



# Livelihoods Lens

Common Persons' Perspectives



Volume II



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

**Let us go towards**

**Truth  
Light  
Liberation  
and therefore Bliss**

**Walked/walking with us**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to appreciate the efforts of all those who walked with us and those who are walking with us. We would like to express our gratitude to Akshara family, for contributing content of the focus articles, every month in last 10 years without failing.

The compilation saw through many hands over the years. We would like to thank them for reading, rereading, offering comments, editing, designing and continuously improving the presentation of this book. We would like to thank the people behind classification of articles into relevant categories.

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.

Finally we thank and dedicate this to universe for letting us be useful in this way.

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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

### Maiden Effort

Welcome. This is the first issue of the only generic livelihoods magazine in the country. It is neither a skill-specific, occupation specific, sector-specific nor a profession-specific magazine. It focuses on livelihoods in general and livelihoods of the poor in particular. It is an instrument to collate, discuss and spread evolving livelihoods thought.

It caters to the needs of the poor, their organizations, the organizations and individuals that support the poor and their organizations. It caters to para-workers, community workers and leaders, livelihoods professionals, individuals working in the organizations and projects of the poor and their support organizations and projects at various levels. It will also cater to the needs of individuals seeking career in Livelihoods sector, thought leaders, development academicians etc.

As there is no exclusive magazine on Livelihoods thus far, except those dealing with specific sectors/aspects, this magazine will serve as a unique intervention in this space. The subscriptions from readers will be the main source of revenue for the magazine.

The magazine realizes "Livelihoods" broadly implying 'livelihoods of the poor' is an emerging and fast-growing sector. It also realizes that Constitution (article 19) recognises right to life implying right to livelihood. It also realizes the recognition of right to association. With these realizations, this magazine aims to fulfill the need for authentic knowledge inputs and updates in livelihoods domain.

There are lots of general misconceptions about livelihoods. Most of the time its equated with income generation and microfinance activities. This magazine will attempt to dispel these misconceptions with examples, case studies and updates from variety of real contexts, in addition to introducing the comprehensive livelihoods concepts, tools, techniques, issues and options, bringing out various dimensions to the fore and advocating authentic livelihoods agenda. Further, it will feature interview(s) from social entrepreneurs, social activists, grass root leaders and case studies from various Livelihood Support Organizations.

The Magazine will systematically introduce the Livelihoods Framework [Play of Six Capitals – natural, physical, social, human, financial and spiritual Towards Four Arrows – income, expenditure, employment days and risks Within Four Contexts – ecological, techno-economic, distribution patterns and income/expenditure patterns] and its elements, and look (bird's eye view and/or worm's view) at mainstream developments with livelihoods lenses. In the process, the magazine will not forget to bring out the fascinating, complex, frustrating and puzzling aspects of livelihoods and life through facts, views, insights. It will discuss de-learning and learning required for livelihoods, it will discuss institutions for livelihoods and the leadership in them, and it will discuss the love that binds people, communities and the world towards better life and livelihoods for everyone including marginalized, vulnerable, elders and children as a right. It will explore livelihoods from the lens of dignity as we want people we love to have decent livelihoods.

The magazine will include ideas that worked and that did not, initiatives tried, interventions attempted, and changing paradigms towards making a difference in the livelihoods domain. It will also include how the mainstream is reacting – volunteering, corporate social responsibility, funding priorities, career options, etc. It will also discuss social entrepreneurship, venture capitals, etc.

The magazine attempts to bring together and disseminate the knowledge of the six blind about the elephant (called livelihoods) to the livelihoods support individuals and organizations and thereby to the community at large. We believe this will help the poor to make more informed decisions and choices towards decent portfolios of livelihoods and better lives. We further believe this will help generate academic curiosity and promote livelihood studies as a discipline and taught in development schools and management schools exclusively. Finally, we believe it will help attract young men and women to livelihoods domain.

Thus, it is a maiden effort, a platform to appreciate, build and spread livelihoods thought as we understand and unravel. We, in the magazine, are enjoying every bit of the struggle to build and spread the livelihoods thought with only time, energy and spirit helping us. We are sure you will also find it exciting. Come and enjoy with us. We sincerely hope you will not regret coming along, you will like it and be with us, bring more of you into us.

Welcome on board, once again. And the context is ripe.

\* **Editorial November 2007**

### Residential Schools

Residential Schools have the genesis in ancient Gurukuls. The student has to leave home after s/he learns whatever the parents, the family, the community and the village/locality could teach. The teacher (guru) typically resided in forest and the students go and be with him/her, in the modest apartments. The learning was a 24x7

activity. If the teacher felt that a student could graduate next level (beyond the teacher's capacity), the student would be sent to a next teacher, may be in another gurukul. One day, the student would be declared that s/he could go home as the education in gurukul was over. This approach has been adopted in the modern gurukulams, popularly known as residential schools. The first of this kind is then AP Residential School, Sarvail, initiated by PV Narasimha Rao. Then, the numbers went up slowly in the country. Navodaya schools came. Rishi Valley School came. Private schools came. Junior Colleges came. Degree Colleges came. Management Schools and Professional Colleges with high teacher-student ratio are already like gurukulams. But, some are residential schools without gurukul philosophy. Some are schools and hostels at a place but nothing more. Some Universities are gurukulams. Many are not. Some institutions are just education 'factories'. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Residential Schools'.

**\* Editorial June 2015**

### **Education**

Schools are opening after summer shortly. Children come to schools. However, children have not given a break for their studies in this summer. They went to coaching centres, they went to tuitions, in anticipation of rainy 'studies' later. Everywhere we hear announcements – in TV channels, in Radio stations. Pamphlets and advertisements in newspapers! It is in this context, 'livelihoods' has explored Education as a sector.

From an individual perspective, 'education' begins at 2.5-3 years with nursery/play school and flows through primary, secondary schooling, higher education and so on. It stops when the person gets job or employment or activity to engage full-time.

Some do not join the school. Some do not study, although in school. Some do not have the text books. Some do not have ambience in school and some others do not have the ambience at home when they return home. Some drop out of school. Some others join work and study. Some go after professional education. Technical education. Vocational education. Some want distance education. Some study for the sake of studying. Some others study for employment/work. Yet, all agree that education is the only long-term solution to poverty. Economically backward but meritorious students are getting some benefit from residential schools, gurukulams, navodaya schools, scholarships, and of late – educational loans. More than two lakh students come out of these institutions every year. A much larger number is coming out from private schools and coaching centres. Amidst all this, sadly, the general government school is fading out.

Education sector has become the largest employing sector with more than 10 million in long-term employment - more than 2 million teachers, 1 million educators in higher education, 2 million in supporting roles in government, and equally large number in private domain.

People with some education/study, or after dropping out of schooling/education, more than 10 million young men and women are looking for jobs, employment, work etc., every year. 5-10% join in the education sector itself. Sadly, the various surveys and estimates across suggest that not even 10% of these 10 million meet the minimum standards of employment. Many graduates and post-graduates are not displaying the minimum 3R (Reading, Writing and Arithmentic) capacities. The greatest challenge before us, therefore, is how to increase the quality universally, quickly and surely. We have innumerable examples of these young men and women have lost their bearings in the absence of proper guidance and direction. Competence Assessment and Career counseling is their important need.

In the context of Globalisation, Privatisation, Liberalisation, expanding new livelihoods options, disappearance/marginalization of existing livelihoods, impending climate changes, etc., what is the kind of education that should be reaching our children – for their salvation, for their life, and for their livelihoods? Can't we think about offering quality and relevant universal education to all till the age of 15-16 years? Can they get meta-education? If good livelihoods education comes along with this quality universal education, then there is peace in our country and our globe. Otherwise, it is unrest and suffering everywhere.

It is nine months since the 'livelihoods' journey has begun. Our thanks to all of you who are with us in this odyssey! Your support and encouragement has made all the difference. And we hope to get the same as we get going.

**\* Editorial June 2008**

### **Livelihoods Education**

The effort towards reducing poverty, supporting the poor to transit into prosperity and preventing them falling back into poverty is pursued on the foundation of organizing the poor into their institutions, providing sensitive support and bringing the services accessible to them. This effort requires human resources at various levels. While community leaders, resource persons, volunteers and paraprofessionals from within the community constitute the primary tier, the grassroots workers and professionals working directly with the poor individuals,

households, groups, village level primary federations/collectives and the community human resource working with them constitute the secondary tier.

The next tier, the tertiary tier, of professionals and workers works with the federal institutions of the poor, collectives at sub-district and beyond, support structures and other support organizations at this level and beyond collectives. Some of these primary, secondary and tertiary tier workers and human resource are specialized in some theme or the other like social mobilization, accounting, book-keeping, governance, gender, planning, livelihoods assessment, micro-credit planning, marketing, dairying, collective institution building, best practitioners, agriculture extension, veterinary care, craft skill provision, coordination, integration, systems, advocacy, information and knowledge work, process documentation, social audit, procurement, local value-addition, vigilance, environment, enterprise development, insurance, teaching, education, health, geriatric care, conflict resolution, ICT services, financial management, repayment agents, research assistance, counselling, intelligence etc. Thus, the range is wide. It is as wide as the services and themes in the non-poor domain. Therefore, there is need for identifying human resources for various levels/layers and themes and augmenting their capacities in terms of attitude/orientation, knowledge and skills. The role of the tertiary tier is limited but crucial in building the secondary and primary tiers of human resources and providing guidance and mentoring. The tertiary tier comes from a variety of ways including dedicated streams/ institutes. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'livelihoods/development education (management)'.

**\* Editorial January 2011**

#### **Career After School**

It is said Education is the surest way out of Poverty. But, many of our children do not reach the school. Many of them do not cross it. Those who cross do not know where to go. Should this be PhD? Should this be civil servant? A doctor? An engineer? A lawyer? A chartered accountant? A journalist? A manager? A social worker? A teacher? If these are choices available, can s/he access? Can s/he afford? Does s/he have the merit? Does s/he have it in her to do any one of these? Or is s/he wired differently? A polytechnic, a mechanic, a repairman, an assistant, an attender? Or is s/he fine with being a skilled labour? Casual labour? Or a farmer, weaver, traditional artisan? Or an entrepreneur? Or a burden on the family? Counselling has a big role. Early vision and preparation play their part. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Career after School'.

**\* Editorial August 2016**

#### **Development Management**

Development Worker-Manager-Leaders are acutely needed in India and outside. Every village needs an integrator. Every GP needs a professional. Every Block, every district and state needs professionals. Every town and city needs professionals. In the areas of Poverty-Vulnerability Reduction, Livelihoods and Development. Education Management requires hands. Health Management requires hands. Schemes, Missions, Programmes, Projects, Community Collectives etc., require hands. By any reckoning, conservatively, India needs at least 10,000 professional manager-leaders and 100,000 community professional activist-manager-leaders every year. The institutes focused on producing them are less. Barring a few, their quality is by and large average. The young minds are not getting attracted and coming on their own to development. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Development Management'.

**\* Editorial April 2017**

#### **Employment**

Human beings need to be engaged. Engaged and earn their needs. Earn for meeting their needs. This engagement is sometimes means being in employment. Some engagement may not result in receiving payments. Employment is that engagement that results in receiving payments. These can be in wages, piece rate payments, service charges, salaries, commissions and/or business returns against your time, knowledge, skill, expertise and money investments. Some are engaged in existing traditional livelihoods, pursued in their homes. Some are venturing out to pursue new opportunities. Employment - for wages (casual and skilled; time-based and piece-based), for jobs (temporary, short-term and long-term), for self-employment (combining time and investment), and for enterprises (includes hiring others for work, individually or collectively) – is a continuum. Some of the employment may not get paid, some may be underpaid and of course, some are overpaid. Some may require investments in building skills, business and market for growth. Some of them are in the organized sector but many of them are unorganized. There is scope and need for collectives for solidarity, remunerative and fair wages and work conditions. There is scope for collectivization for learning and more skills. There is a need for worker collectives for meeting their mutual self-help including credit. There is a need for proliferation of work groups and work teams. Self-employed and entrepreneurs can come together for economies of scale. Business networks and consortiums do make sense. There is also need for associations for code of conduct in doing business - like we have associations for hairdressers, hotels, handlooms, shops, chambers of commerce etc.

Together they can lobby for favourable policy environment, purchase in bulk, source work and credit, group risk management, etc. The unskilled wage worker has to move right on the education-skill-enterprise employment continuum/value-chain, to be a skilled worker to self-employed to enterprise owner. Low end jobholder to high-end professional. Barely literate to investor in education of children! Malnourished to balanced nutrition consumer! To a health seeker! To an investment opportunity grabber! So on.

India has to and is investing in creating employment, employment to more than 25 million youth entering the employment market every year. Gigantic task! With some Rs.10,000-20,000 per job investment, can this happen? How can we enrol the persons moved into employment to work on employment for others seeking it? How can we keep immediate (stipend, survival), short-term (knowledge, skills and tools), and long-term (beyond) in the perspective? How can we combine giving fish, teaching fishing and meta-fishing and offer the comprehensive package? In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'employment'.

**\* Editorial August 2010**

### **Skill Development**

Improvement in the trinity - Knowledge, Skills, and Resources, apart from the context – guarantees improvement in lives and livelihoods for people in general and youth in particular. It is theoretically possible to work on one or more of the trinity to make a dent in the lives and livelihoods of the poor. Pragmatically, we need to work on all of the trinity. When we offer 'skills', we mean we offer improvements in all of the trinity. 'Skills' could be offered to improve the existing livelihood(s) of the person, to take up a new activity. This new activity could be as a job – to work with an employer; this could be to start a micro-enterprise alone or as a family or as a group; or this could be to take up activities as a skilled worker, service provider or a daily labour. Thus, skill development feeds the employment – daily wage, service, self-employed, job – continuum. These skills could include technical skills, soft skills, life skills and personality development and customer service skills. Government is pumping funds in a big way. Counselling, skills that have market, training rigour and hygiene, meta skills, quality, certification, placement, post-placement support etc., have to be improved significantly. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Skill Development'.

**\* Editorial July 2016**

### **Self Employment**

India is a Krishi Pradhana country. 80% of its families are either self-employed or part of the family enterprises or the enterprises with 2-3 persons working. Some continue in the enterprises of the family or the enterprises that run in the family. Some would like to get on to this now after they pass out or drop out of education. S/he may go to a known self-employed as an apprentice and graduate into self-employed on her/his own right. A la cleaner becoming a driver. S/he may join an enterprise as a worker and become independent. A la driver gradually owning the vehicle. S/he may go through a training on her/his own in a training centre or a self-employment training institute/skill development centre. S/he may take loan from a bank to supplement the amount s/he has mobilized from other sources. Government may chip in with some enterprise subsidy. Angel investors may chip in. Micro-venture capitalists may give some equity too. Similar self-employed may themselves collectivise. They may have issues of inadequate skills, tools, raw materials, quality, accounting, working capital, storage, market, prices in the market etc. Identity may be an issue. Licenses and statutory arrangements can be troubling. Most of them are in unorganized sector. A few of them may be less organized. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Self-employment'.

**\* Editorial September 2016**

### **Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurship and taking risk is in our blood. We need courage to invest in our children; we need courage to sleep and take rest; we need courage to hunt and gather food; we need courage to invest in our relationships; we need courage to choose careers; we need courage to choose skills to learn; yet we think we are not entrepreneurial. More than half of the people, farmers, weavers, artisans, labour, migrants etc., in India have risky livelihoods. The production is not certain. The prices are not certain. The people for the enterprises are not certain. The inputs are not certain. Demand is not certain. The buyer may change her/his mind in the last minute. Yet they persist and pursue their livelihoods, relentlessly albeit reluctantly. They are the entrepreneurs. Except for a few government jobs and jobs in some organized sector enterprises, most of us are desperate entrepreneurs with minimal or no security. Yet we have no insurance/security except for our own multiple livelihoods and our family and friends. Social security is abysmal/minimal/tokenism.

Human has attempted repeatedly to move into more security from the beginning. S/he moved to agriculture to industry. S/he moved to make some as slaves to ensure production and services. S/he conquered prosperous areas. S/he started to preserve grains and commodities. S/he started to store wealth. S/he started to get into

more certain job positions with the kings, with the temples, etc. S/he started to meet supply-demand gaps across the areas. S/he is fighting the battle to be less entrepreneurial. Yet, some of them, who pursued spurts of enterprise, have amassed more wealth and became less entrepreneurial thereafter. The focus then shifted to preserve the wealth and allow it to grow. All the knowledge, skills and resources aid this. Thus all life is entrepreneurial the movement it is in the womb and works towards less entrepreneurial and secure living. This has forced human beings to take control of the resources as much as possible and limiting access to others.

Today, as it became uncommon, we idolize and worship this relentless pursuit albeit with limited resources for public good. Open knowledge, skills and resources are the key for productive enterprise. Let us open up for entrepreneurship, enterprise and social enterprise to flourish. Remember that enterprises are collectivisable and entrepreneurs can join hands too. Let there be enterprise everywhere. Let there be more enterprises. Let there be more individual and small enterprises. Let there be collective enterprises. Let us give the environment for them to flourish! Let us facilitate them! We need to remind our people that we are entrepreneurs originally. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'entrepreneurship'.

**\* Editorial March 2011**

### **Social Entrepreneurship**

Human being is a social animal. S/he cannot be satisfied with serving oneself. All her/his enterprises are to serve 'all'. In India, only 10-15% of the adult working population works for others. Most of them are self-employed. Farmers are self-employed. Weavers are self-employed. People in most traditional occupations are self-employed. The new services seek self-employed. Then, there are enterprises with a few staff with entrepreneur in command. The micro-enterprises and self-employed provide services locally benefitting the clients and the providers. This has been the model of social enterprise that has been prevalent in the country. There are local leaders who provide conflict resolution services. There are social leaders who provide other services at no cost or low cost. Social work organizations, volunteer organizations, non-government organizations etc., have been providing services at higher scale(s). Gradually, many of them discovered that contribution and repayment are important for taking the service provision to scale and serve larger population. Micro-finance (credit, insurance, skills and linkages) have started to recover all costs plus some surpluses. There are also commission agents who provide services for a fee on a purley commercial way. If the clients are poor, the provider thought her/himself as a social entrepreneur. Government(s), public organizations, donors etc., have also bought this argument. Slowly, this argument has been weakened to an extent now. Now, we are not sure what characterizes this breed of social entrepreneurs - typical NGO head – no; typical micro-entrepreneur – no; typical businessman – no; typical donor – no; typical angel investor – no; typical venture capitalist – no; typical commercial service provider – no; typical activist – no; typical worker in a community organization – no; and so on. We know the 'no's.

We know for sure s/he works for the poor; s/he works with meagre resources; s/he is relentless; it is an enterprise; s/he is a leader; and s/he is for changing the ways of the world. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'Social Entrepreneurship'.

**\* Editorial June 2012**

### **Employment Continuum**

Engagement with life is a necessary human activity. There is no option for us but to have employment. It could be paid or unpaid. It could be Job Employment. Wage Employment. Self-employment. Casual. Seasonal. Multiple. In the village or in migrated locations. In the family. In the own enterprise. In the collective enterprise. In a private enterprise. In a public enterprise. Community Collectives. Governments. Non-profits and for profits. We spend time and energy for being engaged and employed. For having life. We may also spend money to make more money. Employment does have risks, idiosyncratic and covariant. Employment in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sectors. Farm, Off-farm and non-farm. Employment in Agriculture, Livestock, Dairy, Fisheries, Forestry etc. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Employment Continuum'.

**\* Editorial August 2015**

### **Wage Labour**

In the struggle for control on forests and other natural resources, the victorious tribes had enslaved the lost tribes. Slaves, in due course, broke their chains of slavery but had to depend on the resource-rich peasants for work and food – food only if you work, otherwise starvation. Slowly, payment of wages in kind for the work began. Next the wages came as money. Differences in wages based on skills and wages in proportion to work output were set in, subsequently.

From Life slavery to annual agreements to monthly salaries to daily wages! Many variants and many hues have

entered.

Gradually not just the land lords, other resource-rich started to use the wage workers. Even the occupational groups started to use the coolies – daily or piece-based. Industrialization accelerated the process. But, slowly and steadily, the wage workers started to unite and organize, into unions. Minimum wages were fixed. Also, the labour contractors came. Contracting head coolies came. We have organized labour. Many more labourers are outside in the unorganized sector.

Of the wage labourers, some are only labourers, some are farmers, some practice traditional occupations, some are literate and some others educated. Some are skilled and some others' skills have no market value. Some earn less than Rs.10 a day and a few others earn more than Rs.100,000 a day. Some are not sure whether they get work next day or not. The wage workers without assets/properties can not access credit. They can eat only if they work. In essence, half of Indians are wage workers. There is no place, profession, site/construction, project or organization without wage workers. A skill development mission with special emphasis on wage earners! It is in this context, the sixth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "wage labour".

**\* Editorial June 2009**

### **Human Resources**

We all, including the poor amongst us, need service providers. We need self-employed service providers. We need teams of service providers. We need people working in our micro-enterprises, individual enterprises, collective enterprises, business enterprises and social enterprises. Public enterprises, Private Enterprises and Community enterprises! Education enterprises! Health Enterprises! We need people in the community organizations. We need people in the support organizations. In the funding organizations and public organizations and their projects, programs and missions! We need volunteers, resource persons, part-time workers, weekend workers, piece-meal workers, full-time workers, etc. We need a variety of workers with various levels of qualifications, experience, knowledge, skills, competencies and resourcefulness. We need them at various levels – individual, household, group, village, federal institutions, and high above. We need people who identify, induct, train and support them. We need them for various tenures - temporary, short-term and long-term, We need generic management, generic support personnel. We also need specialist workers and professionals. We need them for social mobilization, for animation, for writing their books, for e-book keeping, for audit, for veterinary care, for agriculture extension, for credit linkage, for insurance care, for collective procurement, local value-addition, for marketing, for childcare, for eldercare, for teaching, for nursing, for documentation, for showcasing, for training, for demonstration and for being role models, for handholding, for planning and for working the plan, for mobilising resources and optimising them, for policy advocacy, for articulating people's needs and concerns, for being the spokesperson for them and for representing them. So on. These workers could come together for their solidarity, learning, security and meeting their needs.

India needs them in huge numbers. A million of them professionals/year and ten million of them as community professionals/year! Contrast this with 25 million youth entering the employment market every year. Contrast this with lakhs of engineering seats, management seats going unfilled. Contrast this with 80-90% of the educated youth not having employable skills and 3R – reading, writing and arithmetic – skills. Contrast this with 1000-odd development professionals produced every year. Where are the training centres? Who holds the perspective? Who will take charge of this gigantic agenda? There are issues of low remuneration, mindset of expected volunteerism and freework, not a first option for most etc. Satisfaction, happiness, and possibility of becoming human being are on the higher side. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'human resources' for development.

**\* Editorial September 2010**

### **Rainfed Farming**

Monsoons have come. But the rains are erratic. Some areas are getting heavy rains and some are getting scanty rains. The rhythm of rains appears to be missing the beat. Low pressure has joined hands with monsoon.

Poor, Leaders of the groups of the poor, and the organizations that work with them are still resolving how to complete the trainings that could not be completed and how to reserve time for the discussions on the plans that could not begin.

Dry-land farmers constituting the majority of farmers have given up on this Kharif. In this context, 'livelihoods' is exploring dry-land farming.

If we look at India with this lens, we have only two broad areas – one dry land and the other wet land that produces paddy, wheat and sugarcane. If we exclude urban conglomerates, the rest is mostly agri-centric area. When 70% of Indians live in rural areas, a vast majority – 80-85% i.e. 13-14 crore families have agriculture as their centre of action. More than half of them are farmers and the remaining are labour and service providers.



From this reckoning, while 3-4 crore families are dry-land farmers and 2-3 crore families have dependence on dry-land farming, making the dry-land farming the largest employer in the country. If we exclude urban centres, I do not know any other district, where there is no dry-land farming in the country. The land productivity, water productivity and person productivity is less. The diversity of the crops is on the decline. Mixed cropping is coming down. Yield is not certain till the harvesting is over. In addition, the proportion of the consumer received by the farmer is not even half.

Therefore, we need to increase our attention to dry-land farming forthwith. The research has to increase multi-fold. Mixed cropping has to be revived and increased. Horticulture has to be stepped up. Natural and organic farming has to be propagated. Minimum support prices have to be announced and implemented. Risk reduction and diversification mechanisms have to be stepped up. Market intelligence and knowledge has to flow to the farmers. Farmers need to get into groups and start collective action in various stages of the chain and at various levels. Then only, there will be some 'relief'.

The efforts of Krishi ka Rishi Zero-Budget Subhash Palekar, Bharatiya Agro-Industries Foundation's Manibhai Desai, System of Rice Intensification, Drip and other micro-irrigation, Deccan Development Society, etc., are indeed examples in this direction. Immediate agenda is Dry-land Farming Mission. We sincerely hope that governments respond to this need quickly.

July 5 is the International Day of Cooperatives. When cooperatives/collectives become the link between the producers and consumers, the lion's share of the consumer rupee reaches the producer. Hope this dream of ours becomes a reality in due course.

Recently, thanks to Srijan 2008, we have got an endorsement of our core beliefs - the needs of the poor extend beyond the financial needs, livelihoods interventions are indeed people's projects, there is a need to work with all the poor in the village despite one's interest in a section of the poor, poor have to come together and take up collective action, and the poor need to interact with the market etc. We cannot forget these core principles of livelihoods.

It is also important that the socially conscious new generation litterateurs to think and bring the focus on to livelihoods of the poor, poverty reduction, prosperity for the poor etc., into their writings and thinking. The popular literature, stories, songs etc., should reflect this thinking. Mainstream print media, electronic media, news channels, spiritual channels, children's books, music media, internet and web media etc., should take more interest and disseminate this widely. The best practices, gaps, opportunities, success and failure examples etc., in local languages and simple words have to be available to the poor, the leaders of the poor and the workers of the poor so that the poor can take informed choices.

Our first Field Marshal Sham Bahadur Manekshaw is no longer amidst us. May his soul rest in peace! India cannot forget him. His courage and his strategic intelligence remain ideals for us.

In the ten-month odyssey of the 'livelihoods', we are blessed with you as co-travelers. Our thanks are due to all of you. We are able to move ahead because of your company, your support and encouragement on the way. I want you to mark this and continue get going on this journey, pulling us along.

