arole

to bring healthcare to the poorest of the poor, CRHP has become an organization that empowers people to eliminate injustices through integrated efforts in health and development. CRHP works by mobilizing and building the capacity of communities to achieve access to comprehensive development and freedom from stigma, poverty and disease. Pioneering a comprehensive approach to primary community-based healthcare (also known as the Jamkhed Model), CRHP has been a leader in public health and development in rural communities in India and around the world. The work of CRHP has been recognized by the WHO and UNICEF, and has been introduced to 178 countries across the world. Annually, CRHP provides services that directly impact half a million people in the state of Maharashtra alone. Since the opening of the Training Centre in 1994, over 22,000 local and 2,700 international representatives from NGOs, governments and healthcare professionals have been trained in the CRHP approach. At the core of this comprehensive community-based approach is its embrace of equity for all, utilizing healthcare as a means to break the cycle of poverty.

Most of the states in India face severe health workforce shortage. Health service providers, managers, and support workers are needed, to fill the gap. The states are unable to provide basic lifesaving services in a consistent manner. In community health service, health workers provide healthcare to those who need it, are the heart of health systems. There is a chronic national shortage of health workers. There is no single solution to such a complex problem, but some ways forward do exist and must now be implemented. Action must be taken now for results to show in the coming years. In India, a rise in chronic health problems among the ageing population and the ageing of their own workforce has led to an ever growing demand for health workers. The need of the hour is to make the workforce a priority and put in place a national plan for managing it. Government also needs to invest in training existing health workers to keep them up to date to the changing priorities. The health scenario in our country is rapidly changing, both in terms of the public health challenges that we face as well as our response to these challenges. As India becomes more and more developed, having greater means at our disposal, our response to our health challenges must reflect our changing health and socio-economic status. India faces enormous challenges in the area of women's and children's health. India is one of the few countries that have recorded substantial decline in maternal mortality. India is still far from achieving the target set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Despite several growth-orientated policies adopted by the government, the widening economic, regional, and gender disparities are posing challenges for the health sector. About 75% of health infrastructure, medical manpower, and other health resources are concentrated in urban areas, where 27% of the populations live. To reduce this double burden of diseases, public health has to focus on health promotion, and disease prevention and control, while taking into consideration the social determinant of health. The focus of public health is to bring about change at the policy level, not only for preventing disease, but also for the health promotion through organized action at societal level, community health systems.

Today, we actually have a disease-oriented cure system rather than a health-oriented care system in this country. When health improves, life improves by every measure. We have to take the responsibility of the future in terms of making the world a "Better place" health wise and other wise. India is the second largest populated country in the world, with a multitude of health problems encompassing both communicable and non-communicable diseases and other public health-related problems. India's burden in terms of maternal, new born, and child mortality is one the highest in the world. India has witnessed significant changes in public health, due to significant achievements in some areas. However there are many public health issues, which need immediate action.

Today, it is estimated that 30% of all Indians still die without seeing a doctor. The universal access to basic services must be ensured. Preventive and promotive health must be pursued to bring down expenses on curative care. This emphasizes better access to health services for the poor, underserved, and marginalized. Our country's aim is to improve access to quality healthcare, particularly for women, children, and the poor by promoting integration, decentralization, and encouraging community participation. The challenges include lack of universalization of services, rural & urban differentials, poor status of women in society, and lack of political will and acceptance of the issues as a social priority. There is a need to ensure essential services for mothers and children during pregnancy, childbirth, post-partum period, infancy, and childhood. The maternal mortality continues to be a problem in rural, remote, inaccessible, and tribal areas, where there are hardly any health services available, or even if available they are inadequate. The latest MMR estimates show an encouraging trend in India. However, we still need to reaffirm our commitment and redouble our efforts, and focus on readdressing inequities in particular. In India, the health needs of general population are far from met, still half of the population is not assured of safe drinking water and the immunization status of the children is not increasing beyond. The public health fraternity should offer ways of delivering healthcare more effectively and equitably.

The challenges which are being faced now in the health sector are much more complex. The complexities of culture and customs, economic situations, geography, ethnicity, and political situations make the challenges related to public health specific, for every state of the nation. The problems faced by Indians such as high incidence of communicable diseases, low performance of maternal and child health indicators, and nutritional problems, especially that of women and children, are the issues that persist in almost all parts of the country even today, apart from the burden of chronic non-communicable diseases and other economic and social factors. The role of government for the existing system of medicine should be given due recognition for their contribution and involvement, delineate the specific scope, limit role of traditional healers in public health promotion, undertake research and development activities, provide orientation and support to traditional-healers, monitor and strengthen the role of folk-healers to do proper follow up.

*** livelihoods July 2015**

25. Civil Society

Third Sector Countries, around the world have been riding the wave of the third sector – the Civil Society, for a few decades now. This sector made its presence felt during the 80s and since has been playing an influential role in shaping the socio-economic, political, cultural, ecological, and technological contexts of various countries and their settings. In fact, it would not amount to exaggeration to state that, today there is hardly any aspect of a society that remains untouched by the work of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO). Their footprints are more prominently seen, in developing and less developed countries due to the contexts, in which these countries operate.



The variety and reach of CSO in these countries is both an interesting and amazing affair. However, in spite of their overarching influence, it seems that CSOs are relatively less talked about, less debated and the need for some structured literature, that helps understand this third sector is strongly felt. The CSOs have in some sense been denied the focus and attention that the nation-states and business, which constitute the first and second sectors, have got. Civil Society Organizations existed even before the formation of nation-states, though not in an institutionalized and organized form, as we see them today. They were characterized by their informal existence and more localized in nature. But the formation of nation states and proliferation of market have in many ways helped bring CSOs to the forefront. The civil society

is often discussed in contrast to the state and the market. To put in simple terms, the state is concerned with public goods and mobilizing resources, through state authority; and the market is concerned with producing private goods and services and mobilizing resources through market exchange. Civil society, by contrast, is concerned with common goods defined by social groups and it mobilizes resources through social visions and values. Civil Society Organizations operating around very diverse values, norms and beliefs reflect great deal of heterogeneity.

Civil society has been variously defined and conceptualized. The concept has evolved over time period. It is sometimes defined, as the sum of individual and collective initiatives directed towards the pursuit of common public good. Civil society organizations include highly institutionalized groups, such as religious organizations, trade unions, business associations, international NGOs, think tanks; local organizations, such as community associations, farmers' associations, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), local sports clubs, cultural groups, business groups, local NGOs, credit societies, community media outlets; and looser forms of association such as social movements., academia, networks, virtual groups, and citizen groups outside national borders. Historically, the concept of civil society has undergone many changes. Although the idea was present in the ancient times in one form or the other, civil society got more concretized in the Western World in the 17th century. In contemporary literature, three approaches to civil society conceptualization can be located, which has emanated from the context in which the civil society has emerged - Civil society emerging out to democratize the state power in erstwhile socialist states which turned authoritarian in nature as well as the collective actions in many parts of the world against the military regimes; Watchdog of democracy as conceptualized in Western societies; and Third sector, separate from market and the state. The third approach gained strength after the process of liberalization and globalization has begun.

Why civil society? Has the state failed its people? It seems critical to answer these questions to understand the role of CSOs. Optimal development requires the harnessing of a country's assets its capital, human and natural resources to meet demand from its population as comprehensively as possible. The public and private sectors, by themselves,

are imperfect in that they cannot meet all demands. Which interest groups are heeded or neglected will be determined by a combination of economic and political considerations. In particular, those whose voice and purchasing power are weak, and those whose interests are on long term goals rather than immediate needs, are more likely to be neglected. When a government endeavors to give greater weight to reducing poverty, to redressing gender or ethnic biases, to combating environmental degradation or to strengthening the more vulnerable regions, it is likely to find the current development mechanisms inadequate. Economic policy, the provision of services and infrastructure, regulations and market mechanisms are rarely targeted towards vulnerable groups. In this context, it is argued that the third sector may be better placed to articulate the needs of the weak, to provide services and development in remote areas, to encourage the changes in attitudes and practices necessary to curtail discrimination, to identify and redress threats to the environment, and to nurture the productive capacity of the most vulnerable groups such as the disabled or the landless. In some countries like those in the African continent there is constant erosion of the legitimacy and power of the State. These trends have given wider space for CSOs to operate. Strong civil society demands a more democratically accountable and transparent state, and lead to sustainable good governance. Further, some governments have embarked on universal policies, programs and solutions resulting from the desire for universalization leading to homogenization of models, approaches, practices, structures and programs. Civil society, on the contrary is sensitive to local conditions that require customization of programs and policies. Also, civil society operates with participatory approach as its central focus. These features of civil society helped gain popularity among target population.

While the civil society lays pressure on various facets of the governments there are several ways in which the government can influence the operational environment of NGOs. These may include - Nature and quality of governance (pluralism, accountability, etc.); The legal framework (registration, reporting requirements, etc.); Taxation policies (on imported goods, local philanthropy, etc.); Collaboration with NGOs (partnership); Public consultation and information (policy impact of NGOs); Coordination (role for governments in coordinating NGO activities); Official support (government funding, official contracts). Some important contributions of CSOs in recent years include – Mobilizing people and sensitizing people for secular agenda and questioning government failure in communal riots. Advocacy for Enactment of RTI training and sensitizing communities and people for its use and strong mobilizations against diluting the provisions of the Act. Right to Food has been ensured due to People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) PIL in the Supreme Court demanding reinforcement of state's duty to avoid hunger deaths and adequate arrangements by the state to provide access to food to the poor, particularly the poorest and the most vulnerable. NREGA, limited employment guarantees has been also possible due to the intense pressure of the CSOs. The important role being played is in dissemination and sensitizing people, social audits and exposing the corruption demanding action.

In SSA, CSOs are also playing important role in innovations in teaching methods for children, bringing out of school children in the mainstream both as partners community mobilization. Advocacy, policy questioning participation in policy dialogues with various levels in government youth, women and child policy, tribal and forest policy etc. Implementation of programs like watershed / innovations on livelihood programs / SGSY/SHGs micro credit demanding accountability through public watch reports , social audits and public hearings and budget analysis has important impact on the government functioning. Environment and resettlement / rehabilitation issues are making them national and international agenda / sensitizing and dialogues with the government / multilateral funding agencies. Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) strengthening, voter awareness, helping the most unprivileged to come and participate and sensitizing people NRHM and right to health Lokpal bill. The civil society movement in India reached its peak in the 80s and 90s. The seeds for CBO like women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), thrift and credit societies, and micro-finance were laid and spread quickly. Donors preferred CSOs to government, for routing donations for development work in the developing and less developed countries. Welfare mode with associated donor strings became the norm. With increase in the popularity of the CSOs, the governments also leveraged them as vehicles of delivery. However, such rush and prominence led to the mushrooming of the CSOs without any sanity and integrity checks. Lack of professional approach to issues, for the most part became another lacunae.

The country became home to more than 50 lakh CSOs. Therefore, this period also saw the blacklisting of some unscrupulous organizations. Late 90s and beyond saw some shift in the CSO movement. The rampant spread of the third sector invited various government regulations. Government once again stepped into development initiatives on a large scale with huge budget allocations. The central and state governments are also increasingly partnering with business on a large scale in development initiatives. The space for smaller CSOs is rapidly shrinking. Shift has occurred from welfare to development mode. Professionalism and corporate norms and standards crept into CSOs.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) emerged on a large scale influencing the third sector in a big way. Civil society itself is ridden with significant problems – Civil society is comprised of many diverse groups, each articulating its own core values and serving particular constituencies. The capacity to respond, to many different interests is one of the great strengths of an active civil society, providing panoply of avenues for mobilizing resources to respond to special concerns and needs. However, the particularism that underpins this diversity can also be a sectoral weakness in that CSO may be unresponsive to interests outside their narrowly defined constituency. Concentration on narrowly defined groups and problems can blind CSOs to the larger picture, including the ramifications of their services for broader society or the macro-level causes of the problems they seek to solve.

A restricted focus may also result in, inefficient use of scarce resources, as many small organizations provide similar services without any of them achieving scale economies. Amateurism is another drawback of civil society. While, voluntarism is a key asset peculiar to civil society, the technical competence of volunteers does not always coincide with program requirements. Development NGOs that depend on voluntary contributions may not be able to attract qualified professionals, who might receive higher salaries from government or business organizations. A second common issue of amateurism in CSO affects their leadership. Many founders of successful civil society, initiatives are gifted entrepreneurs or visionaries, who can mobilize support for their concerns from many sources. But many of them are much less experienced in organizing and managing CSOs that grow past the point of informal coordination. Many civil society leaders are amateurs in dealing with the financial, managerial and organizational implications of growth, past a very small scale of operation. They may find it difficult to get support for organizational arrangements that will expand or intensify program impacts. In general, civil society does not have the kind of reliable access to material resources that is commanded by the authority of the state or by success in the market. As it is difficult to generate and sustain civic commitment on a large scale over a long period of time, issues that require long-term attention, widespread mobilization and large financial resources may experience serious resource constraints. When the constituents of civil society activities are relatively poor and powerless, opportunities for expanding the material base are further limited. With government and business indulging in a big way in development, time has come for the CSOs to reorient itself to continuously voice the concerns and interests of the people in general and poor in particular in a loud and big way. Energies can be channelized more towards organizing movements of social, economic and environmental consciousness and also flagging issues that have received minimal attention and/or completely ignored. CSOs can engage in knowledge management/dissemination through various media in a big way including development TV channels and portals. Finally, the strong presence of government and business cannot be ignored. The three sectors have to work in conjunction with each other towards more inclusive and meaningful development.

***Livelihoods April-2011**

26. Institutions of Poor

Those who do not have access to institutions, those who do not have adequate capacities to deal with various institutions, those who cannot influence the decision making processes inside the institutions that matter to their lives, can be called as poor. With this very reason, many institutions of the poor are being promoted by many agencies and concerned individuals. The institutions of poor in the country are moving in the direction of influencing all other formal and informal institutions to become pro-poor in all aspects apart from creating models for poverty eradication.

The poor are defined in myriad ways. Poverty has as many dimensions as life itself has. So, there is no surprise to see so many definitions. Poverty existed in previous forms of society and it was always related to issues of justice but in the past, it was also related to issues of Progress. But in modern era, which we can call, industrial and technological era which boasts of higher productivity and of capacity for abundant wealth generation, Poverty has simply no justification whatsoever. The current era has some peculiar characteristics that separate it from the previous ones.

- In modern era, societies are highly stratified. The spheres of economic, political and societal processes, though interdependent, assume a kind of relative autonomy from each other.
- These processes spring forth various institutions within each sphere to facilitate and reproduce these processes. There are also institutions that mediate among the spheres.
- In modern era, a large part of life world is subjugated by the system and a complex web of institutions engulfs social system.
- Modern era saw growing pre-eminence of bureaucrats, who run the state and technocrats' who run various institutions.
- Modern era produces a unresolvable conflict between the process of ever growing democratization of society by means of universal education, universal suffrage on one hand and the process of bureaucratization and technocratization of society on the other.
- In modern era, life chances of people get increasingly linked to access they have to various institutions.

Considering, above said characteristics, we can now attempt to define poor from the perspective of institutions.

Those, who do not have access to institutions, those who do not have adequate capacities to deal with various institutions, those who cannot influence the decision making processes inside the institutions that matter to their lives, can be called to be living in the ambit of a condition called poverty. Institutions are rules, enforcement and mechanisms, and organizations. Distinct from policies, institutions are the rules, including behavioral norms, by which agents' interact and organizations that implement rules and codes of conduct to achieve desired outcomes. Policies affect, institutions evolve-but institutions too affect which policies are adopted. Institutional structure affects behaviour. However, behaviour may also change within existing institutional structures. Every institution justifies its existence citing a function it plays or a service it provides. In a modern day democracy, many institutions claim to exist only to serve vast majority of the masses. But, a mere cursory look at them busts this carefully cultivated and widely circulated myth. Post independent India witnessed a series of social movements. Tribals, dalits, women, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, backward regions, and marginalized groups, like the disabled, displaced, and sexual minorities have got mobilized into waves of struggles against Indian state machinery, against barbaric social institutions and against highly discriminatory and elitist market mechanisms and forces. Despite great variety of slogans and mind boggling



Any development work now cannot begin without Considering the institutions of the people. Institution building has become a specialized area in development sector. But unfortunately 'institution building' has been reduced to forming Self Help Groups (SHGs).

diversity of ideologies involved in all these struggles, one grievance common to most of them can be discerned. That is "Modern institutions are inaccessible to vast majority of the poor. They are managed either by wooden headed bureaucrats or elitist technocrats who have utter disregard for needs of the poor."

As a response to this social unrest, many well-meaning individuals/organizations started building alternative institutions for the poor. A network of institutions starting from the household level and extending to relatives, neighbors, SHGs and their federations, civil society organizations, financial institutions, collectives, government institutions etc., are necessary to meet the variety of needs of the poor. The needs can range from cultural, solidarity and spiritual needs, to the needs in the economic and political milieu. These institutions need to be dynamic to accommodate changing needs of the poor. Many initiatives started and many new institutions sprang up. Significant ones are trade unions, cooperatives, Self-Help Groups (SHG), Producer Companies (PC) and federations. They are distinct in their structures and also the purpose for which they are formed. These also define who can be part of such institutions and their roles. Mostly, the reason behind formation of such institutions is on an issue affecting poor the most. Any free society, the importance of autonomous institutions and the desirability of voluntary partnership and shared activities can never be lost sight of. Founding Fathers of the Indian Constitution have with great forethought incorporated the right to form association as a

One has to be abundantly clear now that main business of development work is not to substitute the institutions of State and the market, but to capacitate the poorer communities and organize them so that they'll be able to assert their rightful claim over all those formal institutions.

fundamental right in Article 19 (I) (c) with Constitutional protection. However, this right is made subject to any law imposing reasonable restrictions in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India or public order. It is this Article which guarantees constitutional protection for Trade and Labour Unions. Institutions can be formal or informal. Formal institutions include organizations/departments following rules and procedures designed for enforcing policies and laws enacted by government, rules codified and adopted by private institutions, and public and private organizations operating under public law. Informal institutions, often operating outside the formal legal system, reflect unwritten codes of social conduct. Examples include religion, caste, marriage, land inheritance norms and money lenders using social networks to determine credit worthiness based on the reputation of the agents involved.

Not all these institutions are same. They have different vision, mission, belief and way of functioning. CBOs, trade unions, cooperatives, producer companies etc are few models that one gets to see popularly in places where poor live. Initiatives in all these areas, taken up by individuals and civil society organizations produced immense wealth of collective experience which steered the activists, professionals and policy makers into a paradigmatic shift in the perception regarding the significance and shortcomings of various institutions in alleviating poverty. These successful initiatives created an illusion, though for a while, that these small and local models can substitute the formal institutions, which is farthest from truth. The social movements and these local models have generated valuable insights giving rise to new development discourse. The concepts of people's oriented development and people's participation and empowerment have come to center stage. Meanwhile, the inequality and disparity between South and North on a global scale became a big political flash point. The developed North came under increasing criticism that it exploited the resource rich South through an asymmetric global economic order. The South started demanding its due share in the global development. Apart from philanthropic aid from the North, huge chunks of official aid started pouring into the South. Starting from multilateral organizations like UN and ILO, country specific donor agencies like USAID, DFID etc., started supporting various development initiatives in the so called Third World Countries.

It created a new and large development sector attracting professionals from various disciplines like sociology, social work, management, engineering, geology, environmental studies etc. The infusion of these professionals led to design related innovations in many alternative institutions. From 80's onwards various government agencies started receiving the official aid from the West. Many ideas, initiatives, innovations and model institutions developed by NGO sector were adopted and implemented at an unprecedented scale. Experiences gained in different countries, different cultural settings and different contexts became available to development practitioners. Hence, any development work now cannot begin without considering the institutions of the people. Institution building has become a specialized area in development sector. But unfortunately 'institution building' has been reduced to forming Self Help Groups (SHGs). Though, SHG is basic building block for various institutions, by itself it is not a full-fledged institution. Institutions promoting thrift and credit among the poor, though an important initiative were eulogized as the archetype of people's institution. Mediocrity in the name of participation, inefficiency and non-accountability in the name of process orientation plagued these institutions. On the other hand, elite managerialism and careerism slowly gained upper hand robbing development work of its activist spirit undermining the governing structures of peoples' institutions. Despite all these problems and challenges, a fact is undisputable that a great number of and a great variety of institutions do exist today to cater to various needs of the poor. The below given list is not exhaustive, but gives an idea of the wide variety of institutions required to address issues of the poor.

Worker's rights: There are many associations and unions in the country, that are promoted to safe guard the interest of the workers like wages, safe working conditions, basic amenities and housing etc. Through, collective strength, trade unions in the country strive to protect and advance in terms and conditions of employment of its

members, negotiate and settle terms and conditions of employment, remuneration and promote economic and social interests of its members. The Indian history of inception of Trade Union (TU) movement was sometime around the second half of 19th century, when big industrial enterprises started growing side by side with emergence of Indian working class. Although during this time, there were no formal unions, subhuman and inhuman working conditions led to many strikes organized by the workers themselves. During, the early period of Industrial development, efforts towards organizing workers were largely initiated by social workers and religious leaders. After the first factories Act was enacted in 1881, there was a protest in Bombay, wherein, 100 workers drew a memorandum demanding limitation of working hours, weekly rest day, mid-day rest and compensation for injuries. The Bombay Mill owners association conceded the demand for a weekly holiday and encouraged by this the Bombay Mill Hands Association (BMHA) was conceived in 1890. This could be regarded as the first labor organization in India. As an aftermath to many incidents, the need for legal protection for the trade unions was felt and the Trade Union Act (TUA) was enacted in 1926, legalizing the right of workers to combine and form unions and granting them immunity from civil and criminal prosecution for bonafide trade union activities. This Act still continues to be the basic law, governing the trade unions in India. Presently, there are about 7000 trade unions in the country, including the nonregistered ones and about 70 federations and confederations registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926. India is the only country in the world, where there are 11 central trade unions. As a result of these unions' continuous struggle and longstanding efforts the workers in the country are at least in this position, where they are now.

Civil liberties: Civil liberties movements are always built on strong people's organizations. These movements based on strong organizational strength, provides protection from the repressive state agencies especially from the police, para military and armed forces and protection from the oppressive social institutions like religion, caste, patriarchal family and ethnic hatred etc. Organizations like PUCL, PUDR, APCLC, FDR and HRF did a commendable work in defending the civil liberties and democratic rights of the people from the onslaught of the rich and the powerful, from high handed and autocratic government functionaries, from the rapacious corporate sharks, from the authoritarian Indian state itself. They elevated the awareness and consciousness of our society regarding the inviolability of human rights.

Healthcare: Many NGOs and CSOs in the country are actively promoting institutions of/ for the poor that work on making health care accessible to the poor. Many institutions have sprang up and many innovations related to hygiene, social, sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, vaccination, mother and child care, education that promotes athleticism, preventive medicine etc are taken up by these institutions. The Community Rural Health Project (CRHP) of Jamkhed is a unique model that is trying to be replicated by many other organizations across the country which organizes community around their health issues. The goal of CRHP is to build the capacity, skills and confidence of village people to enable them to participate in and improve health of whole community. In each village of CRHP project area, women from different caste and religious groups come together to share health knowledge and improve their socio-economic status. The women are given training and assistance in operating various economic programs to improve their families and communities. This has a profound and long-lasting impact on health of the people in each village. In a number of villages, the Women's Clubs are very active, as the prime movers on such things as nutrition, health and hygiene, safe drinking water, kitchen gardens, afforestation, micro-credit, and income generation. Increasingly, emphasis has been placed on women's empowerment and raising the level of self-esteem, especially among girls. Family planning and the promotion of adequate birth spacing still remain among the priority areas of CRHP. These women work closely with the Village Health Workers whose task is to convey all relevant health and other knowledge gained at the CRHP training centre to groups such as the Mahila Mandals, so as to reach out to community as a whole. The impact of CRHP's training activities has led to true grassroots movement for health and social justice, shaping public health policy as well as the direction taken by health conscious NGOs involved in development work.

Education: Literacy is very important for human beings to transect with the world. While the public education system appears to be busting at seams, not able to cope up with the growing number of children, private players have entered at all stages of education. Ironically, they are expensive but do not 'deliver' to vast majority despite payments. The quality remains poor. The schools and facilities are grossly inadequate. Thus, while the systems have failed in offering education for better life, it appears universal education is bypassed in the pursuit of livelihoods early on in life. Unfortunately, it appears that it is not doing a good job either for offering education for better livelihoods. In this context, many individuals and organizations are striving for creating a child friendly education environment and encouraging the existing educational institutions apart from starting alternative institutions to provide education with conceptual and value foundation, which respects local cultures and traditional knowledge along with offering a scientific orientation.

Livelihoods: Agriculture, which was considered as a way of living for a majority of Indians, is now looming under crisis. Dry land farming has become like a gambling. Increased input and labor costs, decrease of price realization by the farmer coupled with the effects of globalization has made agriculture unviable. Suicide rates among farmers have increased multifold and as a response to this situation many organizations started organizing the small scale farmers with a view to achieve economies of scale through collective purchases, collective marketing etc. The farmers' organizations are also active in meeting the credit and other needs of the farmers, which the formal institutions largely failed to meet. These institutions also actively involved in activities, such as promoting eco-friendly technology, seed

banks, water harvesting, water conservative agriculture, basic fertility preservation etc. Cooperatives of fishermen, weavers and other artisans are also meeting the needs of these communities to a large extent, which failed to meet by the government mechanisms. We are also witnessing the emergence of cooperatives/ mutually aided cooperative societies/ producer companies etc. which are doing commendable service to the poor by offering diverse supports such as credit, insurance, marketing, storage, transportation and value addition etc. to enhance their livelihoods.

Policy advocacy: There are certain institutions in the country that are formed to bring about a change in the government policy towards a certain issue. Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) of Andhra Pradesh is predominantly working towards bringing a positive environment for the cooperatives to flourish by advocating for policy level changes through community institutions. It facilitates the formation of cooperatives and nurtures them as model cooperatives that negotiate with the government for policy level changes that help cooperatives to function as truly member driven. Likewise, there are institutions actively engaged in policy advocacy, in areas like decentralized democratic governance through strengthening Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), promoting sustainable agricultural practices, displacement due to development projects, industrial ventures and mining, ecological issues, electoral reforms and nuclear energy related issues etc.....

Micro finance: Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are very popular not only in India, but also across the world. These institutions, mainly formed by organizing women into various kinds of groups such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups etc., are meeting the micro credit and micro insurance needs of the poor in a large scale. In some places, these SHGs are formed into higher level federations and are also addressing other needs of the community such as health, support to livelihoods, education, housing etc. There are many other institutions in the country, that are formed to work on diverse issues that matter to the life of people, especially the poor, such as housing, environmental protection, micro enterprise promotion, skill building, knowledge dissemination etc. While learning from these experiments of building pro-poor institutions, one has to be abundantly clear now that main business of development work is not to substitute the institutions of State and the market, but to capacitate the poorer communities and organize them, so that they'll be able to assert their rightful claim over all those formal institutions.

If we want more and more people to participate and take advantage of institutions, we need to capacitate more and more. People need exposure, practical experience, hand holding, while experimenting on something. It demands a great collective effort from development practitioners to bring about such empowerment and capacities to the people. The institutions of the poor, should take the role of empowering their members, so that they can make the other formal and informal institutions to become the institutions for the poor.

***Livelihoods July-2010**

27. Community Animation

Development is sustainable, when it is a democratic process that involves participation of the locals. In 1970s, popular participation emerged as the answer to the inefficiency and inequities of the development process.



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As development interventions across the country started using local volunteers in implementation, community animators became permanent fixture in every intervention. Community volunteers came as revelation for many. They had a better knowledge of the community and were likely to strike a better chord with the locals vis-à-vis external facilitators.

Community animators are thought to be one of the three key agents, of a successful development intervention

besides institutions and external facilitators. These three agents together bring about change in the community. Institutions are organizations that work towards development of the community. These are managed by external facilitators, who initiate activities for development. Conventionally, community animators were used for last mile delivery of services.

However, as experience of the past two decades has shown, the role of external facilitators is diminishing, while community animators are gaining ground in implementation. The emergence of CBOs, such as SHGs/CIGs and their federations is catalyzing this process. As a result, the very nature and perception of community animators or barefoot workers is undergoing a change.

In a sense, community animators have always existed in Indian villages. For instance, traditional healers are akin to today's Rural Medical Practitioners (RMPs). When one looks at it through this lens, community animators/barefoot workers can be defined as service providers at the community level.

The roles and responsibilities of community animators are derived from the unmet needs of local community and the major objectives of the development project. The implementing agency equips the community animators with relevant skills and motivation to meet specialized needs of the community. As a result, there is no uniformity in their selection process, roles, payment across the country.

The NRLM takes note of the potential of community animators in enhancing implementation. The NRLM Framework for Implementations states "NRLM would invest in creating a large pool of 'social capital' i.e. institutions of the poor, their members and office bearers, community resource persons, community professionals (book keepers, accountants, community animators/facilitators, customer relationship managers in banks etc), to support poor communities."

In fact, the framework calls this strategy to its success and scaling up. It refers the CRPs as dynamic drivers for horizontal scaling up of the mission while community professionals—paraprofessionals, community activists are vital in deepening the processes and sustaining them in a given area.

Community animators are recognized as important stakeholders in building community ownership of the institutions of the poor. For this, the framework specifies the need for skilling community professionals to equip them, with the

necessary managerial skills. Further, the Mission envisages that the role of external support structure would reduce over time and an internal support structure (of community professionals would take over).

Farmer Spearheaded Trainings

Development Service Centre (DSC) is a resource organisation in the field of natural resource management based in Gujarat. Farmer Spearheaded Training (FSHT) centre has been conceptualised by the DSC to coach and prepare farmers as trainers, so that they can train other farmers. This has proved to be a less time-consuming and a more effective method of organizing and advancing project objectives. Farmers learn from fellow farmers more easily since they relate to their environment, background, experiences, language etc. Affinity and proximity play a significant role in convincing them about altering their practices.

Training modules designed and conducted by farmers greatly enrich the development literature. Involvement of the beneficiaries and stakeholders in decision making roles from the beginning plays a key role as their local knowledge and experiences help in faster progress. It is important to give a free hand to farmers with ample time to settle.

The FSHT offers some non-paid work -

- Arranging exposure visit to the trainer's villages
- Training as a source of revenue generation
- Conducting village meetings
- Technical input for formation of WUA (resources and training, role of WUA)
- Joint walk through the canal
- First training for water distribution

FSHT offers some paid work -

- Every extra training on account keeping and canal operation
- Audit
- Refresher course for new office bearers' who conduct training and bear the costs
- Hosting exposure visit from other states
- Any other training/ guest lecture

The intervention has covered 42000 farmers till now.

DSC started with a group of eleven farmers from one village to train other farmers. They formed a group and took up varied topics relating to organizing irrigation cooperatives, e.g., community organizing, conflict resolution, accounts, infrastructure, maintenance etc. There were primarily two parts in this program – institution-building and the technical capacity building. DSC organised Training of Trainers (ToT) specifically focused on the farmers and their learning aptitude.

The farmers training group travels to new villages. They initially stay there for a couple of days and try to understand the issues in the village. They gradually make acquaintances with the people and find out what people think about canal water and the state of the canals and their management. They start discussions and meetings about the importance of managing the canals and forming WUAs. There is an easy acceptance of the farmers by other farmers because of their experience. Factors like affinity, caste and class groups play an important role in establishing rapport with the community. The trainers' group visits the villages once in a week at the beginning and then visits according to the need.

Identifying and Inducting Community Animators

The implementing agency adopts various methods to identify barefoot workers. One is to observe the amount of interest shown by individuals during meetings, interactions, etc. This is followed by informal/ formal interviews of the identified person to judge their skill and aptitude. It is important that the identified person enjoys the trust/credibility of the community. The implementing agency takes the community into confidence during the identification process of the barefoot workers, for better acceptability. The agency also facilitates and monitors the services provided by the barefoot workers.

The training and induction is tailored to the kind of services provided by barefoot workers. For e.g., the livelihoods-support para-professionals are trained in the specific areas in which they work (livestock/ poultry/ agriculture, etc). The general resource persons are trained in using computer software, book-keeping, community mobilization, sensitization in key social issues etc. Besides the required skill-related trainings, the community animators also get exposed to the larger perspective of development and change-oriented aspects.

The training usually lasts for 5-15 days depending on the expected roles and responsibilities. Half-yearly follow-up workshops are necessary, to upgrade the skills of community animators with new techniques in implementation. These workshops serve as platforms for dissemination of best practices/ experience sharing among barefoot workers. These workshops are held at the district level, so that the community animators receive wide exposure. Customized training modules are developed by the implementing agency to train the barefoot workers. Modules developed by government departments or other agencies are also utilized.

Monitoring of the community animators is carried out on regular basis by the staff, of the implementing agency at the block level. The community animators are also monitored by the community/CBO leaders on a monthly basis. Some parameters used to assess the performance of community animators are -

- Availability of worker in time of need;
- Response to emergencies;
- General rapport with the community;
- Ability to inspire youth to take up similar roles.

The barefoot worker's service fee depends on the kind of roles and responsibilities handled. Though, there is no standardized pattern for the payment of remuneration, some implementing agencies pay directly, while others facilitate payment from the community.

The implementing agency establishes appropriate payment system, for the services provided by barefoot workers, before transferring the responsibility to community.

Types of Community Animators

Some, community animators are also paid on the basis of their services. They are trained in certain skill, say veterinary services by the implementing agency. The community animators then take these skills to the community and offer their services. The beneficiaries pay for the services rendered by barefoot workers.

In some cases, community animators are fulltime service providers, like book keeper/ SHG auditor and etc. In some cases, community animators work part-time with the community and provide services on need basis (like para-vets). In some other cases, community animators are pure service providers, paid for the service provided.

In some cases, this cadre of community animators is not just limited, to the local community, but also visits new and distant locations to motivate/mobilize/train the communities. The type of service can also define the type of relationship – some community animators can be 'best practitioners' providing specialised livelihood advice, while another set can be 'CRP', providing standardized interventions.

The emergence of the cooperative movement and the self-help movement has given rise to a new crop of community leaders. In most CBOs, the leaders are elected by the members. These leaders hold posts such as president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc. Unlike earlier leaders, they are trained in management and leadership skills.

Based on these differences, community animators can be broadly categorized as:

1. Community Activists (CA).
2. Paraprofessionals.
3. Community Resource Persons (CRP).

These, three cadres differ in their association with the project, selection process, pay, monitoring and other factors. Further, these categories are not watertight. Some barefoot workers can double or triple up in these roles. There are also, some barefoot workers, who fall in between these categories. As the role of community agents is growing, new facets of community animation are emerging.

Community Activists

They are usually employed with the project. They are recruited to implement the project at the community level and ensure last mile delivery of services. Generally, their roles include mobilizing the community, organizing them into their groups, ensuring that the groups function well, organizing trainings for the community, monitoring the progress of the community, etc., They serve as a bridge between the implementing agency and the community.

As they usually are members of the community, employing them to implement the project helps in reducing the time taken for building a rapport with the community.

NRHM provides for the presence of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in every village. The ASHA worker is (preferably) a single woman from the village between the age of 25 and 45. She should have studied up to at least class 8. The ASHA worker is selected by women's groups, anaganwadi, village health committee, GS and district nodal office. The ASHA worker provides information to the community on nutrition, basic sanitation & hygiene practices, healthy living and working conditions. She also makes the women in the village aware about reproductive and child health issues. ASHA workers are paid 500 rupees a month and are given incentives for promoting immunization, escorting women for referrals to health centers and for promoting construction of household toilets.

The mitra under IKP are also community activists. IKP has mitras for all kinds of activities—bank, insurance, sustainable agriculture, gender, etc. These mitras are employed by the village/block/district federations to perform specialized functions. They belong to the village and may be a part of the CBO structure. They are oriented to function as mitras and help SHGs and their federations function according to the sapta sutra.

Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals are functionaries, who are proficient in a particular skill. They are not confined to the project, though the project may help them in acquiring their skills.

Paraprofessionals provide specialized services such as veterinary care, medical care, etc. to the community. They are paid by those, who avail their services.

For example in APMAS's VLRC intervention, some paraprofessionals were trained in veterinary services These paraprofessionals offer their services to the community and are paid for the services by the beneficiaries.

Community Resource Persons

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are employed to enable peer-to-peer learning (*see page 18*). CRPs are usually best practitioners in the intervention concerned. They are not employed with the project, but are chosen and trained by the implementing agency. CRPs are essentially role models for others in the community. They perform wide-ranging functions, such as giving demonstrations of best practices, trainings, helping in monitoring, etc. CRPs are paid as and when their services are availed.

In programmes like SERP, CRPs have been categorized, according to their specialization and area of functioning, some of the CRPs go to other districts and even states to give trainings, demonstrations, aid other CBOs, etc.

Technical Assistant

In MGNREGS, a Technical Assistant (T.A.) is as functionary at the cluster level to provide technical support to Field Assistants (FA) in implementing the scheme. There are 2 -3 TAs in a mandal, depending upon the number of villages in the mandal. The TA is a resident/native of the District with a minimum qualification of a Diploma in Civil engineering/ Agriculture/Horticulture or a Degree in Science or ITI Civil/Intermediate. They should be at least 35 years old (for SC/ST/BCs the criterion is relaxed till 40 years). In Scheduled areas under ITDAs, only ST candidates are considered for the post. The responsibilities of a TA include identifying projects as per the GS resolution, preparing estimates for projects up to five lakhs, capturing measurements (including the e- measurement through mobiles) on a weekly basis for all the projects, building technical capacities of the mates and the field assistants.

Field Assistant in MGNREGS

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is being implemented in rural areas since the past 8 years. Field Assistants (FAs) are key functionaries in implementing the program. Candidates belonging to GPs intermediate pass and those in the age group 18 to 35 years are considered for the post. FA's responsibilities are as follows: Works with panchayat for identifying, writing muster rolls and assigning and measuring the earth works, coordinating Srama Shakti Sangalu (SSS), taking attendance of labours every day at work site, ensuring the output from labours, attending all review meetings, ensuring worksite facilities and facilitates GS meetings.

Under NREGS, a 'mate' is assigned for each work-site or for every fifty workers. Mate should be literate and should have worked in MGNREGS for a reasonable period of time. They are trained and their skills are enhanced in a phased manner, so that they can function as certified barefoot engineers capable of initial measurement of works. The remuneration of mates is based on person days of his/her work, calculated at a wage rate equal to that of semi-skilled labour.

Responsibilities of Mates includes supervising work-sites, recording attendance in muster roll, giving daily mark-outs to labour groups and record weekly measurements, facilitate applications for job-cards and submit them to the GP facilitating demand for work from individual workers or labour groups, submit them to gram panchayat and obtain dated receipt as acknowledgement, facilitating participatory identification of works in the GP, ensuring there is no free-riding within his/her group of workers, ensuring timely attendance of workers, record weekly measurements of his/her groups, submit filled out muster rolls to Gram RozgarSevak (GRS), providing first aid, helping illiterate labourers in his group to learn to sign and to calculate wages earned, creating awareness about rights and entitlements under the MGNREGA.

Local Livelihoods Interns:

LLIs are graduates in the local area, who are recruited and trained by ARAVALI and its Partners to take up managerial roles in social development interventions. With this, ARAVALI has sought to alter the widely-accepted definition of barefoot workers by engaging local persons in the management aspects of development projects. This is a step ahead in the belief that the community is capable of handling its own institutions.

It fulfills the aim of building social capital that will remain with the community for a long period. Often, management in development projects is done by professionals who are distanced from the realities of the community but are inclined towards working with the community.

LLI fellowship extends for three years and thereafter the graduates take up their own agenda in the field of rural and livelihoods development locally.

The objectives behind creation of this pool of LLIs are:

- To facilitate the NGOs to follow a focused approach towards livelihood enhancement (in both farm and non-farm activities) with special attention on resource poor families.
- To place quality human resources at the field level to enable NGOs to implement livelihood enhancement activities and simultaneously build the knowledge base of local staff in the area; &
- To effectively implement, demonstrate and facilitate the generation of knowledge on livelihood promotion and facilitate replication by other NGOs in the state.

The LLIs undergo a 3-4 days orientation at NGOs, such as DSC and AKRSP. The orientation includes training on aspects such as capacity building, livelihoods enhancement, project planning, project management, etc. Upon induction into implementing agency, the LLIs make their monthly plans. Their remuneration is performance based with a fixed monthly stipend of INR 10,000.

Community Resource Person Strategy—SERP/IKP:

Under IKP/SERP, CRP are members of the community, who successfully graduated out of poverty by being members of the SHGs and practiced the cardinal principles of Self-Help. CRPs over the years have evolved as functional specialists with each one having their own strengths in specific areas like social mobilization, gender, financial management, book keeping, marketing, health, gender, paralegal assistants and so on. They act as guides and role models for other poor individuals and other institutions. They provide capacity building support to newer groups and act as consultants to each other to successfully implement their plans to come out of poverty. Moreover the CRP have been invited as a consultant for other States in the country to share their learning's and train poor women in their States. Today, the programme can count over 20,000 qualified individuals as CRP's and Paraprofessionals, who can guide, assist and implement such programmes anywhere.

Since 2004-05, the project has been adopting the VORT CRP strategy for strengthening of SHGs and promoting "SaptaSutralu". As part of this strategy, a four member CRP team stays in each village for 15 days, forms new groups with , train a minimum of 8-9 SHGs, update SHG account books, identify and train SHG bookkeepers and Community Activists, facilitate 2-3 SHGs for preparation of Micro Credit Plans (MCP) and identify internal CRPs. Each team visits one mandal and takes up trainings on SHG management, Bookkeeper and MCP preparation, working 15 days per month in each village for 10 Months in a year

CRP's are active community leaders selected from the members of mature SHGs, VOs and MS. They are women, who faced abject poverty and came out with the active support, guidance and assistance provided by the SHGs, VOs and MS. They should have accessed multiple doses of loans and improved their livelihood base and standard of living. They are recognized as role models in their SHGs, VOs and MS. Their SHGs, VOs, MS should have a good management and should have addressed social issues successfully. They should have good communications skills.

They should have knowledge and experience of SHG concept, group management norms, SHG meeting process, clarity on the need of Bookkeeping and role of Bookkeeper, MCP –7 Step process, VO meeting process, Agenda fixation, various functions of VO and VO committees, clarity on the role and function of CA with SHGs and VOs. They should have the skills to conduct trainings to the community on the best practices of their SHGs, VOs and MS. They document their SHGs and VOs profiles, institutional progress best practices and adopted them as training material in the trainings and facilitation.

Senior CRPs

Sr.CRP is the member of mature SHG, who has come out of poverty with the support of her SHG/VO and MS. The Sr.CRP shall have the experience of running a MS at a capacity of office bearer for at least 2 years. They should have clarity and articulation skills about the group concept, role of VO / MS and best practices in IB, MF and CIF.

Types of CRPs:

Registration CRPs

SERP's primary mandate is to promote and strengthen self-managed and self-reliant sustainable institutions of the Poorest of the Poor (PoP) and poor. Members having in-depth knowledge on their bye-laws, managing institutions as per their bye-laws and act on-time, fulfillment of legal compliances is integral part of sustainability of the CBOs. In this connection, SERP has decided to identify ZS/MS level Registration CRPs from among the experienced CBO leaders and utilize their services to create awareness among the members and provide hand-holding support to MSs and VOs.

- To create awareness among all SHG members on their rights and entitlements, their VO & MS Bye-laws and Registration process etc
- To build the capacities of VOs and MSs in managing their institutions as per bye-laws and in fulfillment of legal compliances etc.
- To provide need based support to ZS in inter and intra institutional problem solving and conflict resolutions at VOs and MSs Level

Auditing CRPs

The work of the auditing CRP is to support and create awareness among CBOs, maintenance of books of accounts, best financial management practices and self-regulation of CBOs, the Auditing/ External Community Resource Persons Strategy for Financial Management & Auditing (FMA) has been developed.

CRPs in IKP – EGS Convergence

The CRPs in IKP-EGS convergence are primarily wage-seekers under EGS programme or have come from a family dependent on that EGS works. Their main role in the programme is to identify the households in the allotted panchayat, who are dependent on EGS works and then ensure that each household adopted by VO achieves 100 days of employment in this financial year. Each CRP team spends 15 days in the allotted panchayat every month monitoring each of the adopted households.

Gender CRPs

Gender CRP's ensures gender agendas in SHG and VO meetings. She trains the members on gender issues. She should form adolescent girl group. She should form social action committees and create gender fund. One of the major duties is to establish family counseling centre and train gender committees on identifying and resolving issues.

Health CRP strategy Health CRPs are best practitioners, who are trained to assess and analyze community health problems, build awareness among people on key health issues, prepare a health and nutrition plan for the village,

Comprehensive Rural Health Project—Jamkhed

Comprehensive Rural Health Project's (CRHP) approach to development, recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the Jamkhed Model. The model is composed of three mutually supportive components—community, mobile health team and a hospital.

Upon entering a village, CRHP works with villages to conduct a baseline survey to address needs and solutions. A Village Health Worker (VHW) (the *first component*) is selected at this time by her village to undergo initial and ongoing education with CRHP to provide primary healthcare and promote health education in her village. The VHW is key to the formation of Community Groups, such as the Farmers' Clubs, Women's Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Adolescent Programs. These groups provide villagers an outlet with which to identify socioeconomic and healthcare barriers, thereby defining the parameters for applicable solutions. The *second component of CRHP's* is Mobile Health Team (MHT), which acts as a liaison between each project village and CRHP.

The MHT is a team of social workers and medical staff that conduct village visits to assist VHWs in more complicated matters, as well as collect vital statistics for healthcare monitoring. The social workers advise on social and economic initiatives led by the Women's SHG, and meet regularly with Farmers' Clubs, and Adolescent groups.

The third *component* the hospital and training centre located on CRHP's Jamkhed compound. The on-campus Julia Hospital and Training Center connect the communities with CRHP's campus. The hospital provides affordable healthcare to an underserved rural population of over 500,000 annually using a sliding scale fee structure. The Training Center hosts domestic and international grassroots workers to demonstrate the effectiveness of CRHP's approach to development in an applicable and scalable manner. CRHP currently works with 45 Project Villages and 55 Village Health Workers. CRHP has worked with over 300 villages since it was founded.

lend support to SHG members in the execution of the plan, monitor and evaluate progress on participatory lines.

Marketing CRPs

CRPs are selected from among the members of the SHGs, who work in VOs on marketing component of the project in 1 to 4 mandals and in some places more. They are willing workers having concern to the problems of the poor farmers and work for their betterment.

State Resource Persons – Marketing

Regional training programs will be held, whenever SRPs are to be selected. Project Directors, DRDA and Zilla Samakhya will be requested to identify the members of the SHGs having following;

- Should be member of SHG;
- Minimum education standard;
- Good Communication Skills;
- Previous experience if any in working as member of Procurement Committee / or in marketing;
- Good grasping capacity;
- Concern for the poor;
- In a position to travel extensively within and outside the districts;

- Capacity to train others;

NPM CRPs (CRP strategy in Sustainable agriculture)

The duties of the NPM CRP's are to motivate farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural methods. Establish 36*36 models; poly cropping models, compost pits, cattle shed lining, bund plantation, SRI paddy, deep furrows, registration fee collection etc.

Book Keepers

Book keeping is one of the *sapta sutras* of SHGs. It implies keeping a record of all the transactions and activities of the group, both internal and external. The group selects a bookkeeper to carry out all these activities. The bookkeeper could be one of the members, or related/known to the members. The bookkeeper should know how to read and write and have the basic arithmetic skills. She/he usually writes books for more than one group and is paid a fee by the group. The payment ranges between Rs 50 and 200. The group pays either from the corpus fund or the members give the fee amount along with the weekly savings amount. Book keeper has to attend group meetings which may be weekly, fortnightly and monthly. The book keeper records the minutes of the meeting, financial transactions and writes loan applications or promissory notes at the time of internal lending. The fundamental function of the bookkeeper is to ensure financial transparency in the group.

***Livelihoods February-2013**

28. Communitization

Communitization brought excellent results in people's institutions' management and services delivery in India. It advanced social work from charity mode to development mode. Community participation in managing institutions and services delivery is vital for institutions' sustainability. The core principle of communitization is 'Today's non-community works should be done by community tomorrow. Communitization, has become vital in development strategy in today's world.



Communitization brought excellent results in people's institutions' management and services delivery in India. It advanced social work from charity mode to development mode. Community participation in managing institutions and services delivery is vital for institutions' sustainability. The core principle of communitization is 'Today's non-community works should be done by community tomorrow. Communitization, has become vital in development strategy in today's world. Government institutions are providing different services such as health, education, drinking water, electricity, banking; ration at subsidized prices etc. These services have poor quality in terms of its availability and accessibility to all. Especially, in the context of poor populations, they are unable to access timely quality services. Above, 30 lakh Non-government Organizations (NGOs) or Civil Society

Organizations (CSO) are working for people in various fields in six lakh villages across the country. India has largest Self Help Groups (SHGs), with above 1.5 crore SHGs with 15 crore members. There are many types of Community Based Institutions (CBOs), services providing institutions existing in the country. Above, half of the poor people are out of CBOs and are unable to access sufficient quality services on -time. Most of the community institutions are also not functioning in sustainable way. There are many reasons for this situation. One of the main causes is lack of sufficient community participation in institutions management and services delivery. This is the main bottleneck in institutions sustainability and service delivery to the poor. In this context, the need of communitization comes in, as an important element in institutions' management and services delivery.

Communitization provides space for community participation more directly in governance and decision making. It ensures sustainable equitable opportunities to population or people, reduces gap between government officials, NGOs and community, encourages information sharing, designs the programs, which are tailored to local people needs, priorities and gives sustainability to the programs. It brings government closer to community, increases accessibility of services, knowledge and creates awareness about the needs of the people. This facilitates, establishing strong relationship between government and people and ensures good governance. The communities can understand their needs better and implement plans effectively, than non-community persons. As adequate funds, proper policy framework and effective delivery mechanism are not sufficient for successful implementation of programs. The programs require transparency and accountability, which will result out of community participation in the programs. Local governance method existed centuries ago in our country. In earlier times, managing administrative and judiciary responsibilities, financial and development works were done by the community institutions. According to 73rd and 74th amendments of Constitution, water resources and water ways management was given to local bodies such as panchayats in rural areas and municipal councils in urban areas.

After Independence, Nagaland was the first state to implement communitization program in the country. In 2008, the state won an award, only winner in Asia Pacific region in communitization program. The communitization program in Nagaland, aimed to improve quality and delivery of public services such as elementary school education, rural health care and power distribution through enhancing community participation in program implementation. For, successful implementation of communitization programs, Nagaland government designed 'Nagaland Communitization Public Institution and Services Act, 2002'. According to the Act, communitization consist unique partnership between government and the community transfer to public, resources and assets, control over services, creating empowerment, decentralization, delegation and building capacities. These measures would help in efficient delivery of proper public services to the communities. Therefore, communitization means transfer of government assets to the community, empowerment to community, to manage and supervise day to day activities of the employees in the concerned departments. The Act prescribes to form village level committees and local committees, with different age group persons and give responsibilities to the community to maintain and develop government assets and institutions. It also suggests ensuring concerned government employees accountability to the people's committees, on delivering services to the community. Nagaland Communitization Public Institution and Services Act, 2002 designs broad framework for communitization. According to the Act, community is represented by committees with different age group persons, the committees consists of stakeholders and experts, committee accessed powers to disburse salaries and grant leaves to the employees and MOUs signed to transfer government assets to the community. The Act amended concerned rules to supervise employees. It designed continuous intensive awareness campaigns about communitization among people, sensitization of committee members, board members, employees, department officials and other stakeholders, setting monitoring committees and preparing handbooks.

We can see communitization processes at large scale in SHGs network, education, health, power supply, tank management and ration distribution etc, in the country. Above 1.5 SHGs and their various level federations are functioning and government and NGOs are facilitating these institutions. Mostly poor women are the members in these institutions. They are involved in many activities such as savings, internal lending, regular meetings, book keeping, loan repayment, and convergence with line departments and NGOs, collective enterprises, social issues and organic farming etc. Members elect leaders and give approval for different sub-committees formation for different programs and lead institutions and functions activities. At various levels such as village, mandal and district level, there are different sub-committees, which are functioning as follows:

- Monitoring committee
- Loan repayment committee
- Marketing committee
- Gender committee
- Education committee
- Health committee
- Social issues committee

Each sub-committee has an average of three members and they perform assigned responsibilities. Every month, these committees submit their work report in federations' monthly meeting. Largely, we can see good community participation in managing institutions and implementing programs. Community Resource Persons (CRPs), strategy is one of the good examples of community participation in forming CBOs, providing trainings to members, book keeping, internal auditing, monitoring and evaluation of the programs.

Communitization based on three 'T' approach as follows...

- Trust the community, the main stakeholder in the program.
- Train the community on institutions and services management.
- Transfer of government powers and resources to the community with respect to management.

Communitization starts, with having firm conviction that people have capacities to understand problems, analyze issues, find suitable solutions and implement solutions in proper way. People's committees at various levels ensure communitization. These committees should access continuous capacity building training programs, enhance skills and knowledge, get handholding support at beginning, exposure visits to learn from best practices in communitization in other areas. In the beginning non-community will perform responsibilities; gradually community members have to take those responsibilities with proper awareness and skills about the works. Community level resource person plays a vital role in communitization. They need to learn skills and knowledge about particular programs of management.

Communitization can work if, there are less number of non – community persons in the program. More non-community persons may not allow community persons participation in the programs. Complicated programs are always a hurdle in communitization. So, make programs extremely simple and high-end programs are always more complex and are not possible for communitization. Generalist and integrated works are preferable, than specialist works and work area responsibility is better than thematic or specialist responsibility for community participation. More volunteerism reduces communitization, because many times, poor people are unable to involve in programs without payment for their time, energy and resources. Mostly poorest and poor people should involve in communitization of public institutions, because they use more services from public institutions than any other category. Identifying right persons, using various models and incremental benefits are more useful to communitization.

Case Study of Nagaland; Nagaland is the first state, which came forward to communitize through legislative method. Above 94% schools, 100% sub-centers, one Primary Health Centre (PHC) in each district and 12% villages in power sector are communitized in Nagaland. Almost, all major villages have Village Development Board (VDBs) for planning, implementation of development works and government schemes in the village. Villagers will have the members in VDB Management committee and VDB secretary selected for three years in democratic way. VDBs ensure that 25% of women are represented in management committee. These VDBs have been active for four decades in Nagaland. VDBs are village level development organizations and implement state and central schemes in Nagaland. VDBs implement various schemes as follows:

- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).
- Grant in Aid to VDBs (Household Allocation).
- VDB Welfare Fund.
- Fixed Deposit (FD) & Matching Cash Grants (MCG).
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF).
- Micro-Finance (MF).

VDB plays an active role in economic growth and infrastructural development through active participation of community. With the help of VDBs, Nagaland government has been implementing several welfare measures and poverty reduction programs in villages. Because of VDBs government is able to implement more works, such as agriculture link roads, approach roads, irrigational canals, rain harvesting etc. For this VDB performs following duties:

- Identify and select schemes on priority basis through General Body Meeting.
- Ensure proper implementation of schemes at ground level.
- Involve community people.
- Ensure transparency mechanism and proper fund utilization.
- Maintain accounts, muster rolls and beneficiaries records.
- Monitor and evaluate schemes implementation on periodical basis.

VDB secretary leads four members team, who are elected for a period of three years by people through democratic processes. VDB forms important committees as follows:

- Village Education Committee (VEC)
- Village Health Committee (VHC)
- Water and Sanitation Committee (WATSON)
- Village Electricity Management Board (VEMB).

It also forms Managing Board Committee (MBC). These committees perform their assigned duties.

VEC takes over, the management of primary and middle schools in the village. It takes care of basic education of the children, ensure that all the children of village should be admitted government schools, ensure discipline and factuality of the teachers and disburse salaries to teachers based on their performance and work days. VEC members visit schools and cross check students and teachers activities. It purchases text books, furniture, construct and repair school buildings etc. Its members and school authorities involve in social activities and co-curricular activities in the school. It is also involved in teacher's selection, appointment and transfer including disciplinary, measures irregular and misconduct of teachers. VEC intervention led to significant results in communitized schools. 100% enrollment of boys and girls achieved, teachers attendance has improved by more than 90%, unauthorized

absence totally reduced, children attendance percentage increased from 75% to 100% and teaching improved and children shifted from private schools to government schools. VHCs ensure proper management of village level PHCs. VHC members work to ensure proper delivery of services to the people by the health department staff. It lays more emphasis on providing quality health care and medicines to pregnant women, new born babies and children by the health department. VHCs, ensures to register pregnant women in PHC, immunization to all children and examines health condition of villagers. It takes preventive measures with the support of health staff to prevent epidemic and diseases in the village. It has power to transfer irregular health staff and replacement with new staff. It conducts 'Nutrition Day' once in a month and distributes medicines to pregnant women, lactating women and children at free of cost. Health services delivery condition improved in communitized PHCs. More than 50% children accessed health services in PHCs, attendance of health department staff increased above 90%, authorized absence reduced to 2% to 3% and unauthorized absence completely eliminated.

WATSON ensures water supply management from main distributing reservoir, maintains water supply equipments. It appoints a person for management and maintenance of common water and ensures to provide drinking water to every household in the village. It works for water sources protection and supply, by implanting watershed programs properly. Communitization of electricity management: Electricity management is one of the complicated area. In north-eastern states particularly in Nagaland, there is huge transmission and distribution loses in power supply, because of poor power supply and revenue management in rural areas. The 'Communitization Act, 2002 facilitated to form Village Electricity Management Board (VEMB) with five to nine members including women representatives for three years period. VEMB involved in electricity supply management at the grassroots level. The tasks such as monitoring the availability of power supply, collecting electricity dues, supervising electricity board staff, preventing theft of energy and recommending punitive actions on irregular staff and other offenders. 20% of the rebate money of electricity sold or consumed in the area is given to VEMBs and rebate money was used for providing street lights and adding power amenities. In Kerala local planning process became vital instrument in social development. Regularly Gram Sabhas (Village Assemblies) discuss and prepare plans for health and related issues like drinking water, nutrition and sanitation in the villages. During the planning phase, they collect secondary data, prepare development reports and incorporate peoples' suggestions on health and related issues. Funds transferred to local elected bodies to implement the plans.

Community Based Monitoring and Planning (CBMP) system evolved in Maharashtra state. It is an innovative approach to implement health care services delivery to the people. It is developed based on the efforts of Jan SwasthyaAbhiyan (JSA) or Peoples' Health Movement (PHM) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). JSA established with coalition of various health groups and social organization, which is dedicated to health for all in India. Presently, CBMP is implemented in 860 villages in 13 districts in Maharashtra. CBMP works at multiple levels from village to state in Maharashtra. Different stakeholders, such as health department officials, local panchayat representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and active community members form committees to plan and monitor health programs at different levels. CBMP include awareness raising programs, capacity building of members and participants, formation of planning and monitoring committees, community based health services assessment, public hearing and state level convergence meetings. Jan Sunwai or public hearing is key strategy in CBMP. It facilitates mobilization of large number of community people and different stakeholders. In the public hearing, people share their experiences of health services in the presence of different stakeholders. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) play an important role in local governance and natural resources management. Water user committees were formed in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh to manage tanks and water harvesting. The Andhra Pradesh Farmer Management of Irrigation Systems Act, 1997 facilitated formation of Water Users Associations (WUAs) to manage village tanks. WUAs members take training on water management to perform their responsibilities and setup regulations for use of the water resources, solve conflicts in water distribution and water structures management.

On the issues and challenges in communitization, there are many issues and challenges in communitization from employees, government, SOs and community. It is difficult to clear demarcation of community and non-community works. There are many issues in non-community cadre like government officers or employees. They do not trust community capacities and wisdom, skepticism about losing as government employees, preoccupied opinion that community may misuse financial sources, government officers reluctant to transfer their powers to community and government lack of proper perception about communitization. Governments think that communitization means transferring workload to community. It transfers public resources and management responsibilities to community without imparting proper management skills and knowledge to community. Importing management skills to community is a continuous process by providing knowledge, showing examples and providing handholding support

for limited period. This vision is lacking in government. Governments have to sensitize employees to recognize and respect peoples' capacities and wisdom and train the employees to facilitate people to run institutions.

There are lakhs of NGOs working with the community. But there are not many successful communitization models by the NGOs. We can see very few communitization models in country. NGOs are facing many limitations in communitization and many NGOs are reluctant to communitize. For successful communitization NGOs should have step by step retrenchment strategy plan from the inception about institutions management and services delivery. They have to retrench step by step and facilitate peoples' management and shift their focus on other areas or higher level and gradually prepare community to take those responsibilities. NGOs should design processes to train community and learn new skills and knowledge. First, NGOs should impart training to their staff about basic values, such as unbreakable faith on peoples' capacities and wisdom, respect people and learn from them and vision communitization. This approach is lacking in most of the NGOs. Overall, communitization of public institutions brought excellent results in the concerned areas. People voluntarily came forward to public institutions management and also gave its financial and non-financial contributions for the improvement of public institutions. People need cooperation from governments in the form of regular capacity building trainings to perform assigned responsibilities. Studies stated the wonderful results in different communitized public institutions, such as education, health and power supply delivery performance. Governments have to recognize that communitization is the most important mechanism in public institutions management to provide quality services to the people. If governments provide proper awareness to people about their institutions and impart continuous capacity building to institutions management they run institutions in excellent way. Presently most of the public institutions are showing poor performance in-terms of delivering services to the people. Communitization, is the best possible solution to improve public institutions performance. In practice, it is proved in many places across the country.

*** livelihoods October-2015**

29. Elderly Care

Elderly, the 60 years and above population has increased from 56.5 million to 103.2 million from 1991 to 2011. Increase in life expectancy is the cause behind growth of elderly population. Increase in life expectancy, shift in traditional livelihoods, invasion of market economy, inward and outward migration, break down in familial relations, decrease in home based artisan livelihoods, increase in cost of living, emergence of nuclear families have pushed elderly and their lives in to a vulnerable position. The Government's apathetic response to elders has made their lives miserable.



Elderly population, the 60 years and above has increased from 56.5 million to 103.2 million from 1991 to 2011. Increase in life expectancy, is the cause behind the growth of elderly population. According to the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), the elderly population is expected to rise to 25% of the population, by 2050. The steady growth of ageing population has today become a matter of concern, due to the changing scenarios in our country. Life expectancy increased from 32.1% to 66.43% (1941 to 2011). Increase in life expectancy, shift in traditional livelihoods, invasion of market economy, inward and outward migration, break down in familial relations, decrease in home based artisan

livelihoods, increase in cost of living, emergence of nuclear families have pushed elderly and their lives in to a vulnerable position. The Government's apathetic response to elders has made their lives miserable. In this context, we at "livelihoods" tried to understand the situation of "Elderly Care" in the country. Elderly population is 10, 26, 16,604 (Census 2011) in our country, constituting 8.3% of the total population. The percentage of elderly varies from state to state. In Kerala, the elderly population is 13%, Tamil Nadu 10.8% and in a few less-developed states it is at 4%. About 75% of our elders live in rural areas, and 33% of them are from below poverty line (BPL) category, 70.3% of them are illiterates. Almost 90% of active elders are working in informal sector, which fails to provide pension and health insurance after retirement. About 32% of elders above 65 years are daily wage labourers, 58% of elderly women are widowed, divorced and unmarried; 25% of elders above 60 years of age will be living alone by year 2025. There is no set boundary for defining the elderly, as it varies depending on different societies and situations surrounding those. In our country, the 'National Policy on Elders Pensions, 1999' and 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007' defined old or senior citizen or elderly person as someone, who is aged 60 years and above. The elderly people are broadly classified under three categories:

1. Active / working elders- Ability to work
 - No ailments
 - Physically active
2. Assisted elders- Ability to work by
 - Chronic ailments like hypertension / arthritis
 - Can be physically active with medical treatment

3. Dependent elders- Unable to do any work

- Fully dependent
- Need medical and physical inputs

India has the highest number of elderly workers, compared to other countries in the world. They directly participate in different livelihood activities and support various livelihood activities. The elderly people's engagement in various livelihoods are in agriculture works, dairy, goat rearing, poultry, artisanal works, small enterprises (tea shops, hotels, local grocery shops, sale of fruits and vegetables), Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collection, processing works and domestic works etc. Their participation in income generation activities and support in livelihood activities are the threshold areas. In case of elderly women, they are engaged in taking care of grandchildren and in doing household chores. The vulnerability of the elderly comes into picture, as 95% of their livelihoods activities fall under informal sector, thus they remain constantly under the radar of risk, due to lack of any security on financial, health and their livelihoods front. This situation has been constantly putting the elderly, especially the poor elderly people to work until they reach the palliative care stage.

Percentage Distribution of India's population by age groups, 1961-2011					
Census Years	Sex	Age-Groups			
		0-14	15-44	45-59	60 +
1961	Male	40.9	43	10.6	5.5
	Female	41.2	43.3	9.7	5.8
1971	Male	41.9	41.5	10.7	5.9
	Female	41.9	42.4	9.7	6
1981	Male	39.6	43.3	11	6.1
	Female	39.8	43.5	10.4	6.3
1991	Male	37.7	45.1	10.4	6.7
	Female	37.8	45.1	10.4	6.7
2001	Male	35.7	46.2	11	7.1
	Female	35.2	46.2	10.8	7.9
2011	Male	31.18	47.82	12.42	8.2
	Female	30.31	47.91	12.44	8.98

Source: Census India

Elderly problems are many and abuse of the elderly can happen to anyone, in any family or relationship and it can happen to people of all backgrounds, ages, religions, races, cultures and ethnic origins. The abuse of elders is any form of action by any individual, who is in a relationship of trust that results in harm or distress to an older person. The elderly are also neglected, apart from physical abuse, by lack of action by that person in a relationship of trust with the same result. The very commonly recognized types of elder abuse include physical, psychological and financial abuses. Very often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time. Elder's abuse can be a single incident or a repeated pattern of behavior. The financial abuse of elders has been the most commonly reported type of elder abuse.

- Half of the elderly (50%) are reportedly experiencing abuse. 48% males and 53% females have reported personal experience of abuse.
- In 2014, the percentage of abused elders went up drastically from 23% in the previous year to 50%.
- Within the Tier I cities surveyed, Delhi ranks the lowest (22%) with Bengaluru at highest (75%). In the Tier II cities Kanpur is lowest (13%) and Nagpur is the highest (85%).

- Verbal Abuse (41%), Disrespect (33%) and Neglect (29%) are ranked as the most common types of abuse experienced by the elderly. These three types of abuse are also the same as cited in previous years and also are in consonance with the general perception among the elderly.
- Elders across cities were asked about the abusers within their family. The Daughter-in-law (61%) and Son (59%) emerged as the topmost perpetrators. This is a trend that is continuing from the previous years. Not surprisingly, 77% of those surveyed, live with their families.

Why does elder abuse happen, when the aggressor wants to intimidate, isolate, dominate or control another person and mostly it is from the individuals, who often know them and whom they trust and it is generally caused by a family member, a friend, someone who provides assistance with basic needs or services or health care providers in institutional settings. In many cases/ situations of elder abuse, the abuser is dependent on the older adult for money, food or shelter. The key problems of the elderly identified by Help Age India (HI) are a) abuse; b) boredom; c) economic insecurity; d) failing health; e) fear; f) isolation; g) inability to mainstream; h) loss of control; i) lowered self-esteem and ; j) neglect

Key factors contributing to problems of the elderly are:

- Longevity of age due to increased life expectancy
- Diminishing purchase power
- Self-inflicted isolation in search of peer group
- Crumbling of traditional family/community support structures
- Migration of children due to economic opportunity

1. Abuse: Elderly are highly vulnerable to physical and psychological abuse. The individual or person is willfully or inadvertently harmed, by a family members or someone close to the victim. Elders being relatively weak thus are vulnerable to physical abuse. Elder's resources, especially finances are often misused. Hence, elderly suffer from emotional and psychological abuse for various reasons in different ways. Therefore, it is very important that appropriate steps are taken with immediate effect, whenever and wherever possible, to protect elders from various forms of abuse.

2. Boredom (Idleness): Boredom among elders, results from being poorly motivated to be useful or productive. This occurs when the elder is unwilling and unable to do any activities meaningful with his/her time. These problems mainly occur due to forced inactivity, withdrawal from responsibilities and lack of personal goals. Elders, not actively occupied show decline in physical and psychological activities, experience a negative emotional impact.

3. Economic Insecurity: Economic insecurity is faced by the elderly, as they are unable to and fail to sustain themselves financially. Elders lack opportunity /or capacity to be as productive as they were earlier. Increasing competition from younger people, individuals, family members and societal mind sets, chronic malnutrition, failing health, natural degenerative process (physical and psychological) followed by limited access to resources, lack of awareness of their rights and entitlements play significant role in reducing their ability to remain financially productive, and independent.

4. Failing Health: It has been said that "we start dying the day we are born". The ageing process is synonymous with failing health. While death in young people in countries like India is mainly due to infectious diseases. Elderly people are mostly vulnerable to non communicable diseases. Failing health due to advancing age is complicated by non availability of nutritious diet, age sensitive. There is a lack of psychological support, age sensitive/ elderly sensitive health care for a large proportion of older persons in the country. In addition to that, poor accessibility, reach, lack of information, knowledge and/or high recurrent costs of disease management, push elder care beyond the reach of older persons, especially those who are poor and disadvantaged.

5. Fear: Fear is a relevant problem, faced by elderly, as many older persons live in fear. It is rational or irrational, that needs to be carefully examined and effectively addressed. Elders need to be constantly reassured, as fear is considered to be irrational, thus elders need to be counseled and, if necessary, may be treated as per their needs. In the case of those with real or rational fear, cause and its preventive measures need to be identified, followed by appropriate action wherever possible.

6. Isolation: Isolation, or a deep sense of loneliness, is a common complaint among many of the elderly. While there are a few,, who impose it on themselves. Isolation is most often imposed purposefully or inadvertently by families and/or communities, where the elderly live. Isolation is a psychological feeling, if not addressed on time, leads to tragic deterioration of quality of life.

7. Inability to Mainstream / Lack of Preparedness for Old Age: A large number of people enter 'old age' with little, or no, awareness of what this entails. While demographically, we acknowledge that a person is considered to be old when (s) he attains the age of 60 years, there is no such clear indicator available to the individual. For each person, there is a turning point after which (s) he feels physiologically or functionally 'old'. This event could take place at any age before or after the age of 60. Unfortunately, in India, there is almost no formal awareness programme – even at higher level institutions or organizations – for people to prepare for old age. For the vast majority of people, old age sets in quietly, but suddenly, and few are prepared to deal with its issues. Most people living busy lives during the young and middle age periods may prefer to turn away from, and not consider, the possible realities of their own impending old age.

8. Loss of Control: This problem of older persons has many facets. While self-realization and the reality of the situation are acceptable to some, there are others for whom life becomes insecure, when they begin to lose control of their resources – physical strength, body systems, finances (income), social or designated status and decision making powers.

9. Lowered self-esteem: Lowered self-esteem among older persons has a complex aetiology that includes isolation, neglect, reduced responsibilities and decrease in value or worth by one-self, family and/or the society.

10. Neglect: The elderly, especially those who are weak and/or dependent, require physical, mental and emotional care and support. When this is not provided, they suffer from neglect, a problem that occurs, when a person is left uncared for and that is often linked with isolation. Changing lifestyles and values, demanding jobs, distractions such as television, a shift to nuclear family structures and redefined priorities have led to increased neglect of the elderly by families and communities. This is worsened, as the elderly are less likely to demand attention than those of other age groups. The best way to address neglect of the elderly is to counsel families, sensitize community leaders and address the issue at all levels in different forums, including the print and audio-visual media. Schools and work places offer opportunities where younger generations can be addressed in groups. Government and non-government agencies need to take this issue up seriously at all these levels. In extreme situations, legal action and rehabilitation may be required to reduce or prevent the serious consequences of the problem.

Elders Rights and Entitlements: Elderly population is the fastest growing portion/ segment of society. By year 2025, there will be more than 1.2 billion people, aged sixty and above. More than 70% of aged will be residing in developing countries. As we understand, both developed and developing countries address the issues of the ageing population in different ways. In a country like India, families traditionally took care of the elderly, due to lack of a social security

Equality before Law
Social equality and equal access to public areas
Equality in matters of public employment
Abolition of untouchability
Abolition of Titles

system. In the era of globalization, weakening of family unit, coupled with lack of a social security apparatus, resulted in neglect of the elderly by the family units. Therefore, based on the above context, human rights come into the picture. Several international systems recognize and protect human rights. International human rights standards have gained increasing recognition, but rights of elderly persons have not yet received the international legal attention they deserve. There is no comprehensive international instrument that adequately addresses the specific protections required for the elderly. There are many international instruments

that recognize specific rights of all persons and are clearly applicable to elderly people as citizens of signatory states. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR")⁵ and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights ("ICESCR"),⁶ as well as regional human rights conventions. The elderly are protected by human rights treaties. However, in order to realistically guarantee equal enjoyment of those rights to older persons, States must adopt special measures to protect the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. As we clearly stated, aged people as a disadvantaged group who require heightened protection, deserve a specific instrument that addresses their needs. In this regard, when we state "discrimination against children is a particularly important point of reference..." thus when we analyze the rights of the elderly as a vulnerable group, because it is the only group defined on the basis of age." Right to equality of elders is a very important right provided in Articles 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of Indian Constitution. As this right is the principal foundation of all other rights and liberties and guarantees the following:

- Right to Freedom is given in article 19, 20, 21, 21A and 22 with a view of guaranteeing individual rights. The right to freedom in Article 19 guarantees the following six freedoms:

- Right to Education provides free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.
- Right to Food protects the rights of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. However, if people are deprived of access to food for reasons beyond their control, for example, because they are in detention, in times of war or after natural disasters, the right requires the government to provide food directly.
- Right to Information provides for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

Divergent rights and entitlements of elders comprise of / or various drivers comprising of elders rights and entitlements comprise of: a) right to life, shall be protected by law; b) right not to be subjected to inhuman treatment; c) right to liberty; d) right to a fair hearing. The “civil rights and obligations” are: a) the right to respect at home, within family and in private life; b) the right to freedom of thought and conscience; c) the right not be discriminated against age; d) the right to property – everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions; e) the right to education.

The United Nations Principles on Rights of Elderly: The United Nations designed principles on rights of elderly as follows:

1. The opportunity to work and right to leave work
2. Right to participate in formulation, this influences their wellbeing
3. Access health care to maintain good physical, psychological and emotional well-being
4. Able to pursue opportunities for comprehensive development by accessing educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources from the society
5. Able to live with dignity and security and should be free from exploitation, and physical and psychological abuse

The Gol has and is continuously striving to provide divergent entitlements. They are in the areas of social, security, health and food security. Various elders’ entitlements are: a) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS); b) Annyodaya Ration Card/ Annapurna Yojana; c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gaurantee Scheme (MGNREGS); d) Concessional rail/ air fares for travel within and between cities; e) Right to geriatric care in all Government Hospitals, setting up of old age homes and; f) JeevanDharaYojana, JeevanAkshayYojana, Senior Citizen Unit Yojana. Hence, to protect rights and entitlements of elderly, a concerted effort is required by all the key stakeholders.

ESHG Federations: The era of globalization and urbanization has pushed the elderly people into being one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Earlier, the traditional family bonds in India were always strong and provided a safe secure cushion for the elderly. However, the change in market economy brought about significant distortion in familial relations. The rapid urbanization process lured many young men and women from villages to move on in search for better livelihoods, leaving elderly people in hapless situations. As we all are aware, elderly people need psychological support and economic security. Dealing with elderly, calls for a multi-pronged approach and the formation of Elderly Self-Help Group (ESHG), as a CBO has been the solution, to work with the elderly. An ESHG, can pool diverse resources viz., knowledge, experience, aptitude and productive resources, to support the elders, particularly the needy ones among them. A livelihood for older persons is directly proportional or is dependent on the health factor, rather than on material resources. As aging is a natural degenerative process of physical and mental health. Thus, to keep them healthy and sustain their livelihood activities, formation of ESHGs came into play, to address their health needs, shifting occupation concerns, ownership of productive assets, ability to take risks, capacity to invest, financial inclusion by the mainstream banking institutions.

Kolla Savaramma, native of Korukonda Mandal (East Godavari), widow, aged 65 years, and landless labour belongs to a Schedule Caste community. Earlier, a beneficiary of MGNREGS, but due to her ailing health condition, has stopped working. It was in year 2009, that Helpage India staff visited the village and Savaramma along with Helpage India staff formed ESHG by mobilizing 15 elders, named as "Venkateshwara Elders Self-Help Group". Savaramma, was elected unanimously by her group members as president with defined responsibilities. Her active participation in ESHG meetings, paved way for her selection as EC member in VLF. As an ESHG member, she had exposure to ESHG functioning within and outside the state; the exposure visits and her experience as a member enhanced her confidence levels and reduced her fears about future. Thrift, savings, internal lending's etc., have helped her during family crisis, leading to her increasing her reputation at family level. ESHG has empowered her from a landless labour to be the one to initiate her own Income generative activity of interest i.e., sale of vegetables or fresh fish.

The CBOs, as a small groups of 10-20 members with an average age of around 60 years cannot satisfy the credit requirements of all the members, thus it became imperative for the 15-20 member groups to come on a common platform as a ESHG Federation based on their geographical boundaries and capacities to manage CBOs at the village and district level. The structure of ESHG Federation comprises of a bottom up approach, as this promotes addressing elders' concerns and issues to influence policy makers and local administrative bodies.

Role of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs): The PRIs are strong pillars for democratic decentralization. PRIs are conduits for delivery of economic and social services encompassing participation, transparency and sustainability and interface of PRIs with other parallel organizations operating at local level. In the year 1992, the Constitutions' 73rd Amendment Act came into force. The empowerment of Gram Sabhas (GS) has created massive awareness among the population regarding rights, development, control of natural resources, conflict resolution and so on. PRIs work closely with people and their role in ESHGs is very significant, in the context of rights and entitlements. Thus, it is imperative that adequate steps are taken to empower the elderly both at the individual level and also collective level. As collective empowerment accelerates or accentuates, this process will have much better reach and spread. As today ESHGs concept is in the process of building up, a sizable representation has to be identified and tapped for every related beneficiary scheme that needs to be delivered at the village level to ultimate elderly beneficiaries. As ESHGs become more confident, their continuous participation ensures more effective implementation of Government schemes, programmes and participation in various socio-economic schemes.

Elder's Savings and Internal Lending: Savings are crucial for any individual and they are an integral part of life. Saving is defined, as part of the income, kept aside for their future needs. In simple terms the greatest challenge ahead is formulating appropriate and customized responses to "caring for the Needs of the elderly". A needs assessment survey among urban elderly undertaken in four metro and four non metro cities in May 2008 was revealing and some significant findings were:

- 62% of the elderly are financially dependent on children for subsistence.
- Only 32% of the elderly receive pensions or financial support of any kind.

Elderly Self-Help Groups have pool savings once in a month, the amount may be small, depending upon the group members' financial capacities. Savings need to be on a regular basis and continuous nature. Regular savings help and enable ESHG members to meet a) emergency medical expenses; b) purchasing of provisions for family members, in absence of employment; c) free from money lenders; d) initiation of self IGP activities; e) purchase assets, for securing future; f) re-establishment of confidence in wake of adverse situations i.e., drought, floods etc. ESHG members, wait for 30 days to access small loans to address their urgent domestic needs, as the motto is "savings first – credit later". Internal lending is crucial to any thrift/savings activity. In an ESHG, members access loans through internal lending from the group corpus with sources from bank interest, savings and interest accruing from repayments. This practice helps to address the needs of all members to some extent. Internal lending procedure encompasses the following rules:

- Credit can be availed only by the ESHG members.
- To avail credit, needs of the members must be prioritized.
- Members seeking credit, should give the application form mentioning his/her installment periods.
- Loan sanction should be carried out in group meetings only.

- Member can avail credit only after repayment of prior loan.
- Interest rate for internal lending is to be decided by the group members
- It is mandatory that credit amount to ESHG members should gradually increase.
- Record of accounts has to maintain by the ESHGs.
- Opening savings accounts with banks enable ESHG members to obtain loans from banks and repayment of the same.

Maintaining equality and punctuality in delivering adequate credit, has more impact on the sustainability of groups. Credit rotation is one of the decisive indicators of financial sustainability of the group. The Index has been constructed by using three variables as follows:

- Credit rotation in ESHG group.
- Criteria following during credit rotation.
- Frequency of loans take by ESHG members.

In strong Self Help Groups, members repay their loans as per the schedule. This ensures that other members are not kept waiting for their turn. Regular repayments also enhance the credit worthiness of the ESHG among the bankers and financing institutions. Repayment of loan to Financial Institution (FI) or to the group is equally important for its sustainability. The Index has been constructed by using three variables as follows:

- Repayment of loan in tune to the schedule by members in the group.
- Repayment according to schedule by group to the Micro Finance Institution.
- The number of defaulters in the group and amount in default.

Comprehensive Elder Care: Elder people make up greater percentage of our population and their problems are often complicated by social, economic and mental health issues that can appear overwhelming. Comprehensive elder care is central to the definition of elder care. As elderly problems often embrace many functions and require a range of management strategies. Therefore, it becomes imperative and important for all, who deal with older people to have a framework for comprehensive care of elderly. This must include not only an approach to new and acute problems, but also strategies to manage prevention and long range aspects of care.

Ramulu, aged 65 years, belongs to kapu community, is a landless labour, who has four members to feed. He became a member in "Sri Rama Elders Self-Help Group", and gained self-confidence by attending ESHG meetings. His regular savings activity helped him procure loan for an amount of Rs. 2500/- towards setting up his own enterprise (local grocery shop). Ramulu today earns Rs.1000/-, his financial security has helped him gain confidence. Earlier, he was a victim of psychosocial abuse, but today Ramulu is a happy contented elderly person, who has gained back social respect within and outside his family, he stands out as a role model to many of his peers in his village.

Among elderly, the increased prevalence of illness is often very vague or non-specific symptoms that obscure the true nature of a specific illness. As elders' problems are closely/ intimately related to functional abilities and social support systems. Hence, comprehensive care must investigate psychological, functional, social, environmental and economic domains as well.

In the area of health, comprehensive care for elderly requires prevention, early detection, health promotion, education and guidance, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, monitoring. The psychological problems associated with elders, is that of normal ageing problems. Cognitive impairment becomes increasingly prevalent with age. The environmental factor too plays a significant role to determine, whether independence to elderly is feasible or inadvisable. In the area of economics, older citizens are consistently among the poorest in our society, as loss of spouse, employment; income, inadequate planning, and low pensions contribute to the above. Right to food is enshrined in the constitution, Article 47 (Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health). In the year 2001, India's Constitutional Court recognizes the right to food, transforming policy choices into enforceable rights. The National Food Security Bill (NFSB), 2011 popularly known as Right to Food Bill (RFB) was proposed, in year 2013 National Food Security Act was passed by the Indian Parliament and the act guarantees subsidized food to 50% of the urban population and 75% of the rural population. Fifty percent of the world's hungry live in India, with 200 million food-insecure people in 2008 according to the FAO. India ranks 66th out of 88 nations on the Global Hunger Index. Over the years, the Gol had launched various schemes and policies for older persons and these

schemes/ policies are meant to promote good health, well-being and independence of senior citizens around the country. In the year 1999, the GoI, had launched the National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP). The policy recognizes a person aged 60 years and above as a senior citizen. The policy strives to encourage families to take care of their older family members and also enables to support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family and provide care and protection to vulnerable elderly peoples. The policy identified a number of areas of intervention. Healthcare is a primary concern for all elderly, who are accentuated by the natural process of ageing. Availability and accessibility to healthcare is vital for an individual elderly to lead an independent life with dignity. In case of poor and disadvantaged elderly, it becomes vital for survival, for he or she must earn till the very end. Mobile healthcare for elderly has been pioneered since 1982 with the concept of Mobile Medicare Units (MMU) programme that seeks to take healthcare to the doorstep of the needy. Today, the MMU programme, represents a flagship programme and is recognized as the largest fleet of mobile healthcare service. Services offered by MMU: a) Doctor consultation; b) free medicines; c) basic diagnostics; d) treatment data collection; e) domiciliary visits for the bedridden; f) physiotherapy treatment; g) referral services for specialty treatments. Besides the above mentioned, information and awareness on elderly rights and entitlements on government social security schemes and health programmes etc., are also provided. The team of MMU consists of a social/health awareness worker, doctor, pharmacist, nurse, driver cum community mobiliser. ESHG members, during paddy harvest time, procure paddy of around 10-12 quintals from small and marginal farmers and store it in ESHG members home. During off season, the members collectively sell the produce to the needy within and outside the village. The profit gained by ESHG members per quintal is around Rs.150/- and this profit amount is shared by all the ESHG members. (Ref., Abhishek).

Kondapatni Satyavathi, from Gadala village, aged 60 years, belonging to kapu (other caste) community, has five mouths to feed. Having an aged husband, suffering from health problems, she took to making leaf plates which helped her family in their hand to mouth existence. Satyavathi joined an ESHG in 2009 -“Srilaxmi Elders Self-Help Group”, this helped her to save Rs. 20/- per month, her regular savings, helped her seek from her group a loan of Rs.2500/-. Satyavathi, started her own business enterprise (local grocery shop) and continues making leaf plates,, as it supplements her income. Apart from the above, she has been availing old age pension from government. From having a hand to mouth existence, today her monthly earnings are Rs. 1000/- per month. The formation of ESHG, has enabled her to secure her and her family's future, raised her confidence levels in financial and emotional situations and improved her social security as well. She has plans to seek higher loans from other financial institutions. Ageing with grace and dignity.

ESHG members, procure limited wheat produce for seed storage. During season time, they sell wheat seeds to small and marginal farmers.

Interventions need for Elderly Care: Elderly people are suffering with/ from multi-dimensional problems. Different kinds of interventions are required for comprehensive elderly care. The interventions are as follows:

- Organize elders into community based organizations such as Elderly Self Help Groups (ESHGs) and Senior Citizens Associations.
- Construct old age homes for destitute elders.
- Provide bank loans with 3% interest per year to the elders to meet consumption needs and run small enterprises and promote collective enterprises.
- Provide monthly pension of Rs. 20000 to all poor elders through National Old Age Pension (NOAP) scheme.
- Provide rice, wheat, pulses, oil etc. to all poor elders by Public Distribution System (PDS), free of cost.
- Provide quality health services to all elders, free of cost and include all elders in Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) health insurance scheme. Conduct special health camps for elders. Provide home based medical services to the bed ridden elderly patients by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) or Primary Health Center (PHC) nurse.
- Construct age friendly barrier-free structures in public transport systems, government offices and other public places.
- Construct housing complexes for single old men and women and provide loans with less interest to the elders for the construction of houses.
- Conduct awareness programs to the people on elders issues.
- Provide food, clothes and shelter to the elders at the time of disasters.

Problems of the elderly have been on an increase with changing situations and scenarios. The efforts of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Government Institutions are not adequate to meet the needs of the elderly. In the era of globalization and urbanization, elders have become more vulnerable. The GoI, has designed social inclusion programmes to mobilize elders and form them into CBOs, supported by financial and other services under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). Hence, efforts have to be made towards sensitization of people at different levels i.e., family, society and government on elder's rights and entitlements. Key stakeholders i.e., community, village, mandal /block, district, state and national level activities or interventions are required to ensure dignified and joyful life to the elders. It is the need of the hour and priority to work for elderly people, most of whom have sacrificed their life for the next generation.

*** Livelihoods February 2015**

30. Livelihoods' Collectives

In India apart from SHGs, there are large number of collectives existing, that have been active, since pre-independence in various communities.(These communities are cooperatives, producers groups, trade unions, hawker unions, farmers Unions, employees' unions, women organizations, dalit associations, tribal unions, differently abled groups, consumers groups, watershed groups, Water User Associations (WUA), Vana Samraksnana Samithi (VSS), and labour groups). These collectives are working in many fields to deliver economic benefits and social development to the communities. They are working on many kinds of problems, waging numerous struggles for people's rights and facilitating various kinds of services to members and also to the non-members.



Cooperatives are voluntary associations to meet the common economic, social and cultural needs of the members. These associations are jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. These cooperatives work for fulfilling needs of the members and wider interests of the community. The cooperative movement in India is 107 years old, with the first cooperative being setup in 1904. The cooperatives can be classified in to different categories, based on their objectives, purposes and activities. They work for consumers, small farmers and small producers. The values like self –help, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, voluntary and open membership, democratic control, economic participation, autonomy, training and information and concern for communities are the core issues for cooperatives. There are many kinds of cooperatives in India like Producers' Cooperatives (PC), consumers' cooperatives, marketing cooperatives, housing cooperatives, credit cooperatives and farming cooperatives etc., Cooperatives have influenced communities

to create well known models like AMUL, Mulkanoor Cooperative Society, Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad and SEVA.

The “Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 2004” came into existence at a time, when farmers were facing indebtedness and poverty, some initiatives were anticipated to address these problems. Today nearly 5.45 Lakh individual cooperatives are functioning across the country. This is the largest movement in the country. Some forms of cooperatives are discussed below in brief to understand their need and functioning. Consumers' Cooperatives; these cooperative societies are formed to provide products and services at cheaper rates to the consumer, by reducing distance between the producer and the consumer in the supply chain. These societies establish direct linkages with the manufacturers and wholesalers' and they purchase in bulk and sell those at cheaper rates among the members. Producers' Cooperatives; these societies are formed for small scale/micro producers or manufacturers. These societies help their members in establishing units, procuring inputs, processing and marketing the products and services.

Marketing Cooperatives; these cooperative societies are formed, to market the producer's products. These societies bridge the gap between producers and consumers by restricting the role of middle men in market and members' products. These societies purchase the products, from small producers and store the products in warehouses and sell to the wholesalers or companies directly at favorable time. Housing Cooperatives; these cooperative societies are voluntary associations. These societies' purchase land from and construct houses for the members and transfer the houses to them. The members will pay the amount for houses in installments. Some societies provide financial support, in association with various financial institutions, to the members for house construction. Credit Cooperatives; these societies provide credit to the members at low interest rates. They collect funds from their members in the name of share capital and deposits. These societies protect people from the clutches of money lenders. Cooperative Farming Societies; These cooperative societies formed to provide higher profits, to small and marginal farmers. The members contribute capital, land and labour for collective farming activities.

In dairy sector AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited) is biggest model in dairy cooperative sector. AMUL was founded in 1946 and has a turnover of \$2.17 billion (2010-11) with 735 employees and 2.8 million milk producers. It has largest milk processing capacity in Asia. It has established 48 sales offices, 3000 wholesale distributors and 5 lakh retailers spread across the country. It exports its products, worth Rs 157 crores to 37 countries.

Apart from these cooperative societies, there are other manifestations of collectives, which are playing significant roles in serving the needs of the communities. Some of them are trade unions, farmers' associations and agriculture labour unions, women's associations, dalit organizations, tribal organizations, Shrama Shakthi Sangalu (SSS), watershed groups and WUA and VSS.

The trade unions are formed predominantly for economic benefits and for improved working conditions. These trade unions have political motivations and ideologies. There are many national trade unions like All Indian Trade Unions Council (AITUC), Indian National Trade Union Council (INTUC), and Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh (BMS). Many of these were established before independence. There are many trade unions at state level like Singareni Karmika Sangam (SKS), Chhathishgarh Mukthi Morcha (CMM). Most of the trade unions are affiliated to the various political parties, while some are independent. The trade unions initially worked on the agenda of improving working conditions in factories. In 1875, the first commission was appointed to investigate

Co-operatives

Values: Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

Principles: The co-operative principles are guidelines by which co-operatives put their values into practice.

1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership: Co-operatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control: Co-operatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the members. In primary co-operatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and co-operatives at other levels are also organized in a democratic manner.

3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-operative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their co-operative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the co-operative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence: Co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their co-operative autonomy.

5th Principle: Education, Training and Information: Co-operatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6th Principle: Co-operation among Co-operatives: Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7th Principle: Concern for Community: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

the working conditions in factories. Based on the commission's recommendations. The First Factory Act (FFA) was enacted in 1881. There are various commissions and committees formed for the improvement of working conditions and to consider issues raised by the trade unions struggles. Wage board, Labour welfare departments, Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) and Indian Labour Conference (ILC) are some bodies instituted to look into the welfare of workers in the factories.

In 1990 New Economic Policies (NEP) were introduced in Indian. Under the NEP regime, the government has implemented many reforms with liberalization, globalization and privatization as their essence. State led welfare economy gradually shifted to market oriented economy. This also meant, there was a shift in labour policies. The balance was now tipped in favour of the industry. Elements, such as contract jobs the lockouts were used to pressurize the workers to accept the existing conditions in factories. The workers were forced to accept the situation. These weakened the trade unions. Workers lost their rights, including their job security. Gradually, most of the trade unions began to confine themselves to the economic benefits of the worker i.e., wages, pension, bonus, Provident Fund (PF), allowances. Apart, from these economic demands, the trade unions fight for the rights of workers in workplace. Most of the trade unions did not have a social or cultural agenda of the workers.

The Chhattisgarh Mines Workers' Union (CMMU), which belongs to Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha (CMM) created a new model in trade union movement in India (CMMU was founded by Sankar Guha Niyogi). It believes that trade unions,

should concentrate on the life of the workers as a whole and not just the 8 hours they spend at the workplace. CMMU runs a hospital for the workers family members, provides employment opportunities to the unemployed in the Biloy and Rajpura areas, waged struggles against liquor consumption and abuse at various levels. Its motto is "Sangharshaur Nirman" and it has implemented, it in a creative manner. The trade unions cover only 5% of the workers, who are working in the organized sector. Large numbers of workers are in unorganized sector working with low wages, inhuman working conditions, without rights including job security. The trade unions are facing new challenges, which were designed by the privatization and globalization. The trade unions should restructure themselves to meet these challenges.

Farmers Associations and Agriculture Labour Unions; most of the farmer associations belong to the various political parties. Only few are apolitical. Farmer's association's raise many issues like pesticides, fertilizers, seeds prices increase, minimum support price, crop insurance, crop loans and Genetically Modified (GM) seeds. Agriculture Labour Unions (ALU) have been formed by leftist parties like CPI, CPM and CPI (ML) parties. It mainly concentrates on issues like land distribution to the landless agriculture labour, wage increase and demand to provide work. Women Associations; women associations are formed to secure and protect rights of women. These organizations work on various issues related to women in many ways like waging struggles, forming women council centers and running women health care centers. Most of the women associations mainly waged struggles against attacks on women, repression practices on women in the name of traditions, equal rights for women. Some organizations are running skill based training centers along with struggles. Dalit Organizations; Dalit organizations are usually formed to protect the interests of the dalit community. These organizations work on various dalit issues like protecting dalit rights, providing legal assistance, providing education and providing assistance to access various government schemes for dalits. They also fight against discriminatory practices prevalent against dalits. Tribal organizations voice concerns regarding rights of tribal and providing services to the tribals. Various activities are taken for economic and social benefits of tribals. These groups are working for providing education facilities, health facilities and legal services to the tribal. Along, with these activities, some groups are waging struggles for protection rights on forest land and also waging struggles against money lenders exploitation and forest department atrocities. Few tribal groups, which are influenced by extreme leftist parties, are waging armed struggles against exploitation and atrocities.

Shrama Shakthi Sangalu (SSS); Under MGNREGA Shrama Shakthi Sangalu (SSS) were initiated in Andhra Pradesh, to access work days in MGNREGA and monitor the work. Each group has one mate to coordinate, they work at community level. Watershed Groups and Water Users Associations (WUA); Watershed Groups and WUAs are established for watershed and tank management by the community. Recognizing the fact that innovations can be sustained, when there is sufficient community participation in a systematic way; NGOs and also government have formed watershed groups and WUA. These groups participate in designing and implementation of the watersheds and tank management. Vana Samrakshana Samiti (VSS); Vana Samrakshana Samitis (informal forest protection collectives) are involved in planting and conserving forests. Apart, from these there are various other groups like Hawker groups, street venders groups, occupational and work based groups, slum dweller groups, auto driver unions, displaced people associations, disaster victims groups, Dabba Wala Association (DWA) in Bombay and issue based groups are functioning at various levels in the country today. Since pre-independence, collectives, irrespective of their being formal or informal, have played a significant role in addressing the needs and promoting a sense of solidarity in communities. They augmented the community's access to better markets and in the process increased their income. Collectives in their myriad form generated awareness among the groups at various levels. Importantly, collectives have been instrumental in providing bargaining power to their members, thereby supporting them in their socio-economic development. Collectives have been agents of development that have helped the marginal and vulnerable to meet their needs and fulfill their demands, which were otherwise difficult to realize.

***Livelihoods September-2011**

31. Building Capacities

Government and Non-Government agencies of the country are promoting people's institutions for different purposes. If we want more and more people to participate and take advantage of these institutions, we need to capacitate more and more. Ultimately these institutions are expected to sustain on their own facilitating the withdrawal of promoting institutions for which people need exposure, practical experience, handholding while experimenting on something. It demands a great collective effort from development practitioners to bring about such empowerment and capacities to the people.



People's institutions have become indispensable in implementing any strategy for development. Institutions of the poor have emerged in the country to meet their various needs. These institutions have taken many forms, so as to meet diverse needs of the people and are moving in the direction of influencing other formal and informal institutions to become pro-poor in all aspects apart from creating models for poverty eradication. Both government and non-government agencies of the country are promoting people's institutions for different purposes. Some of the common purposes include economies of scale, cost reduction, providing value added services, and empowerment of communities with whom they are working. These institutions are creating scalable and replicable models of development. While, learning from these experiments of building pro-poor institutions, one has to be abundantly clear now that main business of development work is not to substitute, the institutions of State and the market, but to capacitate the poorer communities and organize them so that they'll be able to assert their rightful claim over all those formal

institutions. If we want more and more people to participate and take advantage of institutions, we need to capacitate more and more. Ultimately, these institutions are expected to sustain on their own facilitating the withdrawal of promoter institutions for which people need exposure, practical experience, hand holding while experimenting on something. It demands a great collective effort from development practitioners to bring about such empowerment and capacities to the people.

Capacity building is defined as 'the process of supporting individuals and community organizations to help them better identify and meet the needs of their areas. It involves building on the existing skills, providing opportunities for people to learn through experience and increasing people's awareness and confidence to enable them to participate more fully in society.' Capacity is then the 'ways and means needed to do, what has to be done'. It is more than 'simply skills, people and plans' and includes the components, such as people who are willing to be involved, skills, knowledge and abilities, community cohesion, ability to identify and access opportunities, motivation and the experience to carry out initiatives, community organizations, supportive institutions and physical resources, leadership and structures needed for participation, economic and financial resources, enabling policies and systems. There is a great need to understand, know-why of all the activities of an institution by all the stakeholders along with the know-how. This know-why is important in creating a common vision among all the stakeholders. Thus, building this common understanding towards the vision should be the first step in the implementation of capacity building strategies. The capacity building needs of different institutions differs based on the purpose and nature of those institutions. Further, in a single institution, people at different levels and positions need different capacities based on the roles and responsibilities they need to perform. Based on these diverse needs only, strategies for capacity building are formulated. However, it is important to see that these strategies are in line with the overall vision of the program. Apart from the above, there is also a need to be kept in mind, while formulating capacity building strategies, as to whom we impart training and who manages the institution. The institutions that are completely managed by communities need capacity building on technical aspects of management and the institutions that are managed by professionals need development orientation.

Further, there are various reasons why local communities and local institutions have not played more effective roles in rural development in the past. These include: internal conflicts, lack of education, experience and skill, a psychology of dependency and a correlated sense of inefficacy, domination by certain local groups, unfavourable policy environment, over centralization of government, psychology of paternalism and certain financial interests. The formulation of capacity building strategies should be in a way that these shortcomings are overcome. Community capacity building is about enabling people to 'solve problem', to assist communities to identify issues that are important to them, and to locate resources and the people, and strategies to get those issues dealt with. It is about ways of working that are process oriented, about identifying people's strengths, resources and working with those. It means acknowledging that expertise is often within the community, not external to it.

Capacity building has a much larger agenda than training alone. Training attempts at building knowledge and skills, and changing attitudes of the actors in the program. Awareness with the community, appropriate institutional systems and capacities for ensuring transparency, planning, self-monitoring, sharing and cross-learning, ability to innovate etc., are essential to improve the efficacy and outputs of training inputs.

Capacity building has a much larger agenda than training alone. Training attempts at building knowledge and skills, and changing attitudes of the actors in the program. Awareness with the community, appropriate institutional systems and capacities for ensuring transparency, planning, self-monitoring, sharing and cross-learning, ability to innovate etc., are essential to improve the efficacy and outputs of training inputs. Support services as a follow up of training is an important supplement to the training inputs to achieve. The strategies for capacity building must be formulated. Generally there are nine domains that are identified for capacity building. These are areas where there are opportunities for individuals and groups to mobilize themselves for greater control over their lives. Considering these domains encourages strategic planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes:

1. Improves stakeholder participation;
2. Increases problem assessment capacities;
3. Develops local leadership;
4. Builds empowering organizational structures;
5. Improves resource mobilization;
6. Strengthens links to other organizations and people;
7. Enhances stakeholder ability to "ask why";
8. Increases stakeholder control over programme management;
9. Creates an equitable relationship with outside agents.

These nine domains represent organizational influences on the community's capacity. They link the inter-personal elements of the community with the programme's political, socio-cultural and economic context. Capacity building of the CBO by their promoter agencies is generally done in four phases. The initial preparatory phase period of observation and discussion before assessing community capacity will allow adapting the approach to the programme participants' social and cultural requirements. The second is the assessment stage, where participants assess their community's capacity using participatory appraisal techniques, which helps to describe different levels of capacity. This throws light on each of the domains mentioned above and the stage at which the community's lie vis-à-vis these domains. The assessment must be transformed into action, in order to build capacity. This is achieved through strategic planning in each of the identified and prioritized domains, which consists of: discussing how to improve the present situation; developing a strategy to improve the present situation; and identifying what resources are needed. After this strategic planning phase a stage of follow up and reassessment follows. Generally capacity building is required for the communities in the areas of skills, resources, information, knowledge, technology and linkages. Further, methodology of capacity building in people's institutions should be based on the reality that the members of these institutions are mostly illiterate or semi-literate. Appreciative enquiry thus becomes critical in building capacities of people's institutions. This is like mapping the existing capacities of the community.

Capacity building process needs to be a dynamic and a collective learning process, but not something frozen in time. Further, capacity building methods must be participatory in nature as the members and leaders of the institution are adults and are already having years of life experience with them based on which their capacities need to be strengthened. Focused Group Discussions (FGD), storytelling, Round Ribbon Method (RRM), small group discussions, fish bowl methods, role plays etc., are some of the participatory methods, generally used in participatory training methodology. Adult learning principles also need to be kept in mind in formulating strategies for capacity building. Adult learning is goal-directed: It needs to be practical and useful: Clear, realistic and relevant statements of desired outcomes will result in more learning as will activities that enable adult learners to direct their own learning. Personal goal setting and goal assessment are important. Adults engage in learning in order to achieve a goal, satisfy a need, and enhance personal growth or gain. Further, establishing an environment where individual needs, uniqueness, abilities and life achievements are acknowledged and respected is very important. There is also a need to recognize the fact that any knowledge, is like an elephant and all of us who are trying to acquire that knowledge

are like blind men. Each one of us; the community, the professionals, the experts etc., knows only a part of the elephant. Unless all of us sit together and share each other's knowledge the elephant cannot be understood. Without comprehensive knowledge on the issues, the stakeholders of the institutions will not be able to take apt and timely decisions. Adults need application and transfer of the learning to impact their behavior: Strategies are important that help the adult learner, consider how the knowledge and skills might be applied and that follow-up with the learner over time. Learning that is applied immediately is retained longer and is more subject to immediate use than that which is not. Thus, employing the techniques that encourage the immediate application of any material in a practical way becomes critical in building the capacities.

Putting in certain systems and processes in place that facilitate the communities to learn new things is also a part of capacity building strategies that include Processes that put communities at the center of the solution making and don't impose any fixed agendas, or predetermined outcome; Processes that actually challenge power relationships both within communities as well as between communities and government instrumentalities; Processes that involve real people that prioritize listening to people about what they need and how to achieve it; Processes about trying to reconfigure power balances, that people who are disadvantaged or marginalized have an opportunity to participate; Processes that are flexible and are driven from the ground not from the top; Processes in which you don't have to be extremely articulate to participate, you don't have to learn a particular language; Processes that are not restrained by external time frames, or external measurements of outcomes, often outcomes that are quantitative without much value to the people involved. Further, there is a great need to nurture institutions as learning organizations. A learning organization is the term given to an organization that facilitates the learning of its members and continuously transforms itself. Learning organizations develop as a result of the pressures facing modern organizations and enables them to remain competitive in the business environment. A learning organization has five main features; systems thinking, personal mastery, mental models, shared vision and team learning. A learning organization promotes a culture of learning, a community of learners, and it ensures that individual learning enriches and enhances the organization as a whole. There can be no organizational learning without individual learning, but individual learning must be shared and used by the organization. Institutions of the community should be nurtured in such a way that all the members of the institution learn about the issues related to the management and functioning of the institution. This not only ensures accountability and transparency in the organization, but also enhances the performance of the institution. Access to relevant, authentic information is important for the people who manage the institutions. This helps them in understanding the issues better, taking timely and apt decisions and also in understanding the changes happening in the external environment of the organization etc. Thus, making this information available to the communities and their institutions is a major strategy for building their capacities.

Networking/ convergence with other institutions is also an important strategy, in building the capacities of the institutions. As human beings, institutions are also social entities. They cannot exist in isolation and require support of other institutions, both formal and informal, to implement their programs in a sustainable manner. Establishing linkages with other institutions gives strength to the people's institution and enhance confidence among the leaders and members of these institutions. In the country, the promoting agencies of CBOs are implementing different strategies to build the capacities of community based institutions. One of the important strategies that is widely spreading across is the strategy of using Community Resource Persons (CRPs). Community Resource Person strategy is a community to community cross learning approach. The persons, who came out of poverty by participating in CBOs, supported strengthening their own CBO and becomes a role model to CBO/community share their own experiences/their organization experiences with other persons to bring positive changes in their life. CRPs are the members who were poorest of the poor earlier and came out of poverty and who are having good track record as a member of CBOs. Also they should be able to devote their time and effort into inspiring, motivating and mobilizing other poor women into organizing themselves. This is a major strategy by which, organizations can overcome the shortage of adequate professionals and can overcome the handicaps of the scale.

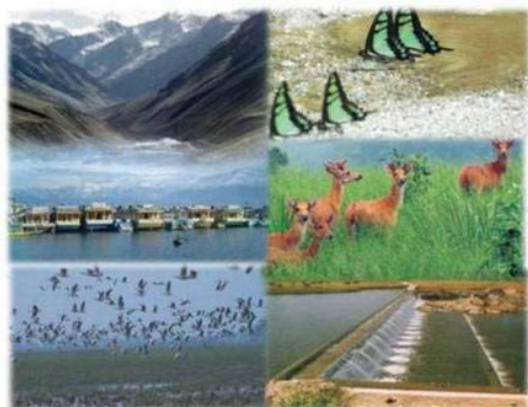
Though there is a big number of community based institutions that have emerged across the country, there is a huge gap of specialized institutions that provide capacity building services to these institutions. There are institutions that provide training and capacity building services in certain aspects like leadership, project management etc., but still the institutions that can offer services such as visioning, organization planning etc., are very few and their number needs to be increased. The capacity needs of the community institutions are diverse. They need capacities to lead and manage their organizations on their own, to network with other organizations, to run their institutions as democratic, decentralized organizations, to lobby with other formal and informal institutions to work for the benefit of their members and above all to bring out their members out of poverty and dependence on a sustainable manner. Further, it is also true that the CBOs of the country have already proven successful in creating many replicable models of development. To facilitate the CBOs to take these initiatives to a scale, all the stakeholders of development need to gear up to offer required diverse capacities to the communities, so as to transform the Community Based Institutions (CBI) into Community –owned Institutions in true spirit.

*** Livelihoods November – 2010**

IV Nature and Resources

32. Environment

In India, more than three-quarters of population is directly dependent for their livelihoods on activities, based on environment like agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry. Creating and maintaining a sustainable environment is very important and the single most pressing issue that is confronting the world today. Conserving the environment can create a number of employment opportunities apart from protecting livelihoods of millions of people.



All elements of nature like forests, mountains, water, air, animals and birds are personified as gods in many civilizations. This depicts the importance attributed to nature as well human beings' dependency on them. The word environment is immediately associated with 'natural environment' though there are socio, economic and political environments too. In this article our focus too is on natural environment. Environment connotes all the things surrounding an organism including humans. It encompasses all living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) elements like air, land, water, forests, seas, animals and other elements on our planet. India is recognized as a country uniquely rich in all aspects of biodiversity, ecosystems, species and genetics. It has perhaps the largest array of environmental situations by virtue of its tropical location, varied physical features and climatic types. In India, more than three-quarters of population is directly dependent for their livelihoods

on activities based on environment like agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries. Poor in urban areas are involved in environmental waste segregation, waste processing and waste handling. Others are dependent on it for food, fuel, industrial output and recreation. Therefore, access to and right over natural environment is an important capital/resource for a household or individual. The economic well-being of a household is influenced by productivity of natural resources accessible to them.

It has been reported that the ratio of people to forested land is more than three times higher in low-income countries highlighting, close link of poor with environment. Abundance in environment plays an important role in preventing people and animals from starvation and provides required nutrients. This dependency of poor on environment for survival is evident, when we observe the availability of food for people living in tribal, rural and urban areas. Poor in tribal and coastal areas are better off than poor people living in rural and urban areas as they are closer to nature i.e forest and sea/river and can get some form of food that prevents them from starvation. Poor people in rural areas are better off, than their counterparts in urban areas as they have access to common property resources as well as some forest and water products. Poor people living in urban areas are the worst affected, as they are removed from access to natural resources and have to live in unhealthy environment caused by pollution and dumping of industrial and domestic wastes. A healthy environment is a necessary, condition to keep up and sustain the food chain.

Indian villages in global carbon trading

All countries are required to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 5% by 2012 or pay a price to those that do. The idea was to make developed countries pay for their wild ways with emissions while at the same time monetarily rewarding countries with good behaviour in this regard. The World Bank has built itself a role in this market as a manager of international fund flows. The scheme has been entitled Clean Development Mechanism [CDM] or more commonly, Carbon Trading.

Powerguda in Adilabad district Andhra Pradesh has pioneered carbon credit sale to the World Bank for \$645. The village has saved 147 metric tons carbon dioxide based on the bio-diesel they extracted from 4500 Pongamia trees. Using this —instead of petroleum—in oil engines would enhance air quality. World Bank is buying those carbon credits to balance the aviation fuel burnt by aircraft carrying Bank officials.

Emmanuel D'Silva, a former World Bank staffer has been working extensively among Andhra Pradesh villagers, creating awareness about this market opportunity that awaits them. It has been reported to 'Good News India' that five other villages have followed Powerguda and made carbon credit sales.

Owing to its importance in lives of people, aspects of environment on socio, economic and cultural lives of people is being studied. Understanding of environment encompasses, understanding myriad elements of environment like land, water, air, forest, pollution, recycling to name a few. This has given rise to many interdisciplinary subjects like environmental economics; environment and development, environmental law, environmental management and others. Newer concept like 'Green' Domestic product' (GDP) is being talked about by the governments. 'Eco friendly' products and buildings (green buildings) enjoy a premium place in the market. Though, not very popular in all sections of the society, increased awareness about importance of protecting environment has seen an increased acceptance by all. Uses of environment are two folds. The first is that, it has an innate capacity to absorb the effluents. For example, plants absorb carbon dioxide and gives back oxygen, degradable waste is degraded in the soil and converted to increased fertility of the soil. The second use is that it provides resources to produce goods, food and energy that are essential for living.

Striking a balance between development, elimination of poverty and non-exploitation of environment has been a difficult task. Nature has always been assumed to be non-exhaustible and renewable. But exploitation of natural resources like forest produces, crude oil, minerals and water beyond permissible limit, has brought it to the verge of scarcity. Similarly, careless industrialization which emits effluents, repeated use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has polluted and eroded the richness of resources and resulted in unhealthy environment that lead to ill health and extinction of few species. Environmental degradation has made us highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as droughts, flash floods and forest fires. These disasters, further degenerate environment forming a vicious circle. The only way out of this circle is conserving environment. This exemplifies the need to maintain a healthy balance between rapid development while conserving rich bio-diversity and natural resources. The world is rapidly realizing that environmental issues such as global warming and ozone depletion, acid rains, marine pollution and the threat to biodiversity are serious issues. Degeneration of these resources at an alarming rate has affected the productivity of natural resources. There are many issues related to environment. Water pollution and contamination is one such issue. Effects of toxic chemicals and minerals such as pesticides and lead in drinking water are serious. It is estimated that 90% of the waste water of the developing world is discharged directly into streams, open drains, rivers and lakes and coastal waters without treatment. Overuse of fertilizers has increased nitrates and arsenic in groundwater. As a result water –borne diseases – diarrhea, dysentery, intestinal worms and hepatitis are affecting people. Over 100 million of world's poorest people depend on fishing for all or part of their livelihoods. Fisheries, one of the main sources of livelihood, for poor people and of protein for many are being damaged by water pollution.

Some Eco-livelihoods

- Plantation
- Nursery rising
- Kitchen gardens
- Construction of watersheds
- Building compost pits
- Desilting of lakes and ponds
- Building water and sanitary drainages
- Building Rain water harvesting technology
- Producing fertilizers from industrial effluents
- Recycling paper
- Recycling waste water
- Making paper bags and cloth bags
- Making recycled cotton and jute bags
- Development of waste lands
- Collection of degradable, non degradable waste
- Selling plastic and paper waste
- Making of vermi compost
- Recycling of plastic and metal waste
- Collection and selling of iron, glass and other metal waste
- Manufacturing of solar equipment
- Manufacturing of energy efficient equipment

Major declines in fish catches have been demented in rivers heavily polluted by vast quantities of sewage and industrial waste. Many authorities predict that water will become an important cause of war and human conflict in the 21st century. Air pollution is another issue that is affecting the environment.

Air pollution caused by industrial emissions, vehicular exhaust and burning of fuel can cause respiratory damage, heart and lung diseases. Although air pollution is normally seen as problem of industrial countries and affecting towns and cities more than rural areas but two-thirds of the deaths due to air pollution are recorded in rural areas. Besides harming health air pollution has adverse effects on crop productivity. Air pollution is also responsible for acid rains, which have causes damage to the forests and agriculture. Depletion of ozone layer has increased toll on human health and food supplies. Ultraviolet rays of sun, causes skin cancers, cataracts and suppresses immune system. It also damages crop species, penetrates surface of the sea killing plankton, which is vital in marine food chain. Global warming, considered as one of the most serious of environmental issues today. It threatens the stable climate causing changes to the seasons. Failing harvests, growing water shortages and rising seas are impacts of global warming.

Soil degradation is another important issue. Soil is a unique non-renewable natural resource that supports life on planet Earth. Agricultural lands are suffering from erosion, water logging, salinity and general loss of fertility posing danger to food security. Soil degradation reduces availability of agricultural land and agricultural productivity and reduces fodder available for cattle. It is estimated that one-sixth of the world's soil has already been degraded. It has been reported (Govt. of India, 1989).that in India, 45 percent of the total

geographical area is affected by serious soil erosion. Excessive soil erosion with consequent high rate of sedimentation in the reservoirs and decreased fertility has created serious environmental problems. Mining activity often leads to environmental problems, like land degradation, particularly in opencast mining and land subsidence in underground mining. Open-cast mining in areas with forest cover causes deforestation. Deforestation is also one of the important concerns related to environment. It is estimated that about a third of the earth's original forests have disappeared. Forests have been a major source of food, fodder, fuel, fiber, timber, medicine and others. Forests are not just trees, but part of an ecosystem that underpins life, economies and societies. Forests provide a wide range of services, which include prevention of soil erosion, floods, landslides, maintenance of soil fertility, and fixing carbon from the atmosphere as biomass and soil-organic carbon. They also bind soil to the ground, regulate water supplies and help govern the climate. Cutting them can rob poor people of their livelihoods.

The increasing frequency of floods in India is largely due to deforestation in the catchment areas, destruction of surface vegetation, and changes in land-use pattern, increased urbanization and other developmental activities. The main reason, however, is the increased sedimentation and reduced capacity of drainage systems. Consequently, streams and rivers overflow their banks, flooding the downstream areas. These are of frequent occurrence in many parts of India, especially in hilly terrains, causing a disruption of normal life and considerable damage to the productive land system. Biodiversity refers to diversity of species of life forms. It is important factor in safeguarding the world's food chain/ supplies. It is means of livelihood for many poor, who have no access to other assets and productive resources. It is an important source of medicine. It is estimated that three billion people are dependent on traditional medicine as principal source of cures for illness. There is an increasing trend in loss of biodiversity resulting from deforestation and exploitation of these resources for export oriented markets. Environmental degradation always hits those living in poverty the hardest. It is said that the overwhelming majority of those, who die each year from air and water pollution or floods, storms and harvest failures are poor people in developing countries. The urban poor are affected by environment as they are forced to live in the urban dump yards, the slums. Lack of sanitation facilities and safe drinking water increases their health risks much higher than those living in better habitual conditions.

It has also been observed that growing poverty poses challenge to environment. People in poverty are forced to deplete resources to survive in the absence of alternative source of livelihood. This relationship between poverty and environment has another dimension i.e. growing population. Pressure on environment intensifies in proportion to the growth in population. Therefore, removal of poverty should become an integral part conserving environment. Poor are pushed more and more into ecologically fragile lands, increasing their vulnerability. It is estimated that by the end of next decade, a billion poor people may be living with scarce resources and unequal access to natural resources, making it difficult for them to escape impoverishment. Among the poor, women face greater risks largely because of their social and economic roles and subordinate position in the society. It has been accepted as an undisputed fact that women, rural and tribal, have a very intimate and symbiotic relationship with the ecology around them as they are linked to the natural resources. They are the primary actors in agriculture, collection of forest produce, in livestock management apart from nurturing their families. Predominantly being an agrarian population, Indian people depend on land and forests for their sustenance and livelihood. Women constitute fifty percent of this population and contribute substantially to this system of livelihood.

In rural and tribal areas, women are principal food gatherers from forests, they collect water, firewood and fodder, forest is their first source of meeting their health needs due to their invaluable knowledge of medical plants and in lean seasons, the main source of nutrition. Tribal women are dependent on forest, for earning their livelihood through sale of forest produce. Women's close association with environment is often ignored. Environment degradation has proved to have a direct impact on the lives and health of women. Generally, women have no rights over lands or natural resources in our patriarchal system. Condition of displaced women from their natural environment is indescribable. These women are pushed to take up marginalized forms of labour as maids and servants, as construction labourers or into prostitution. Even rehabilitation packages like cash or land are primarily given to men. Empowering women to have greater control over their environmental resources seems to be an important way out. There are many examples of how women have played an important role in conserving environment, example, Chipko movement, where the women hugged trees to prevent them from felling, reclaiming of wastelands and planting trees by women's groups in West Bengal, that could also help them in taking up economic activities are few noted interventions made by women's collectives to conserve as well as further its growth.

Given the high vulnerability of environment to exploitation, natural disasters and its open access has made it necessary for public policy to protect and conserve environment. It is necessary to minimize the impact on human's especially unequal impact on poor people as well as damage to the environment. Policies, that can govern use of resources, usage of eco-friendly materials, ensuring clean production, poor people's access to natural resources, their rights and entitlements to common property, change in production and consumption patterns especially by making available goods and services by public sector undertaking are important. Reconstruction of exhausted environmental resources will have to work towards both conserving environment and elimination of poverty. The ecological tax reform- which substitutes taxes on resource use like carbon trading and pollution taxes on jobs and income could help. The importance of environment and its link to development and the quality of human life were first addressed on a global level at the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment (SCHE) in 1972. It was the then

Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who focused attention of the Conference on this link, stating that “environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty”. Following the Stockholm Conference, India set up a separate Ministry of Environment and Forests. Recognizing the need for specialized institutions in various fields of environment and development, the Ministry created centers of excellence in partnership with NGOs and academic institutions. The Centre for Environment Education (CEE), established in 1984, was one of the first such institutions. India has also enacted a **National Environment Policy (NEP) in 2006**. However, policy doesn't specify any particular organization structure or management system for implementing the policy and monitoring its progress, nor it has a coherent vision of genuine decentralized governance and grassroots empowerment. India has also enacted various acts to prevent pollution of Air, water and land.

Internationally environmental issues have gained primary consideration. Many international movements and organizations like WWF, Save the planet, Greenpeace and others are active in highlighting the issue and pressurizing governments to take measures to protect environment. Global warming is another issue that has pressed the alarm button on danger in which our environment is today. World Bank has taken up many initiatives in environment management. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Bank plays a major role to stem climate change, biodiversity degradation, and the impact of toxic and chemical waste. Except for reforestation program none of the initiatives to protect environment envision role for the poor, who are affected the most. Most policy interventions don't recognize or give incentives to the poor who are the least polluters. Technological interventions that are designed to reduce pollution are not economical and don't have efficient service providers (in case of repairs) which deter people especially poor from making use of them. For example, use of battery run automobiles instead of petrol or diesel, might be environmental friendly but might not make economic sense for the poor as the cost involved in using such automobiles, maintenance and repairs are much higher. Need of the day is a comprehensive policy that should envision roles for everyone to promote and protect the environment as well as mandatory enforcement of stricter rules to treat industrial and domestic waste.

Many interventions have been made towards conservation of environment. Eliminating pollution at the source and waste recycling basically through technological intervention are important ones. Cleaner production is a new approach to protect the environment. This approach aims at eliminating pollution at the source and conserves usage of raw materials like water, timber and energy more judiciously. The process also aims at reducing the impact of production on the environment, right from the extraction of raw materials to their ultimate disposal. Such products are also sold at a premium, where the consumer also contributes to the extra cost involved in ensuring environmental safety. Recycling can reduce usage of new materials. Reusing products, repairing them and increasing their durability are also necessary. Efforts are also being made to transform effluents into commercial products, such as fertilizer which is profitable. Efforts have been made especially in France to reuse and recycle even non-renewable materials there by reducing usage of natural resource by three – fifths. Just as environmental damage limits the well being of poor people, solutions can enhance it. Technologies that use fewer resources and create less pollution generally employ more people. Recycling of waste can create jobs. Innovative technology is necessary at this juncture that can reduce pollution and dependency on natural resources and would still enhance efficiency and make goods and services affordable even for the poor. This technology is necessary to help poor breakout of poverty trap.

Government has undertaken initiatives like watershed management, Desert Development Programs (DDP), Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS) etc. These programs aims at strengthening natural resource base and to promote overall economic development of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections of people. These programs also empower local communities, by bringing in, their participation as partners in the implementation and management. It is very encouraging to see many interventions initiated jointly by government and civil society groups to conserve environment. However, these initiatives don't seem to be enough when compared to the pace at which the environment is degrading. The initiatives like recycling of paper, plastic, metal and other wastes, making vermi compost, waste land development, promoting energy efficient equipment etc need to be scaled up. This will serve the purpose of conserving the environment as well as create more employment opportunities apart from protecting the livelihoods of millions of people who are dependent on environment. The challenge of creating and maintaining a sustainable environment is probably the single most pressing issue confronting us today. Restoration, judicious use and management of environment are essential to ensure sustainable livelihoods and the well-being of people. Land, water and forests form the basic renewable sources of livelihoods. With the right policy initiatives and resource allocation for raising their productivity, it is possible to ensure livelihoods, in fact augment livelihoods, for majority of households in India as well as conserve environment.

***Livelihoods September – 2009**

33. Biodiversity

Biodiversity is highly important for existence of life on Earth. The conservation of species, land, water, ecosystem and atmosphere is necessary to protect life and livelihoods. Growth at the cost of biodiversity is becoming a serious issue and their sustainable growth has become the agenda of the growing world economy. The recently concluded Conference of Parties-11 (COP-11) has once again brought the issue to forefront. As governments and international organizations debate strategies for biodiversity conservation.



Biodiversity is defined as the variety of living organisms and their species in the environment. It refers to the myriad species of birds, mammals, viruses, bacteria etc. Biodiversity is categorized into three types:

- i) Genetic diversity,
- ii) Species diversity
- iii) Ecosystem diversity

The genetic diversity; as each member of any animal or plant species differs widely from other individuals in its genetic makeup, because of the large number of combinations possible in the genes that gives every individual specific characteristic. Thus, for example, each human being is very different from all others. This genetic

variability is essential for a healthy breeding population of a species. If the number of breeding individuals is reduced, the dissimilarity of genetic makeup is reduced and in-breeding occurs. Eventually this can lead to the extinction of the species. The diversity in wild species forms the 'gene pool' from which our crops and domestic animals have been developed over thousands of years. Today the variety of nature's bounty is being further harnessed, by using wild relatives of crop plants to create new varieties of more productive crops and to breed better domestic animals. Modern biotechnology manipulates genes, for developing better types of medicines and a variety of industrial products. In case of species diversity, the number of species of plants and animals that are present in a region constitutes its species diversity. This diversity is seen both in natural and agricultural ecosystems. Some areas are richer in species than others. Natural undisturbed tropical forests have much greater species richness than plantations. A natural forest ecosystem provides a large number of non-wood products that local people depend on such as fruit, fuel wood, fodder, fiber, gum, resin and medicines. Timber plantations do not provide large variety of goods, that are essential for local consumption. On long-term front, the economic sustainable returns from non-wood forest products is said to be greater than the returns from felling a forest for its timber. Thus, the value of a natural forest, with all its species richness is much greater than a plantation. At present conservation scientists have been able to identify and categorize about 1.75 million species on earth. However, many new species are being identified, especially in flowering plants and insects. Areas that are rich in species diversity are called 'hotspots' of diversity. India is among the world's 15 nations that are exceptionally rich in species diversity.

In case of ecosystem diversity, there is a large variety of different ecosystems on earth, which have their own complement of distinctive inter linked species based on the differences in the habitat. Ecosystem diversity can be described for a specific geographical region, or a political entity such as a country, a state or a taluka..Distinctive ecosystems include landscapes such as forests, grasslands, deserts, mountains, etc., as well as aquatic ecosystems

such as rivers, lakes, and the sea. Each region also has man-modified areas, such as farmland or grazing pastures. An ecosystem is referred to as 'natural' when it is relatively undisturbed by human activities or 'modified' when it is changed due to use, such as farmland or urban areas. Ecosystems are most natural in wilderness areas. If natural ecosystems are overused or misused their productivity eventually decreases, and they are then said to be degraded. India is exceptionally rich in ecosystem diversity.

	CoP	Place	Time	Decisions made on
1	1 st ordinary meeting	Nassau, Bahamas	December 1994	Guidance to the financial mechanism and medium-term program of work
2	2 nd ordinary meeting	Jakarta, Indonesia	November 1995	Marine and coastal biological diversity; Access to genetic resources; Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; Biosafety;
3	3 rd ordinary meeting	Buenos Aires, Argentina	November 1996	Agricultural biodiversity; Financial resources and mechanism; Identification, monitoring and assessment; Intellectual property rights
4	4 th ordinary meeting	Bratislava, Slovakia	May 1998	Inland water ecosystems; Review of the operations of the Convention; Benefit sharing
5	5 th ordinary meeting	Nairobi, Kenya	May 2000	Dry land, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems; Sustainable use, including tourism; Access to genetic resources.
6	6 th ordinary meeting	The Hague, Netherlands	April 2002	Forest ecosystems; Alien species; Benefit-sharing; Strategic plan 2002-2010
7	7 th ordinary meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	February 2004	Mountain ecosystems; Protected areas; Transfer of technology and technology cooperation
8	8 th ordinary meeting (Diversity)	Curitiba, Brazil	March 2006	Island biodiversity; Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; Global Taxonomy Initiative; Access and benefit-sharing, Communication, education and public awareness.
9	9 th meeting (Agricultural biodiversity)	Bonn, Germany	May 2008	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; Invasive alien species; Forest biodiversity; Incentive measures; Ecosystem approach; Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals; Financial resources and the financial mechanism
10	10 th meeting (inland waters biodiversity)	Nagoya, Aichi prefecture, Japan	October 2010	Marine and coastal biodiversity, Mountain biodiversity, protected areas, Sustainable use of biodiversity, Biodiversity and climate change. Aichi targets, Nagoya Protocol

Biodiversity is highly important for the existence of life on the earth, no life is possible in isolation and in the absence of oxygen and water. The conservation of species, land, water, ecosystem and atmosphere is necessary to protect life and livelihoods. Growth and sustainability are in question today, growth at the cost of biodiversity is becoming a serious concern and their sustainable growth has become the agenda, of the growing world economy. It is acknowledged that much of economic growth and prosperity has come at the cost of huge environmental and biodiversity loss. If growth continues at this pace and cost, soon there will be no more resources to exploit and further economic growth would be stunted. This has been the driving force behind the efforts of governments and international bodies to preserve biodiversity. This approach is termed as anthropo-centric, i.e. it believes that biodiversity should be saved for the betterment of the human race, as opposed to a viva-centric approach, that seeks to protect the planet as a whole. Population has surpassed grain production. The per capita consumption of grain has decreased in the last 100 years and it appears to be on a declining trend. Increasing population has a negative

impact on biodiversity and resources at large. The demand for ground water has increased considerably, in last couple of years across the globe. The total demand constitutes the demand for irrigation, domestic consumption, livestock, manufacturing and electricity. It has been estimated that the demand will continue to increase in coming years. Similarly, the demand for power is also increasing and putting unprecedented pressure on natural resources. The graph shows the number of critically endangered species is impacted in different ways by climate change. It is further classified into three levels of impact - unknown impact, low and high impact. It has been observed that storms and floods have more effects on the life and survival of the species than droughts, habitat shifts, temperature extremes, other inputs.

India has a bigger stake in the biodiversity conservation. India constitutes 7-8 % of world's biodiversity. The table shows number of animal species of India and the world. The effect on bio diversity is visible from the table below which shows change in the forest cover since 1991 till 2011. In 1991, 634938 sq. km area was under forest cover which has come down to 692027 sq. Km by 2011. This is an alarming trend. The diversion of the forest land to non-forest activities is another worrying trend. The growing trend of forest destruction, diversion, reducing level of ground water and increase demand of water for various activities along with extinction of species is creating havoc on the ecosystem and its biodiversity. Their rate of reduction has increased manifold during last couple of years. Also the use of non-renewable sources of energy and its increasing demand and decreasing supply is shaking the fundamentals of the world's economy at large. There are also some trends of increase in the consumption and production of renewable energy like wind, solar etc. in various countries. The growing concern over the rapid extinction of different species and many more facing the threat of extinction forced the UNEP into action. In 1988, a Working Group commissioned by the UNEP called for an international convention for biodiversity. By May '89, a Working Group of legal experts was set up to work out an international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. After a series of deliberations over the next two years, the Convention on Biodiversity was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. By June 1993, the convention was ratified by 168 countries. A governing body, Conference of Parties (CoP) consisting of representatives from all governments was formed.

To date, the CoP has held 10 ordinary meetings, and one extraordinary meeting. The latter, to adopt the Biosafety Protocol, was held in two parts- EXCOP 1 -First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena, Colombia & Montreal, Canada,- 23 February 1999 & 24 - 28 January 2000. From 1994 to 1996, the Conference of the Parties (CoP) held its ordinary meetings annually. Conference of the Parties (CoP) was held regularly from 1994-1996 and met occasionally between 1996 and 2000. Since 2000, it has been made mandatory to meet once in every two years.

In this period, two major protocols in biodiversity were adopted:

- Cartagena protocol, governing the movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another. (Introduced on 29 Jan' 2000 and came into force on 11 Sep' 2003)
- Nagoya protocol, aims at sharing benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including access to resources, transfer of knowledge, funding research to conserve bio diversity (29th Oct' 2012)

Discussions were held on guidance to financial mechanism and term program of work, Marine and coastal biological diversity; genetic resources; and sustainable use of biological diversity; Agricultural biodiversity; resources and mechanism; monitoring and assessment; property rights Inland water ecosystems, of the operations of the convention; sharing dry land, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems etc., use of forest, land and water including tourism; to genetic resources were also in the agenda. Forest ecosystems and alien species also put in agenda. The Strategic plan 2002-2010 has been adopted. Mountain ecosystems; protected areas; transfer of technology and technology cooperation, island biodiversity; diversity of dry and sub-humid lands; taxonomy initiative; communication, education and public awareness. global strategy for Plant conservation; alien species; forest biodiversity measures; ecosystem approach; progress in the implementation of the strategic plan and progress towards the 2010 target and relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDG); resources and the financial mechanism marine and coastal biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change. Aichi targets, Nagoya Protocol etc. were the important topics which were tabled and decisions were taken to protect, enhance and support all the issues. CoP 11 was held at Hyderabad from October 1 to 6 and then from October 8 to 19 at HICC. 164 countries participated in the conference. The meeting began with election of officers, Jayanthi Natarajan, Union Minister for Environment and Forests (MoEF) took charge as President of COP, for the next two years. The CoP took stock of the status of Nagoya protocol, on access to genetic resources and share of benefits arising from their utilization. Progress on the Aichi Biodiversity targets was also discussed. Each

country was urged to focus on “championing” at least two of the twenty targets, with significant progress by 2015. This led to intense discussions on fund allocation, education,, awareness campaigns and tools for monitoring implementation. COP-11 focused on resource mobilisation for the ambitious Strategic Plan 2011-20, adopted at the previous COP at Nagoya, Japan. Strategies for resource mobilization as well as the plan for next 4 years discussed at length. As the meeting progressed, the fund allocation for realizing the Aichi targets emerged as the bone of contention. So much, so that the meeting ran late into the night, on its last day the delegates resolved the deadlock. India took the first step by announcing that it would earmark \$50 million to protect and enhance biodiversity on the planet. It was hoped that this move by the host country, would encourage the other participant-countries to follow suit. Identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in marine ecosystems, ecosystem restoration and the relation between biodiversity and climate change were also topics for discussion at the meeting. The delegates also called for more coordination with other relevant international conventions, organisations and initiatives. However, participating nations could not reach any possible conclusion regarding resource mobilization from their respective nations. On 13 Oct, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed COP, where he announced fund for biodiversity conservation and also promulgated Hyderabad pledge on biodiversity. He highlighted efforts in conserving biodiversity. He made a special mention of the six million worth of jobs MGNREGS creates every year. Climate change, emission reduction and identification of ecologically and biologically significant marine and coastal areas were discussed. Biodiversity & development was discussed. The focus was on how best knowledge from around the world, could be used by developing nations to make their economic activity more productive and efficient. Issues about urbanization and more eco-friendly cities also came up during the meeting. A research done by 123 scientists across the world was tabled. The research showed that 60% of the would-be urban areas by 2030 are yet to be built. This indicates immense scope for adopting eco-friendly and sustainable systems. European countries, Belgium and Poland have been cited which host more than 50% of floral and bird species found in their nations. The report also showed that approximately 50% increase in the world’s urban areas would occur in Asia, especially in China and India.

In all, 33 decisions have been taken at CoP1.

India has been a proactive player in the realm of environment and biodiversity conservation. Being one of the countries that would be worst hit by climate change, India is serious about combating climate change and preventing extinction of species. The past few decades have put biodiversity conservation, in the limelight in the country. The threat of extinction to the national animal, river dolphins, cheetahs and other species has put the government and civil society on alert. India has been voicing its opinions on emission reduction on various international fora. It has also invested huge amounts in renewable resources of energy. Further, India has also started an unprecedented exercise, to record the vast array of local knowledge on the uses of various plants and herbs. In India, biodiversity falls under the ambit of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). The ministry coordinates and implements environment and forest preservation policies. It conducts surveys on flora, fauna, forest, wildlife and conservation of natural resources. It maintains a “Red Book” that records species which are endangered. The Botanical Society of India (BSI), Zoological Society of India (ZSI) and Forest Survey of India (FSI) conduct these surveys.

India has also invested considerable energy and money in habitat conservation. It has identified 4.2% geographical area, for extensive habitat conservation. 85 National Parks and 448 Wildlife Sanctuaries have been created. In addition, it has established 275 zoos across the country. These efforts protect large number of animals like tigers, lions, crocodiles, rhinoceros and elephants in their natural habitat. The Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) identified 299 plots for conserving different types of forests. Of these, 187 plots were allotted for natural forests and 112 for plantation. Together, they cover 8,500 hectare acres. The Government also introduced the Biosphere Reserve Programme where 12 biodiversity-rich areas were identified as Biodiversity Reserves. In these areas, the biodiversity is preserved and enhanced through natural processes to evolve diversity among animals, plants and micro organisms. Specific programmes were implemented to preserve wetlands and mangroves. 21 wetlands and 15 mangrove areas were identified in the country. National Lakes Conservation Plans (NLCP) prepared by the Government to reduce pollution, catchment area treatment, de-silting and weed control activities. State level biodiversity boards were established to control the domestic consumption of genetic resources. The Project Tiger (PT) and Project Elephant (PE) programs were launched to preserve tigers and elephant population. Tiger is placed in the highly endangered list. Its population declined from 40000 to 1800 in seven decades (1900 to 1972). This has effected in a ban on tiger and elephant hunting. Special measures have been taken to protect their habitats .National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) was established in 1992 to promote

afforestation. Central and state governments have established 33 Botanical gardens to protect threatened endangered species in selected areas. Universities also have their own Botanical gardens.

Government of India made many Acts and Rules, which are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity as follows -

- Fisheries Act, 1857.
- Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.
- Indian Forest Act, 1923.
- Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act, 1937.
- Indian Coffee Act, 1942.
- Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947.
- Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947.
- Tea Act, 1953
- Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960
- Customs Act, 1963.
- Cardamom Act, 1965.
- Seeds Act, 1966.
- The Patent Act, 1967.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Marine Products Export Authority Act, 1973.
- Water (Prevention and Control Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Tobacco Board Act, 1975.
- Territorial Water, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1977.
- Water (Prevention and Control Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- Maritime Zones of India (Regulation and Fishing by Foreign Vessel) Act, 1980.
- Forest Conservative Act, 1980.
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985/1986.
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Spice Board Act, 1986
- National Dairy Development Board, 1987.
- Rule for Manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989.
- Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.
- Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001.
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003.
- Biological Diversity Rules, 2004.
- The Food Safety and Stranded Act, 2006.
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition Forest of Rights) Act, 2006.

While, this list of policies and schemes appears exhaustive, there are still a number of ecosystems which the Government has not paid sufficient attention to. Wetlands, mangroves, grass lands are some such areas which require immediate attention. Further, biodiversity appears to be an afterthought or rejoinder in the policies for environment protection. There are very few biodiversity-specific policies. Inadequate enforcement, poor implementation, insufficient commitment in implementing eco-development programs, low priority to involving NGOs and community in protecting biodiversity, lack of political commitment, scarcity of funds and inadequate are hindering biodiversity preservation. Making a comprehensive list of data on flora and fauna biodiversity is the immediate task at hand. And this data should be available to the scientific, environment agencies to design proper policies for biodiversity protection and overcome the information scarcity on biodiversity losses.

Sunderlal Bahuguna: He was an environmentalist and leader of Chipko movement. He was a passionate follower of Mahatma Gandhi and had faith in the philosophy of non-violence and satyagraha. In early days he fought against untouchability and organized tribal women in his anti-liquor drive. He dedicated his life to save environment through Chipko movement. He went on hunger strikes at the banks of river Bhagirathi to protest against a dam.

Sunita Narayan: She is an environmentalist and also political activist, and a strong advocate of sustainable development. She started her career and research on the India's Environment reports and studied issues that are related to forest management. She was involved in global environmental issues in the 1990s. She focused on various fields like global democracy to climate changes and needs of local democracy. She worked hard to study the relationship between environment and development and to create public awareness about the necessity of sustainable development.

Wangari Mathai: Wangari Mathai was a Nobel Peace Laureate who was recognized for her work and contribution to environment. In 1976 Mathai started a grassroot organization, the Greenbelt movement whose main focus is the planting of trees with women groups in order to conserve the environment and improve their quality of life. However, through the Green Belt Movement she has assisted women in planting more than 20 million trees on their farms and in schools and church compounds. Her campaign against land grabbing and rapacious allocation of forests land has caught the limelight in recent past. Wangari Mathai was internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation.

Elinor Ostrom: Poor people of the world mostly live on Common Property Resources (CPRs). Ostrom compared how different common-pool resources were managed at local levels and to hopefully uncover the rules that defined successful common-property arrangements. Her design principles' have given new ways to institutions for shared/ common resources. In 1990, her efforts appeared in her book 'Governing the Commons', a work that once again set aside conventional wisdom that either privatization or government control was the best arrangement for managing common property. Elinor Ostrom has stood on the side of the poor to challenge the conventional wisdom and to argue that the CPRs can be successfully managed by the users themselves without any government regulation or privatization.

There are lots of efforts required for the biodiversity *enhancement*. Many policies focus on protection of biodiversity and not on its enhancement. Further, small animals and microorganisms are often ignored in the policies. Governments and NGOs across the world have acted to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity across the world. A major number of initiatives begin with preserving biodiversity and to control the damage inflicted on the ecosystem. Local communities have a stake in the biodiversity in their environment. Their livelihoods are intertwined with the ecosystem and the biodiversity, it harbours. As a result, locals have devised methods to nurture their ecosystem and follow practices that are not harmful. For instance, farmer communities in Uttaranchal follow a method of farming known as the *barahanaj* (12 grains) system of farming. In this system, a farmer cultivates 12 different kinds of crops throughout the year including wheat, *ragi*, maize, jowar, millets, etc. It ensures that the soil doesn't lose its composition and also the food security of the household. The Koraput community in Orissa is also known for its eco-friendly methods of farming. In January 2012, the Koraput farming system was recognized as a Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System (GIAHS) by the FAO. This practice is said to be significant in protecting many rice varieties.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE):

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is a national institution engaged in developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment and sustainable development. CEE has inherited the rich multi-disciplinary resource base and varied experiences which have been promoting educational efforts in the areas of science, nature study, health, development, and environment. Environment is a significant factor of living. The lives and livelihoods of millions of Indians depend on the condition of the environment and any change in this condition affects these people significantly. Therefore, the people have to be educated about environment, so that, they can conserve the environment while utilizing the natural resources for their livelihood. Centre for Environment Education, CEE was created in recognition of this importance of environmental education in India's overall environment and development strategy.

CEE was established in 1984 as a centre of excellence supported by Nehru Foundation and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Its primary objective is to improve public awareness and understanding of the environment with a view to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of nature and natural resources, leading to a better environment and a better quality of life.

CEE works in many areas such as Education for Children; Higher Education; Education for Youth; Experiencing Nature; Communicating Environment through the Media; EE through Interpretation; Knowledge Management for Sustainable Development; Industry Initiatives, Sustainable Rural Development; Water and Sanitation; Sustainable Urban Development; Waste Management; Biodiversity Conservation; Ecotourism; Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation; Facilitating NGO and Community Initiatives; Training; Capacity Building and Networking; Initiatives for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and Material Development etc.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) – it was established in 2003. It implements India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is Autonomous body that performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issue of Conservation, sustainable use of biological resource and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of biological diversity .

The Biological diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation of the act through decentralized system with the NBA focusing on the advice of the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources; advice the State Government in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under sub-section (1) of section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites.

The State Biodiversity Board (SBBs) focusing on advice of the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;

Regulates by granting approvals or otherwise request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians; and Local Level Biodiversity Management committees (BMCs) responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivators, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

Local communities, have also been at the forefront of movements to save the environment and biodiversity. The Chipko Movement is one such instance that received significant attention at the national and international level. The forests in Uttaranachal are a source of subsistence for millions in the region. The increased felling of trees alarmed the locals and prompted them to act to save their source of livelihood. The movement adopted a Gandhian method: members of the community would hug trees, daring the contractors to axe the trees. The movement soon spread all over the country and also succeeded in getting the Government to ban tree-felling for a time period. Over the years, the Government has acknowledged the importance of natural capital to the locals and has tried to integrate them in the administration of these resources. Joint Forest Management (JFM) is one such initiative. Under JFM, the local Forest Department partners with the local government. Vana Samarakshana Samitis (VSS) are formed with members from the community. The responsibilities of VSS include protection against grazing, fires and thefts of forest produce; development of forests in accordance with the management plan; and assisting forest officers in the development of forests. The VSS members and community are made aware of the negative effects of excessive grazing, NTFP collection, etc. JFM started in 1988, ever since the thrust of Indian forest policy has been to forge management partnerships with local communities. In re-discovering a legitimate role for local communities in self-governance of forests, the states have begun to devolve control over forests. There are similar samitis in tribal areas known as Adivasi Vana Samaraskhana Samitis (AVSS). AVSS have the right to collect and sell NTFP from the forests they govern. In Kerala, there are Harithi Samitis to undertake environment conservation outside forest areas. The samitis exist at the village, block and district levels and are constituted by locals.

Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) are an example of collectivization for biodiversity and environment protection. Village-level Tree Growers Cooperative Societies (TGCSs) operate under the umbrella of the National Tree Growers Co-Operative Federation (NTGCF). The TGCSs were organized to motivate people

to grow suitable trees and grasses for meeting their needs of fuel -wood, improve the ecological-environment status in general. Accordingly, the most important activities of these TGCSs have been:

- to lease-in village wastelands from the Government, known as revenue wastelands, and grow trees and grasses on these lands under the co-operative ownership;
- to adopt suitable soil and water conservation measures on the leased waste land to improve its quality;
- to provide incentives for growing nurseries and planting trees and grasses on private marginal lands;
- to provide proper marketing facilities to the surplus produce of the leased-in wastelands as well as tree produce of the private lands;
- to facilitate installation of bio-gas plants, construction of smokeless for energy conservation;
- to arrange awareness and skill building programs;

There are 307 TGCSs operating in six states, with total leased-in wastelands of 4,502 hectare.

Natural Resource Management (NRM); As the name suggests, Natural Resource Management (NRM), means efficient use of locally available resources and minimum pollution. It is largely used in the context of agriculture. NRM is rooted in the belief that nature consists of enough checks and balances to prevent pests, and other elements from damaging crops. Watershed management has emerged as one of the major instruments to preserve and regenerate biodiversity of an ecosystem. Watershed, also known as drainage basins is the point, where the surface water in an area converges into a larger water body such as rivers, lakes, sea, etc. Watershed management becomes necessary to eliminate or reduce the pollution that enters the surface water in the watershed area. The pollution could be caused by chemicals used in fertilizers or due to discharge of other effluents into the streams. The source is not always identifiable, therefore management of the pollution to ensure minimal impact becomes important. Watershed management has also proven useful in helping regenerating fallow land or dry land. Ponds, check dams, bunds, gullies and other structures are built in the watershed to control the flow of the water and hold it where required (eg. for farmland). Watershed management therefore is not just managing the water resources in the watershed area but also efficiently managing the other resources in the area. Watersheds have proven to effectively recharge water bodies, enhance ground water levels, curb soil loss, reduce flood. This in turn has protected the habitat of innumerable species of plants and animals. Watershed management calls for using land based on its capability. It encourages intercropping and mixed cropping practices to retain fertility of the land. All these practices have also ensured vegetative cover throughout the year.

Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Since the Green Revolution, agriculture scientists recommended the use of latest technology for higher yields. The success of Green Revolution popularised the use of fertilisers and pesticides. More recently, GM seeds have been introduced to result in better agriculture productivity. However, these methods have proven to be destructing natural resources. Fertilisers kill insects such as ladybirds, spiders, etc. that are helpful in controlling pests. Similarly, the use of GM seeds and hybrid seeds has made soil less fertile, and rendered lands infertile. Moreover, GM seeds promote monoculture practice (where only one kind of crop is cultivated). This has decimated traditional intercropping and mixed cropping practices. Given this, agriculture organisations have encouraged farmers to switch to sustainable agriculture practices. Sustainable agriculture ensures agro-diversity and the efficient use of plants and animals in the ecosystem. Sustainable agriculture emphasizes ecological farming and eco-friendly methods to manage water,, soil and land. Organic farming is becoming popular as a production system. It encourages the use of organic/biodegradable inputs in cultivation. Organic farming methods are therefore, customised according to locally available materials. Non-pesticide management is another popular practice. Here, pest control is done in an organic or biological manner. Naturally available material, such as neem is used to control pests. Also, manures such as vermin-compost are prepared using farm and household waste. Tourism has emerged as a method to combat depletion of biodiversity. Ecotourism builds awareness about biodiversity in the travelers. Usually, ecotourism locations are areas that are abound with flora and fauna. Still an upcoming idea, ecotourism also helps in building infrastructure and provides livelihoods to the local communities.

Biodiversity is the variety of species – birds, animals, microorganisms and plants found in an ecosystem. In nature's scheme, all of these species have a unique role to play. These species are designed to be interdependent. The extinction of one species could trigger changes in the entire ecosystem. Traditional and indigenous practices recognize this in-built link in nature and strive to protect nature and its biodiversity. It is no coincidence that the rapid decline in biodiversity has come when economic growth has been highest. Natural resources have been exploited and used unchecked. Deforestation has been the norm to accommodate increasing population. Rivers turned into dumping beds for industrial and urban waste. As a result, air, water and earth ceased to be what they were and the habitats of numerous species collapsed just like that. After decades of activism and calls for action, climate change forced governments and people into action. Extinction or the threat

of it to some iconic animals such as the Tiger and the Panda has also forced people to sit and take notice of the issue. Despite the biodiversity and ecological crisis, governments still hesitate to spend on the cause or agree to meet targets set for reducing damage to the environment. The very approach to economic growth that caused the destruction of the environment is still being preferred. Development has become synonymous with rapid industrialization and urbanization. Markets have been promoting and molding mono culture attitude and luxuries life style. These are leading to high consumption of fuel, large scale infrastructure that has adverse effect on biodiversity. It is said that the 3 Cs- Consumption, Contamination and Commercialization are most damaging to biodiversity. Modern living, especially in urban areas has also hit biodiversity. Our cities need to be better planned to host a health ecosystem that supports a rich biodiversity. Our houses and other buildings should not drive away birds and animals. The house sparrow, which was a common feature of homes, has now vanished. Concrete structures do not give them the space to build nests. The various plans, protocols and conventions on environment and biodiversity lay down ambitious targets for the member-countries to achieve. But little is done to actually strategize and implement plans. The record of the biodiversity conservation efforts till date show that the top-down approach is not working. Biodiversity and its conservation is too complex an issue to have a uniform solution across. Local, indigenous knowledge is required in the fight. Indigenous peoples know the value of biodiversity as it is intrinsically linked to their livelihoods. The way forward should be to partner with these communities and involve them in the conservation efforts. They should be given rights over the local resources and be given relative autonomy. True, there have been initiatives such as JFM, but they are riddled with loopholes that make it easy for vested interests to exploit. Still, biodiversity conservation requires a major shift in thinking of people on the whole. Most conventions and conferences on biodiversity speak of conservation to enhance human life and growth. This needs to shift to thinking about the planet as whole. It is important to understand interlinks and interdependencies in nature. Any biodiversity conservation plan that seeks to improve the life of just one being and not the entire ecosystem is perilous.

***Livelihoods November-2012**

34. Commons

“The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?” – Chief of Seattle. The Chief of Seattle saw the coming of the gradual decline of the commons and the emergence of societies, based on private property. In the beginning it was all commons. Later on, commons continued to play a greater role in meeting the needs of the people especially of poor. However, these common resources and Common Property Resources (CPR) are declining gradually causing a great threat to the lives and livelihoods of poor.



Civilizations, since times immemorial evolved and thrived on the economics of CPR. However the emergence of the concept of private ownership of natural resources saw the gradual decline in the CPRs and this decline is sadly, quite rapid in the 21st century. “Development” in this century, as perceived by many, can happen only at the cost of losing commons. Unfortunate perception indeed! Lot of debate continues to exist on what constitutes the commons. To a large extent, CPRs get defined based on the context, in which they exist. However, broadly speaking, CPRs include all such resources, that are meant for common use of the villagers. These resources are accessible to and collectively owned\held\managed by an identifiable community and on which no individual has exclusive property rights. These include all resources, like village pastures and grazing

grounds, village forest and woodlots, protected and un-classified government forests, waste land, common threshing grounds, watershed drainage, ponds and tanks, rivers, rivulets, water reservoirs, canals and irrigation channels. NSS data classifies CPR products as fuel wood, fodder and others which include manure, fruits, roots and tubers, vegetables, gums and resins, honey and wax, medicinal plants, fish, and leaves and weeds. According to the survey, conducted by NSS approximately 58 per cent of total CPR product collections are fuel wood collections. Fodder constitutes 25 per cent of collections and 17 per cent is classified as ‘others’

CPRs play an important role, in the rural economy and benefit its population in a number of ways. The fuel wood and shrubs available from them are used for cooking and heating; grass, leaves and shrubs are used as animal fodder, bamboo, small timber and palm leaves for housing and a variety of fruits, vegetables and fish, for sustenance, particularly during the lean seasons. CPRs also contribute significantly to private-property based farming, as well as to the household enterprises. These provide irrigation water, mulch and manure for cultivation, raw materials and common pastures for grazing. Nearly half of the rural households collect some material or the other from CPRs. According to NSS 54th survey, the average value of annual collections per household from CPRs works out to Rs.693, which amounts to 3% of the average consumption expenditure of a rural household. Apart from collection of materials, rural population derives benefits from CPRs in many other forms. The rural households use CPRs for grazing their livestock. Many households use water resources like tanks, wells and tube wells owned by village panchayat or a community of the village or those provided by the government and government canals, rivers and springs, for irrigating their land. This clearly demonstrates the important resource-supplementing role of CPRs in private-property based farming. Another interesting dimension to CPRs is its availability and usage variations based on the agro-climatic zones, in which they exist. For instance, the availability of CPR land is relatively high in arid and semi-arid regions and low among the agriculturally developed areas of the country and is endowed with rich and fertile soil. The CPR dependence in places like Rajasthan is less in terms of collection and more in terms of grazing. The forest-dependent hill economies mostly depend on commons for fuel wood and other NTFP collections. The landless are by and large the most dependent on CPRs and CPR products across agro-climatic zones. While, some commons are conducive for collective proprietorship others are not. For instance, steep land where rainfall is scattered may not be suitable for most agricultural purposes, but can be good for pasture and forests, if combined into large parcels. This requires developing communal property rights to large parcels of such land.

In pre British India, a very large part of the country’s natural resources was freely available to the rural population. These resources were largely under the control of local communities. Gradually, with the extension of state control over these resources and the resultant decay of community management system, CPRs available to the villagers declined substantially over the years. The introduction of land reforms in 1950s considerably reduced the area of CPRs. Consequently the pressure on remaining commons increased, due to reduced area and increase in population growth. Increased pressure in turn led to overexploitation and degradation leading to

further decline of the commons. As concern for protection of natural resources mounted during the 1960s, many developing countries including India nationalized all land and water resources that had not yet been recorded as private property. The institutional arrangements that local users had devised to limit entry and use lost their legal standing. At the same time, the national governments lacked monetary resources and personnel to monitor the use of these resources effectively. Thus, resources that had been under a de facto common property regime, enforced by local users were converted to a de jure government-property regime, but reverted to a de facto open-access regime. When resources that were previously controlled by local participants have been nationalized, state control has usually proved to be less effective and efficient than control by those directly affected. Therefore, today, in almost all parts of the country, the villagers have a legal right of access, only on some specific categories of land and water resources.

Pani Panchayat is a voluntary activity of a group of farmers engaged in the collective management (harvesting and equitable distribution) of surface water and groundwater (wells and percolation tanks). Pani Panchayat is the name first given to a movement by Mr. Vilasrao Salunke for motivating farmers of Naigaon village of the drought-prone Purandhar taluka of Maharashtra in 1974. Land was taken on lease and a recharge pond was developed. A dug well in the discharge zone and a lift irrigation system was set up.

The farmers devised some principles and protocols for water management and demand management including –

- Only *community irrigation* schemes
- Decoupling the water and land rights; landless people were also given water right (through lease of land to landless people) leading to increased productivities of land, water and people.
- Water distribution on per capita basis, for maximum of 2.5 acre land
- Ban on water intensive crops like sugarcane and banana.
- 20 per cent contribution by community.
- No individual wells in the command area.

Restriction on sale of land; wherever land was sold, irrigation right was not passed on to the buyer.

Pani Panchayat principles covered equity, demand management, rights of landless, community participation and sustainability of the resource. Its structure comprised of water user group for each lift irrigation scheme which in turn had a representation at the village level Pani Panchayat; monthly meeting of the committee to review, plan work and resolve conflicts; collection of panipatti etc.

In addition to the above couple of others trends have negatively affected the commons of late. The assaults on CPRs, both by state and the private sector, have become intense on account of “development imperatives”. Secondly, conflict over the appropriation of common resources, particularly those belonging to indigenous communities, has become more frequent, leading to violent confrontation at times. According to the Center for Science and Environment (CSE), CPRs are degrading at an alarming rate thus depriving the local communities of their CPR which contribute substantially to their livelihoods. In 1900’s CPRs accounted for as much as 44 per cent of India’s geographical area; today it is merely 15 per cent or less and it continues to decline at nearly 2 per cent annually. In spite of these disheartening trends, CPRs still play an important role in the life and economy of the rural population. Protecting and managing them through multiple and varied community-owned systems is imperative. The study of the commons has recently gained in stature and impact globally. The most significant has been the Nobel Prize for Economics that was awarded in 2009 to American academic Elinor Ostrom for her work on economic governance related to common property. Ms Ostrom was honored for her work that demonstrated how, common property can be successfully managed by user associations. The Nobel committee noted that Ostrom “has challenged the conventional wisdom that common property is poorly managed and should be either regulated by central authorities or privatized. She observes that resource users frequently develop sophisticated mechanisms for decision-making and rule enforcement to handle conflicts of interest, and she characterized the rules that promoted successful outcomes”.

Private property is viewed by many as superior to common property in the context of issues related to efficiency, equity and sustainability. It is considered by most economists to be an essential ingredient in economic development due to the incentives associated with diverse kinds of property relationships. According to proponents of private property a farmer who owns his own labor, land and other factor inputs, for example, is likely to see a direct relationship between investments and the level of benefits achieved over a long term. A farmer, who belongs to an agricultural production cooperative, on the other hand, may see only a loose connection between personal contributions and benefits. The more individuals in a society whose work is only loosely connected to their benefits, the more pervasive an attitude of free riding can become. If everyone tends to free ride on the work of others, overall economic productivity will be low. Common property regimes are, therefore, presumed by many economists to be inefficient. One argument of this school focuses on rent dissipation. This is because no one owns the products of a resource until they are captured. Therefore, everyone engages in an unproductive race to capture these products before others do. The second is the high transaction and enforcement costs expected, if communal owners were to try to devise rules to reduce the externalities of their mutual overuse. The third is low productivity, because no one has an incentive to work hard in order to

increase their private returns. R. Smith goes to the extent of saying that 'the only way to avoid the tragedy of the commons in natural resources and wildlife is to end the common property system by creating a system of private property rights'. Many argue that CPRs are remnants of the past and are likely to disappear. But recent studies and findings challenge this premise.

Ostrom's work in Nepal and several initiatives in various developing countries have proved that management of commons by the local communities is far more superior and successful in terms of design and operation than agency-managed systems. This requires setting up of some systems, norms and rules, defining some rights and responsibilities based on the local socio-economic, ecological and cultural set ups. These rules or norms, thus defined cannot be rigid frameworks, but have sufficient room for adaptation to changing circumstances based on evaluation. Because of the nature of the highly localized commons management systems, Ostrom calls for polycentric approaches to tackle the problem of commons. There can be no one best approach. At the base level there are commons, which are not governed by any rules and access to them is free for all. This is what, Garret Harding referred to in his famous work – The Tragedy of the Commons – 40 years ago. However, several case studies from across the globe suggested that commons can be successfully preserved, governed, managed and promoted with locally evolved rules in place. Devising property regimes that effectively allow sustainable use of CPR requires rules that limit access to the resource system and other rules that limit the amount, timing, and technology used to withdraw diverse resource units from the resource system. Schlager and Ostrom identified five property rights that are most relevant for use of commons including access, withdrawal, management, exclusion, and alienation.