**\* Editorial July 2008**

#### **Natural Farming**

The time has come for the farmers to go back to basics. Natural Farming. But with intensity. Land has to be developed. Soil Nutrition has to be improved. Water has to be harvested. Moisture has to be conserved. Multiple crops have to be taken up. With varying durations. With varying heights. System of Root Intensification has to be tried. Local Seeds have to be preserved and used. Seeds have to be treated. Land needs to be prepared. Mulching needs to be done. Bijamritam, Jivamritam etc., have to be used. Non-pesticide management with natural methods have to be adopted. Harvesting and post-harvesting have to be systematic. Storage is useful. Local value-addition has to be attempted. Farmers have to be organized and peer-to-peer learning and farmer field schools have to be facilitated. Producer-consumer linkages have to be established. Early results are encouraging. Yields and net incomes are going to be better. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Natural Farming'.

**\* Editorial February 2017**

#### **Small Livestock**

Livestock including Milch Animals and Small Livestock contributes as a major part of the livelihoods portfolio of the poor. While the number of animals per family is very small, the national numbers are large. A variety of livestock are part of livelihoods; but the dominant ones include buffaloes/cows, goats/sheep, poultry, ducks, pigs, camels, etc. Their productivity is not very high. While we are the largest producer of milk in the world today, the per capita milk production is small and per capita consumption is far below the standard benchmark. It is a home-

based activity for some, for others it requires tending in the fields/wild. For some, it is nomadic life tending the livestock. Meat is a key product, after milk. We also have wool, leather, etc., as other products. The livestock requires fodder, feed, water, shelter, veterinary care etc. They are collectivisable around inputs, care and products/market. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Small Livestock' other than Dairying.

**\* Editorial February 2016**

### **Livestock**

The forest-dwelling human beings have started to domesticate animals as they progressed on hunting. Initially, it was for meat, gradually it was also for milk and other needs. As they moved into agriculture, animal husbandry moved closely hand in hand. Nomads lived on livestock. The livestock included many animals – cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, chicken, pigs, camels so on and so forth. Animal rearing was mostly on common lands and common resources. Some graze; some are fed; some others do both. Initially, these animals were for own use/community use. Gradually, this has begun to serve the needs of others and for the market. Slowly, animal husbandry transcended its status as an allied activity of the agriculture and has grown into a special business/industry in itself. It has also become the livelihood of nearly half of the poor. Now the issues are non-remunerative prices to the milk producers and not even half of the consumer rupee is reaching the livestock-dependent poor. In this context, the fifth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "livestock-based livelihoods".

**\* Editorial May 2009**

### **Drought**

Planet has become dry with varying severities. 2015 has been the hottest year on record and 2016 March is the hottest ever. Drought in the country has been intense and 100s are succumbing to heat. Several others are committing suicides. Many places do not have potable water. Temperatures are soaring to new highs. Bihar has banned daytime cooking. Telangana has rescheduled MGNREGS works to early morning or late evenings. It is a national calamity hitting a third of Indian population across half of Indian Districts and Blocks. Marathwada, Vidarbha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Bundelkhand, Chhattisgarh, North Karnataka, Odisha, WB and Bihar are severely affected. In this context, 'livelihoods' is exploring 'Drought'.

**\* Editorial April 2016**

### **Adivasi Livelihoods**

Marginalization continues and the livelihoods of the marginalized are pushed further into margins. The marginalization is pretty systematic. Many a time the groups that are getting marginalized do not realize this and the mainstream society that is marginalizing does not realize that it is marginalizing them.

Indigenous communities in the country would have been there everywhere, once upon a time. As needs of the few have increased, as the 'exploitation of resources' progressed, and as the civilizations evolved around river streams, slowly the indigenous communities moved up into hills, into deeper forests, etc. They remained within themselves. They led self sufficient lives and livelihoods. They were contented to lead a happy life. They were not interested to amass resources or properties. They knew only sharing whatever they have or they can access. They worshipped the nature, treated it as it is part of them. They lived life fully with no pretenses.

But, the mainstream society did not leave them. It went up. It drove them further up and further inside. Whenever there is 'development' push, mostly the indigenous communities have got 'pushed' to margin willy-nilly. Also, they have been exposed to mainstream ways. They have taken fancy to some of them. In some sense, some kind of a 'globalization' has been experienced by the indigenous communities. Outside world can meet some of its needs from the 'special' ecologies in which the indigenous communities live. Sadly, the price, particularly for their valuable non-timber forest produce like gum karaya, lac, medicinal herbs etc., and bio-diversity that they realize is a small fraction of the consumer rupee. It appears that history of tribal 'globalization' can teach us how we deal with the globalization juggernaut.

Meanwhile, there is a special recognition as Scheduled Tribes (in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution) with certain special privileges and rights with certain obligations on the state how they can be governed. States attempted to meet some of these obligations. Then there has been unrest in the communities. Naxalism has found support there. Some tribes have become 'endangered'. State has woken up and has made special efforts to show concern towards them.

Some new communities are seeking ST status and some could get.

These efforts and structures including Integrated Tribal Development Agencies/Projects, Tribal Cooperative Federations, Tribal Projects and special attention in mainstream projects like Velugu (Indirakranthi Patham), Community Forest Management, and National Tribal Policy and Land Transfer Regulation Act, Money-lenders (Regulation) Act and other Acts notwithstanding, they have to go a long way. They have resources that have

value outside. Their needs are minimal. There exists a wide diversity. Their critical gaps appear to be in the form of lack of leadership from within, brain-drain, true bottom-up planning and preparation for mainstream interactions before the infrastructure.

**\* Editorial February 2008**

#### **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**

It is believed widely that the main land belonged to tribal communities in general and the particularly vulnerable tribal communities in particular. However, they have gone deep inside the forest and moved into the margins of mainstream. Their ways of life have made them more vulnerable. Their numbers are receding. Their forests and commons have been taken over. They suffer from absence of food, nutrition, health and livelihoods security. Their culture is in conflict with the mainstream needs. Their children would like to go away from their janmabhoomi for 'greener' pastures. The areas they live are referred as conflict zones. They live on huge natural wealth. Yet the benefits do not accrue to them. They would like to improve their situation and are getting organized into their self-help institutions. Governments are helping in this pursuit. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups'.

**\* Editorial June 2014**

#### **IDPs in India**

Displacement of individuals, families, households, communities has been closely connected with 'development', internal conflicts, factional fights, community and national wars, unemployment and social unrest. Internal displacement is mostly a push out. Some times, it is because of a pull in that goes 'wrong'. Urbanization, Deforestation, Industrialization, Irrigation and Power Dams, Terrorism, Factionalism, Maoism, Droughts, Floods, Cyclones, Disasters, Construction Failures, Technologies, Social Movements etc., are adding internal displacement. The number may be anywhere between 100-300 million across the country, in various pockets, if not more. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'IDPs'.

**\* Editorial April 2015**

#### **Forest Based Livelihoods**

If we see the history of the world, once it was all forest. All human beings were completely dependent on forest for their living. Their basic needs – food, clothes, shelter etc. - came from the forest. Leaves, Fruits, Roots, Wood, and other forest produce used to meet their daily needs and consumption needs. Their use was limited to their need, nothing more. They moved and added hunting to gathering. Animal meat and skins were also used. If in surplus, they used to share. Gradually, they moved into settled agriculture. Forests started dwindling. Their dependence on forests also became limited. In due course, we were in two groups – one that lived in the forests and the other which lived outside. While the ones who lived in the forests remained as earlier, the ones outside were going to forests for their limited needs. They used to bring out more than their current need, store and even sell. Some of the people living in the forests also started pooling and selling the forest produce needed by the outsiders. Slowly, forests dwindled further. Forests 'went' farther away from the people living outside. The middlemen and contractors came in to gather, collect and sell forest produce. Slowly commerce began. People living in forests became almost zero. Still some were living in the edges of the forests. They were pursuing agriculture, animal husbandry etc., for their living. Yet, some dependence on the forests was still there. They were bringing produce from the forests, using some, and selling some. However, some of them were fully dependent on forests for their livelihood.

In due course, ownership and control on the forests shifted from the people to the state. They were classified as reserved forests, unreserved (community) forests and social forests. Satellite pictures show that forests reached a lower proportion than the proportion required for our sustainable survival. While the reserved forest management is in the hands of the forest department, other forest management is partly handed over to people's Vana Samrakshana Samitis as part of joint/community forest management. The traditional dwellers of the forests and those on edges have got rights for the non-timber forest produce collection. The bio-diversity is still not lost. We still need to appreciate tribal medicine. Many discoveries are seeing the light of the day from the usage of the forest produce by the indigenous. Cleaning nuts (strychnos potatorum) that clear the water, multi-use gum karaya, diabetic-friendly gymnema sylvestre, etc, continue to benefit the mainstream.

Forests – through its produce/services - Wood, NTFP, bamboo products, herbs, forest conservation, regeneration, watersheds, medicine, eco-tourism, etc., - in all contribute to the livelihoods means for more than 10% families directly and/or indirectly. Still, not even a quarter of the consumer rupee is reaching the dependents. They remain the poor/poorest of the poor. In this context, the fourth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "forest-based livelihoods".

In the buzz of elections, one thing that did not come into limelight is the manifestos of the parties. Sure enough,

these are released, but there is no healthy debate. Only exaggerated claims, criticisms and ridicules! Actually, there are no real differences in the content of manifestos. It is only in the degree. The voter is also not digging deep. May be there is no possibility.

**\* Editorial April 2009**

### **Tribal Development**

Tribal Communities (Adivasis, mostly classified as Scheduled Tribes) constitute 8.6% of Indian Population, exceeding 100 million in numbers, characterised by geographic isolation, backwardness, distinctive culture, language and religion and shyness of contact. Within these about 75 tribes have been referred as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. They live in Agency/Tribal Sub-plan areas, in own habitations and/or as part of mainstream settlements. About 75% of the tribal families are considered poor and vulnerable, with low literacy, low health indicators, and not-up-to-the-mark livelihoods status and quality of life, despite special rights, entitlements, privileges, schemes and special purpose vehicles like Integrated Tribal Development Agencies/Projects, ST Corporations, Tribal Marketing Organizations, Ashram Schools etc. Their literacy levels are low. There is a need for them to be organized into their institutions architecture, capacities built, and customized plans evolved and rolled-out. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Tribal Development'.

**\* Editorial January 2016**

### **Rural Non-farm Livelihoods**

When the settled agriculture had become the norm, agricultural allied occupations and occupations that offer other products and services to the farmers and farm labour had begun. They expanded through mutual dependence and intertwining. In a sense, self-reliant and self-sufficient villages/rural clusters had emerged. Industrialization, alternative product development and manufacture, urban development, etc., started hitting and contributed to decline of this self-reliance, self-sufficiency and balance. Some moved to jobs based on education. Some are attracted out to leave these occupations. All this might have been happening for more than the last 100 years. Coupled with this, population has increased. People in absolute numbers living on agriculture have increased. Agriculture has become less remunerative.

Food-based agriculture has given way to agriculture for the market. Gradually market has entered the rural lives. Commercial agriculture has come in a large way. Market has started offering other products and services. Some are new and some alternatives to the traditional products and services. In due course, the social, transactional and livelihoods/occupational relationships, remuneration, valuation and payment systems, annual payment systems, processes have changed and been changing. Some disappeared. They are forced to get integrated with the market, wily-nily. Gradually, remunerative wages/prices have evaporated. Living and survival has become difficult.

As a consequence, the occupational artisans, the skilled artisans, in the absence of market, in the absence of living remuneration, in the absence of alternative work, in the absence of ability/skills for alternative works, have become laborers. They have been migrating. They have been dying and/or committing suicides. They are struggling to survive.

**\* Editorial March 2009**

### **Indian Handicrafts**

As most of the human beings are in the business of their essential needs from the days of hunting/gathering life style to agriculture age to industrial age to information age, some of them are have moved out of this task. Some got into security/defence/policing; some got into priesthood; some got into providing artefacts, tools and instruments for living; some got into giving clothes; some got into building houses; some got into entertaining – music, dance, writing etc. As we progressed, the role of the father and mother as teachers has been partially taken over by a new tribe 'teachers'. Artisanal groups, arts groups and crafts groups emerged. Some of them meet the needs of others and some meet their own needs, some times higher order personal needs. All of them have been a single unit with reciprocal dependence within.

As the self-reliant village economies gave way to regional, national and global market economies, the artisan, arts and crafts sector is having mixed luck. Demand decides the price. Artificial market fluctuations are normal. Local patronage, royal patronage, national patronage systems have collapsed. Many of the craftspersons are leaving the craft for alternative livelihoods. The numbers are dwindling. It is no longer a passionate pursuit of a person. Livelihood is at stake. Survival is at stake. Here and there, we see some collectives. We see some design inputs. We see some efficiency measures, tool improvements, and mechanization. We see some raw material tie-ups and subsidies. We see some buy back arrangements. We also see varying prices, often 100-1000 times from the producer to the consumer. We also see the master craftsmen as new businessmen and middlemen-traders. The craftspersons are their virtual slaves. There are Cooperatives and SHGs operate as

craftsmen collectives but in reality they are the 'proprietary' concerns of the master craftsmen. Other members are their mere workers/piece-rate workers. Professional Collectives like Amul are still a long way away. A spectrum of organisations – community organizations (some based on caste and some on craft), civic groups, trade unions, activist groups, academia, etc., are making some impact. On the whole, a sector that is showing significant decline over a period of time. Of course, there are a large number of insignificant and irrelevant organizations in them.

Unfortunately, for most of these craftsmen, they are not poor with high local/royal patronage. Governments have to recognise this trend and include them quickly in the disadvantaged. State's interventions like MGNREGA, NRLM etc., have to find ways to include them. E-ways of business, crafts-based tourism, new tax regimes, new acts for collectives, new regulations for foreign contributions, changing donor perceptions etc., have a bearing on the future of artisans, arts and crafts. Further, we see assertion movements. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'handicrafts'.

\* **Editorial May 2011**

### **Handloom Industry**

Clothes are important part of the survival, next to air, water, and food. These are produced by handloom weavers. Powerlooms and Textile Mills have marginalized the handlooms largely over the years. Even then, handloom workers are still the second largest (next to Agriculture) workforce. Whole Families are involved in the handloom weaving processes. Even children are involved. The weaving begins with yarn – cotton, silk, jute, wool and hybrid. The product is cloth, as saris, dhotis, dress material etc. Some of these are directly used and some others need to be made into garments. Handloom weavers work on looms mostly. There are various associated processes. The individual workers weave for the master weaver, shop or a cooperative. The wages are not remunerative in several situations. Many a 'weave' is geographic indication. The weaves themselves are brands and have their own demand patterns. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Handloom Industry'.

\* **Editorial May 2017**

### **Street Vending**

At least one out of five families is having a livelihood of street vending. There may not be any product or service that is not available through street vendors! There are some street vendors who move from house-to-house or street-to-street; there are some who bring home the products and the tools at the end-of-the-day after sales at a certain points or set of points of sale on the street(s); some are using foot paths and some others are using temporary shops or dabbas; some are also make purchases in addition to sales; some provide services at the houses of the clients who come to 'addas'; some make products and/or add value at the site of sale; some operate alone; some operate in groups; some operate in families; some are distributed without any method; some stay in clusters of shops although they are independent; some loose associations and rules may bind some; some do both street vending and shop vending; some specialize, some micro-specialize and some enjoy a special micro-niche; and so on. However, not all but only a proportion of them, have street vending as the principal livelihood. The returns are not uniform and wildly different – from a mere Rs.10 to more than Rs.1000 per day are not uncommon. Some are seasonal and some do not work in slack season on this; similarly some are part-timers; and these make the street vending for many is a supplementary source of income. And for many others, it is the only source of survival. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' is exploring the street vending, as the first in the series on sub-sector/sector explorations from 'livelihoods'.

\* **Editorial Jan 2009**

### **Face“less” livelihoods**

**The small livelihoods** are small and insignificant if we look at each of the livelihood. Therefore, we have not cared to appreciate them and intervene. The data is scant. Importantly, they are not significant electorally. But, together, they form a substantial proportion. They supplement one another. It makes sense to collectivize them beyond the livelihoods activity. Their needs will be met and their voices will be heard.

**Some livelihoods** are giving way and some other livelihoods are occupying centre-stage albeit temporarily. As middle class is rising (expected to rise from current 5% to 40%), the services they require and afford will rise and the service provision is the rising set of 'new' livelihoods. This calls for increasing the skill-training in a number of services many fold.

\* **Editorial December 2007**

### **Livelihoods on the Move**

Mobility is part of life. In fact, it is basic to life. From moving barefoot, on foot, for hunting, to moving on animals, carts, chariots, from carrying goods on the head and back, to carrying on animals, carts and vehicles has begun. From the stage of man-pulled, animal-pulled carts, we have moved to fule-based vehicles. Man is moving on the ground, on the road, on the track, on the water, in the river, on the sea, in the air, in the sky, everywhere. He is

building and using suitable vehicles. Some are owned, some are on lease, some are for hire and some are public vehicles. Some have ticket per person and have rate per piece. Some have rate for the vehicle to hire. For some transport meets emergencies, and for some it enhance the livelihoods. For some, it is for pleasure or luxury, for tourism, or pleasure trips. Some are ambulances, fire engines, or dead body carriers. Some are school buses. Innumerable variety and options. Two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers, and multiple wheelers! Coal, Diesel and Electric Trains!

Helicopters and air planes! Boats, Launches, Ships! Lorries, Tankers, Cars, Auto rickshaws, Scooters, Cycles, Toy trains and vehicles! All these are part of the transport. Some take people and some carry goods! Some work in the related sectors like cold chains, education, health and public services. There are drivers, cleaners, mechanics, makers, sellers, insurers, taxi people, ticketing agents, dhabha-wallahs, mobile food vendors, porters, packers and movers, etc., 'transport' feeds them all.

Some contribute to pollution and some add speed and pace. Some save lives and of course, some take lives. When basic infrastructure is grossly inadequate, when the vehicles multiply day-by-day and when regulation is a more tokenism, there is/will be a lot of confusion, a lot of waste of time and energy for many of us, the common people to be on the road to live. Public Transport System is weak and meagre. There are no incentives and/or facilities for eco friendly transport. More than 10% of the expenditure of the people is on the travel and transport. When producers and consumers are far apart, there is also high expenditure in goods transport. At least 100 million people have their living in 'transport' sector, although many of them have are with high risk and low pay. It is in this context, the eighth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "transport".

**\* Editorial August 2009**

#### **Night Shift Livelihoods**

Livelihoods are a means to living. Any time of the day. Our heart beats 24x7. Livelihoods go on 24x7. While the early livelihoods were dependent on the nature and ecosystems then, now we seem to have transcended limitations of sun light. Livelihood activities go on all the time from earlier situation of a few 'dark' activities in the night. Substantial number of people are working in the night. Many of them work in offices and locations outside their homes. From single shift, we moved on to three shifts. Sometimes we have four shifts. We also have shift stretches lasting 24 hours. There are livelihoods supporting these shifts outside the general shifts. Near 3-shift industries. Near night shopping malls. Near ATMs. Near the BPOs and IT Offices servicing the world of the day in the night here. Near the hospitals. Near the hospitality centres. Near the entertainment locations. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "Night Shift Livelihoods".

**\* Editorial May 2018**

#### **Brick Kiln Industry**

Brick Kilns form significant part of the construction industry. There was no construction without bricks or its equivalents for ages. Bricks are substitutes of stones and mud walls. Soil is converted into brick, taking away the top soil. Brick production causes smoke and pollution. On the other hand, alternatives to bricks are emerging. Compressed blocks are coming. Cement bricks are coming. Bricks with waste are coming. Construction without bricks is also growing. Brick Kiln Industry also employs people. It has safety concern. It has environment concerns. Growth of the Brick Kiln Industry is largely linked to building construction industry. The need is almost 'evergreen'. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "Brick Kiln Industry".

**\* Editorial November 2017**

#### **Livelihoods in Elections**

Elections in India is now spread over 75 days with some preparation time for parties not less than a year. With Assembly Elections, Municipal Elections, Local Body Elections, Cooperative Elections, Trade Union Elections and so on so forth, the elections appear to be fairly spread out. General Elections involve – rallies and campaigns; visits to constituencies; manifestos; primaries (new idea); e-campaigns; TV and radio campaigns; debates and paid news and programmes; opinion polls; posters, banners, flexis and flags; advertisements; membership enrolments; door-to-door canvassing; kind and cash inducements to voters and their local leaders; canvassing for the tickets; social media campaigns; transport and travel; taxis; stay and food; feeding activists; food packets; voter enrolment; polling booths; security; representatives in the polling booths; polling officers; counting; victory rallies etc. The size of Indian General Elections is anywhere between Rs.5000 Crore – Rs.50000 Crore. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'livelihoods in elections'.

**\* Editorial March 2014**

#### **Infotainment-Livelihoods & Around**

Information, Communication and Entertainment are the next in hierarchy of needs of the human being when air, water, food, clothes and shelter needs are being met. While the forms and range of ICE has been changing and transforming over the ages, the basic need for ICE remains intact. When the man saw animal, he wanted to tell



others. He wanted to laugh and have pleasure. Thus, ICE has been an eternal part of the human being. With changing times, with evolution of changing information collection, processing and dissemination technologies, with memory to printing to digital forms, with drawing and painting to photography to digital and instant photography and video, with imitation to theatre, street plays to films, internet, you tubes, storage media in thousands of GB, supercomputing, lap tops with less than a kg, post, courier, telephone, mobile, blackberry to hand-held devices and satellite phones, literature, cultural forms, meetings, radio, FM radio, television channels, satellite antennae – the range is mind boggling and surprisingly accessible to large numbers. Yet the digital divide is growing. Most new businesses are around information, communication and entertainment. Most of the highest paid professionals in the world are from this sector. India's growth beyond '90s is in IT sector and mostly attributable to cheaper information processing. Literacy, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Business, Entrepreneurship and Governance are based on the accessibility and assimilation of ICE in the society. Interesting paradox for us in India to be in the forefront of ICE in the world yet have one-third of the poor in the world in the country!

ICE facilitates growth in literature, culture and may be civilization itself. It also manipulates if not reined in. It is a multi edged knife and one needs tact in using them. All our people, resources, livelihoods, ecology and environment etc., are influenced by ICE. **WE can not escape ICE.** ICE can drown us and alternatively it can save us. In relation to this, the livelihoods in ICE ('info'tainment) are growing at a very fast pace. It is estimated that a quarter of all jobs will be in ICE domains. Incidentally, they offer the hope of poverty-free India/World. It is in this context, the tenth sector, explored by 'livelihoods', is "infotainment".

**\* Editorial October 2009**

#### **Child Labour**

Any child out of school is a child labour. Even after 67 years after independence, India could not succeed in enrolling 100% children in the school going age into schools. Some of them are labour in harmful occupations and some others are in unhygienic occupations too. Some are enslaved. Some are living with migrant parents. Some are left back at home. Some are tending their younger siblings. Some are tending the livestock. Some are domestic help outside and some in their own homes. It is widespread across urban and rural areas; across communities; across religions etc. It is both kinds - paid and unpaid. The numbers are high - more than 5% households are considered having child labour, largest in any country in the world. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Child Labour'.

**\* Editorial November 2014**

#### **Gender**

Animal life is largely born male or female. Sex is natural. Gender is a social construct and manifestation. Largely, current gender status is skewed in favour of the men. Despite several safeguards, penal code, and rhetoric, gender discrimination exists and is 'nurtured'. Biologically, women are stronger; life expectancy is higher for them; women are endowed with more emotional intelligence; women are more beautiful inside and outside; women nurture life etc. Yet, more women are poor and women remain more vulnerable in our society. In a household, woman is poorer. Men may be more vulnerable in oldage. The wages remain unequal. Works are still reserved for men and women. There are still male bastions of work, particularly at high-end of the ladder. Reservations have worked a bit. More is required. Gender indicators are inching forward. We have just accepted to recognize Third Gender. We have just accepted to write mother's name and/or father's name. We are accepting not to change the maiden name of woman after marriage. Women are going forward. Self-help movement is led by women. The future is in the hands of women. We have not yet understood difference between gender equity and equality. The pendulum has been pulled. Will it stay/settle around gender equity balance' position? swung literature needs to be In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Gender'.

**\* Editorial June 2017**

#### **Urban Poor Livelihoods**

It is on record now - rural poor (%) are less than the urban poor (%). Further, the inequity is more pronounced in the urban area rather than in the rural area. Urban poor, a considerable part of them, are migrants from rural areas desperately looking for work. Typical discriminations of rural areas like caste, occupation, background etc., are not so pronounced in urban areas. The discriminations based on economic class, literacy, lifestyle etc., are visible. Gender discrimination persists. Social discrimination around faith is still a bother. Some localities within the urban area are positively discriminated. Slums suffer. Unrecognized slums suffer more. Urban poor suffer from facelessness and insignificance. Solidarity of the unorganized workforce is still nascent. Micro-finance boom is still to become significant in urban areas. SHGs are just coming up. YES, urban poor are at the forefront in knowing about the opportunities before them. It is in this context, 'livelihoods' has explored the livelihoods of the

urban poor. In the course of globalization, liberalization, privatization and marketization, in the course of increasing pace of life and life styles, there are a large number of livelihoods that are emerging and some others are changing their form and substance. Many of these livelihoods are and can become the livelihoods of the urban poor and the poor can migrate out of poverty, provided they learn metaskills. Many of these livelihoods are in the domain of services, with thousands of services. Some are craftsmen. Conservatively, they number more than 100 million in the country! They need to come together for their economic well-being, and they need to gear up for entering new livelihoods awaiting them.

**\* Editorial September 2008**

#### **Needs of the Poor**

What does the poor need? Poor needs all that a man needs. Every human being has physiological needs of survival (air, water, food, clothing, shelter/protection from vagaries of nature etc.), needs of safety and security (personal safety, financial security, health, insurance and safety net), social needs of love and belongingness (family, intimacy, friendship, networks, caring etc.), esteem needs of acceptance, respect and dignity (attention, recognition, status, education, competence, confidence, independence etc.), and realizing potential needs of self-actualization. These needs are in the domains of existence, relatedness and growth. Poor are no exception.

Transactions of poor are small. Their base of assets is small. Their incomes are small. Their expenditures are small. Their wages are low. They need to come together to pool up their small demands, their products and services so that they can negotiate and bargain with their counterparts. Their numbers count and that needs to be leveraged for their quanta. For this, they need institutions. They need federal institutions. They need multiple institutions. They need to have membership in multiple networks that count them, that respond to them and that help them.

Of course, they need air, fresh air. They need water, safe potable water, enough for their drinking and hygiene. They need food, nutritive food. They need health, access to reliable health facility. They need education so that they make choices, they earn incomes and they are counted. They need entertainment. They need to take charge of their governance and their destiny. They need infrastructure figured out based on their local context. They need cell phones. They need information and access to markets at their terms. They need capital, low cost capital. They need access to appropriate technology.

In essence, they need their right to live life in its totality, with freedom. Everything that ensures this is required. The moot question is do we have the collective leadership pursuing this agenda. Political will, financial outlays, leaders within and outside, support human resources and institutional architecture are the key ingredients of this agenda. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'needs of the poor'.

**\* Editorial May 2010**

#### **Meeting the Needs**

With increased knowledge! With deeper and more open analyses of their current reality! With increased appreciation that this access is real and possible! With increased skills to harness! With increased metaskills! With their organization and increased capacities of their organizations, leaders and human resources that work in/for them! With increased support – numbers, will and capacities - individuals, institutions, civil society and state! With more democracy, more units of democratic processes! With increased decentralization!

With increased availability of appropriate technology! With increased flow of information, transparency and accountability all around! With increased authentic information dissemination and sharing – books/e-books, audio/video, including communication channels! With increased relevant education! With increased own funds, and financial linkages! With people's banks – money, technology, information, resources! With increased platforms! With increased backward and forward linkages for their activities, products and services! With increased service providers! With capacity building! With increased consumer rupee in their hands! With increased multiple collectivization! With increased life, health and income risk covers, health facilities, safety nets, air, water and food security, employment guarantee!

With increased budgets and budgetary allocations! With increased efficiency, effectiveness and targeting! With increased partnerships! With increased leveraging! With increased action to conserve and augment natural resources! With reduced consumption (of all) to the level of survival needs! With increased earthiness! With increased proactive action on ecology and environment! With increased availability of all of us, our faculties and resources, to address the basic needs of the people at large! With maximised choices to maximum numbers! With increased assurance for the right to live life in its totality, with freedom for all! With collective leadership seized of this agenda can move in this direction. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'meeting the needs (of the poor)'.

**\* Editorial June 2010**

## **Continuums of Poor and Their Livelihoods**

Lives and livelihoods are never uniform and they are in a variety of continuums. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Continuums of Poor and their Livelihoods' as a special issue.

**\* Editorial September 2013**

### **Occupations Losing Ground**

More than half of India is dependent on Agriculture. Many groups of hand-made products, artisans, and services were servicing the farmer. Before the advent of centralized production systems, when the villages were self-reliant, most needs of the villages were met by the products and services in the cluster of villages, if not from the village itself. At that time, the producer/service provider used to realize most part of the consumer rupee. When the centralization methods and technologies came, the units of production were established away from the consumers. These need to be collected, stored, moved, transported, distributed and retailed. Every step has an element of cost and commission. As a consequence, realizations of the producers and service providers have even fallen below 50% of the consumer rupee. Gradually, the small producers and service providers found it difficult to compete with the centralized production units and technology. Their downfall has begun. Local diversity, the mile-to-mile diversity has yielded to uniformity and conformity. As we become enmeshed 'part' of the larger globe, the mass and uniform needs have surfaced and have supported the centralized production processes. At the same time, village social systems have been cracking up. Slowly, the small producers, artisans and service providers, despite their rich heritage, artistry and expertise, have to withdraw in view of this competition. Families with educated children have started distancing from their occupations. The families with no other alternative have not been getting remunerative incomes to eke out a decent living. Without recourse to other works, for a variety of reasons, and absence of nutrition, they have been getting old as early as their 40s. It is, in this context, 'livelihoods' has looked at these 'backward' occupations that are losing ground. Fortunately, we find potential in some clusters and in some trades and occupations, because they have the ability to adapt to the changing needs, and because the numbers are not too high. However we can not forget these are only a few.

**\* Editorial November 2008**

### **Migration**

Migration is an integral part of development process in history. Human race has been in migration from the age of hunter-gatherer, searching opportunities, accessing the opportunities so found, fulfilling the needs and desires. As human being moved from hunting to slash and burn agriculture to stable agriculture, from survival to prosperity and loss of value to survival-based occupations, to classifying people based on occupations, instead of communities, individuals, families and groups began migrating going after opportunities and in search of wealth and prosperity, For education, for jobs, for business, for luck, for treasure, for new recognition, and may be for salvation. All these are still 'pull' factors! With the same reasons, Britishers came and gradually became rulers and finally exited by transferring power back to us.

Started small initially, the push migrations of the poor have become huge, with no work or not finding work, with less number of work days, with lower wages, with going hungry with inability to buy and have food, with inability to meet the basic needs. They are migrating as individuals, individual families and groups, making the children to leave schools, leaving the elders to their fate. These are in large numbers – one out of ten in the country and include labour, market-less skilled artisans turned into labour, uncultivated landed small and marginal farmers, tribals, fishermen etc., with existence more difficult than hand-to-mouth despite forests and other resources. A good quarter of them migrate as they dislike traditional occupations and unnecessary egos. Some migrate permanently, some long-term, some short-term, some seasonally, some weekly and some daily. Migration has become necessary, inevitable, but with innumerable hardships. Nobody likes it but there is no other way. In this context, it is the second sector looked into by 'livelihoods'.

**\* Editorial February 2009**

### **Inclusion**

Inclusion is the theme of the XII Five-year Plan of India. Inclusive Growth is the Mantra of the Governments. Inclusion begins in the womb of the mother. The child is allowed to be born. The child and therefore the mother should have food, nutrition and health security. The child and the mother should have access to good obstetrics and gynaecology services. The child should have joyful early childhood education and meaningful and relevant school education in mother tongue. The education funnel processes need to be addressed. Counselling and options should be available as the students come to the end of school education. They need vocational education. Literacy, e-literacy and e-access, apart from surface access is a must. While organizing the poor, there is a need for social, financial and livelihoods inclusion. They need to have access to the new livelihoods.

Urban facilities need to be there in rural areas. We need to have scope for earning fair income if we do fair work. The income disparities need to be minimal. Thus, inclusion is the way for sustainable life and living. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on 'inclusion'.

**\* Editorial December 2012**

### **Convergence**

Each individual and family plans for their well-being based on their knowledge, skills, resources and access to their rights, entitlements, schemes, linkages and support they could draw. The convergence happens in the family or by the individual. The next tier of convergence is the village/Panchayat. The group, community. Gram Sabha or the Panchayat prioritises and chooses the families, activities, cadres, etc., and consolidates the demand at that level. Or they could ration the supply with prioritized demand. The next tiers of convergence are the block, district and state. The augmentation/rationing of supply and demand happens. Integrating multiple schemes available to a family, village, block etc., would ensure that the support is not ad hoc and piece-meal. The impact could be meaningful and significant. This would require knowing what is available on offer, figuring out the families that can access this, and making sure that the family gets all the 'supply' that the family demands as far as possible. This is an exercise in joint planning, sensitization, co-implementation and monitoring. For convergence, Community, Government, banks, civil society, and/or corporate social responsibility work together. Convergence appears to be the mandatory way for poverty reduction, livelihoods and development efforts, etc. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Convergence'.

**\* Editorial November 2015**

### **Microfinance**

Meeting the needs of the poor with a range of financial services either individually, in a group or a collective is the broad purpose of microfinance. It includes variedly savings, credit, insurance, remittance, equity, pension etc. While dealing with individuals is eminently plausible, microfinance, given the size of transactions, willy-nilly has been through some group of people in general and women in particular. Grameen groups, Joint Liability group, Self-help Groups, Common Interest Groups ... these are the modes of reaching out. Some take up a range of services. Some focus on an aspect. Some go beyond and take up collectivisation of purchases, processing/local value-addition and sales. Social intermediation and civic intermediation comes along. These groups may also federate at higher levels at village, block, district, state and may be national level and beyond. These services reach them through community institutions, support institutions, private companies, non-banking financial institutions etc. Some of them are borrower/member-owned and some are not.

While we see SHG movement as a way to reduce poverty, microfinance as a way forward for financial inclusion and inclusive development, microfinance plus services are emerging. The growth has been phenomenal. Some MFIs went ahead with public issues. There have been controversies of higher interest rates, duplicate funding, debt-traps, not-so-decent recovery practices, suicides etc. Government of AP has responded with an MFI Bill (later Act) to regulate this. RBI has set up Malegam Committee to study the situation and the report has been accepted. Government of India came forward with a national MFI Bill. We also see collectivisation of MFIs as MFIN.

Community financial institutions were together as Sa-dhan. Alternative institutions came together as INAFI India. In this context, 'livelihoods' has responded to bring a special edition on microfinance through the eyes of 49 students of rural development at NIRD. They have looked at the range of issues and items that broadly associated with microfinance, through discussions with people, with groups, with organisations and literature study. They have also participated in some workshops. Finally, they are presenting this special edition 'Microfinance'. Our role has been limited to broad editorial support and overseeing.

**\* Editorial July 2011**

### **Social Audit**

Apart from making the information available in the public domain, thanks to RTI, subjecting the information and the performance subject to public audit is gaining momentum. The Governments would like to tell what they have done. Local units would like to tell how they have done. Communities and their institutions would like to tell whether they are useful. Civil Society plays a part on all this. The 'audit' informs the Gram Sabhas and the Aam Janata. The program managements act on the observations. A good beginning in various flagship programs like MGNREGS. This is different from the accounts internal and statutory audit. It is different from the peer audit. It is different from the supervision, vigilance, investigation and fact-finding. It is different from evaluations and assessments. It is different from press reporting. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Social Audit'.

**\* Editorial June 2013**

### **Universal Basic Income**

Universal Basic Income idea is making rounds in the news for some time. Already we have pensions for some. We have MGNREGS. We have PDS. We have Anganwadis. We have interest subvention. We have funds in Panchayats and Rural Development. And so on. Can we give UBI to all families and can we nudge the rich to give up (as we did in LPG subsidy)? What is the decent amount? Can this be equal to meet basic survival needs – oxygen, water, food- calories, proteins and nutrition, and clothing? Can we safely assume that Government will ensure shelter to all; education to all; and health to all separately? At current rates, this may mean Rs.100/day per capita and 130 Crore would mean Rs.50 lakh Crore/year; if we say Rs.40/day, it comes to Rs.20 L Cr/year; if we give to half of us, it comes to Rs.10 L/Cr and still it is about 40% of Gol's annual budget. But we can do it, if we want. We can end many of the direct and indirect subsidies. But, free education and free health have to continue. People may welcome the idea. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored "Universal Basic Income".

**\* Editorial December 2017**

### **Aspirations of Common Person**

National Elections are round the corner. Common People have frustrations with the Government(s) and aspirations from the new Government(s), with major influences on their lives and livelihoods. Election Manifestos are expected to articulate efforts to minimize these frustrations and fulfil the reasonable aspirations. National Common Minimum Programme of the Government has to take them on board in some manner. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Aspirations of a Common Person' through interviews as a special issue.

**\* Editorial November 2013**

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

This December Millennium Development Goals gave way to Sustainable Development Goals (GLOBAL GOALS) at Paris to be achieved by 2030. These include No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equity, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry (Innovation and Infrastructure), Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life below Water, Life on Land, Peace and Justice (Strong Institutions) and Partnerships for the Goals. There are indicators for each of these goals and each country has to have plans towards achieving these goals. This is a BIG BIG BIG Commitment of the Humanity to Humanity. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Sustainable Development Goals'.

**\* Editorial December 2015**

### **Women & Livelihoods**

Women constitute half of the mankind. Their stamina is superior to the other half. Their mental and emotional maturity is higher. They have demonstrated that they do not lack in physical endurance and strength. They live longer. There are no sectors in which they have entered and not proved themselves. Their performance far outstrips the performance of the other half. Even if they have entered the skies and walked in the space, their feet are on ground firmly and display unusual humility. Their patience and tolerance is higher than that of the mother earth. Their ability to love, unusual sensitivity and hidden courage differentiate them from the other half. With superior physical, conceptual, and emotional competencies, women are surging ahead tapping the opportunities that come their way and chasing opportunities that elude them. In this context, 'livelihoods' has looked at the livelihoods of the women to realize that there are no livelihoods of the women in particular. Women have done well in all sectors. They are knocking the doors of all the livelihoods activities that are not open to them. The sounds of the knocks have become louder and knocks themselves have become fiercer.

When 90%+ women are in unorganized domain, Self-Employed Women's Association has made a huge difference to some of them (more than a million!) economically in Gujarat and the model is replicated in the country and outside. Their SEWA Bank is managed by women themselves. SEWA demonstrates that issues of the poor are addressed only when they come together and fight with solidarity. The smaller women's collective, a collective of about 1.5 lakh women, is seeking more political say, beyond the reservations, for the women in Tamil Nadu. A tribal illiterate but bold and wise Mukta's 15-year long fight against the corporate is an inspiration to many of us.

**\* Editorial October 2008**

### **SCs/STs/NTs**

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Nomadic Tribes, a close to a third of the population in the country are considered the original inhabitants of our land. Yet most of them are considered poor by any socio-economic reckoning. 70-75% of the total poor in India are SCs/STs/NTs. Targeted schemes and targeting within any scheme is therefore necessary. Poverty reduction in the country would remain a rhetoric unless we begin the effort with these communities first. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'SCs/STs/NTs'.

**\* Editorial September 2014**

## **Dalit Livelihoods**

Dalit means oppressed. In due course of time, Dalit has come to mean oppressed over generations, roughly translated as Scheduled Castes. Social Discrimination, that deprived them resources/capitals, opportunities and importantly spaces, has been the main instrument of oppression. Incidentally, oppression is not uniform. SCs, within themselves, have a spectrum of oppression. Post-independence, social discrimination has been 'banned' and space for the communities to 'catch up' has been provided in terms of reservations in political and government establishments. These catered to the needs of not even 5% of the needy dalits.

Six decades of independence elapsed and a lot of changes could be noticed in the landscape of the livelihoods of dalits. There are no livelihoods left that are practiced only by dalits. Earlier traditional livelihoods of dalits - bonded agriculture labour, wage agriculture labour, construction labour, masonry work, leather work, weaving, etc., have continued to be part of their portfolio. Some livelihoods that are not dignified are on their way out. Some others are not remunerative enough. Out migration is on the increase. Literacy and Education are providing new opportunities. Thus, new livelihoods have joined the portfolio. These include farming, dairying, artisanal livelihoods, professional livelihoods, jobs in the public-private sector including armed forces, businesses/trading, driving, modern skill-based services, education-based jobs and services, ICT-based jobs and services, entrepreneurship etc. In fact, there are no livelihoods activities that have not been entered into. Dr Ambedkar (14 April) drafted the Indian Constitution and Babu Jagjivanram, another member of the Constituent Assembly, was denied the Prime Ministership when the occasion arose.

Thus, the Dalits have demonstrated their capabilities and competencies, in every sphere of economic activity. However, it is an irony that vast majority of economic establishments that operate outside of governments are reluctant to take them in.

It is at this juncture, we are witnessing liberalization, privatization and globalization. The dalits have not securely established themselves in their new portfolio of livelihoods. India, as a country, has not figured out the products and services (therefore, livelihoods) in which its vast majority of people have competitive edge. This would mean, dalits like all others, have to move from learning fishing skills to meta-fishing skills double quick. It would, further, mean that they have to come together for their needs – purchases, risks, employment, value-addition processes, pooling, storing, and sales. They have to come together for their solidarity and learning. They have to also fight and seize leadership from non-oppressed in all their endeavours in general and their livelihoods and self-respect movements in particular.

A majority of SCs are poor and SCs are the largest strata within the poor. The efforts of civil society and government poverty reduction projects (like Velugu - Indirakranthi Patham), rightfully focused on them. SCs remained the special vote banks of the political parties. Welfare schemes have special focus on SCs. Yet, they have to go a long way in their pursuit of equal and equitable opportunities and resources. The dalit movements have focused on self-respect and/or categorization, galvanizing the lakhs of youth. Dalit literature is picking up. Dalit intelligentsia is growing. Dalit leadership is growing. Now, they need to focus on livelihoods agenda. They need to build economic leadership now.

**\* Editorial April 2008**

### **dis"Abled" Livelihoods**

Livelihoods are the same to all. All of us are able persons for the livelihoods. Every individual will have certain competencies and skills. Similarly, every activity requires certain competencies and skills. The key aspect is matching the both. If there is some deficit/shortfall in some of these competencies and skills, aids, tools, implements, skill enhancement and capacity building will be able to bridge the deficit. All of us have a right to live, therefore right to a decent livelihoods portfolio. We have the responsibility to ensure that everyone enjoys this right.

**\* Editorial January 2008**

### **Costal Livelihoods**

In this context, the 'livelihoods' peeped into the coastal livelihoods. India's coastline is longer than 8000 kilometers. The coast, even if we take modest 50 km inside as the strip for our consideration, accommodates more than 250 million people. If we keep aside the metros like Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the cities like Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Visakhapatnam etc, industrial areas, delta and other irrigated areas and lake areas, at least 20 million people will be living in between. These are eking out a marginalized existence amidst uncertainties and risks of a very high order. It is important to note that they have almost all the livelihoods of India with them. Yet they are hand-to-mouth marginal livelihoods. The fishermen, salt farmers, farmers farming the saline and not-so-saline lands, labour, migrants, fish sellers, sea-product collectors and sellers, people with livelihoods intrinsically linked to coastal eco-systems etc., are all part of these coastal people in the margins. When one goes into the sea for three days hunting fish, without knowing the likely catch and without knowing



whether we return safely or not till the last minute – it is a day-to-day adventure! We cannot understand the extent of adventure unless we do this at least once!

Therefore, I guess, they are a special community amongst the coastal people. Men fish and women sell fish. Some salt, some plantations and some wages add to their portfolio of livelihoods. In essence, they are an average poor. Inadequate income to meet basic needs despite multiple livelihoods! Expenditure for the 'adventure' and 'recuperation' has certain processes and traditions. Altogether a lot of expenses!

**\* Editorial May 2008**

#### **Nomadic Livelihoods**

While some people are suffering from power cuts in their houses, many others, without houses of their own, have become nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and communities. As the time elapsed, many of them stopped displaying the character of a nomadic. At the same time, many non-nomads, have started to migrate in search of business, employment and livelihoods opportunities. These are 'nomads' with opportunities. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored the livelihoods of the traditional nomads. In the course of globalization, liberalization, privatization and marketization, in the course of increasing pace of life and life styles, there are a large number of livelihoods that are disappearing and losing relevance. Many of these declining livelihoods are the traditional livelihoods of these nomads. Many of these livelihoods, like the tribal livelihoods, are intimately linked to the nature, forests and common lands and waters. Some are around livestock. Some are artisans and craftsmen. Some are service providers. Some are dependent (asrita) livelihoods. While a few could get recognition as Scheduled Tribe, most others are reckoned as Backward Communities. They number more than 100 million in the country! They need to come together for their solidarity, show of strength and gaining attention and recognition they richly deserve, like other marginalized and vulnerable communities and groups. They need to strengthen their livelihoods that remained and they need to find new livelihoods in which they can enter in huge numbers.

New 'nomad's, most of the development workers, business managers and other nomads with opportunities, need a separate understanding and appreciation. Let us reserve it for some other time.

**\* Editorial August 2008**

#### **Ageing Young India**

Being old is a blessing. We invest our first 40-45 years towards becoming old and being there. This is the stage in between Grihastha Ashram and Vanaprastha Ashram. This is a stage in which one has accumulated wisdom and one evolves a plan to live a meaningful life. One slows down a bit from the hurry burry of the earlier days and relaxes. One connects with kids, connects with people. One works towards one's supreme purpose. Life expectancy has increased, the period of working has increased. If only we can make some little changes in the way we work, if only we have some tools, some skills and some give and take we will be able to make this long period of being old into a beautiful phase of life.

**\* Editorial March 2008**

#### **"Minority" Livelihoods**

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

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

certain clusters. In the indices of quality of life, many minority groups are lagging behind the visà-vis the majority's. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored the livelihoods of the minorities.

**\* Editorial December 2008**

#### **'Dropouts' Livelihoods**

We are living in a funny milieu. If 100 children are born now, only 80-90 are entering the schools. A third of them drop out by the time they reach Class 10. A third of them drop out in Class 10. Only 30% continue in education funnel. A mere 10% may reach graduation. But, all of them are 'educated' and look for jobs and self-employment outside of the traditional occupations of their parents. They are not happy to be farmers, weavers, potters etc. Their parents want them nowhere near them. But, they are not educated enough to get into Government Jobs or so called white collar jobs. Many of them migrate to urban centres in search of employment and end up in not-so-remunerative and sometimes, not so decent, livelihoods. What can we do them? The numbers are huge – some 1 crore of them every year. We need to 'employ' at least half of them.

Some can get jobs in growth sectors if skilled. Some can be self-employed with skills, loan and nurturing. Some can take up jobs in the collectives of the people. Some can start enterprises that take some of them as employees or partners. All this can happen only if there is a clear projection of growth trajectories. Demand-supply situation of the skills is assessed futuristically. There is a need to have systems/mechanisms to prevent the drop outs in the first place; and if not counsel them for appropriate options that suit them; skilling with care including soft and life skills; stipends in training; placement and post-placement support etc. A national database and tracking is required. In this context, 'livelihoods' has focused on the livelihoods of the youth ejected/opted out of the education funnel early.

**\* Editorial November 2011**

# **I. Education and Employment**

# 1. Residential Schools

*There are various types of residential schools, such as Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Model Schools, Air-Force schools, State Government Residential Schools, Ekalavya Model Residential Schools, Polytechnic Residential Colleges, Residential Junior Colleges, Residential Degree Colleges, Professional Residential Colleges and SC, ST Social Welfare Hostels in the country. Nearly 2000 to 3000 residential schools are there in India. Residential schools play a remarkable role in nurturing the students, particularly those belonging to poor families and downtrodden sections of the society.*



**EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN  
MUKUTMANIPUR  
BLOCK :- KHATRA, BANKURA**

The need for residential schools has been gradually increasing in the last five decades. There have been changes in our lifestyle, as joint families are decreasing and both wife and husband have to be involved in livelihood activities. They have to go to distant places for livelihoods. They are unable to spend sufficient time on their children's education and their upbringing. Children's education has become the most prioritized subject in the family. A competitive environment has compelled the parents to seek good education for their children. Parents want the best possible career for their children. They are prepared to spend more money than ever before on their children's education. These situations have forced many parents to send their children to

residential schools. The system of residential schools is not new to our country. It resembles the old pattern of 'Gurukulas' of Vedic period. In ancient times, students (Shishyas) used to go to teachers' (Guru) homes for learning. A teacher's home was called a 'Gurukulam'. If a Guru accepted to teach a student, that student had to stay in the Guru's home. The student had to stay away from his family and as a part of the learning process, had to help in all works in the Guru's home. The Guru used to teach everything, which a student wanted to learn, from Sanskrit to Holy Scriptures and Mathematics to Metaphysics. A student had to stay at the Guru's home, until the Guru felt that he taught all the things he could to the student. After completion, the student used to give money or other things to the Guru as 'Gurudakshina'. It is an act of acknowledgement, respect and thanks to the Guru for providing education. The Gurukulam education was mostly restricted to higher caste people. Residential schools were established in 1971, to facilitate the flourishing of the fullest potential of students, by providing facilities i.e., better infrastructure such as classrooms which were well-equipped, highly-qualified teachers, quality food, accommodation, cultural events, games, library, e-connectivity, involving in team management, good practices and learning environment. In residential schools, the students improved their knowledge, learned discipline, values, leadership skills and creativity. The teachers are with students 24 X 7 to mentor students to grow up with values and full potentiality. Teachers perform two roles, both as teachers and parents in residential schools.

Elementary Education in India: Trends									
School Indicators	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number of Districts Covered	604	609	624	633	635	637	644	662	662

Total Schools	1124033	1196663	1250775	1285576	1303812	1362324	1412178	1431702	1448712
% Government Schools -		80.8	80.2	80.5	80.4	78.2	76.4	75.9	75.5
% Private Schools -		18.9	19.5	19.4	19.5	19.4	21.2	21.5	22.1
Ratio of P to U.P Sch./Sec.	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2
% Single Tch. Schools with Enr.	11.2	10.5	9	8.4	8.1	7.7	7.2	8.7	7.2
% Schools with Enrolment	24.3	25	25.2	26.7	27.1	27.8	28.4	29.2	31.3
% Schools with Female Teachers	69.1	71.7	72.9	73.7	74.5	75.1	75.6	76.5	79.4

Source: <http://dise.in/TrendsElementaryEducation.htm>

Gurukulams were strictly restricted to higher caste and rich people. The downtrodden people were unable to access education in Gurukulams. Education was imparted to people on the basis of caste, to perform their duties as members of a specific caste. The Bhramins used to learn scriptures and religion, Kshatriyas used to learn various aspects of warfare and Vaishyas learned commerce. Shudras were denied education. Gurukulams were established away from cities or populated areas, called Ashramas. In Gurukulams, students had to follow strict monastic guidelines of the gurus. Gradually, the population increased. In the Gupta Empire, establishing educational institutions in urban areas became common. Nalanda and Taxila, the Buddhist education institutions became very popular across the country. These institutions were established in urban areas. Students from China and Central Asia used to come to these institutions for education. Later, the educational institutions were influenced by Mughal Empire. Particularly in Akbar's regime, the education system was developed with an inclusive approach.

In the colonial era, the Indian education system was influenced on a large scale. Almost all of our present education system was designed in the colonial era. During the colonial era, the Gurukulam system began to decline and the modern residential school system came in to emergence in the educational arena. The modern education system, including the English language was introduced in India by Thomas Babington Macaulay in the 1830s. The modern curriculum was introduced including subjects such as science, mathematics, philosophy and meta-physics. The modern education brought many changes in the education system. Education was mostly confined to classrooms, it was delinked from nature and the close relation between students and teachers was broken. In the national movement, leaders recognized the importance of education to all, without any caste and class exceptions. They established educational institutions as part of the national movement. These institutions were different from ancient Gurukulams. They provided education to all people. After independence, the Indian Constitution clearly stated that government have to provide free and compulsory education to all the children between the age group of 6 to 14. The Indian government also recognized the need and importance of education in modern times. Education is the foundation for any kind of social and economical development in the society. From 1951 to 2005, the Indian government increased its budget on education from 0.64% to 3.49% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Actually, it is far from the required stated-amount of 10% of GDP for universal quality education. In our country, a large part of the education is managed by the government, private educational institutions, different religious institutions and non-governmental organizations. They are playing an important role in providing education to the children. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2013, 23 crore students have enrolled in class I to XII in 13 lakh accredited schools in the country.