- Access: The right to enter a defined physical area and enjoy non-subtractive benefits (for example, hike, canoe, sit in the sun and etc).
- Withdrawal: The rights to obtain resource units or products of a resource system (for example, catch fish, divert water and etc).
- Management: The right to regulate internal use patterns and transform the resource by making improvements.
- Exclusion: The right to determine, who will have access rights and withdrawal rights, and how those rights may be transferred.
- Alienation: The right to sell or lease management and exclusion rights.

For managing the commons, Ostrom suggests seven categories of rules that either can be made by the community or an external agency for assigning rights and responsibilities to the users of the resource –

- First, there are boundary rules about who are the relevant stakeholders - for irrigation systems, they could be the land owners in the command area.
- Second, there are position rules about the appointment of monitors or guards to ensure compliance.
- Third, there are allocation rules, which for irrigation could be a fixed percentage of the available water, a fixed time slot for each user or a fixed order of use.
- Fourth, there are information rules about public knowledge on resource availability, infractions and so on.
- Fifth, there are aggregation rules, which are essentially rules about how decisions can be made or disputes resolved.
- Sixth, there are fiscal rules about cost sharing or labour obligations for maintenance.
- Seventh, there could be scope rules, for example about what the water can be used for.

For enhancing the performance of the communal property system, it is important that the participants have access to accurate information, about the condition of the resource and expected flow of benefits and costs at a low cost

- Share a common understanding about the potential benefits and risks associated with the continuance of the status quo, as contrasted with changes in norms and rules that they could feasibly adopt
- Share generalized norms of reciprocity and trust that can be used as initial social capital and relatively stable plan to live and work in the same area for a long time use collective-choice rules, that fall between the extremes of unanimity or control by a few can develop relatively accurate and low-cost monitoring and sanctioning arrangements. Despite all the pulls and pressures on CPRs, decent initiatives have been made in India towards the management of various commons. We have panipanchayats, forest management groups, cooperative approaches for wasteland development etc.

CPRs in India are depleting at a fast rate. This is despite, the fact that they play a significant role in supplementing the incomes of the poor in the country. Successful models of community-managed commons have emerged across the country, but with increased government interference, increasing trends of globalizations and privatization community-managed commons are developing cracks within. Waste lands instead of being developed as CPRs are increasingly shifting into the hands of private players in the name of development. Community cohesion is thinning. Once proven systems are now facing the threat of getting dismantled, because of lack of readiness on their part to adapt successfully to the changing dynamics. However,

it is critical to appreciate the fact that CPRs are not only significant for people's livelihoods, but also vital for ecological sustenance. Community-managed and governed CPR systems have worked in various settings. They need sufficient room to evolve locally and organically. Polycentric and not monoculture approach to CPR management is the only way forward. It is critical to rebuild the capacities of the communities, to hold on to the existing, newly recognized and emerging commons and also maintain the inner flexibility to adapt. With 'commons' back in the limelight, we hope they will get their due place in development.

***Livelihoods February – 2011**

35. Cascades

Tanks are either in the form of cascade system or in the form of isolated system. Most of the tanks are in the form of cascade system and very few are isolated in the country. The isolated tanks are also called ponds. Tank is low, earthen bond construction across shallow valley, to hold the rain water from its catchment area. A tank is simply a rain water harvesting structure designed by early settlers using indigenous wisdom and cooperation from kings. The tank shape and size has been determined by the terrain and local people wisdom. Tanks have been the main source of agriculture, for many centuries in many parts of India. These tanks are being maintained by the people for centuries.



Cascade is a system of chain of tanks. In this chain system, water flows from upper tanks to lower tanks in case of overflow. These tanks highly interconnected and it would require having excellent civil engineering skills. Maintaining and sharing this type of dispersed tank water system requires a lot of managerial and social skills. In India rainfall is neither predictable nor uniform over space and time. The occurrence of rainfall is seasonal that is happening mainly during South monsoon (June to September month). This type of monsoon necessitated the rainwater harvesting systems like tanks. These tanks store rainwater, which is generally utilized later in times of need.

The country has above 5, 00,000 tanks. Nearly 1, 50, 000 tanks can be found, in Deccan or South Indian states. In South India tanks have

existed, since 8th Century A.D onwards. The tanks are having four main functions like soil and water conservation, flood control, drought mitigation and protection of ecology in the surrounding areas. Most of the tanks are built in South India, because of its geography, climate terrain, mountains, which are not so high to give abundant water throughout the season and the rivers are also seasonal in flow comparing to the rivers in North India. Innumerable small water harvesting structures called ponds primarily existed in North Indian states. These ponds are primarily meant for pisciculture, but these ponds are also being utilized for various different purposes. The tank irrigation management involves four phases like harvesting rain water, storing water, disposal of surplus water and water distribution in command areas.

Uses of the Tanks: The tanks are the most important resource of agriculture, which is the primary livelihood of villagers, in the country at large. The stored water is utilized with the help of gravity, which maintains the flow of water from high places to agricultural lands which are situated in the lower areas. As, small scale irrigation requires tank system and tanks are easily adoptable in the villages by village administrative system in India. The tanks are not simply an irrigation system. These are also collection centers for run-off water from catchment areas. These are useful for pisciculture; source of silt for fertilization and construction material, these are recharge structures for ground water, these are also useful for common lands, sources for drinking water for livestock, irrigation for crops and finally these are accessible for various human uses.

Tank irrigation systems are breakable structures. It requires continuous maintenance, prompt repair and constant monitoring. Earlier in most places of South India, gram panchayat and village community were managing this administration. For managing the structures mostly landless labourers were selected to maintain the tank. The work was to watch and ward the tank and prevent water wastage and supply the water to farmer's fields. The beneficiaries particularly the farmers, pays in the form of crop to the person maintaining the tank, they are generally called as Neerati or Niradi or Neerkatti. In some places those who maintained a big tank (above 5000 to 10000 acres of command land) were called as 'Lascars'.

Decline of Tank Irrigation: When British took over the Indian territories, with this our tank irrigation systems from Gram Panchayats (GP), when they colonized India in 18th century. The British government made changes in village community setup. The colonial rulers setup one accountant and policeman (Karanam and Thalaari) and

also introduced Ryotwari system (Land tenure which farmers directly paid to government). Because of these changes the community tank management system diluted.

After independence, the government brought significant changes in the traditional irrigation system. It gave high priority to canal irrigation system in the influence of "1970's Green Revolution". The government felt big and medium type irrigation projects can be viable model in irrigation at large scale. But the government did not give attention to tanks management and it did not allot sufficient funds for tanks repairs and development. Most of the funds have been spent on major and medium canal irrigation and ground water development under minor irrigation. Overall, area under irrigation increased but irrigated area under tanks, gradually decreased in the beginning of first Five Year Plans (FYP).

The traditional tanks management system gradually has been vanishing, because of the changes made by colonial rulers and Indian government. Earlier, there was only one management system, now there are multiple management systems present on tanks maintenance. The farmers are also not interested, in regular maintenance of tanks. They are showing much interest in bore well irrigation at individual level.

The change in weather pattern also attributed to the decline of tank irrigation. The rainfall pattern changed and the intensity of rainfall decreased. Due to these changes, the inflow to the tanks decreased. There are other reasons for the decline of tank irrigation these are supply channels and tank bunds encroachments, silting of feeder channels, poor maintenance and rural infrastructure constructions in inflow area.

Need of Tank rehabilitation: In India, rain is the main source for agricultural water supply. The agriculture depends on monsoon. Normal and timely rainfall is necessary for good crop. To diversify, the seasonal constraints, they built innumerable tanks and ponds and designed community based tank management systems. These tanks protect the rural people from droughts, floods, uncertainty of the monsoons and also provided livelihoods to the poor people.

At present agriculture is facing problems like limited water resources, uncertainty of monsoons and water scarcity. As the important river basins are largely utilized its ultimate potentiality, building projects or large scale irrigation structures are becoming more expensive, and even the irrigation administration cost also becoming more expensive. Ultimately the irrigation sector is becoming burden on government.

Governments are not allotting sufficient funds to the irrigation sector. Ultimately, irrigation sector is going in to a vicious circle like poor maintenance- deterioration and lack of rehabilitation. All these factors necessitated the tanks rehabilitation, which has multiple uses. Tanks are suitable and viable option for irrigation, and also for various livelihoods options for poor and resolves ecological concerns.

Rehabilitation of tanks is expected, to have an overall positive impact on the immediate environment. Rehabilitation of tanks, results in an increased supply of irrigation water, better recharge of groundwater, improved quality of drinking water, increased production and productivity, enhanced employment opportunities, and better well-being of the stakeholder communities. Moreover, project interventions or activities would help in better management of natural resources and improvement of the overall environment and local ecology.

There are lot of potential socio-economic benefits of tank rehabilitation like reduction in the risk of crop failure, improved production and higher income, equitable distribution of water for command farmers, improved nourishment (through fisheries development), increased opportunity for gainful employment, reduction in seasonal migration by landless and poor households, increased family income, improved quality of life and improved interaction among different communities.

Tanks Rehabilitation Programs: The state governments, particularly, Southern State governments recognized the importance of tanks and started tank rehabilitation work since 1980. For tanks rehabilitation programs, the governments are spending state funds and also taking external assistance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), European Union (EU) and World Bank (WB) are funding tank rehabilitation programs in Southern states.

The states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka governments are directly or in collaboration with NGOs are funding for tanks repairs. The Andhra Pradesh Government made Act (The Andhra Pradesh Management of Irrigation Systems Act 1997) to involve farmers in irrigation management in all irrigation systems. This Act provided framework for Water User Associations (WUAs). Earlier, the irrigation department was maintaining the tanks. Andhra Pradesh is the first state in the country, which made progressive Act. Various programs were conducted by state and central governments in tank rehabilitation and development activities.

Some projects are mentioned below:

- EC-assisted MI project in Orissa (rehabilitation)
- NABARD-funded MI project
- BijuKrishak Vikas Yojana (BKVY)
- Central Government funded Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project (AIBP)
- Western Orissa Development Council-funded project
- Food for Work Programme (rehabilitation) (FWP)
- National Food for Work Programme (rehabilitation) (NFWP)

- Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana (RSVY) (rehabilitation) Sampurna Gram Vikas Yojana (SGVY) (rehabilitation)

Special funds available with district collectors, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and Members of Parliament (MPs) are also being used for developing MI infrastructure. In these projects various types of works have been taken up like construction of new projects, completion of incomplete projects, and rehabilitation of ruined projects and maintenance of projects.

Presently NGOs like Gram Vikas (GV) in Karnataka, DHAN Foundation in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu BIRDS, REEDS, SDDPA and ASSMA in Andhra Pradesh are involved in tank management with government funds and international funds. These NGOs motivate farmers and involve them from planning to execution. NGOs formed Water Users Associations (WUA) or Farmers Association (FA) and organized capacity building programs in tank rehabilitation.

Period	Canal	Tank	Groundwater	Others	Total
1952–1953	8,613,000	3,468,000	6,339,000	2,588,000	21,008,000
1962–1963	10,568,000	4,651,000	7,430,000	2,420,000	25,069,000
1972–1973	12,983,000	3,822,000	12,377,000	2,313,000	31,495,000
1982–1983	15,808,000	3,165,000	18,593,000	2,406,000	39,972,000
1992–1993	17,247,000	2,817,000	25,884,000	3,114,000	49,062,000
1999–2000	17,609,000	29,160,00	32,536,000	3,223,000	56,284,000

Source: Water and related statistics, Central Water Commission, 2002.

Now MGNREGS is taking works like de silting, bonding, jungle clearance and feeder channels repair works in Andhra Pradesh. And also MGNREGS is giving funds to the Micro Irrigation Department for tanks rehabilitation programs.

Conclusion: There are two types of different tank rehabilitation programs. One focuses on agriculture, which benefits mainly the farmers. Other intervention focuses on developing a tank system, as a whole to provide livelihoods opportunities to various occupational people including the landless people.

In second intervention, the agency organization store more water in part of tank rehabilitation, as this benefit landless and marginal farmer and also involves SHGs in tank rehabilitation program, to create income generation activities for the members.

The tanks will be sustainable, if all villagers are involved in tank rehabilitation program, providing multiple benefits. The tank rehabilitation is vital point in considering agriculture, livelihoods of landless and environmental concerns.

In our country, lakhs of tanks need rehabilitation, but very few tanks are taken up for rehabilitation program. Governments have to focus more on tank rehabilitation work, by making people's participation mandatory, particularly farmers and strengthening the WUAs in rural areas across the country. In tanks rehabilitation programs, the government planned and executed without involving the farmers in the program. The farmers had the knowledge about tanks catchment area, feeder channels, and supply channels. Water harvesting, storage, supply and maintenance are regular works. The farmers should be involved, from planning to execution stage in tank management. This approach is missed, in the government programs.

The tanks that belong to the cascade system play a vital role in livelihoods systems in South India. Now the government and NGOs are recognizing the role of tanks in irrigation and putting efforts to restore tanks.

***Livelihoods August-2011**

36. Water

Water is fundamental to genesis and perpetuation of life. There is practically no livelihood on earth that is either directly and/or indirectly not dependent on water. In the Indian subcontinent, from East to West and from North to South, water has defined life and livelihoods for thousands of years. Civilizations have historically begun and flourished around rivers and waterways. Water ensures sustained availability of food-chain. While, all livelihoods depend on water in some way or the other, there are several livelihoods that the water sector itself creates.



“How can we sow anything without water? What will my cow drink? Drought is so often here. Water is our life” - A resident of Orgakin, Russia “I repeat that we need water as badly as we need air” – A woman, Kyrgyz Republic.

These are the opinions drawn from a World Bank (WB) research in 1999 involving 20,000 poor women and men from 23 countries. In this study, poor men and women from all the countries described their daily struggles to obtain water for human use. Most of them felt that water means so much to them. This is really true. Water is everything for all of us. It fulfills the needs, of both our life and livelihoods. Water is a ubiquitous chemical substance, that is composed of hydrogen and oxygen and is essential for all known forms of life. In typical usage, water refers only to its liquid form or state, but the substance also has a solid state, i.e, ice, and a gaseous state, i.e. water vapor or steam. Water covers 71% of the Earth’s surface, it is found mostly in oceans and other large water bodies, with 1.6% of water below ground in aquifers and 0.001% in the air as vapor, clouds (formed of solid and

liquid water particles suspended in air), and other forms of precipitates. Oceans hold 97% of surface water, glaciers and polar ice caps 2.4%, and other land surface water such as rivers, lakes and ponds 0.6%. A very small amount of Earth’s water is contained, within biological bodies and manufactured products.

Civilizations, have historically flourished around rivers and major waterways; Mesopotamia, the so-called cradle of civilization, was situated between major rivers Tigris and Euphrates; Indus valley civilization, flourished across the river Indus; the ancient society of the Egypt depended entirely upon the Nile. Large metropolises like Rotterdam, London, Montreal, Paris, New York City, Buenos Aires, Shanghai, Tokyo, Chicago, and Hong Kong and our own metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, owe their success in part to their easy accessibility via water and thus resulted in expansion of trade. Islands with safe water ports, like Singapore, have flourished for the same reason. India is blessed with many rivers. Twelve major river systems drain the subcontinent along with a number of smaller rivers and streams and form a total catchment area of approximately 252.8 Mha. Groundwater represents one of the most important water sources in India. Total replenish able groundwater potential of the country has been estimated by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWRD) as 431 Km³ per year. India has a tradition of worshipping water, as god as water is a source of life. Access to adequate water supply can enhance a wide range of assets; both tangible and intangible. Water has multiple uses in people’s lives. All living beings need water for drinking and cleaning. Human beings use water for wide range of domestic purposes like washing, cooking, cleaning and drinking. Water is essential for industrial development, as it is an important source of energy. Many small scale and large scale industries need water for production related activities.

Water plays an important role in many aspects of people’s livelihoods. In an agrarian country like India, the economy will not thrive without sufficient water. About 60% of Indian population, is dependent directly on agriculture and thus directly dependent on water. Other occupations of poor people like livestock rearing, fisheries, salt farming etc are also dependent on water. Small scale and large scale Industrial development,

which is also providing employment for many, has become possible, only because of water and the power generated by it. Agriculture is the major consumer of water in the world. The most important use of water in agriculture is irrigation, which is a key component to produce enough food. Other related sectors like horticulture, floriculture are also dependent on water resources. Nursery rising is another livelihood that is dependent primarily on water. Being a big country, with large population to feed, India can't solely depend on rain fed cultivation. Realizing the importance of irrigating vast areas of land, India had to invest in construction of large irrigation structures like dams, canals etc., Hence, huge investments had been made towards this in the past. Efforts are also in progress, to connect all the major rivers across the country, to meet the growing need of water. Other method of bringing up ground water for irrigation, using bore wells also became popular. In this process of building large irrigation infrastructure and indiscriminate digging of bore wells, the traditional irrigation structures like tanks, ponds etc., have been neglected over the years, leading to depleting ground water resources. Many studies have shown, that the efficient way of providing irrigation to larger area, is to have smaller irrigation structures than to have big projects. In fact, the irrigation facilities created, so far has benefited mostly the rich than the poor. In many places, poor are being displaced from their livelihoods, without being adequately compensated in the process of constructing big dams. All the technologies, that are meant to improve irrigation and water facilities are not accessible to all uniformly. Even, in this context the rich and the powerful have benefitted more and poor have not been able to access them at all, but are bearing the burn . For example, bore well is one technology that brings ground water to the surface. However, digging a bore well is an expensive affair that, only rich farmers can afford. Because of indiscriminate digging of bore wells, ground water as well as the water levels in the tanks and ponds falls. Small farmers, who are mostly dependent on tanks to irrigate their lands, are suffering, as there is no sufficient surface water for irrigation nor can they afford to dig bore wells.

India has the largest livestock population in the world. Distributed over 100 million households in approximately 600,000 villages, Indian farmers' stock animals vary from little known Yak and Mithun to the seemingly insignificant backyard poultry. Of the total households in rural areas, about 73% own some form of livestock. The contribution of this sector to the national economy is estimated to be about 25 per cent of the total value of output of agricultural sector. Water is essential for rearing livestock, as animals and birds need water for drinking. Sufficient water consumption is necessary to yield good quality meat and milk. Water is also required to clean up the animals so as to keep them healthy. Shortage of water hinders families from engaging in livestock rearing. There is no fish without water. Fish is an important source of food; it provides essential nutrients and proteins required for the body. It constitutes an important part of the meal of many especially for poor families that cannot afford to eat meat in their diet. Indian fish biodiversity of over 2,200 fish and shellfish species in the marine, brackish water, freshwater and cold water environments is a rich and diverse resource, available with few countries in the world. The inland fisheries resources include rivers and canals, reservoirs, floodplain wetlands, estuaries, freshwater and brackish water bodies. About 250 million people, make a living within a range of 50 km, along the coast of India that is about 8000 km approximately. About 1 per cent of the population in India depends on fishing sector as a primary source of livelihood. Of this 1 per cent about half depend on coastal marine fisheries. Fisheries provide direct employment, to more than 6 million and another 6 million are employed in fishery related activities. Water is also a source for wide variety of other sea food like prawns, crabs, snails etc., which is also providing livelihoods to lakhs of people. Another water based livelihood vividly seen on the coast is salt production. India is the 3rd largest salt making country in the world, producing about 18 mt a year. There are more than 1, 50,000 salt workers in India.

There are many places in India that are dependent on water transport. Many island villages are connected to the main land, by the means of water transport. Water transport includes small rafts, boats, ferries and launches, which provide livelihoods to many poor people in these areas. Many other livelihoods in the island villages are also dependent on this essential service. Large scale exports across the world takes place through sea route. This is the cheapest means of transport, through which bulk quantities of goods are transported to other countries. Many people have been employed in the business of shipping, loading, unloading and other support activities like repairing of boats, packing etc. Many rural non-farm livelihoods especially pottery, handlooms, washing clothes etc., are heavily dependent on availability of water. Traditionally, the people dependent on these livelihoods had specific source of water to carry on their activities. With depletion of water resources in rural areas, these livelihoods are facing lot of problems. Due to the problem of water, coupled with other problems such as lack of raw material, marketing etc., many of these people are moving out of these livelihoods. Hotel and food processing industry is another major consumer of water, as water is an essential ingredient in the preparation of food. It is also used for cleaning and is served along with food in hotels and other food joints. 1.6 million, People in India are dependent on food processing activities for livelihood. In the coming 10 years, this number is expected to reach 9 million, which is indicating a growing demand for water resources in this industry.

There is a growth in entertainment and tourism industry around water. There are no cities without water parks that provide various water sports for entertainment. Most of the temples and pilgrim centers in India are situated on the banks of the rivers or on the sea shore. Developing on this trend many beach, river and backwater resorts and restaurants have been developed around the theme of water. These locations are hubs for various livelihoods starting from a small vendor who sells ground nuts, sea shell crafts etc., on the beaches to the people working in big restaurants and resorts.

The first activity in a day, for any woman is to collect water for various family needs. In many places, sources for various needs of water are different and therefore needs to be collected separately. Non potable water is collected from any well, tank, river, stream etc. This water is generally hard and can be used only for washing and cleaning purposes. Drinking water is a very scarce resource, for many and needs to be collected separately and many times by paying a price. Access to both non potable and drinking water is not uniform across the country. There are many places, where people have to walk miles and spend lot of time to fetch some water. Even when water is available, access to water is restricted to only some sections of people in some places. The other marginalized sections of people have to fetch water from separate sources. In India, on an average each household spends around 12 hours every month in collection of water. Time spent on water collection, represents time lost by household and national economies. Every month, Indian economy misses out on over 100 million working days in this way. Apart from this, lack of access to safe drinking water affects the health of people which results in further loss of working days. For monitoring purposes, the World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund (WHO/UNICEF) Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment 2000 Report specifies reasonable access to water as at least 20 liters per person per day, from an improved source within 1 km of a user's dwelling.

Access to safe drinking water is still a far away, reality to many households even after 60 years of Independence in the country. Many rural households and urban slum dwellers, have no access to safe drinking water as well as non-potable water. Water essential to carry on livelihood activities is also increasingly becoming inaccessible to many. There are many reasons for this situation. The degradation of water harvesting structures like tanks, ponds etc and also the depletion of ground water resources are not the only reasons for this situation but also the improper management of water resources by the state. Previously water resources management was a function of community, but later it shifted to the state. State did not have the wherewithal to manage this, and thus depletion of water resources is a resultant of this shift in management.

Between 1950 and 1995, over 500,000 million rupees were spent by the State, on the creation of surface storages, big, medium and small, and creating a storage capacity of around 20 million hectare meters. There is, however an opinion that full benefits, have not been realized from them (Vohra, 1996), due to faulty measures. It was felt that adequate attention was not paid for storage of water mainly in the form of soil moisture and groundwater. Soil and water conservation was not given the priority that it needed. Out of about 350 mhm of precipitation that the country receives annually, about 160 mhm are lost to the sea as river flows, around 20 mhm are stored as surface water, around 125 mhm as soil moisture and around 45 mhm as groundwater. A nationwide programme of forestation and soil and water conservation could reduce the run – off losses by 25 per cent. Due to poor drainage, water logging, and salinisation of the soil, the lands once fertile have been lost. Over exploitation of groundwater has resulted in the lowering of water tables to an alarming level in several States and coastal areas.

With excess usage of water by few, in the elite sections of society and resultant increase in per capita use of water, is also one of the reasons for water scarcity. Water pollution by the industries is also contributing to the scarcity of non potable and drinking water in the country. Most of the industries releases the used, untreated water into the canals, tanks and rivers nearby which is polluting the water and making it unfit for consumption. It is estimated that some 2 million tons of waste per day is disposed off into the water in the world, including industrial wastes and chemicals, human waste and agricultural wastes (fertilizers, pesticides and pesticide residues). Although, reliable data on the extent and severity of pollution is incomplete, one estimate of global wastewater production is about 1,500 km³. Assuming that 1 liter of wastewater pollutes 8 liters of freshwater; the present burden of pollution may be up to 12,000 km³ worldwide. Like every time, the poor are the worst affected, with 50 percent of the population in the country, is exposed to polluted water sources.

Climate changes are also contributing to this scarcity of water, as they affect the water cycle. In the recent years, the pattern of rainfall in the country has changed because of increased emission of green house gases, deforestation and rise in the sea levels and air temperatures. As a result, the monsoon which provides 70 percent of annual precipitation in a four month period is affected. It also leads to the melting of Himalayan glaciers, which further leads to rise in sea levels which submerge the islands and increase the pressure on the main land to accommodate livelihoods of the people living in the islands. As we have seen in the case of Kiribati Island, which submerged in Pacific Ocean, the displacement of lives and livelihoods not only affected its inhabitants but also

lead to conflict between neighboring countries i.e. Australia and New Zealand. With rising sea levels, agriculture plains are threatened by salt water intrusion leading to food shortage.

Both governments and markets have responded to this water crisis in different ways. Several technologies have been introduced for efficient water management, like rain water harvesting through proper soil and water conservation measures like contour bunding, contour stone wall, and contour trenching, and by providing check dams and construction of percolation tanks. The ancient system of water conservation, based on the principles of rain water harvesting, by constructing tanks to trap the entire runoff water of one region at one place, is being revived and many such tanks, which have gone out of use are being cleaned up for reuse.

Many private firms have started water purifying plants and have also put in place channels for distribution. In few urban areas, even potable water is supplied by tankers. The business of providing water has several layers to it, at each layer the process of purification that the water goes through varies. Today we have various water purification technologies. There are filters that remove impurities, invisible microorganisms, remove harmful minerals and chemicals like fluorine, iron and salts and make water fit for drinking. There are complex filtration processes that makes water fit to be used in laboratories and preparation of medicines. Now the water industry is wide spread across the country and is providing employment in manufacturing of purifiers, purification process, packaging, maintenance, distribution and selling. Purified water has reached every nook and corner of the country today so much, so that a small petty shop in a remote village has a stock of packaged water starting from a two rupee packet to 25 liter water can which costs Rs 25. In public places one can find water vending machines that provide water on payment starting from one rupee per liter.

Involvement of market in the water business has two sides to it. On one side it has made drinking and non-potable water available at the door steps and on the other hand with the entering of market, water has been made into a commodity making the fundamental need of the people unavailable to many. It is also surprising to hear from the governments like Andhra Pradesh, that they want to partner with some private agencies to provide safe drinking water to the people at a cost as a welfare measure. When it is the primary responsibility of any government to make essentials like water accessible to all people, how can a government 'sell' it at a price? Poor are the worst sufferers of water shortage. It is evident, that lack of water poses threat to the life and livelihoods of all people. But poor will be the most affected as they will not have resources to buy water from the market and also they lack the power to negotiate with the state. Being an agrarian economy, water scarcity also means shortage in food production. If this happens, the poor will not only have no water to use but in future they will also not have enough food to eat. Small farmers suffer as they will not be able to cultivate land and would become wage labour as the rich farmers compete with them for the meager water resources. As small farmers themselves are going to join the bandwagon of wage labour, the people who are already working as wage labour would suffer as their number of days of employment and wages will reduce with the increased competition.

In case of livestock rearing, water scarcity can result in shortage of fodder and reduction of grazing lands. The poor farmers will be forced to buy fodder, for their livestock by paying high prices. Water pollution caused by industrial, agriculture and domestic waste is responsible for extinction of many fish species and also reduction in fish production. The poor fisherman will not get good harvest and will be forced to go for deep sea fishing, which is beyond his capacity in terms of resources. He might end up becoming a wage labourer for a big fishing contractor, rather than pursuing his own livelihood. Similarly the non-farm sector suffers as many of the activities carried out by the people in this sector are dependent on water. Most of these non-farm livelihoods are dependent on agriculture and when agriculture suffers it impacts non-farm livelihoods which are mostly pursued by poor people.

Apart from posing a threat to the livelihoods of poor, water scarcity is also posing threat to their quality of living. Safe drinking water is increasingly becoming a commodity, which only people who are able to buy can access. Even though the government is supplying safe drinking water through its water supply programs, people do not consider it safe to drink that water. The recent incident in Hyderabad city, where many people in a slum died after drinking contaminated water supplied by government is an example of the quality of the service provided by the government. As a result of such incidents people don't trust the water supplied by the government as safe and prefer to buy water sold in the market. The poor people, who cannot afford to buy water, have no choice but to drink the contaminated water as there is no alternative source of safe water for them. As a result, poor people are more prone to water-borne diseases. Ill health to a person in a poor household results in increase in health expenditure, loss of employment days and thereby income and also loss of valuable life in some cases. Water scarcity also increases the drudgery of women, as women have the responsibility of collecting water for the household needs. With scarcity of water, women need to spend more time to walk longer distances to collect water.

Government seems to be more concerned with short term measures like building rain water harvesting structures and partnering with market to provide drinking water etc., in response to this situation. Being busy in this

business it is forgetting the larger picture of addressing the issues related to climate change, which if neglected will lead to no rains to be harvested at all. To regenerate sources of water, concrete steps like reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, by using eco-friendly technology, reducing usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by promoting organic methods of cultivation, conserving energy by promoting usage of renewable energy sources like solar and wind energy, conserving trees and forests etc. needs to be taken up immediately as a measure of addressing climate change. Apart from this, a balance has to be maintained between investments on promoting smaller traditional water conservation methods and big irrigation projects. There should be tougher policies towards penalizing the industries, which releases untreated water waste into fresh water resources.

Efforts should also be made towards bringing awareness among public on water conservation like controlling the wastage of water, constructing small rain water harvesting systems at homes, eating only seasonally available food, which reduces pressure on farmers to grow unseasonal food crops using more water and other resources. The present thought is to revive the traditional Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS). Interventions are being made in this regard by building check dams, desilting ponds and tanks, putting restrictions on bore-wells etc., which is not only addressing the issues of water scarcity, but is also providing employment to people engaged in this work. But these interventions do not seem to be enough. Many more interventions need to be planned and implemented in an integrated manner. The community's traditional knowledge over resources needs to be integrated, with the technical and expert knowledge, so that local level plans to revive water resources emerge. Community should have a greater role in this planning, implementation and management activities.

Couple of decades ago many did not imagine that the days of buying drinking water are around the corner. So is the case with depleting water resources today. We are witnessing water wars between states, people migrating because of lack of water and other dire consequences. How much longer waits and longer distances does it mean for our women to fetch a pot of water? When water, the very source of life cannot be saved, then everything else is just a matter of opinion. Can we wait further to have an integrated water management system in place?

***Livelihoods December – 2009**

37. Energy

Energy is fundamental part of our lives. It provides other basic necessities of life such as food, water, shelter and clothing. Without energy, from its simplest forms such as biomass to its more complex counterparts such as fossil fuels or hydro-electricity, society will be unable to maintain or improve living standards, meet the basic needs of its citizens or maintain the socio-economic infrastructure necessary for political and economic stability. Energy access has the potential to alleviate poverty through stimulating rural livelihood options.

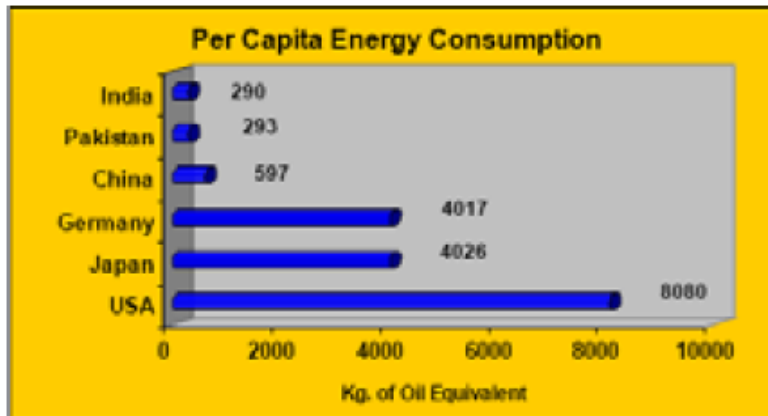


Energy is synonymous with the Sun. There is no life on earth without Sun, elaborating this further there is no life without energy. Recognizing its importance various sources of energy like sun, water, wind, fire etc., have always been revered in all civilizations. Ease of modern life is built around facilities that use different forms of energy. Energy has become such an intrinsic part of our lives, that lack of it creates a void. Energy plays a pivotal role in development; there is a high degree of correlation between energy use, economic growth, and level of development. World over societies have been built and fuelled by energy in different forms. Simplest definition of the word 'Energy' is *the ability to do work* and work is defined as exerting a force over an object. Root of the word 'Energy' comes from the Greek word 'energeia' which means "activity, operation". There are variety of energy resources and energy forms. Energy resources includes hydro power, wind, solar, biomass and geothermal and energy forms include, light, heat, electricity,

hydrogen and fuel. The forms of energy are often named after a related force. Some of them include kinetic, potential, thermal, gravitational, electromagnetic and etc. Consumer uses certain equipments, to convert energy into end use activities, e.g., irrigation, transport, cooking, etc. India is the world's eleventh-largest energy producer, with 2.4 percent of energy production. It is also the world's sixth largest consumer, with 3.5 percent of global energy consumption. Domestic coal reserves account for 70 percent of India's energy needs. The remaining 30 percent is met by oil, with more than 65 percent of that oil being imported. On the sectoral consumption front, the industrial sector in India is a major energy user, accounting for about 52 percent of commercial energy consumption. Per capita energy consumption in India is one of the lowest in the world. But, energy intensity, which is energy consumption per unit of GDP, is one of the highest in comparison to other developed and developing countries. For example, it is 3.7 times that of Japan, 1.55 times that of the United States (US), 1.47 times that of Asia and 1.5 times that of the world average. As the level of economic development is positively co-related to per capita energy consumption, the energy consumption figures in India are in line with its low per capita income.

The energy sources can be classified in a number of ways: exhaustible and inexhaustible or renewable resources, primary and secondary, conventional and non-conventional. Most of the energy sources are substitutable to each other, due to the fact that one form of energy can be converted to other - such as coal to electricity. The distinction between exhaustible and in exhaustible energy is based on features like, whether they get exhausted over a time, when used as an input of a production process or not. More correctly cycling time taken by them to be available again as a resource. Renewable resources have a cycling time less than 100 years, while non-renewable resources take more than a million years. Examples of non-renewable resources are fossil fuels, and examples of renewable resources are hydro energy, solar energy, wind, biomass, and energy from wastes (such as biogas, agro-wastes, etc.). Further, based on conventionality in deriving energy, energy sources could be classified as conventional (coal, oil, hydro, nuclear, etc.) and non - conventional (solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, biogas, etc.) sources. Energy is also classified as primary or secondary depending on the form, in which it is used. For example coal, firewood, etc., are primary sources and electricity is a secondary source. Energy in its primary form can be of different kinds. The main types are Chemical (fossil fuels- coal, oil, natural

gas, peat; biomass - wood, agricultural residues, etc.), Potential (water at a certain height), Kinetic (wind, waves), Radiation (sun), Heat (geothermal reservoirs, ocean thermal reservoirs) and Nuclear (uranium). Important types of secondary energy are electricity and mechanical energy.



Though there are various kinds of energy, *human and animal energy* continue to be the dominant sources of energy for majority of the poor to pursue livelihoods. Human energy is the physical energy used as labour. Animal energy refers to the work done using animals. Draught Animal Power (DAP), continues to be used on Indian farms due to small holdings and hill agriculture. More than 55% of the total cultivated area is still being managed by energy given by the draught animals and

the physical labour of human being. India possesses the finest breeds of draught animals. Bullocks, buffaloes and camels are the major draught animals for field operations. Horses, mules, donkeys, yak and mithun are the pack animals that are used for transport. The quality of work from draught animals depends upon the power developed by them. Beyond human and draught animal power, *coal* is by far the most abundant fossil fuel on earth. It is essentially carbon and is mainly used as a combustion fuel. The large-scale use of coal began with the Industrial Revolution in 19th century. As the number of industries increased, demand for more sources of energy grew. India has about seven per cent of the world's proven coal reserves. By current estimates, these reserves are enough to meet India's needs for at least another 100 years.

The next important source of energy is *oil and natural gas*. The origin of oil industry in India can be traced back to the last part of the 19th century, when petroleum was discovered in Digboi in north-east India. Thereafter large number of oil fields has been discovered both inland and off-shore. This has led to the setting up of refineries to process the oil and gas for use in various sectors. The other products obtained by refining crude oil includes gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, home heating oil, oil for ships, and oil to burn in power plants to make electricity. Almost all forms of plastic come originally from oil. *Solar energy* is the most readily available source of energy and is renewable. It does not belong to anybody and is, therefore freely accessible. But the catch here is affordability of equipments that are necessary to harness this energy. This technology is still not affordable to many people because of its cost. It is the most eco-friendly source of energy usage as it is non-polluting and, therefore, helps in lessening the greenhouse gas effect. Solar energy is used for: cooking, heating, drying, timber seasoning, distillation, electricity, power generation, cooling, refrigeration, cold storage. Solar energy can also be used to meet our electricity requirements. Through Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) cells, solar radiation gets converted into DC electricity directly. This electricity can either be used as it is or can be stored in the battery. This stored electrical energy then can be used at night.

Biomass is yet another renewable energy resource derived from the carbonaceous waste of various human and natural activities. It is derived as by-product from the timber industry, agricultural crops, raw material from the forest, major parts of household waste and wood. Biomass does not add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and on the other hand it absorbs the same and releases it to be consumed as a fuel. The advantage is that it can be used to generate electricity with the same equipment or power plants that are now burning fossil fuels. Biomass is an important source of energy and the most important fuel worldwide after coal, oil and natural gas. Biomass fuels used in India account for about one third of the total fuel used in the country, being the most important fuel used in over 90% of the rural households and about 15% of the urban households. This energy is being used for: cooking, mechanical, applications, pumping, power generation, transportation. The core of the earth is very hot and it is possible to make use of the *geothermal energy*. These are areas where there are volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers, and methane under the water in the oceans and seas. In some countries, such as in the USA water is pumped from underground hot water deposits and used to heat people's houses. Geothermal manifestations are wide spread in India, in the form of 340 hot spring sites. The utilization of geothermal energy for production of electricity dates back to the early part of the twentieth century. For 50 years, the generation of electricity from geothermal energy was confined to Italy and interest in this technology was slow to spread elsewhere. In 1943, the use of geothermal hot water was pioneered in Iceland. In India, northwestern Himalayas and the western coast are considered geothermal areas. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has already identified, more than

350 hot spring sites, which can be explored as areas to tap geothermal energy. It is being used mainly for poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, and pashmina-wool processing, all of which needs higher temperature.

Wind energy is the kinetic energy, associated with movement of atmospheric air. It has been used for hundreds of years for sailing, grinding grain, and for irrigation. Wind energy systems convert this kinetic energy to more useful forms of power like generation of electric power. Windmills for water pumping, have been installed in many countries particularly in the rural areas. Wind turbines transform energy of wind into mechanical power, which can then be used directly for grinding etc. or further converted to electric power to generate electricity. Wind turbines can be used singly or in clusters called 'wind farms'. Small wind turbines called aero-generators can be used to charge large batteries. Five nations – Germany, USA, Denmark, Spain and India – account for 80% of the World's installed wind energy capacity. Wind energy continues to be the fastest growing renewable energy source with worldwide, wind power installed capacity reaching 14,000 MW. Energy is a fundamental part of our lives. It provides basic materials for a good life in the form of heating (for cooking and warmth), cooling and lighting. The domestic sector is the largest consumer of energy in India, accounting for 40-50% of the total energy consumption, but the bulk of it consists of traditional fuels in the rural household. Rapid urbanization and diverse urban growth patterns involves many basic structural changes in the economy that have important ramifications for energy use. Growth in income is leading to an increased demand for energy – particularly electricity; end use - and energy-intensive products and services. The increased per capita energy, use is a consequence. The growing demand for modern household fuels, such as LPG and kerosene adds great burden on scarce resources of capital and foreign exchange.

On the domestic front, energy supports people's health through refrigeration of vaccines and medicines. Alternative energy sources for cooking reduce air particulates and associated respiratory problems. Social relations are enhanced through provision of lighting and access to alternative forms of communication such as radio, television and Internet. Meeting and socializing is also possible because of fuel enabled transportation. Lighting for personal safety improves personal security. Energy can also improve overall financial security, through its application in income generating activities, such as producing goods or providing services, e.g. hairdressing, telecommunications, charging batteries etc. Energy is also crucial for development, supporting industry, transportation, and agriculture and meeting the demands of modern life. Modern energy access has the potential to improve health in rural areas both directly- by powering healthcare facilities and indirectly, by providing cleaner fuel sources and reducing debilitating labor. The inefficient combustion of solid fuels combined with inadequate ventilation contributes to poor health in many households. These high levels of indoor air pollution often result in decreased pulmonary function, particularly amongst women and children. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.6 million premature deaths are attributable annually to indoor air pollution, making it the second largest environmental health risk factor in the world. Indoor air pollution is also responsible for 38 million Disability Adjusted Lost Years (DALY), where one DALY represents, one healthy year of life lost by an individual due to disease or adverse health conditions, which in turn has numerous impacts on income generation, livelihoods and education. Furthermore, this dependency on biomass resources, such as fuel wood and the lack of intermediary means of transportation means that increasingly large distances are traveled with these heavy loads, often resulting in debilitating back conditions, particularly impacting women and children.

Energy based technologies, can help ensure that communities have access to one of the most basic necessities, clean water, by aiding in both the distribution and purification of water supplies. 17% of the world's population does not have access to an improved water source, with this value rising to over 45% in sub-Saharan Africa. This lack of a clean and steady water supply limits agricultural activity and results in easily preventable diseases, poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation. The World Health Organization (WHO) found unsafe water, hygiene, and sanitation to be the world's largest environmental health risk factor, annually responsible for over 1.7 million deaths. Energy technologies such as solar, wind and hydraulic ram pumps can aid in redistributing the water supply to the areas, in which it is most needed whilst application of simple solar distillation techniques can improve water purity. However, energy based technologies sometimes may lead to unemployment. For example, the use of tractors led to the displacement of large number of people, who were dependent on ploughing and transporting activities. Similarly, the advent of power looms in the cloth production sector severely damaged livelihoods of millions of handloom weavers. The impacts of energy access on education are often indirect, with one linkage being to the issue of time burden. Improved energy resources can reduce the time and labor required to achieve certain tasks such as collecting fuel wood and water as well as mechanizing many activities. This in turn, could lead to increased enrolment of children in schools, since their household roles are no longer as consuming. In addition, access to lighting in the home increases the time available for study and hence may impact on achievement levels. Lighting at the schools themselves, can remove restrictions on school times making night classes a viable possibility or allowing schools to double as community centers in the evenings.

Electrification can also affect education infrastructure through integration of modern resources, such as computers and internet access.

The industrial sector continues to be the single largest commercial energy consuming sector using up about 50% of the total commercial energy in the country, although its share is declining gradually. Indian industry is highly energy-intensive and its energy-GDP elasticity is around 1.5 compared to less than unity for the developed nations. Transport infrastructure has expanded considerably and its energy-intensity has grown gradually. Rapid urbanization along with the conglomeration of industrial and commercial activities has consequently increased the transport demand. Uncontrolled expansion of cities coupled with inadequate public transport has contributed to a phenomenal growth in the number of mechanized energy intense private modes leading to energy inefficiency and severe pollution problem. Most of the agriculture activities also depend on energy. Apart from consuming human and draught power, agriculture operations consume energy for irrigation. Energy helps improve other agriculture operations like ploughing, sowing, spraying, harvesting, processing and many value addition activities; storage; transporting etc. Many other rural livelihoods also are dependent on energy. Most of the ghanis (oil expellers that are used in rural areas) operate based on draught power and nowadays they are being operated using electricity in some places. Similarly many rural livelihoods such as weaving, value addition to agriculture produce, brick making units, small scale enterprises depend majorly on energy. Most of the urban livelihoods also depend mostly on energy and energy based technologies. The standard of living of people of any country is considered to be proportional to the energy consumption by the people of that country. In one sense, the disparity one feels from country to country arises from the extent of accessible energy for the citizens of each country. India, with over a billion people, today only produces 660 billion KWh of electricity and over 600 million Indians, a population equal to the combined population of USA and EU, have no access to electricity, and limited access to other clean, modern fuels such as LPG and kerosene. This constrained energy access is reflected in the relatively low Human Development Index (HDI) of India. Enhancing energy supply and access is therefore a key component of the national development strategy.

The distribution of primary commercial energy resources in India is quite skewed. 70 percent of the total hydro potential is located in the northern and northeastern regions, whereas the eastern region accounts for nearly 70 percent of the total coal reserves in the country. The southern region, which has only 6 percent of the total coal reserves and 10 percent of the total hydro potential, has most of the lignite deposits occurring in the country. Rural electrification in India, has suffered badly over the last decades mainly because of poor operational and financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Although 86 percent of total villages have been electrified over the years, nearly 80,000 villages are yet to be electrified. Moreover, the use of electricity in rural areas for households and other productive purposes, such as small industries is rather limited. Rural people are often not in a position to afford the cost of electricity and they meet their basic energy needs through use of energy sources like firewood, cow dung, agricultural residue and kerosene. However, inefficient exploitation of these resources has led to environmental degradation, with biomass fuel sources rapidly depleting, placing even greater pressure on the poor just to meet basic needs. An action plan on 100 percent village electrification within next 6 years has been prepared in which rural electrification would be treated as a basic minimum service under the Prime Minister Gramodya Yojana (PMGY). Other elements of the action plan includes; setting up credit support from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to SEBs for speedy electrification in backward areas, improving the quality of power supply in villages by strengthening the distribution network, earmarking a sum of at least Rs. 750 Crores out of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for rural electrification works and augmenting resources of REC, by allowing it to float capital gains tax exemption bonds.

Renewable energy can play a major role in rural electrification. In India, 18,000 villages mostly in remote far - flung areas can only be electrified by using renewable resources, since they are not economically viable to connect through conventional grid systems. The features of rural electricity viz, low and dispersed loads, high transport development costs and seasonality of load favors decentralized (small hydro and biomass based) power plants for meeting rural electricity needs in a sustainable manner. Local institutions like Panchayats, might play an important role in the implementation, operation and maintenance of such power plants. This will not only minimize transaction costs, but also minimize transmission and distribution costs. The impacts of energy use are both local and global. Pollution from burning fossil fuels and the associated effects of acid rain has been a particular problem for both European and Asian forests and soils, which are continuing to deteriorate as a result. Air pollutants, also causes lung disease and asthma, impairs visibility and generates foul odours. Production of nuclear-generated electricity results in waste disposal problems and ecosystem degradation from upstream mining operations. Heavy metals produced during fabrication of solar cells can contaminate soils. Desertification in Sahel and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, has been linked to fuel demand from biomass (IUCN 2007). The increased demand for biofuel also affects food security as land and water resources are diverted from food crops to crops for fuel production. Indirect effects of energy use includes both, overexploitation of natural resources and

the spread of invasive alien species facilitated through global trade, both made possible through cheap and easily-available energy for transport.

Energy use also impacts men and women differently. Seventy percent of 1.2 billion people living on the equivalent of one dollar a day are women. Traditional responsibilities for collecting fuel and water mean time and physical effort are expended by women and girls in gathering fuel and carrying water, rather than attending school or generating income. They also suffer disproportionately from health problems related to the collection and use of traditional fuels. Exposure to smoke from poorly-ventilated, indoor fires causes respiratory infections, cancers, and eye diseases; it is responsible for close to two million premature deaths per year. Replacing low quality fuels, such as traditional biomass with more efficient fuels can significantly reduce the health impacts from smoke and physical exertion (UNDP 2004). Involving women in energy decisions can help ensure that solutions meet women's practical, productive and strategic needs. On one hand, energy supports many livelihoods and on the other hand energy sector itself creates many livelihoods. There are many people in the country, who are engaged in energy production, storage, transportation like people who are working in coal mines, crude oil basins, power plants etc., and also people, who are engaged in manufacturing, selling of energy based devices etc. The people who work in the area of energy production always face high risks than any other livelihoods. They work in very hazardous conditions. We often hear of accidents in coal mines, gas basins which kills many workers. Health hazards are also very common among these sections of people. Though, they are working in high risk and hazardous conditions the wages, they get for their work are abysmally low. To conclude, in all countries, Energy is the fundamental requirement for providing other basic life necessities, such as food, water, shelter and clothing. Without energy, from its simplest forms, such as biomass to its more complex counterparts such as fossil fuels or hydro-electricity, society will be unable to maintain or improve living standards, meet the basic needs of its citizens or maintain the socioeconomic infrastructure necessary for political and economic stability. Indeed, for the estimated two billion people, who currently rely on traditional biomass for cooking and do not have access to electricity, lack of energy acts as a barrier to industrialization and getting out of the poverty trap.

Energy access has the potential to alleviate poverty through stimulating rural livelihood options. This can occur via the establishment of new energy-based industries, creating employment in manufacturing, construction and maintenance. Energy access can allow households to engage in more diverse range of income-generating activities, value addition as well as make pre-existing activities more efficient. In particular, this diversification will make rural families far less dependent on natural resources, as their sole form of income. Nearly 60% of the population in low income countries relies on agriculture, forestry and fishing for their livelihoods. This figure rises to over 90% in some countries. With the necessary infrastructure to ensure sustainability, new livelihoods developed via energy access can have a huge impact on long term poverty reduction. As we move away from subsistence living to global living we consume more energy. China and India are rapidly catching up with the rest of the world in energy consumption. Heavy dependence on non-renewable resources is posing a serious threat to sustainable development. Some sources of energy may become scarce and expensive. They make transport expensive and thereby food and other basic items become expensive and unaffordable. The poor as usual will bear the burn. Increased prices will push many more into poverty. In this context we need to explore alternative choices. What choices do we have? Whatever choices we make, can we all work towards ensuring that those choices will be poor-friendly in terms of availability, accessibility and affordability?

***Livelihoods January-2010**

38. Watershed Plus

Dry lands are one of the least productively used natural resources, and are home to a large number of poor. Increasing productivity in these lands is possible through soil and moisture conservation (SMC). These efforts results in growth led by increase in the farm output. However, this growth mostly favours the land owning class. Hence separate efforts are required to include the land-less and the vulnerable in this growth, so that they also realize the benefits of improved food security, increased employment and diversification of livelihoods. Such activities are known as 'Watershed Plus' interventions.



About 68 of the net sown area in India, is rain-fed and about 400 million people depend on rain-fed agriculture in the country. Rain-fed agriculture in India is mostly characterized by low and

uncertain rainfall, limited irrigation, low moisture, poor and degraded resource base and declining soil fertility. In addition to these natural maladies, rain-fed areas suffered neglect of policy makers and scientists for long, resulting in poorly developed infrastructure and institutions and poor access to timely credit. The result is anybody's guess - low income and low saving capacity, low capital formation, dominance of low value crops, low productivity, and distress migration. The problem of rain-fed areas seems to be one of a vicious cycle that starts with degradation of the natural resource base

through poor management leading to low productivity, low income, low surplus, and low investment which, in turn, leads to over-exploitation of the existing natural resources and further degradation.

The irrigated areas have enjoyed the attention of various governments, over the years through heavy subsidies in the name of improving nation's food security. On the contrary, the rain-fed areas stands neglected in terms of subsidies, infrastructure and also in terms of research and extension services. However, it is increasingly being realized that the country cannot go forward neglecting the huge potential that dry lands offer in providing food security to the country apart from generating livelihoods for millions of people. These realizations brought critical insights, that low yields in dryland/rain-fed regions are mostly associated with high degree of land degradation and there is strong need to develop technologies to reduce degradation and improve productive capacity of natural resources, especially land. In addition to this it is realized that moisture is the most limiting factor in adoption of improved technologies. Treatment of dryland areas on a watershed basis has therefore, been adopted as a comprehensive approach to conserve soil moisture through effective land and water management technique. The development of degraded lands is recognized as an important element for eradication of poverty and watershed development approach, is widely recognized as a means to achieve this.

A watershed is a geo-hydrological unit, which drains at a common point. Rain falling on the mountain starts flowing down into small rivulets. Many of them, as they come down, joins to form small streams. The small streams form bigger streams; and finally the bigger streams join to form a *nullah* to drain out excess water from a village. The entire area that supplies water to a stream or river, that is, the drainage basin or catchment area, is called the watershed of that particular stream or river.

Watershed degradation threatens the livelihood of millions of people and constrains the ability of country to develop a healthy agricultural and natural resource base. Increasing population of people and livestock is rapidly depleting the existing natural resource base because the soil and vegetation system cannot support the present level of use. In a sense, the carrying capacity of these lands is being exceeded. As the population continues to increase, the pressure on forests, community lands and marginal agricultural lands leads to inappropriate cultivation practices, forest removal and grazing intensities that leaves a barren environment yielding unwanted sediments and damaging stream-flow to downstream communities.

To counter watershed degradation and the consequent ill effects, the Government and NGOs have responded with an integrated watershed approach. The genesis of approach can be found way back in 1970's with the initiation of Drought Prone Area Program (DPAP) and Desert Development Program (DDP) by the Government of India (GOI). Later, the concept of development of rain-fed areas on watershed basis was adopted during the Seventh Five Year Plan (FYP) (1987-92). In 1989, GOI had started another program called Integrated Wasteland Development Programs (IWDP). To take stock of watershed development situation in the country, a Technical Committee (TC) was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), GOI, headed by Prof Ch Hanumantha Rao. This Committee reviewed implementation of various programs including DPAP, DDP and IWDP and recommended a set of operational guidelines for taking up these programs on watershed basis, which became functional since 1995-96. The principles adopted in the guidelines, lay special emphasis upon stakeholders' active mobilization and participation in preparation of plans, as well as their implementation and subsequent management. Following the Committee Report in 1994, DPAP and IWDP were brought under common 'Guidelines for Watershed Development'. Under the common guidelines, all area development programs of the government were implemented, through watershed development approach. Watershed development has been conceived basically, as a strategy for protecting livelihoods of people inhabiting the fragile ecosystems, experiencing soil erosion and moisture stress.

The main principles of integrated watershed management are: utilizing land according to its capacity, putting adequate vegetal cover on the soil, conserving as much rainwater as possible at the place where it falls, both at farmlands and common property resources, that is, in-situ conservation, draining out excess water with a safe velocity and diverting it to storage ponds and storing it for future use, avoiding gully formation and putting checks at suitable intervals to control soil erosion and recharge ground water, maximizing productivity per unit of area, per unit of time, and per unit of water, increasing cropping intensity and land equivalent ratio through intercropping and sequence cropping, safe productive utilization of marginal lands through alternate land use system, ensuring sustainability of the eco-systems benefiting the man-animal-plant-land-water-complex in the watershed, maximizing the combined income from the interrelated and dynamic crop-livestock-tree-labour-complex over the years, stabilizing the total income and cut down risks during aberrant weather situation and improving infrastructural facilities like storage, transportation and marketing.

Many studies revealed that areas, where watershed development programs have been executed successfully, these areas have shown positive results in various aspects. The infrastructure that is created under watershed program reduced the wastage of run-off water resulting in increased availability of water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. Groundwater also got recharged in areas with water harvesting structures. With the increase in irrigation facilities more land is being brought under cultivation. Possibilities improved for two or three crops in a year and also to practice horticulture and sericulture activities. As a result, availability of agricultural works to the labour also increased and to that extent helped control distress migration of labour.

Pasture lands developed resulting in increased availability of fodder to the livestock and cattle resulting in improved milk productivity. Increased water availability, at times also encourages people to start micro-enterprises in the watershed villages. Increase in income levels reflected in improvement in people's health and education levels.

Watershed development activities also had implications on the resources of people. Natural capital of people increased through increase in tree cover, livestock, irrigated area productive land and etc.. Physical capital got enhanced through increased irrigation facilities, soil and water conservation structures. With the formation of watershed committees and user groups, ensuring complete community participation, facilitated improvement in social capital. Watersheds also have a positive bearing on human capital in those areas as people's capacities with respect to watershed development and management were enhanced. The establishment of credit groups and watershed funds helped strengthen the financial capital of the people.

Although watershed development has without doubt resulted in significant positive impacts on the natural resource base, there are growing concerns about the distribution of these benefits. The principle of the ridge to valley approach for instance may work against the interests of the poor who often rely on the commons in upper slopes much more heavily than do the better-off. To begin with, water control structures in the lower slopes would privilege those (i.e. the better-off farmers) having reliable access to agricultural land. The notion that the poor, who have been denied access to the commons during the rehabilitation period, can benefit from casual, unskilled employment opportunities created by construction requirements in the lower slopes is appealing, but requires close monitoring; and there are important questions surrounding sustainability of any of these gains.

For wide range of physical assets such as bunds, check dams, gully plugs etc. created by watershed development programs, there are problems related to access and sustainability for long term, especially if joint responsibility for maintenance is not clearly agreed. The better-off, being landholders, generally benefit disproportionately from an increase in ground water levels brought about by soil and water conservation. Common Property Resources (CPRs) such as grazing and forest land constitute important natural capital that the poor mostly depend on. After the watershed activities, the increased potential of-take off timber, fuel and fodder often attracts the attention of better-off to CPRs, which, in degraded form, had generally been the preserve of poor. Though, social and human capital is being strengthened to some extent through formation and capacity building of watershed groups etc, it is still evident in many places that community is not adequately equipped to manage resources on sustainable basis.

This imbalance in distribution of benefits has raised questions against sustainability of watershed development programs implemented in the past. From this context, a newer concept called 'watershed plus' has emerged and has been gaining momentum in recent years. The term 'watershed-plus' emerged in 1998 to describe 'new-look' watershed projects that would step beyond their usual remit in order to address the needs of marginalized groups of people, such as those with no land, women and the poorest of the community. This was to be achieved through activities not normally associated with watershed development projects, such as improved water management, minor irrigation works, the provision of drinking water and sanitation, forestry and interventions to address specific needs of the poorest, including provision of credit, collection and processing of non-timber forest products, aquaculture and crafts.

Though many activities are being taken up already by many NGOs and Government under watershed plus programs, the neglected fact in many cases is that distribution of benefits from any development program depends on the existing socio-cultural and economic context of particular area in which the program is implemented. The distribution pattern that exists already also has its implications on how benefits of particular program are going to be distributed. Unless these contexts are properly analyzed and programs are made appropriately it becomes difficult to achieve the desired results.

Another challenge in watershed activities is making the community realize benefits of watershed as many of the benefits that are accrued from watershed activities are intangible. The tangible benefits, such as increase in number of days of employment etc. are many times realized by the land less labour but they are only of short term nature. The long term benefits such as ground water recharge, increased yields and increased availability of water for irrigation and other purposes may not attract farmers enough to take full responsibility of managing the watershed in a sustainable way. Thus, it is very important to build the capacities of people, so that they own resources and maintain them in a sustainable way. It is also very important to realize, that mere watershed activities cannot solve all problems of farmers. Farmers' needs are multiple and there should be multiple interventions that need to be happening simultaneously. These interventions can include providing cheaper rates of credit, marketing support, information to the farmers about latest technology available, minimum support to the produces etc.

Under the circumstances, with increased influence of climate changes, the time is now for hastening up the coverage of the entire land-base of the country under watershed plus activities in the coming 10-15 years. This would mean covering not less than 10 million hectares every year under watersheds. The budget per annum can be Rs. 10,000 Crore. This investment may recur every 15- 20 years. Water harvesting, water conservation and optimization, and increasing the water productivity has to be part of this agenda. This time around, it has to be clearly watershed plus management and development. The micro-plans need to be evolved and consolidated in consultation with the ground level stakeholders and their People's Institutions (PI), especially institutions of the poor. Further, these institutions need to be involved in implementation. Thus, watershed plus activities have to become core part of the integrated and comprehensive rural development, social mobilization, poverty reduction, food security and livelihoods efforts. May be this is also the time for the mission mode for this set of efforts!

The farmers have to adopt cropping patterns, that are more water-efficient. Government has to offer remunerative minimum support prices for such alternative crop produce. The landless will not be happy with some wages they need investments in improving their livelihoods, in terms of skills, assets and infrastructure. Even the farmers' need investments in building their knowledge and skills through extension for water-efficient non-pesticide management and organic farming for increased food security locally and reduced working capital needs. Further, they need self-reliant collectives for realizing higher proportion of consumer rupee for their produce. They need to undertake value-addition locally as much as possible in an attempt to reach out to the consumer as directly as possible. There is a need to ensure that the people have one or more options to form autonomous independent self-reliant collectives a la Producers' Company (PC) with less cumbersome

procedures and formalities. Government needs to consider producers companies as cooperatives for taxation purposes. Proposed amendment to Constitution to insert Article 41B - for providing self-reliant cooperatives - is a step in the right direction.

***Livelihoods March-2010**

39. Climate Change

Climate change is a phenomenon of increase in global temperatures. The concentration of Green House Gases (GHGs) is directly linked to the average global temperatures. Predominately, human activities are contributing significantly to an increase in GHGs and thereby increase in global temperatures. Climate change leads to erratic monsoons, high temperatures, melting glaciers, EL Nino and La Nina. It is affecting crores of people's lives and livelihoods across the country; particularly, poor and marginalized people are paying the price. Agriculture, livestock rearing, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), fishing and small enterprises are being affected largely by the Climate Change.



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Climate change is primarily because of an increase in green house gases such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). As per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there are six indicators for increase in global warming and three indicators for decrease in temperatures.

Climate change can be a natural phenomenon due to volcanic eruptions, changes in sun hot spot cycle etc. But, as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 5th report observed, human influence on climate is clear, and recent man-made emissions of green house gases are highest in history. What began as a need, for rapid pace of development turned into greed with uncontrolled exploitation of resources, increased consumerism and disregard for carrying capacity of Earth.

Historically, the major contributors to global climate change are countries in Western Europe, whose industrial revolution relied heavily on coal, United States of America (USA), which combined technology with unhindered exploitation of resources. In 19th and 20th centuries, countries such as Soviet Union, Japan contributed to it. But today, China contributes significantly, followed by United States of America (USA), European Union (EU) and India stands at a distant fourth by contributing to 6% of the emissions. The aggregate doesn't give a clear picture. The country wise emissions of CO₂ are given in the figure on the right side:

1. Sectors contributing to GHGs:

Notes: Emissions from energy include industries, manufacturing and fugitive emissions. AFOLU means "Agriculture, forestry and other land use". "All other sources" includes international bunkers, waste and other sources. (Source: FAO)

Climate Dialogues:

Indira Gandhi put right to development and environment in proper perspective. In 1987, a report called "Our Common Future" came up, which is commonly known as Brundtland Report. This was the first work to make the concept of sustainability clear. It placed environmental issues firmly on the global political agenda. This laid ground work for 1992 Rio Declaration, adoption of Agenda 21, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

India's Intended Nationally Determined Commitments (INDCs) include- reducing emission intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level, achieving 40% cumulative electric power from non fossil resources by 2030, creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional tree cover by 2030. In addition to this, India proposed international solar alliance along with France.

These INDCs resulted in the Paris agreement. It aims to hold, the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2° C above pre industrial levels and if possible even below 1.5° C by 2100. Nearly 190 countries submitted their INDCs. It acknowledges, the right to development of developing nations. The agreement reflects, the principles of equity, Common But Different Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC). It not only focuses on mitigation, but also on adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and transparency of action and support. The agreement establishes a compliance mechanism in a non punitive way.

Though the agreement is well intended, concerns remain. Even after completely following Paris agreement, the temperature would still rise by 2.7° C. If current practices are followed, it would rise by 3.6° C. This is a cause of worry with America signaling, its withdrawal from the treaty. If countries do not act soon, temperatures would rise by 4.5° C. As IPCC pointed out, it would lead to irreversible changes which humanity cannot afford to face.

Affects of Climate Change:

Climate change's effects are many on people's livelihoods and lives. In our country, half of the people depend on agriculture for livelihoods. This is one sector, which is affected severely by Climate change along with fishing, NTFP, livestock rearing and small businesses. The effects of Climate change on agricultural production are expected to intensify over time and to vary across countries and regions. Though until 2030, this shall have a balancing affect; but, beyond 2030 the negative impacts of climate change on the productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry will become increasingly severe in all regions. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in its recent report on "The State of Food and Agriculture – Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" has mentioned in detail the effects of Climate change on agriculture and other livelihoods. The key summary of each sector is mentioned below:

Agriculture: In many parts of the world, agricultural production is already being adversely affected by rising temperatures; increased temperature variability, changes in levels and frequency of precipitation, a greater frequency of dry spells and droughts, the increasing intensity of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and the salinization of arable land and freshwater. The widespread melting of glaciers and snow-cover in major mountain ranges, will affect the volume and timing of water flows, ultimately reducing the availability of irrigation water downstream.

It is already observed, through trends across regions that Climate change on crops has more of a negative impact, than positive ones. The Climate change on crop yields will depend on many parameters. These include: physical ones, such as temperature, precipitation patterns and CO₂ fertilization; changes in agro ecosystems, through loss of pollinators and increased incidence of pest and diseases; and the adaptive responses of human systems. Effects of temperature changes are generally well understood up to the optimum temperature for crop development; however, beyond these optimum temperatures, effects are much less known. Recent results have confirmed the damaging effects of elevated tropospheric ozone on yields, with estimates of losses for soybean, wheat and maize in the year 2000 ranging from 8.5 to 14 %, 3.9 to 15%, and 2.2 to 5.5% respectively. The changing climate, could have both positive and negative effects on crops.

Due to Climate change, there shall be decline in productivity leading to food shortfalls and which shall in turn lead to increase in food prices. The increase in food prices, would directly affect millions of low-income people across the globe.

Livestock: The livestock production will be affected by Climate change both directly and indirectly. The most important impacts are on animal productivity, animal health and biodiversity, the quality and amount of feed supply, and the carrying capacity of pastures.

On one hand, increasing variability in rainfall is leading to shortages of drinking water, increased occurrence of livestock pests and diseases and also the composition of pastures, pasture yields and forage quality. On the other hand, high temperatures can cause heat stress in animals, leading to a range of negative impacts like reduced feed intake and productivity, lower rates of reproduction and higher mortality rates. It shall also lead to animal's resistance to pathogens, parasites and vectors. For eg: Research in India has shown that combination of climate-related stress on sheep – excessive heat and lower nutritional intake – had severe impacts on the animal's biological coping mechanisms.

Fisheries and aquaculture: As discussed earlier, with more than 90% of the effects of global warming are on

oceans. Climate change has profound effect on fisheries and aquaculture in both marine and fresh water environments. This shall disturb and impact fisheries and aquaculture by variability in water temperatures, oxygen deficit, rise in sea levels, decreased potential of Hydrogen (pH) and changes in productivity patterns. Regions in tropical less-developed and economically poor areas with small scale fisheries are more vulnerable to these changes.

These impacts are leading to various fish species migrating towards the poles and also a large scale redistribution of global marine fish catch potential ,with an increase in high-latitude regions and decrease in the tropics. Inland fisheries and aquaculture production is threatened by changes in precipitation and water management with increased stress on freshwater resources, and the frequency and intensity of extreme climate events.

Ocean acidification (decrease in the pH of earth's oceans) added with rising temperatures shall hugely impact coral reef systems, which sustain one out of four marine species, will be at increased risk owing to the dual pressure of rising temperatures and ocean acidification. Sea surface temperature fluctuations caused mass coral bleaching and mortality. As per National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), these shocks when coupled with events, such as the El Niño phenomenon are the largest and most pervasive threats to coral reefs around the world.

Forestry: Climate change and variability threaten availability of clean and reliable water supply, protection against landslides, erosion and land degradation, provision or enhancement of the habitats of aquatic and terrestrial animals, provision of a range of wood and non-wood products for household use or sale, and the generation of employment. Tribal communities who live in and around forest areas are dependent on NTFP collection. They collect NTFPs for self consumption and also for selling. NTFP plays a vital role in food security, addressing health issues and providing other benefits. NTFPs' production has been decreasing for decades. Climate change is one of the important causes behind decreasing NTFPs production.

Recent studies have shown that higher temperatures and changes in precipitation are increasing tree mortality through heat stress, drought stress and pest outbreaks. These things also favour greater fire disturbances.

Climate change shall impact the growth of forests due to increase in the length of the growing season, higher atmospheric CO₂ and nitrogen deposition, and forest management. Direct CO₂ shall affect photosynthesis. Moist tropical forests have many species that are vulnerable to drought- and fire-induced mortality. In addition, there is evidence that in many forests, forest fire frequency and severity are increasing due to a combination of land use change and drought. Climate change, deforestation, fragmentation, fire and human pressure place virtually all dry tropical forests at risk of replacement or degradation.

Crores of people depend on small enterprises in the country. These small enterprises are directly and indirectly affecting Climate change. From purchasing inputs to selling at all stages, these entrepreneurs are facing hardships. Drought situation, floods, cold waves and high temperatures affect these businesses easily.

Industrialization is one of the main causes for the climate change. It focuses mainly on manufacturing at large scale and promoting urban centres. It requires more usage of energy and it replaces natural systems. More energy is required to run the industries, manufacturing units, trucks, cars and various types of vehicles. People are burning fossil fuels for energy requirement in industries and for vehicles' functioning. Around 98% of CO₂ emissions, 24% of methane gas emissions and 18% of Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) emissions are the results of fossil fuel burning. Industrialization is contributing majorly in emissions increasing.

Emissions from agriculture and those from net forest conversion contributed broadly comparable amounts of greenhouse gases in the 1990s; however, since the turn of the century, emissions from forest conversion have declined, while agricultural emissions have increased. Crop and livestock production, in particular, release significant amounts of methane and nitrous oxide; two potent Green House Gas (GHGs). Methane is produced by ruminant livestock during digestion and also escapes from stored manure and organic waste. Nitrous Oxide emissions are an indirect product of organic and mineral nitrogen fertilizers after they have been applied to cropland.

Unaccounted for in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) category are greenhouse gases that are produced in the pre- and post-production stages of modern food supply chains, but classified in IPCC reporting as originating in other sectors, mainly industry, energy generation and transportation. They include the production of inputs such as synthetic fertilizers, which, unlike organic fertilizer production, is an energy intensive process; emissions resulting from fossil energy use (e.g. for powering farm machinery); and postproduction transportation, processing and retailing. At every stage, food provisioning adds to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. If emissions caused by direct and indirect energy use by the agri food chain were

included, the AFOLU share of total greenhouse emissions would increase by one-third.

Food Security and Poverty: Climate change poses a major and growing threat to global food security. It affects availability of food through its increasingly severe impacts on crop yields, fish stocks, animal health and productivity, especially in developing countries. It limits access to food through negative impacts on rural incomes and livelihoods. In addition to more volatile climate, there is expected to be increase in the intensity and frequency of climate related natural disasters. The most vulnerable to these impacts shall be poor people, including many small, marginal farmers and agricultural workers. Severe droughts or floods can sharply reduce their incomes and cause asset losses that erode future income earning capacity. As a result of decline in agriculture productivity there shall be reductions in food production which shall further lead to increase in food prices. The most affected by these shall be both urban and rural poor who shall spend much of their incomes on food.

Climate change shall affect nutrition status and dietary choices as well. For example, a study conducted by WHO states, that because higher temperatures favour the development of pathogens, and water scarcity affects water quality and hygiene habits, climate impacts could increase the burden of diarrhoea. Again, the most severely affected would be the poor and especially poor children and elderly persons. According to the report of Al Jazeera 2015, in the country at May 2015 due to high temperature of 48°C, 1100 deaths happened. Most of the victims are elderly persons, low income workers of unorganized sector. Climate change will affect nutrition status in many others ways, from reductions in care giving and the nutrient content of staple food crops, to higher risk of food contamination. Some studies indicate that nutritional quality of major food crops shall suffer under climate change. The major crops that shall be affected are wheat, rice, maize and soya bean which the majority of the world depends up on for their survival. According to the UN report, up to 122 million people would be living in extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) was established in 1985. It is the nodal agency of the central government of India. It works on the planning, promotion, co-ordination and monitoring the implementation of environmental and forestry policies and programmes. The prime concern of the MoEFCC is to implement policies and programmes relating to conservation of natural resources including lakes, rivers, forests, wildlife welfare and prevention of pollution. There are many Civil Societies Organizations (CSO), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and individuals working on Climate changes.

India along with the world today is facing a double challenge – on one hand to eradicate poverty and hunger and on the other to stabilize the global Climate change, before it's too late. Though on a global level India stands fourth in the list of carbon emissions, but on a per capita basis, we are far better than many developed and developing countries. But still, we need to critically identify and examine, the causes of Climate change and move towards strengthening existing systems and adopting better alternatives; need to focus on capitalizing alternative energies like solar and wind as still more than 60% of the country's energy sector needs are still met through coal, moving towards efficient public transport systems and adopting stringent pollution norms, increasing the forest cover, making agriculture more resilient to Climate change by adopting practices like Natural Farming (NF), growing crops which shall require less water etc. As individuals, it is also important for us to lead healthy lifestyles, diet controls and showing the way by living simple lives. Political commitment to address the issues of Climate change is critical and there is an urgent need to design and implement proper measures to address Climate change issues. Various CSOs, PRIs and individuals have to come forward to work on issues of Climate Change.

***livelihoods August-2017**

40. When Disasters Strike...

The livelihoods of people, particularly the poor, have significant risks associated with them. Disasters, both natural and human-made constitute major risk for them. Any disaster can cause huge devastation to the livelihoods of the people, either temporarily and/or permanently. The poor have very limited resources to prevent, mitigate or cope with the disasters. Integrated disaster management planning, significantly focusing on the poor is the need of the hour particularly in the context of climate change.



The livelihoods of people, particularly the poor, have significant element of risk associated with them. Disasters, both natural and human-made constitute major element of risk. Any disaster can cause huge devastation to the livelihoods of people either temporarily and/or permanently. The lives of the poor that is already burdened by lack of basic amenities, lack of infrastructure, lack of resources etc. becomes more helter skelter, when disasters strike. Majority of the livelihoods of poor are highly dependent on natural resources. Whether it is a dry land farmer, a fisherman, a Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collector or an agriculture labourer, their lives revolve around natural resources. When disaster strikes, the status of these natural resources gets disturbed, thus negatively impacting the livelihoods of the poor. So will be the impact on other resources

like physical, financial, social and human, which are so fundamental in supporting and enhancing livelihoods. Even the spiritual capital, of people gets affected negatively. People lose confidence and gets dispirited. Markets are disrupted and the entire local economy collapses. While, the loss occurred in terms of lives and property, due to disasters can be enumerated to some extent, it gets highly complex to assess the loss in terms of livelihoods. The degree of impact from disasters is directly related to poverty. The case of the most recent disaster in Haiti, proves the point very vividly. Earthquakes of similar magnitude that occurred in countries like the United States, Japan etc., have resulted in negligible loss of life, whereas Haiti lost close to 200,000 human lives. Dismal investments in preventive and mitigation mechanisms, poor awareness and illiteracy, poor infrastructure hindering evacuation and post-disaster relief efforts, lack of strong law and order systems in place etc., double up the impact in poor countries.

Disaster is a sudden, calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, destruction and devastation to life and property. The damage caused by disasters is immeasurable and varies with the geographical location, climate and the type of the earth surface/degree of vulnerability. This influences the mental, socio-economic, political and cultural state of the affected area. It may also be termed as "a serious disruption of the functioning of society, causing widespread human, material or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected society to cope using its own resources."

A disaster can have one or more of the following features:-

- Unpredictability
- Unfamiliarity
- Speed
- Urgency
- Uncertainty

- Threat

In simple terms we can define disaster as a hazard, causing heavy loss to life, property and livelihood. Events such as earthquakes, floods, and cyclones, by themselves, are not considered disasters. Rather, they become disasters when they adversely and seriously affect human and animal life, livelihoods and property. Disasters are often classified according to their cause, their speed of onset (sudden or slow) and whether or not they are due to “acts of nature” or “acts of humans”—a classification which is often contested, because it is argued that human actions, in fact, also precipitate natural disasters. Disasters classified according to cause are named after the hazard, which results in disastrous social and economic consequences. This classification includes earthquakes, floods, cyclones, tornadoes, landslides, mud flows, droughts, pest and insect infestations, chemical explosions, etc. The speed of the disaster’s onset is another way to distinguish between disasters— and the types of responses that may be required. A rapid onset disaster refers to an event or hazard that occurs suddenly, with little warning, taking the lives of the people, and destroying economic structures and material resources. Rapid onset disasters may be caused by earthquakes, floods, storm winds, tornadoes, or mud flows. Slow onset disasters occur over time and slowly deteriorate a society’s and a population’s capacity to withstand the effects of the hazard or threat. Hazards causing these disaster conditions typically include droughts, famines, environmental degradation, desertification, deforestation and pest infestation. Disasters are sometimes classified according to whether they are “natural” disasters, or “human-made” disasters. For example, disasters caused by floods, droughts, tidal waves and earth tremors are generally considered “natural disasters.” Disasters caused by chemical or industrial accidents, environmental pollution, transport and fire accidents and political unrest are classified as “human-made” or “human-caused” disasters, since they are the direct result of human action. Among these natural and human-made disasters, some are considered as major and some are minor, which are shown in the diagram.

Earthquakes are the major natural disasters that can cause huge devastation. The recent Haiti earthquake has caused a huge loss of more than 2 lakh human lives. India has witnessed some of the most devastating earthquakes during the last century like the one in Kangra (1905), Bihar- Nepal (1934) and in Assam (1950). In the recent past, earthquakes have caused havoc in Uttarkashi (1991), Latur (1993), Jabalpur (1997), Chamoli (1999) and in Bhuj (2001). India has had a long history of earthquake occurrences. About 65% of the total area of the country is vulnerable to seismic damage to buildings in varying degrees. The most vulnerable areas, according to the present seismic zone mapping of India, are located in the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan regions, Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands. Cyclones are other major disasters that generally strike East Coast of India; some of the Arabian Sea Cyclones strike the west coast of India, as well mainly the Gujarat and North Maharashtra coast. Out of the storms that develop in the Bay of Bengal, over 58 percent approach or cross the east coast in October and November. India has a very long coastline of 8041 km, large parts of which are vulnerable to cyclone. The country receives an annual precipitation of 400 million – hectare meters. Of the annual rainfall, 75% is received during four months of monsoon (June- September) and, as a result, almost all the rivers carry heavy discharge during this period which sometimes causes floods. The flood hazard is compounded by the problems of sediment deposition, drainage congestion and synchronization of river floods with sea tides in the coastal plains. The area vulnerable to floods in the country is 40 million hectares and the average area affected by floods annually is about 8 million hectares. The average annual total damage to crops, houses, public utilities during the period 1953- 1995 were about Rs.9720 million.

In hilly terrain of India including the Himalayas, landslides have been a major and widely spread natural disaster that often strike life and property and occupy a position of major concern. They often take place in conjunction with earthquakes, floods and volcanoes. The Himalayan mountain belt comprises of tectonically unstable younger geological formations, subjected to severe seismic activity. The Western Ghats and Nilgiris are geologically stable, but have uplifted plateau margins influenced by neo- tectonic activity. Snow cover on a slope tends to slide down the slope, because of gravity which is called “avalanches”, which can also cause loss to property and lives. Conditions affecting stability includes gravitational force, component of snow and resisting forces, such as frictional resistance of the slope or anchoring effect of shrubs. In general, avalanches are caused, when this balance is lost and when forces exceeds the resistance. The most common hazard in forests is forest fire. Forest fires are as old as the forests themselves. They pose a threat not only to the forest wealth but also to the entire regime of fauna and flora, seriously disturbing the bio-diversity, ecology and environment of a region. During summer, when there is no rain for months, the forests become littered with dry senescent leaves and twigs, which could burst into flames ignited by the slightest spark. The Himalayan forests, particularly, Garhwal Himalayas have been burning regularly, during the last few summers, with colossal loss of vegetation cover of that region. Food losses due to pests, disease, wild animals, insects and weeds are considerable. It is estimated that 35% of world crop production is lost in spite of pesticide and other control programs. The primary pests are insects, disease and weeds. Losses due to birds and wild animals are low, compared to these. A pest may be

defined as any living organism or plant causing harm or damage to people, their animals, crops or possessions. The important pests are those, which leads to loss of crop yield or quality, resulting in loss or profits to the farmers and reduced stocks for subsistence or export.

Droughts are the common disasters that occur in India. Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on the monsoon as a source of water. In some parts of India, the failure of the monsoons results in water shortages, resulting in below-average crop yields. This is particularly true of major drought-prone regions such as southern and eastern Maharashtra, northern Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. In the past, droughts have periodically led to major Indian famines, including the Bengal famine of 1770, in which up to one third of the population in affected areas died; the 1876– 1877 famine, in which over five million people died; the 1899 famine, in which over 4.5 million died; and the Bengal famine of 1943, in which over five million died from starvation and famine-related illnesses. Present day droughts are becoming a disaster more due to poor management than the drought itself. War and civil strife are regarded as hazards or extreme events that produce disasters. War and civil strife often causes the displacement of the population. The causal factors of war and civil strife includes competition for scarce resources, religious or ethnic intolerance, and ideological differences. Apart from the above discussed disasters, India has also witnessed some unusual human made disasters such as Plague in Surat and Gas tragedy of Bhopal . Sometimes a specific disaster may spawn a secondary disaster that increases the impact. A classic example is the earth quake that causes tsunami, resulting in coastal flooding.

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. In the decade 1990-2000, an average of about 4344 people lost their lives and about 30 million people were affected by disasters every year. The loss in terms of private, community and public assets has been astronomical. India has witnessed many disasters in recent decades such as earthquake of Uttarakashi in 1991, Surat Plague of '95 which unleashed unprecedented panic, the Latur earthquake of '93, killing thousands besides reducing the territory to piles of concrete, flesh and rubble, Super Cyclone of Orissa in 1999, Bhuj Earthquake in 2001, Tsunami in 2004, recent flooding in Mumbai, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka so on so forth. Natural disasters are not bound by political boundaries and have no social or economic considerations. They are borderless as they affect both developing and developed countries. They are also merciless, and as such the vulnerable tend to suffer more from the impact of natural disasters. For example, the developing countries are much more seriously affected in terms of the loss of lives, hardships borne by population and the percentage of their GNP lost. Since 1991, two-third of the victims of natural disasters was from developing countries, while just 2 per cent were from highly developed nations. Those living in developing countries and especially those with limited resources tend to be more adversely affected. With the alarming rise in the natural disasters and vulnerability per se, the world community is strengthening its efforts to cope with it.

The continent of Asia is particularly vulnerable to disaster strikes. Between the years 1991 to 2000 Asia has accounted for 83 per cent of the population affected by disasters globally. While the number of people affected in the rest of the world were 1,11,159, in Asia the number was 5,54,439. Within Asia, 24 per cent of deaths due to disasters occurs in India, on account of its size, population and vulnerability. Floods and high winds account for 60 per cent of all disasters in India. Disasters leads to enormous economic losses that are both immediate, as well as long term in nature and demand additional revenues. Also, as immediate fallout, disasters reduce revenues from the affected region, due to lower levels of economic activity leading to loss of direct and indirect taxes. In addition, unplanned budgetary allocation to disaster recovery can hamper development interventions and lead to unmet developmental targets. Disasters may also reduce availability of new investment, further constricting the growth of the region. Besides, additional pressures may be imposed on finances of the government, through investments in relief and rehabilitation work. The extent to which a population, is affected by a calamity does not purely lie in the physical components of vulnerability, but is contextual also to the prevailing social and economic conditions and its consequential effect on human activities within a given society. Research in areas affected by earthquakes indicates that single parent families, women, handicapped people, children, aged and socially discriminated sections are particularly vulnerable. The geophysical setting with unplanned and inadequate developmental activity is a cause for increased losses during disasters. In the case of India, the contribution of over-population to high population density, which in turn results in escalating losses, deserves to be noted. This factor sometime tends to be as important as physical vulnerability, attributed to geography and infrastructure alone.

In times of large scale disasters human and animal lives are lost. Houses, individual properties, other buildings like community halls, warehouses etc gets washed away. There may be a loss to the standing crops. Sometimes the entire agriculture land may become uncultivable. As the disaster affects the crops, apart from farmers, other

people that are dependent on agriculture such as wage labourers, people who sell agricultural inputs and implements etc. also lose. The infrastructure in the villages like roads, electricity gets disrupted leaving the people who are dependent on them such as weavers, micro entrepreneurs etc. into a dire situation. As the village economy itself gets badly affected, the outsiders who are dependent on the village for their livelihoods such as vegetable and other vendors, people who come from outside for doing electrical and other repairs etc. also lose their livelihood. If the disaster is a cyclone in coastal area, the fishermen lose their nets and boats and they cannot go for fishing for few days. If a forest fire occurs, the entire tribal economy that is around the forest gets affected. The food security of people gets affected, as prices of goods and services go up in a disaster situation. Children's education suffers. The water and sanitation situation becomes worse, badly affecting people's health. Provisioning of basic facilities like water, health and sanitation etc during disaster times becomes difficult, as the infrastructure required to provide these facilities is damaged.

Any disaster management is a continuous process by which all individuals, groups, and communities manage hazards in an effort to avoid or ameliorate the impact of disasters resulting from the hazards. Actions taken depend in part on perceptions of risk of those exposed. Generally the process of disaster management involves four phases: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Mitigation efforts attempt to prevent hazards from developing into disasters altogether, or to reduce effects of disasters, when they occur. The mitigation phase differs from other phases because it focuses on long-term measures for reducing or eliminating risk. The implementation of mitigation strategies can be considered a part of the recovery process, if applied after a disaster occurs. Mitigating measures can be structural or nonstructural. Structural measures use technological solutions, like flood levees. Non-structural measures include legislation, land-use planning (e.g. the designation of nonessential land like parks to be used as flood zones), and insurance. Disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict and—where possible—prevent them, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences. Disaster preparedness is a continuous and integrated process resulting from a wide range of activities and resources rather than from a distinct sectoral activity by itself. It requires the contributions of many different areas—ranging from training and logistics, to health care to institutional development. Any comprehensive disaster preparedness program includes certain elements such as: Hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments; Response mechanisms and strategies; Preparedness plans; Coordination, Information management; Early warning systems; Resource mobilization; Public education, training and rehearsals; Community Based Disaster Preparedness and etc.

The response phase in disaster management includes, mobilization of necessary emergency services and first responders in disaster area. This is likely to include a first wave of core emergency services, such as fire fighters, police ambulance crew and etc.

The aim of recovery phase is to restore affected area to its previous state. It differs from response phase in its focus; recovery efforts are concerned with issues and decisions that must be made after immediate needs are addressed. Recovery efforts are primarily concerned with actions that involve rebuilding destroyed property, reemployment, and the repair of other essential infrastructure. Though there is considerable change in India's disaster management policy in recent years, we are still lagging behind many countries in efficiently managing the disasters preventing huge losses of lives and assets. Lot more needs to be done, towards making the country effective in addressing and managing the disasters. Capacity building is one such intervention that needs to be implemented across all strata of the country. It should not be limited to professionals and personnel involved in disaster management, but should also focus on building the knowledge, attitude and skills of a community to cope with the effects of disasters. Identification and training of volunteers from the community towards first response measures as well as mitigation measures is an urgent imperative. The goal of any disaster management initiative is to build a disaster resistant/resilient community equipped with safer living and sustainable livelihoods to serve its own development purposes. The community is also the first responder in any disaster situation, thereby emphasizing the need for community level initiatives in managing disasters. To encourage such initiatives, the following are required: Creating awareness through disaster education, training and information dissemination are necessary steps for empowering the community to cope with disasters. Within a vulnerable community, there exist groups that are more vulnerable like women and children, aged and infirm and physically challenged people, who need special care and attention especially during disaster situations. Efforts are required for identifying, such vulnerable groups and providing special assistance in terms of evacuation, relief, aid and medical attention to them in disaster situations. There is also an urgent need for strengthening the disaster management pedagogy, by creating disaster management faculties in universities, rural development institutes and other organizations of premier research.

Sustainability is the key word in development process. Development activities that do not consider the disaster loss perspective fail to be sustainable. The compounded costs of disasters relating to loss of life, loss of assets,

economic activities, and cost of reconstruction of not only assets, but of lives can scarcely be borne by any community or nation. Therefore, all development schemes in vulnerable areas should include a disaster mitigation analysis, whereby the feasibility of a project is assessed, with respect to vulnerability of the area and the mitigation measures required for sustainability. Environmental protection, afforestation programmes, pollution control, construction of earthquake resistant structures etc., should therefore have high priority within the plans. Apart from the above initiatives, some others are also need to be done, such as positioning of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at different locations; setting up and strengthening of early warning systems; creation of national database for emergency management; putting guidelines in place for dealing with different types of disasters, including urban flooding, landslides house collapse and etc; strengthening relief measures, such as state support, construction of earth quake resistant buildings, insurance cover etc. Though, governments since many years are successful to some extent in managing disaster relief programs, they are still failing to rehabilitate the communities that are affected by the disasters. Their focus is still on providing food and shelter on a temporary basis immediately after disaster. But restoring houses, livelihoods and businesses, basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation etc., is not a priority for any government. These are left to the affected community which they many times may not be able to restore or they may take very long time. These activities require huge investments which the community may not be able to put in. Hence, the governments should take responsibility of providing basic amenities and also arranging loans and grants to restore livelihoods, construction of houses etc.

Most of the times, the compensation to the losses is paid to the victims considering the loss of lives and property/ assets in their families. The loss of livelihoods is not considered many times. For instance, loss of a buffalo might be compensated to the owner but the loss of grazing land, loss of fodder is not considered. A broken boat might be compensated to a fisherman, but the wages he lost because of not having that boat are not compensated. The tribal non-timber forest produce collectors are seldom compensated for the loss of produce due to forest fires. The livelihoods of the people which are dependent on the affected village are not at all considered for the assessment. A comprehensive livelihood loss assessment, therefore is needed taking into account both the direct and indirect dependents in the disaster affected area. Disasters, such as crop failures needs to be given a special focus as they are claiming many lives every year apart from generating huge losses to the farmers. Farmers' suicides in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, weavers' suicides in Siricilla of Andhra Pradesh etc. should be considered as livelihood disasters and need to be addressed with the same zeal and rigour as in the case of natural disasters. With the kind of economic losses and developmental setbacks, that the country has been suffering year after year, the development process needs to be sensitive towards disaster prevention and mitigation aspects. India comes into the grip of disasters almost every year, whether it is floods or drought or cyclones or earthquakes or tsunami. Climate changes in the world are further abetting the disasters. India with its poverty levels is further vulnerable to their impacts. Disaster management is gaining momentum in the country, thanks to tsunami. The government of India and various state governments are working to gear up the institutional and infrastructural set up to prevent and mitigate disasters. However, we as a nation have a long way to tread. Natural disasters happen, how we deal with them is critical. Human made disasters are a shame. As a country, we need to have zero tolerance towards them. Whether, natural or human, disasters notably affect the poor and the marginalized. The poor have very limited resources to prevent, mitigate or cope with disasters. Therefore, any disaster management planning remains incomplete if it is not significantly focused on the poor. The traditional and local wisdom of the poor in dealing with disasters cannot be ignored. The poor should be partners in the disaster management planning and implementation; they should be the owners and managers of disaster management systems in their locality. Then only, when disaster strikes, we as a nation are well prepared.

***Livelihoods February-2010**

V Policies and Influences

41. Food for All

'World hunger hits one billion' says the recently released FAO report. Asia-pacific region including India is the worst hit region with 642 million undernourished people. Though India is one of the largest producers of food in the World, it is also house to the highest number of hungry people. The increase in the number of hungry people is due to lower incomes and increased unemployment, which has reduced access to food. The very long food supply chain in India with many stakeholders involved is neither benefiting the food producers nor the consumers.



Food is the basic need of all living things and is a major source of employment, for many people, who are involved in production, processing and distribution activities. Food is any substance normally eaten or drunk by living things. The term food also includes liquid drinks. Food is the main source of energy and of nutrition for animals, including humans, and is usually of animal or plant origin. There are four basic food energy sources: fats, proteins, carbohydrates and water. Almost all foods are of plant or animal origin. However, water and salt (both inorganic substances) are important parts of the human diet. Salt is often eaten as a flavoring agent or used as a

preservative. Other foods not from animal or plant sources include various edible fungi, such as mushrooms. Fungi or ambient bacteria are used in the preparation of fermented and pickled foods such as leavened bread, alcoholic drinks, cheese, pickles and yogurt etc. Many cultures eat seaweed. Additionally baking soda, food colors and other inorganic substances, are used for food preparation. While some foods can be eaten raw, many foods undergo some form of preparation for reasons of safety, palatability and flavor.

The kind of food people eat in a particular area depends upon various factors such as culture, religion, environment and etc. Although humans are omnivores, many cultures hold some food preferences and some food taboos. For example only kosher foods are permitted by Judaism and halal foods by Islam. In addition, the dietary choices of different countries or regions have different characteristics. With as many as 20 agro-climatic zones and various soil types, a wide spectrum of food-types is produced in India like - fruits& vegetables, fisheries, meat & poultry, milk & dairy, grains& cereals, beverages and consumer foods in India. However, the types of food people eat vary from zone to zone. Prominently, whatever food that is commonly available in a particular zone becomes the staple food of the people living in that zone. For example, fish is the staple food for communities living on the coast. In states like Andhra Pradesh and TamilNadu, rice is a staple food as it is commonly grown there. Similarly, in some parts of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat jowar and minor millets are the staple food. This variation is also seen in the usage of oils, seeds, spices and etc. However, there are certain exceptions like Punjab, where wheat is the staple food though paddy is the major crop that is cultivated. India with a population of 1.08 billion (growing at about 1.7 % per annum) provides a large and growing market for food products. Food products are the single largest component of private consumption expenditure, accounting for as much as 49% of the total spending.

The India Food Report (IFR) 2008 prepared by Research and Markets (R&M) says that the Indian food industry was estimated at over \$182 billion, accounting for about two-thirds of the country's total retail sector. According to the Ministry of Food Processing (MFP), India produces 90 million tonnes of milk and 485 million livestock annually, the highest in the world, besides being the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables (150 million

tonnes) and third largest producer of food grain (204 million tonnes) and fish (6.3 million tonnes). Millions of people are engaged in these production activities across the country. Transporting the produced food to the processors/ wholesalers/ retailers/ consumers is another important activity, which is providing employment to many people across the country which includes drivers', hamalis etc. This is one of key activities in the food supply chain, which can influence the food prices, as we have seen the increase in food prices whenever the transport workers are on strike.

Some Glaring Contrasts....

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is the world's largest producer of milk. • It has the largest number of livestock in the world. • It is the world's second largest producer of fruits and vegetables. • It is the third largest producer of food grains. • It has the third largest output of fish. • It the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices. • In the beginning of this year, the total food grain stock in the central government's pool stood at 354 lakh tonnes which is way above the buffer stock requirement of 200 lakh tonnes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 300 million people in India go without two square meals a day. • As per the Global Hunger Index 2008, India ranks 66th in a list of 88 countries. • India is home to more than 230 million undernourished people– highest for any country in the world. • 43 percent of children in India are underweight. • 30 percent of babies in India are born underweight. • Malnutrition accounts for nearly 50 percent of child deaths in India. |
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There are about 12 million outlets selling food, both raw food and processed food and related items in the country including head load vendors, push cart vendors, wholesale mandis and neighborhood kirana stores etc. and millions of people are employed in this sector. Apart from food production, about 1.6 million people are employed in food processing industry in India and this number is expected to rise up to 9 million in the coming 10 years. In spite of the fact that, India is one of the largest producer of food in the world, the country is still home to the highest number of hungry people in the world and placed on 66th position out of 88 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2008. This is a sad contrast indeed! The problem of food security is not new to India. The world's worst recorded food disaster occurred in India in early 40's. Millions of people died of hunger and the reason was attributed to the acute shortfall in food production. The Green Revolution, spreading over the period from 1967-68 to 1977- 78, changed India's status from a food-deficient country to one of the world's leading agricultural nation. There were three basic elements in the method of Green Revolution - continuing expansion of farming areas, double-cropping in the existing farm land and using seeds with improved genetics. As a result of Green revolution, food production has increased tremendously in the country and there emerged a greater need for proper storage and distribution of food grains.

India's Public Distribution System (PDS) was introduced during the Second World War to address food security concerns in the face of scarcity, with the intention of maintaining price stability and countering dishonest practices in private trade. The scheme was initially heavily dependent on imported food. The Green Revolution, coupled with favourable weather, led to the growth of comfortable buffer stocks in the 1980s, through the procurement operation of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which in turn expanded the volume of food grain provided through the PDS. However PDS is not able to completely fulfill the desired objective of achieving food security, due to various reasons such as mismanagement, leading to a massive increase in operational cost and market distortion, widespread corruption, illegal sales, creation of false cards and the use of facilities by better-off households etc. Further the PDS, focused mainly on the distribution of rice and wheat. In some states like Andhra Pradesh these grains were highly subsidized and were given at Rs 2 per kilo in 80's which completely changed the food habits of people. As rice is available at lower prices people started eating rice and stopped cultivation of native and nutrition-rich varieties of food crops like jowar, ragi and other millets. Even within rice and wheat lot of hybrid varieties have displaced the local varieties. Another trend seen is the rapid shift to cultivation of commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton, chilly, tobacco and etc., which is posing a silent threat to food security in the country. Shift from consumption-orientation to market orientation and from intercropping to mono-cropping are adding fuel to the food insecurity fire. Though India attained self-sufficiency in food production, particularly in rice and wheat, several sub-sectors like oil seeds, pulses, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and poultry lag far behind world productivity levels.

Income and Expenditure analysis of two poor families which reveals the expenditure of poor people on food are presented below. It is observed from these two analysis that poor people are spending more than 60% of their income on food. These analysis has been done in the year 2007-08. At the present skyrocketing food prices, any one can assume the situation of these kind of families across India.

Number of family members: 6 (2 Adults and 4 Children)
Block: Ipuru

Name of village: Dushmanpet Tanda
State: Andhra Pradesh

District: Guntur

Source of Income	Amount (per annum)	Expenditure on food	Amount (per annum)
1) Working in Slate stone quarry (Rs 80*20days/month*10months)	16000	1) Rice from PDS (20kgs/month*Rs2*12 months)	480
2) Lease amount on own land (3 acres* Rs 6000)	18000	2) Rice from local store (20 kgs/month* Rs 20*12months)	4800
		3) Vegetables (Rs 400/month*12 months)	4800
		4) Meat (Rs 200* 3times/month*12 months)	7200
		5) Milk (Rs 150/month* 12 months)	1800
		6) Pulses (4 kg/month* Rs 40/kg* 12 months)	1920
		7) Oil, tamarind and other food ingredients (Rs 400/month* 12 months)	4800
Total Income	34000		25800
Percentage of food expenditure in the total income: 75%			

Number of family members: 3 (2 adults and 1 child)

Name of the sub-urban village: Jawaharnagar

Block: Shamirpet

District: Rangareddy

State: Andhra Pradesh

Source of Income	Amount (per annum)	Expenditure on food	Amount (per annum)
1) Construction labour (Rs 130/day *200days/annum)	26000	1) Rice from PDS (16kgs/month*Rs2*12 months)	384
		2) Rice from local store (44kgs/month* Rs 20*12months)	10560
		3) Vegetables (Rs 300/month*12 months)	3600
		4) Meat (Rs 100/month*12 months)	1200
		5) Milk (Rs 150/month* 12 months)	1800
		6) Pulses (2 kg/month* Rs 40/kg* 12 months)	960
		7) Oil, tamarind and other food ingredients (Rs 250/month* 12 months)	3000
Total Income	26000		21504
Percentage of food expenditure in the total income: 82%			

The skewed land distribution patterns, increase in the cost of inputs, decrease in productivity of farm land, and increase in labour costs are forcing the small and marginal farmers to move away from agriculture. Further most of these farmers are caught in tied-up sales with the input suppliers/traders and therefore not realizing fair prices for their produce. Also the immediate cash requirements are forcing the farmers to engage in distress sale rather than holding on to their produce for lean periods to realize better prices. Though credit channels have doubled up in the recent past this development is not evenly spread across India and many farmers are still languishing outside the organized credit system and dependent on informal sources at high rates of interest. For instance one can see credit channels including banks, SHGs, microfinance etc., proliferating in states like AP but it is still long way to go for states like UP and Bihar. The situation is dire for other small food producers like fishermen, milk meat producers and etc.

The most important problem that Indian food sector is facing is the highly inefficient supply chain. Inadequate post-harvest facilities including lack of cold storage infrastructure, lack of processing facilities and inadequate transport infrastructure contributes to about 20% of all foods produced wasted in the country. Much of the farm and horticulture produce goes waste or farmers are compelled to dispose them off in distress sales as there is no adequate infrastructure to process and preserve the produce and especially increase its shelf life till it reaches

the retail stores. While most countries are processing 70-80% of the food they produce, India is processing just 10% of foods. The wastage level of fruits and vegetables in India currently stands at a whopping 35 percent.

Indian food industry, though one of the largest producers, continues to suffer from poor land productivity, increased cost of inputs, lack of credit facilities, shrinking food crops, poor infrastructure, storage facilities, and post harvest technologies. Most of the value addition happens beyond the villages benefiting the rich service providers/middlemen. These problems are pushing the food producers into dire situation. On the other side, the consumers of food are suffering with skyrocketing food prices and particularly the poor consumers are forced to take less quantities of food, less nutritious food which is adding to the number of undernourished people in the country. Poor people are trying to cope with this situation by decreasing their expenditure on other important items like education, cloths, housing etc. which is reducing their quality of life. Women are the worst sufferers as food security deteriorates. They may have to spend long hours working outside the home to raise extra money to buy food. They face the pressure of managing the distribution of food within the family and are most likely to go without food themselves so that their children get enough. Food security situation of the elderly poor and destitute elderly is worsening.

Apart from PDS government has taken up programs like ICDS, mid-day meals in schools to ensure access to nutritious food for the people. But the per capita money, available under these schemes is less and shrinking further. In addition there are many gaps in their implementation. Time has come to review agricultural productivity. Natural Resource Management (NRM) including soil and water is critical. Integrated efforts are needed to take up NPM/organic cultivation, watersheds, and plantations on a scale. Kitchen gardens need a push. Quality and timely agricultural extension services delivered by experts and professionals are critical. Post-harvest losses needs to be slashed. Investment in post-harvest Infrastructure and technologies needs a serious boost. Non-farm employment needs acceleration to enhance income levels. In a way we need to analyze our farming systems and diagnose constraints and identify opportunities and strategic priorities for agro and rural development. Agriculture production and its relationship to resources, technologies, markets, services, policies and institutions in their local cultural context should be carefully assessed and effective policies should be followed for increasing food production and productivity. Crop rotation and crop diversification, management of natural resources, market and price stability of food grains are all important in ensuring food and nutritional security in India.

The food supply chain in India is complex, with perishable goods and numerous small stake holders. In India, the infrastructure connecting these partners is very weak. Each stake holder: farmers, wholesalers, food manufacturers, retailers all work in silos. Also, demand forecasting is totally absent and the farmers try to push what they produce in to the market. Building an efficient and effective supply chain using state of the art techniques will facilitate the possibility to serve the population with value added food while simultaneously ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers. The surplus of cereals, fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, meat and poultry can be processed as value added food products and marketed aggressively both locally and internationally. Investments in cold chain infrastructure, applied research in post harvest technologies, installation of food processing plants at various centers and development of food retailing sector are mandatory for achieving gains in this sector. Data integration, financial flow management, supply-demand match, collaborative forecasting, information sharing, goods movement synchronization through efficient transport scheduling, are very well practiced in high technology industries with immense benefits. These best practices should find their way in to the food supply chains. In addition facilities should be created for doing local value addition as far as possible which will benefit the small and marginal farmers. Facilities for storage and other infrastructure like transport facilities should be created so that the small farmers realize better margins.

The food distribution mechanism also needs to be improved. Though India has lot of buffer stock in warehouses, it is not being distributed properly to the poor and needy. The PDS and TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution Systems) programs need to be reviewed to make them false proof. Establishing the depots closer to the villages, close monitoring of distribution, distributing local varieties of food like jowar, ragi etc through PDS which are less costly and helps in increasing the nutrition levels, increasing the quota of food grains to each household, eliminating the false cards and controlling the illegal sales are the major steps that need to be taken to improve the efficiency of the system. More transparency and accountability needs to be brought into the system.

It is evident from many studies, that poor people spend more than 60 percent of their income on food. Because of this, they are not able to spend on other important items like proper shelter, education and health etc. which is further worsening their situation. This concern needs to be addressed through PDS and TPDS programs and also by controlling the food prices. Food security not only depends on food availability, but also on the accessibility. Hence quality food should be made accessible to all people by bringing down the prices. Controlling prices does not mean paying less remuneration to the food producer. In fact, in the chain of food from producer to consumer, neither the producer nor the consumer is benefiting from the trade. It is only the long chain of supply, eating away

all the benefits of trade. This chain needs to be trimmed, so that the producer realizes a fair share of the consumer rupee spent and the consumer does not spend more than the fair price.

Food producer's needs to be collectivized to achieve economies of scale and these collectives should be engaged in the activities of collective purchase of required inputs, providing timely credit to small producers, value addition, marketing and etc. One can think of single product and multi product collectives. On the other end, consumer collectives can come up to take up the activities of purchasing directly from the producers as much as possible. Interventions like ITC e-choupal can be replicated.

India with diversified agro-climatic zones provides a lot of scope to lead the world in the production and supply of a diversified food basket. Sustainable agricultural practices, consolidation of all backward and forward linkages with respect to food producers, expanding the scope of food processing sector, enhancing income levels through both farm and non-farm employment and formulating and implementing policies supporting various aspects of food including production, transport, storage and preservation, marketing, distribution, processing, skill-building, professional assistance etc will go a long way in creating new employment opportunities and in combating the threats of food insecurity thereby increasing the real incomes of the people. Climate change will hijack food security. We cannot give a deaf ear to this threat any longer. The time has arrived to make all out efforts to consolidate and enhance our food production and distribution systems. All our statistics with respect to the number of hungry, number of malnourished and undernourished, farmers suicides are a national shame. With 300 + million going hungry every day, India as a nation is set to grossly miss the MDGs and beyond. Can we afford this socially, culturally, politically, economically and above all humanly?

***Livelihoods November-2009**

42. Primary Healthcare

Health is an important dimension of well-being. Health is instrumental in generating higher incomes as it increases people's productivity. Therefore preserving good health of people and quickly recovering in the case of ill-health are development goals and measures of successful development. However health wise the picture of India is miserable. There is a huge gap in the provision of primary health care services to the people, especially to the poor.



Health is an important dimension of well-being. As the saying goes "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost everything is lost". A healthy individual can live and enjoy a fruitful life. A healthy individual has a higher capacity to work and thus contribute to the growth of society and the nation. In India, where many people earn their livelihood using physical power, being healthy is often a question of survival. Health is also instrumental in generating higher incomes as it increases people's productivity. Therefore, preserving good health of people and quickly recovering in case ill-health are development goals and measures of successful development. Given its importance, good health is now recognized as a human right. On 12th of September, 1978, International Conference on Primary Health Care held in Alma-Ata, in erstwhile USSR, adopted the 'Declaration of Alma-Ata' which proclaimed a positive view of health as complete physical, mental and social well-being and a human right. The declaration envisaged primary health care as the first level of contact between individuals and families on one hand and their country's health system on the other.

According to this declaration, primary health care was to have its basis in the community it served; and notion of primary health care included maternal and child care including family planning, immunization against major infectious diseases, prevention and control of locally endemic diseases, appropriate treatment of common diseases and injuries, provision of essential drugs, education concerning prevailing health problems and ways to deal with them, provision of adequate food and nutrition and adequate supply of clean water. India is among the countries which ratified this declaration.

In India, protection to human right of good health is provided by the Public Primary Health Care System (PPHCS), which has been developed as a three tier system with Sub Centre, Primary Health Centre (PHC) and Community Health Centre (CHC). These are three pillars of Primary Health Care System. While Sub Centers are the most peripheral contact point between Primary Health Care System and community, PHC is the first contact point between village community and Medical Officer. Manpower in PHC includes a Medical Officer supported by paramedical and other staff. CHCs provide specialized medical care services like that of the Surgeons, Obstetricians, Gynecologists, Physicians and Pediatricians. When the right to good health is not provided for, as is in case of most people are living in poor developing countries, people are reduced to penury by illness. For such persons, illness is a permanent threat to their income earning capacity, and also leads to a spurt in expenditure that pushes them into extreme poverty, from which they can never recover. Besides, a direct costs for treatment and drugs, the household also loses income from both the person, who is ill and persons who supports such person. In India, over a quarter of people fall into poverty as a direct result of medical expenses or f hospitalization. Costs associated with medical treatment are the most important cause of rural indebtedness, next only to dowry.

- Over a quarter of all Indians falls into poverty as a direct result of medical expenses in the event of hospitalization.
- Cost associated with medical treatment is the most important cause of rural indebtedness, next only to dowry.
- Annually, 1.5 million deaths and loss of 73 million workdays are attributed to water-borne diseases.
- The total expenditure on health in India as a percentage of GDP is almost 5%, with 75% of it being private health expenditure.
- Of this, 97% is spent out-of pocket and that too in the absence of any significant contribution by health insurance.

The progress in India with respect to enforcing r the right to health is miserable. According to a recent UNICEF report, in our country, one woman dies every seven minutes due to child birth complications. One million children, born in India are dying every year before they become 28 days old. The infant mortality rate is 60 per 1000 live births. Maternal mortality rate in India is 254 per 100,000 live births and is one of the highest in the world. Malaria and Tuberculosis claim more than 500,000 lives every year. There are an estimated 4 million HIV positive cases in India and their numbers are expected to grow rapidly. India is one of the four countries worldwide, where polio has not yet been successfully eradicated and one third of the world's tuberculosis cases are in India. The

progress in India with respect to providing for right to health is miserable. Maternal mortality rate in India is 254 per 100,000 live births and is one of the highest in the world. Malaria and Tuberculosis claim more than 500,000 lives every year. There are an estimated 4 million HIV positive cases in India and their numbers are expected to grow rapidly. India is one of the four countries worldwide, where polio has not yet been successfully eradicated and one third of the world's tuberculosis cases are in India. Though, safe water and sanitation facilities are important for leading a healthy life, these are far away dreams for millions of Indians even today. About 80% of sickness in India relates to waterborne infections. Annually, 1.5 million deaths and loss of 73 million workdays are attributed to waterborne diseases. One in every four persons dying of waterborne infection is an Indian.

Even, though primary health care provided by the government is free, in India many households incur substantial expenditure on health from their own pockets, as the public primary health care facilities are not accessible to millions of households even now. With the shortage of staff, infrastructure and equipment in such PHCs, many people are forced to access health care facilities set up by private health care providers. With the poor falling through the cracks in PPHCS, they spend a very high proportion of their household income compared to rich towards treatment of illness. One occurrence of common illness like viral infections, jaundice, old age health conditions like cataract, or reproductive health requirements can plunge people into poverty. To pay for medical care, people often borrow at high interest rates. Sometimes they even sell their productive assets. This pushes them deeper into poverty, from which recovery is a gargantuan exercise. There are hardly any health insurance and risk coping mechanisms available for the poor in India. While a number of health insurance schemes are available to the organized sector, the masses in unorganized sector that do not have insurance coverage are driven into the arms of exploitative private sector.

HR gaps in Delivery of Primary Healthcare

At Sub center level

Shortfall in the posts of HW (Female)/ANM of the total requirement – 12.6%

Shortfall in the posts of HW (Male) of the total requirement – 55.4%

Shortfall in case of Health Assistant (F) – 32.8%

Shortfall in case of Health Assistant (M) –28.8%

Sub centers without a female health worker/ ANM –5%

Sub centers without a male health worker –28.8%

Sub centers without both female and male health worker – 4.7%

At PHC level

Shortfall of doctors at PHC level – 7.8%

PHCs without a doctor – 5.6%

PHCs without lab technician – 40%

PHCs without a pharmacist – 17%

At CHC level

Shortfall of surgeons of the total requirement – 59.2%

Shortfall of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – 46.4%

Shortfall of Physicians – 56.6%

Shortfall of Pediatricians – 51.9%

Shortfall of other specialists – 64.8%

This situation of high spending on health by the poor is not limited to one particular state or region. Across the country and across the communities - rural, urban and tribal – the picture remains the same. In rural areas, poor people work in most hazardous conditions and live in abysmal living conditions. Unsafe and unhygienic birth practices, unsafe drinking water, poor nutrition, sub-human habitats, and degraded and unsanitary environments are challenges to the public health system. The majority of rural deaths, which are preventable, are due to infections and communicable, parasitic and respiratory diseases. Infectious diseases dominate the morbidity pattern in rural areas (40% rural: 23.5% urban). Health situation of urban poor is not very different. The urban poor mostly comprising of migrant population live in unhealthy conditions. Most of them live in slums with no sanitation facility, access to safe drinking water and clean environment. They are more prone to diseases, as they are already under stress trying to cope with new surroundings, food habits, work culture, and totally a new way of life. They are worst affected with no access to public health facilities. Two basic points have to be proved to access public health facility, the first is that they belong to /residents of that ward/ area and the second that they are eligible to be enrolled under BPL list. As both these are not easy for the slum dwellers to prove they are unable to access public health facilities even though

they need it the most.

Another issue with PPHCS in India is that it is concentrated only to curative health care and in one system of medicine, ignoring completely the practices adopted by the people. Poor people of India in general, and rural and tribal populations in particular, have their own beliefs and practices regarding health. There has been no effort to validate the efficacy of these practices and encourage/ conserve the good practices among them. As is well known, some tribal groups still believe that a disease is always caused by hostile spirits or by the breach of some taboo, and therefore seek remedies through magico-religious practices. Similarly, some rural people have continued to follow rich, undocumented, traditional medicine systems, in addition to recognized cultural systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Naturopathy, to maintain positive health and to prevent disease. Further, naturally existing healthy environment has been endangered by the socioeconomic, cultural and political onslaughts, arising partly from erratic exploitation of human and material resources.

To compound the woes of PPHCS, Government spending towards public health is not adequate and is showing a declining trend. The current public spending on health in India is less than one percent of GDP, which is 18th lowest in the world. The total expenditure on health in India as a percentage of GDP is almost 5%, with 75% of it being private health expenditure. Of this, 97% is spent out-of-pockets and that too in the absence of any significant contribution by health insurance. In comparison, the most developed countries, public sector accounts for the major share of health expenditure. For example, in UK more than 85 percent of total health expenditure is borne by public sector. The United States is the only developed country where the share of private sector is more than the public sector. Even in the USA the public sector accounts for about 45% of the total health expenditure, and the balance is mainly borne by the insurance sector. Among developing countries, India is one among the few, where private sector dominates the health sector. The National Health Policy 2002 proposes to raise public expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP from the present 0.9 percent to 2.0 percent by 2010. This is still very low given the burden of disease in India in present and in the future, even with current conservative estimates of HIV/AIDS infected people in India. In case of medical research, a similar trend is observed. While 20% of research grants are allocated to studies on cancer, which is responsible for 1% of deaths, less than 1% is provided for research on respiratory diseases, which accounts for 20% of deaths. Short fall in government expenditure has severely affected infrastructure and health services. Though there is considerable progress in the number of Sub centers, PHCs and CHCs, they are suffering with huge manpower deficit.

Another factor affecting health expenditure of people is the spread of PHCs. Though, India is predominantly rural, majority of health centers are located in urban areas. There are only 585 rural hospitals compared to 985 urban hospitals in the country. The availability of primary health care facilities in tribal and backward areas of the country is minimal or absent. Even though there are sub centers and PHCs in these areas, they are suffering with a critical problem of staff shortage as medical personnel do not want to work in remote rural and tribal areas. Apart from these issues, many PHCs suffer from lack of even basic infrastructure, drugs and vaccines. It is sad to see many rural PHCs not having antirabies vaccines and medicine for snake bite, whereas these incidents are very common in rural areas. More over quality control mechanisms are absent in India's health system. Private sector is largely unregulated and even in the public sphere there is little public enforcement to ensure appropriate standards. The Medical Council of India (MCI), the main body overseeing standards of care, has no process in place, whereby the competence of doctors is assessed with respect to current standards of care when they renew their registration. In a 2005 study, World Bank reports that "a detailed survey of the knowledge of medical practitioners for treating five common conditions in Delhi found that the typical quality doctor in a public primary health centre has more than 50-50 chance of recommending a harmful treatment". The competence rating of India's public health care system doctors is below Tanzania's. To worsen the situation, unannounced visits by government inspectors showed that 40% of public sector medical workers could not be found at the workplace.

What is more pinching the pockets of the poor, in addition to the above gaps in PPHCS, is the quality of the services offered in the system. Due to bad quality, many people, though they cannot afford it, are opting for private health care providers. According to National Family Health Survey II (NFHS), only a third of low income households reported using a government health facility. According to a World Bank study, 79 percent of all outpatient care among the poor is provided by the private sector. Clearly, it is the poor quality of care provided by the public health system which pushes people towards making greater use of costlier health care facilities provided by the private sector. The present system of health care also lacks scope for involvement of the community, and for grassroots level health workers to take ownership of the programs and integrate them with overall development. As a result, the basic requirements of decentralized people based, integrated, curative, preventive and promotive services have been totally undermined by the 'vertical programs'. As health contributes much to the country's economic growth by increasing productivity of the people, government should take measures to ensure qualitative, preventive as well as curative health care services to each and every citizen free of cost. First and foremost, the governments have to win over the trust of poor people that it can efficiently and effectively provide quality health care services. Improvements to PPHCS are more critical as the burden on PPHCS in future is likely to increase with the aging population, mental illness and non-communicable diseases adding to cause of concerns. Ineffective access to health care services is a serious threat to country's economic growth. To continue the high growth achieved in recent years, India needs to scale up, reorient and reform its public health system, especially in the provision of primary health care services with particular focus on women's and children's health.

Livelihoods around Health

- ASHA Workers
- Anganwadi workers
- Female Health workers
- Male health workers
- Bedside patient assistants
- Geriatric care specialists
- Nurses, ANMs etc
- Allopathic doctor
- Naturopathy doctors
- Homeopathy doctors
- Hakims
- Siddha doctors
- Gyms
- Physiotherapy centres
- Masseurs
- Aroma therapy centres
- Yoga centres
- Health food- Traditional cuisine
- Herbal gardens
- Cultivation of medicinal plants
- Collection of NTFP
- Micro enterprises

National Rural Health Mission

Health care was one of the seven thrust areas of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government, wherein it was proposed to increase the expenditure in health sector from current 0.9 % of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years, with main focus on Primary Health Care. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been conceptualized and the same is being operationalised from April, 2005 throughout the country, with special focus on the following 18 states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It also aims at bridging the gap in Rural Health Care through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. The NRHM further aims to provide overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Malaria, Blindness, Iodine Deficiency, Filariasis, Kala Azar T.B., Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance. Further, it addresses the issue of health in the context of sector-wise approach addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health in order to have greater convergence among the related social sector Departments, i.e. AYUSH, Women & Child Development, Sanitation, Elementary Education, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development.

Several interventions related to PPHCS are required to promote and sustain secure livelihoods of the poor. As the bulk of the Indian population lives in rural areas, provision of essential health services through sub-centers and PHCs is crucial for any access to health care services for most people. Number of these centers should be increased and required staff should be positioned at each centre. Since, many NGOs already work closely with the poor Government may opt to support them to deliver health services to poor and vulnerable segments of society. Facilities available in the rural areas need to be improved. Most of the medical personnel do not want to work in rural areas, because of lack of even basic facilities like drinking water, electricity, good education for their children, etc., in these areas. Abdul Kalam's PURA provides an answer to this problem. The government cannot push people to work in harsh conditions without providing proper facilities. Hence, governments should invest in improving facilities in rural areas if they have a serious concern towards people's health and economic growth. Education plays an important role in improving health conditions of a community. There is lack of knowledge about one's own body, about common vector borne, and water borne diseases, and also about preventive and curative measures. Due to lack of validation of traditional methods, people are increasingly depending on Allopathic and other doctors. Persons in higher income group do not have faith in traditional practices, and do not use the same. As a result of this traditional practices are not getting validated, and even when validated not receiving adequate publicity. In their quest to modernize, other groups also imitate westernized higher income group. Education helps reduce health inequalities, because it enables people to obtain safer, better jobs, have better health literacy, take preventive health care measures, avoid riskier health behaviours and demand more and better quality health services. Hence, investing in education is a must, if we want to create healthier India. NGO's have played a significant role by demonstrating models of providing both preventive and curative health programs. They have mobilized community resources in innovative ways to improve the health of the poor. These approaches have included intensive training of community based health workers, the involvement of traditional healers, and local delivery of services. Some of these projects have achieved dramatic results by reorganizing existing health resources to better meet the needs of poor clients. These initiatives need to be scaled up across the country. They need to continue playing this role as well as pressurize government to adapt a viable model to ensure good health for its population.

Health insurance is emerging to be an important financing tool in meeting health care needs of the poor. Neither market mediated nor government provided insurance is an appropriate way of reaching the poor. Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) is more suitable arrangement for providing insurance to the poor. Health insurance scheme for the poor should take care of not just the inpatient or hospital care but also of the outpatient care. It is often suggested that insurance be provided only for inpatient care and that outpatient care be left outside the ambit of insurance. The reasons given are: that people can, by and large, afford out-patient care because it is relatively inexpensive; it is the inpatient care that pushes them into poverty trap; that administratively it is difficult to include outpatient care; and, that out-patient care would lead to cost escalation. Ideally, both inpatient care and outpatient care be covered, and the decision of whether or not a patient needs hospitalization be professionally made and should not be a function of whether or not the patient has health insurance cover. Most importantly it is necessary to resurrect, conserve and validate the traditional medical knowledge of communities and improve skills of traditional healers in rural remote areas, so that they can address immediate health needs of the people living in those areas. Therefore, if we are concerned about poverty reduction and economic growth, we have to invest substantially in people's health now. Thankfully, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is offering some hope. People are also increasingly becoming health conscious. At least, now governments, NGOs and CSOs should react and saturate availability of health infrastructure, and provide health insurance to each and every citizen of the country, apart from training community resource persons in health and related aspects. Further, we should invest our time, money and energy in reorienting and reforming our public health system.

***Livelihoods July-2009**

43. Social Security

Social security is an essential and a basic human right. It is increasingly becoming an integral part of the development process. Being a welfare state, India has been providing social security and social assistance to people, particularly to the poor people in the country. The Article 41, 42 and 47 of the Constitution says that the state should ensure the people to access various rights such as the right to work, right to education, right to health and right to access nutrition food and proper shelter.



Social security is an essential and a basic human right. It is increasingly becoming an integral part of the development process. Being a welfare state, India has been providing social security and social assistance to people, particularly to the poor people in the country. The Article 41, 42 and 47 of the Constitution says that the state should ensure the people to access various rights such as the right to work, right to education, right to health and right to access nutrition food and proper shelter. The Social security benefits in India are need-based i.e., the component of social assistance is more important in the publicly-managed schemes. In the Indian context, Social Security is a comprehensive approach designed to prevent deprivation, assure the individual of a basic minimum income for person and the person's dependents and to protect the individual from any uncertainties. The State bears the primary responsibility for developing an appropriate system for providing protection and assistance to its people.

Social Security helps to create a more positive attitude to the challenge of globalization and the consequent structural and technological changes.

Social Security protects not just the subscriber but also his / her entire family, by giving benefit packages in financial security, health care and other securities. Social Security schemes are designed to guarantee at least long term sustenance to families of poor people and also when the earning member become older, or dies or suffers a disability. The success of social security schemes however requires the active support and involvement of employees and employers. As a worker, you are a source of social security protection for yourself and your family. As an employer you are responsible for providing adequate social security coverage to all your workers. Mostly, social security is accessible to the rich people in the country. The securities such as food, health, education, finance, work and other securities are easily available to the rich. Poor people mostly work in the unorganized sector and are doing various individual enterprises for their livelihood. Generally, social security is available only to those who are employed in the organised sector (6% of India's workforce). The employees' state insurance scheme provides medical care and other benefits (in the case of workplace accidents temporary or permanent disability, incapacity, maternity leave, and support for dependants) to employees.

In India, out of total workforce of 45.9 crore, 94% is in the unorganized sector and remaining 6% is in the organized sector. However, the majority of workforce in the unorganized sector was devoid of any formal social security legislation. To address the social security needs of such workers, the Government enacted the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. Accordingly, over the years, both central and state governments have been taking initiatives for the welfare and social security of the workers in the unorganized sector. The Ministry of Labour & Employment is implementing welfare schemes for certain categories of unorganized sector workers like beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. Similarly, several insurance/poverty alleviation schemes are being implemented by various Ministries/Departments, as well as by states like Kerala and TamilNadu, which have constituted welfare funds for certain occupational groups. Some states have launched certain group insurance schemes for their workers. Yet, some states like West Bengal initiated State Assisted Provident Fund Schemes for the unorganized workers. However, coverage under various initiatives has been miniscule. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government has accorded high priority to the matter of ensuring the welfare and well being of workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector like agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, etc. In the rural areas, the unorganized sector mainly comprises of landless agricultural labourers, small and marginal farmers, share croppers, those engaged in animal husbandry, poultry and fishing activities, rural artisans, forest workers, toddy tappers etc. whereas in the urban areas it comprises

mainly of manual labourers engaged in construction, carpentry, trade transport, communication etc, and also includes street vendors, hawkers, head load workers, garments makers etc. Social Security in our country has evolved in conformity with the spirit of this lofty goal. However, it has remained confined primarily to the organized sector, which comprises not more than 7% of the workforce. Social security for the unorganized sector is justified primarily on grounds of equity and social justice. As pointed out by the first national commission on labour (which has also been confirmed by various studies), the unorganized Sector is characterized by irregular employment, unstable income, and prevalence of piece wage rates and absence of any legal protection with regard to income, employment, health and safety. Further, in view of the low skill levels of this workforce, there is almost no scope for them to move vertically in the occupational ladder to increase their financial situation.

Due to lack of labour law coverage, seasonal and temporary nature of occupations, high labour mobility, dispersed functioning of operations, casualization of labour, lack of organizational support, low bargaining power, etc. all of which make it vulnerable to socio-economic hardships. The nature of work in the unorganized sector varies between regions and also between the rural areas and the urban areas, which may include the remote rural areas as well as sometimes the most inhospitable urban concentrations. In the rural areas, it comprises of landless agricultural labourers, small and marginal farmers, share croppers, persons engaged in animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture, bee-keeping, toddy tapping, forest workers, rural artisans, etc. whereas in the urban areas, it comprises mainly of manual labourers in construction, carpentry, trade, transport, communication etc. and also includes street vendors, hawkers, head load workers, cobblers, tin smiths, garment makers, etc. The unorganized sector workers are those who have not been able to pursue their common interests due to constraints like casual nature of employment, invariable absence of definite employer-employee relationship, ignorance, illiteracy, etc. They are also generally low paid and a majority of them are devoid of any of the social security benefits like life and medical insurance, health care, maternity benefits, and old age pension etc. which are available to the workers in the organized sector under the employees state insurance act, 1948; employees provident funds and other miscellaneous provisions act, 1952 and the factories act, 1948 etc.

The unorganized sector workers can be categorised broadly into four categories i.e.

Occupation: Small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, share croppers, fishermen, those engaged in animal husbandry, in beedi rolling, beedi labelling and beedi packing workers in building and construction, etc.

Nature of Employment: attached agricultural labourers, bonded labourers, migrant workers, contract and casual labourers come under this category.

Especially distressed categories: Toddy tappers, scavengers, carries of head loads, drivers of animal driven vehicles, loaders and unloaders belong to this category

Service Category: Midwives, domestic workers, fishermen and women, barbers, vegetables and fruit vendors, news paper vendors etc. come under this category. An effective social security system is an important part of inclusiveness. With a growing economy and active labour market policies, it is an instrument for sustainable social and economic development. It facilitates structural and technological changes, which require an adaptable and mobile labour force. With globalization and structural adjustment policies, social security assumes a renewed urgency. The government enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 and implemented various social security schemes. The government has also constituted a National Social Security Board (NSSB) headed by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment under the Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The following initiatives are being taken by the MoLE in the matter of social security:

- Improving the delivery mechanism in the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Organization as well as the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.
- Reducing the threshold limits for coverage of the EPF Organization and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) schemes to extend the application of the schemes to establishments employing ten persons or more.
- Improving the returns on investment of the balances in the Provident Fund.
- Reforms of the Maternity Benefit Act.
- Implementation of the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008. In this regard, the following issues may need attention:
 - There is a need for forming a policy for social security with a focus on clearly defined objectives, techniques to be adopted for providing social security to the different target groups, and financing and administrative arrangements.
 - Wider coverage of beneficiaries under the EPF and ESI Acts.
 - Further extension of the social security net to the unorganized sector.

- Efficacious implementation of the provisions of the Construction Workers Act.

Social security will have to be ensured to the workers in the unorganized sector. Recently, on the recommendation of the NCEUS, the Ministry of Labour notified the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008. Measures such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, and the Old Age Pension Scheme have also been introduced.

Nature of Social Security: As the word social security conveys different meanings to different people in different contexts, it is necessary to define the components that comprise social security.

The essential components of social security that need consideration are as follows:

Protection of life comes on top of all priorities in all situations. Everyone is exposed to the risk of untimely death due to disease or accident. The exposure in unorganized sector is all the more because of sub-standard living and deficient care. Whereas, addressing these reasons like improving living standards is desirable on one hand, it is absolutely essential on the other to provide some sort of financial assistance for the family to carry on till the emergence of alternatives. Without a proper system of health care, the country cannot go long on the path of progress and development. At present, the health care system is outside the reach of unorganized workers and poor people. A start in this area has been made by way of the Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojna which provides cash-less health care to workers and poor people. The same can be made broader, covering people at the mass level with a matching increase in the network of medical facilities/hospitals so that the same is within the reach of people. All in all, there should be a comprehensive health cover scheme, where a common man can avail of medical facilities without involving any cash payment and he does not have to travel much for medical care.

Convergence of Social Security Schemes: While there is multiplicity of social welfare schemes run by different government units at central and state level, there is bound to be some amount of confusion at the level of beneficiaries as to what exactly they are entitled to. This involves the problem of duplication of efforts, record keeping and there is also a possibility of double or multiple benefits reaching the same person under different schemes by way of manipulation. All the state and central schemes of aforementioned nature should be converged in to one single scheme or fewer schemes, keeping in mind the regulatory restrictions, where under life cover and pension benefits can be provided by life insurance companies, health care can be provided by non-life insurance companies. But the central idea should be convergence of all schemes, reducing to one single interface between beneficiaries on one side and the service providers on the other side. This solution should duly leverage the advancements in technological sphere so as to save on cost.

Women Labour: The participation of women in the labour market in India has been growing steadily in recent years. In fact, their increasing participation is seen as a key factor in development policies, plans, and programmes aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. Many women work as home-based workers in beedi, garments, zari, agarbatti making, kite making, food processing, and leaf plate making. In most of these cases, the employer–employee relationship is masked, which in some cases tends to dilute women's access to protection in terms of wages or working conditions. The Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act makes some existing welfare schemes applicable to unorganized workers with schemes such as the Janani Suraksha Yojana specifically covering women. But most of these schemes are only limited to the BPL category, thus excluding a vast majority of the unorganized workers, including working women. The possibility of removing the BPL criterion to ensure wider coverage of unorganized sector workers needs to be explored.

The Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security 2007: The unorganized Sector workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 was passed in October, 2008. This bill aims for the social security and welfare of the unorganized sector workers.

Salient Features of the bill: The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 provides for an enabling framework for welfare schemes targeting unorganised sector workers. The central government may formulate welfare schemes for different sections of unorganised sector workers regarding life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection, and any other benefit decided by the government. The state government may formulate welfare schemes related to the provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation of workers, funeral assistance, and old age homes. This Bill establishes boards at the central and state levels to advise and help in formulating, implementing and monitoring social welfare schemes for unorganised sector workers. Every unorganised sector worker shall be registered by the district administration and issued a portable smart card carrying a unique identification number.

Social Security schemes: National and State governments provide health, education, livelihood, food and nutrition, house, economical etc., security for poor people by various schemes in India. People get benefits and social assistance for a quality life in rural and urban areas of India.

1. National Pension Scheme (NPS): The Government has been implementing National Pension scheme for poor people for their security. Government is giving pension for old age people, disabled people and widows. But

all eligible people do not get pension in India. The pension amount is also not equal in all the states. People are getting security by this pension.

2. Food Security Scheme: To provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people, to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith. In India, people get food grains at a low cost by the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Anganwadi centres. People get rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene and groceries in every month. Lots of poor families get food security. The Mid Day Meal Scheme gives a boost to universalization of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention, and attendance and simultaneously impacting upon nutritional status of students in primary classes.

3. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS): ICDS' main aim is to provide nutrition support and pre-education to the children below six years of age, who are suffering with malnutrition and health problems and also working for the wellbeing of pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls. It has been in implementation for the last four decades.

4. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM): The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective, and reliable primary health care, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The programme sets standards for rural health care and provides financial resources from the Union Government to meet these standards. In India, a one-time cash incentive to pregnant women for institutional/home births through skilled assistance is being given under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) scheme.

5. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): the Government has enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

6. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY): The Government is implementing the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) with the objective to provide dwelling units, free of cost, to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), freed bonded labourers and also the non-SC/ST BPL families in rural areas.

7. Education Security: This programme was started with the objective of providing elementary education for all children in the age group of 6–14 years.

Educational facilities (residential schools) for girls belonging to SC,ST,OBC, minority communities and families below the poverty-line in Educationally backward blocks under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhalaya.

8. Bharat Nirman: The objective of the Bharat Nirman Programme is to give top priority to rural infrastructure by setting time-bound goals under various schemes to develop rural housing, rural roads, irrigation, rural drinking water and rural electrification etc.

National and State Governments also give security for farmers, weavers, fishermen community, potters, taddy toppers, dairy farmers for their security by different schemes. They get economical assistance to improve their livelihoods by loans and insurance by these schemes.

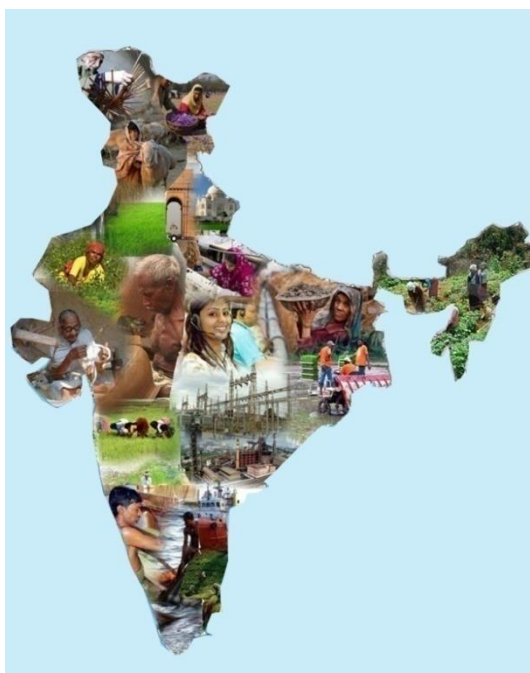
Social security creates a good impact for the unorganized sector in rural and urban areas of India. Government implements various national and state schemes to provide social security for poor people. The people get their right to health, education, food, livelihood etc., by government and also get dignity and quality life through health security, food security, economic standard, education security schemes. But all poor people are not getting social security. Government provides security for artisans, women, disabled people, farmers, vulnerable people, old people etc. But this security is not sufficient for people. People utilize state and central schemes like health schemes, food schemes, livelihoods schemes and etc. People get social security directly and indirectly by utilization of schemes. In India, Decreasing Mother Mortality rates, infant mortality rates are indirectly due to health schemes. Starvation also is decreasing by providing food security. Social security is the need for all people, particularly those who are in unorganized sector. Government provides social security for poor people by different schemes like health schemes, livelihoods schemes, public distribution system, pensions etc. People get benefits from these schemes for their development. The awareness of people on social security and people are facing a lot of problems from middle men to claim these benefits. Women in the unorganized sector require social security which addresses issues of leave, wages, work conditions, pension, housing, childcare, health benefits, maternity benefits, safety and occupational health, and a complaints committee for sexual harassment. This can only be ensured by extending labour protection to these sectors in a manner that pays special attention to the needs of women workers. Government has to provide more social security for vulnerable people like disabled people, old people, widows, SC and ST, tribal, artisans etc. Social security is in need for farmers, artisans etc., in their vulnerable situations.

In the implementation of social security, there are problems such as accessibility, availability, quality. Most of the poor people particularly are tribal people, who are most vulnerable are unable to access social security. There is sufficient monitoring mechanism to clear the problems in the implementation of social security. Corruption is one major issue in social security. The poor people are not getting the complete benefits from the social security. The on-going New Economic Policy (NEP) and Liberalization Privatization and Globalization (LPG) policies have been implementing in the country for the last two decades. These policies are influencing social security at large scale. Particularly the privatization of health and education is preventing the poor people to access health and education services from the government. Due to NEP, governments are decreasing social security budget which may hamper the welfare of the people. Government should design a proper monitoring system to provide social security to the poor people. It should develop a transparent system to prevent corruption in the implementation social security. It should ensure access to quality social security to the poor people. It should be the topmost agenda of the government.

*** Livelihoods December 2014**

44. India after Independence

Independent India has been going through tremendous changes from the past 67 years. In these years, the country's economy has increased from Rs. 2.7 lakh crore to Rs. 57 lakh crore and foreign exchange reserves increased from \$.2billion to \$300billion. The population has increased from 36.10 crore to 121.01 crore in 1951 to 2011. Almost all sectors witnessed changes at different levels. Erstwhile self-sufficient autonomous villages are now integrated with global economy. The welfare state has been facing gradual changes in its roles and responsibilities. These changes welcome many new livelihoods and also send-off a number of old livelihoods. These changes have influenced crores of poor people's lives and livelihoods, across the country.



Independent India has been going through tremendous changes from the past 67 years. In these years, the country's economy has increased from Rs. 2.7 lakh crore to Rs. 57 lakh crore and foreign exchange reserves increased from \$.2billion to \$.300billion. The population has increased from 36.10 crore to 121.01 crore in 1951 to 2011. Almost all sectors witnessed changes at different levels. Erstwhile self-sufficient autonomous villages are now integrated with global economy. The welfare state has been facing gradual changes in its roles and responsibilities. Now the state's responsibility has largely shifted from providing welfare to facilitating development, through the corporate partners. These changes welcome many new livelihoods and also send-off a number of old livelihoods. These changes have influenced crores of poor people's lives and livelihoods, across the country. India has 29 states (Including Telangana) & 7 UTs, 640 districts, 5924 sub-districts and 6.41 lakh villages. India is the largest economy with 10th place in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 3rd place in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in the world. It is one of the

members in G-20 major economies and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). In the country, agriculture sector is the largest employer which has been declining in terms of share in GDP (13.7 %) and providing employment. Largely, the industrial sector did not face tremendous changes as agriculture sector, though the small and medium industries have been facing serious challenges for the last three decades. The service sector is fastest growing sector which includes construction, telecommunication, information technologies, tourism, education, health care, travel, trade and banking etc. New Economic Policy (NEP), which includes Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG), is one of the major causes behind the changes in agriculture, industry and service sector. It is the key factor in Indian economy. We can divide the country's economy into two parts such as pre- liberalization and post-liberalization.

In 1947, after independence, the rulers designed an economic policy, which facilitated to strengthen the Indian economy and fulfill some of the aspirations of the people. The policy aimed to protect local market from foreign capital, strengthen agriculture, service and industry sectors through government support and provide welfare to the people. In 1991, the National Economic Policy (NEP) facilitated some important measures such as removing protection procedures to local market, privatizing the public sector industries, reducing subsidies, removing protection procedures to agriculture, handloom, artisan works etc. Overall, in the last 67 years, the old and new economic policies and various initiatives by the governments, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) brought many changes in all sectors. Agriculture is the main livelihood

option to the people in rural areas. It includes crops, horticulture, milk and animal husbandry, aquaculture, fishing, sericulture, aviculture, forestry activities etc. India is the second largest country in the world with 159.7 million hectares (394 million acres) arable land area. It also has the largest gross irrigated crop area with 82.6 million hectares. About 64% of the cultivated land depends on monsoons in the country. Agriculture sector is providing livelihoods to above 60% of the people in rural areas. But it has been gradually declining as a GDP contributor and livelihoods provider for the last six decades. In 1950-51 this sector contributed 51.9% in GDP and in 2012-13 it declined to 13.7%. In 1965, the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds, increased fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation facilities enhanced the productivity of crops. The productivity of food grains increased from 872 kg to 2059 kg per hectare in 1971 to 2012. The yearly production of food grains increased from 50.82 million tonnes to 259.29 million tonnes in 1950 to 2013. There are major changes which happened in the cropping system. Farmers have shifted from cultivating crops for self-consumption to instead selling produce in the market. Expenditure has increased in a big way because of inorganic fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid seeds, irrigation, labor wages and transport charges. Every day, above 2000 farmers have been committing suicide since 1991, due to agriculture crisis.

Handloom and other artisan works such as carpentry, tailoring, goldsmith, blacksmith, shoemaking, cloths washing etc. are the largest employment providing livelihood source after agriculture in the country. The artisan works are gradually declining because of competition with industrial products, increasing input cost and changes in consumers' preferences. The agriculture crisis has also influenced a number of artisan works, which directly or indirectly depended on agriculture. India has the largest livestock population in the world. It is one of the important livelihood sources to the landless, marginal and small farmers and women in rural areas. Livestock include cattle, buffaloes, mules, donkeys, yak, mithun, sheep, goats, chicken, pigs and camel. According to the 2003 livestock population census, there are about 480 million livestock and 489 million poultry in the country. Meat and milk consumption has been increasing for decades. The livestock population increased from 292 million to 529 million in 1951 to 2007, excluding poultry population. Poultry population has increased from 73 million to 649 million in these years and bovines category buffalo population increased from 43 million to 105 million. Fish production (Both marine and inland) increased from 7, 50,000 tonnes to 90.40,000 tonnes in 1951 to 2013. Milk production has increased from 17 million tonnes to 108.5 million tonnes in 1951 to 2009. In rural areas, non-farm sector livelihoods such as construction, transport, private jobs, tailoring, retail shops, wage labor in non-farm sector, mechanic shops, furniture making, and service centers have been steadily growing. In the total rural employment, the non-farm sector employment has increased from 18% to 24% in 1983 to 2000. At present, it is contributing nearly 40% of the total income to rural economy. The industrial sector contributes 26% in GDP and provides employment to 22% in total workforce in the country. It includes various manufacturing sectors in the country. There are some important manufacturing sectors such as petroleum products and chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineering, gems and jewelry, textile, mining etc.

About, 22.19 lakh enterprises (As on 31-03-2007) existed, which included Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). On an average per unit/enterprise is providing employment to 6 persons. This sector has witnessed tremendous changes after post-liberalization. In 1948, the first industrial policy resolution was announced to facilitate industrial development in the country. The Industrial (Department and Regulation) Act or IDR Act was enacted in 1951 for industrial development, through government support and licensing. The Industrial Policy Resolution-1956, focused on the development of heavy industries, protection of small, cottage industries which provide huge employment. The Industrial Policy Statement, 1971 was introduced to protect small and medium industries from corporate companies and foreign companies. In 1991, NEP was introduced by the government. It was one of the most crucial things in the economy of the country. Micro, small and medium industries protection measures and subsidies reduced and opened gates for corporate companies and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the market. This impacted at large scale across the country and lakhs of micro, small and medium industries closed because of increasing cost of production, competition with corporate companies, lack of demand, shortage of working capital and marketing problems. Petroleum products and chemicals play an important role in the modern economy of any country. India is the largest consumer of oil in the world and it depends highly on import, for oil consumption. According to the 2011-12 statistics, India imported Rs. 7, 26,386 worth of oil from foreign countries. Petroleum industry is mostly in the hands of public sector. After post-

liberalization, private industries like Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) entered into energy and power industry. India is in the 5th place in producing agrochemicals, polymers and plastics. The engineering industry is the fastest growing industry in the country. It is the 12th largest producer in the world. According to the 2013 statistics, India produces 29% of the tractors in the world. It is the 7th largest consumer of machine tools in the world. The total electricity supply increased from 1.7 thousand MW to 199.9 thousand MW in 1951 to 2012.

The textile industry contributes 4% to the GDP. This industry has developed in a big way after 2000, by utilizing the new economic policy which allows the industry capital into protected areas of local market and foreign markets. In 2008, the investment in the textile sector increased to 27 billion dollars. The mining industry in India is the 4th largest sector in producing minerals in the world. In 2010, 3000 mines operated and half the mines belonged to coal, limestone and iron ore. The service sector includes construction, retail, software, information technology, communication, infrastructure, hospitality, education, health care, banking, insurance etc. This sector has been increasing for the past 6 decades and presently, it is the largest contributor to GDP. This sector's share has increased in GDP from 15% to 57% in 1950 to 2013 and it provides employment to 27% of workforce in total workforce. Information Technology (IT) and business process outsource sectors are the fastest growing sectors in the service sector. Information Technology is one of the fastest growing sectors and its share in the GDP increased from 4.8% to 7% in 2005 to 2008. It became one of the top outsourcing sectors in the country, with half of the top most IT firms in the world based here. The availability of skilled workforce, low production cost and also demand from foreign consumers, facilitated the development of IT industry in the country. Transport is the one of the key components in service sector. The transport sector has been rapidly developing since 1991. Traditional travel modes such as bullock carts or horse carts, bicycles, hand-pulled rickshaws etc. have been gradually decreasing for the last six decades. Cycle rickshaw was introduced in 1940s and almost vanished in many cities in 2000. The first modern rapid railway transport, the Kolkata Metro started in 1984. At present, in almost all major cities the Metro railway system is functioning. Later, motorized two-wheel vehicles such as scooters, motorcycles and mopeds became a very popular mode of transport in the country. Scooter manufacture units started in 1949 in Bombay. On an average, 963 new private vehicles are registered in Delhi. Automobiles production increased from 6.3 million to 11 million in 2003 to 2009. Maruti 800, introduced on 1984, created a revolution in transport industry.

India has the second largest road network in the world, with 4.3 million km of road. This network carries 60% of goods and 87% of passengers in the country. State road transport corporations (SRTC) were introduced in 1960s. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (Prime Minister Rural Road Program) was introduced in 2000, to improve rural connectivity. Recently, India completed four lane and six lane highways, which are connected to manufacturing and commercial centers. The railway service was first introduced in 1853, in the country. Rajdhani trains were introduced in 1969, which connected the national capital Delhi to state capitals. Indian railways is the fourth largest network in the world with 1, 14,500 km and 7172 stations. It carries 23 million passengers per day and one billion tonnes per year. More than 1.4 million employees are working in railways. India has 7500 km of coastline, with 13 major ports and 60 operational ports. It carries 95% value of country's external trade. The Indian Parliament passed the Air Corporation Act, 1953 to nationalize the Indian airline industry. The International Airport Authority of India (IAAI) was established in 1983. The country has 125 airports and out of these 66 airports are carrying passengers and logistics. India is the second largest mobile phone user in the world. In the country, phone and internet users have been increasing rapidly in the last two decades. The telephone users increased from 80,000 to 929 million in 1948 to 2012. The country has the third largest internet users' base, with 243 million users in June 2014. About 74% of the people are having mobile connections. Internet has been growing for decades. First mobile and internet services in India started on 15th August, 1995.

The retail industry contributes nearly 20% of the country's GDP and India has the 5th largest retail industry in the world, with \$450 billion value market. It is one of the fastest growing industries in the country. It mostly consists of local owners and street vendors, operating with low cost expenses. The organized super markets are also growing from the last two decades.

Name	Year	Main Objectives
First plan	1951-56	Agriculture and industrial development

Second plan	1956-61	Public sector development
Third plan	1961-66	Agriculture and defence industry development
Fourth plan	1969-74	Banks nationalization and Green Revolution
Fifth plan	1974-79	Employment generation and poverty alleviation
Sixth plan	1980-85	Increase growth rate
Seventh plan	1985-90	Industrial productivity enhancement, employment generation and technology up-gradation
Eighth plan	1992-97	Controlling population growth, poverty reduction, employment generation and decentralization
Ninth plan	1997-2002	Achieve rapid growth and enhance quality life for the people
Tenth plan	2002-07	Achieve GDP growth rate, poverty reduction and social justice
Eleventh plan	2007-12	Poverty reduction, skill development, gender equity and environmental sustainability
Twelfth plan	2012-17	Achieve growth rate and poverty reduction

The international and domestic tourism industry contributes a recognizable share to the GDP in the country. Tourism attracted nearly 6.85 million foreign tourists and earned \$18.4 billion value foreign exchange. Every year, domestic tourism attracts 740 million Indian tourists in the country and 12 million Indian tourists go to international tours. According to 2011 estimation, tourism industry, both international and domestic combined, contributed 5.92% to the country's GDP and provided 9.3% of employment. The banking sector can be classified into two categories such as organized sector and un-organized sector. Organized sector comprises of private, public and foreign owned commercial and cooperative banks and un-organized sector comprises of individual or family owned banks, money lenders and non-banking financial companies. In 1969, the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi nationalized 14 banks and another 6 banks were nationalized in 1980 to fulfill social and development goals and provide net credit to sectors such as agriculture, small-scale industries, retail trade and small business etc. This sector has been tremendously increasing for decades. The branches of banks increased from 8260 to 70,455 in 1969 to 2012 and total bank deposits increased from Rs. 3896 crore to Rs. 46, 15,801 crore and credit given from Rs. 3036 crore to 35, 90,508 crore. After 1991, the banking sector has been privatizing and FDI has been introduced in the banking sector. Regional banks, which earlier provided service to the rural people at large scale, are now merged in national level or state level banks. The motive of profit, is replacing the motto of service in banking sector. Private Banks are emerging in the urban areas, where the monetary demand is more. The banking sector has journeyed from privatization to nationalization and nationalization to privatization in over 6 decades of independent India. The Five years plans played a vital role in the development of the country. The Planning Commission was formed by the government of India to design five year plans. The first five year plan was introduced in 1951 to promote primary sector development, particularly focusing on agriculture and industrial development. About, Rs. 2069 crore was allocated for the first five year plan. The second five year plan focused on the development of heavy industries, mostly under public sector. Once in every five years the plans were designed to achieve specific objectives. In 1978, the Janata Party rejected the fifth five year plan design and introduced a different kind of plan for 1978-80. In 1990, the eighth plan could not be designed because of political instability. So, annual plans were prepared for 1990-92. There are a total of 12 five year plans introduced in the last six decades.

At the time of independence, the Indian rupee was linked with the British pound and there was no foreign borrowing

to India. At the time of the first five year plan, government started borrowings and linked rupee to dollar at Rs. 4.79 per one dollar in 1948 and 1966. The rupee value has been decreasing from Rs. 4.79 per one dollar to Rs. 61.86 in 1951 to 2014. The health sector is one of the major components in the National Planning Committee (NPC), which was established in 1938 under Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1940, the national sub-committee recommended the formation of a health organization, which includes both preventive and curative functions. In

1946, the Bhore Committee gave first recommendations to the development of the health sector. The first and second five years plans focused on the basic structure of the health sector. In 1959, Mudaliar Committee was formed to give recommendations for the development of the health sector. The life expectancy was increased from 44 years to 58 years in 1960 to 1990. In 1983, India adopted the National Health Policy. The National Rural Health Mission was started in 2005, to provide health services to the people in rural areas. The PHCs have increased from 2800 to 24049 in 1961 to 2012. The Health Sub-centers have increased from 84,376 to 1, 48,366 in 1981 to 2012. According to the 2013 Economic Survey, India spends about 4.1% of its GDP, which is the lowest among the developing countries. In 1944, the British India government prepared a plan for educational reconstruction in India, with the aim of achieving 100% literacy rate in 40 years. The Constitution of India stated universal and compulsory education to all children, between the age group of 6 to 14 years. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in 2001, to provide education to all children in the country. The Parliament passed the Constitutional 86th Amendment Act, 2002 to make education as a fundamental right to children. The literacy rate has been increasing for the last six decades in the country. It has increased from 12% to 74.04% in 1947 to 2011, in the country. The National Literacy Mission, launched in 1988 to eradicate illiteracy in the country by facilitating literacy centers to the age group of 35 to 75 years. In the state of Kerala, literacy rate has increased from 47.18% to 93.91% in 1951 to 2011 and it is the highest literacy rate in the country. According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate is 82.14% in men and 65.46% in women.

Employment generation has been decreasing in the public sector for the last three decades. The number of Government employees has decreased from 199.66 lakhs to 175.48 lakhs in 1995 to 2011. This decrease is higher in central government jobs, which is 33.95 lakhs to 24.63 lakhs in 16 years. In this period, the number of male employees has decreased from 168.66 lakhs to 143.77 lakhs and at the same time the number of female employees has increased from 26 lakhs to 31.79 lakhs. In the private sector, employment generation has been increasing

from 80.59 lakhs to 144.22 lakhs in that same period. In this period, finance, insurance and real estate sectors have achieved more performance in providing employment from 2.93 lakhs to 17.18 lakhs. In the private sector, the number of both male (64.31 to 86.69 lakhs) and female (16.28 to 27.83 lakhs) employees has increased. The Panchayat Raj is a three-tier system, which belongs to the elected bodies at village, mandal/block and district level in the state. It ensures the participation of more people and the effective implementation of programs and schemes at the grassroots level. At present, there are 3 million elected members at the three levels and half of the elected members are women. The members represent 2.4 lakh Gram Panchayats, 6000 block/mandal level panchayats and 500 district level panchayats. The panchayats cover 5.8 lakh villages in the country. It is the largest decentralization governance in the world. The second five year plans focused on strengthening block/mandal and village level institutions. In 1957, the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommended community participation in planning, decision making and implementation for effective community development. The Planning Commission has appointed the GVKRV Rao Committee in 1985, to study PRI and provide vision for the overall rural development. In 1986, the L M Singhvi Committee recommended that Gram Sabha (Village Assembly) be the base for the decentralized system. The Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, was passed in 1991, to establish democratic structure at the grassroots level, recognizing GS as the base for PRIs, the three-tier system, electing bodies at three levels and reservations for weaker sections in political representation.

The media plays an important role in the democratic society, to empower people and to facilitate good governance. The Radio was established in 1927 in British India and in 1937 it was named as the All India Radio. In 1951, six radio stations were established in the major cities in the country. Since 1957, radio has been calling itself as Akkashvani. The first television program aired in 1959 and the complete broadcasting started in 1965. In 1966, the radio and television separated, with radio being called Vividha Bharathi and television being called Doodarshan. The television industry is a huge industry having thousands of programs in a number of languages. More than 50% of the families have televisions and there are 823 channels, running with various themes and at different levels. The television was first launched in 1959 in Delhi and its services extended to Bombay and Amritsar in 1972. It extended to another seven cities in 1975. The Colour television was introduced in 1982. According to the 2010 statistics, 134 million households have television sets in the country. The first Newspaper was published in 1780 in Calcutta. In 1952, the Press Commission made suggestions for the structure and

functioning of the media. In 1964, the Press Council was established. In 1982, the second Press Commission was appointed and delinked press from the other industries. Daily, more than 90 million copies of newspapers are circulating in the country. India has the second largest number of newspaper readers in the world. Presently, there are 70,000 periodicals and 5,364 daily newspapers, publishing in the country. The Indian Constitution is the world's largest Constitution with 395 Articles on 22 parts and eight schedules and 80,000 words. The Constitution was prepared under Dr. BR Ambedkar in two years 11 months and 18 days. It was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and came into effect from 26th January 1950. In the Constitution, Article 73 provides authority to the Prime Minister as the head of the Government of India, Articles 52 and 63 recognize the President of India and Vice-President of India. The 73rd and 74th Amendment Act introduced the Panchayat Raj system in rural areas and Municipality system in urban areas. Article 370 gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir. There are totally 118 Amendments in the Constitution in the last six decades. Government has been implementing number of programs to eradicate poverty in the country through different types of initiatives such as providing financial assistance for various self-employment programs, running public distribution system to give food security to the people, providing support to the existing livelihoods by providing subsidies etc.

Government initiating poverty eradication programs directly through forming community based organizations. Lakhs of Self Help Groups formed and facilitated poor and poorest women participation in savings, lending, individual and collective enterprises. This strategy giving two types results like one way it is empowering women and reducing poverty in rural and urban areas. India has to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) such as eradicate extreme poverty, universal primary education, gender equity, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/ AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, ensure environment sustainability and achieve global partnership for development. These MDGs has to achieve by 2015. But the reality is different. It may take more years to achieve MDGs. The post independent India has been witnessing a number of changes in the status of education, health, livelihoods, infrastructure etc., for six decades, particularly in the last two decades these changes are very high due to the shift from the welfare mode to liberalization mode in the economy. The twelve five year plans and the welfare economy have played a vital role in the development of the country. Many livelihoods have disappeared or are declining and a number of new livelihoods are emerging. People are shifting from their traditional livelihoods to new livelihoods. Along with positive changes, there are many challenges in front of the independent India. Poverty is still continuing and above 40% of the people are suffering with poverty. On one side the country is producing a large number of billionaires, at the same time India's poor performance in the Human Development Index (HDI) is equal to the African countries. Price hikes, unemployment, corruption, backwardness, social, cultural and economical inequalities, less focus on the development of vulnerable communities etc., are some of the major challenges in the country. It is high time to eradicate social inequalities and poverty, hunger, malnutrition and provide basic services like health, education, housing, sustainable livelihoods and other services to the people of India.

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45. Social Responsibility

The scale at which development initiatives should happen is enormous and no single entity may be able to bring considerable positive change in the livelihoods and quality of life of the people. A multitude of socially responsible individuals, organizations, corporate entities etc. have proved their abilities in bringing about a significant change in the society. Each one of them has its own strengths and abilities emanating from within and without. Effective partnerships, between these various stakeholders, where differently thinking bright brains can come together, can set India's development on a faster track.



Social responsibility is an ethical or ideological theory that an entity whether it is a government, corporation, organization or individual has a responsibility to the society at large. 'Social responsibility' is not a recent phenomenon. Since ages socially responsible citizens and organizations have contributed to the society in a big way. From planting trees to constructing temples, digging wells, providing shelters for the travellers (Choultries), feeding the hungry, fighting social evils like sati and child marriage and bringing about positive social change, the social causes have been anchored at various levels, to meet the diverse needs of society. Social responsibility continues even today, the scale and reach however has increased. The culture and expectations have changed. Dimensions of business culture are more visible. Some shift is happening from charity to development. Individuals, who are socially concerned, are doing lots

of philanthropic activities across the country. There are many factors that encourage a person to get into socially responsible activities. Inherent passion to serve the society is important among them. Some people also do these activities for identity, as involving in these activities earn them recognition. They can leverage this recognition, to scale up their initiatives. In times of disasters, particularly natural disasters like fire accidents, disasters like floods, earthquakes etc., it is a common sight to see help pouring in from different directions, from different entities. The wave of help that came in after tsunami in 2004 or the Kosi floods or the most recent floods in Andhra Pradesh cannot be ignored in any manner. Many individuals and institutions have come forward to contribute cash, material and their time to help the victims.