Residential schools are very important for people, particularly to those who belong to the poor & oppressed sections of the society. These people were deprived from educational opportunities for centuries. A lot of attention needs to be given on these people's educational requirements and special strategies have to be designed to provide quality education. Tapping the untapped talent of the tribal and rural students is one of the important tasks of the government. Modern residential schools in India have a long history. In 1884 amendments to Indian Act 1876 were adopted to establish residential schools in the country. The 1923 amendments to Indian Act, made it mandatory for every child between the age group of 7 to 16 years to attend residential schools. At

that time, residential schools were funded and managed by provincial governments and religious institutions. Presently, different types of residential schools are being managed by the central government, state governments and other institutions across the country. Central government established the Navodaya Vidyalayas (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas) in each district in the country to provide education to students in rural areas. These schools are fully funded by the Government of India. The National Policy on Education (NPE) -1986 was formulated to establish residential schools and to develop rural talented students by providing quality education. Navodaya Vidyalayas conduct an entrance test for admission in the residential schools. About 75% of the seats are reserved for the rural areas' students and seats are also reserved for SC and ST communities in the schools. The first Navodaya Vidyalaya was started in 1985. Presently, there are 598 Navodaya Vidyalayas in all 576 districts in the country including extra 12 Navodaya Vidyalayas in Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) concentrated districts. Each Vidyalaya has full-fledged facilities including classrooms, dormitories, library, labs, play ground etc. The State governments have to provide 30 acres of suitable land, free of cost to establish one Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme was launched by the Government of India in August 2004, to provide residential education to primary level girls of ST, SC and Other Backward Castes (OBC) and minority communities in backward areas. Initially, the first two years of this scheme was managed by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Mahila Samakhya (Women Federation). Later, in April 2007, this scheme was merged in SSA as a separate component. Presently, there are 3000 KGBVs spread across backward areas and difficult areas in the country. Out of the 3000 KGBVs, 598 schools were established in 84 ST special focus districts. Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) were established in states and Union Territories (UTs) under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India. This scheme aimed to provide middle and higher level quality education to ST students in remote areas. The EMRS are affiliated to State or Center Boards of Secondary Education and state governments and UT governments are responsible in running EMRS. The state and UT governments permitted established societies to run EMRS. These societies take donations, grants and contributions from individuals and institutions for infrastructure, facilities and resources development in EMRS. The Government of India has established 72 EMRS in tribal areas across the country. It gives Rs. 250 Lakh to each EMRS for school building, hostel, teachers' quarters, library, laboratories and associated infrastructure and Rs. 30 Lakh per year for management to the state governments. Remaining amount has to be adjusted by the state governments.

Central government has established Ashram Residential Schools (Ashram Patasalas) for tribal students. This scheme was started in 1990 in tribal sub-plan for states and UT administrations. It covers primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary level of education. In this scheme, central government provides 100% fund to girls' residential schools, 50%:50% fund to boys' residential schools by central and state governments and central universities manage the residential schools with 90% fund assistance by the central government and 10% central universities' contribution. In the same pattern, central government runs residential vocational training institutes for tribal girls and boys. Central government initiated to establish state managed residential educational institutions across the country to develop the talented students of rural areas. The financial support is provided by both central and state governments for the residential educational institutions. In this process in 1971, the first residential education institution, Survail Residential School in Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh state (Present Telangana state), was established in the country by the united Andhra Pradesh state government. AP Residential Educational Institutions Society (APREIS) was established in 1972 to run the residential schools. Presently, APREIS is managing 123 residential schools, 13 junior residential colleges and one degree residential college in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state. The Government of India planned to establish 6000 Model Schools in each block / mandal across the country. About 3500 model schools will be established in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in all states and UTs by the government. Remaining 2500 model schools will be established in relatively developed areas under the Public- Private- Partnership (PPP) mode. The schools were established with the following objectives:

- To provide quality education to secondary school level students at every block / mandal
- To implement innovative curriculum and pedagogy
- To be the model in infrastructure, evaluation and school governance

Along with the residential schools, junior residential colleges and degree residential colleges are in the country to provide quality education to talented students of poor families. Central government and state governments are running, junior and degree residential colleges in the states. In some places in the country, the government is running Kendriya Vidyalaya residential colleges. Governments are running residential polytechnic colleges and other residential professional colleges, including medicine and engineering residential colleges in the states. Many private schools and colleges are running residential schools across the country. Even corporate companies are investing money in the education sector and running residential schools and colleges. In private residential

schools and colleges, there is a lot of variation in the fee structure, facilities and teaching methods. Corporate schools came into existence and they have many branches across the states. Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) and different religious institutions are running residential schools for the poor students across the country. Particularly, religious institutions are running a number of residential schools across the country. In these schools, along with education, students have to learn cultural components, traditions and religious practices. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana governments' residential societies are running 73 residential schools, 26 minority residential schools and three regional excellence residential schools or Gurukulams (Tadikond-Guntur district, Kodigenahalli-Ananthapur district and Sarvail-Nalgonada district). Every year, residential societies conduct an entrance test and a lottery system for joining in residential schools for class V to class X. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana residential schools are unique in practicing excellent educational methods. Four languages such as Telugu, English, Hindi and Sanskrit are taught in the residential schools. Students, teachers and staff speak English for four days a week and for two days in Hindi. Debates, manuscript magazines, conversation circles, quiz programs; different types of language competitions and essay writing competitions are conducted in four languages.

In residential schools, teachers supervise the students twice in a day from 2.15 to 3.45 and 7.30 to 9.30 pm. In those hours, teachers give assignments and conduct study hours under their guidance. Separate classes are conducted for slow learners and gifted children and special assignments given to the slow learners. Remedial teaching classes will be conducted daily from 3.45 to 4.30 pm. Regular physical education, including all games will be conducted daily to develop the physique of the students. All students will be trained in Yoga. For each 40 student batch, one house will be allotted and appointed house master to look into the needs and welfare of the students. For administrative purposes 40 students batch will be divided into four batches with 10 students and a group leader. The class pupils' leader and school pupils' leader will conduct assemblies and functions etc. Students will be involved in all activities. The residential institutions provide free boarding and dormitory facilities to the students and also it is compulsory for all students to stay in residential schools. There is no day scholars system in the residential institutions. The principal of the institution shall be the warden of the hostel. One of the teachers has to perform deputy warden duties on rotation basis along with the normal duties. Residential institutions provide two times food, milk, tea-snacks and breakfast in a day as follows:

- *Morning – Milk*
- *9.15 am - Breakfast such as Idly, Kichidi, Pulihora etc.*
- *1.25 pm - Lunch consisting Rice, Curry, Dal, Rasam and Butter Milk*
- *4.30 pm - Tea*
- *6.15 pm - Dinner with Rice, Curry, Chutney, Sambar and Butter Milk*

Each residential institution has one small hospital with four beds. One staff nurse is appointed to provide medical services to minor ailments of the students. Budget allocates the purchase of the medicine prescribed by the Medical Officer of the nearby Primary Health Center (PHC), who has to visit twice in a week to address the health problems of the students and issue necessary instructions to the Staff nurse. Residential Schools' Societies publish advertisements for entrance test to enroll into class V. The aspirants have to have minimum requirements which are as follows...

- The candidates must belong to the age group between 9 -12 years and for ST & SC students 9- 14 years
- The candidates have to be studying in class IV in a government school or government recognized school at the time of the notification
- The annual income of the parents of the candidates should not exceed Rs. 60,000 (This condition does not apply to the children of Army personnel')
- The candidates have to submit the filled application, including required attested Xerox certificates within the time period

Residential schools have played a vital role in providing quality education to poor students, particularly ST & SC community students. These communities were restricted from educational opportunities for centuries in the name of caste system in the country. Because of social restrictions, cultural background, environment and financial constraints, children of ST & SC communities are unable to access quality education, when compared to children of forward communities. Residential schools played a remarkable role in providing quality education to the ST & SC communities' children. Special residential schools were established for only these communities. Children from these communities accessed quality education in the residential schools, without any social, cultural and financial constraints. Lakhs of students got education and reached higher positions in many sectors. In the same way, the government has established Kasturba Gandhi residential schools for girls to improve the status of girls' education in the country. For the last three decades, privatization has been happening in an uninterrupted way. Privatization became a major phenomenon in all aspects of economy in the country. Privatization of education is continuing

from pre-primary schools to higher classes. Education has become a business to sell to those who can purchase. Many business people are looking for education as a profitable enterprise. Corporate companies have also entered into the education business and are opening branches across states. Many private schools' managements are going to run residential schools to earn more profits in the education business. People are spending an average of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 Lakh per student in private residential schools for education. Downtrodden communities' children and other poor children are unable to access education in these private residential schools.

Education is the fundamental right of every citizen in the country. Our Constitution has guaranteed quality and compulsory education to all children without caste and class obligation. But the governments are showing less commitment in providing quality education to all children free of cost. Before independence, our leaders promised to allot a budget of 10% of GDP for education. Even today, our education budget did not cross 3% of GDP. Privatization of education has also become a threat to universal education. Central and state governments have to increase the budget on education. More residential schools are required. Governments have to establish a minimum of three to four residential schools in each mandal/ block and should improve the facilities in existing residential schools across the country.

**\* livelihoods June 2015**



## 2. Education!

***“Development as freedom and literacy is the high road to freedom” - Amartya Sen. India is home to 17 million child labour, only about 20 percent of graduates are employable in the market, and in a country with huge occupational diversity, there are only about 150 or so skill-based trainings. These statistics are not encouraging. Is literacy, as it exists in today’s India, has truly laid the path to freedom? Is our education ‘machine’ contributing towards improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people at large?***



Literacy is important for any human being to transact with the world. This would include 3Rs - Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) expands this further as the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning, to enable an individual to achieve his or her goals, to develop his or her knowledge and potential, and to practice fully in the wider society. In this context, fortunately many a country, has taken universal literacy seriously and achieved it as quickly as possible, whereas India has taken more than 40 years after Independence, to pick up some respectable speed. Even, after two more

decades, we have to go a long way, in our pursuit of total literacy.

We are slightly better on enrollment of children in schools, boasting of a 90%+ enrolment ratio. Yet, child labour (defined children out of schools) is still prevalent at large in our country, both in rural and urban settings. The biggest casualty has been, the lack of quality education for most. One of our experiences of recruiting a large number of cutting edge professionals in tens of thousands has been revealing about the quality of education - the test was simple. It included, just writing about self in a few words, reading a small paragraph and responding to straight questions from within, a simple problem involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and a translation of two small sentences into English. As you guessed, the results were painful. More than 90% candidates got less than 10% marks. You should know that most of them were postgraduates, mostly first class. While a vast majority continues to have low quality education, India has also produced thousands of world class professionals.

Thus, education system in India is a system of deliberate paradoxes. High enrollment, followed by drop outs and child labour, positive discrimination of fast learners and discrimination against others are on.

Country	Literacy Rate
Republic of Korea	99 %
Philippines	92.6 %
Thailand	92.6%
Singapore	92.5 %
China	90.9 %
Sri Lanka	90.7%
Indonesia	90.4 %
Vietnam	90.3 %
Myanmar	89.9 %
Malaysia	88.7 %
Cambodia	73.6%
Laos	68.7 %
India	61.0 %
Pakistan	49.9 %
Nepal	48.6 %
Bangladesh	47.5 %
Bhutan	47%

According to industry body ASSOCHAM, 450,000 Indian students spend over \$13 billion every year on higher education abroad. Over 150,000 students go overseas for university education every year which costs India a foreign exchange outflow of \$10 billion.

While, it may make sense for some getting into the echelons of higher education, all others should have access and benefit of a pre-defined standard of universal mandatory free education, at least for 10-12 years, i.e. till they attain majority (18 years). This 'literacy' will ensure better life, better citizenship, better livelihoods portfolio and 'freedom'. While, public education system appears to be busting, not able to cope

with 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. Regulation is weak to ensure minimum quality. Simultaneously, Central and State Governments have built residential schools for meritorious students catering to more than 250,000 - 500,000 outgoing students per year, catering to a mere 1-2% outgoing students per year. A student teacher ratio of 25+ is prevailing as against a standard of 12 -15. The schools and facilities are grossly inadequate.

Systems has failed in offering education for better life, it appears universal education is bypassed in 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. The school going children need competency assessment, counseling and exposure to various options available, including options to continue in existing traditional livelihoods and avenues for skills. With increasing globalization, liberalization and privatization, together with increasing pace of life, the education cannot ignore offering metaskills early on. We have to move in this direction.

Further, education' sector has turned out to be a largest employer in services, providing livelihoods directly within the sector to 10% families in India. The set of livelihoods include teachers, tutors, coaching centers, service providers, education entrepreneurs, nurseries, etc. its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is more than 10%. In spite of this, **quality education is still a distant dream.**

#### Education and Employment among Disabled

- About 8% of Indian population is disabled.
- Children with disability are four to five times less likely to be in school than SC/ST children.
- According to National Sample Survey 58th round, a third of children with mild disability are out of school despite the fact that they need no aid/appliance to be able to attend the school.
- Female literacy among the disabled is 64% and male literacy 43%.
- Disabled adults have far lower employment rates than the general population - this figure fell from 43% in 1991 to 38% in 2002.
- Private sector employment incentives for hiring disabled people are few. In 1990s employment of people with disability among large private firms was only 0.3% of their workforce. Among multinational companies it was only 0.05%.

Source - World Bank Report 'People with Disabilities in India: From Commitments to Outcomes'

Higher education has become extremely unaffordable. A young man from Khammam district, preferred to go for labour in NREGA, rather than go through IIT Education, although he got a rank within 100. As a silver lining, many institutes are offering concessional fee structures, bank loans etc. The moot question is that there is a cost to get into reputed higher education institutes in India and outside.

As the mindset of commercialization of education is a reality across including the parents, now the children, childhood has become shorter and lost to a large extent.

**\*Livelihoods June – 2008**

### 3. Livelihoods Education

***People /Human capital available for and involved in development work has seen a change. Earlier, 'social worker' was seen only as one with a self-sacrificing outlook to social change but today there is a realization that professional service at a fee ensures quality work. In relation to this development/ livelihoods education too has undergone many changes and covers a whole gamut of pedagogy from informal trainings, workshops and knowledge sharing to a rigorous academic course.***

People /Human capital available for and involved in development work has seen a change. Beginning from volunteering for no personal or material gain to offering professional services for a fee i.e. volunteers, paraprofessionals to development professionals. Earlier, 'social worker' was seen only as one with a self-sacrificing outlook to social change, but today there is a realization that professional service at a fee ensures quality work. In relation to this development, education too has undergone many changes and covers a whole gamut of pedagogy from informal trainings, workshops and knowledge sharing to a rigorous academic course.

Social work was seen more as a virtue previously. Philanthropy and individual acts of social service have, historically, been the main forms of voluntary activity. Social work included wide variety of activities comprising of sharing knowledge and skill, contributing labour for no fee, nursing old and diseased, providing food and shelter to poor students, old and deserted. It also included putting up infrastructures like digging wells, travel houses, schools, orphanages and others. There were also collective activities driven by people's movements. The nature of work done was determined by, what the person intending to contribute possessed or felt would be apt. What was considered important was the interest or passion to be involved in such activities, without expecting any kind of monetary gains. There was no comprehensive plan or strategy to it. Therefore, need for focused training to get involved in such activities, was not important.

India has a rich tradition of voluntary action and a very vibrant civil society. Voluntary action in India has been shaped by two major influences: first indigenous tradition and value system rooted in religion that prescribes a code of ethics to individual and also principles governing social life and the other a product of interface between the Indian society and the western world. A noteworthy feature of all major religions has been the emphasis they place on charity and sharing wealth with others, especially the poor. In Hinduism serving the poor is considered equivalent to serving God.

Institutionalized social service activities existed largely within the domain of religious institutions: Ashramas and Mathas among Hindus, Waqfs and Khanqahs among Muslims and Gurudwaras and Deras among Sikhs. Throughout the ancient and medieval periods, voluntary activity – whether individual inspired or state supported – found its natural expression through religious institutions. The concept of secular voluntary activity accelerated with the advent of western, mainly British, influence in India. The work of Christian missionaries in the field of

Emergence of development studies as an academic discipline began in the west due to increased concern about economic prospects for the third world countries following colonial rule. The focus was more on improving economic conditions but soon it was realized that economics alone could not fully address issues such as political and cultural inequalities. Development studies arose as a result of this, initially aiming to integrate these aspects.

education and health care, especially in remote tribal areas, stood out as examples of dedicated service to the poor. This inspired formation of organizations like the Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj and the Ramakrishna Mission. The spirit of volunteerism reached its peak during independence struggle, when people voluntarily gave away the wealth and came in huge numbers to join the movement. Such people were revered for the sacrifices made. Before Independence, Voluntary Organizations (VO) imbued with Gandhian philosophy played significant role mainly in social welfare activities.

NGOs now play a key role because of two reasons: non-delivery by government and the rapid disintegration of social support structures. Some of the reasons put forward for increase in the number and activities of VO is the decline of socialism and an increased national and international funding for voluntary sector. In a number of developmental activities, these VO are working as supplements or complements the government efforts. The transformation of voluntary sector into greater professionalism has been termed as a change 'from volunteerism to professional voluntarism'. The change occurred during the 1970s and 1980s due to two main reasons: geographical expansion in the coverage area of a number of NGOs, and the origin of a more



specialized technical type of intervention. One of the first specialized NGOs established during this time was the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), to rehabilitate Tibetan refugees. Many NGOs; such as ASSEFA, AWARE, Seva Mandir and Gram Vikas have not only started their activities, but also began to expand their work to multiple districts and states. New NGOs came to be established by people with higher educational and professional backgrounds, who wished to explore alternatives in social action.

Many support NGOs with technical specialization, such as Action for Food Production (AFPRO) for water resources and animal husbandry, Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF) for cattle/ rural development, Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) for primary health, PRADAN for providing technical and management assistance to voluntary agencies, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) for training and research etc., came up. Globally, the development sector has grown to become a valid third sector. Today, awareness and consciousness about human development issues concerning the country is gaining increasing significance. More so, with the increasing 'professionalization' of this sector, there is unprecedented level of interest from professionals from the mainstream corporate sector to come in, join and contribute. Since the scope of this role is constantly broadening, there is an increase in the number of organizations and the demand for professionals. Like any other sector, development sector offers a range of employment opportunities in the field of development support, strategic planning, communications, marketing, production, teaching, fundraising, finance, HR, research, administration and IT departments. The development sector today gives opportunities to not only those who contribute towards the betterment of society but also allows aspirants to explore, various career prospects and who believe in making a difference. Like any other sector, development work, too, involves qualities that help people move ahead, including the drive to excel. The only difference is that in this sector your goal to excel impacts a much larger audience and is more meaningful, for example, removing poverty and injustice.

It is now widely accepted that along with a good intent, one also needs skills that are necessary to work effectively in the development sector. Since, the focus of an NGO is development work, there is requirement of people with qualifications and experience in social sciences — political science, history, anthropology, sociology, social work, and so on. The qualification also depends on the project assigned to him/her. For example, a person working on a social work project needs to have a Masters in Social Work (MSW) as a mandatory qualification but on the other hand, the person being hired for a marketing project needs to have a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree. There is also a demand for technical qualifications in environment, medicine and other areas, depending on the objective of the NGO. Beyond skills and expertise, what is especially important is identification with the values that the organization believes in. In response to this need, Education and Skill Development (ESD) of people wanting to work in development has gained priority. Learning here happens in informal spaces and non-academic organizations like CBOs and NGOs as well as in recognized academic institutions. Both sites are distinct, in what they offer and both are unique in their contributions. Most of the people undergoing training or skill development in non-academic learning spaces are adult illiterate, semiliterate and literate with basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Most of these courses are designed in the form of training programs, workshops, exposure visits or fellowship programs.

Even the government departments involved in development activities like Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) have adopted a scheme to induct young professionals. The focus of education, here is very customized and specific to the activities and issues one is currently involved in. Such trainings have been successful in developing a number of para professionals like paralegals, barefoot engineers, health care professionals to name a few. Many academic institutes have come up, which provide specialized training to young professionals who wish to join the voluntary sector. Emergence of development studies, as an academic discipline began in the west, due to increased concern about economic prospects for the third world countries following colonial rule. The focus was more on improving economic conditions, but soon it was realized that economics alone could not fully address issues such as political and cultural inequalities. Development studies arose as a result of this, initially aiming to integrate these aspects. Since, then it has become an increasingly inter- and multidisciplinary subject, encompassing a variety of discipline in social sciences. There are many institutions regional, national and at international levels which offer courses from basic under graduation course to post graduation and doctorate. In India, almost all major universities are offering two year Post Graduation programs in social work such as Masters in Social Work (MSW), MA (Social Work), MA (Rural development) etc. At the graduation level also, there are courses such as BSW, BA (Social work) etc., that are offered by many universities across the country. These courses also offer specializations that build perspective, theoretical knowledge and exposure to issues, concerns and strategies unique to that subject. Apart from these, there are many short term courses that offer space for dedicated learning, for working professionals and students. As development is an inter disciplinary issue, many professional courses like law and medicine offer specialized optional subjects, that prepare these professional to work in the unique contexts and challenges that development sector offers them.

Management of development projects is considered as different, from the regular management practices and therefore certain universities have come up to offer specialized courses related to the management of NGOs. For example; IRMA came up at Anand and along with some schools of social work established earlier, such as TISS Bombay and the Xavier Institute of Social Service, (XISS) Ranchi, it provided a steady supply of young professionals to the voluntary sector. These courses offer combination of both class room segments and field work segments. Institutions like IRMA offer specialized courses, both long term and short term, on development management. It offers two years Post-Graduation program in rural management, which is considered as the best course, so far in the sector. The participants of this programme are highly valued in local, national and

international co-operatives, NGOs, development organizations, and funding agencies. The institute has recently started a fellow program in rural management, which is a doctoral program that has duration of three to six years. It is meant for students and professionals seeking careers in Research, Teaching and specialized knowledge-based positions in Rural Management Institutions.

Another institution that nurtures top class professionals for development sector is TISS. The institute offers a BA (honours) in social work program with specialization in Rural Development. Further, it offers MA in Social work, M.Phil and Ph.d programs. The XISS which is located at Ranchi also offers PG program in rural development which is also highly valued across the sector. Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) offers Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) (Development Studies), which is a two year full time program. Along with post graduation and graduation courses in general rural management subjects, some institutes offer specialized courses on specific subjects related to the development/ livelihoods sector. For example, Institute of Rural Management, Anand offers a diploma program in dairy management. TISS offers Masters Programs in many such specializations such as women studies, disaster management, disability studies and action, social entrepreneurship etc. Enoma, a Mumbai based organization, offers certificate courses in social work and counseling. This institute is recognized well for its online counseling courses. Further to this, some NGOs promoted certain institutions that offer short term and long term courses related to development/ livelihoods sector. BASIX, a Non-Banking Financial Corporation (NBFC), runs a livelihoods school that offers long term courses, such as Program in Livelihood Promotion (PLP), which aims at building a perspective and skill relevant to livelihood promotion. The school also offers customized programs for the people who are already working in different NGOs. Similarly, Akshara Network for Development Support Services (ANDSS) has also promoted a school called Akshara Gurukulam, which offers livelihoods education not only for the aspirants, who want to join the sector, but also to the employees of different NGOs, who want to have a livelihoods orientation.

There are certain specialized institutes that offer specific livelihoods related courses, such as diploma in leather technology, dairy technology, food processing technology etc., that are training people who can serve the rural poor in a more professional manner. The response to these various development/ livelihoods programs and also the increasing need for professionals in the sector is facilitating many other organizations and educational institutions to launch programs on diverse rural development issues. The programs, with their practical orientation, are expected to meet the need of the sector for committed and competent professionals as well as providing a strong career opportunity for the youth. Many universities are also offering courses related to development education in a distance mode. Annamalai, Bharathidasan and Madurai Kamaraj Universities (MKU) are offering Post Graduation courses in rural development management through distance mode.

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is offering a certificate course in NGO management, which has duration of 6 months in collaboration with UN AIDS. This course is open for 10+2 pass outs and the students can complete course over a span of two years. Further, IGNOU offers certificate courses in rural development and disaster management etc., Recently, it launched a one year diploma program in Watershed management keeping in view the need of NGOs for people with thorough knowledge on the issues related to watershed management.

The School of Agriculture of IGNOU offers a wide range of job based agriculture, related courses for the rural youth. Ranging from certificate courses to doctoral courses, the institute offers programs on varied subjects related to agriculture and extension, such as dairy technology, plantation management, food safety and quality management, fish products technology, meat technology, value added products from cereals, pulses and oil seeds, poultry farming, bee keeping, organic farming and etc., Keeping in view, the increasing need for professionals in livelihoods/ development sector, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has also started offering a one year PG Diploma in Rural Development Management through NIRD. The aim of this program is to develop a committed and competent cadre of rural development professionals in the country. Combined with both class room and field work segments, the course provides students with core development and management insights and imparts analytical skills for planning and managing rural development programs. The institute also launched a Post-Graduation Diploma Program (PGDP) in Sustainable Rural Development through distance mode along with the University of Hyderabad (UoH). The objective of this program is to prepare competent rural development professionals by offering them a strong perspective and technical capability for developing and managing rural development projects.

Due to its very nature of providing capable professionals to fast changing development sector, there is demand on the institutions offering these courses to keep pace with the changes. This is potentially problematic, as development is a topic that is difficult, wide-spread, and scattered. Most importantly, it's about people's fragile, constantly changing lives. This inherent difficulty, coupled with the fast moving pace of events in the development field and the study of dated material may leave people short on key skills and knowledge as they enter professional situations. Offering up-to-date case studies, broader canvas and deeper specialization simultaneously, and skills to handle micro to mega projects in line with the changing strategies is a big challenge to these courses in being relevant to current and future needs. Development education, therefore, should offer not only the skills required for the sector now but also the Meta skills that help a development professional to understand the changes that are happening around and mould her/him accordingly. Certain efforts are already initiated in this direction. But more than being an exception, this should become the norm.