Campaigns show lots of impact on people and the campaigns of Non-government Organizations (NGO) and other social organizations, influence some people to get into socially responsible activities. In some cases, people get into social responsible activities not with passion or with influence, but as it is a policy of the organization of which they are part. Positive contribution to society can be made, both from performing and also by not performing some actions. Some people help others by providing food, clothes or any other goods required by them. Some others, give their time (teaching poor children, conducting awareness campaigns, giving pro bono time to the organizations of the poor and organization working with the poor etc.,) while others may help by expending their physical labour (Shramadaan). People also can contribute to the society by not doing certain activities that harm the society. Not wasting water, not spoiling the environment and not cutting trees etc. are also ways to serve the society. People, who feel socially responsible, contribute their time or other resources in different ways. Some people, who can commit more time, money and other resources, start their own entities like non-profit or not-for-profit organizations, foundations and trusts that engage in a variety of development activities. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation started by Melinda and Bill Gates is one of the largest working Trusts in the area of health. Some are contributing to the society by associating with organizations working for social cause, volunteering for any organization/cause etc. Some are life workers, working full time for a social cause of their choice without expecting any returns. Individuals, who are working for social causes are working on diverse issues like education, health, bringing awareness and livelihoods promotion etc. and striving to bring about a positive change in the society.

Religious organizations are also involved in a lot of philanthropic activities like feeding the poor and hungry, providing drinking water to needy, conducting health camps, supporting poor children in education, carrying out

marriages of poor couples and etc. The idea of social responsibility is also supported by several religions, where it is closely intertwined with religious laws. "Zakaat", followed by Muslims, is a donation from one's earnings, which is specifically given to poor and disadvantaged. Similarly, Hindus follow the principle of "Dhramada" and Sikhs the "Daashaant". Religious organizations have several reasons to get into socially responsible activities apart from the religious laws. To many religious institutions devotees contribute money and other resources with which the institutions want to implement developmental activities as a matter of paying back to society. Involving in social responsibility activities increases the good will of the institution, which can attract more followers towards the religion. The Voluntary Health, Education and Rural Development Society (VHERDS) established by Jayendra Saraswati of Kanchimatha, which is a non-profit organization that strives towards upliftment of poor villages, is one example of such religious organization. This organization is involved in innumerable activities, such as promoting self help groups, providing houses, health care and sanitation facilities, education to the poor irrespective of caste or creed. We all know the services provided by Christian Missionaries in the fields of education, health care for the destitute and etc. Many Muslim organizations help the poor Muslims by providing them food, education, lands etc. Some religious organizations, which attract huge money from the followers are investing huge amounts in social development activities. Sankar Netralaya of Kanchimatha, Satyasai Baba's super specialty hospitals etc., are the examples of such initiatives. Some other organizations like RUDSETI of Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatha Kshetra of Karnataka are also involved in skill development activities. People's organizations promoted by themselves or by external agencies are also involved in various socially responsible activities. We find many youth clubs, women groups etc., which are doing diverse range of activities across the country. There are youth clubs working on issues like providing drinking water, sanitation, education, organizing sports and games competitions etc. Youth clubs many times are also actively involved in disaster response and rehabilitation activities. Women groups are very active in addressing issues like eradication of liquor, conducting awareness programs, sanitation, HIV/AIDS etc. These people's organizations do these kinds of activities many times with a passion to serve the society. Sometimes, they may do these activities as a response

Karmayog CSR Rating of the largest 500 Indian Companies in India for the year 2009

Karmayog CSR Rating 2009	No. of cos.	%
Level 5 (highest)	0	0%
Level 4	13	3%
Level 3	66	13%
Level 2	146	29%
Level 1	147	29%
Level 0 (lowest)	128	26%
Total	500	100%

List of 13 Companies that have received highest rating

- 1) Ballarpur Industries Ltd.
- 2) Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
- 3) Infosys Technologies Ltd.
- 4) Jubilant Organosys Ltd.
- 5) Kansai Nerolac Pvt. Ltd.
- 6) Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
- 7) Moser Baer (India) Ltd.
- 8) Tata Chemicals Ltd.
- 9) Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
- 10) Tata Steel Ltd.
- 11) Titan Industries Ltd.
- 12) Wipro Ltd.
- 13) Yes Bank Ltd.

to certain situations. Like human beings, organizations are also social animals. They cannot live without support from other institutions. To get support from other institutions, these people's institutions sometimes have to involve in development related activities. This is also one of the reasons for which these institutions get into developmental activities. Involving in these kinds of developmental activities bring recognition to the institutions, which can also be leveraged to get more resources for the organization. In some cases these institutions, get inspired by some thought leaders and get into activities that are helpful to large sections of society. Some of these people's institutions are federating into higher tier organizations for achieving economies of scale and also for serving large number of people.

It is comparatively a recent phenomenon that business organizations, which are started with a motive of earning profits talking about social responsibility and implementing lot of socially responsible activities from the platform of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In fact, this is also not completely a new phenomenon. In ancient times philosophers like Kautilya preached and prompted ethical principles while doing business. In the pre-independence era, the businesses which pioneered industrialization along with fighting for independence also followed the idea of social responsibility. They put the idea into action by setting up charitable foundations, educational and healthcare institutions, and trusts for community development. The donations either monetary or otherwise were sporadic activities of charity or philanthropy that were taken out of personal savings, which neither belonged to shareholders nor did it constitute an integral part of business. The term CSR itself came into

common parlance in early 1970s, although it was seldom abbreviated. By late 1990s, the concept was fully recognized; people and institutions across all sections of society, started supporting it. This can be corroborated by the fact that, while in 1977 less than half of the Fortune 500 firms, even mentioned CSR in their annual reports and, by the end of 1990, approximately 90 percent Fortune 500 firms embraced CSR as an essential element in their organizational goals and actively promoted their CSR activities in annual reports. According to World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) "Corporate Social Responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development, while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large". CSR is a form of corporate self-regulation integrated into a business model. Ideally, CSR policy would function as a built-in, self-regulating mechanism, whereby business would monitor and ensure their adherence to law, ethical standards, and international norms. Business would embrace responsibility for the impact of their activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities, stockholders and all other members of the public sphere.

There are many factors that have led to the rise of CSR activities in the country. The rise in popularity of ethical consumerism, over the last two decades can be linked to the rise in CSR. Consumers are becoming more aware of environmental and social implications of their day-to-day consumer decisions and are beginning to make purchasing decisions related to their environmental and ethical concerns. In line with this change in consumer behavior business firms are also showing concerns about environment and ethical issues. Globalization and market forces are other factors for increase in CSR. Some companies use CSR methodologies as a strategic tactic to gain public support for their presence in global markets, helping them sustain a competitive advantage by using their social contributions to provide a subconscious level of advertising. Global competition places particular pressure on multinational corporations to examine not only their own labour practices, but those of their entire supply chain, from a CSR perspective. The role among corporate stakeholders to work collectively to pressure corporations is changing. Shareholders and investors themselves, through socially responsible investing are exerting pressure on corporations to behave responsibly. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) are also taking an increasing role, leveraging the power of the media and the internet to increase their scrutiny and collective activism around corporate behaviour. Through education and dialogue, the development of community in holding businesses responsible for their actions is growing. Another driver of CSR is the role of independent mediators, particularly the government, in ensuring that corporations are prevented from harming the broader social good including people and the environment. Sometimes it also takes a crisis to precipitate the attention of CSR. Increasingly, corporations are motivated to become more socially responsible, because their most important stakeholders expect them to understand and address the social and community issues that are relevant to them. CSR also provides a business case for the companies in many ways. CSR can help improve the perception, of a company among its staff, particularly when staff can become involved through payroll giving, fundraising activities or community volunteering. Managing risk is a central part of many corporate strategies. Reputations that take decades to build up can be ruined in hours through incidents such as corruption scandals or environmental accidents. These can also draw unwanted attention from regulators, courts, governments and media. Building a genuine culture of 'doing the right thing' within a corporation can offset these risks. In the marketplaces, companies strive for a unique selling proposition that can separate them from the competition in the minds of the consumers. CSR can play a role in building customer loyalty based on distinctive ethical values.

An insight into the history of CSR reveals that till 1990s it was solely dominated by the idea of philanthropy. Considering CSR as an act of philanthropy, businesses often restricted themselves to one time financial grant and did not commit their resources for such projects. Moreover, businesses never kept the stakeholder in mind while planning for such initiatives, thereby reducing the efficacy and efficiency of CSR initiatives. However, over the last few years, the concept of CSR has been changing. There has been an apparent transition from giving as an obligation or charity to giving as a strategy or responsibility. CSR is slowly moving away from charity and dependence and starting to build on empowerment and partnership. Nearly all leading corporates in India are involved in CSR programmes in areas like education, health, livelihood creation, skill development, and empowerment of weaker sections of the society. Notable efforts have been made by Tata Group, Infosys, Bharti Enterprises, Coca Cola India, Pepsico and ITC Welcome group, among others. CSR firms directly work on some issues using their own resources and sometimes they partner with local NGOs and governments to work on some particular issues. Social organizations (NGOs) came into existence with the very objective of serving the society and thus are striving to bring about a significant change in the lives of the poor. Some of these organizations are having legal status as they are registered under various government acts such as Trust Act, Societies Act, Section 35 Companies Act etc. while some others are not having any such legal status. These organizations work on diverse activities, such as education, health, livelihoods, skill development, capacity building, advocacy, campaigning, disaster mitigation, relief and rehabilitation, housing to the poor etc. These social organizations by addressing various needs of the community on a larger scale has grown into a sector in itself and are attracting large number of professionals to get into developmental activities. Previously,

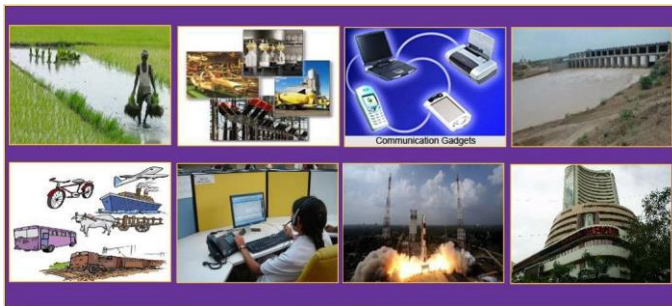
development workers used to work in sector as they have that passion to serve the society. They needed to make compromises with their life as development sector was not able to pay good remunerations to the workers. Nowadays, development has become a career option for many professionals, where they can serve the society without compromising on their remuneration and quality of life. Many organizations, individuals have contributed for the professionalization of development sector. However, these social organizations especially the small ones are facing severe threat as the corporate companies, who are previously their major funders now started their own CSR foundations and trusts and are not committing any resources to these small organizations.

Some political parties and political leaders of the country are also starting their own trusts and foundations to work on development issues, such as education, providing drinking water, skill development, disaster response, health etc. These activities are helpful to the parties in increasing their cadre, vote bank etc and if it is a new party it can get recognition in the masses by involving in social development activities. However, this is also not true to say that all political parties are involving in social development activities for their own benefit and whatever development happens is only incidental. Some parties are really working well with reasonable commitment with an intention to serve the people even when they are not in power. As discussed so far, many stakeholders are contributing to development of the community in their own way. However, the country is still lagging behind in many development indices. Coordination of all these efforts is the major lacuna which constrains the development. Each stakeholder has their own strengths, which can be leveraged for achieving better results. Socially concerned individuals can commit their time and resources but they may need some direction and proper channel through which they can use their resources to show larger impact on the society. Religious organizations are good at promoting volunteerism, mobilization of funds and also in disaster response activities. NGOs are able to reach large sections of the society through diverse programs and are known for their in-depth knowledge on various issues. They are also good at making community to participate in the implementation of the programs. Political parties are well recognized for their ability to mobilize funds and build cadres across. People's organizations have strong commitment to serve the society and they also have strong community leadership. Corporates, are known for their professional management skills, commitment of funds and resources, strategic thinking and also for their knowledge and ability of using technology. All these diverse strengths needs to be complemented with one another so that there will be a better impact on the development of the community. Government can take the role of coordinator and try to bring all these stakeholders into single platform to show wider impact through coordinated, concerted efforts. It is also important to recognize, the importance of community's participation in all these development activities from planning to implementation. All the development efforts of stakeholders are able to provide required skills, assets etc., to the community, but are largely failing to bring awareness among the community on various issues. There is so much knowledge gap within the community, which should be bridged by the socially responsible individuals and organizations by integrating people's knowledge with their knowledge, expert's knowledge and other's knowledge. Only, when the community has better understanding on their issues and knowledge on various options to address those issues, they will be able to make informed decisions regarding their development. It is the people that should decide how their development should be and not any of these stakeholders. It is the right of any person to develop and participate in development. The real social responsibility is to make community realize the fact that development is their right and playing a facilitating role in the community for their development by providing them required knowledge, skills, investment, infrastructure and technology through coordinated efforts. Effective partnerships between all the stakeholders can be one way forward and government has a greater role to play in building these partnerships.

***Livelihoods April-2010**

46. Five Year Plans

The Five-Year Plans (FYPs) are centralized and integrated into national economic programs to reduce inequalities between different communities, sectors and regions by providing planned budget allocations. Joseph Stalin implemented the first FYP in Soviet Union in late 1920s. Most communist states and several capitalist countries subsequently had adopted them. China and India both continue to use FYPs, although China renamed its Eleventh Five Year Plan, from 2006 to 2010, a guideline (guihua), rather than a plan (jihua), to signify the central government's more hands-off approach to development.



The planned economic development in India began in 1951, with inception of FYP. Theoretical efforts had begun much earlier, even prior to independence. It was set up of National Planning Committee (NPC) by Indian National Congress (INC) in 1938. The Bombay Plan & Gandhian Plan in 1944, People plan in 1945 (by post reconstruction committee of Indian Trade Union), Sarvodaya Plan in 1950 by Jaiprakash Narayan were

steps in this direction.

The FYP are centralized and integrated into national economic programs to reduce inequalities between different communities, sectors and regions by providing planned budget allocations. Joseph Stalin implemented the first FYP in Soviet Union (Erstwhile USSR) in late 1920s. Most communist states and several capitalist countries, subsequently had adopted them. China and India both continue to use FYP, although China renamed its Eleventh FYP, from 2006 to 2010, a guideline (guihua), rather than a plan (jihua), to signify the central government's more hands-off approach to development. After Independence, Indian government launched First FYP in 1951, under socialist influence of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The process began with setting up of Planning Commission (PC) in March 1950, in pursuance of declared objectives of the Government to promote a rapid rise in standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the services of the country. The PC was charged with responsibility of making assessment of all the resources in the country, augmenting deficient resources, formulating plans for most effective and balanced utilization of resources and determining priorities.

It was two subsequent FYPs that were formulated till 1965, when there was a break because of the Indo Pakistan conflict. Two successive years of drought, devaluation of the currency, a general rise in prices and erosion of resources disrupted the planning process and after three Annual Plans (AP) between 1966 and 1969, the fourth FYP was initiated in 1969. But, Janata Party government rejected the Fifth FYP and introduced a new Sixth FYP (1978-83). Though, it was also rejected by Indian National Congress (INC) government and again made in 1980 to Sixth Plan. Seventh Plan was initiated in 1985-90. The Eighth Plan could not take off in 1990, due to the fast changing political situation at the Centre and the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 were treated as Annual Plans (AP). The Eighth Plan was finally launched in 1992, after the initiation of Structural Adjustment Policies (SAP). During, the first eight Plans, the emphasis was on growth of public sector with massive investments in basic and heavy industries, but since the launch of the Ninth Plan in 1997, the emphasis shifted on public sector becoming less pronounced and moving towards current thinking on planning in the country, in general, it should increasingly be of an indicative nature.

Five Year Plans (FYP) and objectives:

First Plan (1951-56) Target Growth 2.1%; Actual Growth 3.6%

- It was based on Harrod-Domar Model
- Influx of refugees, severe food shortage & mounting inflation confronted the country, at the onset of the first FYP.

- The total planned budget of Rs. 2378 crore was allocated, in seven broad areas: Irrigation and energy (27.2%), Agriculture and Community development (17.4%), Transport and communications (24%), Industry (8.4%), Social services (16.64%), Land rehabilitation (4.1%) and for other sectors and services (2.5%). The most important feature of this phase was the active role, the state had in all economic sectors. Such a role was justified at that time because, immediately after Independence, India was facing basic problems – deficiency of capital and low capacity to save
- It was a successful plan primarily, because of good harvests in the last two years of the plan. Objectives of rehabilitation of refugees, food self sufficiency & control of prices were more or less achieved

Second Plan (1956-61) Target Growth 4.5%; Actual Growth 4.3%

- Simple aggregative Harrod Domar Growth Model, was again used for overall projections and the strategy of resource allocation to broad sectors, such as agriculture & Industry was based on two & four sector model prepared by Prof. P C Mahalanobis (Plan is also Mahalanobis Plan)
- Second plan was conceived in an atmosphere of economic stability. It was felt agriculture, could be accorded lower priority
- The plan focused on rapid industrialization – heavy & basic industries. Advocated huge imports, through foreign loans
- The Industrial Policy 1956, was based on establishment of a socialistic pattern of society, as the goal of economic policy
- Acute shortage of forex led to pruning of development targets, price rise was also seen (about 30%) vis-à-vis decline in the earlier Plan & the Second FYP was only moderately successful
- The total amount allocated under the Second FYP in India was Rs. 48 billion. This amount was allocated among various sectors: Power and Irrigation, Social Services, Communication transport and miscellaneous

Third Plan (1966-69) Target Growth: Actual Growth

- In 1965-1966, India fought a War with Pakistan. There was also a severe drought in 1965. The war led to inflation and the priority was shifted to price stabilization. The construction of dams continued. Many cement and fertilizer plants were also built. Punjab began producing wheat in abundance.
- Many primary schools were initiated in rural areas. In an effort to bring democracy to grassroot level, Panchayat elections were rolled on and states were given more development responsibilities
- State electricity boards and state secondary education boards were formed. States were made responsible for secondary and higher education. State road transportation corporations, were formed and local road building, became a state responsibility
- Failure of Third Plan that of the devaluation of rupee (to boost exports) along with inflationary recession led to postponement of Fourth FYP. Three AP, were introduced instead. Prevailing crisis in agriculture and serious food shortage necessitated, the emphasis on agriculture during the AP. During these plans, a whole new agricultural strategy was implemented. It involved wide-spread distribution of high yielding varieties of seed, extensive use of fertilizers, exploitation of irrigation potential and soil conservation
- During the APs, the economy absorbed the shocks generated during the Third Plan
- It paved the way for planned growth ahead

Fourth Plan (1969-74) Target Growth - Actual Growth -

- Refusal of supply of essential equipments and raw materials from the allies during Indo –Pak war resulted in twin objectives of 'growth with stability' and 'progressive achievement of self reliance' for the Fourth Plan
- Main emphasis was on growth rate of agriculture to enable other sectors to move forward. First two years of the plan, saw record production. The last three years did not measure up, due to poor monsoon. Implementation of Family Planning Programmes (FPP) was amongst major targets of the Plan
- Influx of Bangladeshi refugees before and after 1971 Indo-Pak war, was an important issue along with price situation deteriorating to crisis proportions and the plan is considered as a big failure

Fifth Plan (1974-79) Target Growth 4.4%; Actual Growth 4.8%

- The final Draft of Fifth Plan was prepared and launched by D.P. Dhar in the backdrop of economic crisis arising out of run-away inflation, fuelled by hike in oil prices and failure of the Government takeover of the wholesale trade in wheat

- It proposed to achieve two main objectives: 'removal of poverty' (GaribiHatao) and 'attainment of self reliance.'
- Promotion of high rate of growth, better distribution of income and significant growth in the domestic rate of savings, were seen as key instruments
- Due to high inflation, cost calculations for the Plan proved to be completely wrong and the original public sector outlay had to be revised upwards. After promulgation of emergency in 1975, the emphasis shifted to implementation of Prime Ministers 20 point programme. Five Year Plan (FYP) was relegated to the background and when Janata Party (JP) came to power in 1978, the Plan was terminated
- The Electricity Supply (ES) Act was amended in 1975, which enabled the Central government to enter into power generation and transmission" The Indian National Highway (INH) system was introduced and many roads were widened to accommodate the increasing traffic. Tourism also expanded and was followed from 1974-1979

Rolling Plan (1978-80) Target Growth: Actual Growth -

- There were two Six Plans. Janata Government had put forward a plan for 1978-1983 emphasizing on employment, in contrast to Nehru model, which the government. criticized for concentration of power, widening inequality & for mounting poverty. However, the government lasted for only 2 years. Congress government returned to power in 1980 and launched a different plan, aimed at directly attacking on the problem of poverty by creating conditions of an expanding economy

Sixth Plan (1980-85) Target Growth 5.2%; Actual Growth 5.7%

- The Plan focused on Increase in national income, modernization of technology, ensuring continuous decrease in poverty and unemployment through schemes, for transferring skills (Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment- TRYSEM) and Integrated Rural Development Programme – IRDP and providing slack season employment (National Rural Employment Programme – NREP) controlling population explosion etc.,
- Broadly, the Sixth Plan could be taken as a success, as most of the target were realized even though during last year (1984-85) many parts of the country, faced severe famine conditions and agricultural output was less than the record output of previous year

Seventh Plan (1985-90) Target Growth 5.0%; Actual Growth 6.0%

- The Plan aimed at accelerating food grain production, increasing employment opportunities & raising productivity with focus of 'food, work and productivity'
- The Seventh Plan had strived towards socialism and energy production at large.
- The thrust areas of the Seventh FYP were: social justice, removal of oppression of the weak, use of modern technology, agricultural development, anti-poverty programmes, full supply of food, clothing, and shelter, increasing productivity of small – and large-scale farmers, and making India an Independent economy.
- Based on a 15 year period of striving towards steady growth, the Seventh Plan was focused on achieving the prerequisites of self-sustaining growth by the year 2000.
- The Plan was very successful, as the economy recorded 6% growth rate against the targeted 5%, with the decade of 80's struggling out of the 'Hindu Rate of Growth'

Eighth Plan (1992-97) Target Growth 5.6%; Actual Growth 6.8%

- The eighth plan was postponed by two years, because of political uncertainty at the Centre.
- Worsening Balance of Payment position, rising debt burden, widening budget deficits, recession in industry and inflation were the key issues during the launch of the plan.
- The Plan undertook drastic policy measures to combat the bad economic situation and to undertake an annual average growth of 5.6% through introduction of fiscal and economic reforms including liberalization under Prime Minister of Sri. P.V. NarasimhaRao.
- Some of the main economic outcomes during eight plan period were rapid economic growth (highest annual growth rate so far – 6.8%), high growth of agriculture and allied sector and manufacturing sector, growth in exports and imports, improvement in trade and current account deficit. High growth rate was achieved even though the share of public sector in total investment had declined considerably to about 34%.

Ninth Plan (1997-2002) Target Growth 7.1%; Actual Growth 6.8%

- The Plan prepared under United Front Government (UFG) focused on 'Growth with Social Justice and Equality.'
- Ninth Plan aimed to depend predominately on the private sector – Indian as well as foreign (FDI) and State was envisaged to increasingly play the role of facilitator and increasingly involve itself with social sector viz. education, health etc., and infrastructure, where private sector participation was likely to be limited
- It assigned priority to agriculture and rural development, with a review to generate adequate productive employment and eradicate poverty

Tenth Plan (2002-2007) Target Growth 8.0%; Actual Growth 7.6%

- Recognizing that economic growth can't be the only objective of national plan
- Tenth Plan had set 'monitorable targets' for few key 11 indicators of development, besides 8 % growth target. The targets included reduction in gender gaps in literacy and wage rate, reduction in infant & maternal mortality rates, raising literacy, access to potable drinking water, cleaning of major polluted rivers, etc
- Government was considered as a factor of development & agriculture was declared, as the prime moving force of the economy
- State's role in planning was to be increased with greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). State wise break up of targets, for growth and social development sought to achieve balanced development of all states
- Out of the total plan outlay Rs.921,291 crore (57.9%), was for central government and Rs.691,009 crore (42.1%), was for states and union territories

Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) Target Growth 9.0% Actual Growth 8.0%

- This Plan was aimed 'Towards Faster & More Inclusive Growth' after UPA rode back to Power on the plank of helping Aam Aadmi (Common Man)
- India had emerged, as one of the fastest growing economies by the end of the Tenth Plan. The savings and investment rates had increased, industrial sector had responded well to face competition in the global economy and foreign investors were keen to invest in India. But the growth was not perceived as sufficiently inclusive for many groups, especially SCs, STs and Minorities, as borne out by data on several dimensions like poverty, malnutrition, mortality, current daily employment etc.,
- The broad vision for 11th Plan included several inter-related components like rapid growth, reducing poverty and creating employment opportunities, access to essential services in health, education especially for the poor, extension of employment opportunities using NREGA program, environmental sustainability, reduction of gender inequality etc. The targets at the end of 11th Plan, was providing power and all weather road connection to habitations with population of 1000 and above (500 in hilly areas) by 2009, connecting every village by telephone and providing broad band connectivity to all villages by 2012.
- To increase the growth rate in agriculture, industry and services to 4%, 10% and 9% respectively.
- Reduce total fertility rate to 2.1.
- Provide clean drinking water for all by 2009.
- The issue of price stability remained in reasoning for more than half, of the Plan period. Inability to pass on burden on costlier imported oil prices, might have constrained the supply of investible funds in the government's hand, causing the 11th Plan to perform at the levels below its target.
- Twelfth Plan (2012-2017) .
- The Twelfth FYP of Government of India (GoI) has decided for the growth rate at 8.2% but the National Development Council (NDC) on 27th Dec 2012 approved 8% growth rate, for 12th FYP.
- With the deteriorating global situation, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (PC) Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia has said, that achieving an average growth rate of 9 percent in the next five years is not possible. The Final growth target has been set at 8% by the endorsement of plan at the National Development Council (NDC) meeting held in New Delhi.
- Areas of main thrust are: infrastructure, health and education. The growth rate has been lowered to 8.2% from the 9.0% projected earlier in view of adverse domestic and global situation.
- During the 11th Plan period, the average annual growth was 7.9 percent.
- A full PC chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on September.

- 15th endorsed the document, which had fixed the total plan size at Rs.47.7 lakh crore.
- The 12th Plan seeks to achieve 4% agriculture sector growth during the five-year period.
- Agriculture in the current plan period grew at 3.3 percent, compared to 2.4 percent, during the 10th plan period. The growth target for manufacturing sector, has been pegged at 10 percent
- On poverty alleviation, the commission plans to bring down the poverty ratio by 10 percent. At present, the poverty is around 30 per cent of the population.
- According to commission's Deputy Chairperson (DC) Montek Singh Ahluwalia, health and education sectors are major thrust areas and the outlays for these in the plan have been raised
- The outlay on health would include increased spending in related areas of drinking water and sanitation
- The commission had accepted Finance Minister (FM) P. Chidambaram's suggested, that direct cash transfer of subsidies in food, fertilizers and petroleum be made by the end of the 12th Plan period
- After the cabinet clearance, the plan for its final approval would be placed before, the NDC, which has all chief ministers and cabinet ministers as members and is headed by the Prime Minister.
- In the first year of its implementation, the Plan has faced, some serious setbacks as far as GDP growth is concerned, spurned by a global economic slowdown and lack of policy change. While, the Plan lays down comprehensive and thorough strategies to ensure, the agenda of faster and more inclusive growth is met, the extent to which these measures would be implemented remains to be seen. It repeatedly takes note of shortcomings in implementation and suggests convergence, vigilance bodies, etc. to rectify these. The Plan, being formulated through extensive consultations with various stakeholders and experts draws from field and policy level experience in implementing initiatives

Planning Commission was changed as NITI aayog from 1st January 2015.

National Institute for Transformation of India (NITI Aayog): Planning Commission of India (PCI) converted to NITI (National Institute for Transforming India). The 65 year old commission was formed by a Resolution of, (GOI) 1950, under the Chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru.

On 1st January, 2015, the government announced 'National Institute for Transformation of India' or NITI Aayog to replace PC.

Composition of New Commission: The organizational framework of NITI Aayog will comprise of, in addition to Prime Minister as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson: To be appointed by the Prime Minister

- Members: Full-time:- Chief Ministers (CM) of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories (UT).
- Part-time members: Maximum of 2 from leading universities research organizations and other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part time members will be on a rotational basis.
- Ex Officio members: Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers (UCM) to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): To be appointed by the Prime Minister (PM) for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Gol.
- Secretariat as deemed necessary.

Objectives of the Aayog-

- The Aayog will strive to foster cooperative federalism. The states will be given more roles in planning and policy making. Move towards bottom- up approach, recommended by numerous committees and also by 73rd and 74th amendments.
- Also, it is being said that in addition to taking up socio-economic agenda, Aayog is expected to direct its functioning towards a coherent strategic policy aimed also at foreign affairs, security, governance and environmental issues. It is supposed to act as a think tank, which will provide well researched inputs to various ministries and states.
- Evaluation of PC-The contributions of planning commission to Indian economy can never be underestimated. First budget of India, in 1948, was merely of Rs 100 crores. In Fourth plan, it grew rapidly to Rs 1000 crores and has been on increase since then. The above was mainly due to the capacity built by PC. At given time, the ideology both at the centre and states was almost common, because of one party rule. But this all changed in coming times, which caused resistance from states.
- Nehru stressed that states should be given a major role in policy making, but at the time of his successors, the centre- state relations got sour and PC started showing centralizing tendencies.
- By 1980's, PC started showing redundancy and it was very clear, that the plans are not being delivered on the ground. Since then there have been many efforts to revive PC, but it refused to change.

- Its relevancy was questioned time and again in a liberalized and globalized era. Planning is something, which is viewed to be associated with Socialism. But reality is that every MNC, every other organization has some long term objective and so do governments. Planning just breaks long term policy, into shorter achievable goals and roadmaps.
- The main failure of PC is attributed to its transformation, in a big bureaucratic organization, which has little flexibility and little connection with ground realities. It ceased to represent and reflect the diversity of India, and continued to give one-size-fits-all plans.
- National Development Council (NDC) was another extra- legal-constitutional body, which was supposed to serve as a platform for states to voice their demands. Plans were made by PC and then presented to NDC for approval.
- But over time NDC has been reduced to just token value, contributing almost nothing to planning.
- Notwithstanding all this, the last 10 years have been somewhat better for PC. Remarkable strides have been made in primary education sector and now health sector is, at the center of its focus. This has started showing up positive results in relevant social indicators.
- It is beyond doubt that planning is uncompromisable and it has to be seen how center-state finances will be shared now, and whether there will be 5 year plans like before or there will be just vision documents, with ministries and states just setting their own plans and goals. Its relation with constitutional bodies, mainly Finance Commission (FC) and interstate council is yet to be seen.

The PC should be given credit for adopting the agenda of inclusion, especially in the context of a widening economic, social and cultural gap between the rich and the poor. However, certain corrections need to be made in the environment for these measures to materialize and deliver the desired results.

Now, the PC is getting a makeover as the NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog should be focusing on Agriculture, livelihoods, youth, gender, industries. It should also work on bridging the economic, social and culture gap between the rich and the poor. Then, we will truly get the desired results.

*** Livelihoods January 2015**

47.12th Five Year Plan

Planning has been one of the cornerstones of the Indian economy. It is an imperative process to chart and revise India's road to development and growth every five years. The Plans are prepared, executed and monitored by the Planning Commission (PC), which is headed by the Prime Minister. 2012 marked the beginning of the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP). Each FYP sets certain targets and lays down strategies and initiatives to achieve those targets.



Planning has been one of the corner stone of the Indian economy. It is an imperative process to chart and revise India's road to development and growth every five years. The Plans are prepared, executed and monitored by the PC, which is headed by the Prime Minister. 2012 marked the beginning of 12th FYP. Each FYP sets certain targets and lays down strategies and initiatives to achieve those targets. The early FYPs focussed on building heavy industries and infrastructure necessary for building a modern economy. Over the years, FYPs have gone beyond economic planning and have sought to address social issues as well. Since, 90s, the rationale of FYPs has been questioned in the context of an open, liberalized economy. However, the Plans still carry relevance, as they help put in perspective economic progress. The 12th Plan marks a change in the process, by which FYPs are formulated in the country. The PC held broad-based consultations with stakeholders from civil society. Several

thematic High Level Expert Groups (HLEG) and Working Groups (WG) were constituted to put forward recommendations for the plan. As a result, the 12th Plan puts forward strategies taking into account, the diverse experiences of the stakeholders. 'Faster, more inclusive, sustainable growth' is the theme of the 12th Plan. The Plan which was approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 2012, hopes to achieve a growth rate of 8.2% in 2012-17. Increased GDP growth will result in increased income and if the growth is inclusive enough, it would result in higher standard of living for the poor. For the growth to be inclusive and fast, it must be ensured that sectors such as agriculture, micro enterprises, etc. grow at a quicker pace. Rapid revenue growth would also help the government in funding Flagship Programmes (FP) such as MGNREGS, SSA, etc. Considering the current economic slowdown, the plan admits that the 8.2% growth rate seems colossal. It calls for bold policy changes to create an economic environment that would enable growth. Immediate steps to reverse the current slump and constructive policy change to correct the economic environment are a must for achieving this growth rate. The plan presents three scenarios, based on studying the principal drivers of growth and the interaction between them. These three scenarios, termed as: 'Strong Inclusive Growth', 'Insufficient Action' and 'Policy Logjam', each depending on the degree of policy change and initiative taken by the Government. The plan lays down strategies for accelerating growth across sectors. Infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, science and technology are the thrust areas. To ensure inclusion, the plan also guides the government towards achieving universal health, education, access to drinking water and sanitation. The plan emphasizes on the need for sustainable development and eco friendly development.

The 11th plan allocated 25% of its budget (Rs. 39,7524crore) to rural development and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's). In addition, it has spent Rs.1,86,539 crore on its 13 flagship programmes. Rural development continues to remain a priority in the 12th Plan. The Plan has allocated Rs.673034 crore, which is 18.86% of the total budget allocation. The resources for Rural Development Programmes (RDP) in the areas of Housing, Employment and Livelihoods had been substantially increased during the Eleventh Plan as compared to the initial allocations. Even a moderate increase in resources for these programmes, proposed in the Twelfth Plan over this high base, means a substantial budgetary support for these programmes.

Plan	Notes
First Plan (1951 - 56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was based on Harrod-Domar Model. Community Development Program (CDP) launched in 1952 Focus on agriculture, price stability, power and transport It was a successful plan primarily, because of good harvests in the last two years of the plan
Second Plan (1956 - 61) Target Growth: 4.5% Actual Growth: 4.27%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also called Mahalanobis Plan (MP) named after the well known economist Focus - rapid industrialization Advocated huge imports through foreign loans. Shifted basic emphasis from agriculture to industry far too soon. During this plan, prices increased by 30%, against a decline of 13% during the First Plan
Third Plan (1961 - 66) Target Growth: 5.6% Actual Growth: 2.84%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At its conception, it was felt that Indian economy has entered a take-off stage. Therefore, its aim was to make India a 'self-reliant' and 'self-generating' economy. Based on the experience of first two plans, agriculture was given top priority to support the exports and industry. Complete failure in reaching the targets due to unforeseen events - Chinese aggression (1962), Indo-Pak war (1965), severe drought 1965-66
Three Annual Plans (1966-69) Plan holiday for 3years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevailing crisis in agriculture and serious food shortage necessitated the emphasis on agriculture during the Annual Plans During these plans, a whole new agricultural strategy was implemented. It involved wide-spread distribution of high-yielding varieties of seeds, extensive use of fertilizers, exploitation of irrigation potential and soil conservation. During the Annual Plans (AP), the economy absorbed the shocks generated during the Third Plan It paved the path for the planned growth ahead.
Fourth Plan (1969 - 74) Target Growth: 5.7% Actual Growth: 3.30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main emphasis was on growth rate of agriculture, to enable other sectors to move forward. First two years of the plan saw record production. The last three years did not measure up due to poor monsoon. Influx of Bangladeshi refugees before and after 1971 Indo-Pak war, was an important issue
Fifth Plan (1974-79) Target Growth: 4.4% Actual Growth: 3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth plan was prepared and launched by D.D. Dhar. It proposed to achieve two main objectives: 'removal of poverty' (Garibi Hatao) and 'attainment of self reliance' Promotion of high rate of growth, better distribution of income and significant growth in the domestic rate of savings were seen as key instruments The plan was terminated in 1978 (instead of 1979), when Janta Party (JP) Government rose to power.
Rolling Plan (1978 - 80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were two six year plans. Janta Party (JP) Government, had put forward a plan for 1978-1983. However, the government lasted for only 2 years. Congress Government returned to power in 1980 and launched a different plan.
Sixth Plan (1980 - 85) Target Growth: 5.2% Actual Growth: 5.66%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus - Increase in national income, modernization of technology, ensuring continuous decrease in poverty and unemployment, population control through family planning, etc.
Seventh Plan (1985 - 90) Target Growth: 5.0% Actual Growth: 6.01%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus - rapid growth in food-grain production, increased employment opportunities and productivity within the framework of basic tenets of planning. The plan was very successful, the economy recorded 6% growth rate, against the targeted 5%.

Eighth Plan (1992 - 97)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The eighth plan was postponed by two years because of political uncertainty at the Centre. • Worsening Balance of Payment (BoP) position and inflation during 1990-91, were the key issues during the launch of the plan. • The plan undertook drastic policy measures to combat, the bad economic situation and to undertake an annual average growth of 5.6%. • Some of the main economic outcomes during eighth plan period were rapid economic growth, high growth of agriculture and allied sector, and manufacturing sector, growth in exports and imports, improvement in trade and current account deficit.
Ninth Plan (1997- 2002) Target Growth: 6.5% Actual Growth: 5.35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was developed in the context of four important dimensions: Quality of life, generation of productive employment, regional balance and self-reliance.
Tenth Plan (2002 - 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve 8% GDP growth rate • Reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007. • Providing gainful high quality employment to the additional, labour force over the tenth plan period. • Universal access to primary education by 2007. • Reduction in gender gap literacy and wage rates by atleast 50% by 2007. • Reduction in decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2%. • Increase in literacy rate to 72%, within the plan period and to 80% by 2012. • Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births, by 2007 and to 28 by 2012. • Increase in forest and tree cover to 25% by 2007 and 33% by 2012. • All villages to have sustained access to potable drinking water by 2012. • Cleaning of all major polluted rivers by 2007 and other notified stretches by 2012.
Eleventh Plan (2007 - 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate GDP growth from 8% to 10%. Increase agricultural GDP growth rate to 4% per year. • To create 70 million new work opportunities and reduce educated unemployment to below 5%. • Raise real wage rate, of unskilled workers by 20 percent. • Reduce dropout rates of children from elementary school from 52.2% in 2003-04 to 20% by 2011-12. Increase literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or above to 85%. • Lower gender gap in literacy to 10 percentage point. Increase the percentage of each cohort going to higher education, from the present 10% to 15%. • Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 and maternal mortality ratio to 1 per 1000 live births. • Reduce Total Fertility Rate to 2.1. • Provide clean drinking water for all by 2009. Reduce malnutrition among children between 0-3 years to half, its present level. Reduce anaemia among women and girls by 50%. • Raise the sex ratio for age group 0-6 to 935 by 2011-12 and to 950 by 2016-17 • Ensure that at least 33 percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries, of all government schemes are women and girl children • Ensure all-weather road connectivity to all habitation, with population 1000 and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) by 2009, and ensure coverage of all significant habitation by 2015. • Connect every village by telephone by November 2007 and provide broadband connectivity to all villages by 2012. • Increase forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points. • Attain WHO standards of air quality, in all major cities by 2011-12. • Treat all urban waste water, by 2011-12 to clean river waters. • Increase energy efficiency by 20 percentage points by 2016-17.

Better housing, employment opportunities and boosting livelihoods of rural poor are the highlights in this component.

Measurable Indicators of 12th Plan

- **Economic Growth**

Real GDP Growth Rate 8.2 %

Agriculture Growth Rate of 4.0 %

Manufacturing Growth Rate of 10%

Every State must have a higher average growth rate than that achieved in the 11th Plan

- **Poverty and Employment**

Consumption poverty to be reduced by 10 percentage points

Generate 50 million new jobs in the non-farm sector and provide skill certification

- **Education**

Mean Years of Schooling to increase to seven years

Enhance access to higher education by creating two million additional seats for each age cohort aligned to the skill needs of the economy.

Eliminate gender and social gap in school enrolment

- **Health**

Reduce IMR to 25 and MMR to 1 per 1000 live births, and improve Child Sex Ratio to 950

Reduce Total Fertility Rate to 2.1

Reduce under-nutrition among children aged 0–3 years to half of the NFHS-3 levels

- **Infrastructure, Including Rural Infrastructure**

Increase investment in infrastructure to 9% of GDP

Increase the Gross Irrigated Area from 90 million hectare to 103 million hectare

Provide electricity to all villages and reduce AT&C losses to 20 per cent

Connect all villages with all-weather roads

Upgrade national and state highways to the minimum two-lane standard

Complete Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors

Increase rural tele-density to 70 per cent

Ensure 50 per cent of rural population has access to 55 LPCD piped drinking water supply and 50 per cent of gram panchayats achieve the Nirmal Gram Status

- **Environment and Sustainability**

Increase green cover (as measured by satellite imagery) by 1 million hectare every year during Plan period.

Add 30000 MW of renewable energy capacity

Reduce emission intensity of GDP in line with the target of 20 per cent to 25 per cent reduction by 2020 over 2005 levels

- **Service Delivery**

Provide access to banking services to 90 per cent Indian households

Major subsidies and welfare related beneficiary payments to be shifted to a direct cash transfer

It is estimated that 60% in the country, depend on agriculture directly or indirectly for their income. This makes agriculture a priority in economic planning. The agriculture sector has been riddled by crises over the past thirty years. The 11th Plan period saw agriculture grow at an average of 3.3%. The 12th Plan has set a target of 4% growth for the sector. The Plan states the key drivers of agriculture growth to be:

1. Viability of farm enterprise and returns to investment that depend on scale, market access, prices and risk;

2. Availability and dissemination of appropriate technologies, that depends on quality of research and extent of skill development;

3. Plan expenditure on agriculture and infrastructure which together with policy, must aim to improve functioning of markets and more efficient use of natural resources; good governance in terms of institutions that make possible better delivery of services like credit, animal health and of quality inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and farm machinery.

'Land hunger' continues unabated among the poor. For this, the plan calls for tenancy reforms, setting up of Public Land Banks (PLBs) – where large land owners, can deposit unused land for others to use. The document stresses on routing benefits to small and marginal farmer collectives, rather than reach out to individuals in these sections. Availing inputs, credit, marketing the produce collectively and production in small units, would ensure better returns to the farmers. The Plan also takes note of the need for better marketing facilities for farmers. It urges the private sector to increase ware house capacities, cold storage and improve the supply chain. Climate change and global warming are a looming threat over agriculture in the country. Erratic rainfall, declining ground water and extreme temperatures bring with them the possibilities of drought and crop failure. The plan suggests the use of technologies, such as GIS to make better use of land and water resources. It also calls for watersheds to be implemented on scale across the country for better resource management. The allied sectors also receive a considerable boost in the Plan. The National Dairy Project (NDP), National Livestock Mission (NLM) would be reinforced to provide support services in all types of livestock – cattle, poultry, goat rearing, piggery, etc. The plan also announces the launch of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) with the purpose of "transforming Indian Agriculture into a climate-resilient production system through adoption... of appropriate measures..." for crops and animal husbandry. The Mission would focus on efficient resource utilization, improved farm practices and integrated farming. Besides these measures, the plan also lays down in detail measures to strengthen extension programmes to bridge the gap between agriculturists and farmers, high-end research and development in agriculture and knowledge dissemination to farmers.

The plan takes cognisance of the success of MGNREGS in six years of its implementation. MGNREGS is the largest wage employment scheme in the world. It is estimated that it has provided up to 1200 crore days of employment to rural poor, especially SCs and STs. It has arrested distress migration in some areas and has increased the purchasing power of the poor across the country. However, the plan admits to inherent and deep seated loopholes in the structure and implementation of the programme. The demand driven, rights-based and decentralised approach of the scheme is yet to gain ground. Keeping this success as the base, the plan has laid down new directions to strengthen the Scheme. Some of the suggestions for a stronger MGNREGS include:

- Expanded, unambiguous and more specific list of works that cover agriculture, fisheries, sanitation and other works.
- Systems to record the demand for work, in order to reinforce the demand-driven strategy of the programme.
- Labour budgeting to assess the quantum of demand for works and the time/seasonality, when the works are required and thus preparing a shelf of works accordingly.
- Adopting technology to reduce delays in wage payments – online funds transfer, adopting the electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS), Business Correspondents (BC) and etc.
- Establishment of Social Audit Units (SAU) by GS to facilitate social audits, regular audit of MGNREGS by C&AG
- Setting up a three-tier vigilance team in the states, to deal with complaints of corruption and malpractices in implementation of the scheme

NRLM – a new paradigm; While MGNREGS 2.0 would continue to cater to the employment needs of the poor in off seasons, it is the NRLM that will work towards generating new livelihood opportunities in rural areas. NRLM comes with a fresh approach to development, with focus on rural livelihoods and overall human development. It calls for formation and nurturing institutions of the poor that would result in their social and financial inclusion. The mission also hopes to build an environment that allows poor to be level players in the market.

Schemes	
National Rural Drinking Water Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% household to have access to piped drinking water. • Participation of community (especially women, children and marginalised communities) in conceptualisation, planning, implementation of scheme at village level. • All Government schools and anganwadis, will have water supply for drinking and for toilets • All community toilets will be provided with running water supply. • Solar powered pumps in remote areas and areas with erratic power supply. • Recycling and reuse of waste water would be encouraged. • Convergence with sanitation scheme, to stop open defecation in villages, with piped water supply and vice versa.
Total Sanitation Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% GP receive Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP). • All households to have toilets in their premises. • Special programme to cover marginalised sections. • Unit cost of latrines raised to 10,000, through convergence with MGNREGA. • Toilets to be built with locally available materials. • NimritiKendras (sanitation marts) to make available affordable construction material.
Indira AwasYojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve quality of housing. • Increase financial assistance. • Adopt innovative technologies, alternative materials, designs to reduce costs and damage to environment.

The mission would be implemented in a phased manner, in order to ensure better resource utilization and outcome monitoring.

NRLM's key components are:

- Building institutions of the poor.
- Promotion of financial inclusion.
- Diversification and strengthening of livelihoods of the poor.
- Promotion of convergence and partnerships, between institutions of the poor and the government and non government agencies.
- Promotion of skills and placement support.

Support for livelihoods and social innovations.

Recognizing the need for professional help at the grassroots, the plan calls for staffing block-level offices with professionals, who would help in planning and implementation. Skill development is a significant component of the Mission. It is envisaged that 1 crore youth would be employed in automobile, textile, manufacturing, hospitality, retail and other emerging sectors. For this, a thorough demand assessment of the skills required would be made to tailor training courses accordingly. Further, the Mission would also support micro-entrepreneurs by infusing energy into the RUDSETIs, encouraging apprenticeship for micro-entrepreneurs and entering into partnerships with training organizations to impart trainings. The demographic dividend - the co-existence of a large unemployed population and a huge demand for labour - would be reaped with a slew of initiatives to skill and place unemployed youth in the country. The plan envisages that 50 million people would be provided employment in next five years and an equal number would receive certification. Also, the Plan hopes that percentage of the workforce that has received formal training would increase from 10% to 25%.

The current challenges to skill development in the country, includes lack of uniform standard in training, shortage of capacity to provide skill training, outreach and lack of proper systems to implement skill development programmes. Drawing on the experience from skill programmes so far, the plan identifies certain key areas of intervention to scale up skill initiatives. A permanent institution, the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA), would be setup to coordinate all skill development related activities in the country. The NSDA would work with other relevant agencies to prepare strategies and programmes for skilling 8 crore people in the plan period. The plan also provides for setting up of the National Skills Quality Framework (NSQF) with the mandate of ensuring uniformity in skill trainings across the country. Additionally, The NSQF would also be in charge of engaging, the industry and ascertaining its requirements. Further, multi-exit and multi-entry in training would be facilitated that would allow students to pursue their education after a gap. This would especially benefit the poor students. The network of training institutions would also be expanded to hitherto underserved areas. It is proposed that 1500 new ITIs would set up under the Kaushal Vignana Yojana (KVY). There would be a separate Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) window in the KVY through, which 3000 ITIs would be established. These ITIs would cater to 30 lakh youth, of which 15 lakh would belong to socially and economically marginalized sections. The plan also proposes to introduce a dynamic, online Labour Market Information System (LMIS) as a platform for knowledge sharing on skill development and employment issues. The LMIS would be regularly updated about the courses, skills-in-demand, training institutions, etc.

Improvement in Health Indicators

- * Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 25
- * Reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 100
- * Reduction of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1
- * Prevention, and reduction of under-nutrition in children under 3 years to half
- * Prevention and reduction of anaemia among women aged 15–49 years to 28 per cent
- * Raising child sex ratio in the 0–6 year age group from 914 to 950
- * Prevention and reduction of burden of Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases (including mental illnesses) and injuries
- * Reduction of poor households' out-of-pocket expenditure - Increase in public health spending to 1.87 per cent of GDP

Drinking water, Sanitation and Housing; Providing access to basic amenities, such as drinking water, sanitation and shelter are important stepping stones towards inclusion. National Rural Drinking Water Project (NRDWP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) are the dominant vehicles for drinking water, sanitation and housing in rural areas. Social Sectors; The volume three of the plan document is entirely dedicated to the social sectors vis. health, education, skill development and employment, women's agency and child rights, and social inclusion. These sections of the Plan provide more clarity on how the Government wishes to achieve social inclusion of marginalized communities. Besides that, the volume also presents the strategies for building more equitable, qualitative and accessible public services. Health and Education are the thrust areas in social sectors. Health; The plan recognizes the importance, and the pressing need for a robust health care system. At present, India's health care sector is characterized, by a mix of public and private players. The quality between and within these players differs widely, with private health care beating public health care on most counts. Poor public health services drive the poor to seek services from private institutions. This implies heavy expenditure out of, the pockets of the poor. The 12th Plan takes into account the shortcomings in the existing health care system and its failure to reduce maternal mortality, infant mortality and prevent disease. The plan lays out strategies, to create a health care system that is available, qualitative and affordable to every citizen in the country. The plan aims at Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which would ensure "equitable access for all Indian citizens in any part of the country...to affordable, accountable and appropriate, assured quality health services (promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative) as well as services addressing wider determinants of health.... with the Government being the guarantor and enabler, although not necessarily the only provider of health and related services." Health services would be made available to individuals at affordable prices and free of cost for a major part of the population. National Health Mission (NHM), which would cover both rural and urban areas would roll out in the Twelfth Plan period and would form the Government's flagship health care programme. NHM's core principles include universal coverage, achieving quality standards and decentralized planning.

The plan calls on the Government to amplify, its presence in health care. Increased availability of Government run services would reduce dependency on the private players, who are usually beyond reach of poor. It also expects the budget allocation for health care to be increased to 2.5%, by the end of the plan period. Further, the plan calls for wider reforms in the way health care is managed and delivered to the poor. Convergence between various health schemes (promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative), expanding human resources, and better regulation of medical practices & drugs are planned for. The Plan lays emphasis on extending accessibility of health services to all vulnerable people. Hospitals would be disabled friendly, gender sensitive and child friendly. Further, it suggests tele-medicine and other technology-based mechanisms to enhance availability and accessibility of health care. In line with its inclusive agenda, the Plan also calls on village level health bodies such as Village Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC) to strive for higher representation of vulnerable

Towards Food Security

There is an alarmingly wide gap between the demand for food grain and food grain yield in the country. To ensure food security needs of the country are met, the Plan proposes to strengthen the National Food Security Mission (NFSM).

In the 11th Plan, NFSM failed to accomplish the target of increasing the yield and stabilising the growth in both low productivity area and in high productivity area and hence it has been revamped again in the 12th plan.

In the 12th Plan, a revamped NFSM would focus on:

- * Focus on cropping system/ farming system in an area rather than individual crops
- * Coarse cereals and fodder, wheat, rice and pulses would be covered
- * The 60,000 pulses village programme and the intensive millets production programme will largely be shifted into NFSM from RKVY
- * Preliminary targets - a) enhancing production by additional 25 million tonnes of food grains (10 million tonnes of rice, 10 million tonnes of wheat, 3 million tonnes of pulses and 2 million tonnes of millet)
- * Expand fodder production to meet the demand both of green and dry fodder
- * Raising the target of dual purpose feed and fodder to 30 million tonnes, with additional production of coarse cereals put at 7 million tonnes.
- * Targeting 2–2.5 per cent increase in food grain production in the Twelfth Plan.
- * New Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm which will be launched with a target to increase the production of oilseeds by at least 4.5 per cent per annum.

communities, especially women.

Education is a long-term solution out of poverty. A well-educated population would have access to better employment opportunities and make informed choices. Progress in education is usually measured in terms of enrolment ratios and literacy rates. The Right to Education (RTE), which came into operation during the 11th Plan period, has gone a long way in improving these indicators. The current GER is 115%. Of the children, who have enrolled in primary school in the 11th Plan period, a majority are girls. However, despite the progress there remains, some teething problems in ensuring education for all children in the country. The education scenario in the country is plagued with issues of accessibility, quality and proper infrastructure. While the number of primary schools has increased considerably, difficult-to-reach areas still remain uncovered. Further, there is a shortage of staff and staff absenteeism in many schools. The facilities in the schools do not provide an environment conducive to learning. The Plan document states that only 4.8% schools have all the nine facilities a school should have, as prescribed the RTE Act. The Plan also acknowledges that enrolment at higher and secondary school level needs to be increased to ensure higher employability. It also lays emphasis on learning outcomes, rather than titular indicators. The Plan also pays attention on early child education. Studies prove that the age 3-7 years, are the most formative. With this in mind, the Plan calls for learning from international models to improve early childhood education. It also seeks to increase the availability and accessibility of pre-primary schools. It envisages that 50% primary schools would have pre-primary education facilities by the end of the 12th Plan period. Out-of-school children (OoSC), Children with Special Needs (CWSN) and children in vulnerable circumstances (streetchildren, etc.,) would be approached with special measures to bring them back into schools. Residential schooling for the 11-14 age group would be strengthened, open schooling, polytechnics, etc. would be involved in skilling Out-of-School children. Efforts would also be made to accelerate their learning abilities, to bring them at par with their counterparts in school. Education needs of CWSN would be identified and their curriculum would be customized. Also, their placement in general schools, access to aid and construction of disabled-friendly infrastructure in schools would be enhanced. The plan also makes note of girl child education. It suggests more gender-sensitive curricula and special modules on sexual harassment. It also provides for expansion of government-run girls' schools especially in backward regions, bridge schools, etc. In urban areas, the plan reiterates that private schools must admit 25% students from economically and socially weaker sections.

The document, while outlining a strategy for expanding the presence of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) also puts forward measures to ensure equity in access to these institutions. It is a fact that, students from marginalized sections of the society are underrepresented in HEIs. As school education spreads, more and more students from socially and economically backward segments would want to enroll in HEIs. To encourage these students, the plan suggest various supportive measures including the National Initiative on Inclusion of People with Diablities (NIIPD), and model HEIs, polytechnics, etc. in backward, low GER regions.

The plan also suggests other broad based measures to improve the quality and standards of excellence in education in the country. It lays down strategies for creating an ample professional force, to cater to the rising education needs. It also calls for an overhaul in the curriculum and evaluation methods to make them more student-friendly. Importantly, through the re-introduction the Saakshar Bharat Programme (SBP) for adult education, it calls for a shift in the compass from literacy to lifelong learning. In other measures to improve the quality of educations, it calls for building model schools, school leadership and school mentoring to direct other educational institutions, towards quality education with focus on learning.

The key education schemes laid down by the Plan include:

- * Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).
- * Model Schools Scheme (MSS).
- * Girls Hostel Scheme (GSS).
- * ICT @ Schools.
- * Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS).
- * Scheme of Vocational Education (SVE).
- * National Means-cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS).
- * National Incentive to Girls (NIG).
- * Appointment of Language Teachers (ALT).

The 12th Plan has been operational, since 2012. The Plan shows the way, forward for India to achieve 8.2% GDP growth in an inclusive manner. In the first year of its implementation, the Plan has faced, some serious setbacks as far as GDP growth is concerned, spurned by a global economic slowdown and lack of policy change. While the Plan, lays down comprehensive and thorough strategies to ensure the agenda of faster and more inclusive growth is met, the extent to which these measures would be implemented remains to be seen. It repeatedly takes note of shortcomings in implementation and suggests convergence, vigilance bodies, etc. to rectify these. The Plan, being formulated through extensive consultations with various stakeholders and experts draws from field and policy level experience in implementing initiatives. The Plan also indicates that CSO, NGOs and private players, would be taken on board in implementation. Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) and involvement of the community, has been suggested for all initiatives. It also marks an important shift by stressing on strengthening the role of collectives and empowering rural masses. It does not look at inclusion or poverty merely as doling out schemes and benefits to the poor, but involving them in the process of development. The PC should be given credit for adopting the agenda of inclusion, especially in the context of a widening economic, social and cultural gap between the rich and the poor. However, certain corrections need to be made in the environment, for these measures to materialize and deliver the desired results.

***Livelihoods January-2013**

48. Technology

Technology is the application of scientific knowledge to make human activity efficient and less time-consuming. The phenomenon of technology has existed, since time immemorial. If anything, its influence and presence has increased over the ages. Right from invention of the wheel, humans have been improvising and coming up with better and more efficient forms of technology.



Technology is the application of scientific knowledge to make human activity efficient and less time-consuming. The phenomenon of technology has existed since time immemorial. If anything, its influence and presence has increased over the ages. Right from invention of the wheel, humans have been improvising and coming up with better and more efficient forms of technology. Today, there is hardly an aspect of life that technology has not touched. Technological innovations are influenced by the prevailing economic and social conditions. Technology has always been integral to livelihoods. The plough, pottery wheel, loom, shovel and other tools were early interventions that were used to enhance efficiency in livelihoods. Back then, the tools were used to reduce drudgery. With the onset of the Industrial Revolution, the scene of technological inventions shifted from small laboratories to large Research and Development (R&D) centres. Technology was no longer considered a tool to reduce human effort alone, but seen as the lynchpin of increased profits and economic growth. The Industrial Revolution had seen production shift irreversibly from

labour intensive to technology intensive, putting scores of small-scale producers out of work. The complex and large-scale nature of the new technology made it unimaginable for the average producer to invest. The Industrial Revolution was also the time when, the modern idea of “economic prosperity” had begun gaining ground. Largely, gaping divisions between the rich and the poor can be traced back to the Revolution and the gap has only been widening since.

The deepening of this crevice between the rich and poor is to be understood in light of the heavy investment new-age, science-based technology demands. Most technological innovations evolve out of the existing forms of technology. Therefore, new technologies require heavy infrastructure- electric grids, satellite towers, et al.- which are missing in most rural/remote areas, where the poor dwell. This lack of infrastructure means that poor will continuously be kept out of the technology revolution that has taken the rest of the world by storm. The potential of technology to solve fundamental problems of the poor like lack of health-care, education, efficient livelihoods practices- is increasingly being realized. In fact, there are already numerous interventions underway to take modern technology to the poor and make their lives better. The turn of the 21st century brought with it, a new era of technology, where it is easy to access and use high-end technology. It has made the world a smaller place, enabled communication at the push of a button. A new form of technology ICT took precedence. ICT has brought communication to prominence like never before. Another dimension to this revolution has been the affordability of ICT which has enabled the poor to catch up with the rest of the world. For long, technology was not leveraged to benefit the poor. But now, new technologies-both high-tech gadgets and low-end widgets are being introduced to simplify lives of the poor. Often, the poor are associated with low or primitive levels of technology. While these technologies may not be sophisticated like modern technological contraptions, they are just as useful to the poor.

Shea nut collecting is a primary vocation for scores of women in Ghana, Africa. The shea nut has great demand in the cosmetics industry, with companies ready to part with huge sums of money for the best quality of nuts. Yet, until recently, the collectors were unable to fully mine this opportunity due to a lack of market information, business experience and negotiating power. Their incomes were kept low and unstable as intermediaries sat on pricing information and used their market power only to their own advantage and not to the women's.

A few organizations came together to change this. The women were mobilized into a producers' group. Their leadership skills were cultivated and were provided the infrastructure support they needed to succeed. Thus, the Star Shea Network was born.

Leading software firm, SAP designed an order management and fulfillment software package that allows women to access market information on prices and demand via SMS. At the same time it gives buyers full transparency and traceability across the entire supply chain. The women's group was also provided a loan to purchase a shea-nut processor. Today, the network has its own website- starshea.com- through which it sells its produce directly.

Many forms of technology have been in use for ages and serving millions in simplifying their lives. For the large part, these technologies are eco-friendly and make optimal use of locally available materials. These technologies, also known as rural or indigenous technologies are gaining popularity to combat energy and technological challenges the poor face. For long, these technologies had been considered obsolete and inefficient to usher and support the poor in actively participating and contributing to the modern economy. While, they may be no match to modern technologies in terms of scale and operations, these technologies have their own advantages. For one, rural and indigenous technologies do not guzzle, non-renewable sources of energy like their new-age, high-tech counterparts do, making them more energy efficient. Moreover, they do not require a massive infrastructural base. Further, indigenous technologies make use of waste rather than create it. On the other hand, modern technologies spew non-degradable wastes that erode the environment. Indigenous technology *aids* labour in production rather than *replace* manpower.

While these technologies may not help rural poor in mass production, the technology is more to support their survival. Rural technologies may not necessarily be old, traditional or static. They are based on locally available knowledge and not so much on understanding of science. The knowledge is dynamic and differs from place to place. Therefore, rural technology is born to meet local necessities and adapts to the need of the hour. Further, rural/local technology cannot be avoided given that local information is more credible and valid than the knowledge that comes from outside. Bio-gas, smokeless Chulhas, solar lanterns, pedal pushed mills are all examples of indigenous technologies that have made day-to-day lives of poor simpler. The smokeless chulhas were introduced to reduce exposure to carbon emission of traditional chulhas. Solar powered lanterns have given poor an alternative to power-run bulbs and tube lights. The list of indigenous technologies could run into thousands. It is unique to the area, and arises of local needs and resources. Many technological interventions of the poor have taken modern equipment to the poor, rather than starting with the technology of the poor. These interventions have been in various avenues— agriculture, dairy, health, education and financial inclusion. Technology has always been used by the poor in various production activities, more so in agriculture. The plough and shovel are the earliest examples of agriculture implements. Over the years, these tools have been improvised and made more efficient. Newer, heavier agriculture implements have been invented. This machinery has resulted in less time and toil on the fields. However, this is true for only large farmers who can afford them.

There are two factors that prevent the poor from accessing and using these tools- a) the expensive nature of these implements; and b) heavy implements are not suitable to be used on small land sizes. As a result, most poor, small farmers lose out to larger farmers, who are able to produce more in a lesser span of time. Another impact of the mechanization of agriculture on the poor has been reduction in the manpower/labour required to be engaged in farming. This has deprived many poor households of their sole source of earning a livelihood. Many farmers across the country have come up with innovative methods to combat the lack of access to heavy agriculture equipment vital to higher productivity. These ingenious mechanisms range from ox-ridden tractors to bicycle held pesticide sprayers. However, these innovations have not received enough attention nor have there been attempts to scale them up. The use of these simple tools needs to be further accentuated in the light of the revelations of the adverse impact of use of large machinery on the soil and the land. Also, machinery such as tractors, disc harrows, etc. is not feasible to be used in all topographical conditions. These implements have been proved less useful in rocky areas. There is a need to introduce new, eco-friendly and inexpensive equipments. Providing infrastructure across the supply chain for rural produce especially perishables such as seeds, pulses, grains, fruits and vegetables is another major avenue of intervention. Lack of proper cold storage facilities, packaging units, has forced many a poor producer into distress selling of their produce. Most do not have access to storehouses to keep their produce till attractive prices for the produce are available.

Further, little support in terms of value-addition could go a long way in securing good incomes for the producers. Again, much of this infrastructure requires huge investment and requires large scale production. This is one of the reasons for collectivization of rural producers to form cooperatives and Producers Organizations (PO). Providing some value-addition support such as milling, cleaning, etc. reduce the foot-miles between the producer and the final customer. In other sectors, such as weaving, introduction of improvised technology has wreaked havoc on production. The handloom sector is a typical example of machine replacing human labour. Over the past four years, the adoption of power looms- which can produce twice the number of sarees a handloom can in a day- has put many a handloom weaver out of work. This has forced these weavers to give up their traditional occupations and search for other occupations. Information and open channels of communication have become important factors to boost efficiency of production and economic activities. ICT has been the most user-friendly form of new-age technology and is percolating to the remotest areas. In fact, most technological interventions to improve the lives of the poor have made most of the ICT-medium. ICT has been extensively used to bridge the financial divide between the poor and the rich. Banking transactions are being made possible through mobile phones, thereby resolving an age-old problem of setting up physical branches in remote areas. The ICT medium is also being put to use to transfer and share information within the supply chain. Information regarding market demand, market prices, availability of raw material, etc. is making production and marketing an easier and more profitable opportunity for the poor. Possibilities of technology to ensure food security to the poor are also explored. One method is to increase agriculture productivity through high-tech agriculture. There is another group that supports the use of bio-technology as a means to end hunger and starvation among the poor. The Green Revolution (GR) had introduced new agriculture practices- more mechanisation and use of more chemicals- to augment agriculture productivity. While the GR has done a great deal to meet food security needs of the world as a whole, it did not have the same impact on the food security of the household.

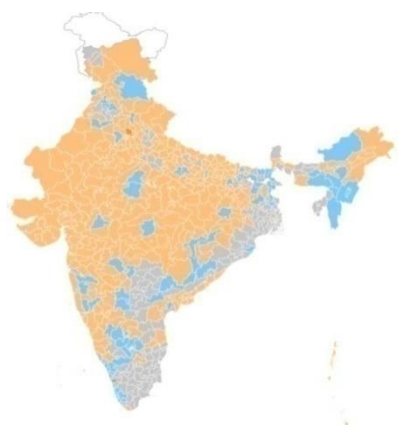
Four decades after the GR, questions are being raised about the ecological impact of the methods adopted in revolution. Extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides has come under heavy criticism for their detrimental effects on soil quality. There are alternatives to this method of farming. These alternatives entail use of local technologies and optimal use of locally available raw materials. One such alternative that has gained popularity is kitchen garden. The concept of kitchen gardens is to put small tracts of "wasteland" to farming purposes. Often, these tracts are very small, sometimes even a third of an acre. Cultivation of vegetables and fruits is encouraged on this tract. The idea is that the cultivator would consume this produce thereby cutting expense on food. Further, the methods of farming are eco-friendly. Natural manure or vermin-compost is used in place of fertilizers and pesticides. As modern medicine and health care becomes more dependent on technology, it is also leaving out a large number of poor in rural and remote areas. Poor health care technology in rural areas is characterized by erratic power supply, lack of trained medical personnel and uncertain technology connectivity. Of late, the advancement of ICT applications and their growing popularity among the poor have enabled medical diagnostic centers to be setup in remote rural areas. Essentially, these centers are equipped with basic medical instruments and with internet facility. The patient can contact a doctor through the kiosk. The kiosk is managed by one operator, who is given basic training in medical aid. ISRO pioneered this initiative with the launch of the Health SAT satellite. ISRO linked 22-super specialty hospitals in urban areas with 78 rural telemedicine centers. A telemedicine center consists of a personal computer with customized software connected to medical diagnostic instruments, such as an ECG or X-ray machine or an X-ray scanner for scanning X-ray photos. Digitized versions of patients' medical images and diagnostic details (such as X-ray images and blood test reports) are dispatched to specialist doctors through the satellite-based communication link. The information, in turn, is received at the specialist center, where experienced doctors examine the reports, diagnose, interact with the patients (along with local doctors), and suggest appropriate treatment via video-conferencing. The center is user-friendly and takes little time and effort to be maintained.

Both rural/indigenous technologies and modern technologies should be used together to benefit the poor. Both serve different but equally important purposes. The way forward to transform lives of the poor using technology is by building on local technologies and adapting external technologies to suit local needs. Adapting external technologies is more complex than perceived. Most scientists and technologists wrongly believe that latest technological innovations are a panacea to the poor's problems. However, these technologies demand institutional changes in the local setting. Only in rare instances do foreign technologies get easily transformed in new settings. Technology needs time to be accepted in new areas. New technology needs to be introduced by insiders for it to be better accepted. Technological inclusion is an important strategy for the poor to graduate out of poverty. Not only does modern technology have a lot to offer to the poor, the poor too have a vast repository of "clean" technologies to contribute to the world. There are both positive and negative impacts of modern technology among the poor. Though most were left out of the technological sphere for long, they are fast catching up with the rest, thanks to the growing ubiquitous nature and affordability of technology. There is enough scope in the technological sphere for its various types to co-exist; one need not replace the other. While adopting modern, science-based technologies to improve production solve health and educational issues, it is also important to preserve rural, indigenous technologies. These lesser-known technologies are eco-friendly and do not require a large capital base like other, modern forms of technologies do. It is a fact that enough funds and resources are not dedicated to research and development in technologies that the poor require. This is because most R&D happens in richer countries and is therefore relevant to their context. Overall, only a fraction of the R&D fund is used for research in diseases endemic to poor countries (such as malaria). Bridging these disparities is important in efforts towards poverty reduction. The ICT revolution that has caught on in rural and remote areas is a positive sign that the long-standing technical divide will finally close .

***Livelihoods May-2012**

49. New Government

In the 16th Lok Sabha elections, people of India have given a full majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These elections saw 66.38% of people voting; which is the highest voting percentage in the country, after independence. People especially elected Narendra Damodardas Modi (Naredra Modi), with the hope for a better tomorrow. For the first time in three decades, BJP has emerged as the single largest ruling party in India.



In the 16th Lok Sabha elections, people of India have given a full majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These elections saw 66.38% of people voting; which is the highest voting percentage in the country after independence. People especially elected Narendra Modi, with the hope for a better tomorrow. For the first time in three decades, BJP has emerged as the single largest ruling party, won 282 Member of Parliament (MP) seats. If we include National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties' seats it comes to 336 MPs which is led by BJP. People's verdict reflects against increasing prices, corruption, and unemployment and growth stagnation. They desire for more effective and better governance. People have said a clear 'No' to coalition governments, by giving a clear majority to a single party, aspiring to see development in their livelihoods and

lives. In the elections, a total of 1687 political parties and 8251 candidates, including independent candidates contested for 543 MP constituencies. 54.1 crore voters cast their votes out of the total 81.45 crore eligible voters. This time around, voting percentage has increased across the country including rural and urban areas. Women voters' percentage also increased from 55% to 65% and in 16 states and UTs the percentage of women voters is higher than men. In the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout was 58.19%. About 10 crore new voters participated in the 2014 elections. The 16th Lok Sabha election results proved most of the agencies' election predictions. These elections became the costliest elections so far, with an expenditure of Rs.3426 crore, which is incurred by the central government. Expenditure on the account of Law and order was incurred by the state governments and nearly Rs. 50,000 crore by the political parties and contested candidates.

The elections were conducted in nine phases from 7th April to 12th May 2014. It is the longest election period in the country's history. In almost all the states and UTs, voting percentages increased by perceptible numbers. Tripura had the highest voting percentage (84%), while the lowest voting percentage was in Jammu & Kashmir (26%). In the elections, political parties released their manifestoes, but it was not discussed much in the election propagandas. Major parties designed precise slogans, which played a significant role in the elections. Narendra Modi focused on development, stability, good governance, employment opportunities and corruption free society. Rahul Gandhi tried to project the performance of his government and promised more development and peoples' participation in governance, which was not enough to convince the people to vote for Congress. During the election campaigns, some important issues such as rising prices, corruption, unemployment, economy, security, infrastructure, stagnant policy making and inefficient bureaucracy played key roles. The Media, particularly social media played an important role in the elections. Reportedly, one of the major parties who contested spent Rs.5,000 crore on advertisements in the media. Contested parties made propaganda through all national and regional level newspapers and electronic media. Particularly, the parties focused more on social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Orkut, websites, blogs etc for election propaganda) as it provided a platform for people to interact with the political parties by getting updates and giving feedback. Every, third person in India has a mobile connection, so it became a big advertisement source for the contested parties. The parties used Short Message Service (SMS) and voice message as a tool for election propaganda. Narendra

Modi's election campaign is the biggest election campaign in the Indian electoral history. He travelled three lakh Km and participated in 437 public meetings in 25 states and involved 1350 innovative 3D rallies.

Phase	Date	States (With voting turnout percentage)
1	7 April	Assam (75%) and Tripura (84%),
2	9 & 11 April	Nagaland (82.5%), Arunachal Pradesh (71%), Meghalaya (66%), Manipur (70%) and Mizoram (60%)
3	10 April	Kerala (76%), Delhi (64%), Madhya Pradesh (55.98%), Maharashtra (54.13%), Uttar Pradesh (65%) and Jammu (66.29%),
4	12 April	Goa (75%), Assam (75%), Tripura (81.8%) and Sikkim (80.97%),
5	17 April	Uttar Pradesh (62%), West Bengal (80%), Odisha (70%), Jammu & Kashmir (69%), Madhya Pradesh (54%), Jharkhand (62%), Manipur(74%),Maharashtra(61.7%),Karnataka (65%),Chhattisgarh (63.44%), Rajasthan and (63.25%),Bihar (56%)
6	24 April	Tamil Nadu (73%),West Bengal (82%),Maharashtra (60%), Madhya Pradesh (64%), Uttar Pradesh (60%),Chhattisgarh (66%), Assam(70%),Bihar(60%),Jharkhand(63.4%),Rajasthan(60%), Pundhucherry (82%), Jammu & Kashmir (28%),
7	30 April	Punjab (72%), Gujarat (62%), West Bengal (81%), Uttar Pradesh (57%), Bihar (60%), Jammu & Kashmir (26%) and Telangana - New state (72%),
8	7 May	Andhra Pradesh (76%), West Bengal (81%), Himachal Pradesh (66%), Uttarakhand (62%) Jammu & Kashmir (49.9%), Bihar (58%) and Uttar Pradesh (55.5%)
9	12 May	Bihar (58%), Uttar Pradesh (55.3%), West Bengal (80%),

The 16th Lok Sabha election is the world's largest election event. The Election Commission of India started preparatory works 18 months before the election schedule. Nearly, 9.3 lakh polling stations and 10.4 lakh electronic voting machines were setup for 543 MP constituencies and 6.80 lakh personnel involved in election works. Nearly eight lakh para military personnel were deployed across the country and 570 special trains and 50 helicopters were allotted for election work. About Rs.313 crore cash and liquor worth Rs. 1,000 crore was seized during the elections. For the first time, the EC took a lot of initiatives like voter registration, encouraged voters for increased voting percentage and organized elections successfully. In the elections, BJP got 39% of votes and Congress got 19% of the votes. Both parties achieved only half of the votes and remaining parties got 50% of the votes. The regional parties like BahujanSamaj Party (BSP), All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), Samajwadi Party (SP), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other parties scored recognizable votes in their states. The voting share among the parties has not much difference. But there is a big difference in the number of MP seats, achieved by the parties. BJP got nearly double percentage of votes than Congress, but in terms of seats it got 6 times more seats.

Achieved MP Seats Details							
Party	Seats	Party	Seats	Party	Seats	Party	Seats
BJP	282	CPM	9	AIUDF	3	CPI	1
INC	44	YSRCP	9	RLSP	3	PMK	1
AIADMK	37	NCP	6	JD(U)	2	RSP	1
AITC	34	LJP	6	JD(S)	2	SWP	1
BJD	20	SP	5	INLD	2	NPF	1
SHS	18	AAP	4	JMM	2	AINRC	1
TDP	16	RJD	4	IUML	2	IND	3
TRS	11	SAD	4	AD	2	Others	7
Total Number of MP Seats: 543							

In these elections, None of The above (NOTA) option was introduced for the first time. Nearly 60 lakh voters utilized NOTA in the elections i.e. about 1.1% in total votes. NOTA were utilized the most by the voters of Puducherry. In the 16th Lok Sabha, 61 women MPs were elected, which is the highest number of woman MPs elected. But it is only 11% in total number of elected MPs in the country, even though Women's Reservation Bill assures 33% seats to women in all legislative bodies, it appears a distant dream for now. Also, on one side the number of young voters has been increasing for decades, but surprisingly the number of young elected MPs has been declining.

In the elections, 82% of the elected MPs have assets above one crore. The 16th Lok Sabha is the richest Parliament so far, compared to the 15th Lok Sabha or earlier ones. Current MPs have assets ranging from Rs. five lakh to Rs. 683 crore. The new government has to combat various issues such as unavailability of universal quality health and educational services, unemployment, price rise, corruption, lack of world-class infrastructure facilities, low growth rate (4.9%), high fiscal deficit and biases policy making in favor of some individuals. The biggest challenges for the government is to reduce commodity prices, providing job opportunities to 1 crore people per year, provide friendly environment to the investors, setup stable policy environment based on transparency and timely decision making and achieve economic growth. In the 16th Lok Sabha election campaign, BJP a leading party of National Democratic Alliance (NDA), stated important election promises, such as establishing Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), National Agriculture Market (NAM) to check price rise, e-Governance, policy-driven governance, simplification in tax regime and preventing corruption, encouragement to labour intensive manufacturing, development of agriculture, upgrading infrastructure, providing houses, providing self-employment opportunities and creation of jobs, developing satellite technology, setting up National Optical-Fibre Network (NOFN) up to the village level and high speed train network.

Inflation is a major problem of the people. BJP's Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) may play a crucial role in controlling inflation. It is essential to control rising prices in informal sector to reduce inflation. If rightly designed, some proposals, such as forming a committee headed by the Prime Minister, banning future trading of essential commodities and setting-up the Price Stabilization Fund. But these measures may not be enough to control inflation. It requires some more measures such as reforming Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), gathering and disseminating knowledge about production, stock and pricing of agriculture commodities, improvement in yield and productivity of vegetables, fruits and animals and reducing wastage by providing storage and processing facilities of agriculture products etc., for controlling inflation.

Infrastructure development is the one of the major promises of the BJP. Modi is keen on development of national highways, railways and tourism. His emphasis is on setting-up high speed bullet trains like the ones in Japan and China, which requires a lot of investment. In infrastructure development, BJP would implement Public Private Partnership (PPP-3Ps) and People Public Private Partnership (PPPP-4Ps) model. In urban development, it would follow a new approach by building twin cities and satellite towns. Up to a 100 of these types of cities, would be setup all across the country. Narendra Modi became the 15th Prime Minister of India. The swearing-in ceremony was organized in a big way. Nearly, 4000 participants including South Asian countries' heads, opposition parties' leaders, coalition parties' leaders and industrialists. Narendra Modi formed a small team, with just 24 Cabinet Ministers and 21 Ministers of State, based on his strategy of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance'. He is going to bring related Ministries under one Cabinet Minister. His aim is to build a smart government by reducing top layers of the government and expanding at grassroots level. He wants to bring the change in work culture and style of governance. He said that "Let us together dream of a strong, developed and inclusive India that actively engages with the global community to strengthen the cause of world peace and development." The Corporate Affairs (CA) department has been brought under the Finance Ministry. In infrastructure, Road Transport and Highways and Shipping combined under one cabinet minister. In infrastructure, another important combination is bringing Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Ministries under one Ministry. Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation Ministries brought under one Ministry. In the same-way Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministries combined under one Ministry. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley after taking charge has said that he is aware about the challenges before him regarding restoration of earlier pace of growth, controlling inflation and fiscal consolidation. He also intends to send signals to domestic and foreign investors by clearing policy barriers and tax notice obstacles. He promised to control to price rise, restore confidence of investors in the market, promote the growth and control the fiscal

deficit. The new government is reluctant in inviting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector. This policy is beneficial for the retail sector which provides livelihood to four crore people (3.3% of the population) and

Important Ministries in Narendra Modi Cabinet:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi - Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy
Department of Space

- Rajnath Singh - Home Affairs
- Sushma Swaraj - External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs
- Arun Jaitley - Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Ministry
- Nitin Gadkari - Transport Ministry, Highways and Shipping
- Smritilrani - Human Resource Development
- Venkaiah Naidu - Urban Development, Poverty Alleviation, Parliamentary Affairs
- Maneka Gandhi - Ministry of Women and Child Welfare
- DV Sadananda Gowda - Railways
- Uma Bharti - Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
- Najma A Heptullah - Minority Affairs
- Gopinathrao Munde - Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramvilas Paswan - Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Kalraj Mishra - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ananth Kumar - Chemicals and Fertilizers
- Ravi Shankar Prasad - Communications and Information Technology, Law and Justice
- Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati - Civil Aviation

accounts 14%-15% in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country.