**\*Livelihoods January-2011**



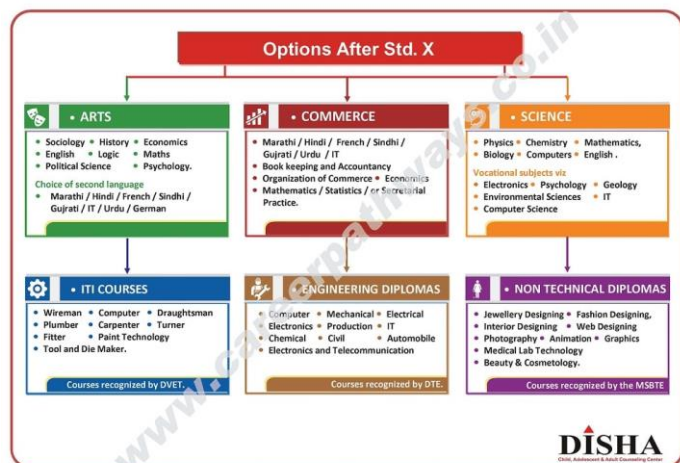
## 4. Career After School

*We see many students after completion of their 10<sup>th</sup> standard, are confused about deciding a right career path. As selection of right course after class X is not an easy task and for successful career, careful planning and following it up, with a workable plan is needed. For successful career planning, career exploration, knowledge about one's own self, decision making ability, future goals are some of the essential elements needed. As for deciding a potential career, one has to attend educational fairs, career guidance seminars, which would allow one to get in touch with several institutes and courses. The students need to have a persistent focus towards his or her goal and should seek the help of their teachers, parents and elders.*

Education and efficient teaching is key to promoting academic excellence, raising standards of living and reducing poverty. The role of teacher and his/her ability to motivate students are extremely important factors for improving, the quality of education substantially, and teachers have to show necessary initiative to make courses interesting and keep themselves appraised of latest developments in their disciplines. Today, our education system has raised many concerns, as there has been deterioration in quality, resource crunch, poor infrastructure, serious problems of governance caused by both quantitative expansion and workings of administration. Moreover, biggest challenge that we are facing is that of employability of our young capital, which is closely linked to quality of education and relevance of courses, that are being offered to meet the current needs of economy and our country. Given this scenario, many students are not able to capitalize on their full potential. Lack of sufficient knowledge and information on, what are the career options available after high school is leading to confusion. Thus, in this context, we need to understand as to why and how students fail, and what broad career options the failed students have, to capitalize on their inherent qualities and to excel in their respective fields and contribute to our economy. Students may fail or get less marks due to many factors, such as lack of awareness, lack of attention paid during exams time, or the student's mental approach towards studies in itself. Other factors include attendance in lectures, method of preparing for exam, tactics in exam taking and strategies, making good and helpful notes, direction of study, method of learning, concentration, memorizing, confidence, study related extra-curricular activities, etc., make the students pass or fail in exam.

What happens to students if they fail? Sometimes it leads to serious consequences, if untreated and can result in losing confidence, decreased effort, and discouragement, finally its impact is on students mental health and/ or they are likely to get engaged in bad habits as adolescents including smoking, drinking and drug abuse. Not only the above, as grade failure causes children to be in same class again, leading to them being older than their same-grade peers, it would eventually affect their self-esteem negatively; moreover, older school students are more likely to report smoking regularly among other high-risk behaviors. This calls for us to understand "why do students fail or get fewer marks in exam?"

As early as 1909, the ratio of children in developing world attending school had increased, whereas, earlier there used to be only a small minority of boys who attended the school; however, by the start of 21st century, majority of all children in most regions of the world are attending school. As we are well aware that universal primary education is one of the international Millennium Development Goals (MDG), towards, which the progress has been made in the past decade, but in spite of that barriers still remain. Polarization of education, has been



happening in the areas of accountability and achievement. In the area of accountability, we have moved our concern to grades; where the teachers are cheating in order to save their jobs and lost in all this is the student's accountability. On the achievement front, gap is real, polarization on howschool is to be run, where education system is focused on "command and control" and not on students' learning.

The society at large does not see social problems, as we keep witnessing attacks being made on school either for overreaching or for failure. Schools are failing to make children good citizens. The system is polarized on teaching and on assessment "measuring what counts" and not counting whatever we are able to measure.

Looking back at the history of education in our country, it dates back to teaching of traditional elements, primarily in the area of Indian religion, mathematics and logic were taught at early Hindu and Buddhist centers of learning i.e., Taxila and Nalanda, before the common era. As Islamic religion expanded, the Islamic education became ingrained with establishment of the Islamic empires in sub-continent in the Middle Ages, and coming of Europeans, later brought western education to colonial India and a series of measures continuing throughout, the early half of the 20th century, ultimately laid the foundation for education in India.

Though, early education in India commenced under the supervision of gurus and initially education was open to all and seen as one of the methods, to achieve "moksha" in those days or so called enlightenment; as time progressed, education system became caste based. The system was closely related only to religion. With the advent of Islam in India, traditional methods of education increasingly came under Islamic influence and various institutions were set up to impart religious knowledge. During this phase, there was rise of private tuition in India and mobility among professions. Gradually, during colonial era, British made education in English, a high priority hoping, that it would speed modernization and reduce the administrative charges.

Education during colonial era, helped integrate diverse elements of Indian society, and thus came in establishments of Universities. The dense educational network with a western curriculum based on instruction in English was established and many ambitious upper class men with money went to England to obtain legal education at Inns of Court. It was during colonial era, that engineering colleges were established and growing awareness for need of technical education in India, gave rise to establishment of institutions i.e., Indian Institute of Science (IISc). By 19th century, the British rule took adequate measures to develop science and technology in India and development of sciences took prominence.

Today, in 21st century, our education system has huge gaps, although economy is rising rapidly, we cannot take this, as an indicator that everything is going well on all fronts. The decline in quality of education system is mainly due to promotion of rat race concept, as most of the parents in our country, want children to score good marks and in that process, children mug up text written and do not even try to understand their meanings and sit in exam hall and write the exam. The child is unable to acquire any analytical skills through whatever he/she has studied. Student's personality is not improved, as education system insists on marks and grades, while personality is given a miss in academics. Analysis and assessment is not emphasized, as system lays emphasis on pre-established views and students fail to develop their own perspective towards anything. Sadly, too much of nationalism is taught in our education system, as our systems fail to develop global outlook among students, thus confining them to just their own country. Teachers are not efficient and children learn the character traits of the person that they are in contact with! Followed by medium of teaching, parents in India, do not understand that students; irrespective of medium of instruction, should be able to learn as what is being taught to them. The worst case is that, of market related information is not given or shared, so there is lack of employment opportunities and lack of awareness on the existing opportunities. Innovation and creativity is missing in education system, as our system does not encourage innovative ideas. The students are not encouraged to become entrepreneurs, as our education system teaches them to get a high paying job, no matter, if they have to work under someone lifelong and followed by social disparity, which has not yet come to an end and over the years social disparity has gone up instead of going down, and education system has not been able to reach the poor and deprived groups. With poor educational system in place and with 480 million plus workforce, with sheer size, our country can be the driving force behind a global skills-based economy; ironically, we are constantly facing the challenge of acute shortage of skilled workers in our country.

A decade ago, India's huge population was perceived to be the biggest problem, but today we have a different perspective of these teeming masses, as close to 600 million are below the age of 35, and there is a need to effectively capitalize on this "demographic dividend" and there is chance for us to bring great returns, economic growth and prosperity. This is only possible, if we can successfully put in place and execute a countrywide vocational or skills education strategy. According to various international studies, by 2020, the west will be deficient in skilled manpower to the tune of 50 million people, and India will have excess and our export should be pushed towards skilled human capital. We are aware, that there is a huge gap between, what can be and what is. And most / many people lack relevant skills to do their jobs effectively at their workplace.

According to National Service Scheme (NSS) data, India's youth severely lacks vocational training. As it is necessary to "catch them early and prepare in depth for a profession", which essentially refers to skills based education within the mainstream system geared towards enabling an individual to acquire skills alongside knowledge. Many parents and students are not aware about various career options available, and we see many students after completion of their 10th standard confused about deciding the right career path. As selection of right course, after class 10th is not an easy task and for successful career, careful planning and following it up with a workable plan is needed. For successful career planning, career exploration, knowledge about one's own self, decision making ability, future goals are some among the essential elements needed. As for deciding a potential career, one has to attend educational fairs, career guidance seminars, which would allow one to get in touch with several institutes and courses.

The students need to have a persistent focus towards their goals and should seek the help of their teachers, parents and elders. It is important to obtain a strong foundation for further studies like graduation and post-graduation, a good option after 10th is to study 12th class or PUC. As we are aware that selection of the streams in plus two depends upon the students' aptitude, grade and marks, but the most important factor, is one's keen interest in the subject and purpose for selecting the course.

The various options available after completion of tenth standard are as follows: Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Industrial Training Centers (ITCs), which were constituted under Ministry of Labour, Union Government of India, Government-run ITIs and privately-run ITCs, which are providing training in the technical field.

The courses are designed to impart basic skills needed for specified occupations such as for becoming electricians, mechanics, fitters, plumbers, turners, welders, etc., Depending on the trade, duration of courses vary from one year to three years and after passing the course, individual may opt to undergo practical training in his trade in an industry. It is the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) that gives a National Trade Certificate (NTC) in the concerned trade, and to obtain certificate one has to qualify the All India Trade Test (AITT). The job opportunities can also be found in both government as well as in private sectors too. For getting jobs in Indian Railways, telecom departments etc., you have to qualify in a written examination.

Indian Army is another option for many of them, after matriculation, one can join in Indian Army to the posts of soldiers in technical trade through written exams through Indian Army Soldier Clerks Examination, Indian Army Soldier General Duty (N.E.R) Examination, Indian Army Soldier Technical (M.E.R) Examination, Indian Army Soldier Nursing Assistants (M.E.R) Examination and so on. Similar is the case with Indian Navy, as the various job opportunities available are as Dock Yard Apprentices, Sailors, Artificer Apprentices, etc., on basis of written examination. Police Force, is another area, where based on physical test and written test, one can join as constable (tradesmen) in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Staff Selection Commission (SSC) is another career option. Staff Selection Commission (SSC) conducts clerk's grade examination for those, who passed matriculation.

Those, who are interested in teaching field can undergo training in diploma course for nursery and primary teachers conducted by the departments of primary education in various States. Students can join for three year engineering diploma courses in polytechnics. Several job oriented short term courses are available in IT sector and other fields like web designing, animation, fashion designing etc. Apart from these, there are so many options, specially self-employment opportunities for the school dropouts, depending upon their expertise. Some of the career options, after tenth class are animation, beauty care, jewellery designing, video editing, call centers, modeling, video jockeying, air man in IAF, Radio Jockey and etc. This is a crucial and transition period for students as choosing the right stream in right college decides their future, and there are numerous options available for students, who are planning to go ahead with studies.

There are other tests that a commerce, pursuer can do and they are competitive examinations, which can be appeared by a student after passing 10th examination, which are mentioned below: C.S Foundation course, ICWA Foundation course, Business Studies Science Stream; these courses offers lucrative career options to students after 12th standard. There are a number of job opportunities for students with poor academic performances. There are various options available, for students as they can start their own business, as they can kick start with small size business with the help of elders like provision store, restaurant, tea or coffee stall with paan or cigarettes, bakery or condiment shop etc. Job as sales representative, which does not require any high educational qualifications, and they can sell products to customers and selling could be door to door, where products can be delivered to customers at the door step and big companies like Reliance, Airtel, McDonald, require sales representatives and the job opportunities are always available, irrespective of any season. Data Entry Operator (DEO), is among many other job opportunities and this job is suited for college dropouts, as there is demand and constant recruitment.



Many small and medium size companies required data entry operator. As the skill requirement is only good typing speed, which is around 40-50 words per minute. Working at a Call Centre (CC) is another good option for many dropouts, as local knowledge is key to this career option, as many outsourcing call center jobs are available in abundance! Network marketing is another form of marketing, but in it one has to build a team and form an umbrella network, and as members grow they earn more. Mail Posting Jobs have opportunities for 10+2 failures and college dropouts, and in fact it is not only just for them, but housewives could also start it, as it is home based and it needs some basic investment in stationery like envelope, creating letters and posting expenditure. Jobs in Indian Army and BSF Jawan are also there and it comes under defence sector. Blogging is another area, where one can have career, as blogging does not require any educational qualification, as writing and creating things calls for passion and dedication only.

We need to understand that skill based education must be initiated early to help address the problems of school dropout, and this can be encouraged with deeper participation from students. A crucial apparatus of this is not only motivating learners, but refinement of the education impacting apparatus. As we are aware that quality of curricula in our education system any stream is very low. Moreover, curriculum is hardly in sync with the demand of Indian Industry, forcing these industries to retrain the workforce that they hire. Our education system must focus equally on knowledge and skills, and a shift from telling "what I know" to show "what I can do" and the idea of demonstration of learning rather than "vocalizing knowledge".

The education system should focus on teaching academics through career-based training and schools should focus on career areas, such as healthcare, visual arts and others, so that students from young age can participate in various internships centered around the career. Our education system needs major revamping. We need to bring in innovative methods of teaching, as the focus of children on rote learning without understanding should be discouraged and teachers should learn innovative methods of teaching that encourages practical and action oriented thinking and not merely focusing on memorizing subjects. There is a lacunae in quality learning, as meritorious students fail to apply concepts to different situations, as they are used to memorizing concepts rather than understanding it. It's time for us to align the students to higher order skills, which students will require in years to come.

We have to move away from memory based system and introduce students to critical thinking, complex reasoning, good expression, thinking in inter-disciplinary manner, rational evaluation system. Human capital is the competitive edge of our country, but we have to convert this important capital into intellectual skill capital by revamping the current education system and focus on broad careers, especially skill based education for securing livelihoods for future and move families out of poverty's vicious cycle. Education system should have courses relevant to our economy and country.

**\*livelihoods August-2016**

## 5. Development Management

*The roots of development sector could be traced back to Gandhian era, where in national leaders of freedom struggle inspired people to take up nation building activities in areas of education, health, sanitation, empowerment of weaker sections and redistribution of economic resources. These efforts continued even in the post-independence era, with much rigour and resources. Development agenda, which started as voluntary and philanthropic activity witnessed a sea change over the past few decades through the process of formalization, professionalization, decentralization, private sector participation and government's efforts.*



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philanthropic activity witnessed a sea change over the past few decades through the process of formalization, professionalization, decentralization, private sector participation and government's efforts.

Watershed movement for development sector has arrived with establishment of IRMA in the year 1979 by Dr. Verghese Kurien is considered as a catalyst by opening up the sector to new paradigms as well as viewing the development sector portfolio in hitherto less explored dimensions. Kurien founded IRMA with the firm belief that future of our nation lies in villages and if our villages are to prosper, it is essential that rural development organizations are managed professionally. This process is further hastened through organizations like TISS, XIMB, Gandhigram, NIRD, PRADAN, DHAN, MYRADA etc. Kurien's vision to build budding managers in the development sector starting with Dairy (AMUL) had culminated into a process where varied sectors like finance, IT, cooperatives, rural and urban development interventions by government, NGOs, livelihoods and agribusiness have come to be influenced by the process.

Development sector is unique in the sense that fighting poverty remains as core agenda of the efforts, since its inception. Over the past decades, the scope of the sector has multiplied through the integrated approach the nation is heading in dealing with poverty. These multiple dimensions include lack of formal livelihoods, rising health expenditure, limited financial and digital inclusion, over dependence on agriculture, disguised migration, unplanned urbanisation and social tensions. These distinctions are stark in a developing country like India, where more than 90% still work in the unorganized sector and India's performance on various indicators remains critical, India's ranking at 97<sup>th</sup> position in Global Hunger Index (GHI) and stagnating performance in Human Development Index (HDI) rankings remains a testimony for this.

Since 5<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (FYP) there is a shift towards direct fight over issues plaguing vulnerable communities. This shift did mark state led interventions in addressing the challenges. The current framework of development sector involves central and state led poverty alleviation missions like SERP, BRLPS, RAAJEVIKA, NRLM and NULM, followed by initiatives like Skill India, Jandhan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, Digital and Financial Inclusion process had increased the need for skilled managers and community professionals to take ahead the agenda.

The role of NGOs and social enterprises had also become critical in tackling these challenges, with passage of amendment to Companies Act in 2013, the mandate CSR spending led to further infusion of resources in to this sector. Another major area that is emerging is the Producer Organizations (PO) of the community, themselves to strengthen the collective efforts post success of the dairy cooperatives, which failed to replicate in other verticals. These had further increased the scope for requirement of human resources. From the perspective of young minds, who doesn't find their future in the cubicles of IT companies and those who are looking for an opportunity to work directly with the community towards nation building could prefer Development Management as a budding career option apart from civil services. The beauty of the sector lies in the fact, that over a long run one remains

contended with the career choice he/she had chosen, when compared with majority of the professions.

Various development management institutions have become grounds of creating young professionals and catering to the needs of the sector. Over the period of time innovations have led to flexible course curriculum to meet the evolving requirements of the sector. Most institutions have a blend of field work along with class room components, this enhances the learning capabilities of young minds through hands on approach which involves interaction with the community. Nearly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of course curriculum involves field work where the students get to work in an organizational setup in the form of internships. These internships do have scope for 'earn while you learn' mechanism like the professional management institutions like IIMs and other business schools. The demand for professionals in this sector is visible in the form of placement opportunities received even before completion of their course schedule. Further the collateral free educational loans provided by commercial banks provides a hassle free financing window with a 4 to 5 year repayment period post completion of the course. This document enlists few such institutions which are specializing in Development Management, they are presented in the following pages.

**Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA):** IRMA, established in 1979 by the father of white revolution Dr Verghese Kurien, is a pioneering academic institution in rural management education and research. Today, IRMA is recognized not only as an institution of excellence in teaching and research but also for having successfully created the new discipline of rural management. IRMA enlisted over 750 partner organizations, which it invites for placement purpose for PGDRM participants. For last year over 350 job offers were received for 194 participants with median salary at 8.4 lakh per annum and maximum salary stood at 27.39 lakh per annum.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee/Fellowship
1	Post Graduate Programme in Rural Management (PGDRM)	A graduate from any discipline, having 50 per cent (45 per cent for SC/ST/DAP (Differently Abled Person)) aggregate marks.  IRMA's designated organizations can sponsor their employees.	IRMA will use CAT / XAT scores and applicants have to additionally appear for "Issues of Social Concern" test.  This is followed by group activity and personal interview	2 year residential programme	Fee for Tuition, boarding, accommodation and others: 10,50,000/-
2	Fellow Programme in Rural Management (FPRM)	PGDRM from IRMA (or) PGDRM from IRMA with one year post-diploma work experience (or) Post Graduation in any discipline from a recognized University or Institution with 55% marks at PG and 50% marks at graduation (college) level; (or) Five-year professional degree (medicine, veterinary science, architecture etc.) with 60% marks and at least one year work experience (or) Four-year professional degree (engineering, agricultural sciences etc.) with 60% marks and at least three years work experience;  Applicants having valid score of UGC JRF in relevant disciplines (management, economics, social work, sociology, psychology, commerce, etc.).	IRMA will use CAT / XAT scores and applicants have to additionally appear for "Issues of Social Concern" test.  Applicants with PGDRM qualification from IRMA and applicants who have valid score of UGC JRF in relevant disciplines (management, economics, social work, sociology, psychology, commerce, etc.) are exempted from online admissions test and will be directly called for interview	It is a doctoral programme of minimum 3 years and maximum 7 years duration	Every FPRM participant receives a fellowship of Rs. 14,000/- per month till they clear the Comprehensive Qualifying Examination and then Rs. 16,000/- per month and a contingency grant of Rs. 20,000/- per year for a period of 4 years

3	Certificate in Rural Management	IRMA's designated organisations can sponsor their employees (executives and officers) for Certificate in Rural Management (CRM). At present, about 650 organisations have been designated by IRMA.	Applicant should appear for the written test, group activity and personal interview	1 year residential programme	Fee for Tuition, boarding, accommodation and others: 6,00,000/-
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**Indian Institute of Forest Management:** IIFM is a sectoral management institute which constantly endeavours to evolve knowledge useful for the managers in the areas of Forest, Environment, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and allied sectors. Founded in 1982 as an autonomous public institute in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India (GoI). Apart from the above courses IIFM is recognized as a research centre for pursuing doctoral research of the Forest Research Institute (Dehradun), Deemed University (FRIDU). FRI conducts an entrance test for the selection of PhD candidates in the first week of July every year. Placement report for 2014-16 batch of PGDFM shows a positive picture with each participant receiving an average of 2.2 offers per student. Organizations, which offered positions include CARE India, International Paper, World Resource Institute India, Access livelihoods, PRADAN etc. The median salary stands at Rs.5,75,00/- with more than 20% of the batch receiving above Rs.7,00,000/- annual package.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	Post Graduate Diploma in Forest Management (PGDFM)	Bachelor's degree with atleast 50% marks (45% in case of SC, ST and DA) or candidates appearing for final year of bachelor's examination	CAT/XAT examination followed by separate application form for IIFM.  Shortlist based on CAT/XAT followed by group discussion & interview.  (Reservation as per GoI norms)	2 years fully residential	Tuition fee, hostel rent & others: Rs.4,80,000*/- (for general, NC-OBC,DA) Rs.2,88,000*/- (for 9SC,ST) *doesn't include mess fee  (scholarship for 15 students in each batch)
2	MPhil in Natural Resource Management	Post graduate degree/diploma in the field of science/engineering/management and related social sciences	Written test followed by interview.  UGC/CSIR/ICAR-NET qualified candidates & candidates with PGDFM with IIFM with a minimum of 3.0 CGPA shall be exempted from written test	1 year fully residential	Tuition fee, hostel rent & others: Rs.1,50,000/- *doesn't include mess fee

**Development Management Institute (DMI):** DMI was set up on February 13, 2014 pursuant to a desire of the Government of Bihar to establish a High Performing Knowledge Institution (HPKI). DMI, set up with active support of Govt of Bihar, BRLPS, COMFED and other prominent development support agencies, is an emerging academic institution. Placement opportunities are open to the participants in Development Organizations and Development Support Organisation promoting Sustainable Livelihoods; Corporate Social Responsibility units, Collectives, and Social Enterprises.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
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1	Post Graduate Diploma – Development Management	Candidates with a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent (45% for SC/ ST candidates) in Graduation.  <b>Sponsored Candidate</b> Government, non-government, development organizations, corporate social responsibility units, member-based collective enterprises including cooperatives, producer organizations and social enterprises are encouraged to sponsor their current or prospective employees.	Candidates should have a valid score of CAT, XAT, GMAT, CMAT, MAT, ATMA.  Followed by Development Management Aptitude Test, group exercises and personal interview	23 months	Tuition & other fee: 6,00,000/-  Accommodation, boarding, field work and others: 3,00,000/-  <b>Scholarship:</b> merit-based fee waiver based on performance during PDM upto 82% of the total programme fees
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#### National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development, is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.

NIRD offers a regular course in Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGDRDM) and distance course in Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Rural Development (PGDSRD), Post Graduate Diploma in Tribal Development Management (PGDTDM) and Post Graduate Diploma in Geospatial Technology Applications in Rural Development (PGDGARD). Placements for PGDRDM students are available in various state poverty alleviation programmes, central skill development mission, private players, CSR units and NGOs. 100% placement assistance is assured to the students.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	PGDRDM	Graduation in any discipline from any recognized university. Reservation as per government norms.  The Government Departments/ Organizations / Institutions/ NGOs etc may sponsor their officials for admission to this Programme by duly forwarding their applications and paying full Programme Fee for their admitted candidates	Admissions are conducted for two batches every year. First batch in January and second batch in February.  All India entrance test followed would be conducted followed by group discussion and interview	1 year	Tuition fee: 1.6 lakh for open & OBC category Boarding and lodging: 1.0 lakh
2	PGDSRD	Same as above			Rs.10000/- for general & OBC and Rs.9000/- for SC, ST & DAB
3	PGDTDM	Same as above		1 year	Rs.10000/- for general & OBC and Rs.9000/- for SC, ST & DAB
4	PGDGARD	Same as above		1 year to Maximum 3 years	Rs.12000/- for general & OBC and Rs.10000/- for SC, ST & DAB

**Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar-Rural Management (XIMB-RM):** The school of Rural Management is part of private university called Xavier University, Bhubaneswar. The school is committed to

developing professionals with contextual understandings to address the unique challenges faced by institutions/organizations engaged in rural development in the country. Placement assistance is provided for all the participants of XIMB-RM, major sectors for placements include development, banking and financial services, sales and marketing consultancy, agri-business, research and policy advocacy etc. Placement report of 2015 shows that 26 organizations offered 56 positions with median salary of Rs.6.5 lakh per annum and highest salary of Rs.12.44 lakh per annum.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	MBA – Rural Management	Bachelor's degree in any programme with atleast 55% marks in aggregate	Applicants are required to any one of these tests – XAT/CAT/NMAT/GMAT/X-GMT and they also have to fill up separate application form from XIMB website for this programme  Candidates who have secured 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> position in their undergraduate programme can apply directly.  The candidates are shortlisted for Written Ability Test followed by Personal Interview	2 year residential	Tuition, boarding, accommodation and others: Rs.14,50,000/-
2	PhD	Master's degree in any discipline with atleast 55% marks in aggregate	Candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of their academic records and SOPs. The shortlisted candidates will be required to appear for Xavier Research Aptitude Test (X-RAT) and Personal Interview.  UGC-NET qualified candidates will be exempted from appearing for the X-RAT	4 to 7 years	Officially sponsored/ self sponsored candidates - fee: Rs.3,00,000/- in first year and Rs.1,00,000/- each in 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> year  Partially sponsored candidates - fee: Rs.75,000/- in 1 <sup>st</sup> year and Rs.35,000/- in 2 <sup>nd</sup> year and Rs.45,000/- in 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> year  Scholarship: incase of deserving full-time students academic fee will be waived and a stipend of Rs.15,000/- per month will be given to a maximum of 4 years  Additional cost involves boarding & accommodation - 75,000/- per year

**KIIT School of Rural Management (KSRM):** KSRM is a school under KIIT university in Bhubaneswar, Odissa. The school came in to existence with laying of the foundation stone by late Dr. V.Kurien in 2006. Mission of the institution is to catalyze the process of sustainable rural development and minimizing existing rural-urban divide. So far 395 students had passed out from this programme. A total of 45 job offers have been made to 34 students of 2015-17 batch of MBA-Rural Management. Organizations like Techno Serve, Odisha Livelihoods Mission, DCB Bank, Jeevika Bihar, Tata Trust etc had participated in the process.

S. No	Courses offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	MBA-Rural Management	Graduate in any discipline and having minimum 50% aggregate marks	Candidates shall be shortlisted on the basis of KIITEE/CAT/XAT/CMAT/MAT followed by group discussion and personal interview	2 years	Total fee payable: Rs.6,47,000/- (including hostel, mess and provision of laptop)

**Faculty of Management Studies – Institute of Rural Management (FMS-IRM), Jaipur:**

FMS-IRM is established and led by SIIRM, launched in 1994, it has traversed the path to develop the discipline of “Rural Management” and “ Rural Marketing”. The institute offers 100% placement record, major recruiters include Monsanto, Mahindra finance, L&T finance, Janalakshmi, Indian Oversees Bank, Spandana etc

S.No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	Post Graduate Diploma in Management – Rural Management	Bachelor’s degree in any discipline or its equivalent qualification with no less than 50% marks in Aggregate	MAT/CAT/CMAT/XAT/ATMA and IRMAT followed by Writtent Aptitude Test, Group Discussion and Personal Interview	2 years	Tution Fee: Rs.6,25,000/-

**Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi:** XISS was established in 1955 at St.Xavier’s college, Ranchi with objective of training young men and women in rural development. In 1973, the institute was registered as separate educational society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. XISS offers Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management (PGDRM) with 75 seats every academic year, 50% of the seats are reserved for SC/ST category.

S. No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	PGDRM	Bachelor’s degree in any discipline or its equivalent qualification with no less than 55% marks in aggregate (50% for SC/ST).	Stages in the admission process include- XAT/CAT/CMAT, Group Discussion, Assessment of writing skills and Personal Interview. Each stage has certain weightage in final selection	2 years	Tution Fee: Rs.

**Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS):** TISS was established in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. In 1944, it was renamed as TISS. The year 1964 was a landmark in the history of institute, when it was declared deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. TISS is spread through 4 campuses at Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad, Guwahati. In each of these locations various development related professional courses are being offered. Some of the courses are listed in the below table. Due to paucity of space exhaustive list couldn’t be provided over here. However, rest of the information could be collected directly from TISS website.

S. No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	MA in Development Studies	Bachelor’s degree of minimum 3 years duration	TISSNET examination followed by Group Discussion and Personal Interview, with weightage for each unit in final selection	2 years	Tuition & other Fee: Rs.88, 600/-  For those who avail residential facility at campus- Hostel & Dining fee: Rs. 1,24,000/-
2	MA in women’s studies	Same as above	Same as above	2 years	NA

3	MA in Social Entrepreneurship	Same as above	Same as above	2 years	Tuition & other Fee: Rs.1,04,600/- For those who avail residential facility at campus- Hostel & Dining fee: Rs. 1,24,000/-
4	MA in Urban Policy & Governance	Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Architecture, Management, Physical sciences, Geography, Planning, Law or Social Sciences	Same as above	2 years	Same as above

**Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) – Deemed University, Tamil Nadu:** Gandhigram had its genesis on 7th October, 1947 and it progressed and expanded remarkably in the areas of rural community development under the dynamic leadership of its founders Dr.G.Ramachandran and Dr.T.S.SoundaramRamachandran, dedicated disciples of Gandhiji. The Gandhigram Rural Institute of Higher Education was started in 1956 in Dindigul district to bring higher education closer to the villagers. The institute is fully funded by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The institute offers courses at various levels – skill based courses, under graduate programmes, professional courses, integrated programmes, diploma programmes, post graduate programmes, M.Phil and PhD. Some of the development management related courses are briefed in the below table. Some of the related courses are mentioned in the below table:

S. No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	MBA – Rural Project Management; Rural Industries Management; Cooperative Management; Small Business Management	Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks	On the basis of an entrance test	2 years	Tuition fee and others: 36420/-
2	MA – Development Administration	Hr Secondary Examinations	On basis of marks scored in Hr Sec examinations through counselling	5 years	Tuition fee & others:47,020/-
3	MA - Rural Development	Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks	On the basis of an entrance test	2 years	Tuition fee & others:47,020/-
4	MPhil – Development Administration	A pass with minimum 50% marks for SC/ST applicants and 55% marks for others in PG degree in political science/public administration/public affairs/development administration	On the basis of an entrance test	2 years	Tuition fee & others: 22,520/-
5	PhD	PG degree in relevant discipline with not less than 55% marks (50% for SC/ST)	Admissions twice a year during January and August.		Full-Time: 6,775/- (annual fee) + 12,280 (one time fee) Part-Time: 11,775/- (annual fee) +



					12,280 (one time fee)
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**Indira Gandhi National Open University:** IGNOU, established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, has tried to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by offering high-quality teaching through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. All the regional centres and study centres of IGNOU have been provided with active two-way video conferencing network connectivity, which has made it possible to transact interactive digital content. IGNOU has been offering certain development management related courses at various levels like UG, PG, certificate programmes through various schools. Those who are unable to access full-time education can pursue their dream of learning through IGNOU.

S. No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	Post Graduate Diploma in Urban Planning and Development	Graduates from any discipline	Application form	1 year to 3 years	Course fee: Rs.2,800/-
2	Post Graduate Diploma in Extension and Development studies	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Course Fee: Rs.4,500/-
3	PhD in Extension and Development Studies	NA	NA	2 years to 5 years	Rs.7000/- per annum + Rs.7000/- (one time) for course work
4	MA in Gender and Development Studies	Graduation in any discipline	Application form	1 year to 3 years	Course Fee: Rs.6000/-
5	Bachelor of Social Work	10+2 or its equivalent	Application form	3 years to 6 years	Course Fee: Rs.12,000/-
6	Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work among Tribals	Bachelors degree in any discipline	Application form	1 year to 4 years	Course Fee: Rs.7,000/-
7	Master of Social Work	Graduation	Application form	2 year to 5 years	Course Fee: Rs.27,000/-
8	PhD in Social Work	An M.Phil and Post Graduate degree in social work with minimum 55% marks (50% for SC/ST/DAB)	Application form	2 years to 5 years	Course Fee: Rs.14,000/-

**Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyala, Chitrakoot:** The institute was established by Government of Madhya Pradesh on February 12, 1991. The university is mandated to develop human resource for the economic and social development of rural people, and develops and disseminates rural technology. Various development management related courses offered by the institute are presented in the below table.

S.No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	Master of Rural E-governance	Graduates from any discipline	Entrance examination	2 years	Tuition fee & others: Rs.51,200/-

2	MBA – Agri Business Management; Rural Management; Small Business Management	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Course Fee: Rs.4,500/-
3	Masters in Social Work	Graduation in the discipline of social sciences/commerce/science	Same as above	Same as above	Tuition fee & others: Rs.24,747/-

#### **Roda Mistry College of Social Work and Research Centre:**

The college of social work was started by Indian Council of Social Welfare in the year 1966. The college offers BSW, MSW and PhD courses and is affiliated to Osmania University, Hyderabad.

S.No	Course offered	Eligibility	Admission procedure	Duration	Fee
1	Bachelors in Social Work	10+2	Application form	3 years	As per Government of Telangana norms
2	Masters in Social Work	Graduates with minimum of 40% marks	Entrance test conducted by Osmania University	2 years	Same as above
3	PhD	Post Graduates in related field	SLET, NET, Osmania University PhD eligibility test/M.Phil in social work	NA	Same as above

#### **Challenges in development management:**

The context, in which development professionals function have evolved over a period of time. However, this sector deals with certain peculiar challenges irrespective of its growing importance and professionalism.

The major challenge emanates from the fact that Development Management (DM) is yet to be recognized as professional career choice at par with other sectors. Still the sector has come to be branded as a activity of philanthropy or service. Secondly, majority of the young students or graduates are still unaware of existence of Development Management (DM), which makes it less attractive among the pool of talent.

The cost involved in availing professional degree in this sector is on a rise. Institutions like IRMA, XIMB, DMI etc charge fee comparable to any top business school in the country. However, the same is not visible, when it comes to the placements. Unlike business schools the entry level salaries received by the professionals in development organizations is very less. The growth in these salaries over the past 5 years has been very slow, making the course choice a difficult decision, one in terms of return on investment in monetary terms.

Fourthly, there is shortage of man power in this sector, unlike the slower growth rate in other areas, this sector is in constant demand of Human Resources (HR) owing to the input of resources from various quarters. Limited number of professionals pass out from these institutions annually, out of this limited number considerable percentage of professionals opt for pure business organizations creating a supply gap of HR.

“In Dr.Kurien’s words “Every generation has its own challenges and opportunities. Currently, with the onset of globalization, we face a new set of challenges. The academic institutions can, to some extent, help to manage the developmental challenges that India faces today. In the emerging information and knowledge age, the need of the hour, particularly for the institutions of rural management, is to impart knowledge, and produce the desired type of management professionals who will be willing to work in different sectors to promote rural prosperity in the country. The challenge before the young professionals coming out of the rural management institutes will be to resist the temptation to go and work, where they will receive maximum monetary reward, rather than rural-oriented organizations where their talents will be required the most.”

The role of a development manager, over a period of time, has become more evolved, more sophisticated and more complex. People from various backgrounds like IT, engineering, health, education, finance etc., have come to embrace this sector. This is adding diversity to the human resource pool leading to cross learning and building an integrated approach towards nation building through empowerment of community at large. Irrespective of the challenges, Development Management is in the phase of evolution with enhanced R&D activity to evolve itself as a mainstream professional dimension. However, the success of these efforts lies in developing the right kind of attitude among the young professionals, an attitude to work with the community with compassion. This

compassion leads to seeking pathways in dealing with the complexities lying ahead in the agenda of development leading to workable actions of the ground.

**\*livelihoods April-2017**

## 6. Employment

***Meaningful employment is something that every individual, both educated and uneducated desire. Providing employment to its large number of unemployed educated or uneducated youth along with those, who are moving out of their existing traditional livelihoods, is a huge challenge that India is now facing. More than a crore of individuals without jobs get added to the natural supply of unemployed annually. Then the moot question is - do we know the domains, activities, skills etc., into which they can be absorbed into, so that they have a gainful employment?***

Increasing the income (!), decreasing the expenditure (!), increasing the employment (!), and decreasing the risk (!) are the four desirable outcomes of any livelihoods intervention which are generally called four arrows. Of these four arrows employment is critical through which people's incomes and quality of lives can be improved. Employed population in India is of three types: Self-employed, Regular wage/ salaried and Casual Labour. This variety is prevalent both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

According to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), out of the total workforce of 458 million, 395 million are in the informal sector. The remaining workforce is in the organized sector like public sector establishments and non-agricultural establishments in the private sector with 10 workers or more. In rural areas, a small percentage of workforce are engaged in the organized non-farm livelihoods like teachers in government schools, health workers in government health centers, police personnel, regular employees in factories etc. The remaining is in unorganized sector as self-employed or casual labour with minimal to nil job security and/or social security.

Self-employment is widely prevalent in Indian agriculture sector, followed by trade. Together, these activities constitute nearly three fourth of the total self-employed. Self-employed in the sphere of rural non-farm activities can be broadly understood as self-employed without employees, high income self-employed and low income self-employed. Self-employed without employees (own account workers) are weavers, street vendors, beedi rollers, rickshaw pullers etc. constitute the largest segment of all the categories of self-employed. High income self-employed individuals are independent professionals (such as doctors, lawyers, artists and accountants), rice mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estate, housing etc., and owners of small hotels and restaurants. Low income self-employed individuals are handloom weavers, street vendors, food processors, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, rag pickers, beedi rollers, agarbatti makers, potters, bamboo product makers etc. The nature of low-income self-employed in India is more of a survival strategy, than that of a sustainable business activity. Majority of the self-employed have low levels of education and poor access to capital.

Casual wage earners are normally engaged on a day to day basis and in some cases for a select period of time and are paid either daily or weekly or monthly or for the duration of the agreed work. These workers are either in formal or informal sector or in private households and do not enjoy any job security or social security. For instance, the unskilled construction labour seeking work, domestic helpers etc are casual wage earners. Around 31 % of employment is in the casual labour market and female participation in the casual labour market is more as compared to male. Majority of the casual labour force, is either illiterate, or just have primary level of education. Agriculture continues to be the main sector, where almost 70 % of the casual labour is absorbed, followed by the industry and service sector respectively. Within the industry, manufacturing is the main occupation for casual labour in many less developed states followed by construction.

Employment through migration is emerging as a significant part of livelihood portfolio for the poor. Income from migration has become more significant for the poorest areas of the country and sometimes exceeds income generated locally. Regional imbalances in development contribute to push and pull factors of migration. About 30 million + are engaged in temporary/seasonal migration. Migrant labour constitutes important building blocks of



urban growth centers but their contribution largely goes unrecognized. While, some households migrate on a permanent basis, temporary or circular migration is emerging as a dominant pattern among the poor in India. Permanent migration rates are higher among the more educated, but people with lower literacy and lower marketable skills constitute majority in temporary migration. Temporary migration ranges from trips that last for several months to daily commute to work depending on the distance from the economic centers and also the demand for particular type of skills/works in those centers.

As a country with huge population, India is always facing the problem of unemployment and underemployment particularly after the reforms that led to globalization, liberalization and privatization. The Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) sought to address the employment issue by reorienting the pattern of growth in favour of employment intensive sectors. At the same time, a strong opinion was emerging to suggest that growth alone cannot solve the problems of poverty and unemployment, and therefore, a number of special employment and poverty alleviation programmes such as SGSRY, JRY, DWCRA, Food for Work etc. were launched. They were mostly of two kinds: providing financial and other assistance for productive self-employment, and offering supplementary wage employment to the underemployed. Over the years, these programmes have been continued in one form or the other, have been modified or integrated, new ones have been started while some old ones have been discontinued. The latest in the series is the NREGA which aims at legally guaranteeing employment of up to 100 days annually to every rural household, under an Act of Parliament.

However, India is still suffering with these problems of unemployment and underemployment. The fact that a high rate of economic growth has not been able to generate high employment growth in the country, and it has, in fact, been accompanied by a slowdown in employment growth in recent years, has led many economists and others concerned to portray the recent experience as one of "jobless growth". An interesting paradox of this country is that there are jobs that are not finding suitable candidates and there are candidates without jobs.

Previously the village in India lived like one big family. Different people followed different occupations complementing each other's skills and lived in economic harmony. Some pursued agriculture, some pursued trade and several were engaged in providing services to the village in general and agriculture in particular. For example, the livelihood of the blacksmith thrived, for his tools are needed for agriculture and so did carpenter. The trader could provide needed inputs to the agriculturist and the latter provided food for all. Services of barber, potter, cobbler, priest, washer man, watchman for the harvest and entertainers in village fairs etc were rendered for the entire village. With the downfall of agriculture all is changing now. Since, much of the economy in villages thrives around agriculture the slowdowns in this sector brought every other livelihood to snail's pace or complete halt. The service sector like the washer man, blacksmith, carpenters; potters were getting agriculture produce as a payment for their services. With the sorry state of agriculture the payment for the service providers shifted from grain to cash. With increase in price of food grains this shift from grain payment to cash payment proved disastrous for the service providers. Further, number of people seeking their services has come down. Either the service seekers have migrated out of the villages or they are employing other means to get the job done or they are facing competition for large and integrated business houses. With food security lost, the service providers are moving out as well. They are losing social capital by moving out and they have to rework their social capital in the new place. There is a huge need to re-employ all these people, who are shifting out of their traditional livelihoods.

Apart from this, we have children not going to school; we have children dropping out of schools; we have youth stuck at school education level; and we have youth not willing to join/ continue traditional livelihoods like agriculture, handlooms, etc. Of course, even if they want, these livelihoods are not able to offer decent earnings to them. There are not enough vocations in which training is offered. India is offering trainings only in few hundreds of vocations, whereas in the western countries, in spite of their relatively less diversified livelihoods scenario, the vocational trainings they offer run into thousands. Further, the quality of education offered in India is quite disappointing and is producing mediocre human resource leaving many graduates unemployed or underemployed. On the other hand, there are jobs in the market waiting to be taken up by the right human resource. This gap needs to be bridged. We get repeated endorsements that many of our educated youth lack employable skills. The quality is mediocre and not appropriate. 3R Skills - Reading, Writing and Arithmetic – are weak for considerable proportion of them. They are not interested to get into traditional livelihoods and they don't seem to have the aptitude and competencies for the upcoming livelihoods. Recently a study by Purple Leap, Talent Management Institute (TMI), confirms this. Interestingly, it finds more than 50% of them in the category of 'hard-to-train' in three employability skills – communication, problem solving and technical skills. 80% do not meet the qualifying criteria in communications. Among the remaining 20%, most of them lack problem solving and/or technical skills. Thus, only a fraction – less than 10% are employable! Further, some 20 million youth are joining this flow at the left end of the education value-chain. At the right-end, the elders are taking more time to leave the

chain. And as discussed above, at least half the people living on farming, artisanal livelihoods and related labor need to be 'rehabilitated' in off-farm services and non-farm services as these livelihoods are not able to pay remunerative wages to most of them.

It is clear that we need to provide employment opportunities for two kinds of people. One is the youth who are skilled, low -skilled and un-skilled etc., and the other is the people who are coming out of their previous non-remunerative livelihoods. The other group that requires employment support is the vulnerable people such as disabled, elders who still have the capacities to work etc. Not all of them require jobs. Some may want to be entrepreneurs, some others may require wage employment, some may want to be service providers etc. Then the questions are-Do we have the tools/systems to identify these various needs, to equip them with required skills and knowledge and to provide them appropriate employment? Do we know the domains/ sectors in which these people can be employed? Where is the potential? What is the method to deskill/reskill the people, who are coming out of their traditional livelihoods to suit the new emerging opportunities? What are the skills that have potential for employment? An assessment in a district indicated some 8 skill areas - automobile mechanic, electrical motor repair and electrical work, hospitality, construction - masonry, nursing, cell phone repair, IT enabled services, trade, etc. Will they suffice to meet the numbers in the reckoning? Do we know the opportunities that suit the disabled and elders? Can we create a favorable environment for them to tap those opportunities? There are many questions for which we need to find solutions.

We hear that the richest of the world are from India. Their tribe is increasing. We also hear that Indian middle class is growing. They need services. They can afford services. So there is an opportunity here. From this perspective, we need to have standard education till certain age, say 16-18 years that prepares people for better lives. The education thereafter can focus on offering education for livelihoods including wage employment, self-employment, entrepreneurship, and providing services. The school going children need competency assessment, counseling and exposure to various options available, including options to continue in existing traditional livelihoods and avenues for skills. With increasing globalization, liberalization and privatization together with increasing pace of life, the education cannot ignore offering metaskills early on. We have to move in this direction.

There is absence of continuing education opportunities, which link literacy and education to self-development and skill training. Over 90 per cent of the labour force in India is working in informal sector and for majority of them secondary education, vocational education and training will be last stage of their formal schooling. Improving quality of secondary and vocational education will help improve their livelihoods prospects. Service sector, in India is providing for more than 50 per cent of employment and is demanding soft skills. This sector is growing and thus providing soft skills as part of education can help many youth to take up service related jobs or self-employment.

Considering the diversity of occupations that thrive in India, there is an imminent need to increase the number of skill-based trainings in India. Currently, we have only about 150 or so and this is far less and inadequate compared to the West which is more homogenous in terms of occupation and still provides scope for 3000 + skill-based trainings. The GOI has launched National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) which is expected to look at 20 areas of growth for skill development in manufacturing and services. About 70 million jobs are expected to be created during the 11th Plan and the hope is that the Mission will train people to make the best of these opportunities.

The livelihoods of people are changing at a pace never expected before. Those people who are not able to cope up with these changes are losing out and are joining bandwagon of unemployed population. Hence, there should be opportunities for those who are already in certain livelihoods to upgrade their existing skills, learn new skills, so that they will not lose out in the process of globalization.

There are many people, who want to be self-employed. Identifying these people and helping them in establishing their own enterprises by providing them appropriate skills, raw material and credit support etc. can help them in a big way. Further, these people can generate more employment opportunities.

Many of our poor are small producers. They produce agricultural products, clothes and many raw materials required to industries. Most of these produce are sold in raw form, though it is not so remunerative for reasons like poor holding capacity, need for cash and lack of required infrastructure or credit support to do value addition or store etc. Creating facilities for value addition to rural produce can not only help the poor producer, but can also generate employment to many other people in those areas.

Employment for migrants is also an area that needs to be focused. Many rural people are migrating to urban centers in search of better employment opportunities, which in turn are adding to the pressure for employment in

these centers. With increased pressure for employment, people are increasingly willing to work at cheaper wages which is deteriorating their quality of life. Many of the urban interventions are focusing on creating more employment opportunities for those who are coming to these centers, which may not be a permanent solution to the problem. Instead focus should be on PURA, so that there will be less pressure on both urban and rural areas.

Though we are witnessing rapid urbanization, India is still rural. Though ageing population increases, it is still young. Though the elite rich tribe is increasing, majority of us are still poor with limited resources and skills. Thus, creating employment opportunities for these majority people becomes very critical to meet the development goals. The poor should be viewed as a potential workforce, who can contribute to the development of the country. Quality of life should not be compromised in any case. Not creating or not providing for adequate opportunities to take up decent employment is one form of violation of human rights! We as a nation need to step up and fight this violation through long-term comprehensive measures, lest we may plunge deeper into jobless growth and face the music of its fallouts.

**\*Livelihoods August-2010**

## 7. Skill Development

***Skill development is vital for economic growth and social progress of any country. Particularly, globalization and technological revolutions have increased the importance of skill development. In India, nearly 12 million people per year are entering working age, and only 21% of these people are accessing placements. Our country has one of the largest populations of working age people in the world; however, it is lagging behind in imparting skills. Only 10% of total workforce avails skill training, which includes 2% from formal institutions and 8% from informal institutions. Professionals are entering the job market with lack of required skills. Employment generation and skill development have become, the most important agenda for our government.***

Skill development is vital for economic growth and social progress of any country. Particularly, globalization and technological revolutions have increased the importance of skill development. In India, nearly 12 million people per year are entering working age, and only 21% of these people are accessing placements. Our country has one of the largest populations of working age people in the world; however, it is lagging behind in imparting skills. Only 10% of total workforce avails skill training, which includes 2% from formal institutions and 8% from informal institutions. Professionals are entering job market with lack of required skills. Employment generation and skill development have become most important agenda for our government.

Our country's economy has been witnessing huge changes from last six decades. Earlier, agriculture sector was key contributor to economy and employment. Presently, changes are happening in agriculture, its contribution has been drastically decreasing and families dependent on agriculture are leaving the sector and shifting to other secondary and tertiary sectors and/ or are migrating from rural to urban areas. These conditions are forcing people to avail new skills. Almost 90% of workers are engaged in informal sector, and have not availed skills training from formal institutions. There are three categories of workers in the country. They are skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers. Majority of the people fall under unskilled worker's category. Government of India (GOI) has designed various initiatives to take forward skill development agenda, such as formulation of national skill development policies; delivery of modular employable schemes; up-gradation of existing training institutions through World Bank (WB) fund and GOI fund; setting up of National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); establishing 50,000 Skill Development Centers (SDCs) setting up of National Skill Development Mission (NSDM); and engaging several Ministries, departments and state governments in skill development.

As of now, only 2.5 million people out of 12 million people, entering job market every year are able to find employment. Only four million people are able to avail skill development opportunities. In our country, there are crores of people, who are eagerly searching for jobs. On the other side, paradox is that employers are unable to find employees with suitable skills, and are facing difficulty in filling up jobs with suitable persons. The difficulty to fill up jobs is around 48% in India, where as it is 34% as per global standards. Various studies have recognized that, lack of skills and knowledge is the major issue. In our country, only 10% of workforce avails skill development trainings, where as in developed countries, 80% to 90% of workforce avails skill development training. World Economic Forum (WEF) report stated that, only 25% of professionals are considered employable in organized sector.

In India, around 90% of employees are in unorganized sector, and they are not provided with support structures from formal institutions i.e., trainings to up-grade their skills. These employees earn skills through informal ways i.e., getting trained through traditional family occupations or on- the-job training under master. In these kind of set ups, there is no linkage to formal education training and certification. Only less than 5% of the workforce has





undergone skills training through various formal institutions across the country. Skills development training requires, both formal and informal channels. Formal structure includes many categories and they are given below:

- Higher technical education through professional colleges
- Vocational education in schools
- Technical trainings in specialized technical institutions
- Apprenticeship training

Many agencies have been imparting vocational education and training at various levels. Nearly 3.1 million persons are taking vocational training per year. Most of the formal vocational trainings are done through various institutions, such as government-run Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs), private operated Industrial Training Centers (ITCs), vocational schools, special institutions for training and apprenticeship training method. Earlier, in skill development training, most of the trainings were imparted through government institutions, but since past three decades, private sector has taken their place. Director General of Employment & Training (DGET) works on policies formulation, standard establishment, affiliation granting, testing and certification etc. Under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), banks and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are imparting skills and promoting entrepreneurship through 2500 Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institutions (RUDSETIs). Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) and other programs of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) train a minimum of one lakh persons per year. Many efforts were initiated in imparting training through Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK), Jana ShikshaSansthan (JSS), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojan (DDU - GKY) etc. GOI had rightly recognized importance of skill development towards enhancing economic growth. The 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) suggests that, skill development initiatives can foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth and GOI identifies key sectors for economic growth, such as manufacturing, retail, construction, banking, health and tourism. There are 21 Ministries/ Departments including Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), 35 state governments and Union Territories (UTs) and private sector involved in skill development in the country. Nearly 70 schemes were designed for skill development, with high subsidy to downtrodden people. Nearly 1120 courses have been approved as Modular Employable Skills (MES) for different sectors.