In the new governance, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will become crucial and play three important roles such as implementation, catalyzing and facilitating inter-ministerial issues and addressing concerns of the economy. Prime Minister guarantees stability in tenure for four to five years for competent officials. He also gave tremendous freedom to the officials to innovate and deliver and take personal ownership in all decisions. Immediately after taking charge, he focused on modern technology and developed systems and processes for effective monitoring and resolution of the issues on fast track basis. He emphasized the need for resolving the people's grievances without delay. He cancelled all Groups of Ministers (GOMs) and Empowered Groups of Ministers on projects to prevent delay in taking decisions for implementation. He focused on efficient governance to plan and implement the schemes and programmes of the Government. He setup a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to bring back black money. Modi's opinion is that decentralization and transparency should go together and are crucial for good governance. The Prime Minister asked all cabinet ministers concerned to identify priority areas and fix the deadlines to meet the targets and insists to have plans in place for the next 100 days. The new government has begun on a positive note on governance, relations with states and also with other countries to achieve development. A country full of hopeful people is waiting for the 'Achhe din' to dawn and is wishing the new government all the best.

***Livelihoods May-2014**

50. Prosperous and Equitable States

(Telangana and Andhra Pradesh)

Parliament passed The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2013 on 18th February 2014, separating the Telangana state from Andhra Pradesh. Telangana state is formed as the 29th state of India. The long journey of a separate Telangana struggle once again brought to surface various things like viability, prosperity, governance, equity, development and other benefits of the small states across the country.

The central government organized many consultations in designing The Andhra Pradesh bifurcation. It took almost 10 years since the issue of separate Telangana was placed in the Congress party manifesto. Four years back, the Central government declared the separate Telangana state. But it materialized in February 2014. There are problems regarding capital city, water resources sharing, education and employment opportunities accessibility and assets distribution. In order to share resources, finance, assets, liabilities and opportunities, Central government designed "The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2013."

Salient features of this Bill are as follows:

- Telangana will comprise of 10 districts and rest of Andhra Pradesh will comprise of 13 districts
- The present capital city Hyderabad, would be the common capital for both states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for 10 years
- The Governor is responsible for the security of life, protection of the assets of those who reside in the capital city area. The Governor may be assisted by two advisers, appointed by the Government of India
- Common capital includes the areas of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporations (GHMC). Central government will form an expert committee to suggest new capital for Andhra Pradesh, within 45 days
- Central government will provide financial and other support for the creation of a capital city in Andhra Pradesh
- Central government will setup a higher council to supervise the water sharing of Krishna and Godavari rivers
- Assembly constituencies will increase in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
- Existing admission quotas will continue for 10 years in- government, private, aided and unaided institutions of higher, technical and medical education, which is based on common entrance system
- Polavaram irrigation project will be declared as a national project and Central government will take up the regulation and development of the project. The Tungabhadra Board will continue to distribute water to higher canal, lower canal and Rajolibanda diversion scheme
- Hyderabad High Court will be common for both states, until the new High Court is setup in Andhra Pradesh
- Detailed provisions made in the Bill regarding coal, power, oil and gas and division of assets and liabilities and allocation of employees. Any dispute between both states regarding financial assets and liabilities not settled, will be taken to the Comptroller and Auditor General recommended by the Central government
- All the united Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) properties which are situated outside the united Andhra Pradesh, will be distributed to both states according to the population ratio.
- Special economic packages for backward regions, in both states will be designed.
- Greyhound and OCTOPUS forces will be distributed to both states, according to the opinions of personnel of the forces



- Article 371D will continue in both states to ensure equitable opportunities to the people, in education and employment. Both states will have a joint Public Service Commission (PSC), till each one has its own Public Service Commission
- Singareni fields will be allotted to the Telangana state
- The Award which was made by the 13th Finance Commission, for the united Andhra Pradesh state will be distributed to both the states, according to the population and other parameters

Above salient features are promising the possibility of the prosperous and equitable growth in both states. Apart from this Bill, the Prime Minister of the country announced special packages for both states particularly more packages to the Andhra Pradesh. The package details are as follows...

- Special category status will be extended for 5 years to Andhra Pradesh, comprising of 13 districts including 4 Rayalaseema districts and 3 North Coastal Andhra districts (Kalingandhra districts). In this package Central government will give 90% grants, as financial assistance.
- The Central government will adjust the deficit budget of Andhra Pradesh budget
- Special package plan for backward regions such as Rayalaseema and Kalinga Andhra. In these regions Central government will give a tax exemption, to the establishing industries
- Central government will take the responsibility of Polavaram project
- New state formation will begin with the completion of sharing personnel, finance, assets and liabilities distribution in a completely satisfactory way.

The above special packages definitely help both states and particularly the Andhra Pradesh state. Amount of above one lakh crore is being given to Andhra Pradesh in the form of grants, budget deficit adjustment and tax free packages. The Central government is establishing national level institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of Management (IIM), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill, 2013 is giving direction towards governance improvement, by decentralizing the administration. The Bill recommends more Assembly constitutions and Lok Sabha constitutions in both regions, which will take administration nearer to the people in both states. The separate Telangana state struggle brings important things like recognizing development of 2 tier & 3 tier towns, into the agenda. Earlier, total focus was on development of Hyderabad. This resulted in establishing all higher, technical and medical institutions, IT sector, pharmacy institutions and other prestigious institutions, mostly in Hyderabad. It became the most preferable city for higher education, employment and medical services to people across the state. Now government wants to change this situation in both the states by developing 2 tier & 3 tier towns and planning to increase more districts. These initiatives facilitate good governance in both states which is very important to the people. There are chances to ensure this, because of state bifurcation, as small states become easier to govern and to bring about development.

In 2000, three states- Chattishgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal were formed from its mother states- Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states. The development of newly formed small states also triggered the discussion on governance and development. Many demands are coming from the people across the country for smaller states such as Telangana state in Andhra Pradesh, Gorkhaland in West Bengal, Coorg in Karnataka, Mithilanchal in Bihar, Saurashtra in Gujarat, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, Harit Pradesh, Purvanchal, Braj Pradesh and Awadh Pradesh in Uttar Pradesh, Maru Pradesh in Rajasthan and Bhojpur from Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In this context, Andhra Pradesh bifurcation gives an opportunity for good governance, prosperity and equitable development in both states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Governance is the core element in a democratic society, which provides space for people's aspirations being fulfilled. It is important for the citizens, particularly to the poor and vulnerable people and backward areas. Governance is a system of values, policies and institutions to a society which manages economical, political and social affairs, through interaction with the state, civil society and private sector. Governance comprises of mechanisms and processes, which provide opportunities to people and groups to articulate their interests, mediate their differences and exercise their legal rights and obligations.

Good governance has some basic principles as follows:

- Accountability,
- Transparency,
- Equity,
- Effectiveness and Efficiency,
- Participation/ Voice,
- Rule of law,
- Strategic vision,
- Lack of arbitrariness,

- Ethics and integrity,

The small states are better suited for good governance, than big states. India can have 40 to 60 states which are larger than the average size nation state, with a population of 35 million. If we exclude 10 of world most populated countries, the average nation-state has 16 million people. Andhra Pradesh is one of the largest states in the country; it is in fourth place by area and fifth place by population. It is bigger than Germany and Vietnam in population. Andhra Pradesh state bifurcation provides good governance by creating small states and small governance units. The state administration would be nearer to the people. As a big state, it is not possible to ensure justice to all regions, particularly the backward regions in the state because of lack of specific focus on backward region specific issues. A small state means a small government, small budget and administration, which will reduce the chances of work delays. Small administrative units are better than big administrative units, in providing services and implementing schemes. It can easily be accessible to the common person and intelligently and speedily grasp their problems. In smaller states, there is more scope to improve functions, financial situations and functionalities of grassroots level institutions like PRIs. This is a crucial thing in governance. The Central government also recognized the importance of governance and 73rd & 74th Constitutional amendments were designed to strengthen the grassroots level administrative units to improve the governance. In united Andhra Pradesh, there were 23 districts. Now its number will increase by two times or three times. Telangana can have 23 districts including present 10 districts and Andhra Pradesh can have 32 districts including present 13 districts. Creation of additional districts will ensure that the district administration would be nearer to the people. People, particularly poor people would be able to approach the collector's office to solve their grievances and access benefits. For example, the establishment of mandal system enhances the services accessibility compared to earlier taluka system, which comprised as an average 4 to 6 present existing mandals, as one taluka. The small administrative units, nearer to the people facilitate more people's participation in governance. This situation improves the accountability and transparency of the government. Development plans should be designed, according to the regional specific opportunities and gaps, as each region has some specific characteristics. In a big state, it may not be possible to focus on region specific issues. For example, the irrigation system is completely different in coastal region compared to the Telangana region. 70% of the irrigation depends on bore wells in Telangana region, while in the coastal region, major irrigation depends on canals. Forest resources are rich in Telangana region. And for coastal region, the coastline is a major asset. In designing the development programs, one should consider these regional specific features. Small states can ensure the design of region specific plans for development.

Social inclusiveness is difficult in relatively bigger states because the disadvantaged group's voice remains fragmented. The past experiences show that, the traditionally well established group's interests are fulfilled in bigger or heterogeneous states because of their easy connectivity, access to large resources, power and their influence. But the weaker sections can organize voice effectively in a relatively homogeneous state because of common history, traditions, culture and easy commutability. For example, in united Andhra Pradesh, according to the census, out of the whole population, 14% were Scheduled Tribes (STs), of which 9% of the ST population percentage is in Telangana region and 5% in Seemandhra region (Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Kalingandhra regions). That means 64% of STs were residing in Telangana region and the rest of 36% STs were in Seemandhra region. The ST's voice was weak and they could not achieve minimum demands. Total ST, SC and Backward Castes (BC) percentage is 75% in the Telangana state. These weaker, disadvantaged groups may get strength in the small state of Telangana. These groups can articulate their demands more effectively and get more benefits in a smaller and relatively homogeneous state of Telangana than in united Andhra Pradesh. In big states, there is a danger that the dominant groups may sideline the weaker sections. Small states can provide space to new groups in ruling. These groups cannot access power in big states. Lack of political participation forced those groups to the backward position. These groups' aspirations should be considered in a democratic society. Otherwise, unrest will prevail in the society and those groups which are away from power lose the chances of accessing development benefits. In Telangana, ST, SC and BC population is high and their share in power is very less. These groups' political representation will increase in a small state like Telangana and ensure more equity.

In both states, there is a lot of scope to develop 2 tier towns. For example, united Andhra Pradesh has only 253 towns, where as there are 1097 towns in Tamil Nadu, 909 in West Bengal, 915 in Uttar Pradesh, 520 in Kerala, 350 in Gujarat and 347 in Karnataka states. The bifurcation process and lots of discussions forced the people to think about the development of 2 tier towns. Both states can increase two to three times more number of towns. It reduces the dependence on only one mega city like Hyderabad, for higher education and employment opportunities, business establishments and medical services. People also can access services and opportunities with less expenditure in-terms of time, travel and money. Big states always have big budgets and big administration. There are more chances for large scale scams in a big state. Because in a lakh crore budget

state, thousand crore scams may not be regarded as big scams. In a smaller state and with a small budget, even a small scam will become a big issue in the state.

In both states, people should act as pressure groups for better governance with accountability, equitable opportunities for marginalized sections and transparency. Particularly, there is a need to ensure democratic space for the people. More reforms are required in police department, which will provide opportunity to people to access civil rights. Constitutional rights are materialized in a democratic society. Small states have more chances for development. The earlier formed states Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal achieved good development compared to their mother states. According to the National Development Council, the newly formed states Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal have shown good performance between 10th Plan to 11th Plan as follows in above table. The growth may be possible in new states because of better planning and utilization of resources in those states.

Envisioning Prosperous States:

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states may have different development patterns. Mostly Telangana would depend mainly on IT and Hi-tech industries, micro irrigation methods and Andhra Pradesh would depend on labour intensive manufacture industries and export and import oriented industries. Telangana state comprised of 10 districts with 3.52 crore population. It is 41.6% of total population and 41.47% area in united Andhra Pradesh. Population wise Telangana is in 10th rank and geographical area wise, it is in 6th place with 1, 14,840kms in the country. There are 10 districts such as Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy and Warangal. Telangana is situated in the Deccan plateau. There are two main religions Hindu(84%) and Islam (12.4%), Sikh, Christian and others religions constitute 3.2%, in total population in Telangana. 76% people speak Telugu, 12% speak Urdu and remaining 12% of people speak other languages. Telangana state has two major rivers, Krishna and Godavari with 69% and 79% catchment area in the state. There are also 3 minor rivers such as Bhima, Manjira and Musi. The annual rainfall of the region is 800 to 1200 mm. It is a semi-arid area and 60% of the cultivation depends on rainfall. 70% of cultivation depends on ground water by bore wells. Telangana has 75% river catchment but it is very difficult to utilize river water for agriculture areas because the region is far above to the river flow. Lift irrigation method is good for irrigation which is less expensive. Telangana has vast forest areas and 20% of the country's coal deposits. The Singareni coal mines are spread over 612 km across 4 districts with 9877 million tonnes of coal. There are huge mica, bauxite and limestone reserves in the state. The key defence establishments and its supplementary units, which are situated in Hyderabad surroundings, attract huge foreign companies. It plays a key role in development. According to the McKinsey study, India is going to spend Rs.9, 30,000 crores on weapons procurement. Nearly Rs.3, 27,000 crores worth orders will come under off-set requirement, which has to be secured locally. Hyderabad is relatively safe city in terms of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and earthquakes and terrorist threats. It is strategically a very important city to the country. Hyderabad is surrounded by a number of businesses such as Information Technology (IT) sector, Pharmaceutical industries, defense, engineering, aviation, semiconductors, power, steel, cement, banking, electronics and agriculture based industries. There are large number of small and medium companies and cottage industries which serve as supplementary units to the big industries and also provide employment to many people. Hyderabad is the hub of IT industry. Many IT companies like Google, Microsoft, Face book, IBM, Qualcomm, CA,CSC, Oracle, Dell, Accenture, Yahoo, Amazon, Cognizant, Genpact, Tech Mahendra and many others established their business in Hyderabad. These companies may not shift to other cities because of three reasons such as availability of talented human resources, air connectivity and physical & social infrastructure. It is a major contributor to the economy of Hyderabad. The United Andhra Pradesh state registered Rs.53000 crores value of IT exports and 95% of it is from Hyderabad.

Name of The State	Target Growth Rate (In %)	Achieved Growth Rate (In %)
Chattisgarh	6.1	9.2
Madhya Pradesh	7.0	4.3
Jharkhand	6.9	11.1
Bihar	6.2	4.7
Uttanchal	6.8	8.8

Uttar Pradesh	7.6	4.6
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Andhra Pradesh had 13 districts with 5 crore population (2011 Census) and 1, 60,208 km geographical area. There are 3 major regions like Coastal Andhra, Kalingandhra and Rayalaseema in Seemandhra. Coastal Andhra had 6 districts- East Godavari, Guntur, Krishna, Nellore, Prakasham, and West Godavari, three districts- Srikakulam, Vishakapatnam, Viziyaganam in Kalinga Andhra and four districts- Ananthapur, Chittoor, Kadapa (YSR) and Kurnool are in Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh state. Telugu is the main language in the state. Coastal region cultivation depends on canal irrigation. Paddy cultivation is the predominant crop in this region. In Rayalaseema region, cultivation depends on rainfall. In Andhra Pradesh, coastal region had the second largest coastline with 972 km. The coastline is a rich resource and all modern big cities such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Rotterdam, London, and St. Petersburg, Lisbon, Cairo, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Shanghai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai developed along coastline across the world. The Coastline is a tremendous asset to Andhra Pradesh to develop ports. Presently, it has only six ports, while Gujarat has established 41 ports.

Coastline is the richest natural resource to Andhra Pradesh. It attracts many heavy industries which do import and export business, of petro-chemical products. This can boost petro-chemical industries, pharmacy industries, agriculture produce, export zone gems and Jewellery Park, marine biotech park in Vishakapatnam area. Coastal region, both seashore and offshore have 6550 million metric tonnes of oil and gas reserves and in-place reserves are nearly 747 million metric tonnes. This gives tremendous opportunity for oil and gas exploration and extraction. Above 89% of the resources are yet to be located. Presently, conventional gas and oil resources are shrinking and in future these prices will be hiked. The gas and oil economy will play a crucial role in the development of Andhra Pradesh. Vishakapatnam is the second biggest city after Hyderabad, with a population of two million people. It has one of the major sea ports in the country and headquarters of the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian navy. It has steel plant, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL), Naval Science and Technology Laboratory (NSTL), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Vizag port and Gannavram port and International Airport. The Vizag sea port is the third biggest sea port in the country. Vishakapatnam had all the infrastructure facilities including road, rail, air and sea connectivity. It has 60 private industries, 14 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 15 industrial and 4 IT parks, pharmacy and other small & medium industries. In future, it will become a hub of IT sector. The Vishakapatnam district is a reservoir of many natural resources such as bauxite, limestone and quartz. The coastal belt has potential for tourism. Vijayawada and Guntakal towns are major railway junctions which connect many states across the country. Manufacturing and food processing industries can be established in Chittoor. Ananthapur and Chittoor will benefit with Chennai and Bangalore in the industrial corridor.

Establishment of new capital city, higher educational institutions, hospitals, administrative buildings to additional districts and other state level institutions boost the construction sector which greatly impacts the economy and facilitates the development of cement and steel industries. This provides employment to many people. Establishing additional districts and 3 to 4 time's additional ports will create a number of jobs and livelihood opportunities to many people, including skilled and non-skilled people. Andhra Pradesh comprises beautiful tourist locations such as sea beaches and hill-stations pilgrimages like- Araku, Borra caves, Simhachalam, Konaseema, Buddhist sites, Chandragiri fort, Annavaram, KankaDurga temple, Tirupathi temple and many more. Tirupathi temple is a very important temple and is the highest income-earning pilgrimage in the world. Central government is providing almost above one lakh crore rupees of financial help in many forms. Definitely, this huge amount of investment will help the development of Andhra Pradesh. Particularly, the special packages for backward regions- Rayalaseema and Kalingandhra will help reduce the regional disparities and lead to equitable development.

The governance, equity and prosperity do not automatically happen by just creating small states. There are some issues and challenges in small states which need to be solved. For example, in Jharkhand, political instability is very high, government has changed hands more than 10 times in 14 years. Though, this state achieved more growth rate than its mother state. The political disturbances hamper the state's development. The political leadership's backwardness is one of the major causes behind the instability of the government in the state. The leadership will take time to get political maturity in this state. The decentralization from above may bring the administration nearer to the people. But it may not enhance the people's participation and democracy automatically. The existing social, political and cultural conditions play a vital role in facilitating democracy to the people. For example, without democratic processes from below, if Rayalaseema separates as a state, factionist leaders may come to power and reduce minimum democratic space for the people. Democratization process should start from below to ensure democracy. In smaller states, if these forces are weak the dominant power groups will easily capture total power and suppress the people's voice. In Telangana there are 10.40 lakhs (65%)

agriculture pump sets, while there are 16 lakh pump sets in united Andhra Pradesh. Telangana generates 5850 MW power, which is insufficient for its requirement. Talengana has to invest more money on power generation.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh may emerge as prosperous and equitable states with lots of new opportunities and possibilities. In this journey, people's participation is crucial. Central government's help is required to the future development process in both the states. The leadership will develop in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states, decentralization and particularly democratization process from below, will emerge in these states. These are the conditions which facilitates good governance to the people in both states. Our country needs many smaller states, which can ensure good governance, prosperity and equity to the people.

***Livelihoods February-2014**

51.Demonetization

Demonetization is not new to Indians! But the way it has been implemented by the present government has taken everyone by surprise. On November 08, 2016, 8.30 PM, our esteemed Prime Minister (PM) addressed the Nation and made an announcement on Demonetization of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- notes to curb black money, counterfeit notes and terrorism funding in the country. Demonetized currency notes are about 86% of the total currency in our country. India had earlier demonetized its currency notes in 1946 and 1978. In 1946, before Indian independence, the British Government had demonetized Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 10,000/- notes. And then in 1978, the then PM Morarji Desai from Janta Party had demonetized Rs. 1000/- , Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 10,000/- currency notes. During that period, a very few elite families had high value currency notes; thus it did not affect the larger population, particularly the poor people. In 2014, partial Demonetization of currency Rs.500/- was done. The currency printed prior to 2005. The current, unexpected demonetization decision and scarcity of new currency had a huge impact on daily wage labourers, farmers, workers, migrant labourers, elders, disabled persons ad small entrepreneurs' lives and livelihoods across the country. In our country, nearly 95% of the market transactions involves cash. Even after a month of demonetization, crores of poor people are still struggling with cash crunch and are unable to meet day today needs with limited currency.



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Demonetization has led to chaos. Over 85% of India's financial transactions are cash-based, with only a minuscule population of urban salaried class of India moving to a cashless way of life. As a society, we are far from being a cashless society. It is very unfair to our rural and urban poor citizens, who do not even have bank accounts and haven't even seen debit cards, let alone use them, unlike the urban salaried class who are in the midst of cab aggregators, payment gateways, e-wallets and mobile apps, and therefore have no problems without hard cash. Demonetization has hit small businesses, small farmers, traders, daily wage workers the hardest. These are the group of people who do not have bank accounts. There is another group, the senior citizens, who prefer to keep emergency funds at home instead of making multiple trips to the ATM. The most

vulnerable groups are those people, who earn a few hundred rupees a month and save even less, and have no bank accounts in which to put these measly sums.

The authorities have failed to take into account, the problems of vast majority of the Indians, and did not take the plight of these people into account before taking such a massive step. Demonetization has affected the wallets of 125 crore population, right from small traders, to sex workers, casual farm workers, to daily wage labourers, dealers, who prefer to receive cash as they only receive small remunerations for their day's labour; their lives and livelihoods have been impacted adversely. It is important to understand, that the bottom half of population ends up spending almost their entire earnings on consumption. The rural workers, daily wagers, weekly wage earners or fortnightly wage earners, earn less than Rs. 1,350/- per week and even the bottom half among, the urban population earns less at most Rs. 1,970/- per week. The woes of commoners seem unending.

The key issues faced by the common man have been that manual labourers and daily wage workers are unemployed as their employers lack money to pay them in cash and online payment is not viable. The worst hit are those, who are not on plastic money. The Government, in strongly pushing for digitalization, may have good intentions, but in case of medical emergencies, and also other urgent expenditure, what will the people do. With sudden news of demonetization, private hospitals and chemists are neither accepting old notes nor extending credit. The demonetization has affected the marriage season too, where-in families who were holding money for marriage ceremonies are one of the worst sufferers. The average Indian marriage costs 10 lakhs and above. The government after demonetization allowed for a restricted sanction of 2.5 lakh for a marriage, which coupled with online transactions has brought, some timely relief to those who are in the digital sphere.

The move by the government, has also brought the budget of every common person to crash. Farmers and rural folks are facing a great deal of hardships, as many of them do not have bank accounts or own a debit or a credit card. The whole concept of internet banking is far exclusive for this rural population, who handle liquid cash and small change. There have been instances of looting and flaring tempers and ransacking of fair price shops and banks in a few states (Madhya Pradesh, Assam and UP), where in the local public, who were highly inconvenienced and had no cash with which they could buy daily necessities resorted to illegal things desperation. In our country, more than a quarter of a billion people do not have access to the formal banking sector. For example, the cases of domestic maids who cook, clean in several houses, whose husbands are daily wage labours, start to spend the entire day from morning till evening at queues in banks, they lose out on daily wages. The milkmen cannot deliver milk anymore, because they can't pay for it. The case of laundrymen, who iron the housing societies' clothes, going from house to house asking for Rs.100/- notes is a regular sight, as they cannot afford to stand in line for the whole day either.

The impact of demonetization is so severe that people have been standing outside ATMs to realize the extent of Indian resilience. The desperation is so bad that people, who are queuing in front of ATMs are coming stocked with food, juices, etc., to do so until they get some of their hard earned cash. On the other hand, there is also free exchange of information, gossip, rumours of shortages of essential items, etc., Friends and families are taking turns to stand up in queue, and with flared tempers, fights are breaking out between people in the queues. By standing in the queue, some people have collapsed and some have died. Office-goers have been forced to skip work to get hold of their salary. The demonetization drive has induced panic in local markets, as the number of transactions has dropped by more than 50%. The deep deflation, where in the amount of money in circulation will drop dramatically, while supply of goods will remain stable, will drop in prices of goods. A cashless society, in a poor country like ours, is a dream that has turned out to be a nightmare.

With regard to informal credit market in rural India, the scenario remains still unclear as to how demonetization will change this sector. Nearly 40% of the loans taken by agricultural households are from informal sources; as moneylenders advance 26% of the credit (Data of NSSO, December 2016). In case of marginal land-holding households, the numbers are more skewed with just 15% of the credit coming from formal sources i.e., banks and co-operatives. The note ban is a severe blow to the rural commercial capital (cash and wealth with the rural elite like moneylenders, traders and input dealers), who evaded the tax net till now, may be forced to reduce their cash transactions and will change entrenched rural relations. On the agriculture front, farmers have been severely hit, as the local input dealers are selling fertilizers and seeds to farmers on credit on the condition, that the harvest is pledged to him. The demonetization has already started showing adverse impact on the farming community, and according to SFAC, for the 2017 kharif season, the challenge for the farmers would be, the limited amount of cash flowing into the rural economy, which will take time to be restored. There has been huge compression in informal loans, which would continue till next season too.

Rural India, has been severely hit by lack of cash in circulation. The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with 25 crore accounts across the country received just about Rs.8,000/- crore of fresh currency from November 10 to November 30, which is a little less than Rs. 350/- per account holder. Also, it has been noted that there is a skewed distribution of cash between India and Bharat as public sector banks, who are also sponsors of RRBs,

are favoring the urban sector till now. For instances, a place like Bundelkhand, one of the poorest regions in central India, has already started crumbling as there is shortage of cash in banks; a parallel black economy, an illegal cash-barter system and deepening of feudal repression have intensified the woes of this largely agricultural belt, as the region is already reeling, under the impact of three consecutive droughts and then a flash flood this past monsoon. It is just not about the farmers, but everyone associated with agricultural trading stands to lose out on a large portion of their income. The people are complaining of poorly stocked homes, failing health machinery and apprehensions of a famine like situation. The farmers have neither been able to sell their kharif produce smoothly nor do they have enough resources to sow wheat on time. The farmers are left with no coping mechanisms.

Real estate sector has been also been hit really badly by demonetization, as it has come as a reality check for the realty market in the national capital region with registration of properties dipping by almost 30 percent, while kindling hopes of cheaper flats among prospective buyers. Transactions in the sector usually involve a significant amount of cash exchange aimed at avoiding tax by under-reporting the value of the deal. Prices have tumbled, as the hidden money is moving out of the market. With government scrapping 86 percent of the available currency notes, the registration of flats, plots and shops have gone down by almost 30 percent. Not only this, several thousands of empty Jan-Dhan accounts have been flooded with cash in the last 10 days, and these are the accounts of women and after government's demonetization move, more and more women are coming forward to deposit money in their dormant bank accounts.

In Gurgaon, 10,000 - 12,000 daily wage workers have already left as the demonetization has impacted over one lakh construction workers in the city. Majority of the seasonal workers are struggling to make ends meet due to absence of work and cash. As Gurgaon is a hub of the real estate industry, wherein 40,000-50,000 workers migrate there every season, the construction work in the unorganized sector has come to an standstill. The construction workers have thinned down since demonetization. The cost of the economy during the 50 day period till December 30 as per the CIME has estimated at 1.28 lakh crore, as when people may deposit old currency notes in banks. However, this does not include many indirect costs, such as those from disturbing the supply chain. It is also said that the highest immediate cost of Rs. 61,500/- crore would be borne by the enterprise sector. This covers all businesses that produce goods and services, and are involved in the entire supply chain of these; farmers, input suppliers, transporters, retailers, manufacturers, stock-keepers, distributors, malls and other retail outlets. The study also says that the entire supply chain of goods and services will suffer a massive liquidity shock, as a large part of this chain is cash-based. The projected cost to the government and Reserve Bank is around 16,800 crore, with at least four kinds of costs in this regard. First, they have to print new currency notes; next, the cost of transporting the new notes to all bank branches, post offices and ATMs; then, pay the highway toll agencies, which have been asked to keep their stretches toll-free; lastly, its own costs in terms of human resources and corresponding overheads to manage this mammoth operation, these all can provide opportunity for institutional capital to step in with agility. The easing-off of difficulties doesn't seem to be in sight to the commoners any time soon. Poor people are facing difficulty by standing in queues for a day, which means loss of a day's earning for the poor. The public is highly inconvenienced, as they do not have cash, with which to buy daily necessities.

Government on 8 November 2016, demonetized 14 lakh crore old Rs. 500/- notes (7.85 lakh crore) and Rs. 1000/- (6.33 lakh crore) currency notes, which were in circulation. After completion of around 41 days of declaration of demonetization, people have deposited nearly 13 lakh crore demonetized currency in banks out of 15.4 lakh crore demonetized currency. The deposited amount is higher than the government assessment, and almost 80% of demonetized money has been deposited in banks; it maybe those in coming days, most of the old currency will be deposited into banks. Government is hoping that demonetization may facilitate the country's journey towards cashless economy, where most of the transactions to be done by cards, wallets, net banking, cheques, Point of Sale Terminals (POS) instead of currency notes. This move would disable mobilization of black money, and also would bring in more people under the umbrella of tax net; thereby, increase government's revenue through taxes. This would ensure reduction in the time and cost of human resources for the government to track money transactions, and also would reduce the expenditure of currency printing, replacing, transporting and securing. Central government had announced to supply two POS machines or credit card swipe machines to each village in the country. Nearly 12 lakh people, may get livelihood opportunities through POS machines in around six lakh villages. Furthermore, the government may go for giving incentives for cashless transactions, and in future, the government may impose more charges on ATM withdrawals to force people to take to cashless transactions.

Demonetization has affected and impacted the lives and livelihoods of daily wage labourers, farmers and small entrepreneurs in the informal sector. Being the largest cash-based economy in the world, crores of people have lost work days across the country. Due to cash scarcity and inaccessibility of cashless transactions, people's purchasing power has declined, when compared to pre-demonetization, leading to decline in production growth

and cost cuttings. Demonetization has also facilitated increase of cashless transactions through cards, wallets, net banking and POS. Supermarkets and other large-scale enterprises and businesses have increased sales due to the availability and accessibility of cashless transactions. Demonetization is a way forward to reduce black money, increase accountability and transparency. The governance will improve if cashless transactions penetrate into the remotest of the areas. However, to achieve complete digitalization and cashless transactions for improved accountability, it is important that mechanisms be put in place. Dedication of political leadership and their consistent honest efforts are required for achieving the government's noble dream for its own countrymen. However, it is not the initiative and its intent that is under question, but the implementation that has been cause for worry.

***livelihoods January-2017**

52. Goods and Services Tax

As the clock struck 12:00 am on 1st July 2017 at the historic midnight session of the Parliament, India ushered in a new era, in its indirect taxing regime with the introduction of the much-discussed and debated Goods and Services Tax (GST). It is a value addition tax, i.e., tax will levied at each value addition in the supply and will ultimately be paid by the consumer at the end of supply chain. The GST subsumed a number of Central and State goods and services taxes such as VAT, Central Excise Tax, etc., to pave the way for the concept of 'One Nation- One Tax'. Even now, after close to two months of GST, most of the common people are still quite confused as to its impact on economy and especially, what it means to their lives and livelihoods. Let us try to understand GST and see, what it entails for all the stakeholders involved.



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Through GST, government aims of creating a single national market, simplification of taxing regime, bring about a more trade-friendly, unified tax on goods and services, which will put a stop to cascading effects of taxes, increase Input Tax Credit (ITC), ensure growth in manufacturing sector and decrease hassles in supplying of goods across states. GST is the culmination of almost two decades of hard work and planning on part of thousands of government officials and multiple governments.

However, it is just the first step in a long process. The real issues begin, when it comes to implementing, it in a country as large as ours, keeping all stakeholders happy, updating taxpayers' knowledge of new norms and rules, setting up appropriate technology base, and making the transition period as hassle-free for taxpayers as possible.

Why the need for GST? Since times immemorial taxes have been levied on people by those, ruling them for overall development and welfare of kingdoms or countries. Taxes are the way through, which governments get funds for running the country, building public infrastructure, implementing social welfare measures, and other miscellaneous activities. Taxes are generally of two types- direct and indirect. Direct taxes are taxes, which are collected directly from people, from whatever they earn or from their wealth and are made up of income tax, wealth tax and other taxes. Indirect taxes, on the other hand, are taxes which are levied on the manufacturing, supplying, selling and consumption of the goods or services.

In India, both the central and state governments have the power to introduce taxes, indirect taxes are a major source of revenue for both central and state governments. The central government has, over the years, developed a number of taxes on manufacturing, sale of goods and services provided, cesses and surcharges for funding various schemes and initiatives. While, state governments also have developed a set of taxes, the revenue, from which was spent for development of their respective states? However, this way of levying taxes, though working decently, led to a lot of little hassles and time consumption. For a person to do business, he/she would have to pay these confusing arrays of central and state taxes and file returns separately for them. In case of presence of a company in multiple states, each of the states' taxes, which vary a lot, need to be paid up.

Also, in case of supplying of goods across states, waiting at check posts for paying Entry Tax, resulted in delays in receiving of goods. The rates of goods and services weren't uniform all over the country, as the taxes differed, so did prices. There was a need for a unified taxing system, that would increase the ease of doing business. Another one of the most crucial points on which a change in the taxing system was considered necessary by the experts dealt with full utilization

of Input Tax Credit (ITC). In the pre-GST taxing system, the central and state taxes levied at each value addition point of the supply chain of goods, couldn't be deducted from the taxes already paid by those before them in the supply chain. Due to this, companies had to pay taxes on taxes, which were ultimately borne by the common people through the rise in cost of products. Thus, to mitigate these problems and to bring both goods and services under a single umbrella, simplify the taxing regime, and to bring about transparency; GST was conceived.

History of GST: The GST in India was first thought of during the Vajpayee-led government in 2000. But it was not until 2007, when the then Finance Minister under UPA regime P. Chidambaram first mentioned, it in Budget speech. The talks started with the representatives of all the states, as the states feared the loss of revenue. An Empowered Committee (EC) of State Finance Ministers was formed soon after. After recommendations from EC, the Constitution Amendment Bill on GST was introduced in 2011. After many deliberations, the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) and EC finally prepared a revised Bill in 2014. However, the government had changed by then, the Amendment Bill lapsed. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley reintroduced the One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment Bill in December 2014. It took almost two years of debates, before the Constitution Amendment Bill was finally passed by both houses of the Parliament.

As a Constitutional Amendment was required to be ratified, by at least 50% of the states, it was sent to all the states. Assam became the first state to ratify it and soon more than 19 states followed. On 8 September 2016, the President gave his assent to the Constitutional Amendment. It came to be officially known as The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, and paved the way for the GST to be introduced. The Act stipulated for the GST Council, the apex policy making body for GST, to be formed within 60 days and which would decide on the -

- Taxes, cesses, and surcharges to be included under the GST;
- Goods and services which possibly will be subject to, or exempt from GST;
- The threshold maximum value of turnover for function of GST;
- Tax slabs and rates to be decided for each of the goods and services;
- GST laws, principles of levy, apportionment of IGST and principles associated with place of supply;
- Special provisions with respect to the eight north eastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand; and other associated matters.

Other matters pertaining to implementation and regulation of GST in India.

GST Council was formed on 12 September 2016. The GST Council was setup soon after. On the 22 and 23 of September 2016, the GST Council held its first meeting. GST Council consists of the following members:

The Union Finance Minister (as Chairman).

The Union Minister of State in-charge of Revenue or Finance.

The Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister, nominated by each State Government to the GST Council.

The Union Cabinet also appointed some officials for facilitating the smooth running of GST Council:

The Secretary (Revenue) as the Ex-officio Secretary to GST Council.

The Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC), as a permanent invitee (non voting) to all proceedings of the Council.

One post of Additional Secretary to the Council in the GST Council Secretariat (at the level of Additional Secretary to the Government of India).

Four posts of Commissioner in the GST Secretariat (at the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India).

The GST Network (GSTN) was launched on 23 September 2016. It is a non-profit, non-government organization that will be the IT backbone of GST. The GSTN will have the whole database of GST and will be the portal where taxpayers get registered and file returns and maintain tax details. Through GSTN, the government will keep track of all financial transactions. As everything is online, it will ensure better transparency. Furthermore, as the GST was to comprise of three components- Central Goods and Services tax, State Goods and Services Tax for

intrastate taxing; the revenue of which will be shared equally by centre and states, and Integrated Goods and Services Tax for interstate taxing; the revenue for which will go to the centre and state consuming the goods or services. In the case of a Union Territory (UT), a Union Territory Goods and Services Tax (UTGST). But for putting these components in place, the necessary legislation was to be put in place.

Both the centre and states through GST Council began drafting the Central GST, State GST, Union Territory GST and Integrated GST laws, which were to be passed in Parliament. Moreover, a compensation Bill for the states which stood to lose revenue also had to be drafted. Between March and April 2017, Parliament passed four Bills and soon after the President gave his nod to pass Central GST Act, 2017, the Union Territory GST Act, 2017, the Integrated GST Act, 2017 and the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017. After this, the state Assemblies began passing their SGST Acts, 2017. Thus, bringing GST closer to becoming a reality.

On 19 May 2017, GST Council in its meeting decided on slabs rates that goods were to be put in. They were- Nil, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. Moreover, alcohol, petroleum, power, aviation fuel, natural gas and certain other goods were to be exempted for now. The GST Council has listed around 1211 goods and services under 98 categories in the four tax slabs.

Salient features of GST:

(i) The GST would be applicable on the supply of goods or services as against the present concept of tax on the manufacture or sale of goods or provision of services. It would be a destination based consumption tax. This means that tax would accrue to the State or the Union Territory where the consumption takes place. It would be a dual GST with the Centre and States simultaneously levying tax on a common tax base. The GST to be levied by Centre on intra-State supply of goods or services would be called the Central tax (CGST) and that to be levied by States including UT with legislature/Union Territories without legislature would be called the State Tax (SGST)/ Union Territory Tax (UTGST) respectively.

(ii) The GST would apply to all goods, other than alcoholic liquor for human consumption and five petroleum products, viz. petroleum crude, motor spirit (petrol), high speed diesel, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. It would apply to all services barring a few to be specified. The GST would replace following taxes currently levied and collected by the Centre:

- a. Central Excise Duty
- b. Duties of Excise (Medicinal and Toilet Preparations)
- c. Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance)
- d. Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles and Textile Products)
- e. Additional Duties of Customs (commonly known as CVD)
- f. Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD)
- g. Service Tax
- h. Central Surcharges and Cesses so far as they relate to supply of goods and services

(iii) State taxes that would be subsumed under the GST are:

- a. State VAT
- b. Central Sales Tax
- c. Luxury Tax
- d. Entry Tax (all forms)
- e. Entertainment and Amusement Tax (except when levied by the local bodies)
- f. Taxes on advertisements
- g. Purchase Tax
- h. Taxes on lotteries, betting and gambling
- i. State Surcharges and Cesses so far as they relate to supply of goods and services

(iv) The list of exempted goods and services would be common for the Centre and the States.

(v) Threshold Exemption: Taxpayers with an aggregate turnover in a financial year up to Rs.20 lakhs would be exempt from tax. Aggregate turnover shall be computed on all India basis. For 11 Special Category States, like those in the North-East and the hilly States, the exemption threshold shall be Rest. 10 lakhs. All taxpayers eligible for threshold exemption will have the option of paying tax with Input Tax Credit (ITC) benefits. Taxpayers making inter-State supplies or paying tax on reverse charge basis shall not be eligible for threshold exemption.

(vi) Composition levy: Small taxpayers with an aggregate turnover in a financial year up to Rest. 50 lakhs shall be eligible for composition levy. Under the scheme, a taxpayer shall pay tax as a percentage of his turnover during the year without the benefit of ITC. The rate of tax for CGST and SGST/UTGST each shall not exceed -

- 2.5% in case of restaurants etc
- 1% of the turnover in a state/ UT in case of a manufacturer
- 0.5% of the turnover in state/UT in case of other suppliers.

A taxpayer opting for composition levy shall not collect any tax from his customers nor shall he be entitled to claim any input tax credit. The composition scheme is optional. Taxpayers making inter-State supplies shall not be eligible for composition scheme. The government, may, on recommendation of GST Council, increase threshold for scheme to up to rupees one crore.

(vii) An Integrated tax (IGST) would be levied and collected by the Centre on inter-State supply of goods and services. Accounts would be settled periodically between the Centre and the States to ensure that the SGST/UTGST portion of IGST is transferred to the destination State, where the goods or services are eventually consumed.

(viii) Use of Input Tax Credit: Taxpayers shall be allowed to take credit of taxes paid on inputs (input tax credit) and utilize the same for payment of output tax. However, no input tax credit on account of CGST shall be utilized towards payment of SGST/UTGST and vice versa. The credit of IGST would be permitted to be utilized, for payment of IGST, CGST and SGST/UTGST in that order.

(ix) Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code shall be used for classifying the goods under the GST regime. Taxpayers whose turnover is above Rs. 1.5 crore but below Rs. 5 crore shall use 2-digit code and the taxpayers whose turnover is Rs. 5 crore and above shall use 4-digit code. Taxpayers, whose turnover is below Rs. 1.5 crore are not required to mention HSN Code in their invoices.

(x) Exports and supplies to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) shall be treated as zero-rated supplies. The exporter shall have an option to either pay output tax and claim its refund or export under bond without tax and claim refund of Input Tax Credit.

(xi) Import of goods and services would be treated as inter-State supplies and would be subject to IGST in addition to the applicable customs duties. The IGST paid shall be available as ITC for further transactions.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161273>

GST implementation: Much before the introduction of GST, the government, anticipating the repercussions of a tax reform of such magnitude as GST, had been organizing several seminars and workshops for people to understand the new norms and rules. Alongside, a lot of private firms have also been organizing classes for businesses as well to raise their awareness. However, people continued to be tense fearing the transition. The government in a bid to fend off this panic among people assured that it will take a lenient view on compliance for a couple of months by which time the businesses would be expected to be fully compliant.

All these efforts seem to have paid off as a high number of around 71.30 lakh taxpayers of the old indirect tax regime have finished migrating to GST already. A surprising fact is that 15 lakh new taxpayers have also applied for registrations, even though the threshold for taxing under the older regime was lesser than the GST threshold of 20 lakhs turnover, which means that GST has succeeded in increasing the tax base of indirect taxes in India.

A number of these fresh registrations are from businesses which have voluntarily joined GST even though they are under the threshold, in fear that they will lose business because of Reverse Charge Mechanism - A mechanism through which a GST registered taxpayer buying goods worth more than Rs. 5000/- in a single day from an unregistered taxpayer, will be liable to pay full GST under reverse charge mechanism. This will obviously make the GST registered taxpayers reluctant to do business with unregistered dealers, suppliers, etc. Thus, even small businesses are opting to get registered instead of losing business. However, registering is just the first step, as after registration the voluntary taxpayers will be treated as normal taxpayers and will have to file monthly 3 returns, apart from an annual return. If a registered taxpayer fails to give details of inward or outward supplies or delays in filing returns, they will be fined Rs. 100/- per day for a maximum of Rs. 5000/-. And failing to pay tax by the prescribed date will have to pay 18% interest from the next day after due date.

List of important items:

Gold and rough diamonds do not fall under the current rate slab ambit and will be taxed at 3% and 0.25% respectively.

No tax (0%)

Goods: No tax will be imposed on items like Jute, fresh meat, fish, chicken, eggs, milk, butter milk, curd, natural honey, fresh fruits and vegetables, flour, besan, bread, prasad, salt, bindi. Sindoor, stamps, judicial papers, printed books, newspapers, bangles, Bones and horn cores, bone grist, bone meal, etc.; hoof meal, horn meal, Cereal grains hulled, Palmyra jaggery, Salt - all types, Kajal, Children's' picture, drawing or colouring books, Human hair Services

Hotels and lodges with tariff below Rs 1,000, Grandfathering service has been exempted under GST. Rough precious and semi-precious stones will attract GST rate of 0.25 per cent.

5%

Goods: Items such as fish fillet, Apparel below Rs 1000, packaged food items, footwear below Rs 500, cream, skimmed milk powder, branded paneer, frozen vegetables, coffee, tea, spices, pizza bread, rusk, sabudana, kerosene, coal, medicines, stent, lifeboats, Cashew nut, Cashew nut in shell, Raisin, Ice and snow, Bio gas, Insulin, Agarbatti, Kites, Postage or revenue stamps, stamp-post marks, first-day covers.

Services: Transport services (Railways, air transport), small restaurants will be under the 5% category because their main input is petroleum, which is outside GST ambit. Textile job work will be taxed at 5%.

12%

Goods: Apparel above Rs 1000, frozen meat products, butter, cheese, ghee, dry fruits in packaged form, animal fat, sausage, fruit juices, Bhutia, namkeen, Ayurvedic medicines, tooth powder, agarbatti, colouring books, picture books, umbrella, sewing machine, cellphones, Ketchup & Sauces, All diagnostic kits and reagents, Exercise books and note books, Spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake servers, fish knives, tongs, Spectacles, corrective, Playing cards, chess board, carom board and other board games, like ludo, Services State-run lotteries, Non-AC hotels, business class air ticket, fertilisers, Work Contracts will fall under 12 per cent GST tax slab

18%

Goods: Most items are under this tax slab which include footwear costing more than Rs 500, Trademarks, goodwill, software, BidiPatta, Biscuits (All categories), flavoured refined sugar, pasta, cornflakes, pastries and cakes, preserved vegetables, jams, sauces, soups, ice cream, instant food mixes, mineral water, tissues, envelopes, tampons, note books, steel products, printed circuits, camera, speakers and monitors, Kajal pencil sticks, Headgear and parts thereof, Aluminium foil, Weighing Machinery [other than electric or electronic weighing machinery], Printers [other than multifunction printers], Electrical Transformer, CCTV, Optical Fiber, Bamboo furniture, Swimming pools and padding pools, Curry paste; mayonnaise and salad dressings; mixed condiments and mixed seasonings, and Tractor parts.

Services: AC hotels that serve liquor, telecom services, IT services, branded garments and financial services will attract 18 per cent tax under GST, Room tariffs between Rs 2,500 and Rs 7,500, Restaurants inside five-star hotels

28%

Goods: Bidis, chewing gum, molasses, chocolate not containing cocoa, waffles and wafers coated with chocolate, pan masala, aerated water, paint, deodorants, shaving creams, after shave, hair shampoo, dye, sunscreen, wallpaper, ceramic tiles, water heater, dishwasher, weighing machine, washing machine, ATM, vending machines, vacuum cleaner, shavers, hair clippers, automobiles, motorcycles, aircraft for personal use, will attract 28 % tax - the highest under GST system.

Services: Private-run lotteries authorised by the states, hotels with room tariffs above Rs 7,500, 5-star hotels, race club betting, cinema will attract tax 28 per cent tax slab under GST

[Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/a-quick-guide-to-india-gst-rates-in-2017/articleshow/58743715.cms>]

The question is whether small businesses will have the necessary computer literacy to file online returns, while sustaining their small businesses. Additionally, for the benefit of small and medium businesses, the composition scheme for taxpayers, who have turnover lower than Rs.75 lakhs has been launched. However, taxpayers dealing with services cannot opt for the scheme. Under it, taxpayers only need to file quarterly returns and annual returns. They have to pay a fixed amount of taxes- 1% for manufacturer, 2.5% for restaurant sector and 0.5% for other suppliers of turnover. But those under this scheme cannot charge this tax from customers, but have to pay it from their revenue.

So far, taxes collected for the month of July stand at Rs. 42,000 crore of which Rs. 15,000 crore came from IGST, or interstate GST tax, and Rs. 22,000 crore from CGST and SGST even though there is still a lot of time to

file returns. The tax for the previous financial year (including VAT and Service Tax) was around

Rs. 50,000 crore. So far, 10 lakh tax payers have filed returns and around a whopping 60 lakh taxpayers are expected to file. The final numbers will be out after the deadline ends.

Impact on common people: The bane of every common man is in the rise of prices. From the most vulnerable sections to the middle classes, price rise leads to a lot of strain on people's families and their budgets. With the hype generated around GST by the media, people began fearing how GST would bode for them. Government has been busy assuring people, that they are not aiming for increase in revenues by raising taxes through GST, but just want it to be revenue neutral.

In fact, government insists that prices of many items will go down, due to the companies getting benefits through reduced tax under new regime and increased ITC. An anti-profiteering mechanism has been added for penalizing companies failing to pass on the gains to the customers in the form of decrease in prices. Most of the essential commodities such as rice, fresh vegetables, fruits milk, eggs, fish, chicken, besan, salt, bread, newspapers have been exempted from GST which is a welcome move. Milk powder, coffee, tea etc have been placed under 5% slab.

Butter, ghee, cheese have been put under 12% slab. Biscuits have been placed under 18% slab and shampoos, shaving creams have been put under 28% slab, while hair oils, soaps and toothpaste have been put under 18% slab which seems a bit harsh as they are a must for almost all families. Clothes below Rs. 1000 attract 5% tax while those over Rs. 1000 get 12% tax and branded clothes attract 18% tax. Footwear below Rs. 500 get 5% tax while those over Rs. 500 attract 18% tax. Small hotels with tariff below Rs.1000 have been exempted from tax, while small restaurants get 5% tax, non-ac hotels attract 12%, Ac hotels which serve liquor at 18% and five star and seven star hotels get 28% tax.

Transport services like railways and airlines have attracted 5% taxes, while business class tickets were put under 12% tax slab. A good move has been levying a 28% tax on luxury and demerit goods such as small and high end cars, cigarettes, pan masala, aerated drinks, and moreover, a high percentage of cesses have also been laid on them so as to discourage their use. The prices of houses may go up as taxes on raw materials such as cement (28%), bricks (5%), insulated copper wires (28%) have been raised. Contractors in construction sector are going taxed as work contract services rendered at 12%, but what this will entail for the sector is something that, even experts are finding difficult to understand. However, what has irked some people is the rather arbitrary way in which the GST Council has placed some critical sectors, which affect vulnerable section the most, in high tax slabs.

The healthcare sector is a very critical sector. Even before implementation of GST, vulnerable people were not able to afford proper healthcare due to corporatization of hospitals, and now with the increase in tax of hospital inputs such as hospital beds, which increased from 11% to 18%; pacemakers and heart valves, which have risen from 3% to 12%; diagnostic kits, reagents and blood bags have gone up from 5% to 18%. Additionally, Input Tax Credits (TC) are not available to hospitals. All these factors are a nail in the coffin for poor and middle classes, who want to avail healthcare at reasonable prices. Agriculture has always been a sensitive sector in India, with farmers committing suicides all over India due to droughts, crop failure, high debt etc which has made agriculture a high risk game. Thus, just before launch of GST when news came of tractor spare parts coming under 28% tax slab and fertilisers under 12% slab, farmers all over the country took to protests.

GST Council took heed of their requests and lowered the tax rates of tractor spare parts to 18% and fertilizers to 5%. But agriculture electrical appliances such as agriculture motor starters, agriculture submersible pump starters, fuse units and allied switchgears have been put under 28% tax slab along with luxury cars and air conditioners; which is very off putting. Before GST, they were taxed around 18% tax. Additionally, drip and sprinkler irrigation system, has been put under 18% slab from 5% before GST. Fishing sector is another sensitive sector in India. Small fisherman make up a large part of the sector. By levying a tax of 12% on fishing rods, tackles, twines, hooks, small fishermen will have to extra money for buying fishing gear. Additionally, outboard motors .of vessels have been put in the highest tax slab of 28% and ice boxes have been placed under 18% slab. As dried fish has been put under 5% tax slab, those with no facilities of cold storage will be forced to sell fresh fish at any price they can get; thereby, pushing them into vulnerability.

Benefits: GST is a daring step on the government's part to reform the indirect taxes India. As a single taxing system that places goods and services on the same slot, GST is going to bring about transparency and boost our economy. Manufacturing sector has been given a thrust through GST. Increased ITC is one reason. Another reason, which promotes the sector is that earlier, supplying of goods to other states would attract an entry tax of 5% of value of goods, which has been scraped now. Moreover, in place of waybills, a physical document for

supplying of goods obtained from VAT authorities, away bills or electronic way bills for goods worth Rs. 50,000/- and above is going to be put in place in soon. As it can be generated through GSTN, it will make movement of goods even easier. As unregistered taxpayers face risk of losing business, they prefer to get registered; this will increase the tax base and in future will help government get more revenues even with reduced tax rates.

Issues and challenges: Increasing tax base is all good and simple when seen on paper, but can the small businesses opting for GST be able to manage all online work, filing returns entails. A chunk of the people are from small towns, would not have Internet connection or have it with low speed, and their existing staff may not be computer literate. Moreover, they have to be able to understand everything related to GST and may need to take classes on GST. Furthermore, GST Council has been listening to all representations made to it regarding unfair tax hikes and other issues, which is a very good thing, but will the small businesses be able to take in all the changes that will be happening every time the GST Council revises some rules or taxes.

The 13th Finance Commission has recommended single tax slab 12% in GST and it also suggested exempting essential services like education, health and other public services from the tax net. Pre GST period, state governments used to tax differently on items according to geographic, economical and culture factors. For example coconut oil taxed in Kerala at 5% but, in Gujarat it is taxed at 12%. Some economists critique is that, earlier state governments' representatives have right give exemptions / concessions to industrialists to establish industries in their respective states, now the GST is curtailing these powers. According to GST, small traders with turnover above Rs. 20 lakh per year have to file their returns online and get their input tax paid them. Large numbers of these category entrepreneurs are not aware and prepared for GST.

As discussed above, manufacturing sector has been given a boost by GST, in line with our Prime Minister's "Make in India" slogan; however, the taxes in the case of interstate commerce will go to the state consuming the goods and services, rather than rewarding the state that makes them. Government has decided to compensate states for any loss of revenues because of GST for five years. This increases the dependence of states on centre for any development activities it needs to undertake.

Cloth traders across the country went strike from 1 – 3 July 2017 against high tax slabs and complicated process including three times filing in GST. In Surat city of Gujarat, 75,000 participated in indefinite strike for above 20 days. Marble and granite dealers association, are unhappy putting marble and granite material in 28% slab rate in GST. "

Long Term Effects: GST is a game-changing indirect tax reform and its implementation will be positive for long-term growth, as per the Japanese financial services Nomura. The longer term implementation should life growth and would enable greater general government fiscal consolidation. In the long run, it will eliminate geographical fragmentation. The uniform tax structure will help add 1 to 2 percent to the country's GDP. As the earlier tax system was very expensive in terms of logistic and was among the highest in the world. This replacement from state-by-state system to one common market has changed the rate at which Indian consumers are taxed. The opportunities for tax avoidance will decrease, as companies will have to file tax returns electronically. The nation, could get up to 2 percent more of GDP in tax intake and it will help combat inflation in India, as lower logistics costs and less tax leakages in the system will help in cost-savings and can be passed onto consumers over time.

Good and Services Tax will surely bolster growth in our country. There are minor challenges along the way; but not things we cannot overcome together. A lot of adjustments have to be made by the GST council to keep everything right and make everyone happy. But they cannot please everyone. It is a Herculean task indeed! Countries that have implemented GST have had to face issues for a while before seeing results. What India needs is lots of patience and loads of hard work on our part to make it a superpower.

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53. Banking Transaction Tax

Kautilya's Arthashastra emphasizes on "Kosha Moolo Danda" which means revenue is the backbone of administration. In a nation rooted in democratic socialism, revenue generation is vital to ensure inclusive growth. Therefore, paying tax is the core element of modern citizenship. But today, India faces a situation of narrow tax base and significant indirect taxes. To overcome these, Arthakranti Pratishthan, a Pune based organization, had come up with a revolutionary proposal. This is in continuum with its demonetization proposal. It proposed a Banking Transaction Tax (BTT) in place of all existing taxes, except customs duties. In view of government's efforts to bring reforms in tax administration, it is right time to look at the pros, cons, constraints and possibilities of BTT.



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efforts to bring reforms in tax administration, it is right time to look at the pros, cons, constraints and possibilities of BTT.

To begin with, BTT is a flat rate single point tax applied on all forms of bank transactions. They include cheque payments and electronic methods of transactions. As per Arthkranthi's proposal, all existing central, state taxes should be done away with except customs duty. It proposes a uniform transaction tax of 2%. To have more transactions in bank, it proposes withdrawing of all high denomination currencies above Rs. 50. This is in tandem with limit on cash transactions say Rs. 2000. The revenue collected can be shared among center (0.70%), state (0.60%), Local Government (0.35%) and Transacting Bank (0.35%). It would require one account for every individual.

Need for BTT: Though our government has recently introduced a simplified tax regime in the form of Goods and Services Tax (GST), Indian tax system still has scope for reforms. To begin with, tax base in India is very narrow. Out of 125 crore Indians only 1.5% people (1.9 crore) pay income tax. In 2017, only 0.1% of the tax payers declared annual taxable income greater than Rs. 1 crore and 93.3% tax payers declared taxable income between 0 to 10 lakh. Even the corporate tax payers increased slowly. Therefore, India has one of the lowest tax to GDP ratio in the world. These statistics do not commensurate with rise in individual and corporate incomes reflected in the growth of economy.

Tax Compliance of India General (Union Budget Speech 2017-18)	
Categories	Number
Person engaged in Organized Sector	4.2 Crore
Individuals filing return for Salary Income	1.7 Crore
Informal sector Individual Enterprises	5.8 Crore
Number of Returns filed	1.8 Crore
Companies Registered	13.9 Lakh
Companies filed Return	5.9 lakh
Companied declaring zero income or losses	2.8 lakh
Companies declaring Profit < Rs. 1 Crore	2.8 lakh
Companies showing Profit Between Rs. 1 Crore and Rs. 10 Crore	28667
Companies Showing Profit more than Rs. 10 Crore	7781

This dizzyingly narrow base of direct taxes has led to significant indirect taxes in India. With nearly two-third of total taxes, collected (considering tax collections of both the Centre and the States) being accounted for by indirect taxes, the Indian tax structure is regressive. As the tax is wrapped in price, rich and poor pay the same price for the commodity, which is unfair. Economists say higher indirect taxes lead to reduction in demand and production, leading to detrimental impact on growth of economy. This complex scenario makes BTT necessary.

Looking from the expenditure side, defence budget is increasing rapidly. Higher revenues are required to implement the 7th pay commission's recommendations, one rank one pension scheme, reviving agriculture and manufacturing. Similarly, expenditure on education is recommended to be at 6% of Growth Domestic Product (GDP), and for better health indicators and universal health coverage, expenditure on health should be around 2.5% of GDP. Apart from this, as part of fiscal responsibility, government is aiming to achieve fiscal deficit of 3% by financial year 2018-19. These targets can be achieved through assured higher revenues which can be possible with BTT.

Positive Impacts of BTT: Firstly, tax evasion would be addressed to some extent with the implementation of BTT. This is because BTT is a single point tax and would lead to a much simpler regime unlike current multiple tax structures. It would coerce the evaders to adhere to laws. As the emphasis is on minimization of cash transactions, the electronic payments can be easily tracked. This will be a deterrent for tax evaders.

World Bank on paying Taxes in India				
Indicator	Mumbai	South Asia	OECD Countries	Overall Best Performer
Payments (Number Per Year)	13	28.5	10.9	3 (Hongong SAR, China)
Time (Hours per year)	214	277.3	160.7	55 (Luxembourg)
Total Tax and Contribution rate (% of Profit)	49.31	41.05	83.45	99.38 (Estonia)

Secondly, since all banking transactions are taxed, it would widen the tax base. Unlike in the present system, where there are numerous exemptions, it would bring most people under the tax ambit. This would boost the revenues of the government. Arthkranthi assumes Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) transaction in the country at Rs. 1.75 lakh crore per month and Rs. 2,000 lakh Crore per annum. If a 2% BTT is levied, on even half the annual figure, the government can easily generate Rs. 20 lakh Crore as revenue annually. This tax system will meet half of our revenue requirements, estimated to be around Rs. 40 lakh Crore.

Thirdly, tax administration would be efficient and humane because of absence of human interference and tax terrorism would be absent. Retrospective taxation, targets for tax inspectors, arbitrary rates of minimum alternate tax...etc., are instances of tax terrorism. With BTT in place, there is no scope for this. It would mean increase in ease of doing business. Paying taxes is a criterion in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business. It records the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay or withhold in each year, as well as measures the administrative burden of paying taxes and contributions, and complying with post filing procedures. Despite improvements in these criteria, due to the reforms by government, India lags in these four parameters as evident in the Table. BTT negates these parameters. This would increase ease of doing business enormously resulting in investment, entrepreneurship, industrial growth and growth of economy.

Fourthly, with reduction in tax rate, disposable income will increase. As per a study, at present, disposable income out of one's salary gets reduced by 10-20% directly at source. With 2% BTT, it would allow 98% of the salary to remain as disposable income. In a consumption driven economy like India, this is a welcome impact.

Fifthly, with BTT in place and with higher revenues, the government can implement many social welfare projects. It can be utilized on infrastructure development. The availability of resources could lead to investment in agriculture, manufacturing sector etc., which have been in lagging behind. BTT would provide long-term investment unlike the present scheme based model. This would make Indian economy more vibrant and would lead to inclusive growth.

Sixthly, BTT leads to many spillover benefits such as digitization of economy, improving the financial health of banks, increased presence of banks in remote areas, cashless economy, and financial inclusion. According to World Bank's World Development Report-2016, digitization boosts growth, expands opportunities and improves service delivery. Larger size of digital economies in the developed economies is one of the factors of less corruption in these countries, as compared to developing countries. For instance, Sweden, where only 11% of payment is in cash, ranks 3rd in Corruption Perception Index (CPI) (Transparency International), where as in India an estimated 78% of payment is in cash and India ranks 76th in CPI. This proves that, there is a strong negative correlation between cashless transaction and corruption. Therefore, to escape from the adversaries of corruption and black money and to have a more transparent and cleaner economic growth with Social Justice, less use of cash is one of the suggested measures. Cashless economy increases with the presence of BTT.

Though there are multiple benefits, there are some disadvantages and challenges in implementing BTT.

Negative Impacts of BTT:

Macro level: BTT can cripple Indian economy due to its high dependence on physical currency. In general, Indians are big users of currency and this is also reflected in notes in circulation as percentage of GDP. As the recent demonetization episode showed, lack of currency notes troubled much of the country with the total impact yet to be fully known.

Firstly, major burden will be felt on rural India. This is because agriculture, which is the primary occupation of Bharat, deals in cash for seeds, wages, and fertilizers on a day to day basis. BTT would bring all the nontaxable groups in rural areas under the tax ambit. With everyone having bank accounts, even a wage labourer would be taxed. Also, without sufficient digital and financial literacy to rural communities, they would be forced to give up cash transactions without being ready for electronic mode. It is like placing a cart, before the horse. This would affect rural growth as well as consumption.

Secondly, in business, Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSME) depends highly on cash. With BTT, potential disruption to cash flow will lead to pauses in small businesses. This would create hiccups in supply chain impacting larger firms and in turn the economy.

Thirdly, BTT is an input tax and all such taxes will have a cascading impact on costs of production. In these days of distributed production, the cumulative impact could be significant. As per an estimate, after 20 sequences of transactions in business, total tax component would add up to 16%, creating a cascading effect on business environment.

Fourthly, it makes exports uncompetitive because as they cannot be singled out and exempted. With China being the manufacturing hub of the world, and countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh overtaking India in Textiles (major employer in India), India's high cost of production (on account of BTT) would make its exports uncompetitive. This is against the spirit of Make in India and is a roadblock to job creation.

Fifthly, due to the component of single tax, it is not progressive. A progressive tax structure should tax high income at higher rates and low income at lower rates; otherwise, both rich and poor share the same burden creating a rich-poor divide. So, BTT has the danger of becoming, another indirect tax. This is a hindrance to the goal of socio-economic inclusion.

Micro level: Some groups of people will be adversely affected. With increase in direct transfers to wage labourers, subsidies to farmers, pensioners there is a risk that even those transactions are taxed under BTT. Vulnerable groups like Senior citizens, Destitute women, Dalits, Communities in remote areas will find it hard to be a part of the new tax structure. If they are part of the BTT system, it would be unfair to them. This will result in extra expenditure to government to compensate the tax or reduce the amount of entitlement or create a list of exemption, which will take away the simplicity of BTT proposal. Similar is the case with SHG women, who are increasingly being linked to bank.

From the prism of time: The revenue from BTT will be pro-cyclical as the volumes of bank transactions, will decline in an economic downturn. In the current tax system, the cyclical impact is somewhat mitigated, because there are a variety of taxes and some components (personal income, property taxes, etc.) are not as strongly impacted by the economic cycle as BTT would be. In case of another event like 2008, it could lead to financial crisis in India due to high financial contagion with the world.

Challenges and Prerequisites: What, When, How, Whom?

Who Bears the Burden?

First question to be raised is who bears the actual burden of BTT. As it is taxed universally without any exemptions, categories of taxes, it is difficult to estimate who will end up paying more, who will be taxed disproportionately. This questions the efficacy of BTT.

One Person One Account: The possibility that whenever a person, even in the unorganized sector, obtains either "cash" or a cheque, and makes claim to the bank to make payments or carry out transactions should be a reality. This presupposes, that everybody to whom this person needs to make a payment, has a bank account for himself or herself, and can in turn make payments to others through transferring claims on banks. This is a huge task. It requires, in short, near universal bank coverage of the population. This is a challenge because of dormant accounts.

Additional or Exclusive Tax?

Whether BTT will be an additional tax or exclusive tax is a dilemma. In countries which partially introduced financial transaction tax or securities transaction tax, it has been introduced as an additional tax to the existing

tax structure. In Brazil, a federal tax was levied on credit, exchange, insurance and securities transactions executed through financial institutions, gold transactions, and even intercompany loans. In 1993, Brazil implemented a temporary tax at a rate between 0.25% and 0.38% to fund its health system. The tax lasted until 2007. In 2011, during the presidential election, there was renewed discussion about a possible re-introduction of the tax under the name "Social contribution for health". Australia charged a tax on customer withdrawals from bank accounts, with a cheque facility. It later existed as a state tax until it got abolished as part of the package of reforms for the introduction of the goods and services tax in 2005. These two examples show, that BTT was introduced either as an additional tax or as a cess. India will have to decide whether it wants to follow their experience or introduce it as an exclusive tax.

What rate is revenue neutral?

What should be the tax rate is an important economic question. Some economists suggest that 2% rate is not revenue neutral and 4% would be revenue neutral. When GST was introduced in India, it underwent a lot of debate as to, at which rate it would be revenue neutral, same discussion on BTT assumes prominence. If the rate is high, it will be an enormous burden on citizens. If the rate is low, government might lose revenue. This must be scientifically evaluated, and an optimized rate must be arrived at.

Cash to cashless-Role of Banks: To shift the economy from cash to cashless system, there is a need for substantial development in the payment infrastructure. For this to happen, Bank branch penetration is a prerequisite. With increasing burden of Non-Performing Assets (NPA) in public sector banks, the capacity of banks to spread to remote areas is doubtful. Also, the presence of banks in different states is uneven. This is evident from Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s data (as on September 2017) on number of ATMs in each state. Assuming correlation between number of bank branches and number of ATMs, it is clear from the diagram that some states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu have good access to banks, but states like Uttar Pradesh whose population is highest, have ATMs much less than Tamil Nadu. Poor spread of banks in North-East (NE) will be a concern. Even spread of banks must be considered before implementing BTT.

Centre-State Cooperation: A major administrative and political question will be cooperation between the Centre and the States in implementing BTT. With GST council, some states are already complaining about losing their taxing capability. With BTT being a uniform tax, it is likely to be a central tax. This would imply that states have to be dependent on Centre for their budget. It is detrimental to India's quasi federal structure and would make India more centralized. Sharing of revenue from BTT can potentially become a political tool. Questions like how the tax revenue is shared, who will monitor the distribution etc., require a careful consideration. Finance commission or a special committee can discuss the modus operandi of who will tax, how it would be shared and how states will be compensated for the loss during transition period.

Digital Infrastructure: One of the biggest challenges is digital readiness to implement BTT. Though there are a billion mobile phone subscriptions in India, less than one-third of all Indians use smartphones. Only 7 per cent of low income families have access to even one smartphone. Around one-third of the population has internet access, but these are concentrated in cities and towns, which make up 70 per cent of all those with mobile internet access. Only 27 per cent of Indian use the internet and 87 per cent of them live in urban areas, mostly the big metros. Only 17 per cent of Indian women use the internet (as per a study by Pew Research Centre). Connections are patchy and there is great disparity in connectivity. In many rural and semi-urban areas, the connectivity levels are so low as to make e-payments generally impossible. This shows a clear divide between rich and poor, men and women, rural and urban. Experience in electronic payments in MGNREGS indicates differences in availability of internet connection across various states. Evenness in digital infrastructure and digital literacy is a prerequisite to implement BTT.

Cyber Security: Another major challenge is the safety of data, privacy of transactions. With implementation of BTT, there would be an enormous shift towards electronic form of transactions. with recent threats such as ransom ware, compromise of credit card data in certain banks etc., cyber security is the need of the hour. A recent report noted that e-wallet or mobile payment and banking applications used in India do not have the hardware security features necessary to make them secure. This concern is aggravated with much of the hardware being imported. The danger from possible hackers or of other abuse of data is real. Reported ATM/debit card fraud increased 179% in value from Rs 13.86 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 38.67 crore in 2016-17, based on data from the Reserve Bank of India. This raises the concern of identity theft, money theft and compromise of privacy. The focus on transparency of tax administration should balance individual privacy. This is in line with recent Supreme court's judgement on privacy being in line with fundamental rights. Therefore, there is an urgent need to pass cyber security bill balancing security of data, digital infrastructure and individual privacy. Budget 2017-18 proposed a Computer Emergency Response Team for our Financial Sector (CERT-Fin) to

safeguard the integrity and stability of the financial sector from growing number of cyber-attacks. This is a step in the right direction.

Conclusion: India today has a strong political mandate at the Centre. This has paved the way for bold measures like demonetization, implementation of GST. This could also pave way for BTAs well. But before moving towards it, the efficacy of GST, rationalization of rates, transparency in income tax administration, plugging loopholes in parallel economy (black money), formalization of economy, reduction of casual labor must be thought. These measures will widen tax base and ensure uninterrupted revenues. Recent measures, such as Jan Dhan accounts, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), mobile wallets, unified payments interface are improving the electronic modes of money transfer. This, when combined with cyber security and digital infrastructure will clear the path for implementation of BTT.

Bank Transaction Tax is effective, but it is a tax by compulsion. Though it can be a solution in short term, over long-term an ecosystem, which encourages voluntary compliance should be developed. That signals a matured democracy, where all citizens are active stakeholders in development.

***livelihoods January-2018**

medical systems such as Ayush, Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, which are affordable and better in some aspects. AITC also promises to provide health care to all.

Economic Growth:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Achieve to 8 % growth per year, within 3 years. Bring down the fiscal deficit to 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2016-17 no aversion to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) or FII or ECB (External Commercial Borrowing) to finance Current Account Deficit Stress on RBI to take a monetary policy to strike a balance between price stability (inflation) and growth Infrastructure: PPP be made much transparent and competitive.</p> <p>Special focus on manufacturing for exports. Minimum tariff protection for manufactured goods in India, which is an incentive for them.</p> <p>Subsidies: Give the limited resources, absolute necessary subsidies will be chosen.</p> <p>Urbanization: Rebuild the cities with a new model of governance.</p>	<p>Put in place strict measures and special Courts to stop hoarding and black marketing. Setting up a price Stabilization Fund (SF).</p> <p>Revive Brand India with the help of our strengths of 5 T's: Trade, Tourism, Talent, Technology and Tradition</p>	<p>AAP: Take all steps to eliminate Crony Capitalism that has brought the country to its knees.</p> <p>Create world-class infrastructure, in both urban and rural areas, for ensuring a dynamic economy; participation of private sector in infrastructure development.</p> <p>CPI (M): Reduce the central excise and customs duties on petroleum products and control the prices of natural gas and reverse gas price increase in the KG gas basin.</p> <p>Control export of food grains, when prices are high and rising Idea of FDI in different sectors has to scrapped, which can otherwise supersede livelihood and employment of more than four crore people.</p> <p>AIADMK: Take steps to change the mechanism of determining the prices of petrol and diesel and will also withdraw the authority given to Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) to determine the prices of petrol and diesel.</p> <p>AITC: Protest strongly against the policy of introducing FDI In retail.</p> <p>Oppose FDI In Insurance, the placement of Provident Funds of Employees into the stock market, risking their life savings</p>

Agriculture: Congress promises to add one crore acres to the irrigated land and bring 250 lakh acres under watershed programs, wants to allow FDI in agriculture and will promote PPP to setup facilities like cold storages and warehouses, implementation of the 'Right to Fair Compensation' (RFC), provide concessional loans of Rs. 5 lakh to small, marginal and women farmers. BJP promises to set up the 'Organic Farming and Fertilizer Corporation of India' (OFFCI), to promote organic farming, setting up a single National Agriculture Market (NAM), Launch the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchayee Yojana' (PMGSY) to provide water to every acre. CPI (M) promises to increase public investment in Agriculture and wants to ensure comprehensive debt relief and loan waiver to the distressed farmers. AIADMK promises to implement a 'Farmers' Protection Scheme' which provides benefits to small and marginal farmers in the country. AITC promises to implement 'National Loan Waiver Scheme' (NLWS) for small farmers.

Agriculture:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Allow Foreign Direct Investment in multi brand retail will transform the agrarian economy as it will create a beneficial value chain from farm-to-fork.</p> <p>Nurture Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for increasing investments in value-chains, cold storage facilities, grading and standardization, quality</p>	<p>Set up the 'Organic Farming and Fertilizer Corporation of India', to promote organic farming and fertilizers, and provide incentives and support or marketing organic produce.</p> <p>Unbundle Food Corporation of India (FCI) operations into procurement, storage and</p>	<p>CPI (M): Increase public investment and expand public institutions for agricultural research and extension. Scrap the Nutrient Based Subsidy regime in fertilizers; repeal the Seed Bill and introduce farmer-friendly seed legislation.</p> <p>Repeal the model APMC Act which advocates contract farming; bring farmer-friendly reforms in agricultural markets.</p>

<p>certification and warehouses.</p> <p>Add 1 crore hectares to irrigated area by completing the radical Water Reforms Agenda of the 12th Plan..</p> <p>Special emphasis on livestock, fisheries, opening of veterinary schools and centres, fodder development through animal husbandry programmes and schemes like MGNREGS will also be harnessed to support the construction of poultry shelters and water bodies for fisheries.</p> <p>Establish a new Ministry of Fisheries and all steps will be taken to further enhance the livelihood security of families in coastal belts.</p> <p>Increase coverage of crop insurance schemes, particularly among the small and marginal farmers and non-loanee farmers.</p> <p>Cover 250 lakh hectares as watersheds, as part of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme.</p> <p>Fast and fair implementation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.</p> <p>Provide higher MSP to increase profitability of agriculture for our farmers</p> <p>Provide concessional loans to groups/ collectives of small and marginal farmers and women farmers up to Rs. 5 lakh.</p>	<p>distribution for greater efficiency.</p> <p>Leverage on technology to disseminate real time data, especially to farmers - on production, prices, imports, stocks and overall availability.</p> <p>Evolve a single 'National Agriculture Market'.</p> <p>Promote and support area specific crops and vegetables linked to food habits of the people.</p> <p>Genetically Modified (GM) foods will not be allowed without full scientific evaluation on its long-term effects on soil, production and biological impact on consumers.</p> <p>Establish Agriculture rail network - with train wagons designed to cater to the specific needs of perishable Agricultural products like milk and vegetables as well as light weight wagons for salt transportation.</p> <p>Launch the 'PradhanMantri Gram SinchayeeYojana' with a motto of 'harkhetkopaani'.</p> <p>Launch multi-pronged 'water strategy' for reducing farmer's dependence on monsoon.</p> <p>Increase irrigated land by completing the long pending irrigation projects on priority.</p>	<p>Expand and strengthen the FCI with emphasis on building more modern godowns throughout the country particularly in the neglected eastern and north eastern regions, to prevent the monumental wastage of food grains due to poor storage. Set up procurement centres in all States in cooperation with State Governments to prevent distress sales.</p> <p>Increase MSP to cover full costs including family labour and give a return of at least 50 per cent above costs.</p> <p>Ensure comprehensive debt relief and loan waiver to the distressed farmers covering both Institutional and private debt owed to money-lenders.</p> <p>Crop insurance scheme for crop and cattle covering all farmers including tenant farmers and sharecroppers with additional subsidies for small and marginal farmers.</p> <p>Extend labour subsidy to the small and marginal farmers under MGNREGS.</p> <p>AIADMK: Waive the entire interest payable on crop loans for those farmers who repay their loans on time.</p> <p>Implement the Farmers' Protection Scheme, which provides substantial benefits to small and marginal farmers, and agricultural labourers, throughout India.</p> <p>AITC: Create a major Farmers Productivity Initiative to increase productivity of farmers exponentially.</p> <p>Focus on crop diversification and multi-cropping to bring higher incomes to farmers. Introduce National Loan Waiver Scheme for small farmers</p> <p>An integrated policy on the development of Coastal and inland fish cultivation while keeping the welfare of small and marginal fishermen.</p>
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Employment: Congress and AIADMK promise to provide 10 crore jobs in the coming five to 10 years. BJP promises to develop high labour intensive sectors like textile, foot ware, electronics and tourism, strengthen traditional sectors such as agriculture and allied sectors and provide soft skills to the youth.

Employment:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Create 10 crore jobs in the coming decade under National Manufacturing Policy'. Announce a Jobs Agenda within 100 days of formation of the government.</p> <p>Create 60 lakh new jobs in the health sector by 2020.</p> <p>Create of industrial corridors to catalyze economic growth and give a focused thrust to manufacturing.</p> <p>Create 100 new urban clusters around existing small and emerging cities and link them with power and transport facilities to scale existing economic activities.</p> <p>Increase India's investment rate to 38 % to ensure more new investments are made to create jobs.</p> <p>Set up the National Skills Development Agency (NSDA) to coordinate various disparate training efforts.</p>	<p>Strategically develop high impact domains like Labour-intensive manufacturing (viz. textile, foot wear, electronics assembly, etc.) and tourism.</p> <p>Strengthen the traditional employment bases of agriculture and allied industries, and retail - through modernization as well as stronger credit and market linkages.</p> <p>Address the employability issue by initiating a multi-skills development programme in mission mode. Focus on job creation and entrepreneurship, in both rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Transform our Employment Exchanges into career centres- connecting our youth with job opportunities in a transparent and effective manner through the use of technology; as well as providing counseling and training.</p> <p>Develop India as a Knowledge Powerhouse. Launch a 'National Multi-skill Mission' Run short-term courses, in the evenings, focusing on employable skills.</p> <p>Put emphasis on imparting soft skills to enhance employability including a national program on foreign languages. National programme for digital empowerment, through computer literacy of the people, especially the youth.</p>	<p>AAP: Afford greater opportunities for lifelong learning and skilling leveraging technology so as to encourage both continued individual and national growth.</p> <p>CPI (M): Work for economic policies that massive public investment in rural development, agriculture, infrastructure and social sectors. This would create demand and new jobs.</p> <p>AIADMK: Create at least ten crore jobs in the next five years across the Country. Such jobs will be created in the Manufacturing Sector, Small Scale Manufacturing Sector and in the Services Sector.</p>

Enterprise: Congress party promises to achieve 10% share of manufacturing in GDP by implementing 'National Manufacturing Policy'. BJP promises to Design schemes for skills' upgradation and enhancement of business opportunities for artisans. AIADMK promises to stop privatization in public sector, while AITC wants to implement the 'National Policy for small, marginal and medium enterprises'.

Entrepreneurship:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Ensure a 10% growth rate in the manufacturing sector with a special emphasis on small and medium enterprises.</p> <p>Implement the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) to enhance the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25% by 2022.</p>	<p>Single-window system of clearances both at the centre and also at the State level through a Hub- spoke model. High priority to the growth of manufacturing, so that we can create enough jobs in the country. This sector must grow fast to ensure employment and asset creation.</p> <p>Take all steps; like removing red-tapism involved in approvals, to make it easy to do business, invest in logistics infrastructure. Ensure power supply and undertake labour reforms, besides other steps to create a conducive environment for investors.</p> <p>Design schemes for skills up gradation and enhancement of business opportunities for artisans like smiths, weavers, carpenters, hair-dressers, shoe-smiths, and potters.</p>	<p>AAP: Focus on job creation by promoting honest enterprises; this would be done by reducing corruption and streamlining the system of excessive regulations and licenses.</p> <p>CPI (M): Provide incentives for research and development and special initiatives to increase competitiveness of small and medium enterprises that provide much greater employment.</p> <p>AIADMK: ensure that there is no disinvestment of shares of public sector undertakings to stop the process of privatization of public sector Undertakings.</p> <p>AITC: Frame a National Policy for the Micro, Small &Medium Enterprises. A special thrust will be given for the mainstreaming and empowerment of the entrepreneurs of the unorganized and informal sector</p> <p>Frame a national industrial Policy keeping in view employment generation potential in manufacturing,</p>

		mining, power sectors and engineering.
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Labourers: Both Congress and BJP promise to ensure health insurance and pension to labourers in the unorganized sector. CPI (M) promises to ensure wage Rs. 10,000 per month to, all types of wage workers and provide health insurance and pension to wage labourers.

Labourers:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Ensure health insurance as well as pension cover for unorganized group.</p> <p>Strictest implementation of Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970, to end exploitation of workers</p> <p>Cover all migrant labourers under the Aadhaar programme in the next one year, through a special campaign to ensure smooth flow of remittances for the migrant laborers' families.</p> <p>Implement the Unorganized workers' Social Security Act, 2008.</p>	<p>Issue identity cards to the unorganized sector labourers, and provide them good quality health and education services.</p> <p>Upgrade labourers skills through appropriate training programs.</p> <p>Strengthen the pension and health Insurance safety nets for all kinds of labourers.</p>	<p>CPI (M): Ensure that statutory minimum wage for workers is not less than Rs 10,000; minimum age to be linked to the Consumer Price Index. Special social security measures for migrant workers and plantation workers.</p> <p>Universal coverage of all unorganized workers, irrespective of poverty line stipulations, with minimum social security benefits. Ensure equal remuneration for women workers in all areas of work.</p> <p>Remove the cap of 100 days in MGNREGS and ensure payment of unemployment allowance when workers are not provided work.</p> <p>AAP: Create a CEO-system where every enterprising citizen or community has access to capital, information, and infrastructure, such that innovative and productive entrepreneurship becomes the new engine for accelerating growth in our country. Establish Welfare Boards for Unorganized Labour in all the States and ensure that all benefits are extended to the unorganized labour in all parts of India.</p>

Education: Congress promises to provide quality education to all. BJP promises to redesign the 'Apprenticeship Act' to facilitate our youth to earn while they learn and set up 'Massive Open Online Courses' (MOOC) and virtual classrooms to make it convenient for working class people and housewives to study. AAP promises to establish large numbers of ITIs for vocational training.

Education:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Move from "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" to "Shreshth Shiksha Abhiyan."</p> <p>Enhance focus and resources on the implementation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, to improve quality of secondary education.</p> <p>Achieve near universal enrolment in secondary education.</p> <p>Take systematic steps to address issues relating to discrimination against students from the North East and Jammu and Kashmir.</p> <p>Expand support to providing interest-free educations loans to students at all levels especially to the weaker sections of society.</p> <p>Establish a "National Youth Commission", which will be a professional and dedicated</p>	<p>Explore ways to reduce the daily burden of carrying books to school for children, which would also entail use of technology for education as a mission mode project.</p> <p>A mechanism for close interaction between industry (including SME), academia and community would be instituted.</p> <p>Revisit the Apprenticeship Act to facilitate our youth to earn while they learn.</p> <p>Set up Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) and virtual classrooms to make it convenient for working class people and housewives to</p>	<p>AAP: Involvement of the local community in the creation of a context-rooted curriculum and management of schools, with accountability of school/teachers to a local body like Gram Sabha or Mohalla Sabha.</p> <p>Focus of education system on learning outcomes and not on inputs. Reform DTET, SCERT to focus on learning outcomes. Revamp teacher education system.</p> <p>Improve the standard of government schools so that the aam aadmi can send their children to government schools with assurance about quality.</p> <p>Establish large numbers of ITIs for vocational training;</p>

focal point for youth development in all aspects.	further their knowledge and qualifications	provide opportunities and incentives to those trained in ITTs to establish their own enterprises
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Health and Sanitation:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP and provide universal and quality health care for all Indians.</p> <p>Enact a Right to Health to ensure that all people obtain easily accessible, quality health services.</p> <p>Provide for 5 state of the art mobile health care vans in every district, equipped with x-ray and other equipment, to provide health care checkups including, mammography, blood tests, etc.</p> <p>Strengthen Health and Family welfare Programmes to achieve a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 between 2017 and 2020. Particular attention will be paid to regions which still have a high TFR.</p> <p>Endeavor to provide a functional toilet in every school and every household.</p>	<p>Initiate the 'National Health Assurance Mission', with a clear mandate to provide Universal healthcare that is not only accessible and affordable.</p> <p>Modernize Government hospitals, upgrading infrastructure and latest technologies.</p> <p>Make potable drinking water available to all and make Diarrhea-free India</p> <p>Set up modern, scientific sewage and waste management systems to create open defecation free India i.e.</p> <p>Achieve 'Swachh Bharat' by Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary in 2019</p>	<p>AAP: Introduce a comprehensive legislation 'Right To Healthcare' enabling access to high quality healthcare for all the citizens of the country irrespective of whether they are rich or poor. This would be along the lines of the Right to Education Act</p> <p>Strengthen AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) and local health traditions which have a significant role in public healthcare.</p> <p>AITC: Provide health services to each and every village will be at the heart of 'health for all' Programme.</p> <p>Provide free medical care to every senior citizen, below a certain level of family income.</p>

Rural Development and Infrastructure: Congress promises to form 7 crore Self Help Groups (SHGs) by 2019 and ensure 100% digitalization of land records. BJP promises to expand and strengthen the national solar mission. AAP promises to ensure decentralization and devolution of powers to GS, so that they can make decisions about the development of their villages.

Rural Development and Infrastructure:		
Congress	BJP	AAP & Third Front
<p>Provide work an average one in every four rural households under MGNREGS every year.</p> <p>Ensure that an all-weather road will connect all habitations with a population of 125 persons and above through PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY)</p> <p>Ensure 100% coverage of rural habitations for drinking water in the next five years.</p> <p>Ensure the formation of 7 crore SHGs by 2019</p> <p>Ensure 100% modernization and digitization of land records to ensure transparency in land titles.</p> <p>Set up a “National Panchayati Raj Commission”, with branches in each State and Union Territory, so that Probity and transparency is ensured in the functioning of Panchayats</p> <p>Substantially increase Panchayat funding, especially of Untied funds.</p> <p>Encourage Panchayats to raise their own resources.</p>	<p>Major thrust area for rural development would be to improve village level infrastructure in terms of roads, potable water, education, health, supply chain, electricity, broadband, job creation, security in rural areas and linkage to markets facilitate piped water to all households.</p> <p>Expand and strengthen the national solar mission.</p>	<p>AAP: Ensure that the people in rural areas have access to all the basic facilities enjoyed by their urban counterparts.</p> <p>Invest in creating infrastructure in Tier-I1 and Tier-I11 cities and smaller towns so that they could become the engines for the economic development of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Decentralization and devolution of powers to GS, so that they can make decisions about development of their village</p> <p>CPI(M): 100% rural connectivity in a time bound manner. The regional cultural activities like regional films, theatres, jatras, etc. will be given a special push. Village centric and people centric policy of Industrialization of the agricultural and allied services sector.</p> <p>AIADMK: Deliver 12 LPG cylinders at subsidized rates as earlier with no linkages with AADHAR.</p> <p>AITC: Target 100% rural connectivity in a time bound manner. New Energy Policy with a target of 'Electricity for All'.</p>

The parties also discussed issues related to food security, tribals, women, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Backward Castes (BC), corruption and governance and made promises in their manifestos. Congress promised to implement SC, ST sub-plans and ensure SC, ST '(Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill', 2013, 100% modernization and digitalization of land records, providing all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with high-speed broadband connectivity within 18 months, passing of 'Whistleblowers Protection Bill', 2014 to create a corruption free society and implement the 'Food Security Act' to provide adequate quantity and quality food to all poor people at affordable prices and implementation of a universal pension scheme. BJP promised to initiate 'Vana Bandhu Kalyan Yojana' for tribal people's development, electricity and road connectivity to tribal hamlets, broadband connectivity to all villages and mandate digitalization of all government works to prevent corruption. AAP promised to pass the Jan Lokpal Bill to prevent corruption. AIADMK promised to give a pension of Rs. 1000 per month to old people and Rs. 1500 per month to Differently Abled Persons. Major parties like Congress and BJP focused less on the demands of unorganized workers, who constitute more than 90% of total workforce and did not promise any increase in pension of old people, widows and disabled people, did not articulate concrete measures to solve agricultural crises. These parties did not mention any specific poverty reduction programs like 'National Rural Livelihoods Mission' (NRLM), 'National Urban Livelihoods Mission' (NULM).

Apart from the national manifestos, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state parties' manifestos have very special importance, in the context of the state bifurcation. Major state level parties such as Telangana Rastriya Samiti (TRS), Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) released their manifestos, promising to develop both the states. National level parties also specially designed separate manifestos for the new states and promised to develop both the states.

There is not much public discussion on party manifestos. Party leaders are also not initiating discussions on their manifestos. Most of their speeches are concentrating on one or two slogans such as corruption free India, development, secular India etc. People are also not showing much interest in manifestos and they are influenced by parties' propoganda through media, perceptions of previous performance of the ruling parties, anti-incumbency factor, candidate's previous performance and attitude, caste and faith on new government.

Elected national level government should prepare a plan for five years. It is their responsibility to protect peoples' faith in them. It is more necessary in the context of coalition government's era, as it is not possible to implement a single party manifesto. So, they have to prepare Common Minimum Program (CMP), to fulfill the promises stated in their election manifestos. Elected government should do basic

things such as organizing all poor families in SHGs, promoting collectives and cooperatives around livelihood activities, strengthening and merging NRLM and NULM poverty reduction programs, making investment on providing training to 10 lakh Professionals and 50 lakh Para-professionals and making them available to collectives and their facilitating organizations, providing quality health and education facilities to all, ensuring that every farmer family should get Rs. 50,000 per year on agriculture and 270 work days for wage labourers, wages should be Rs. 250 in rural and Rs. 350 in urban areas, increase old age pension amount from up to Rs.2000 for all elders, widows and disabled persons, direct fund allocation to GP for village development from the budget amount. Gram Panchayats should be allowed to design village development plans according to the requirements in the village.

Designing attractive manifestos does not suffice. The critical thing is the implementation of those manifestos. This time, political parties prepared manifestos by consultation with people in an innovative method. If we review the contesting ruling parties such as Congress and BJP's manifestos, we can find most of their promises were not fulfilled. People should ask the political leaders about the status of their previous election's promises before casting their votes. They should put collective pressure for implementation of the promises sited in election manifestos.

*** Livelihoods April-2014**

55. People's Manifesto for 2014-19

Manifestos are seldom made in consultation with the people, they are meant for, thereby rendering them out of touch with reality.



A manifesto is a list of welfare measures a political candidate promises to provide when elected to power. Unfortunately, manifestos are forgotten soon, after their release by the party and public alike. Further, manifestos are seldom made in consultation with the people they are meant for, thereby rendering them out of touch with reality. The 'livelihoods' team has attempted to present a 'people's manifesto' with special emphasis on the poor and their livelihoods. Sixty-seven years after independence, poverty continues to be the most daunting challenge facing India. Poverty and its painful companions – hunger, infant and maternal mortality, chronic disease, illiteracy, etc. are harsh realities for 42% of Indians. Fifteen governments have tried to tackle this issue and remove abject poverty from the country. But it still exists, aided by new developments across the globe. Poverty reduction, therefore, remains the crux of the Indian

policy.

To tackle poverty, it is essential to know who the poor are and how they are. There appear many measures and differing statistics. For example, Below Poverty Line Cards in a state exceed the number of poor the government says. Further, the poverty line talked in the country is not in sync with the globally accepted definition. Thus, there is a need to create a mechanism to identify the criteria of poverty and identify the poor and ultra poor, rank them with the poorest as the first and should be revised frequently. Targeting the poor and the ultra poor should be based on this ranking for all development activities.

The SHGs in the country are playing vital role in reducing poverty and empowering women. Therefore, all the poor and not-so-poor in the country need to be organized into self-help groups in a mission mode. No vulnerable person (Disabled, SC, Tribal, Women, Senior citizen, Child etc.,) in the country should be left out of the group. Most of them may need to be in multiple groups. All these groups should be federated at village, mandal/ block, district, state and national levels. We are talking about organizing individuals from at least 15 crore families into more than 1.5 crore SHGs and their federations in the coming five years.

- Comprehensive participatory plans for each group and federation should be evolved and the resources, including financial resources, need to be facilitated for implementing these plans. The mechanisms to avail the loans in the form of cash/ kind and to make repayment also in the form of cash/ kind need to be developed. The interest payable by any ultimate individual member, irrespective of the source, should not exceed 18% per annum. Insurance and mutual support should flow through these groups/federations.

Enhancing the livelihoods of poor:

- Apart from the general purpose solidarity, savings and credit groups, collectives around livelihood activities, that include activities that increase income, reduce expenditure: increase employment days and reduce /diversify risks, needs to be promoted. These include local seed-based organic farming collectives, collective procurement of inputs, collective marketing of produce, processing centres and storage facilities at each block/ mandal level, mutual support for assets/livelihood risks, etc. We are talking about collectivizing at least 10 crore families in the coming five years, with a quarter of them being in formal collectives - self-reliant cooperatives, producer companies etc.
- Each collective need to have its specific plan with steps taken to build the capacities of the leaders and staff of the collective with required knowledge and skills to implement and realise the plan.
- Further, investments, in training at least 10-lakh professionals, and 50-lakh para professionals and making them available to the collectives and their facilitating organizations, have to be made. Separate high quality

training institutes need to be set up for this purpose. Premier Institutes that work specifically on Appropriate and Rural Technologies (ART) need to be set up.

- **Traditional rights of people on natural resources**, like rights of tribals on forests, rights of fisher folk on the sea, rights of local people on tanks etc., **need to be respected and restored**, where required. The management of these resources needs to be handed, over to the local community institutions forthwith.
- **Margin free shops**, where people can buy the goods of daily consumption and also sell their produce if any need to be set up in each village/a cluster of 2-3 villages in a year from now.
- **Migration exchanges** needs to be set up to provide minimum facilities to the migrants at the places of migration and facilitate information and remittances.
- All revivable existing infrastructure needs to be revived on a priority and new community-owned infrastructure such as godowns, cold storages, bulk coolers, processing centres etc., at village, cluster or mandal/block level needs to be made. Moreover connecting roads, communication facilities, market intelligence systems, transport facilities etc., have to be planned and delivered as soon as possible.
- The principle of 'equity' needs to be followed in announcing rehabilitation packages. That means the rehabilitation packages have to be designed in such a way that those, who get displaced by a development project should get more and better benefit than what the beneficiaries of such project get.
- The rehabilitation/compensation packages need to be made available to all those who lose their livelihoods, in addition to all those who lose their lands, and other physical assets.
- Industries may help the country and the people. Government(s) may provide the industry/corporate with all subsidies, tax breaks, and single-window permissions etc., without jeopardizing the interest of the people at large and the poor in particular. The Government need not procure people's lands for the sake of giving them to the corporate/industry. The industry/corporate may negotiate and acquire land and other resources from the people, in return for a suitable compensation package(s). Government may intervene only if the corporate/industry is not being fair.

Agriculture:

Despite Indian Agriculture making rapid strides in Agricultural Sector since Independence, particularly after the Green Revolution of the 1960s and the country achieving an overall food security to its population of more than 1 billion, serious inadequacies of long-term concern are now obvious. The growth has not been inclusive. In a similar vein, the growth in Credit Flow (CF) to Agriculture has been impressive over the years in absolute terms and yet there are many serious issues that need to be addressed.

Reducing land holding size, increase in number of marginal and small farmers, tenant farmers and landless laborers are the new trends observed in present agriculture scenario. Increase in cost of production, lower income and high risk are the dire outcomes, which are affecting the Indian agricultural economy bluntly.

Agriculture is no longer remunerative, and farmers feel that their children would be better off in any profession other than agriculture. The agricultural crisis persists and has worsened in some ways. Farmers' suicides have continued at an alarming rate and the deep distress continues. Decreasing incomes to farmers, high external input based agriculture and skewed support systems are major problems that farmers are facing today. Though government has initiated few relief programs the dire situation of crisis, has not improved, as the fundamental underlying problems have not been addressed.

The predominance of agriculture as the largest employer of the country's population and the financial exclusion as one of the crucial obstacles in ensuring equitable agricultural growth of the nation is the major problem. Significant measures needs to be taken to address the following issues:

Increase the flow of credit: Formal credit for agriculture is to be provided at lower interest rates. The effective rate of interest should be reduced to 3% on the farmer and the remaining amount charged by the financial institutions (banks, cooperatives and other financial institutions) to be borne by government(shared between central and state).

Universal Crop Insurance: As agriculture is vulnerable to natural disasters and other factors, all the crops irrespective of the scale should be covered with insurance with very low premium. All crops irrespective of notified crops concept is to be benefited. Special premium subsidy is to be provided for small, marginal and tenant farmers. Though, there is a compulsory insurance available for crops under loan, non-credit farmers are also to be covered as their proportion is wide till date.

Provide both crop and personal insurance: As the only source of income is agriculture for a farmer family, the loss or any occurrence of permanent disability shows adverse affect on the entire family. Hence, every farmer is to be covered under personal insurance coverage. This initiative is to be taken by the government. Unique Identification Authority (UIA) of India (Aadhar) can be used to cover all the farmers.

Crucial inputs such as seeds, fertilizers: Availability of quality seeds and fertilizers has become major problem for the country's agriculture sector irrespective of the area. Unavailability of seeds on right time or of low quality ruins the entire season of farmer. These inputs are being transferred to black markets and sold at higher prices, from where farmers are bound to buy. Hence, agricultural inputs are to be made available for farmers on time and at subsidized prices.

Electricity: Though most of the state governments boast of supplying electricity at lower rate or free of cost to the farmers, it is not reaching the needy on time and as required. Adding to this is the power cut during the crucial season like summer, when they are in great need of power for irrigation.

Promotion of solar power generation as a substitute to the grid supply is required immediately. As the cost of installation is very high, low cost credit with high subsidy is to be provided to farmers especially small, marginal and tenant farmers as they cannot afford such high costs. Solar power will reduce their dependence on the grid power and thus reduces the burden on government as well.

Farm Mechanization: With decreasing land holding size, labor force employed in farm activities is being wasted. Though, it was considered mechanization leads to unemployment, it actually improves the farm productivity and enables the other family members to engage in other livelihood activities. Thus, farm equipments needs to be promoted amongst small and marginal farmers at affordable cost – by renting, encouraging them to buy and share the machine etc. This is beneficial to tenant farmers, agricultural labourers and share croppers, who cannot directly invest money on the land they don't own.

Forward and Backward linkages: It is estimated that about 30 % of the agricultural produce is going as waste due to insufficient and improper forward linkages for storage, transport of the produce to the market. It is required to construct cold storages, godowns, and infrastructure to minimize wastage and increase income of farmers. It also requires agro-industries and bio-technology.

Government should establish Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in every block with sufficient staff to provide information to the farmers on pesticides, seeds, fertilizers prices and utilization methods, productivity enhancement techniques and crop markets across the country. Government should ensure minimum staff of agriculture para professional in every village.

Overall, to make farming viable for small, marginal and medium farmers, the government should articulate a clear vision for sustaining agriculture and agriculture-based livelihoods. A three-pronged approach should be taken to realize such a vision.

1. Ensuring sustainable income and livelihood security for all farmers:

- The government should appoint an Income Commission for Farmers (ICF) as a statutory body to ensure:
- "Direct income support: that farmer gets above poverty line wages and farmer families are assured a minimum income of 25,000 per family per annum and revised every year.
- Price for agricultural produce: The prices for agricultural commodities should be based on the real cost of production and linked positively with inflation. The determination of support price should be done transparently at the state level and recommended to the CACP.
- "NREGS to all agricultural operations: The employment guarantee scheme should include all agricultural operations from sowing to harvesting.
- "Increase rural employment opportunities: Post-harvest operations and value addition enterprises and agriculture-centered small scale rural industry, should be promoted at the village level.

2. Promotion of sustainable agriculture/ecological farming;

- To maximize use of local resources, adopting organic/ecological farming should receive financial support from the government.
- Agrochemicals should be banned.
- GM crops banned till their bio safety is proven beyond doubt.
- Percentage of research investments in agriculture institutions should be earmarked for organic farming.
- Percentage of the demonstrations by department of agriculture should be on organic farming.
- Institutions like APSSDC should be revived and decentralized with transparent functioning and accountable to farming community.
- Training centers should run courses on organic farming and experienced farmers should be used as the resource persons.

3. Organizing and empowering farmers' collectives:

- Appropriate institutional systems need to be established to support farmers to plan and manage their resources and livelihoods, lobbying for a policy change and securing their entitlements.

- As agriculture and allied activities or livestock go hand-in-hand especially in rural India, it is equally important to consider the livestock sector as it also yields good amount of foreign exchange.
- Many government sponsored flagship schemes for allied activities, are not reaching the needy beneficiaries. Special focus to be on small farmers who depend on small scale allied activities such as backyard poultry, small scale dairy and goatery.

Weavers:

Weaving is the second largest employment giver, but not achieved much in 65 years. The focus here has been more on improving **weaving** industry rather than focusing on the issues of the weavers. Government has come up with many plans to improve conditions of weavers; however it has many loopholes. Importantly Government has failed to recognize the difference between textile industry and weavers. As a result it has common development plan for both of them, failing to identify uniqueness' of weaver's problem and to provide adequate solutions. There are also problems in its implementation.

- Weavers from workers in the textile industry, announce special national weaver's procedure.
- Vitalize cooperatives, and come out with development plan for master weavers who are not part of cooperatives.
- Central budget for weavers to be increased to 5 thousand corers.
- Cost of raw materials to be reduced and it should be easily available. (Put up a spinning mill for every 5000 looms and put up a centre to provide raw materials).
- Weaving industry should have special plan, along with what is in the general plan for development of the weavers.
- Implementation of Minimum wages act and provision of all basic necessities to the weavers.
- Materials like thread and colours should be given at 40% discount to the weavers.
- Loans to weavers (who are not part of cooperatives).
- Programs given to weavers in the cooperatives should be made available to other weavers too.
- Continuous research on improving production and development of products required by market.
- Centers should be started to provide space for interaction between customers and weavers.
- Should be given free electricity.
- Committees should be established to make changes to the existing development plan in tune with the specific problems unique to the cluster and also a new plan should be made to address these specific problems.
- Scale programs should be organized to bring awareness among customers to identify and appreciate difference b/w power looms and handlooms.
- Plan to reduce production costs as well as provide food supplies at subsidized rates.

Artisans:

Government has given less importance towards development of **artisans and service providers** (like barbers, dhobi, sweepers etc). Their significant contributions in keeping alive traditional craftsmanship and also the relevant industries has not been recognized. Lack of political consciousness and opportunity to participate in planning and development of programs meant for them has kept them far away from developmental processes. Even State is not enthusiastic enough to ensure effective implementation of programs, it has planned for them. Work of artisans is skilled work, which is increasingly being challenged by the dynamics of modern market conditions. The rapid capitalist development and technological innovation has almost made these artisanal skills irrelevant.

- Report should be made to define, what is handicraft, and e a list of handicrafts and place where they are produced.
- Village level collectives of artisans, not based on caste. They should be trained to market their products.
- Should be provided shed, storage space and electricity to continue their work.
- There should be a research wing at the state level for developing new products.
- Centers to provide raw materials.
- Loan given at the rate of 25 paisa, for investments to develop and increase their production.
- Laws to be changed to help artisans make use of wood, water and mud (natural resources); they should not be criminalized for using these natural resources.
- They should be exempted from tax on marketing finished products and raw materials.
- Programme to be evolved for costing of products based on quality and skills of an artisan. Societies should be registered under Producer Company and public sector.

- Should be give reservation. Designs by artisans should be patented. Duplicate and imitation of artisan products should be banned.
- Should give publicity for the products developed by artisans.

Agricultural labourers:

Construction workers, artisans and other informal workers comprise major portion of **labour** force in India. Lack of opportunity to upgrade their skills, problems associated with migration like housing, education for their children, safety, and job security are major problems that affect lives of these people. Under employment is the main cause of many problems related to poverty like, malnutrition, indebtedness, child labour right, MMR/IMR etc.,

- At least 270 days of work annually should be provided to all kind of workers.
- Wages should be fixed at, at least Rs. 180 in rural areas, and Rs. 200-Rs. 250 in urban areas. Their wages should increase according to price rise.
- Wages for equal work should be adequately protected by relevant laws and enforced rigorously. Perpetrators of discrimination should be stringently punished.
- Up-gradation (Re-skilling): Skill up-gradation entails staying away from work and loss of wage. Therefore government should create a budgetary fund to take care of their wage loss.
- Bus passes, and train passes should be issued to daily wage labourers.
- Social and preventive health program specifically designed for urban poor needs to be designed and implemented with active community participation.
- Care centers with trained child care professionals and nutritional supplements for the children as well as lactating mothers at work places.
- Safe drinking water both in the neighborhoods and work places are a must.
- Schools with PPP can be thought for children of migrant workers.
- Provide health, accidental and death insurance to all workers.

Education and Health:

- We need to move from 10-years to 15 years of quality compulsory free education to each and every child, who is in the school/college going age-group. Adequate infrastructure facilities and teachers, in the ratio of at least 1 teacher per 12 students, have to be in place for ensuring quality. At least 20% of the students may require residential (ashram) schools, away from their homes so that they can pursue education. Another 5% of the students with merit may require Gurukulams so that their talent and merit gets honed. The facilities with adequate resources need to be made available for these. However, we need to explore various alternatives to ensure quality education to everybody including education coupons, education endowment funds and/or out of the classroom support.
- Further, **there should be mechanisms for counselling all the students in the age of 12 or 13** and assessing their aptitude, competencies etc. They should be provided appropriate education and training after this counselling and assessment. The number of vocations in which training has to be offered has to increase significantly, say to 5000.
- It needs to be recognized and endorsed that Health Care (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) and Emergency Services is a right of every citizen. Quality health service with super specialty health care facilities, tests and medicines should be available to each and every citizen at no cost or payable from the insurance. The insurance packages with no or low-premium should be made available to the poor. The infrastructure and human resources have to be increased to ensure this - Hospital bed - to- people ratio to 3.2 per 1000 (Recommended by WHO) from the current 0.7 per 1000; Doctor to population ratio to 1 per 1000 (Recommended by WHO) from the current of 0.6 per 1000 and etc.

At present, the Government budget on issues like education, health and other social sectors is very less against the requirement and spending is much less in this inadequate budget. Under these circumstances, the social sector allocations have to go up to 40% (a norm set up by UN) of the total budget, both at the state level and union level.

Social security:

- Minimum compulsory public insurance to life, health and accident should be available to every citizen of India.
- In the absence of a means for decent living, for the persons above 60 years of age, pension should be given from public sources. The current pension of Rs.200 to Rs.400 per month is not enough to have a decent living. This needs to be increased up to Rs. 1500 to cover the costs of a decent living. All the pensions for the Old, Disabled, Widow etc., should be disbursed through the community organisations.

Governance:

- Governance has to be close to the people. We need smaller Panchayats, smaller blocks/mandals, smaller districts and smaller states for this purpose. We have to rationalise and increase their numbers. We may have to at least double all of them in these five years.
- We need E-Governance at all levels.
- The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments suggested transfer of 29 items to the local bodies to make administration closer to people and also to increase accountability in administration. But even after 15 years, this transfer is not complete. This needs to be corrected forthwith and all the 29 items need to be transferred to PRIs across the country.
- Steps to build the capacities of local bodies so that each local body prepares its five year plan/ Perspective plan and annual plan in consultation with the local CBOs. The Union and State governments need to make good the deficit in the budget required for taking the plans forward.
- We need to make investments in training and making people available to local bodies in providing services in all the items that need to be handled by local bodies.
- Confederations/coalitions of various CBOs at village, block/mandal, district, state and national level needs to be facilitated and evolved immediately so that the local bodies can seek their help in decision making and seek the help of CBOs in implementing the plans. All the works need to be taken up and contracted to the CBOs only.
- Rationalization of various departments and their reorganization including mergers need to be undertaken forthwith so as to increase cost-effectiveness and they can provide multiple benefits through a single window to the citizens as far as possible.

Manifestos of the Vulnerable

An agenda evolved to meet the needs of the people in India as a whole, as a single set may not work. We need to look at its constituents from their specific contexts, situations and accordingly evolve multiple agendas. Against this backdrop we need to look at specific sections like elderly, women, youth and disabled and their needs/demands with different lenses. Elderly, Women, Youth and Disabled have by and large one characteristic in common – ‘Vulnerability’. While natural vulnerability is only minimum or absent, vulnerability enforced by the society, culture and changes happening within them, industrialization, globalization leading to rapid urbanization, rapidly changing livelihoods and skill requirements and other economic transformations, global recession, unemployment, unprecedented consumerist trends, increased responsibility/ burden on women handling both household chores and external employment are impacting more. While migration to urban areas for jobs, leaving the elderly behind in the villages to fend for themselves, lack of access and/or poor quality of education and inadequate skills and trainings are hurting the youth and the old.

Youth are falling prey to various influences due to lack of proper counselling mechanisms in place. Women are engaged in all kinds of works and work much more than men but for the most part are continuing to struggle for equal treatment. As a society we have minimal to no infrastructure in place that is disabled-friendly.

Manifesto of Women

Women constitute nearly 50 per cent of India’s population. Most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or the other. In fact, India has more working women than any other country in the world. However, more than 60 percent of women are chronically poor, and the figure would probably be higher if intra-household discrepancies in poverty levels were measured. For most women, their low status and lack of education and skill training opportunities limits them to a life of housework and agricultural labour. Although women in India work twice as hard and long as their male counterparts, their economic contributions often remain invisible and unrecognized. 96 per cent of women work in the informal and unorganized sector including direct and/or supportive works in the farms, handicrafts, unskilled labour, petty shops etc. The time women give to performing household chores including the significant time that goes into the most crucial job of raising children is largely unaccounted for. Females get into work relatively at a very young age than males. In spite of legal provisions, women continue to receive lower wages than men. Women face legal discrimination in land and property rights. Most women do not own property in their own names, and are denied inheritance of parental property. If they inherit property, most cannot exercise control over it. Indian women are resource poor. Women in rural areas are highly dependent on land, forest, water and other common property resources for themselves and their families but hardly have any rights over them or even any decision making roles. Maternal mortality is about 407 out of every 100,000 women mostly due to inadequate prenatal care, delivery in unsafe conditions with inadequate facilities and insufficient postnatal care. Severe anemia is responsible for more than 9 per cent of maternal deaths in India. Only 60 per cent of girls get enrolled in schools and majority of them dropout before completing grade five. Only 54 per cent of the women can be considered literate in India. Women are frequently subjected to violence both within and outside the family. The statistics of women rape, molestation, sexual

harassment, and kidnap are simply alarming. A large number of women especially in rural households are now defacto female-headed due to widowhood, desertion or male migration. Diseases like HIV/AIDS have directly and indirectly impacted women the most. Migration and displacement is hurting both women left behind and also those migrating. In this backdrop, the women place the following demands to be pursued and fulfilled in the coming five years -

- Equal wages for men and women.
- Compensate 100% loss of wages for maternity leave up to 4 months to the mother from poor family.
- No negative discrimination and more positive discrimination in recruiting women to any job.
- 1/3rd reservation to women should be strictly implemented in PRIs, State Legislative Assemblies, Parliament, Political parties and all other political forums.
- Gender budgeting in every department at both state and national level.
- 1/3rd of any budget in both state and center should be spent on women.
- There should be no poor women outside SHGs.
- Occupation - based women collectives should be built nurtured and empowered.
- Women collectives should have exclusive rights over all common properties like land, water, tanks, forests etc.,
- Compulsory and free education for at least 15 years (10+2+3).
- Health and accident insurance for all poor women.
- Health care and emergency services are rights of every women and these need to be made available to her at no cost or payable from insurance. The insurance with low or no premium should be made available to all the poor women.
- Current pension is inadequate for a decent living. This needs to be increased to cover the costs of a decent living.
- Drudgery reduction should be national priority.
- Add the value of home maker in the calculation of GDP.
- Supplementary and supportive roles of women should be recognized and the value should be added in the calculation of GDP.
- Free soft skill training for women.
- Increase the number and categories of vocational trainings in the country and ensure that at least 1/3rd are women oriented.

Manifesto for the Elderly People

India is a young nation now but we are steadily greying. Therefore, it is critical to have systems in place for the ageing population. The number of elderly persons in India is progressively increasing. By 2025, it is expected that India

will be home to more than 175 million people that are over 60 years and above of age. About 70 per cent of the elderly in India work. At least half of the elder population lives in poverty. They are highly vulnerable group with very low/no income. Many also suffer neglect. The intensity of poverty is relatively higher in households with elderly, particularly dependent elderly. Elderly population can be broadly categorized into able elders (those who can

take care of themselves), assisted elders (those who can take care of themselves with some support) and dependent elders (that need significant support from others). Except for the specific needs of the third category, at a broader level the needs of elders are no different from the needs of the rest of the population. These needs include safeguard from abuse, opportunities to escape boredom, health facilities, freedom from fear, isolation and neglect, economic security, control of one's own resources, improved self-esteem etc.,

The elders are seeking comprehensive care. In this context, elders voice the following demands to be met in the coming five years-

- Universal pension of Rs.1500 /- per individual, per month, to all poor elders of 60 + age.
- Instead of monthly disbursement of pension from government, an elder-care fund should be made available to the elders' institutions, so that they assume the responsibility of disbursing the pension with local accountability. This can be scaled up across the country gradually.
- Universal access to free geriatric care through community health care system/mobile medical care in the village and in the neighbourhood.
- Geriatric wards in all hospitals (including private hospitals).

- Organize elderly into ESHGs and their higher order federations for solidarity and increased economic security.
- National federation of elders.
- National commission for the aged-care.
- National community elder-care project should be implemented across the country through the institutions of the elders.
- Forums for community elder care comprising different sections of the community in every village.
- Widespread national campaigns on elder care.
- The curriculum of every school should have elder-care as a mandatory subject.
- Exposure to elder issues and rendering elder care should become a necessary activity for the children in the school.
- Senior citizen should be recognized at the age of 60 and all benefits should be available to them at the age of 60 +.
- Space for elders in all sectors of employment with appropriate redefinition of the job and skilling.
- Build a cadre of elder-care community workers to service the needs of the elders in every village.
- A system will be developed in every village to meet the cooked food requirements and other needs of the destitute-dependent elders.
- Community centers that provide for library and other recreation for elders in every village.
- Universal access to old age homes, for all elders who seek.

Manifesto of Youth

India leads the global pool of human capital. According to WHO approximately 35% of the total population in the country consists of youth (between 15-24 years). More than 50 per cent of the youth in India, lives below \$1/day poverty line. Poverty, unemployment, minimal/no access to opportunities, poor infrastructure etc are disrupting the flow of youth energy into proper channels. Lowered spiritual capital – the ability to face the rigours of public life with equanimity and fortitude, brushing aside the past and take the lessons forward and not let circumstances, overtake them is severely impeding their progress. While some lose out very early on in life, with no opportunity to education and quality of life like the child labour, others with some education are hitting the crossroads quickly. Lack of adequate and appropriate vocational trainings, lack of access to aptitude analysis and counselling are glaring gaps. HIV/AIDS, drug abuse are endangering youth. According to the employment market, half of the youth churned out by our educational institutions, lack employable skills and also the skills/orientation to learn on job.

We need to remember that all youth are not seeking jobs. Some are seeking self-employment, some want to be entrepreneurs, some can be collective service providers/producers and some are seeking to serve the community. Job seekers should be attached to the livelihoods skill providers, as per their interest, who could then place them in the jobs. Self-employment seekers need to be provided skill training and linked to government, foundations and banks for grants and loans for self-employment. The enterprise centred youth, should be picked up for entrepreneurial mentoring and support in building micro-enterprises. The community centred youth should be picked up for leadership mentoring and support. In these four ways, at least half of the youth of the country would be 'placed' satisfactorily.

Youth lack soft skills. Youth are adaptable, have relatively high appetite for risk taking and are also amenable to change. This is a virtue and can be capitalized. In this context the youth voice the following demands to be taken up and implemented in the coming 5 years –

- Universal free education till 15 years of age.
- Those who missed the opportunity to latch on to education, when young should be given all the requisite facilities (institutional, infrastructural, financial etc) to prepare and appear directly for 10th grade.
- Soft skill training should become part of the curriculum. Learning skills should become part of the curriculum.
- All schools should have special classes (out of the school time) for children with learning disabilities.
- All schools should have/provide for tools/resources to test the aptitude of the students and provide them appropriate counseling services.
- All schools should provide opportunities for children to take up vocational courses.
- Libraries in all villages.
- Recreation centers in all villages.
- All schools should budget for student exposure visits.

- Career counseling opportunities should be available to all.
- Compulsory paid community work for 2 years after graduation for all.
- Trainings in soft skills and at least the basic computing skills should be accessible to all.
- The number and variety of vocational skills, both technical and non-technical should increase and the quality and quantity should be periodically reviewed based on the changing needs of the employment market.
- Trainings in entrepreneurial skills for self-employment.
- Conduct vision building exercises.
- Collectives of producers, and service providers should be facilitated.
- Realize areas in which India has the competitive edge and build youth to take up opportunities in those areas.
- Promote youth groups; take up youth campaigns.
- Provide for unemployment stipend.

Manifesto of Persons with Disabilities

As per 2001 census it is estimated that there are 2.13% disabled in the country. This in absolute number means that there are 22 million disabled. On the other hand, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), an NGO working for the rights of disabled argues that the number is much more. According to NCPEDP, there are about 5 to 6 percent disabled in India, which means 60 to 70 million population in the country fall under this category. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 considers a person as 'Disabled' if he/she is suffering from not less than 40% disability as certified by a medical authority. The Disability Act has categorized disability into seven types- Blindness, Low vision, Leprosy-cured, Hearing impairment, Locomotor disability, mental retardation and mental illness. Recently Dwarfism has also been recognized as disability. Indian Government has passed "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act", 1995. This Act is guided by the philosophy of empowering persons with disabilities and their associates.

The endeavor of the Act has been to introduce an instrument for promoting equality and participation of Persons with Disability on the one hand, and eliminating discrimination of all kinds on the other. The 1995 Act, has reserved 3% of poverty eradication funds for the disabled. Also under the Act 3% of seats in all educational institutions and 3% of all job vacancies are reserved for the disabled. Further this Act advocates employment for educated disabled through special employment exchanges. All disabled, who are above 2 years old and are poor receive a lifelong pension from the government. But the Act, has not been implemented anywhere in its true sense. In this context, the disabled people voice their demands to be met in the coming five years as following:

- Disability certificate is very important for any disabled person to access any benefit from the government. But the process of obtaining a certificate is very tedious which disabled people cannot follow. Hence, government should take appropriate steps to liberalize the process, so that each and every disabled person can get the certificate.
- The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 should be implemented with integrity.
- There should be space for participation of disabled people at all levels in all government programs.
- Efforts should be made to make infrastructure disabled friendly. Public places and buildings should be such that the disabled can navigate with ease. Adequate lighting, appropriate markers, wide doorways, wheelchair-friendly sidewalks, driveways, entrances etc will help.
- The pension that is given by government is not adequate for a decent living. Efforts should be made simultaneously to provide trainings, skill building and livelihoods to the disabled.
- There is a need to organize disabled people into SHGs, networks and other solidarity groups.
- Education and/or Trainings give the required skills to the disabled to undertake any activity. It is important to make regular schools disabled-friendly so both disabled and non-disabled children can study together. Teachers should be appropriately trained to adopt inclusive methods of teaching.
- Where special education is needed the government should set up special schools in the areas where disabled children have decent access.
- Employees of all government departments should be sensitized on the issues of disability so that they will respond to the disabled persons quickly.
- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programs should be promoted for the persons with severe disability.
- All development plans should be formulated with the participation of Persons with Disabilities.
- Special life and health insurance packages should be announced for the Persons with Disabilities.

Tribal Manifesto

Tribal people, who constitute 8% of the country's population, are economically the poorest people of India. These extremely backward tribes need urgent government assistance. About 90% of the tribal people are engaged in cultivation and most of them are landless and practice shifting cultivation. They need to be helped in adopting new methods of cultivation.

Tribal hamlets are to be connected to the outside market with the provision of roads, so that they can become familiar with the outer world and can develop skills to sustain in case of unforeseen risks. Right of land for the forest dwellers is to be provided. All the pending cases should be settled on priority and illegally alienated land should be restored to the tribal people. They should be made care takers of the forest and evacuation of the tribal from their habitations by the forest officials is to be stopped.

Interventions, such as WADI approach for sustainable income for extended period of time, Grain Bank (GB) concept for food security etc are to be well implemented. Tribal Development Fund (TDF) is to be increased to Rs 200 Crore, to cover more number of tribal hamlets. Special emphasis to be made on value addition for the NTFP collected by the tribal people, so that they can get higher value for their labor invested.

Financial and technical support is to be provided for those, who cannot resume agriculture due to displacement and to take up new livelihoods. Create employment opportunities by promoting bamboo-processing units and small scale units. Higher participation percentage of tribal people in MNERGA shows that special focus needs to be made on tribal people. Limit of providing maximum 100 days employment to a household in a given financial year under NREGA should be removed, as in tribal areas work of agriculture is available only for a period of 2-3 months during the year. Instead each household in the family should be provided 100 days of employment per year, maximum up to 4 members. Ministry should bring necessary amendment to the Act to this effect.

The rehabilitated, displaced tribes who are been evacuated from their habitation as a result of public sector projects, private mega-industrial projects, mining, industrialization, deforestation are to be provided with shelter and employment. Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which was meant to guarantee minimum wages to inter-state migrants is to be amended and be made applicable for the migrant domestic workers. Banking facilities in tribal areas, are so inadequate that the tribal people have to mainly depend on the money-lenders, which make them entrapped in indebtedness. They should be covered in financial inclusion.

On Education for tribal children: Special education facilities for children should be provided with special emphasis on girls – The hostels and schools set up and run by the government are not able to meet the purpose for which they are started for.

Additional incentives, residence and health facilities are to be provided for three teachers who work for the tribal students. Scheme of Midday meals should be extended up to high-school level at least for ST girl students. This will provide huge relief to the family of the ST girl students and it will improve enrolment of ST girl students and also reduce their dropout. Open at least one school of excellence such as Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) or Navodya Vidyalaya (NV) or Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) etc. in each block of a district and ensure that all meritorious ST students are accommodated/ admitted in these schools Budget for the setup of new hostels and running the existing ones should be increased at par with rising prices and inflation.

Upgrade housing, water and health facilities- *As Primary Health Centers (PHC) are located far away from the inhabitations, to provide emergency and regular treatment facilities, one Medical Mobile Van (MMV) equipped with primary treatment facilities and medicines along with minor surgical equipments should be arranged at each contact point for the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG), of all tribal hamlets. Solar lighting system to be introduced for tribal people, where the cost is to be borne by the state and central government. Establishment of National Research Centre (ENRC) for the preservation of tribal culture and languages.*

Dalit Manifesto

Dalits are above 16% of total population in the country. Most of them belong to poorest of poor categories. Dalit population is above 160 millions and it is one sixth of the country population. Large numbers of dalits don't have land and any assets. 80% of the dalits are residing in rural areas. 77% of the dalits didn't have lands.

Dalits are working as agricultural labourers, non-farming labours, artisans, crops and tanks watchmen, manual scavengers, grave diggers, remover of animal carcasses, cobblers, flayers and cleaners of the dead animals, drummers in fairs, sweepers and drainage cleaners etc.

Dalits are facing poverty not only in economic terms; they are also facing social oppression. Sixty five years independence didn't liberate the dalits from the in-human untouchability clutches. Less percentage of dalits got government jobs and assets. But, most of the dalits livelihoods are less remunerative works. These works are considered as low level by the society. If land reforms would have materialized dalits may got lands. But it's not

happened. They are excluded from the mainstream places, positions, resources and activities. Atrocities on dalits became common. Dalit women are facing more oppression and atrocities. There are various schemes and Acts, which are designed for welfare of the dalits. But they aren't properly implemented schemes and Acts. For dalits comprehensive welfare some activities are required as follows:

- * Design dalit relevant planning and implement special component plans for dalits.
- * Provide minor irrigation facilities to all dalit farmers.
- * Implement land reforms and provide land (natural capital) to dalits in rural areas.
- * Increase budget for special component plans.
- * Provide education and health facilities.
- * Establish more special residential schools with standard facilities and quality education.
- * Establish free special coaching centers for higher education and jobs.
- * Fill-up all SC vacancies with dalits only.
- * Provide financial assistance to dalits entrepreneurs.
- * Extend SC reservations into private sector in the context of Liberalization-Privatization and Globalization (LPG) context.
- * Establish various types of cooperatives and collectives for dalits.
- * Ban manual scavenging works.
- * Increase opportunities to elect more dalits into PRIs.
- * Eradicate all types of social discriminations.
- * Stop atrocities on dalits and punish the culprits.

In a democracy, political will with integrity can help translate the demands of the people into reality. With elections around the corner time is ripe for all political parties to listen to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, weavers, artisans and service providers and all labourers that constitute the backbone of Indian economy in many ways. It is the time to introspect, review their manifestos and come up with long term sustainable solutions to the problems plaguing the poor. Instead of responding only to symptoms it's time to respond to the disease itself with the intention to deliver and not just promise to deliver.

***Livelihoods May-2013**

56. Major Influences in 25 Years

Legends

Amartya Sen

A distinguished economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen is known as “the Conscience and the Mother Teresa of Economics” for his work on famine, human development theory, welfare economics, the underlying mechanisms of poverty, gender inequality, and political liberalism. With lots of hard work and effort, he succeeded in making significant changes to the contemporary world.

Anil Sadgopal

Dr. Anil Sadgopal, social educationist is striving to reshape the education milieu so that elementary education will be recognized as a fundamental right. He established the Kishore Bharathi Center for Rural Development and Education along with a group of likeminded people. The objective is to encourage the community to avail their rights and entitlements.

Anna Hazare

Anna Hazare’s desire to live beyond his narrow self interest drove him to seek voluntary retirement from the army and come back to serve his own village. Immediately after, about 60 small bunds, check dams, trenches and percolation ponds were built in the village. Soon they were raising three crops a year. “Gram Sabha” whereby the farmers who had excess grain were to voluntarily donate grain to the “Grain Bank” Along with it, he undertook a massive tree plantation drive.

Baba Amte

Baba Amte, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and followed the principles of Gandhism for the rest of his life and led a Spartan life. Baba Amte relentlessly worked in the service of the neglected and poor. His compassion for the leprosy afflicted people knew no bounds. He shared the sufferings of the tribals and stood by them. He worked for India living in unity and peace. He set up weekly clinics to take care of the patients. All these efforts graduated to setting up of Anandwan.

Banda VasudevRao

The National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), as it exists today, was the result of much hard work and foresight of Banda VasudevRao. He travelled across the country, organizing over 300 meetings with groups, individuals, and traders. He devoted his life towards the growth and modernization of Indian poultry production, transforming it from a backyard activity into a vibrant industry. Driven by science and technology, the poultry industry is one of the most powerful engines for growth of rural economy in India, supporting the livelihood of over 2.0 million people.

Bunker Roy

Bunker Roy is the man behind Barefoot College – the only college in India built by the rural poor for the rural poor. In 1971, he found the “Barefoot College” in Tilonia. He coined the term ‘barefoot professionals’ to mean indigenous and traditional knowledge leaders in poor communities. Millions of people in India live and work barefoot; but the title is also used as a symbol of respect for the knowledge that the poor have.

C K Prahalad

The internationally renowned management guru, corporate strategist and thought leader, C K Prahalad, as a management consultant to some of the top multinational corporations in the world, as a teacher in shaping up the minds of students from prestigious colleges around the world, as a writer who influenced the thoughts of many in the government, for-profit and not-for-profit sectors equally, as a thinker of those at the bottom of the pyramid, Prahalad’s contribution is simply remarkable and in many ways irreplaceable.



Elinor Ostrom

Elinor Ostrom has stood on the side of these poor to challenge the conventional wisdom and to argue that the CPRs can be successfully managed by the users themselves without any government regulation or privatization. She became the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Ostrom's 'research brought this topic from the fringe to the forefront of scientific attention.

Father Vincent Ferrer

Father Vincent Ferrer laid the foundation of Rural Development Trust (RDT). With their combined qualities, dreaming of helping hundreds and thousands of people and Anne with her desire and capability to bring quality and order in the programs of the organization, both together along with their team created what is today as RDT, a well established organization able to execute programs in all the fields of development with quality and excellence.

Father Michal Van Den Bogaert

Father Michael Van den Bogaert was an educator, an activist, a visionary and above all a builder of institutions. He left behind him four institutions and thousands of students who are taking forward his legacy. He introduced the concept of post graduate courses in 'Rural Management', which attempts to apply the techniques of management not merely for profit but also for alleviation of poverty. He contributed a lot to Indian development sector by training people who can help the poor.

Furer - Haimendorf

Christopher von Furer-Haimendorf was an Austrian ethnologist. He spent about forty years of his life doing fieldwork in Northeast India and in the central region of what is now the state of Andhra Pradesh and in Nepal. He undertook some remarkable field-work among the Chenchu, Reddi and Raj Gond communities. In the course of his work, he set up various educational institutional and other schemes for tribal peoples, all with the aim of preserving and safeguarding indigenous cultures and languages.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was a Gandhian, a freedom fighter, a social reformer, a trade unionist, a patron of arts and a revolutionary of her times. She will long be remembered for her enormous efforts in organizing women around various causes and for working towards improving the lives and livelihoods of the artisans of the country. She founded All India Women's Conference which soon became a reputed national organization working for legislative reforms.

Kanuri Lakshman Rao

Kanuri Lakshman Rao (known as K L Rao) is called the Father of India's water management and agriculture. Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhakra, Farakka are some of the many dams designed and developed by him. His vision and work has helped to increase the area under cultivation which led to an increase in food production apart from providing employment to millions of farmers and he is still remembered by many across the country as a saviour from starvation.

LC Jain

L.C. Jain was a volunteer organizer with the Indian Cooperative Union (ICU) in an extraordinary rehabilitation project undertaken for 50,000 Muslim refugees from the North West Frontier Province. Social health and basic education systems based on non-colonial principles were set up. Workers held ownership of industrial enterprises. He co-authored a book Grass without Roots. Jain worked with and on a number of development agencies as well as government committees and boards.

Mother Theresa

As the founder of the missionaries of charity in Calcutta, Mother Theresa helped the poor, homeless, crippled, diseased, sick, orphaned, and dying children and people. She informs by providing them with a home to stay in. Mother Theresa opened all the orphanages all around the world and did most of her work in Calcutta helping poor in the slums. She dedicated her life to others and as a result, she became a worldwide symbol of love, faith, strength, and hope.

Professor Muhammad Yunus

Professor Muhammad Yunus, is a Bangladeshi economist. He carried on giving out 'micro-loans', and in 1983 formed the Grameen Bank, meaning 'village bank' founded on principles of trust and solidarity. In Bangladesh today, Grameen has 2,564 branches, with 19,800 staff serving 8.29 million borrowers in 81,367 villages. Grameen methods are applied in projects in 58 countries, including in the USA, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Norway.

Dada PandurangaShastriAthavale

Dada PandurangShastriAthavale ideals continue to inspire several organizations. Athavale hoped to bridge the apparent disconnection between real life and the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita by focusing on the young. All the persons who work for the swadhyaya movement are volunteers. Even the professors of Vidyapeeth held jobs at other places and volunteer at Vidyapeeth. Political analyst AjitBhattacharjea toured Swadhyaya villages in 1995. Caste differences had been eliminated.

PuchalapalliSundaraiah

Sundaraiah worked all his life for the cause of the downtrodden and oppressed. He used all his inherited wealth for the cause of the poor. Sundaraiah worked tirelessly towards collectivizing the farmers, labourers and workers. Leading several movements, he gained invaluable insights on various issues related to the problems of the poor. A man of simple living and high thinking, Sundaraiah joins the rungs of great communist leaders in South India and is fondly referred to as Communist Gandhi.

Dr. RajanikanthArole

Dr. Rajanikant Arole, pioneered the 'Jamkhed Model' of health system. He had launched a rural health initiative in 1970-71 in the drought-prone Ahmednagar district. Dr Raj Arole's efforts to combine community development with a comprehensive approach to rural health care using the 'Jamkhed model' have been recognized by numerous International Organizations. He worked for Health Project in Jamkhed among the rural poor and marginalized for over 40 years.

Rama Reddy

Rama Reddy is synonymous with Cooperative Sector in India. He is the President of Sahavikasa Cooperative Development Foundation. He focused on protecting and nurturing the 'characteristics' of the cooperatives. He is always forefront in the battle against the government policies which dilute the characteristics of the cooperative. He has also been extending his services to Indira SevaSadhan Trust and SangamLaxmibai Education Trust. He is a tireless co-operator and policy advocate of societies and local governments.

Robert Chambers

Robert Chambers is an academic and development practitioner, who has, since the 1980s, has been one of the leading advocates for putting the poor, destitute and marginalised at the centre of the processes of development policy. He popularised with development circles such phrases as "putting the last first".. He is a key contributor to the development arena by facilitating the participation of the community in their own development.

S.R Sankaran

S.R Sankaran, a personification of simple living, honesty and integrity, unassuming but strong, modest yet firm and affable, the diminutive civil servant, was a role model who showed what an IAS officer could do for the marginalised sections of society. His commitment to public service and to the disadvantaged sections of the society was deep and unswerving. His life and work, the very high moral standards he lived by and his simplicity will continue to inspire the people in different walks of life.

Shashi Rajagopalan

Shashi Rajagopalan was the driving force behind strengthening the cooperative movement by streamlining processes involved in their functioning and management. She was a freelance consultant with special interest in organizational design, structuring and development of user based and voluntary organizations, planning/envisioning in user-based and voluntary development organizations, accounts and financial systems, user-owned and controlled financial and other business development and cooperative legislation.

Stephen Hawking

Stephen Hawking is a great scientist and a mathematician of unique personality who took his disability as a challenge and has done miracles in the discovery of universe. He discovered many things in theoretical cosmology and quantum gravity. He proposed the four laws of black hole mechanics, drawing an analogy with thermodynamics. He calculated that black holes could thermally create and emit subatomic particles. He wrote several books and "A brief history of time" became one of the best seller book in the world.

SunderlalBahuguna

Sunderlal Bahuguna is an Indian eco-activist and Gandhian peace worker. He spearheaded the infamous Chipko movement, fighting for the preservation of forests in the Himalayas. He undertook hunger strikes on the banks of Bhagirathi to stop the construction of Tehri dam that would alter the flow of the Ganges and jeopardize the mountain villagers. A true Gandhian, he continues to inspire many development/environment workers across the country to work selflessly for the cause of sustainable development.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's contributions to Agriculture Science have made an indelible mark on food production in India and elsewhere in the developing world. With a belief that importing food is like importing unemployment, he led India from one of those food importing countries to become one of the largest producer of food in the world and he is recognized as 'The Father of India's Green Revolution'. He led India from starvation to self-sufficiency and continues to inspire many people to work towards food security for all.

Dr. Verghese Kurien

Dr. Verghese Kurien created the "Operation Flood" in the country that has reached to about 250 million people and is one of the largest Cooperative development programs in the world. He is better known as the "Father of White Revolution" in India is also known as the Milk man of India. He volunteered to build an in-house processing plant and organize the cooperative AMUL. He was instrumental in establishing the IRMA.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave

Acharya Vinoba Bhave was a freedom fighter and a spiritual teacher. He is best known as the founder of the Bhoodan Movement (Gift of the Land). The reformer had an intense concern for the deprived masses. Vinoba announced he would walk all through the region to collect gifts of land for the landless. So began the movement called Bhoodan—"land-gift." Vinoba would tell the farmers and landlords in each village, "I am your fifth son. Give me my equal share of land." He collected over 4 million acres.

Prof Yash Pal

Prof. Yash Pal is a reputed scientist and educator in India and held esteemed positions reputed institutions in India. He focused on making it a centre of excellence in application of space technology. He is often described as a Gandhian technologist for his suggestions on achieving the ideal of inclusive societies. He was part of "The Committee to Advise on the Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education." He was Chairman in the Advisory Committee of TV series such as "Bharat Ki Chaap", "Tur-Rum-Tu" and "Race to Save the Planet".

Wangari Muta Maathai

Wangari Muta Maathai realised that the root of most of Kenya's problems was environmental degradation. She was active in the NCWK from 1976 to 1987 and was its chairperson from 1981 to 1987. It was in 1976, while serving in the NCWK, she introduced Green Belt Movement (GBM), launched in 1977. The campaign came to be known as "Save the Land Harambee", the first "Green Belt". Maathai encouraged the women of Kenya to plant tree nurseries throughout the country.

Organizations

AKRSP

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) is a rural development partner of Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) works in select and environmentally degraded areas of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It promotes institutions of poor and implements different programs related to rural livelihoods, through these institutions that lead to Income growth, Asset building, Mobilizing local capital, Technical innovations, Human skills development and Social development.

AMUL

Anand Milk Union Limited (AMUL) also known as Kaira District Milk Cooperative Union is the best example of co-operative achievement in India, which had multidimensional impact on rural economy and society with its innovations in milk processing and organization structure of milk unions, thereby providing remunerative returns to the farmers and also serves the interest of consumers by providing quality products.

BASIX

BASIX is a livelihood promotion institution working in 17 states of the country which promotes sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor and women through the provision of financial services, Agricultural / Business Development Services.

CDF

Cooperative Development foundation (CDF) is a strong advocate of member sensitive, member responsible and member controlled democratic organizations. Cooperative Development Foundation, popularly known as Sahavikasa, is instrumental in the enactment of liberal cooperative laws in many states across the country. Apart from advocating for parallel laws in other states, Sahavikasa is also creating models of such member controlled cooperatives.

Childline India

Childline, is India's first 24/7 helpline (1098) to rescue and rehabilitate children from abuses. Childline came into operation in 1996, and soon spread its operations to 210 cities/districts in 30 States and UTs in India. Childline is partnering with 415 organizations and has attended 2.1 crore calls (up to March 2011).

DHAN

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation, a Madurai based professional development organisation, is striving to build poverty-free, gender-balanced, equitable, ecologically-sensitive, democratic, just and value-based inclusive society. DHAN stands for broad purposes- mothering of development innovations, promoting institutions. With more than 12 years of experience DHAN is a significant contributor in professionalizing development sector.

FAN

Freshwater Action Network (FAN), a major network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) implementing and influencing water and sanitation policies and practices throughout the world. Over 600 organizations are currently registered as FAN members representing countries from all regions. FANSA held a civil society South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) meeting of 70 grassroots organizations from all over South Asia recently along with Water Aid and the Water Supply Sanitation Collectively Council (WSSCC).

FES

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) was set up in 2001. This organization has been instrumental in influencing State Governments in arranging for long-term lease of revenue wastelands - 15 years in Orissa and Gujarat, 20 years in Karnataka, 25 years in Rajasthan, 50 years in Andhra Pradesh and 99 years in Madhya Pradesh. FES/ NTGCF's consistent efforts has shown a way forward for sustainable development of natural resources and their associated lives and livelihoods.

HelpAge India

HelpAge India is a non-profit organization that works in the aged domain. It works for the cause and care of the disadvantaged older persons and to improve their quality of life with different stakeholders. HelpAge India's intervention- Sponsor A Gran Program, a collection of schemes such as mobile medical Units, Advocacy, Elder Self-Help Group for building community strength has also proved that older age are as economically productive as the adults, which increase their self respect.

IRMA

Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) is an autonomous institution which believes that the key to effective rural development is professional management. Hence it provides management training, support and research facilities to students committed to rural development, with its academic programs such as postgraduate program in rural management, Certificate Program in Dairy Management.

InDG

India Development Gateway (InDG) is a country-wide initiative dedicated to meet the knowledge requirements of the poor. It is a key initiative of Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Hyderabad. C-DAC is a premier, re-search and development organisation under the Department of Information Technology (DIT), Government of India. InDG provides knowledge in 6 languages across 5 domains. It experiments in knowledge dissemination, including using Common Service Centres (CSCs).

Kudumbasree

Kudumbashree, one of the largest women-empowering projects in the country is based on three components- micro credit, entrepreneurship and empowerment. Its wide reach and community interface and local governance has enabled this program to convert a microfinance led financial security model into a more comprehensive model of local economic development.

MVF

Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MVF) works for elimination of child labor by universalizing school education, based in Andhra Pradesh. MVF's several programs and interventions such as Total Abolition of Child Labor, right to education, Child Rights Protection Forum etc and Interventions on Health for well being of

pregnant women, adolescent girls and children up to the age of 3 and intervention on Natural resource management has contributed significantly in reduction of child labor.

MYRADA

Mysore Resettlement And Development Agency (MYRADA) is an NGO which has worked for the resettlement of Tibetan Refugees in Karnataka, is well known for its contribution towards Building the Poor People's Institutions, known as Self Affinity Groups under the initiation support from NABARD, which later became the largest intervention 'Self Help Group – Bank Linkage Program" that changed the lives of poor women in India.

NABARD

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the apex bank of India, which was established especially for the development of rural India. Its contribution for agriculture through financial services – refinance and direct finance through different schemes, developmental services – financial inclusion, institutional development, micro credit innovations and supervisory services has been helping rural India for its prosperity to overcome poverty.

NAC

National Academy of Construction (NAC), Hyderabad has emerged as an apex body for development of all types of construction resources, technologies and methodologies. NAC has become a pioneering organization in training and building people in various skills required by the construction sector for a very lower fee. The NAC is doing a commendable job by preparing, on one hand, the poor youth as per the needs of the construction sector thus increasing their employability.

NBA

Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) a social movement consisting of farmers, adivasis, environmentalists and human rights activists started questioning, organizing and mobilizing resistance against destruction of life and livelihood in the Narmada river valley through the construction of number of large dams being built across the river. This has rendered a yeoman's service to the country by creating a high-level of awareness about the environmental and rehabilitation and relief aspects of projects on the rivers.

NDDB

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has brought a drastic change in the livelihoods of dairy farmers throughout the country through Operation Flood, which was responsible for making India the world's largest producer of milk. Believing that cooperative strategy with self- governance is the preferred form of enterprise, it has replicated Anand pattern cooperatives over the country their by linking the villages who are milk producers and urban areas, who are the consumers.

Oxfam India

Oxfam India is a right based organization that works with more than 180 NGOs in India to address root causes of poverty and address the injustice towards right to a sustainable livelihood, right to basic social services, right to life and security, right to be heard and right to equality: gender and diversity.

PRADAN

Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), providing them access to sustainable income generation opportunities, with the strategy of, promoting and nurturing SHGs, developing and introducing locally suitable economic activities to increase productivity and income, mobilizing institutional finances for livelihood assets and infrastructure and setting up mechanisms to sustain the livelihood gains made by the poor communities.

PRAXIS

PRAXIS was set up in May 1997. The activities of PRAXIS include - Building strategic partnerships with other organisations including grassroots' organisations. One of the prominent contributions of PRAXIS to the growing sector of participatory development has been the area of methodologies which can be adopted and applied to different situations extending from interactions with the community at the grass roots to decision making processes at the higher corporate levels.

RDT

Rural Development Trust (RDT) is an NGO, which carries out various welfare and integrated programs of development for the marginalized and underprivileged sections (SC, ST, BC and PWDs) in Andhra Pradesh. Its interventions cover sectors such as education, women, community health including HIV/AIDS, hospitals, Community-based Rehabilitation and Ecology. It facilitates and supports people to be aware of and avail all government schemes/ resources.

RUDSETI

Rural Development & Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) is a training institution initiated to eliminate the problem of unemployment and promotes self employment to the rural youth by creating awareness, building human capital, resource utilization, demystification of technology and building confidence among them.

SERP

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) is an autonomous society of Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh. To eliminate poverty, it is implementing Indira KranthiPatham, a community driven poverty reduction project, by providing livelihood opportunities, financial assistance for setting up businesses and institutional building. Being highly successful in implementing its interventions, SERP model of poverty reduction is being replicated in other states of the country also.

SEWA

Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) is a trade union for poor, with more than 11 lakh women members, emerged as India's largest membership-based organization for women working in the informal sector. This government is enhanced by it being a confluence of three movements - the labour movement, the cooperative movement and the women's movement, whose goal is to ensure that every family obtains full employment which encompasses work security, income security, food security and social security.

Skillshare International

Skillshare International is an international volunteering and development organization, which works in partnership with communities to reduce poverty, injustice and inequality and to further economic and social development by sharing and developing skills and ideas, facilitating organisational and social change and building awareness of development issues.

SOS

SOS Children's Villages is an independent, non-governmental, social development organization that provides family-based care for children in India. It advocates the concerns, rights and needs of children. This family system enables strong, supportive relationships, so that children develop resilience and confidence to face life's challenges. SOS Children's Villages operates kindergartens, day-care centres, schools and vocational training centres and also runs medical centers, with an emphasis on specialized care of women and children.

Sulabh International

The Sulabh International brought significant change in scavenger's lives that were long regarded as untouchables and the society they are in and also raised the consciousness of the people towards healthy practices of sanitation as an individual and community. It provides the most adaptable and affordable and culturally acceptable technology to the world. Sulabh holds the credit of having largest toilet complex in the world at Shiridi, Maharashtra, a pilgrimage lace with 148 toilets and 108 bathrooms.

World Bank

World Bank is an international financial Institution formed for reduction of poverty by providing loans and other support for developing countries. It has made a significant contribution to India's planned and unplanned economic development. For instance: financial support for National Rural Livelihoods Project, National Dairy support project, Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project, PMGSY Rural Roads Project.

WOTR

Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) was established in 1993 at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. WOTR also provides educational inputs for children and entrepreneurship opportunities for women. WOTR works on watershed and governance. They believe that development of the village is the responsibility of the community; it is for them and by them. WOTR has developed an excellent network with government agencies and professionals, all of whom are dedicated to the welfare of the impoverished.

Books

An Inconvenient Truth

Author: Al Gore

Publisher: Rodale Books

In "An Inconvenient Truth", Al Gore characterizes modern humanity as a "force of nature." The book's presentation is excellent, comprehensive, compelling and unsettling. It is an image oriented almost like a picture book. Unlike the movie, there is also some biographical information on Gore and his family that adds a personal face to it all.

Beginning with stunning pictures of the earth from space, the book is fully-illustrated with remarkable before-and-after views of the havoc global temperature rise is already reeking:

Gore ends the work on a hopeful note. Humanity has recognized and by regulation considerably abated the crisis of ozone depletion, another crisis of our own making. He indicates many ways in which people can alter their behavior to restrain the Carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is being unleashed, and directs the reader to many resources and agencies engaged in the issue.

He believes, we have the time and talent to correct our ways but must act now.

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 un-freedom – 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. According to the author the expansion of freedom is both the primary end and the principal means of development.

The book makes an 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. Development as Freedom gives a new, thoughtful and humanistic way of perceiving development.

Endless Appetites

Author: Allan Bjerga

Publisher: John Willey and Sons

World food production is at an all time high. As is the world population. Logically speaking, starvation shouldn't exist in the world. But the fact is that about 1/3rd of the world's population goes without food every single day. Alan Bjerga in the book Endless Appetites explains how food security is fast losing the battle to rising food prices and essential commodity prices.

The author explains how food security is not a problem of supply but that of the reasonable ability to purchase food.

The book serves well to bring to light a silent manipulation is at work to put food out of reach for millions around the world. The book is based on the author's observations from personal visits to farmers across the world supported by secondary research. It is a comprehensive analysis of one humanity's most pressing challenges.

Fifth Discipline

Author: Peter M. Senge,

Publisher: Noeholas Brealey

Peter Senge's Fifth Discipline established him as a management guru and organizational strategist to be reckoned with. In the "Fifth Discipline Field book: Strategies and Tools for Building a Learning Organization", Senge teams up with colleagues at the Sloan School of Management to guide readers to building a learning organisation. The authors have discussed the five disciplines of organisation learning: systems thinking, personal mastery, mental models, shared vision and team learning. Not much is said about what these concepts are; the theory is left for the first book. This book is exclusively meant to explain how the learning organisation is built. The authors point out difficulties in building a learning environment and how to overcome these. Various management and psychology concepts are borrowed and contextualised to building a learning organisation. The

book is amply sprinkled with case studies and real examples to help the reader comprehend how the learning environment is built. What helps the readers is also the free-flowing and relatively jargon-free style of writing. Wherever jargon is used, it is adequately simplified for the reader to understand. Particularly insightful sections include the visioning process, "ladders of interference", reflection and inquiry.

Social Entrepreneurship

Author: RyszardPraszkiar and Andrzej Nowak

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

Social entrepreneurs are working in many fields like health, education, environment, tribal issues, street children, women issues, rights etc in various places across the globe. Basing on this many theories and practices emerged to solve the social problems and challenges in a creative way in the social entrepreneurship sector. The book "Social Entrepreneurship – Theory and Practice" offers many creative solutions to the problems of social entrepreneurship. Authors Ryszard Praszkiar and Andrzej Nowak comprehensively document the successful social enterprises as case studies. The book contains 4 parts- a) Defining the social entrepreneurship, dimensions and practices, b) Dynamics of social change, theories and complexities, c) Social Capital built by social entrepreneurs, personality traits of the social entrepreneurs and its impact on social capital and d) New kind leadership in social entrepreneurship and addressing complicated problems and conflicts. The book will be useful for students of development to understand social entrepreneurs and of course aspiring social entrepreneurs. The book gives important insights and understanding about the social entrepreneurship and guide to become successful social entrepreneurs.

The Alchemist

Author: Paulo Coelho

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers India.

Laid out in the form of a novel, this book is an extraordinary exposition of the human nature and process of seeking the life goal of a person. It is the possibility of having a life goal comes true that makes life interesting. However, every- one does not treat the life goal in the same manner. The book gives two messages. People need not fear the unknown if they are capable of achieving what they need and Want. There are strong disadvantages of not listening to one's heart. If you do not listen, you will never be able to keep it quite. Even if you pretend not to have heard what it tells you, it will always be there inside you, repeating to you what you're thinking about life and the world. While there are always some early small successes to encourage an entrepreneur on his way, he is severely tested before he realizes his goal. This process enables the entrepreneur to test all his learning.

The Enemy of Nature

Author: Kovel

In this book Kovel detailed with great sobriety the matter-of-fact implications of capitalism for nature and humanity. In the first section, he discussed about capitalism and analyzes it as system, with ecological crisis occurring as the logical outcomes of 'the never-ending pressure to cut costs-or, from the other side, to make profits'. He strengthens his case by providing illustrations of how capitalism permeates every aspect human existence, from the individual to global level. In the second section, he discusses on more philosophical ground, beginning with a discussion of ecological concepts. One of the most valuable things about this book is its interviewing of natural and human ecosystems. In that Kovel updates Marx's notion of alienation by theorizing it in terms of ecological integrity. In the section three, he focused on the practical aims of working toward, and achieving, international eco-socialism. Many critiques tend to disregard this type of exercise, but it is exactly what is needed. His repeated demands for self-governance are informed by his critical analysis of capitalism and of "actually existing socialisms," as are his ideas for creating democratic, ecological approaches to work and organization. The book is well organized, as its various threads eventually weave together, leading up to some concise and power- full conclusions.

The Fortune at The Bottom of The Pyramid

Author: C.K. Prahalad

Publisher: Wharton School Publishing

Need for synergy between investment capacity of large firms and commitment and knowledge of NGOs in "creating solutions" to bring poor out of poverty is the essence of the book ' The Fortune at The Bottom of The Pyramid' authored by C.K. Prahalad.

The book is divided into three parts.

First part, 'The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid' gives a framework for active engagement of the private sector at the Bottom of Pyramid (BOP).

Second Part of the book is a detailed discussion on the successful innovations under the heading Innovative Practices at the Bottom of the Pyramid. The 1st part of the book demystifies dominant assumptions regarding profitability of engaging with BOP market. The author states that each of the groups that focus on poverty alleviation the World Bank, rich countries providing aid, charitable organizations, national governments and private sector - is conditioned by its own dominant logic.

The author concludes by emphasizing that the best allies in fighting poverty are the poor themselves and also conjectures that the bold initiatives would lead to elimination of poverty by 2020. He says that the social transformation should lead the pyramid structure to morph a diamond, where pyramid depicts unequal distribution in the society. A diamond structure represents a minority at top and bottom and a majority of middle class.

The Goal

Author: Goldratt

Using a gripping story of the novel, Eliyahu Goldratt explains good management principles and the application of theory of constraints in an easy to understand manner. Using the example of a few youngsters going on a hiking expedition, he explains the concepts 'dependencies' and 'statistical fluctuations'. Goldratt advocates three goals for any organization. They are:

- Increased throughput: Throughput is the rate at which the system generates money through sales.
- Decreased inventory: Inventory is all the money that the system has invested in purchasing things which it intends to sell.
- Decreased operational expenses: Operational expenses are all the money the system spends to turn inventory in throughput.

The book gives a very good summary of the core issues in management, as answering three simple questions. What to change? What to change to? How to cause the change? It is difficult to be able to construct and check solutions that really solve all negative effects without creating new ones. It is much difficult to cause such a major change smoothly, without creating resistance but the opposite, enthusiasm. A manager needs to have skills like these.

The Servant

Author: James C. Hunter

Publisher: PRIMA Publishing

'To lead, you must serve' is the solid premise of the book 'The Servant'. The author of the book James C. Hunter unfolds the timeless principles of servant leadership through the story of John Daily, a businessman whose outwardly successful life is spiraling out of control. The author starts with explaining the difference between power and authority and how exercising too much of power is counterproductive. The book lists the following as the qualities of a servant leader. Patient - showing self-control; Kind - giving attention, appreciation, and encouragement; Humble - being authentic without pretence or arrogance; Respectful - treating others as important people; Selfless - meeting the needs of others; Forgiving - giving up resentment when wronged; Honest - being free from deception; Committed - sticking to your choices. This is a book written to teach everyone in any leadership role that to truly lead, you must learn to serve and the true leadership is not about power, but authority which comes only by serving and loving. This is a must read to everyone who are in leadership position— at home or at work.

We Are Poor But So Many

Author: Ela Bhatt

Publisher: OXFORD University Press

"We Are Poor but So Many", opens up a critical passage into the lives and livelihoods of self-employed poor women in India. The author Ela R Bhatt, also a visionary, activist and founder of Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), an organization with more than 7 lakh members. The author gives a firsthand account of how lives have changed for thousands of workers that were rendered jobless with the closure of major textile mills in Ahmadabad. While men were busy agitating against the closure, the women had to run the homes and engaged in multiple livelihoods. Children stopped going to schools to help their mothers. But all these self-employed women though contributed to the national economy remained outside the protection of any laws and regulations. In the concluding chapter, the author reflects on how globalization is posing a threat to the livelihoods of the poor. The only way poor can be part of the global movement is to come together, build organizations, promote asset formation. Towards this end SEWA is establishing workers networks across

countries. More than 92% of the workforce is in the informal economy and they contribute to 63% of the country's GDP, 50% of savings and 40% of exports but the infrastructure to support them is minimal to nonexistent. This has to change.

Who Killed TheSundarbans

Author: Tushar Kanjilal

Publishers: Tagore Society for Rural Development

Tushar Kanjilal is a political activist, teacher with development and environment lens provides key insights into these ecologically fragile lands in his book - Who Killed The Sundarbans? Sundarbans in India is composed of 102 islands of which 54 are inhabited. They are in the North and South 24 Paraganas of West Bengal State.

The author brings to discussion various options to build and maintain the embankments in the book. Population pressure is negatively impacting Sundarbans. The mangroves have been cleared for agriculture. Prawn/shrimp seed collection is taken up extensively that creates threat to other marine life. The book classifies Sundarbans into 3 divisions from ecological perspective -

1. The area that resisted human encroachment
2. The area that is partially altered by human intervention
3. The area which has been completely transformed by human intervention

The author says, there is a need for collective action with the involvement of local people, policy makers. Eco friendly technologies would help in protecting the Sundarbans. It is for us to take up the responsibility of protecting and improving these new natural formations and preserving our environment for the future generations to come.

Technologies

Internet

The internet, a global system of interconnected computer networks comes in the top position of technology that changed the life of a common person drastically. It has become an information resort or knowledge bank through which information about any topic can be accessed through the search engines like Google, Yahoo etc. The introduction of e-mail, which was unimaginable at the time of invention, has now become a basic requirement for any individual for information sharing. It has reduced the time needed to access and share information. Many alert systems have been designed to send information to people in rural or otherwise difficult to connected areas, like flood and cyclone alerts etc. Farmers are also able to access information on climatic changes, prices in the market through mobile phones. The internet has penetrated in to the interiors of India in such a way that not only for private jobs, even government job announcements are instructing aspirants to apply for the job through online as it reduces the transporting as well as processing time as well as the cost. Invention of e-commerce for online trading has given the customer the choice of shopping in convenience and from home. This fits in well to busy lifestyles in our over populated urban areas. However, this to an extent impacts the small businesses.

Mobile Phone

We communicate to share and receive information on many issues and in many phases of life. India without mobile phone is unimaginable. We communicate to get support and assistance from other persons, to exchange information about friends, family and work and to co-ordinate social as well as business activities. In 21st century India, hardly anyone lives without telecommunications, may it be internet, landline or mobile telephony. With 26 percent of the population and of 860 million active connections, India is the second largest country in terms of mobile user base next to china. Though these were introduced initially or basic communication via voice calls or text messaging, these mobiles have changed their shape and became almost everything-communication, entertainment, social networks, internet, mobile based applications for special platforms, services like mobile banking, bill payments etc. Use of mobile phones also spawns a wealth of micro-enterprises, by providing work, such as selling accessories on the streets, selling and repairing or refurbishing handsets. It is not surprising if you cannot find drinking water in a village but can find at least one mobile repairing shop or selling recharge cards.

e-choupal

e-choupal by ITC is an innovative market led technology based business model designed to enhance the competitiveness of Indian agriculture. It leverages the power of Information and Digital Technology and the internet to empower small and marginal farmers with a host of services related to know how, best practices, timely and relevant weather information, transparent discovery of prices and much more. e-Choupal was designed to empower farmers and triggers a virtuous cycle of higher productivity, higher incomes, enlarged

capacity for farmer risk management, and thereby larger investments to enable higher quality and productivity. The program installs computers with Internet access in rural areas of India to offer farmers up-to-date marketing and agricultural information such as mandi prices, and good farming practices, and to place orders for agricultural inputs. This helps farmers improve the quality of their products, and helps in obtaining a better price. These interventions have helped transform village communities into vibrant economic organizations, by enhancing incomes and co-creating markets. ITC's e-Choupals serve 40,000 villages and 4 million farmers, making it the world's largest rural digital infrastructure created by a private enterprise.

Core Banking

Centralized Core Banking Solution refers to a common IT solution wherein a central shared database support the entire application. Business processes in all the branches of the bank update a common database on central host, which gives a consolidated view of the bank's operation. Here branches function as delivery channels, providing service to bank customers thus a customer would belong to the bank and not to any particular branch, whereas an account belongs to a branch. Core banking has facilitated both the customers as well as the staff to save time on transactions through ATMs, mobile banking, online banking, e-statement, e-payments of bills etc, and automatic updation of end of the day accounts.