National Policy on Skill Development (NPSD) was created in 2009 to formulate strategies for skill development. Its objective is to empower, workforce by providing skills, knowledge and qualification to make Indian workforce competitive in national and global market. It targeted to train 500 million youth by 2022 including government and private sectors' initiatives. The policy states, roles and responsibilities of stake holders including government, industry, trade unions, local governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and all skill providers. The policy has many features and they are as follows:

- Institutional based ITIs / vocational schools, technical schools, polytechnics, professional colleges etc.
- Learning initiatives of sectoral skill development by various Ministries and departments.
- Formal and informal apprenticeship and other types of trainings by private sector.
- Training and entrepreneurship development.
- Informal training including training by CSOs.
- E-learning, web based learning and distance learning.
- Adult learning, deskilling of retired or retiring employees.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) was established in 2009 to promote skill development through establishment of large scale and high quality training institutions across the country, through Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. NSDC works for quality assurance, information system, training of trainers' in academies by training providers. NSDC has put, a target to train 150 million youth in private sector initiatives by 2022 in 20 potential sectors identified by GOI and they are given below:

- Auto and auto components
- Building and construction material
- Building and construction
- Real estate services
- Electronics and Information Technology (IT) and hardware

- Education and skill development services
- Food processing
- Gems and jewellery
- Health care
- Textiles
- Leather and leather goods
- Organized retail
- Tourism and hospitality
- Transportation and logistics
- Media and entertainment
- Banking, financial services and insurance
- Chemicals and pharmaceuticals
- Furniture and furnishing
- Information Technology (IT)
- Information Technology Enabled Service (ITES)

NSDC has developed a wide network for skill development. According to statistics, till July 2016, NSDC has developed 267 partners, 2,952 operational NSDC partner centers including 676 mobile centers covering across 471 districts in 28 states and five UTs in the country. NSDC has trained 80,33,299 persons through its network model. Currently, 59 corporate houses/ private players are associated with NSDC for imparting vocational education and technical training in the country. Funds are key, for skill development and as of now its requirements are met by NSDC through National Skill Development Fund (NSDF). NSDC acts as an investment manager to NSDF. Finance Ministry has increased, its allotment to NSDF from Rs.15 billion to Rs. 25 billion. It also mobilizes funds from private companies for skill development.

NSDC has established Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), which are autonomous and led by industrial bodies. SSCs create occupational standards and qualification bodies, develop competency programs, conduct trainings on designing training programs, conduct skill gaps studies, assess and certify trainees. SSCs strive to match existing vocational education system and industry sector requirements. SSC proposes three activities to match vocational education system and address skill gaps. They are as follows:

- Conducting research: Building up skill-wise and region-wise skill inventory data base for industry sector, conducting reviews on international trends in skill development, identifying lacunae in skills and introducing technology in teaching.
- Improving delivery mechanism: Making partnership with educational institutions to train trainers and up-grading skills in existing industrial employees.
- Building quality assurance: Setting up a robust and stringent certification and accreditation process for skill development institutes to ensure consistency in quality training.

National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) was established in 2013 to coordinate and harmonize all skill development programs across the country. NSDA is an autonomous body and is also a part of MSDE, and its functions are as follows:

- To take all possible steps to meet skill development targets designed in 12<sup>th</sup> FYP.
- To coordinate all Central Ministries/ Departments, state governments, UTs, NSDC and private sector efforts in skill development.
- To anchor and implement National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) to ensure skill development trainings quality and standards to meet different sectors' specific demands.
- Work as nodal agency for State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).
- Raise financial support for skill development from international agencies and private sector.
- Evaluate existing skill development programs and suggest correct actions to enhance efficiency. Create and maintain skill development database at national level, including development of dynamic Labour Market Information System (LMIS)
- Ensure meeting skill development needs of disadvantaged and marginalized sections, such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Castes (OBCs), Minorities, women and Differently-

Abled People.

- Take affirmative action for advocacy.

NSDA is the main coordinating body in streamlining, rationalizing and integrating skill development trainings across various Ministries / departments at center and in states. Any skill development proposal has to be submitted through NSDA to Cabinet Committee. NSDA's Chairman is a permanent invitee to Cabinet Committee (CC) meetings on skill development. National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) was notified in 2013 to ensure consistency in measuring outcomes of skill development trainings. By December 2016, NSQF will provide support to all government skill training programs. In 2014, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) was established to coordinate all stake holders, enhance evolution of skill development framework, remove gap between demand and supply of skilled work force, skill up-gradation, building new skills and innovative thinking, and assuring availability of talents across the country. National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy (NSDEP), 2015 was designed 'to create an ecosystem of empowerment by skill development on a large scale and speed with high standards to promote entrepreneurship, which can generate employment and wealth to provide sustainable livelihoods to all people in the country. The main objective of the policy is to empower individuals, by enabling each person to recognize his/ her full potentialities through lifelong learning. It supersedes National Skill Development (NSD) Policy, 2009.

Pre-joining	Training	Pre-placement	Placement	Post-placement
<p>Conduct market survey to design demand based courses.</p> <p>Ensure selection of eligible candidates.</p> <p>Understand social, cultural and financial situation of candidates.</p> <p>Understand candidates' skills, knowledge and aptitude and facilitate selection of suitable course.</p> <p>Share course details and benefits.</p> <p>Share final outcomes of trainings and candidates' responsibilities.</p> <p>Provide information about nature of work after placement .</p>	<p>Ensure infrastructure including learning availability, accessibility and quality in trainings.</p> <p>Ensure structure, objectivity, completeness, relevance and execution of courses.</p> <p>Ensure trainers have subject knowledge and facilitation skills.</p> <p>Inculcate communication skills, spoken skills, personality development along with subject knowledge.</p>	<p>Invite employers to training centers and ensure interaction between employers and trainees.</p> <p>Interact with employers and give training information and enquire about placements in their enterprises.</p> <p>Help trainees to prepare resumes, guiding students during preparation for interviews and provide placement information.</p>	<p>Design multiple strategies for placements like organizing placement events, inviting employers to training centers to address trainees, advocacy with different departments and industries, making collectives with trainees, contact entrepreneurs, promote self-employment and link with banks and welfare departments.</p> <p>Organize placement events for trainees.</p> <p>Provide logistical and hand-holding support for placement events.</p> <p>Assess placements' performance based on trainees placed.</p>	<p>Monitor trainees' satisfaction at placements.</p> <p>Conduct post-placement surveys and counsel trainers to adjust placement environment and requirements.</p> <p>Provide possible logistical support to the trainers by accommodation in designing collective networks.</p> <p>Preperformance tracking of trainees and guidance to further their journey in career path.</p>

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has established National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) in July 2015 to create convergence across sectors and states in terms of skill development activities, consolidating and coordinating skill development efforts, speed - up decision making in skill development activities to achieve scale with speed and quality. In this mission, three key institutions like NSDC, NSDA and DGT have been involved to facilitate smooth functioning in skill development across the country. GOI is spending an average of Rs.3000/- per candidate in skill development. Skill development training starts from pre-joining, counseling and ends with post-placement support to candidates. Training value is created, through training programs' implementation. In pre-joining stage, trainers select suitable candidates and counsel candidates to select suitable courses based on their aptitudes. Trainers understand enrollment process and outcomes of training program. Primary training value comes from course curricula, trainers' performance and infrastructure. After training, trainers provide support to candidates, by way of pre-placement support including facilitating in preparation of resumes and providing coaching to take part in job interviews. Placement process is next stage in

program, it is vital and reflects training outcomes. The program ends with post-placement support, which is critical and it includes understanding trainees' problems in placements and providing proper counselling and support to sustain in jobs. The training program Value Chain Analysis (VCA) is as follows:

Placement is critical in skill development programs. We can say that, overall skill development programs' performance can be decided by number of trainees placed, become entrepreneurs, and their retention rate in placements. Employers are willing to take candidates with multiple skills and traits. Candidates require many skills, such as communication skills, adaptability, domain expertise, integrity, values, result orientation, interpersonal skills, learning agility, numerical and logical ability and cultural fitment.

According to India Skills Report (ISR), 2016 which is the outcome of interaction of 5,20,000 candidates across the country through Well-box Employability Skill Test (WEST) across domains. According to the report, employers' preference is more on domain expertise, integrity, values and communication skills. Overall, attitude and traits take a larger place in employers' preferences.

Identifying jobs, sourcing channels is one of the key elements in getting placement. Presently, there are many jobs sourcing channels available to candidates such as consultants, job portals, internal referral, mobile recruiting, video resumes, job fairs, company websites, campus hires, social media and others. Most of the placements, are provided through internal referral, with job portals, consultants, social media and campus hires making up other major job sourcing channels.

Problems and solutions: Skill development in India is facing various problems, issues and challenges related to awareness, perception, quality, cost and scale. Existing infrastructure both physical and human are very inadequate to achieve desired results. Human Resources (HR) are an important element in skill development. For example, to train 1.7 million trainees at ITIs, around 85, 000 trainers are required, but we have only 4,438 trainers in ITIs. Awareness is a serious problem in skill development, as most of the candidates, are not aware about various courses and their prospects. People consider skill development as the last resort, after recognizing, that they are unable to pursue higher education. Existing stigma on some skills, which are considered to be of 'low' level category; therefore, candidates don't take those courses even when they have good demand. For example, construction skills have huge demand, but people are reluctant to take construction courses. Skill development initiatives, depend on government and public-private ventures for financial support. The notion that, skill development requires huge investment and its outcome is low needs to be challenged. With this assumption, government and private sectors are not interested in investing huge money in skill development. There is a gap between industrial sector's expectations and training centers' performance. Training quality is another issue, which relates to training infrastructure quality, trainers' skills and knowledge, curricula relevance and methodology. Lack of focus on continuous enhancement of trainers' skills and knowledge is a key concern in skill development.

In skill development trainings, there is a strong gender bias. Women are mostly enrolled in science and secretarial skills related courses and men are enrolled in industrial skills. Drop-out in placements is one, of the vital issues in skill development. Nearly 33% of the candidates are reluctant to join in placements, or leave within a month after joining. Trainees are full of dreams, that skill development will pave way for good placements with better off conditions with their existing skills and knowledge base. However, placement time employers' promises and the job conditions are completely different leading to employees leaving. In urban areas, with low wages, candidates are unable to meet minimum needs. Moreover, candidates have to migrate to distant places from their native place for placements. Government has to initiate, new key initiatives in skill development such as establishing new ITIs, polytechnics and up-gradation, expansion of vocational education from 9500 schools to 20,000 schools, establishment of 600 RUDSETIs, set up skill development resource network with 50,000 Skill Development Centers (SDCs) and exempting service tax to vocational education institutions. In informal sector, training needs are highly diverse and multi - oriented. Skill development lays its focus on, placements in private enterprises, instead of promoting and providing support to entrepreneurship, providing placement in collective enterprises and processing centers. The focus has to be emphasized on value chain in skill development and mobilize HR, who are in need for post placement support and establishment of enterprises.

**\*livelihoods July-2016**

## 8. Self-Employment

***Self-employment is widespread in the agriculture and allied sectors in India. All these activities constitute nearly three-fourth of the total self-employment activities. Predominantly, this self-employment in sphere of urban and rural non-farm activities can be broadly understood as self-employment without employees. There is high income self-employed and low income self-employed.***

Self-employment is widespread in the agriculture and allied sectors in India. All these activities constitute nearly three-fourth of the total self-employment activities. Predominantly, this self-employment in the sphere of urban and rural non-farm activities can be broadly understood as self-employment without employees. There are high income self-employed and low income self-employed. In this context 'livelihoods' looks in to the issue of 'Self-employment' which is the basic human necessity that, needs to be taken care of for people to meet their needs.

The independent self-employed people are weavers, street vendors, beedi rollers, rickshaw pullers and others. They are not full-time employees. They work, whenever they want to work, depending upon the requirement and need, they work.

They are accountable to themselves and their family members. Moreover, high income self-employed individuals are independent professionals/workers. They are doctors, lawyers, artists and accountants, rice mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estates and housing, owners of small hotels and restaurants, etc. Low income self employed individuals are weavers, street vendors, food processors, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, rag pickers, tailors, beedi rollers, agarbatti makers, potters, bamboo product makers, mobile food vending sellers, xerox center owner, street snack vendors and fruit/flower sellers, own auto/vehicle drivers, internet café centers, Tiffin centers vendors and others. The nature of low income self-employed in India, is more of a survival strategy, than of a sustainable business activity. Predominantly, most of the self-employed have low levels of education and poor access to capital.

Self-employment is a form of labour market status that is widely encompassed, with a wide range of activities. Most of the individuals may choose to be self-employed for different reasons, and as a result the group may be highly heterogeneous. Self-employment is commonly taken up to provide an important avenue for individuals to advance to the income ladder.

Characteristics of the self-employment: Majorly, self-employment has important characteristics, which are given below:

- Self-employment is found in many formal and informal livelihoods, where the individual having freedom to select his/ her own work, and the income is taken by him/her only.
- Self-employment is usually owned and managed by one or few persons. The self-employed take active participation in day to day activities. Moreover, the participation of owners in the management helps in taking quick decisions. The area of operation of a self-employed is limited and generally work is based on the need of local people.
- Self-employment involves ownership and management of activities by a person. Though, he/she may take the help of one or two persons to assist. Therefore, self-employment may provide employment to other individuals as well.
- Self-employed people's income is not fixed. It depends on income earned either by producing or buying and selling goods/products or providing services to others at a price.
- In self-employment, owner alone has to take profit and bear the risk of loss. So, it finds a direct link between effort and reward in self-employment.
- Self-employment requires initial capital investment. Although, it may be a small amount, but it sometimes requires labourers to be engaged.



- In self-employment, a person is free to take decisions in respect of running his/her enterprise profitably and avail any opportunity that may come up for expansion of his/her enterprise.
- The self-employed use local resources for their operations. The small-scale manufacturing units are usually located near source of raw material and labour etc.
- Self-employment gives complete freedom to work individually, having their own say within the parameters of prevailing circumstances and laws.
- Self-employment may be defined as an economic activity, which one may perform on his/her own as a gainful occupation, and this may consist of producing and selling goods, buying and selling goods, or rendering services for a price.
- In self-employment, the person may need to wait for a while to get returns on investment.
- The self-employment activities' operation is flexible. It can easily change its nature, areas of operation, process of production and etc. It depends upon social, political and economical conditions.

Avenues of self-employment: Before choosing a suitable career in self-employment, one must have some ideas, about the avenues in which self-employment opportunities are available in business/enterprise sector. In self-employment, there are some broad areas, which are 1. Trading, 2. Manufacturing, 3. Professionals and 4. Individualized services.

1. Trading: It involves buying and selling of goods and services. It requires small investment for starting and running this small trading unit. It comprises of activities like running a small grocery or stationary shop, agency business and real estate business, etc..
2. Manufacturing: Self-employment can start as a small industry of manufacturing like bricks, or producing bakery items or other food items. All these enterprises requires small amount of capital and simple equipment. Besides this, agriculture sector like farming is another such area, in which a person can work all alone or take help of one or two persons. This is an age-old area of self-employment, and the areas of dairy, poultry, sericulture, fisheries, horticulture, etc., are good examples of avenues for self-employment.
3. Professionals: Some self-employed individuals become professionals, who require special knowledge and training in a particular field to provide opportunities. Some professionals like lawyers, doctors, chartered accountants, architects and journalists, development workers and etc., come under this category. However, even though they have certain knowledge, further training may be imparted to them based on the latest happenings in their field areas; their services are utilized in areas pertaining to their field such as health, education and development sectors.
4. Individualized services: The self-employed people who are in tailoring, motor repairing, hair cutting, fashion designing, interior decorating, hardware engineering, selling of mobile, gas stoves, keys, repairing works, cobblers, etc., are a few people who come under this category.

They do business activities, which provide individualized services to the consumers. These can be easily started and run by individuals. These activities are based on the personal skills of those who perform them. Moreover, artisanal people who are handloom weavers, potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, goldsmiths are self-employed persons and they pursue their career based on the interest, skills and knowledge.

Advantages and disadvantages of self-employment:

*Advantages:*

- Self-employment gives returns based on our own efforts, with the potential to earn more in the long run. The future mostly is in one's own hands.
- Self-employment gives greater independence and freedom, therefore, they can enjoy more control on the work that he or she is engaged in.
- Self-employment can be part-time or full time, as people can create their own work hours.
- It can improve quality of life of the individual, and increase job satisfaction. Moreover, it can cut on daily commuting, and also there would be no organizational politics, which can help him or her to enjoy the work.

*Disadvantages:*

- Majorly, more stress is there as the responsibility for success or failure lies with the individual, who has taken to self-employment.
- No one other than the self-employed individual to manage, keep on track, or provide motivation.
- At times, self-employed people tend to spend less time with their family members, as the business commitments may take long hours.

- Self-employment may at times leads to isolation from colleagues and customers.
- Self-employed have to take responsibility for their own tax; moreover, there are no additional benefits, and no company pension schemes for future. Therefore, self-employed people need to save more for their future, or opt for a pension scheme with an insurance company.

Types of self-employment: There are many types of self-employment in India. They may be categorized on the basis of investment in fixed capital. This capital used for maintaining plant or machinery on the basis of nature or place of operation. Some of the areas for self-employment are as follows:

- Small-scale industries
- Tiny industries
- Ancillary industrial undertakings
- Village industries
- Cottage industries
- Micro business enterprises
- Small-scale service and business (industry related)
- Trading units

Importance of Self-employment: It provides chance to establish his or her own livelihood, and at times, may provide employment to others. In India, with growing unemployment and lack of adequate job opportunities, self-employment has become very significant. Its importance can be enumerated, which are as follows.

*Advantage of self-employment:* It can be easily incubated, requires less capital investment; good alternative to large scale business, as large scale business bring in various evils like environmental pollution, development of slums, exploitation of workers and so on.

*Preference over wage employment:* There is no limit to earnings as is the case with wage employment. The decisions taken are quick and convenient and act as strong motivators for self-employed, compared to wage employment.

*Difference between self-employment and entrepreneurship:* Self-employment involves either no risk or very little risk. But, as soon as the self-employed person starts becoming innovative and takes steps to expand his/her enterprise, after he/she becomes an entrepreneur; then, it becomes a launch pad for entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship involves taking risks, because the entrepreneur tries to create new products, new methods of production and marketing, requiring more capital.

*Promotion of individual services:* It provides individualized services like tailoring, repair work, dispensing of medicines etc. Those services are helpful in providing better consumer satisfaction, and can be easily initiated and run by individuals.

*Scope for creativity:* Self-employment provides opportunities for development of creativity and skills in artisans and craft sector. It leads to preservation of culture heritage of any country. For instance, creative ideas are reflected in handicrafts, handloom products etc.

Reduced unemployment through self-employment: Provides livelihood opportunities to a large number of unemployed people, and thereby can lead to decrease in unemployment.

*Self-employment is a boon:* Every one of us may not be able to pursue higher education after secondary or intermediate, due to financial and family reasons. Such individuals can start their career as self-employed in occupations, that do not require higher education. It may be noted that self-employment, has been given high priority in government policies and programmes. State and nation wise a number of schemes are implemented for encouraging entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Scope of self-employment: The schemes provide financial and other assistance towards productive self-employment, and also offer supplementary wage employment to the underemployed.

These programmes, have been continued in one form or the other, and have been modified or integrated. New ones have been started, while some old ones have been discontinued.

Self-employment is increasing in developing countries: According "IZA World of Labour Organization", around the world self-employment is increasing in developing countries. They conducted a study in 18 countries on self-employment. As per the study, many poor people are now becoming self-employed. They work at individual or at the household enterprises in both urban and rural areas, that falls within and outside agriculture. Self-employment individuals, who do not employ others are sometimes called 'own-account workers'. In this regard, more than half of workers in low-income countries (53%) and more than a third in lower-middle income countries

(36%) are self-employed. They mainly depend upon the agriculture in both cases. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of people, who are self-employed is high. In South Africa, 19% of the population is self-employed, and half of the extremely poor in urban areas operate in non-agriculture business sector only.

**Self-employment module:** In India, central and state governments have launched many schemes for self-employment. There are many agencies who are working towards promotion of entrepreneurship. The self-employed also avail business opportunities, and have market potential and other business avenues. For incubating a small enterprise, under the various schemes, budding self-employed people have undergone various training for startups. More than 300 types of trainings are offered, with more than 100 agencies are working towards this.

**Self-employment promotion in India:** Promotion of self-employment is going on through various self-employment schemes, which are implemented at the central and state levels. India has the second highest population in the world. Due to its huge population, our country is always facing the problem of unemployment, particularly after reforms that led to Liberalization, Globalization and Privatization (LPG). The Fifth Five Year Plan (FYP) (1974-79), sought to address the unemployment issue by reorienting the pattern of growth in favour of employment intensive sectors. At the same time, a strong opinion was emerging, suggesting that growth alone cannot solve the problems of poverty and unemployment, and therefore, a number of special employment and poverty alleviation programmes such as Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Scheme for Providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSRY) & Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Development Of Women And Children In Rural Areas (DWCRA) were launched by government.

National and state governments have started training institutions for increasing self-employment as well as individual entrepreneurship. Many youths are availing training from these institutions and becoming self-employed or becoming entrepreneurs. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched the Rural Self-employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) with dedicated infrastructure in almost all districts of the country to impart training and skill up-gradation to rural youth geared toward entrepreneurship development. Government institutions like Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Rural Institute (SRTRI), Society for Employment Promotion and Training in Twin Cities (SETWIN), etc. are also working towards this goal.

*RSETIs objectives:*

- For imparting self-employment trainings, rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) will be identified for training.
- The trainings offered will be demand driven.
- The trainings will be provided according to the candidates' interest and aptitude.
- Hand holding support will be provided for assured credit linkage with banks.
- For two years, they will provide escort support to self-employment and micro enterprise trainees.
- The trainees will be provided free food and accommodation during the trainings.

**Policies on Self-employment:** In India, for urban poverty alleviation the Government of India (GoI) launched the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM). Moreover, Self-employment Program (SEP) was started in 2013 under NULM. This program focuses on financial assistance to individual or groups of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures/micro enterprises. For that, it imparts training on skills, aptitude and local conditions to individuals and groups. Moreover, it will also support Self Help Groups (SHGs) of urban poor to access easy credit from the bank and avail interest subsidy on SHGs' loan.

Besides this, the Central Government is also looking at tying up with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), state and central agriculture universities, and other such bodies to train farmers in alternative skills, such as bee-keeping, and poultry under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). Moreover, new programme to provide self-employment are being worked out with more or less the same objectives as existing schemes, though in a more structured manner. The present government officials said the idea of the new programmes is to work through the experience gained from schemes such as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen KaushalYojana (DDUGKY). Those programmes are Project Livelihoods in Full Employment (LIFE), Rural Mason programme, Bare Food Technician Programme, etc. For increasing self-employment, new programs focused on rural youth are needed as there are quality and certification issues with all such existing initiatives. The programs would able rural youth to contribute to rural growth and prosperity, which in turn would wipe off signs of distress.

**Non Government Organizations' (NGOs) role in self-employment:** In the context of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) in India, multinational companies should work for community. In this context, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), there are many organizations working for skill development programs



for youth. They offer trainings to unemployed youth. After that, these organizations give support to those, who want to become self-employed. Like GMR Foundation, Azeem Premji Foundation, Dr. Reddy's Foundation, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Tribal Cooperation for Rural Development, Inc. (TRICORD), COVA and other organizations.

Therefore, a lot of government organizations and non-government organizations are working towards poor people, who want to become self-employed. In this regard, there are many people who want to choose self-employment. Identifying these people and helping them in establishing their own enterprises by providing them appropriate skills, raw material and credit support etc., can help them in a big way. In a chain reaction, these people can generate more employment opportunities for other poor people. Therefore, many organizations are imparting training on skills and other capacity building to increase self-employed people.

Self-employment differentiation among female and male workers (2009-10): Generally, the rates of people undertaking self-employment have increased. Also, the hassle of finding paid work or wage work is the reason for the significant increase in self-employment among both male and female workers. During 2004-05, the proportion of self-employment grew significantly with casual employment and marginal rise in regular-salaried employment. In this regard, the numbers of self-employed have also increased in female as well as male workers. The interesting part is that, this number has been significantly higher for female than that of male. But the proportion of casual labour has increased for both rural male and female and reached an all-time high in 2009-10.

Self-employment status in India by 2012: According to National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) survey, around 51% of Indian workers are self-employed, while 33.5% of them are casual labour (33.5%) and only 15.6% are salaried employees. Among workers in rural areas, 54.2% are self-employed as against 41.1% in urban areas, and 38.6% works as casual labour in rural areas as against 17.5% in urban areas. This survey was conducted in July 2012. According to a survey released by the government, the country's self-employment figures have fallen from 2004-5 to 2011-12. In this survey, a country-wide dip was noticed on self-employment. Cities included Bhopal, Nagpur, Agra and other major cities. In India, labourers employed in unorganized sector are self-employed; additionally, family owned shops, and street vendors who buy goods with a limited amount and sell the same to procure goods, are self-employed. They do not work under any owners, but require some financial capital and marketing skills, and sell their products at market streets, bus stops and other public places.

Limitations and gaps: In developing countries, the largest gap in understanding self-employment is that many people are employed in wage employment preferring self-employment. The people are choosing self-employment because of non-wage benefits, such as being one's own boss and enjoying greater flexibility between work and family responsibilities. Moreover, if we compare them, self-employed earn more than wage employment, but the risks and limitation also increase exponentially in self-employment. Another major gap is that self-employed people have issues between social and cost benefits. Though, if we see overall in India, many are opting for self-employment. At the same time, all around the world lots of people are choosing self-employment.

In the context of self-employment, India is still suffering with problems of unemployment and underemployment. The fact is, that high rate of economic growth has not been able to generate high employment growth in the country. In fact, it has been accompanied by a slowdown in employment growth in recent years. It has led many economists and others concerned to portray the recent experience as one of 'jobless growth'. An interesting paradox of this country is that there are jobs that are not finding suitable candidates and there are candidates without jobs. Self-employment is the predominant mode of economic activity among the world's poor, so as to earn enough to escape from the poverty. Self-employed people have to work extra hard and survive; but are looked down upon by society, which prefers "safe" salaried people. Self-employment should be recognized as an important means of providing the poor with decent livelihood and deserving support and respect, so that the self-employed can help many, escape from poverty.

**\*livelihoods September-2016**

## 9. Entrepreneurship

**India is dominated by a large number of very small units of production and services. In rural areas, several micro and small enterprises in the nonfarm sector, apart from farming, contribute significantly in reducing rural poverty. Income from these enterprises is important, because most of the time, the income from agriculture alone is not enough for the poor to sustain and secondly, wage employment is highly seasonal.**



According to a survey, among rural households in India, non-farm sources account for 34% of the household income as against 55% from cultivation and 8% from agriculture labour. Apart from enhancing household income levels, non-farm enterprises also promote equitable distribution of income by providing employment for women, unemployed and underemployed youth, small farmers and landless, workers and other poor. Rural non-farm economy in India accounts for 20–50% of total rural employment in the country. Of course, all farmers and all artisans are taking risk in pursuing their self-employed enterprises! Urban India is home to several micro and small enterprises. The cities and towns sprawl with street vendors, several small wholesale and retail shops, service centers and many small self-employed entrepreneurs.