It has also saved a security threat of losing data in case of accidents or calamities by setting up Disaster Management Unit, which saves a copy of the data of a bank at different place. This has saved many banks their time and reputation from loss of data in case of accidents.

ATM & e-banking

Automated Teller Machine is a computerized machine that provides the customers of banks the facility of accessing their accounts for dispensing cash and to carry out other financial transactions without the need of actually visiting a bank branch such as- Mini statement, cash withdrawal, fund transfer between own accounts, mobile recharge, tax payments etc. Similarly E-banking is the service provided by banks to their customers through which the customers can perform many financial transactions using their internet enabled devices like laptop and mobiles without going to the bank in person. This service allows the individual to get online statements, pay bills, loan installments, online loan application, transfer of money through NEFT and RTGS to any bank account with nil or minimal charges. With little differences, these services are saving lot of time of both customers and banking staff. It became unimaginable for most of the individuals without ATM cards. Advancement in ATM technology has led to newer and better versions to support differently abled people. For example, Braille compatible ATMs are being developed and installed by banks. Further, talking ATMs, which support voice instructions assist illiterate or differently able people to transact over an ATM. Though e-banking has made life easier for many, it has also the dark side of cyber crimes.

Agricultural Appliances

Agricultural mechanization implies the use of various power sources and improved farm tools and equipment, with

a view to reduce the drudgery of the human beings and draught animals, enhance the cropping intensity, precision

and timelines of efficiency of utilization of various crop inputs and reduce the losses at different stages of crop production such as tractors, seeder, planter, weeders, irrigation, harvester, storage facilities. The end objective of farm mechanization is to enhance the overall productivity and production with the lowest cost of production. Indian Green Revolution is regarded as one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century. It has been adopted in India on a large scale benefiting small, medium and large size farms. Though mechanization has proved to be increasing productivity, cropping intensity and returns, it was also been criticized that in a labor intensive country like India, mechanization has reduced the employment opportunities for casual labor. Also with more and more farmers leaving agriculture and pursuing different livelihoods and increasing employment opportunities in labor intensive manufacturing sectors, it has become evident for a farmer to use machinery instead of opting for a costly manual labor.

E-commerce

Electronic commerce also commonly known as e-commerce is a type of industry in which buying and selling of goods and services takes place through internet based devices such as computers, mobiles etc. It has evolved in the past decade and has shown a rapid growth in certain segments in the online-business like online travel booking: Air tickets, railway tickets, bus tickets, hotel booking and holiday planning. Financial services: Online bill payments, insurance related activities, online transactions of shares and security trading. Retailing: electronic retailing of consumer items like books, apparels, home appliances, electrical and electronics. Classifieds: Online jobs, matrimony, real estate etc. Other segments: Online entertainment – movie tickets, concert booking etc. E-Commerce has enabled consumers to get more information about the competitive prices as well as better

services and save time by shopping from the home. E-Commerce is also benefitting the sellers by reducing distribution costs as well as inventory maintenance. However e-Commerce has emerged as a major threat for the small retail business people as their customer base has gone down with the wider penetration of online business.

Biometric

Biometrics refers to the identification of humans by their physiological and behavioral characteristics and traits, such as height, face, finger print, retina, DNA, voice etc. These identifiers are used to identify and distinguish an individual from others there by authentication that person for a specific application or service. At present, biometrics have been used in several applications in the country such as – authentication of entry to an office especially as an ID proof for employees to enter in corporate, security systems for domestic usage, as an unique ID for identification of the correct beneficiary of retain programs such as pension disbursement for elders. The sole aim of Aadhaar unique identification number is to provide Indians a proof of residence and unique identify in the country. The Aadhaar Number mapped with the demographics and bio-metric data of the Aadhaar-holder is stored in CIDR database. The data is – photograph, ten finger-print, iris, date of birth, address, gender etc. It has been introduced by Unique Identification Authority of India with an objective of using it as an effective governance tool - to bring transparency, efficiency and weed out the bogus beneficiaries from public welfare programs e.g. public welfare pensions, scholarships, public health, NREGA, subsidy on PDS Ration, etc. How this UID is going to help India to deal with corruption is to be time tested.

Interventions

Microfinance

Microfinance is a form of financial service that includes savings, credit, and insurance for poor individuals and entrepreneurs who lack access to banking and other financial services. Initiated in Bangladesh by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Grameen Bank (GB) was created to address the needs of the poor. Thus far, it has changed the entire face of financial services globally, including the United States. Emergence of Microfinance Institutions in India has provided timely financial support to individuals seeking a principle of up to Rs 50,000 without providing collateral or security. This has helped many of India's poor to avail credit and meet the initial investment costs for their income-generating activities. Though the poor are made to pay higher interest (about 36%) for microfinance compared with formal credit agencies (i.e. banks), they are inclined to approach microfinance institutions because of the timely availability of credit. As the principals handed out were capped at Rs 50,000, the default rate was initially very low. This attracted many NBFCs to enter the business, thereby increasing competition between the MFIs. However, the emergence of too many competing MFIs led to stark criticism. As many MFIs started competing to secure a strong market share in the same localities, they encouraged the poor to avail as much credit as possible from multiple institutions.

Despite of these hurdles, MFIs are benefitting many of the unreached, less wealthy demographics across India.

Self Help Groups

Self Help Group (SHG) is a small group consisting of the rural poor who voluntarily come forward to form an association for their collective social and economic improvement. Conditions required for membership in SHGs:

- * Members should be between the ages of 21-60 years.
- * To open up for new membership, a group must have ten to twenty members.
- * From each family, only one person can become a member of a SHG. More families can join SHGs this way.
- * Members should be homogenous i.e. should have the same social and financial background.
- * A higher preference is given to the rural poor, who generally rely on unstable livelihoods.

The self help groups were conceptualized on "self help". But this approach and understanding has been largely reduced to only savings and credit. With this becoming the primary objective, issues of social change and solidarity has been almost completely forgotten. The groups have come to be caste and class based, lending internally for personal needs, sometimes for frivolous spending, and not on important matters like health or education or entrepreneurship since it focuses on individual businesses, group does not emerge as a strong entity or take up any issue that commonly impacts the community or village.

Wadi Approach

Government and Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) made an attempt through Wadi, an agri-horti-forestry program established in 1982 that presents a replicable model to rehabilitate the tribal communities.

A typical orchard, promoted under this scheme covering 0.4 ha, has 40-80 drought tolerant fruit crops such as mangoes, cashews, Indian gooseberries, tamarinds, custard apples, and 500-600 other plant species. They include traditional arable crops, Hardy shrubs, and trees used for fodder, fuel, timber, and herbal medicines that are established on field bunds and borders. The Wadis, first established in 1982, started bearing fruits by 1987. On an average, 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 nonagricultural activities, mostly in the

form of physical labor. After five years of participating in this program, these families were able to earn Rs. 20,000 per year 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 fields. The formation of SHGs and village planning committees has helped in developing a better understanding and mutual cooperation among the villagers. However, since this process only succeeds over a long-term period, the participants need support in the form of employment in the initial years to sustain their basic needs.

Watershed Development Approach

A watershed is a catchment area feeding into a single identifiable drainage system, such as a stream or a river. Watershed Development Program is fostering appropriate local institutions for managing natural resources in the watershed area, and improving the quality and productivity of those resources. It includes some or all of the following interventions:

- * Soil and land management
- * Water management;
- * Crop management
- * Afforestation
- * Pasture/fodder development
- * Livestock management
- * Rural energy management
- * Other farm and non-farm activities
- * Community mobilization

While, these components are often understood in general terms, there is a large scope for technology development and adaptation.

Non-Pesticide Management

Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) or organic farming excludes the use of off-farm inputs such as chemical fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc. It is primarily based on the use of natural organic inputs and biological plant protection methods. Severe shortage of food grains during the 1960s encouraged the government and scientific community to embrace the Green Revolution (GR), which demanded more water, chemical fertilizers, and chemical pesticides. Organic farming is becoming a key component of the second-generation green revolution. In this concept, no chemicals are used for cultivation, and pest control is achieved through natural means i.e. natural predators, natural insecticides, etc. The use of animal manure instead of chemical fertilizers has not only reduced the burden on farmers' pockets, but is also restoring the yield capacity of soil. In India, Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) is involved in promoting Indian organic agriculture. To promote the Indian organic movement, the government recently launched National Program of Organic Production. It provides an institutional mechanism for the improvement of national standards of organic products and brings them on par with international standards. Currently, most of India's organic products depend on export markets, which fetch premium price. With increased awareness on health and associated aspects, the demand for organic products within India is also showing an upward trend.

Community Resource Persons

Electing people from a particular community to serve as resource persons would allow them to better identify the pressing problems of that particular community. Furthermore, training members of these communities would raise goodwill and trust in the community being impacted. Soon, this was developed as a strategy by several organizations across the country for sustainable rural development and economic independence. Gradually, this has become a widely accepted idea and is now seen as an intervention in the field of rural development. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) are people who broke the thresholds of extreme poverty during their lifetime. The CRP strategy is a community-to-community cross-learning approach. Women who came out of poverty by participating in SHGs, strengthened their own SHGs, and/or became role models in their respective SHG/community share their experiences in women's groups to raise awareness and create a positive impact. They devote their time and effort into inspiring, motivating, and mobilizing other poor women to organize themselves into groups. This is a major strategy by which organizations can overcome a shortage of adequate professionals, and the CRPs in turn earn sufficient incomes. The CRP strategy is extensively used by many organizations, both big and small. Examples include Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikasa Pariyojana, and other organizations.

System of Rice Intensification

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method is gaining popularity. SRI can be replicated in many different scenarios: different rice varieties, volatile climate conditions, and relatively dry soil. When compared to conventional practices, SRI's requirement of seeds per acre is drastically low (with net savings of 20kg/acre), its water requirement is 20-50% lower, and its harvested yield increases by 30%. In India, the state of Tripura has already committed to implementing SRI. Andhra Pradesh is also promoting this method by identifying it as irrigated dry crop management technique.

Despite the advantages, some concerns about the implementation of SRI include:

* Farmers are used to easily pulling seedlings, placing them in bundles, and replanting them after a certain time gap. Transplanting very young seedlings (a necessary step for SRI) means extra work with extreme care and effort.

* Frequent weeding is labor-intensive and expensive.

It is estimated that applying SRI today to 20 million hectares of rice-cultivated land in India would allow the country to reach its food grain objectives of 220 million tons of grain by 2012 instead of 2050.

LPG

The Indian economy experienced many major policy changes in the early 1990s. The new economic reform, popularly known as Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG), aims to make the Indian economy grow rapidly and become globally competitive. Liberalization: The process of making government policies less constraining of economic activity, thus allowing private investments and foreign corporations to enter the market. Privatization: The transfer of ownership of properties and businesses from the government to privately owned entities. Globalization: The process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of communication, transportation, and trade. Several reform measures under LPG, such as disinvestment for privatization, devaluation of rupee, dismantling of The Industrial Licensing Regime, allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), etc., These measures resulted in the acceleration of growth from 3.2% (before LPG) to more than 7% in 2012. On the contrary, the higher growth rate came from the industrial and service sectors. The share of agriculture as a proportion of GDP decreased to 20%, despite having over 50% of the population depending on agriculture for their livelihood.

Schemes

MGNREGA

MGNREGA, also widely known as NREGA, is the flagship welfare program of the Indian government created in 2006 as a job guarantee scheme for rural Indians. It promises to provide at least 100 days of wage employment for the poor who are willing to do unskilled labor. It was introduced with an aim to provide employment for the needy, thereby increasing their purchasing power that is otherwise not possible in case of non-availability of work. The scheme was designed to provide employment to the needy and foster rural development by expending the labor on development works such as infrastructure, water conservation, afforestation, and land leveling. The scheme pays them a minimum wage per day. This scheme has been proven to be a good channel for the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, to be employed in the lean seasons such as summer when agricultural jobs are not available. As per the records, the scheme has provided work to 625,700,000 household person days till date. Despite its clear objective, the NREGA has been facing lot of criticism for several reasons: poor implementation, aimless work, corruption and non-payment, incomplete payment of wages, false identity generation, and low quality of work. Many argue that the infrastructure projects undertaken by unskilled workers are of poor quality because of the absence of technology and efficient machinery. Additionally, many criticize that the labor force is not learning any skills that can otherwise be helpful for them in the long run.

NSPA

National Social Assistance Program (NSPA) is a social welfare program being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development. It undertakes many welfare measures, first at the central level, and then at the state-level governments. Its objective are: to secure adequate means of livelihoods for the citizens, raise the standard of living, provide pensions for the poor, and offer inexpensive insurance. Important schemes under the NSAP are:

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme: This scheme provides a pension of Rs 200/- to senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 79 years. For those over 80 years old, the scheme provides Rs 500 /- per month.

Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme: This scheme provides Rs 200 /- to widows aged 40-59 years.

Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme: It provides Rs 200 - Rs. 500/- to BPL persons ages 18-59 years with severe and multiple disabilities.

National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): Under this scheme, a lump sum amount of Rs Rs.10, 000/- is given to a BPL household upon the death of a primary breadwinner between the ages 18 and 64 years.

Annapurna: This scheme provides 10 kg of food grains per month for free to senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under NOAPS. Its primary function is to provide financial security to the needy BPL people. However, it has been criticized because its benefits are often insufficient the needy to lead a decent life.

SGSY

Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana is a poverty elimination program initiated in 1999 by the Indian government as a modification of the formerly existing Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP). Its

objective is to provide sustainable income to the poor with a collective approach through SHGs. It focused on generating self-employment through the establishment of SHGs and their links with banks. The programs trains the rural poor in specific income-generating activities based on their existing skills. NGOs, banks, and self-help institutions provide financial support. The government also helps in marketing microenterprises by organizing fairs, creating exhibitions, etc. These groups are also provided with a subsidy of 30% on all loans meant for income-generating activities. Special subsidies of 50% are given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and 40% to women and the physically challenged. The program was updated in 2011 and was renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). It effectively rectified many of shortfalls of SGSY and currently reaches out to a larger population.

National Crop Insurance

National Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced in India to provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in case they are unable to sow seeds at the right time or if any of their crops don't reap harvest due to natural calamities, pests, or diseases. This helps stabilize farm incomes, particularly in disaster years and encourages farmers to adopt progressive farming practices, high value inputs, and better technology for agriculture. Since its introduction in 1972, it has undergone many changes with different objectives and covering different categories, such as yield-based, weather-based, crop-based insurance schemes. It was introduced to benefit all farmers, including sharecroppers and tenant farmers who grow notified crops in notified areas in all states and union territories. This scheme was made mandatory for all farmers with debt, and voluntary for other farmers. To reach out to more farmers, the premium was fixed at a very low level. Despite its noble objective to make farmers financially secure at all times, NCIS is facing the following criticism like delay in payment of claims due to late submission of yield data and scarce availability of government funds, pre-sowing/planting risk is not covered, localized calamities are not covered and post Harvest Losses are not covered.

Movies

Slumdog Millionaire

'Slumdog Millionaire' is an Oscar winning film directed by Danny Boyle. It describes the destiny of a 'Slumdog' who became a 'Millionaire'. The movie shows the struggle of poor for survival, dignity of life and love. The general human traits were brilliantly narrated in the movie and thus attracted audiences across the globe. In the movie, we can see extraordinary personalities, mesmerizing events and disturbing stories of orphans in the slums who were brought up on the streets of Mumbai, India. It is story of slum children flourished from the wretched slums in an exciting way...a story of a person who liberate from the clutches of poverty and unimaginable brutalities. It shows two orphan brothers-younger one Jamal a kind and honest person with lot of optimism on life. He does odd jobs for survival and subsequently becomes a millionaire with the help of his childhood experiences. Elder person Salim swallowed by the crime world of Mumbai. He becomes a member of gang in underworld. It shows how the orphan people are cheated and harassed by the slum leaders and police. It gives hope to overcome from poverty with knowledge and by enhancing self-awareness. It tells that there is always a ray of hope in darkest situations for optimists.

Chak De! India

Chak De! India, a movie that turned heads towards long neglected Indian women Field hockey is directed by Shimit Amin and was released in 2007. The film explores religious bigotry, the legacy of the partition of India, ethnic and regional prejudice. The movie is about a talented Indian national men's hockey team captain Kabir, who was once ostracized from the sport without his fault has restored his reputation by becoming the coach of Indian National women's Hockey Team and grooming it to become world champion.

In the movie Kabir gets appointed as the coach for Indian women's national field hockey team, a team with players who do not have forte, unity, coordination and spirit. How he builds spirit and unity among the team and resolves the internal differences with a focused goal forms rest of the story. This movie explores religious bigotry, the legacy of the partition of India – when Kabir faced ostracization without any fault, differences in team members hailing from different parts of the country with their own prejudices, team management, and sexism in the modern-day India.

Chak De! India is a brilliant movie on team work and sticking together to achieve a common objective, with dedication, hard work and passion.

Three Idiots

Three Idiots movie inspired by Chetan Bhagat's 'Five Point Someone' novel and directed by Raj Kumar Hirani, conveys the same message with a satire on the Indian educational system with its funny narration. Three idiots movie story is based on true friendship of 3 different personalities, Rancho, Farhan and Raju. Farhan and Raju who are in search of their long lost friend Rancho, accompanied by Pia and Chatur (a prototype of a typical Indian student who follows the education system blindly and challenges Rancho that he would become a failure). In the climax Rancho turns out to be the genius and most famous scientist, Phunsuk Wangdu, whom Chatur is in

a hurry to seal a business deal thus proving himself to be a failure. A true passion only brings you success, but not the forced educational system, which does not consider the true interest of the student. Whatever the problem in life is just say to yourself 'all is well. This won't solve your problems but it will give the courage to face it. Chase excellence and success will follow. These are the golden rules which 3 idiots teach you in a very light and entertaining way. The movie makes you laugh and in the process you learn many golden rules which can alter your life in a big manner.

Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa

The movie 'Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa' (Mother of Number 1084) directed by Govind Nihalini and won the National Award in 1997. The movie was made based on the novel written by Mahaswetha Devi. The movie describes the situations in Bengal in 1967-72 during 'Naxalbari' movement which influenced the entire country and particularly Bengal society. It reached the hearts of educated youth of the Calcutta city who then involved in the movement with passion and sacrificed their valuable lives. It facilitated many changes such as Land Reforms and development activities. In the movie, a mother and father who belong to upper middle class status were called by the police to identify dead body number 1084. The mother identifies the body, which is of their only son. She becomes depressed and tries to understand the reason behind her son's path and interacts with his friends and his colleagues' mother. After knowing the passion and ideology of her son, she finds that, her world is self-centered and there is no place for the concern for sufferings of poor people. This awareness brings big change in her life.

The movie influences and pushes to rethink about our view towards the world and purpose of life to be useful for society's wellbeing.

Welcome to Sajjanpur

Shyam Benegal is one of the socially conscious film directors in the country. 'Welcome to Sajjanpur' a Hindi film is one of his creations in 2008. In the movie he gives a picture of a typical village and makes the audience to understand rural India. In a nice and satirical manner, Benegal brings out the current characteristics of rural India. Elections in the rural area, reservation for women, the good and bad of it, treatment to minority communities, health services, migration to the urban area, credit availability to the poor, and also importantly, how these are impacted by developments in the city, like the kidney selling racket, SEZs, land acquisition, street plays, reality shows and sms voting. It's an accurate and brilliant portrayal of the simple lives of rural India, meshed with politics, casteism, and superstition and a whole lot of humour. The film presents careful scrutiny of rural life, and tries to bring in emerging positives against a lot of odds, like widow remarriage and support for it, society and its processes making space for transgender persons and not discriminating, questioning superstition which continues to be rampant even amongst the educated city dwellers. All in all, the film is showcasing change, its course and struggles, and upholds the vibrancy and excitement in the changing village life.

The Hungry Tide

The film 'The Hungry Tide' is directed by Tom Zubrycki. It tells the pathetic story of the Kiribati country which is situated in Pacific Ocean and facing most vulnerable situation. The movie was based on the novel 'The Hungry Tide'. The main character in the film is Maria Tiimon, an employee of a local NGO which works in creating awareness among the people about climate changes in Kiribati country. The film starts with the introduction of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP 15) and ends in COP 16. In COP 15 the developed countries promised to provide a help of \$30 billion to build the sea walls to protect the islands. But the promise doesn't materialize and the small country is unable to build the sea walls due to its less annual income of \$ 0.5 billion. The people demand government to shift them to safe places. But the President is unable to relocate the villages due to several problems and instead he tries to shift some youth to distance places and gives skill development trainings to them. The film shows vulnerabilities of the people of Kiribati country and raises the negligence or indifference of the developed countries towards the vulnerable country and future of lakhs of people.

Ankuram

The Movie is about an inspiring journey of a middle-class woman to return an abandoned child to his father. The movie starts with the marriage of a young couple. The bride Sindhura finds a child on a train. She wants to support the child, against her husband's family, until she locates the child's parents. Ankuram was a journey where we discover gradually the reason for the lead being harassed by the police, the blocks she faces while uncovering a father's identity, and the darker side of an authoritarian police force and its brutality towards tribals. Ankuram talks about social stigmas, feudalism, naxalism, bureaucracy and human rights. It ends with the message that who can speak has the responsibility of speaking about the rights of the fellow citizens who cannot speak. We can see how a woman faces problems from family, police and community. The film is a depiction of our apathy to do something, to react, to take responsibility.

Salam Bombay

The movie 'Salam Bombay' directed and produced by Mira Nair. It is one of the best movies which show difficult life of street children, their vulnerabilities and struggle for survival. In the movie the main character Krishna, a 10 years old boy was forced to join in circus by his mother to earn money. He once damaged his brother's bike for which he needed to pay Rs. 500 to his mother for its repair. As the circus troop had left the place, he goes to Mumbai to earn that Rs 500. There he joins the street children in the slums of Bombay and works as tea server. He interacts with drug sellers, thieves, sex workers, drug addicts and gangsters while living on the streets of Mumbai. The movie tells the true stories of street children and their hardships. The movie completely focuses on street children in slums of Mumbai and exposes the ruthlessness and lack of concern of the main stream society for the street children.

***Livelihoods October-2013**

C. Acronyms

A&N	Andaman and Nicobar
AABY	Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana
AAI	Action Aid International
AAY	Antyodaya Anna Yojana
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFPRO	Action for Food Production
AHPS	Abhaya Hastam Pension Scheme
AHRC	Asian Human Rights Commission
AI	Amnesty International
AIBP	Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project
AIRCS	All India Rural Credit Survey
AITUC	All Indian Trade Unions Council
AKF	Aga-Khan Foundation
AKRSP	Aga-Khan Rural Support Programme
ALT	Appointment of Language Teachers
ALU	Agriculture Labour Unions
AMUL	Anand Milk Union Limited
ANDSS	Akshara Network for Development Support Services
ANM	Auxiliary Nursing Mid-Wife
AP	Annual Plan
APCO	Andhra Pradesh Cooperative
APFPEDA	Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
APM	Assistant Project Manager
ARCE	Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology
ART	Appropriate and Rural Technologies
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AVSS	Adivasi Vana Samaraskhana Samitis
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BAIF	Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
BBA	Bachpan Bachao Andolan
BBO	Buy-Build-Operate
BC	Backward Classes
BC	Business Correspondents
BIRDS	Bharati Integrated Rural Development Society
BKVY	Biju Krishak Vikas Yozana
BLOT	Build-Lease-Operate-Transfer
BM	Bima Mitra
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committee
BMS	Bharathiya Majdhur Sangh
BO	Block Offices
BOO	Build-Own-Operate
BOOT	Build- Own-Operate- Transfer
BoP	Balance of Payment
BPFPSCS	Bajawand Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Society
BPL	Below Poverty Line
BPO	Business Processing Outsourcing
BRGF	Backward Regions Grants Fund
BSI	The Botanical Society of India
BSW	Bachelors of Social Work
Bt	Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt).
BTT	Banking Transaction Tax
CAA	Center for Art and Archaeology

CAPART	Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology
CBDR-RC	Common But Different Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities
CBEC	Central Board of Excise and Custom
CBHI	Community Based Health Insurance
CBI	Community Based Institution
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CC	Craft Company
CC	Community Coordinator
CC	Craft Company
CCM	Central Council of Ministers
CDF	Cooperative Development Foundation
CDP	Community Development Project
CDP	Community Development Program
CE	Civil Engineering
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEE	Centre for Environment Education
CEO	Chief Executive Office
CERT-Fin	Computer Emergency Response Team for our Financial Sector
CF	Chief Functionary
CF	Credit Flow
CGF	Credit Guarantee Fund
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CHC	Community Health Centre
CHI	Child Helpline International
CIRM	Central Industrial Relations Machinery
CIT	Coimbatore Institute of Technology
CITU	Centre for Indian Trade Unions
CK Palli	Chennekothapalli
CMM	Chhathishgadh Mukthi Morcha
CMMU	Chhattisgarh Mines Workers' Union
CMSA	Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
COP -11	Conference of Parties- 11
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CPR	Common Property Resource
CPSE	Central Public Sector Enterprises
CRC	Children's Resource Centre
CRF	Central Road Fund
CRHP	Comprehensive Rural Health Project
CRIDOC	Child Information and Documentation Center
CRIN	Child Rights Information Network
CRP	Community Resource Persons
CRS	Co-operative Retail Society
CRY	Child Rights and You
CRZ	Coastal Zone Regulation
CSC	Common Service Center
CSE	Center for Science and Environment
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTA	Criminal Tribes Act
CTTI	Construction Technicians Training Institute
CWSN	Children With Special Needs
DA	Development Alternatives

DAO	District Agriculture Officer
DB	Design – Build
DBFO	Design – Build – Finance – Operate
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
DDT	Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane
DHAN	Development of Humane Action
DHFW	Department of Health & Family Welfare
DIC	District Industries Centre
DIT	Department of Information Technology
DMI	Development Management Institute
DNT	Denotified Tribes
DPAP	Drought Prone Area Programme
DPC	District Planning Committee
DPM	District Project Manager
DPO	Disabled People’s Organizations
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
DRF	Dr. Reddy’s Foundation
DSC	Development Support Centre
DWA	Dabba Wala Association
EC	Election Commission
EC	Empowered Committee
ECP	Eastern Coastal Plain
EDI	Entrepreneurship Development Institute
EDP	Entrepreneurship Development Program
e-FMS	electronic Fund Management System
EGMM	Employment Generation and Marketing Mission
EI	Emotional Intelligence
EMRS	Eklavya Model Residential School
e-NAM	National Agriculture Market
e-NAM	National Agriculture Market
ENRC	Establishment of National Research Centre
EPF	Employees Provident Fund
EQ	Emotional Quotient
ESD	Education and Skill Development
ESICI	Employees State Insurance Corporation of India
EU	European Union
EVM	Electronic Voter Machine
EWR	Elected Women Representatives
FA	Farmers Association
FAN	Freshwater Action Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FC	Finance Commission
FCBTK	Fixed Chimney Bull’s Trench Kiln
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FES	Foundation for Ecological Security
FFA	The First Factory Act
FFS	Farmer to Field Schools
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FIAS	First Individual Approach Scheme
FIPB	Foreign Investment Promotion Board
FIR	First Information Report
FM	Finance Minister
FMA	Financial Management & Auditing
FMS-IRM	Faculty of Management Studies – Institute of Rural Management
FP	Flagship Programme
FPO	Farmer Producer Organisation

FR	Fundamental rights
FRIDU	Forest Research Institute
FSB	Food Security Bill
FSHT	Farmer Spearheaded Training
FSI	Forest Survey of India
FWP	Food for Work Programme
FYP	Five Year Plans
GB	Grain Bank
GBM	Green Belt Movement
GCC	Girijan Cooperative Corporation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GGA	Grameen Gyan Abhiyan
GHG	Green House Gases
GHI	Global Hunger Index,
GHI	Global Hunger Index
GHMC	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
GHNP	Great Himalayan National Park
GHS	Girls Hostel Scheme
GI	Geographical Indication
GIAHS	Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System
GIC	General Insurance Corporation of India
GM	General Manager
GM	Genetically Modified
GoI	Government of India
GP	Gram Panchayat
GR	Green Revolution
GrAM	Gramin Agricultural Markets
GRS	Gram Rozgar Sevak
GS	Gram Sabha
GSS	Girls Hostel Scheme
GSSS	Guild of Service Seva Samajam
GST	Goods and Service Tax
GSTN	GST Network
GV	Gram Vikas
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
HEPC	Handloom Export Promotion Council
HLEG	High Level Expert Group
HOA	Habitual Offenders Act
HPKI	High Performing Knowledge Institution
HR	Human Resources
HSN	Harmonised System of Nomenclature
HWCS	Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies'
HYV	High Yielding Varieties
IAP	Integrated Action Plan
IAY	Indira Awas Yojana
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICF	Income Commission for Farmers
ICFRE	Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education
ICSE	Indian Certificate of Secondary Education
ICSW	Indian Council of Social Welfare
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICU	Indian Cooperative Union

IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IEDSS	Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage
IF	Innovation Fund
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
IGST	An Integrated tax
IHDS	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
IIFC	India Infrastructure Finance Corporation
IIFM	Indian Institute of Forest Management
IIHMR	Indian Institute of Health Management Research
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IJJO	International Juvenile Justice Observatory
ILC	Indian Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate.
INDCs	India's Intended Nationally Determined Commitments
InDG	India Development Gateway
INTUC	Indian National Trade Union Council
IOB	Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
IOBC	International Organization of Biological Control
IPC	Integrated Pest Control
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
IRDAI	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Program
IRMA	Institute of Rural Management, Anand
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization
ITC	Input Tax Credit
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
ITES	IT-Enabled Services
JAM	Jandhan-Aadhar-Mobile
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
JP	Janata Party
JRP	Jobs Resource Persons
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
JT	Jattu Trust
JVKP	Jeevika, Vazhndu Kattuvom Poject, Kutumbasree,
KCC	Kisan Credit Card
KF	Kovel Foundation
KGUS	Khadi Gram Udyog Sangh
KP	Khap Panchayats
KSRM	KIIT School of Rural Management
KV	Kendriya Vidyalaya
KVIC	Khadi Village Industries Commission
KVIC	Khadi Village Industry Corporation
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendras
KVY	Kaushal Vikas Yojana
LF	Livelihoods Framework
LIC	Life Insurance Corporation of India
LMIS	Labour Market Information System
LMO	Living Modified Organisms
LPG	Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LSGI	Local-Self Governing Institutions

LSO	Livelihood Support Organizations
MA	Master of Arts
MAPs	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
MBA	Masters in Business Administration
MC	Mandal Commission
MCD	Ministry of Community Development
MCD	Minority Concentration Districts
MCI	Medical Council of India
MCP	Micro-Credit Plan
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDM	Mid-day Meal Scheme
MEPMA	Mission for Poverty Elimination in Municipal Areas
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
MIO	Market interventions Operations
MKU	Madurai Kamaraj Universities
MLA	Members of Legislative Assembly
MMA	Ministry of Minority Affairs
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MMS	Mandal Mahila Samakhyas
MMU	Mobile Medical Unit
MNC	Multi-National Corporations
MoEF	Minister for Environment and Forests
MOEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MoT	Ministry of Textiles
MoWCW	Ministry of Women and Child Welfare
MP	Mahalanobis Plan
MP	Member of Parliament
MS	Mandal Samakhya
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSP	Minimum Support Price
MSS	Model Schools Scheme
MSW	Masters in Social Work
MVF	Mamidipudi Venkatarangaya Foundation
MWA	Minimum Wages Act
MYRADA	Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAC	National Academy of Construction
NAEB	National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board
NAGGA	National Alliance for Grameen Gyan Abhiyan
NASVI	National Association of Street Vendors of India
NBA	Narmada Bachao Andolan
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NBFC	Non-Banking Financial Corporation
NBM	National Bamboo Mission
NCAER	National Council for Applied Economic Research
NCD	National Commission for Denotified
NCD	Non Communicable Diseases
NCEUS	National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector
NCMP	National Common Minimum Programme
NCPEDP	National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People
NCSC	National Commission for Scheduled Castes
NDC	National Development Council

NDDB	National Dairy Development Board
NDP	National Dairy Project
NE	North- Eastern
NE	North-East
NECC	National Egg Coordination Committee
NEE	National Entrance Exam
NeGP	National e-Governance Plan
NEM	National Education Mission
NEP	New Economic Policy
NF	Natural Farming
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NFSB	National Food Security Bill.
NFWP	National Food for Work Programme
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NGP	Nirmal Gram Puraskar
NHM	National Health Mission
NHP	National Health Protection
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIG	National Incentive to Girls
NIIPD	National Initiative on Inclusion of People with Disabilities
NIRD&PR	National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
NLCP	National Lakes Conservation Plans.
NLM	National Literacy Mission
NLM	National Livestock Mission
NMC	National Minorities Commission
NMMSS	National Means-cum Merit Scholarship Scheme
NMSA	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOP	National Organic Program
NPA	Non Performing Assets
NPM	Non-Pesticide Management
NPMP	Non-Pesticide Management practices
NPO	Not-for-Profit Organisation
NPOP	National Programme for Organic Production
NPPA	National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
NPUSV	National Policy on Urban Street Vendors
NRDWP	National Rural Drinking Water Project
NREGA	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRRDA	National Rural Roads Development Agency
NRS	Navodaya Residential School
NS	Nature School
NSA	Non-Scheduled Area
NSDC	National Skill Development Corporation
NSFI	National Skills Foundation of India
NSQF	National Skills Quality Framework
NSS	National Sample Survey
NSSB	National Social Security Board
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
NTGCF	National Tree Growers Co-Operative Federation
NV	Navodaya Vidyalaya

O&M	Operation & Maintenance
OBC	Other Backward Classes
ODL	Open and Distance Learning
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OF	Operation Flood
OF	Organic Farming
OG	Operation Greens
OoSC	Out-of-School Children
PC	Planning Commission
PC	Pay Commission
PC	Producers Companies
PCI	Planning Commission of India
PCIS	Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme
PDS	Public Distribution System
PE	Project Executive
PESA	Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas
PF	Provident Fund
PF	Protected Forest
PG	Post-Graduate
PGDGARD	Post Graduate Diploma in Geospatial Technology Applications in Rural Development
PGDM	Post Graduate Diploma in Management
PGDP	Post-Graduation Diploma Program
PGDRDM	Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development
PGDRM	Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management
PGDSRD	Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Rural Development
PGDTDM	Post Graduate Diploma in Tribal Development Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PHCC	Primary Health Care Centers
PHPL	Pochampally Handloom Park Limited
PLB	Public Land Banks
PLP	Program in Livelihood Promotion.
PM	Prime Minister
PMAY	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
PMFBY	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
PMGSY	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
PMKSY	Prime Minister Krishi Sampada Yojana
PMMY	Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
PMP	Private Medical Practitioners
PNDT	Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994
PO	Producer Organizations
PO	Not-for-Profit Organisation
PoP	Poorest of the Poor
POS	Point of Sale Terminals
PPCP	Public Private Community Participation
PPF	Private Protected Forest
PPHCS	Public Primary Health Care System
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPVFR	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights
PR	Panchayat Raj
PRADAN	Professional Assistance for Development Action
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PRIA	Participatory Research in Asia
PRM	Piece -Rate Method
PSC	Parliamentary Standing Committee
PT	Project Tiger.

PTG	Primitive Tribal Groups
PUCL	People's Union for Civil Liberties
PURA	Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas
PVTG	Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups
PWCS	Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies
R & D	Research and Development
RBH	Rural Business Hub
RBI	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s
RD	Revenue Department
RD	Rural Development
RDP	Rural Development Programmes
RDT	Rural Development Trust
REEDS	Rural Economic and Educational Development Society
RF	Rescue Foundation
RF	Reserved Forest
RTI	Right to Information
RIDF	Rural Infrastructure Development Funds
RMP	Rural Medical Practitioner
RMSA	Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksha Abhiyan
RO	Resource Organization
RR	Rehabilitation and Resettlement
RRB	Regional Rural Banks
RRM	Round Ribbon Method
RSBY	Rashtriya Swasthiya Bima Yojana
RSVY	Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana
RT	Round Table
RTE	Right to Education
RTGS	Real Time Gross Settlement
RUDSETI	Rural Development & Self-Employment Training Institute
SA	Scheduled Area
SACCS	South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude
SACOSAN	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SAD	Special Additional Duty of Customs
SASTC	Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission
SAU	Social Audit Units
SAZ	Special Agricultural Zones
SBB	State Biodiversity Board
SBI	State Bank of India
SBP	Saakshar Bharat Programme
SC	Scheduled Castes
SC	Supreme Court
SCA	Salt Cess Act
SCSP	Scheduled Caste Sub Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SERP	Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SFD	State Forest Departments
SGST	State Goods and Service Tax
SGSY	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SGVY	Sampurna Gram Vikas Yojana
SHG	Self-Help Group
SI	Sulabh International
SKS	Singareni Karmika Sangam
SME	Small and Micro-Enterprises
SMPT	Special Multi-purpose Tribal Blocks

SNI	Street Net International
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SROI	Social Return on Investment
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
SSS	Shrama Shakthi Sangalu
ST	Scheduled Tribes
STeP	Smile Twin E- learning Programme
SUHAM	Sustainable Healthcare Advancement
SVE	Scheme of Vocational Education
TDF	Tribal Development Fund
TDPS	Targeted Public Distribution System.
TGCS	Tree Growers Cooperative Societies
TISS	Tata Institute of Social Sciences
TOP	Tomato, Onion, Potato
TP	Third Party
TPDS	Targeted Public Distribution System
TReDS	Trade Electronic Receivable Discounting System
TRIPS	Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights
TSC	Total Sanitation Campaign
TSP	Tribal Sub-Plan
TTD	Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam
UBI	Universal Basic Income
UHC	Universal Health Care
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UIA	Unique Identification Authority
UN	United Nations
UNCERD	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDPHDR	United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Report
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHDI	United Nations Human Development Index
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPF	United Nations Population Fund
UNWFP	UN World Food Programme
UoH	University of Hyderabad
UP	Uttar Pradesh
USA	United States of America
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UT	Union Territory
UTGST	Union Territory Goods and Service Tax
VFS	Village Financial Services
VHAI	Voluntary Health Association of India
VKC	Village Knowledge Centre
VLE	Village Level Entrepreneur
VMIS	Virtual Museum of Images and Sound
VO	Village Organization
VPO	Village Producer Organization
VRC	Village Resource Center
VSBK	Vertical Shaft Brick Kilns
VSS	Vana Samraksnana Samithi
WB	World Bank
WCC	Weaver Credit Card
WCP	Western Coastal Plain
WDR	World Development Report

WG	Working Group
WHI	Water Health India
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
WODC	Western Orissa Development Council
WOTR	Watershed Organization Trust
WPA	Wildlife Protection Act
WSSCC	Water Aid and the Water Supply Sanitation Collectively Council
WTO	World Trade Organization
WUA	Water User Associations
XIMB-RM	Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar-Rural Management
XISS	Xavier Institute of Social Service
ZBNF	Zero Budget Natural Farming
ZS	Zilla Samakhya
ZSI	Zoological Society of India

D.Glossary

- Enterprise: A small business that provides services or commodities to the society.
- Entrepreneur: One who undertakes calculated risks.
- Financial inclusion: Access to financial services to least financially included.
- Food insecurity: Lack of access to food.
- Informal economies: Economy not under reckoning or economy not accounted for.
- Non-farm livelihoods: Activities that are not agricultural but generate income.
- Non-Timber Forest Produce: Any produce other than timber obtained from forests.
- Para-veterinarians: Community based animal health workers
- Pastoralism: Livelihood dependent on grazing of livestock.
- Piece-meal services: Worker paid based on fixed rate or price for each unit produced.
- Producer company: Institutions owned by group collectively.
- Social audit: Audit done by and for the community.
- Social inclusion: Deliberate attempt to involve the disadvantaged.
- Traditional healer: Medical practitioner with traditional methods.
- Vulnerability: State of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked.

E. Appendix - 1

Livelihoods Principles

Livelihoods – Meaning: Every family, by engaging in a set of activities essential to meet the requirements of life, acquires four characteristics. It has to consume, and to do so they either spend some money or time. To get the money, the family has to be employed. Either to be employed or to gather some items by spending time, it incurs some expenditure. And, there is an element of variability in all this. These characteristics can be summarized as: income, expenditure, employment and risk. These are the four characteristics of livelihood(s).

Thus meaning of livelihoods includes all activities and decisions which the family takes that result in the family acquiring these four characteristics and enabling the family to live on.

Four Characteristics

Income: Income comes into a household through various activities ranging from wages for physical labour to migration, gathering non-timber forest produce, farming, rearing livestock, fishing, weaving, pottery, carpentry and other artisan activities to business activities, contracting, teaching, engineering, medical, software and hardware and other skilled jobs. The income of a person depends upon the skill he/she has. Some items, though they are not perceived as income by the household, can be considered as income as they save some amount of money otherwise the households would have to spend on them. For instance, the eggs/meat produced by the hens that are domesticated or the milk produced by the household's own cows or buffaloes save some money for the household.

The various dimensions in which income can be analyzed are as follows:

Income can either be in the form of money, goods, services or in any other form.

Some income can flow now and some in the future. Income could vary with time. This variability in income could depend on the person or circumstances beyond the control of a person.

Income could come in different streams, within the same vocation or from different vocations. Some people might receive income in advance, i.e., before putting in efforts. Some receive income by way of transfers. A person has to invest (money, idea or energy) to realize income.

Expenditure: Besides spending money on basic needs like water, food, clothing and shelter, a household needs to spend on various other needs such as education, health, transport, entertainment. Some expenditure has to be made by the households to invest in the livelihood activity that gives them income. Expenditure on items like going to marriages of relatives and giving them some gifts is also to be considered for analysis though such expenditure is not regular and recurring. While interest paid on loans is expenditure, principal repayment is not expenditure. It is a mere payment/cash outflow. Some expenditure like that on food is common to all households whereas some expenditure is specific to a household and depends on the kind of livelihood activities that the household is engaged in.

Like income, expenditure of any household also has various dimensions:

Expenditure is to be looked in terms of money, time and energy. However, most people recognize only monetary expenditure and not that of time and energy. Most expenditure is ultimately to earn income, survive or reduce risk.

Most expenditure may not appear to be directly related to earning income. Some of it could be to maintain the network that would assist in earning income or reducing risk.

Some expenditure is incurred to enhance the comfort level, i.e., to make the body productive after rest (or to rest while working). In some rare cases, the expenditure may not add value.

Expenditure can also be analyzed in terms of perception. Some items of expenditure are perceived not to be of any use (e.g. education of a girl child), while others like consumption of liquor may be considered useful.

Another dimension of analysis is the manner in which the alternatives to reduce the expenditure are explored and used.

Employment: Employment here means spending time for generating income or obtaining goods. It includes time spent in growing or procuring items, like fruits and firewood from forest, for self-consumption.

The number of days of employment varies from household to household. It depends on the skill of the persons seeking employment, resources available in that particular area and the environment/ecological conditions etc. Some people find employment all through the year and some others suffer from irregular employment. Some receive higher wages for shorter durations of work whereas some others receive low wages even for long hours of work. The wages also depend on skill and nature of work. Employment can be increased by increasing the number of days of work within an existing livelihood or by adding new sources of income. However, adding new sources of income involves developing the skills required to take up those livelihoods.

Apart from these things, we also need to understand employment in some other dimensions such as:

Social status associated with employment. Some livelihoods are considered indecent by the society. The people who are engaged in those livelihoods have lower level of social status and are ill treated by the society.

There are possibilities, uncertainties and risks related to availability of and continuation in employment, being exposed to disease carrying vectors, availability of shelter, water and security in the case of migrants etc.

Some vocations would require use of tools (weavers, carpenters etc). In such cases, important aspects requiring analysis relate to the ability to invest in, own or access these tools.

Risk: Risk exists in any livelihood but the degree of risk may vary. Even small illness is a great risk to many poor households who depend on physical labour for work. They do not have any livelihood and life security. Due to malnutrition and unhealthy living conditions, poor tend to suffer from illnesses very frequently because of which they cannot go to work. This results in their inability to earn much and forces them to take less nutritious food which further worsens their health situation which in turn causes a vicious cycle. Death of an earning member in the family will have a huge impact on poor families as they do not have any insurance, savings etc. Similarly old age and accidental disability also makes poor vulnerable and throw them into deep poverty. Risk also can come in the form of natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, drought and floods etc as these disasters take away all the assets people own and makes them vulnerable. Apart from these natural risks, some risks also come in the form of spurious seeds, lack of storage facility and market fluctuations in price etc. All these kinds of risks need to be assessed in order to plan for any intervention. Addressing the risks involves identifying, assessing, reducing, mitigating and/or coping.

Risks could be peculiar to an individual/a household like ill health or the death of a family member which are called idiosyncratic risks. Some risks can affect the entire community, village or region like floods, fire etc. These are called covariant risks. Both idiosyncratic and covariant risks require analysis. Other dimensions of risk for analysis are:

The preparedness of the community and household to face the risk, to reduce the chances of the risk happening, to improve risk bearing capacity.

The options of relief in the case of risk happening and

The flexibility to re-evolve after the risk happening (Rehabilitation)

Understanding Livelihoods: Given that the livelihoods comprise several activities and decisions by the family, livelihoods of a family are complex and this complexity increases further at the community level. The following are the implications of the complexity for understanding livelihoods:

No one can understand livelihoods fully: It is difficult for anyone to understand the livelihoods (of people) fully as they are complex. Livelihoods are like an elephant and all the actors in livelihoods are like blind men. No blind man understands the elephant fully. In fact, the integration of the understanding of all the blind men is also incomplete.

Some issues may not be known to anybody. Hence it is difficult for any person to know all the dimensions of any livelihood. Conscious of this, the development/ livelihoods workers should try to integrate the knowledge of various people working on a particular livelihood and plan for interventions.

Specialization vs. General understanding: Livelihoods of people are many and diverse. In any village we can find hundreds of livelihoods related to both production and providing services. Many people perceive that to be able to understand a livelihood completely they need to specialize in that particular livelihood. For example, if you want to understand a farmer's livelihood you need to be an expert in agriculture. If this is true, to be able to understand livelihoods of people in a particular village, the livelihoods workers need to be experts in at least hundred vocations which is not possible for any human being. Hence any development/livelihoods worker cannot be and need not be an expert. But what he/she should have is the skill of integrating people's knowledge in a particular livelihood with the scientists and expert's knowledge in that particular field.

Livelihoods are changing - Importance of learning: Livelihoods of people, particularly those of the poor, are changing at an unprecedented pace. As agriculture and other traditional sectors are undergoing crisis, many other livelihoods in the villages which are dependent on these are also undergoing rapid changes and many of them are declining. Some people are still dependent on those dying livelihoods and some others are moving away from them and are learning new skills like using computers, driving, automobile and electrical mechanism etc. With globalization, most of the skills that are learnt today are becoming irrelevant tomorrow as new technology from across the world is penetrating the market. Hence there is a great need for people to continuously learn new skills and update their old skills.

Need for multiple interventions: To bring a household out of poverty multiple interventions are required. No one intervention is sufficient to achieve this objective of poverty eradication as poverty is multi-dimensional. But what interventions are needed in a particular village/a particular household depend upon the social, political, economic and ecological contexts in which the village/household exists. Hence understanding this context is very critical while planning for any intervention. There is a framework that acts as a lens through which we can see and understand the current situation/context of a particular village/household better. If we apply this framework we will be able to understand the gaps, opportunities, limitations and risks in any livelihood. Only then can we plan the interventions to improve the present situation.

Need for networked approach: Though multiple interventions are required to improve the livelihood(s) of any particular household, it is not always possible for any single organization to implement all those interventions. Each organization might have different expertise and any one organization cannot be an expert in all the areas.

Need for Community Involvement: It is proved, in many instances, that if the community is involved in designing the program itself, they will own the program and give their full participation in taking the program forward. The interventions designed with the community participation will be based on the community's reality and hence there will be a greater scope for success and sustainability of the benefits of the program.

Livelihoods Principles:

Poor have multiple livelihoods: This is because the poor, especially in the rural areas, obtain some of the items they consume by hunting/ gathering from the nature around them, and some more from others by way of exchange, under a web of relationships that they enjoy. To add to the complexity, the livelihoods pursued by members of households could be totally unconnected to each other. The presence of multiple livelihoods in the family would mean that the cash flows and risks present numerous interesting patterns. Some of these help each other, while a few elements might be working against each other. A family may not be able to articulate the inter-connectedness of these livelihoods; but could have unconsciously settled at the best possible equilibrium. Changing any one element in this panorama without being conscious of the inter-relations and dependencies could damage the entire livelihoods system of the household and increase their risk.

The Poor are both producers and consumers: Several interventions focus on adding new lines of production into the livelihoods of the poor- but they do not focus on the existing production itself. As the poor are producers, a variety of interventions that focus on the existing production could benefit the poor a lot. Hence, understanding their existing lines of production and the production system in which the production happens needs to be a part of the assessment of their existing livelihoods. Being producers, the poor can also add value. However, certain factors constrain the poor in undertaking value addition. Unless these are understood, suggestions regarding the value addition may not sustain in the long run. The poor are also consumers. They need inputs for the production processes and they also have household consumption. Concentration on income generation to the total exclusion

of consumption expenditure may not always yield good results. Therefore, efforts need to be made to reduce the money spent not only on the inputs into the production processes, but also on items for household consumption. Bulking up the purchases and intermediation by a collective could help the poor a lot.

Local best practices exist and can be replicated: Some of the producers in a particular village/ production system could be producing more efficiently/profitably. This can be due to some element in the activity which the producer is doing in a better possible manner. With some little adaptation and sensitization, other producers can also easily replicate such better/best practices.

Knowledge, skills and resources need to be integrated: No one has complete knowledge about the livelihoods of the poor-neither the poor, nor the technical experts or the intervening agency. The knowledge, skills and resources existing at the people, intervening agency and technical expert need to be put at one place, and reflected back to the community. This integration and reflection would enable the community to make informed choices and develop community based plans. This is denoted as PK+OK+OK+? (People's Knowledge+ Our Knowledge + Others Knowledge + Unknown Knowledge). Intervening agency that aggregates this knowledge needs to possess the skills of engaging the community as well as the experts in a dialogue. Despite the aggregation of the knowledge, skills and resources, it must be admitted that not everything related to the livelihoods of the poor can be known. There would be some elements on which none of the three have any knowledge. These issues set the research agenda for deeper studies and investigations.

Micro-Macro could play differently: The livelihoods of the poor are complicated by the fact that what could be good at the micro-level may not be good at the macro-level. The interventions that gave good results when they were taken up on a smaller scale can not be taken up on a larger scale. For example one can not scale up the intervention to service niche markets despite it being highly successful with some artisans.

Livelihoods of the poor are risky: The poor are vulnerable to several shocks due to the risks in their livelihoods and are handling/coping with them in their own ways. Their ways and means of handling/coping with risks may appear to be shrouded in customary or traditional relationships, and the reasons for such behaviour may not be readily apparent.

'Meta Fish/ Skill' is more important: An old adage in development says, "Don't give the poor fish. Teach them fishing." But what if the fish in the pond decline or the pond dries up? The people who know fishing need to be aware of this change happening and brace themselves for the change. They need to learn the skill of finding out new areas of work. This can be called 'meta fish/ skill' – the skill to learn.

Entire Value Chain needs to be addressed: The poor are only a part of value-chains. Their role could be that of a producer or processor or they could be merely engaged in the value chain as labour. For the poor to have a sustainable benefit, the intervention needs to address the entire value-chain; or at least the critical part of the chain. Unless this is done, the poor may not benefit out of the intervention. In several cases, the sectoral dynamics were not addressed during interventions and the beneficiaries became worse off as a result. The introduction of crops for export benefits the farmer only as long as the intervening agency holds its position as an interlocutor between the farmers and the marketing agencies. Once the intervening agency withdraws, the marketers start preying on the farmers. Therefore, any assessment is not complete without understanding the entire value-chain, at least the critical part of it on which the returns to the poor depend. Further partnership between the poor and other agents in the value chain may need to be promoted for the benefit of the poor. These partners may require different interventions. Such interconnectedness needs to be recognized and interventions tailored to promote/strengthen such partnerships may have to be promoted.

Interventions need to aim at both collective as well as individual levels: There is a tendency on the part of the intervening agencies to favour collective solutions irrespective of the situation. There are several cases that are not suitable for collective action. This distinction (and the scope for collective action) needs to be kept in mind while assessing the livelihoods and value chains.

The Poor need the support of service providers: Service providers have a definite role to play in several of the livelihoods taken up by the poor. However, the general access and quality of the services that reach the poor are abysmal. This could be improved by training activists and paraprofessionals and establishing systems – linking them to the government service providing machinery, encouraging them to offer their services for a fee with due support and recognition from the government, promoting their learning and skill up gradation etc.

Ideas are more important than finances: In several cases, there are a lot of indigenous innovations from the best practitioners. These need to be critically examined and pointed out to others. Similarly, on several occasions, bringing in something that is happening outside can change the livelihoods options of the people. For example, tractors come with several attachments and uses. All these may not be known to the owners. Some demonstration or talk to the owners at appropriate time could change the way a tractor is used.

The Livelihoods Framework

Four Arrows: Livelihood has four characteristics: income, expenditure, employment and risk. Changes in these four characteristics in the directions indicated below leads to livelihoods improvement, and are the objectives of any livelihoods intervention.

Desired direction of changes of characteristics of livelihood:

Income (I)	Increase
Expenditure (E)	Decrease
Employment (E)	Increase
Risk (R)	Decrease

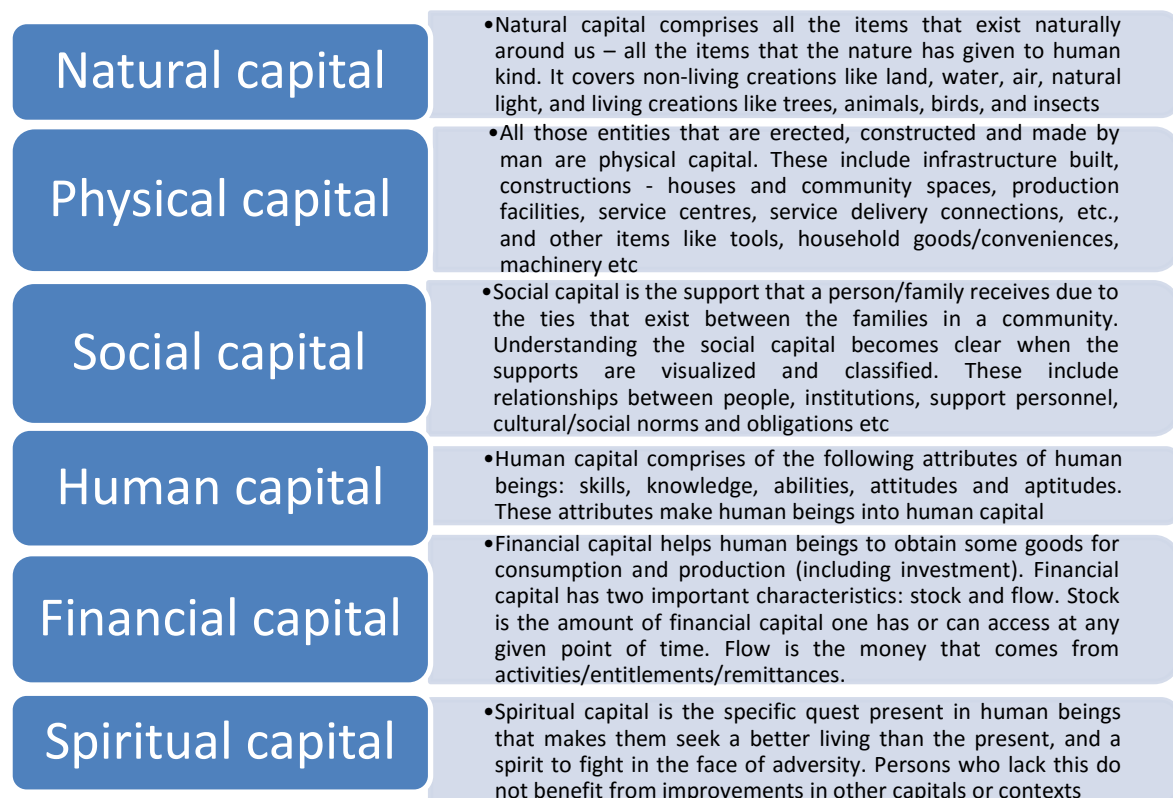


Every household wants to change these elements in the required direction.

Owing to this directional nature of changes required, the livelihoods framework represents these elements as arrows, and calls them four arrows. It must be noted that decrease in expenditure does not mean going without food. Rather, it means reducing expenditure without foregoing the quality of life.

These four characteristics do not act independent of each other. Rather, each one has the potential to influence others. Hence, changes in any one characteristic (arrow) bring about some cascading changes in the other arrows.

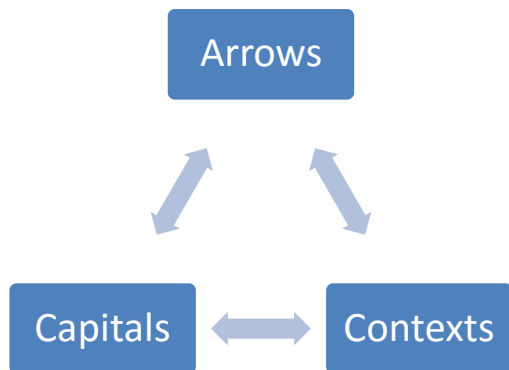
Six Capitals: In taking up activities that result in these four arrows, a household uses some capitals, resources or endowments. Some of these resources used may exist within the household, while a few others exist outside it. Livelihoods framework identifies six capitals used by households towards achieving the four arrows. These are shown in the figure.



A household considers the following factors relating to capitals before deciding the activities it can take up: (a) the presence of the capitals, (b) the variety existing in these capitals and (c) the ability of the household

to use these capitals. Improvement in any of these factors can lead to an improvement in livelihoods. Sometimes, capitals can also obstruct livelihoods.

The capitals too are inter-related with each other in several subtle ways. For example, social capital and natural capital are related through the rules related to grazing on the common land. Similarly, canal irrigation can be a substitute for good rainfall.



The use of the capitals through various activities influences the arrows. The extent of use of the capitals is also influenced by the arrows. Thus, these two influence each other.

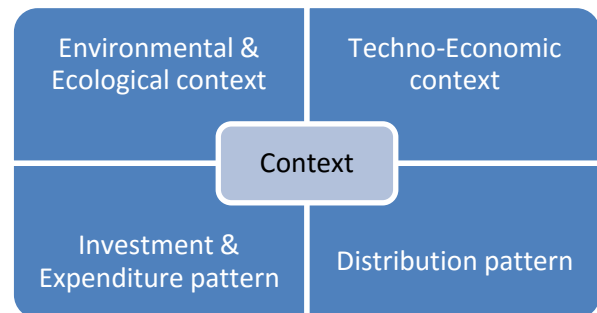
Four Contexts: The decisions of the households to take up the activities are also based on the contextual factors. The household using the capitals, along with the capitals themselves, exists

in a context. Different contexts lead not only to different decisions relating to the activities but also to differing changes in the four arrows. The context enables some activities while limits some other activities. For example, living amidst forest provides easy access to firewood and wild berries. At the same time it cuts/reduces the access to markets and probably electricity, and thus limits taking up several activities that a person living in an urban area can normally take up.

The overall context can be considered, for the purpose of analysis, to have four interrelated contexts - Environmental and Ecological context; Techno-Economic context; Distribution pattern; and Investment and Expenditure pattern. These are explained in the next section.

Since a context is a unified whole, the division of a context into four categories is not water tight. Hence an aspect may be classified under more than one context. Because the context is a unified whole, changes in one part do get reflected in other parts as well. In other words, the four parts of a context interact with and influence each other. For example, if the investments are in technology, the techno-economic context changes. With this change, the distribution pattern could also change.

Note that the arrows, capitals and contexts are all related to each other. The arrows influence not only the capital as was pointed above but also the contexts. The livelihoods framework states that the activities of a household result in the four characteristics of income, expenditure, employment and risk. The objectives of livelihoods improvement are the four arrows of higher income, reduced expenditure, increased employment and lowered risk. To undertake the activities, household uses natural, physical, social, financial, human and spiritual capitals. Certain characteristics of the capitals and context enable or limit the activities of the household. The situation can be analysed as environmental & ecological context, techno-economic context, distribution pattern and investment & expenditure pattern.



The situation can be analysed as environmental & ecological context, techno-economic context, distribution pattern and investment & expenditure pattern.

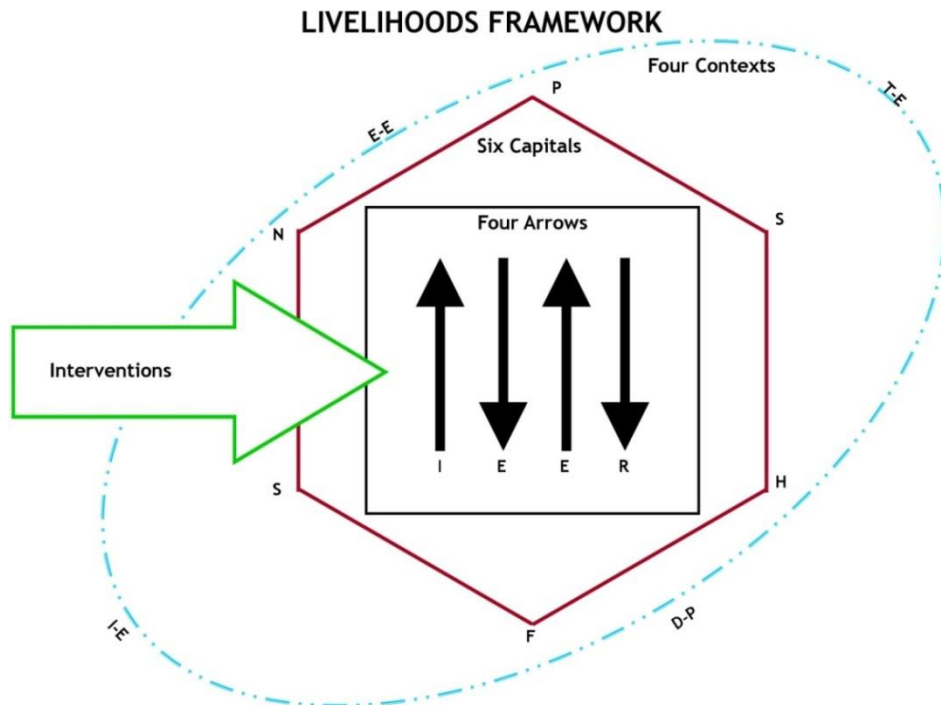
The livelihoods framework explicitly recognises the relationships that exist within the arrows, capitals and contexts. It further recognises the relationships that exist among arrows, capitals and contexts. Changes in all these result in changes in four arrows.

These relationships provide the required leads to identify the interventions required. Given the inter-relationships that exist among the four arrows, improvement in livelihoods can happen by changing even the four arrows. There is enough scope to change even the individual arrows, and these changes can be through interventions.

As pointed earlier, people take up several activities to meet their needs, and hence there is a scope for supporting the households in several ways. By pointing out the objectives of the livelihoods interventions and the factors that contribute to the myriad activities being taken up by a household, the livelihoods framework helps us in identifying as complete a list of interventions as possible. Once this list is identified, the scope for interventions

for bringing in livelihoods improvement increases. Further, as the larger set of interventions required and those that support each other can be identified, the interventions become more impactful. Since all development influences the livelihoods objectives/ outcomes, the livelihoods framework has influenced development practice significantly.

Diagrammatic representation of framework



Environmental and Ecological Context: The environmental and ecological context denotes the larger natural and social environment within which a society (and a household) exists. The seasons, with all their sunlight and variations in climate, the moisture present in the air, the presence of vectors and pests that carry diseases and destroy crops over large tracts, and ground water becoming saline near the coast are all examples of the larger natural environment. The following example brings out the manner in which this context interacts with the livelihoods options of the households.

Techno-Economic Context: This context tells us the state of progress on the technical and economic front, and how these forces act on the locale under examination. Techno-economic context determines how effectively and efficiently goods and services can be produced using the resource base, and how communities can interact with markets to create wealth. It denotes the methods adopted to add value (form, place and time value) to various products, and is a continuum from the primitive to the modern. It includes the policy climate and the interaction/exposure to outside markets. Other aspects in the techno-economic context are the distance from major markets, structure of the markets, presence of industries in the vicinity, access to major roads, quality of electric power and other services like drinking water etc. The state of research institutions and the manner in which the community influences the research agenda dictate the direction of evolution and use of the techno-economic context.

Distribution Patterns: Once wealth is produced in a society, its distribution could assume various patterns. These patterns in distribution influence the livelihoods options and outcomes. These patterns become visible in the distribution of existing resources, know-how, income, infrastructure, influence, and patronage by outsiders, knowledge, education, and exposure to the outside world, skills, access to energy, technology, information, markets and reputation of the communities.

Patterns of Investment and Expenditure: It is recognized that investments are critical to the development of nations. This holds true even for households. Therefore, the pattern in which the income earned is expended or invested influences livelihoods. The patterns of making investments or expenditures in securing food, clothing, health, housing, education, credit, insurance, production and employment are relevant in this context. So are the patterns of investing time and energy in acquiring knowledge and skills, and in improving other assets that the

household possesses. Though some of these patterns appear to be under the control of households, they are influenced more by culture, opportunity to invest and save, the exposure to financial instruments, past experience with these options etc.

E. Appendix - 2

Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan

Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP): Livelihoods interventions evolve from the understanding of the 'livelihoods situation.' Participatory current reality assessment of the households, the community, village and surrounding areas combined with the relevant information provides this understanding of the livelihoods situation.

The LEAP process entails understanding the local reality through an extensive, participatory engagement with the community. The information collected from the community is thoroughly analysed to identify the gaps and possibilities for livelihoods interventions in the area. This is triangulated between the tools, with the community and combined with the secondary data available. The analysis forms the basis for interventions or Livelihoods Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP).

LEAP has three critical aspects— a) analysis, b) pointers to an intervention plan and c) participation of stakeholders. It is not merely obtaining data by employing the tools.

LEAP is participatory by nature. The community members are involved in the process intrinsically. The tools are facilitated (not conducted) by the NGO or support organisation. LEAP itself is an intervention. The process prompts their community to reflect and introspect on their life and living. Through this in-depth probing, the lacunae and possibilities are likely to dawn on them and move them to take action.

LEAP Tools:

Social Map: As the name suggests, the social map of the village captures the social structure of the village – household details, caste-wise details, landless families, child labour, vulnerable people (elders, disabled, chronically ill), etc. Apart from this, the social map also portrays the resources available in the village including physical infrastructure, institutions, CBOs, housing pattern, drainage system, drinking water facilities, caste-wise details, livestock, PDS, ration cards, etc.

Resource Map: Resource mapping of the village is the process of plotting the various resources available to the locality. Details regarding the land, soil, crops, horticulture, water bodies, roads, forests and trees, etc in and around the locality are captured in the resource map.

Livelihoods Analysis: Livelihoods analysis is employed to get a picture of all the livelihoods practiced in the locality. The entire range of livelihoods— farm, allied and non-farm activities should be captured. The number of families depending on each activity (as primary or secondary livelihood), the number of days they are engaged in the activity and the average annual income from each activity, seasonality and issues included in the livelihoods analysis.

Income and Expenditure Analysis: Income and expenditure analysis helps to identify income sources and quantify the income and expenditure of the family. The analysis is conducted with individual families. The sample depends on the size and the number of communities in the locality. However, income and expenditure analysis of households that are extremely poor or extremely rich should be avoided.

Traded in and Traded out Analysis: Traded-in and traded-out analysis is done to understand the products and services going out and coming into the locality, both for consumption as well as productive activities. Traded-in and traded-out is calculated for a year taking average income and expenditure for all the families. This tool points out (a) any anomalies present among those items going out of the village and coming into the village (like paddy going out at a low price but rice coming in at a high price), and (b) items for which a scope for local value addition exists.

24 hours Analysis: This tool is employed to understand what a typical day of the sample household looks like. It shows how much time is spent on multiple income generation process, which is done parallel to the primary source of income. The routine of the women and men members are looked at separately.

365 days Analysis: 365 days Analysis gives an insight into the number days/months the individuals of the sample are engaged in employment. It also helps understand the time spent on primary and secondary occupations, number of working days in each season etc.

Credit Analysis: Credit analysis reflects the credit situation including credit sources, purposes, average number of loan receivers, average amount, terms and conditions.

Disease Analysis: Diseases analysis reflects the diseases situation which includes common diseases community faced, causes, treatment proving centres and treatment costs.

Education Analysis: Education analysis captures the number of educated and not educated in the village, class wise data of students from primary school to doctorate, students in government and private institutions, skill and technical trainings etc.

Seasonality Analysis: Seasonality analysis tool captures the seasonality for works, credit, selling, purchasing, diseases, festivals, employment etc.,

Vulnerability Analysis: Vulnerability analysis tool captures the situation of vulnerable people such as elders, widows, disabled persons, children, PLHIVs and orphans etc.,

Institution Analysis: Institution analysis provides information about government institutions, Community Based Institutions and their accessibility and availability of the services to the people.

Migration Analysis: Migration analysis tool captures the migration situation which includes average number of families going to migration, place, name of the work, duration, terms and condition etc.,

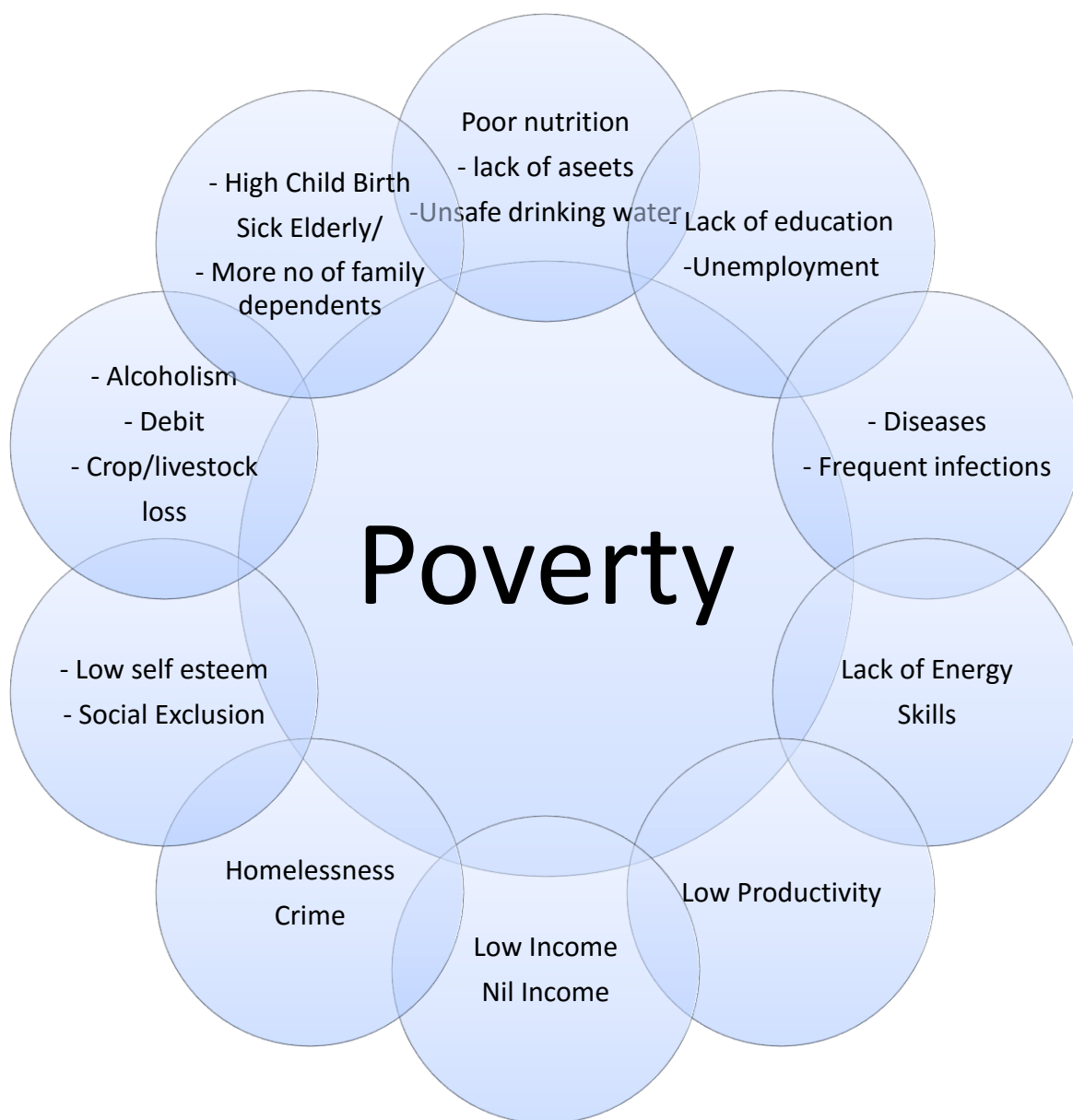
Market Analysis: Market analysis captures the situation of selling and purchasing products and services, storage, processing, marketing places, payment methods etc.,

Value Chain Analysis

Value chain analysis is a description of (a) all the steps through which something attains its value, (b) the processes, technology and costs involved in the steps, and (c) the manner in which the value created gets divided among the actors involved in the steps. This tool traces the changes that happened in the steps in the recent past, the ways in which the actors coped with the change and the manner in which the change affected the relationships between various actors. It also looks at the attempts made by the actors to vary the costs and the value appropriated at various stages and the effect of these attempts on the value created in the entire chain. It gives a broad social description of the actors involved in the chain at various stages. The tool also records the practices followed by the best practitioners at various stages.

Value Chain Analysis Diagram





The Livelihoods People



Support [Visioning→Learning] to TRUE Livelihoods Support Individuals, Entrepreneurs, and Organizations

Akshara Livelihoods Private Limited (ALPL, Akshara) has come into being in 2007 as an independent unit of Akshara Network of Development Support Services (initiated: 2 October 1998, by development/ livelihoods management professionals).

Akshara [Livelihoods People] identifies, inducts and mentors 7Is – insights, ideas, initiatives, instruments, interventions, individuals and institutions - for 7Ls - life, living, livelihoods, linkages, leadership, learning and love - in livelihoods, poverty reduction and development domain.

With outreach of influence exceeding 100 million families Pan India, inductees to livelihoods thinking/practice exceeding 50,000 and community, civil society and government partners exceeding 100, its critical focus is on enriching and spreading new TRUE Livelihoods thinking/practice, and identifying, building and mentoring mentors/ anchors/life-workers towards increasing availability of reliable quality livelihoods support [individuals, entrepreneurs & organizations - LSIs/LSEs/LSOs] for poor.

Akshara's Current Portfolio includes –

- ◇ 'livelihoods' (e-monthly-50000+ readers, journal, info-portal, channel, books, videos and other resources)
- ◇ Visioning, Planning, Leadership, Management, Institutions, Learning, Mentoring, and Consulting Support
- ◇ Livelihoods Learning, Influencing curriculum/students/teachers, Interns and Fellows, Talent Support
- ◇ Support to Intervention Organizations, Enterprises, Collectives, PRIs, Governments and Civil Society
- ◇ National Network/Collective(s) of L-PR-D Professionals, Volunteers, and Community Professionals
- ◇ Livelihoods leadership and management learning efforts; and
- ◇ Field practice and stations

Collective Expertise

- Understanding of TRUE (Tribal, Rural, Urban and Emerging) Livelihoods-Poverty Reduction-Development
- Understanding Poverty, Vulnerability and Marginalization and ways forward
- Livelihoods Analysis, Scoping and Enhancement Processes
- Participatory Processes, Institution Building, Collective Action and Integration
- Visioning, Planning and Learning Processes and Writeshops
- Strategy, Design, Assessment, Leadership and Management Processes/Systems
- Induction, Mentoring and Learning from Co-practice

Strong team of 15+ practitioners with combined experience exceeding 300 person-years, pool of 250+ practitioner-resource persons, and network for 100+ field stations

Akshara Livelihoods

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f Livelihoods-People t AKSHARA LIVELIHOODS in akshara-livelihoods aksharakriti.org; livelihoods.net.in

Hope

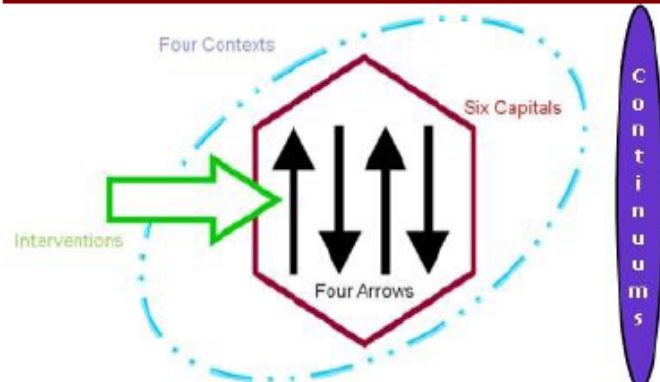
Faith

Promise

Akshara Livelihoods



Support [Visioning→Learning] to TRUE Livelihoods Support Individuals, Entrepreneurs, and Organizations



Akshara livelihoods framework understands improving the livelihoods of the poor in the continuum(s) as increasing their stock of and access to Six Capitals - natural, physical, social, human, financial and spiritual and by bringing appropriate changes in the Four Contexts - techno - economic, ecological, distribution and income - expenditure pattern that result in Four Arrows - Increased income, Decreased expenditure, Increased employment, Decreased diversified risk(s).

Contributed to Development and Livelihoods Management Praxis

New Thinking and Practice in Livelihoods Domain – Integrated TRUE Livelihoods Framework, LEAP Processes, Value-chains [500+ LEAPs; 100+ value-chains]; Insights - Multiple subsectors, Watersheds+, Collectivization, Social Enterprises

Insights in Dairy, Oilseeds/oils, Paddy, Handlooms, Crafts, Artisan Clusters, NTFP, Livestock, Labor, Endogenous Tourism, ICT, Media, Services, Job-Wage-Self-employment, Micro-enterprises etc.

● Akshara Direct Efforts include -

- ◇ Gurukulam (Livelihoods Learning); Akshara Sakthi (Livelihoods Time Volunteers); Livelihoods Professionals' Collective
- ◇ Pochampally Kalanetha; Aksharakshetra (Field Practice)
- ◇ 'livelihoods' since 2007 (on ground lens)
- Co-authored 'Framework for Implementation, National Rural Livelihoods Mission'
- Associated Intensely and Deeply with Movements of Cooperation, Participation, Inclusion, Self-help, Natural Farming and Livelihoods of Poor
- Worked Closely and on Scale with Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups (Women, Elderly, Farmers, Weavers, Artisans, Labour, Migrants et al), Communities [Tribal, Nomadic, Coastal, Dalit, et al], and Areas
- Mentored/Supported - 20000+ Livelihoods Support Individuals; 100+ Livelihoods Support Organizations; 10+ long-term Partners
- Facilitated/mentored 20+ Livelihoods Support Organizations
- Led Learning Facilitation - 50000+ People → livelihoods thinking/learning; 10000+ → development/livelihoods management; 20000+ → induction; 20000+ → community leadership/facilitation
- Experimented and benchmarked 6-month, 1-year and 2-year Programs in Livelihoods Management; 1-year Livelihoods Management e-course
- Designed a variety of institutional models, forms & structures, piloting and restructuring for People's Institutions/Collectives/Support Organizations
- Facilitated Visioning, Strategic/Business Planning and Institution Design/Building (50+) – CBOs, Support Organizations/Trusts, Social Enterprises, Advocacy/Volunteer Organizations, Networks, etc.
- Led Design/Strategic/Project Management (Resources, Systems, Processes) Support to 20+ Large Livelihoods-Poverty Reduction-Development Projects [Rs.3000+ Billion; 100+ Million families]

Hope

Faith

Promise