The establishment run by an entrepreneur or groups of entrepreneurs is called an enterprise. An enterprise can be a commercial enterprise, profession, or trade operated for the purpose of earning a profit/fee by providing a product or service. Enterprises are created by entrepreneurs, who invest money at risk to promote a particular venture and expect a positive return on investment. Enterprises vary in

size from a one-person sole proprietorship, to partnership, collectives or a national or international corporation having many assets and thousands of employees. Enterprises in India can be divided into 3 categories –

### **Small-scale or household enterprises**

These enterprises vary widely in size, location, gender participation and sector of activity, but most are a single person, owner-operating unit, or small units engaging family members. They may be called survival-subsistence or livelihood enterprises, as they provide employment opportunities in the absence of more profitable alternatives. Since such enterprises require low levels of skill and capital, potential entrepreneurs face low barriers to entry. Subsequently, as too many enterprises cluster in one area, their potential for growth is diminished. A small number may continue to grow over time and start employing wage labour.

*Many enterprises in rural India are owned and run by individuals with the support of family labour or in some cases by hiring one or two workers. Most of these enterprises are limited in terms of capital, space, expertise, volumes, access to information and technology, markets and customers. They are also subjected to severe competition from semi urban and urban enterprises. In the process the individual entrepreneurs are losing out and taking up wage employment, thus regressing from being owner to workers. In this context collective enterprises seem to hold a promise.*

### **Microenterprises**

The second category consists of enterprises that employ wage labour, relatives or child labour, and use a higher level of skill and capital intensity than do household enterprises. Many have prospects for growth in scale, as well as in capital intensity and market size over the long run.

*The rise of all-under-one-roof malls/chain stores is however increasingly threatening their existence. Congested city streets are imposing many constraints on street vending enterprises inviting fresh regulations and exploitation that any regulation entails. The unorganized nature of urban enterprises invites several constraints on the livelihood like identity crisis, lack of adequate and timely credit flows etc.*

### **Small enterprises**

The third category comprises structured, growth-oriented businesses that serve relatively larger markets, use more capital and skills, and are also likely to engage in subcontracting arrangements with producers in rural and semi-urban areas. Enterprises, looked at through livelihoods lens can be broadly categorized as rural and urban enterprises that have a significant contribution to the income and risk levels of the poor in India.

Indian farmer is an entrepreneur, though seldom recognized as one. Person's works with the factors of production and shoulders enormous risk. Much of Indian farming is family-owned enterprise. Most of small and marginal farmers with single or at

most two crops in a year are seasonal entrepreneurs. Agriculture being what it is today, with increased cost of inputs, lack of sufficient and timely credit, deterioration of soil quality and depletion of water resources, inadequate systems and infrastructure to cater to post-harvest requirements and distant, wider and volatile markets, the farmer is always placed at the receiving end of risk. The situation is dire in case of small and marginal farmers, whose risk coping mechanisms are minimal to nil.

Apart from farming, Indian villages are home to several nonfarm enterprises like Brick-making; Charcoal-making; Food processing; Marketing transport; Public transport; Small rural shops (food and non-food); Rural restaurants; Small bakeries; Repair workshops (mechanical, electrical, electronics and various items); Small business centers; Blacksmiths and metal workers; Construction; Carpentry workshops; Handicraft products (pottery, basket weaving, sewing etc); Weaving, batik, tie and dye etc; Small lodges; Tours and guides.

Many enterprises in rural India are owned and run by individuals, with the support of family labour or in some cases by hiring one or two workers. Most of these enterprises are limited in terms of capital, space, expertise, volumes, access to information and technology, markets and customers. They are also subjected to severe competition from semi-urban and urban enterprises. In the process, the individual entrepreneurs are losing out and taking up wage employment, thus regressing from being owner to workers. In this context, collective enterprises seem to hold a promise. Collective enterprises are those, where two or more small producers of goods and/or services come together to run the village level or beyond village enterprise collectively. The collective enterprise is usually a registered body. The collective enterprise can take the form of a cooperative or Mutually Aided cooperative society (MACS), Producer Company (PC) or Multi-state Cooperative Society (MSCS).

In the urban sphere, street vending comprises a significant percentage of micro entrepreneurs. Street vending can be that of the trader, who walks around the city offering goods and services without a fixed place from which to operate, and that of the trader, who sells merchandise or provides services from a fixed point on the public thoroughfare. They deal with fewer volumes and relatively less risk. Their risk coping mechanisms are highly unorganized and so are their credit flows. Apart from street vending, small retail and wholesale enterprises are home to sizeable number of entrepreneurs. These enterprises deal with either goods and/or services. They can be exclusive shops providing homogenous goods and services or deal with diversified list. These small and micro enterprises in urban India provide great succor to the vast majority of Indian middle-class. Their simplified establishments help give better and competitive prices to the consumers and operating in almost every street they are seamlessly accessible.

*Apart from streamlining financial services both through government and non-government channels, Indian small enterprises need access to several non-financial services like entrepreneurship training – building up knowledge on elementary business principles and practices; business management – accounting and bookkeeping services*

The rise of all-under-one-roof malls/chain stores is however increasingly threatening their existence. Congested city streets are imposing many constraints on street vending enterprises inviting fresh regulations and exploitation that any regulation entails. The unorganized nature of urban enterprises invites several constraints on the livelihood like identity crisis, lack of adequate and timely credit flows etc. Rural enterprises have their own bag of challenges to confront. They are unable to capture market opportunities, which require large production facilities and thus could not achieve economies of scale, homogenous standards and regular supply. Most rural enterprises are experiencing difficulties in purchase of inputs such as raw materials, machinery and equipment's, finance, consulting services, new technology, highly skilled labour etc. Further, small size hinders the internalization of functions such as market research, market intelligence, supply chain, technology innovation, training, and division of labour that impedes productivity. Emphasis to preserve narrow profit margins makes the rural enterprises myopic, about the innovative improvements to their product and processes and to capture new markets.

Rural enterprises are unable to compete with big players in terms of product quality, range of products, marketing abilities and cost. Absence of a wide range of financing and other services needed to raise money and sustain the business are hurting rural enterprises. Poor quantity, quality and unreliable infrastructure are a significant bottleneck. The World Bank Investment Climate Survey of India (WBICSI) indicated that power outages, are one of the most serious obstacles. Absence of quality labour, business acumen and availability of limited options /opportunities to widen the business are some other obstacles. With government protection to small scale enterprises gradually declining, the sector has to face tough competition, from big corporate houses and imports.

To achieve economies of scale, to meet quality standards and streamline the supply chain of rural enterprises cluster approach is favoured. Clusters are sectoral and geographical concentration of enterprises faced with common opportunities and threats, which give rise to external economies; favour the emergence of specialized technical, administrative and financial services; create a favorable ground for the development of inter-firm cooperation to promote local production, innovation and collective learning. Clustering and networking has helped the rural enterprises in boosting their competitiveness. India has over 400 small and medium enterprise clusters and 2000 artisan clusters. However, there are obstacles that hamper cluster development like lack of a cultural attitude towards cooperation; the significance of transaction costs that need to be borne to identify suitable network partners and to forge relationships; the high risk of free riding etc. To counter these obstacles, the

Random Statistics on Enterprises in India (adapted)

- 55% (1); 32% (2)
- 46% (in HH); 20% (mobile)
- 98% (no accounts)
- 90% (unregistered)
- 44% (shortage of capital)
- 67% (stagnant)

intervention of an external agent – NGO or enterprise support institution or a development professional, that can act as a catalyst that facilitates the emergence of networks and clusters is critical.

Apart from streamlining financial services both through government and non-government channels, Indian small enterprises need access to several non-financial services like entrepreneurship training – building up knowledge on elementary business principles and practices; business management – accounting and book keeping services, example cash flow management and improving the capacity of entrepreneurs to run their business activities over long term; market services – market investigations (studies), training and facilitation (links with traders); access to cost-effective technologies and vocational/technology training; business planning, e.g. analysis of investment proposals, especially term-finance proposals, appraising their technical and financial feasibility and linking up with financial institutions for funding requirements; product and process quality assessment (quality standard requirements).The provision of non-financial services should not follow a hard-coded approach, but should be tailored to meet the constraints and difficulties encountered by enterprises with different priorities. Handholding support is critical, till such time the enterprises are sufficiently confident to manage their business on a sustainable basis. Development of a sustainable business counseling capacity, targeted at poor entrepreneurs is crucial for guaranteeing the success of small businesses.

We are a krishi-pradhan (entrepreneurial/self-employed) country. Self-reliant individual, family, village and area have been the dominant way of our tradition. Apart from filling gaps in existing situation and tapping new opportunities, meeting local needs first and increasing the higher proportion of consumer rupee into the hands of the enterprising producers, value-adders and service producers gives boost to large number of the households, mostly in unorganized sector. They (entrepreneurs) need to come together. They need to meet their needs collectively. Collectives of entrepreneurs and individual enterprises are the way forward. Collective enterprises will be next in line. Entrepreneurs that service the entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs that mentor the entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs that service the collectives of entrepreneurs and collective enterprises are required. An environment that supports free and small enterprise and self-employment and conversion of unorganized enterprises into organized enterprises is important in going forward.

**\*Livelihoods March - 2011**

## 10. Social Entrepreneurship

***Social entrepreneurship has grown over the past three-four decades, to become the new mantra of development. No more is development considered charity. With entrepreneurial traits entering the development foray, what changes has it brought in development thinking and practice.***



For most of us, the word “enterprise” conjures up the image of a regular business activity. An entrepreneur is considered synonymous with a business person. However, the two terms, the two activities are poles apart. True, entrepreneurs often run their own firms and conduct a business. But can we call the millions of businesspersons entrepreneurs? The dia-critical factor that distinguishes an entrepreneur from a businessperson is the former’s desire to change the existing patterns of production, making it simpler and more efficient. An entrepreneur is driven by the motive of making things better and breaking the status quo. They do this not for the sake of breaking

the existing norm, but with the conviction that there are better ways of doing things. What distinguishes a social entrepreneur from a business entrepreneur is the former’s motive to do public good. A social enterprise believes in empowering its stakeholders and bettering their lives. Often, stakeholders in a social enterprise are the poor, vulnerable and downtrodden. There is more to a social enterprise than its non-profit motive. More often than not, it offers a unique solution to society’s most pressing problems. Social entrepreneurs are willing to tread territories that, other entrepreneurs wouldn’t, given the high levels of risk and uncertainty.

William Drayton coined the term “social enterprise” to define a breed of institutions that work towards improving the lives of the poor. These institutions are not merely philanthropic or charitable; they have a clear agenda and spirit to create value for the underprivileged. The social enterprise belongs not to the private or government sector but to a “social sector.” This sector emerged as a response to government’s apathy to pressing crises, such as poverty, environmental degradation, depleting resources, etc. brought on by exploitative practices of large, private industries. Essentially, the social enterprise is one of the pillars of the “social economy” or the “citizen sector”. The social sector is neither the government nor the private sector. It is characterized by-

### **Social entrepreneurs play the role of change agents in the social sector, by:**

- \* Adopting a mission to create and sustain social value (not just private value),
- \* Recognizing and relentlessly pursuing new opportunities to serve that mission,
- \* Engaging in a process of continuous innovation, adaptation, and learning,
- \* Acting boldly without being limited by resources currently in hand, and
- \* Exhibiting a heightened sense of accountability to the constituencies served and for the outcomes created-George Dees

- shared values about the satisfaction of needs, not for profit principles, cooperation and self-organization;
- distinctive types of inter-organizational relationships;
- pursuit of a new mode of production;
- a mode of economic integration characterized by norms of reciprocity;

This sector believes that there is much the individual can do to accelerate development than leave it to the government and private sector. Some also believe that the social sector can accomplish this task more efficiently than the other two sectors. This is not to say that the sector is against government action or private contribution

to development, it just believes that the two sectors are often embroiled in their limitations (votes/accountability in the case of government and profits in the case of private sector). The social enterprise applies the methods and practices of a business in an ethical manner. Often, a social enterprise works in tandem with both the sectors. It realizes that ignoring the two would be perilous to its cause, simply because a large part of the resources and wealth are concentrated in the other two sectors. A social enterprise tries to bridge the gap between the private sector and the social sector. The understanding is that both cannot be mutually exclusive. There is a need to arrive at a middle point. Therefore, a social enterprise establishes positive linkages with the two sectors, while adopting a not-for-profit approach. They strive to create social capital for the entire society, thereby triggering a *virtuous cycle* as depicted in the picture above. Essentially, the components of social capital include-

- trust;
- reciprocity and mutuality;
- shared norms of behaviour;
- shared commitment and belonging;
- both formal and informal social networks; and
- effective information channels.

By seeding these values in the community, the social enterprise triggers a chain of events that accumulate other capitals for the community. This in turn leads to further creation and cementing of social capital in the community.

The New Development Paradigm; rise of the social enterprise marks a shift in thinking about development organizations. It is no longer perceived that developed organizations are idealistic, philanthropic institutions. Social enterprises prove that development work does not require one to assume the lifestyle of an ascetic. To be sure, social enterprises and entrepreneurs existed well before the concept gained ground as we know it today. Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing is one of the many, such unsung social entrepreneurs. Though we know of the selfless service she rendered to wounded soldiers in World War I, not many are aware that she is the founder of the first modern nursing school. Since, understanding of entrepreneurship was still limited at that time, Nightingale and the like were considered visionaries, philanthropists and social workers. The emergence of the “third sector” or “citizen sector” lent new meaning to development work. Charity, which was long thought to be the answer, was going out of vogue. It was increasingly being felt that charity/philanthropy ensured immediate relief, but did little to sustain the lives of the poor. It did too less to build the confidence of the poor to lead independent lives. It was realized that inculcating a sense of dignity, among the poor had far-reaching consequences than piecemeal benefits doled out to the poor every once in a while. One of the earliest examples of a social entrepreneur in India is Vinoba Bhave, the land donation saint. Bhave, a Gandhian, spearheaded the land donation movement across rural India in the early years of independence. Bhave’s innovation lay not only in the concept of *bhooadaan*, but also in his ability to persuade thousands of landlords to relinquish their lands to the poor. Harboring a vision for society is one thing and making others envision a similar future is another. A lot of work that social entrepreneurs have to do involves urging people to shed their prejudices and embrace new ideas. Considering the social impact a social enterprise/entrepreneur cannot escape battling existing social mores and attitudinal resistance to new ideas. The genius of the social entrepreneur lies in their capacity to bring about this change in the psyche.

Often, social enterprises are spearheaded by an “idea-champion” with unusually high commitment levels and action-oriented individuals. Setbacks and failure do not wash away their determination to make a difference. They are committed to the larger social cause than being bent upon saving the institutions they create. A social entrepreneur believes that their role is to move a “stable but unjust society to a new, stable and just society.” They help sensible ideas take root and in the process change people’s thinking. Further, social entrepreneurs display remarkable flexibility in their approach. They do not hesitate to make quick changes in their strategies to adapt to new situations. Therefore, social enterprises are constantly evolving and innovating. For instance, microfinance institutions began introducing “plus” services once they established themselves in the credit sector. Many social entrepreneurs today also focus on creating tangible, visible value for the society. They apply modern management concepts in running their organizations. Some of them are even for-profit organizations, much like business enterprises. This is an important shift to note– doing good for the society no longer means

sacrificing profits. It only implies a more favourable, equitable distribution of wealth and resources in the society. One look at the variety of social enterprises that have sprung up over the past few decades reveals the vast range of issues that social enterprises tries to solve. Examples of social enterprises in livelihoods, health, technology, and energy are galore. Whatever be the sector, the returns are accrued to the stakeholders-community who are the owners of the enterprise.

### **Importance of Social Entrepreneurship in Development**

#### **1. Employment Development**

The most visible, immediate consequence of social entrepreneurship (and indeed business entrepreneurship) is employment and job generation. It is estimated that about 1-7% of the world population is employed in the social economic sector. The employment generated is for both professionals as well as for the community. Many social enterprises have done away with engaging external persons in the implementation of their interventions in favour of local talent.

#### **2. Innovation / New Goods and Services**

Social enterprises allow for innovations to take root in society to solve social and economic issues. These innovations seek to better the existing order towards a more egalitarian one.

#### **3. Social Capital**

Social enterprises support and nurture the emergence of institutions of the community based on principles of cooperation and collective action. In this process, they help creating long-lasting social capital. Investing in the social capital triggers a *virtuous cycle*.

#### **4. Equity Promotion**

Social entrepreneurship fosters a more equitable society by addressing social issues and trying to achieve ongoing sustainable impact through their social mission rather than purely profit-maximization.

Not all social enterprises strive to make a difference by enhancing the incomes of the poor. Some address societal issues such as rights violation and abuse of vulnerable sections of the society. Childline is one such example. Launched in 1996, Childline is India's first helpline for children. It came as a response to the vulnerabilities urban poor children (often dwelling on streets) face on a day-to-day basis. While preventing abuse (physical and mental) itself is difficult, measures to reduce the impact of the abuse are certainly possible. Through its toll-free number (1098), Childline has spelt hope for millions of children across the country. Every complaint the helpline receives is followed up by action— Childline volunteers rush to the spot. Likewise, there are millions of enterprises across the country that work towards reducing the vulnerabilities of the poor and protecting their rights. These enterprises are different from activist-organizations. They seek to build institutions that would leave a lasting impact on society than just influence policy and decisions.

William Drayton is credited with shaping the modern perception of social entrepreneurship through Ashoka, an organization he established in 1981. Ashoka's focus is on grooming social entrepreneurs. It helps social entrepreneurs to put their ideas to practice. Ashoka started with entrepreneurs in India and slowly spread to other countries in Latin America and Africa. It has reached out to 6,000 entrepreneurs- Ashoka Fellows in the past three decades. At the crux of Ashoka's efforts lies identifying and supporting potential entrepreneurs through its Fellowship. Social enterprises are mission-oriented they hold their purpose with highest regard. Often, social enterprises and entrepreneurs work in conditions of severe resource shortages. As a result, resource leveraging and optimization are a priority for these enterprises. The Fellows are supported to spread their ideas and build their institutions over a period of three years. It gives them access to a global network of social entrepreneurs. Besides supporting individual entrepreneurs, Ashoka also supports group enterprises and networks of entrepreneurs to work through collaborations and accelerate social impact. Yet another facet of Ashoka's efforts to promote social enterprise ventures is building the infrastructure/resources in the field. The organization has worked towards building favourable conditions for social enterprises to access financial support, academic

research, businesses, etc., factors that contribute to their growth. Though, Ashoka has popularized social entrepreneurship across the world, William Drayton, its founder and an ex-management professional drew inspiration from myriad examples of social enterprises in India. Back in the 70's, when Drayton visited India, a number of movements and organizations, which would later become stalwarts in the sector were taking shape. Of these Amul, Vinobha Bhave's movement and Ela Bhatt's SEWA had the most profound influence on Drayton. While many entrepreneurs were successful, many found their growth stunted by an indifferent public and government apathy. It was also around this time that social enterprises were discovering many aspects that were later recognized as core characteristics. Of these, the most fundamental was the recognition and importance of community participation in the success of an entrepreneurship. For the innovators of the time- Verghese Kurien, Yunus Khan, Bunker Roy, realized that engineering social change alone was not enough. Imposing change from outside was as good as not making a change at all. Inculcating ownership of the change was thought to be the key to lasting social impact. That idea served as an eye-opener. Today, it is unimaginable for a development intervention to not consider community involvement. In fact, it has come to be considered as one of the key indicators of the feasibility and success of an intervention.

New-age social enterprises started to focus more on tangible results than feel-good factors. Rather than considering continued funding an indicator of their work, more and more social enterprises emerged with clear, measurable indicators. These could be decrease in number of poor (in the case of Grameen), grooming more social entrepreneurs (ASHOKA) or building skills of the stakeholders (Barefoot College). Evolving these indicators has made funding more credible. Further, social entrepreneurs are expected to meet a *triple bottom line* in their business- people, profit and environment. Their indicators are to represent impact on all three aspects. Most social enterprises calculate their Social Return on Investment (SROI). Funding Social Enterprises; most people believe that social entrepreneurs find it most difficult to attract funders for their ideas. However, social entrepreneurs have less trouble starting-up than taking off. Unlike business entrepreneurs, who can raise funds from capital markets once they prove themselves, social entrepreneurs running non-profit establishments are funded by foundations and philanthropists. Their funds are often small and for a short-term. Over the years, a favourable environment for investment in the social sector has emerged. More and more investors- "angel investors" are willing to contribute to social enterprises. New-York based Acumen Fund is one of the leading investors in the social sector. Established in 2001, Acumen supports emerging ideas and individuals at their helm to apply an entrepreneurial approach to solving development issues. The founders of acumen (Rockefeller Foundation, Cisco, and three independent philanthropists) took cognizance of the immense wealth that was being generated and ill-distributed in the global economy. They realized the inherent paradox in the economy and resolved to solve it by supporting entrepreneurs and their activities in overcoming the challenges of global poverty. As a matter of principle, Acumen provides loans or equity but not grants. This results in Acumen realizing its financial and social commitments simultaneously. The financial return of its investments (interest) is not accrued by individuals but is put back into the system to fund more social enterprises. Acumen has invested in diverse sectors- health, housing, livelihoods, water and sanitation in various countries. In its ten years, Acumen has supported 65 such enterprises with an approved investment of \$73 million. In turn, Acumen has touched the lives of 86 million people around the world with a diverse range of services, from energy to health. Acumen generally provides the initial, start-up capital to the enterprise. Most enterprises then build towards attracting other investors. For instance, in 2004, Acumen funded Water Health India (WHI), an initiative to provide potable water to rural Indians. Acumen helped WHI to innovate on water purifying systems and then establish these systems at various locations. By the end of two years, WHI had ten systems operating across the country. Its potential for growth raised the interest of private investors. Three years after Acumen's initial investment of \$ 600,000, WHI had raised \$11 million in private capital. Furthermore, WHI was negotiating with banks to fund future projects. Today, WHI has raised about \$ 30 million through its dedicated efforts, efficient use of resources and a strong business model. WHI's is exactly the kind of story organizations like Acumen Fund, hope to spawn. They do not wish to continue their support for long periods of time and are happy to see the companies they invest in becoming independent. Acumen calls this kind of fund *patient capital*. Patience because, unlike business enterprises, the returns/results of investing in the social sectors are slow. The essential features of patient capital include-

- Allows considerable time for realizing returns



- Risk-tolerance
- Aims at maximizing social, rather than financial, returns
- Provides management support to help new business models thrive
- The flexibility to seek partnerships with governments and corporations through subsidy and co-investment when doing so may be beneficial to low-income customers.

The Organizational Structure of a Social Enterprise; There is no said organizational structure for a social enterprise. This could be a for-profit business venture, a non-profit venture or a hybrid of the two. Similarly, in the Indian context, the social enterprise could be MACS, a Section-25 Company or a Trust. An organization does not become a social enterprise, by virtue of its organizational or financial structure. It is the purpose of the organization that sets it apart from the rest. Further, the manner in which the social enterprise operates also differs— some may be embedded social enterprises, some may be integrated ones and some external enterprises. Embedded social enterprises do not differentiate between their social activities and business activities. These enterprises come up with ways of achieving economic sustainability and delivering social good simultaneously. Therefore, the social program in these kinds of enterprises is self-financing, rendering this model more sustainable. A case in point is Grameen Bank, founded by Yunus Khan in Bangladesh. The Grameen Bank was established in 1974, in the wake of the war that liberated Bangladesh but also left much to be done on the nation-building front. Mr. Khan started Grameen with the intention of providing small-size loans to rural poor in Bangladesh at affordable interest rates. Grameen uses the returns it gets (interest) to give loans to members again. An integrated social enterprise is one in, which the business activities are distinct from the social activities. Often, the business activities are used to fund social programs. For instance, NarayanaHrudayalaya provides affordable health care to poor. It charges poor patients about only half as much as the regular fee. The profits it makes through its services to the non-poor patients are enough for it to bear the subsidies it provides to the poor. Some organizations establish separate entities to perform their socially-conscious activities. Here, not only are the business activities distinct from the social programs, but they are also organizationally different.

Most social enterprises work as networks. They believe in networking entrepreneurship and delegate more responsibilities and decision-making powers to the lower-tiers of the organization. This helps in building ownership of the enterprise among the stakeholders. Besides, the decentralized functioning of the enterprise makes it easy to be replicated, with the centre performing the role of a coordinator. For instance, the Shri Griha Udyog Mahila, which manufactures the Lijjat Papad, wholly managed by women, has an annual turnover of Rs. 470 crore. Lijjat has a strict no-grant policy. It was registered in 1966 as a trust, and obtained a grant from the KVIC. Since then, there has been no looking back for Lijjat. It adopted a decentralized production and centralized marketing approach, which enables it to meet market demand at low costs. Lijjat established branches for every cluster of its members. Each Branch is an autonomous unit and is in-charge of the entire range of activities- production to marketing in an area. The profit or loss of each the Branch is borne by the members. The dough is mixed at a central location in cluster and sent to the women to be rolled into papads. The size of the papad is specified by the Branch and each member is given a target of making at least three kilos of papad in a day. Once rolled, the papads are brought back to the branch, where they are packed. The members are paid on a daily basis, depending on their output. The profit-sharing norms are decided by the branches. In these four decades, Lijjat has been committed to its mission of creating self-sufficiency among its members by generating self-employment opportunities. To this end, it has consciously avoided mechanization of the production. Further, Lijjat has emphasized on member-centrality and ensured that the members actively participate in the decision-making process. In this scenario, the profits and assets accumulated belong to the community. They are not routed to an individual as is the case in business enterprises. The financial structure of a social enterprise is such that all the income generated goes back to the stakeholders in the form of benefits or distribution of profits.

There are instances, where the institutions, the social enterprise helps establish themselves take up development activities. Once the basic purpose of these institutions is fulfilled and the systems to sustain the benefits are stabilized – loans to members, improved incomes, etc., the institutions initiate further development processes in the community. This could be in the form of community-run insurance, schools, food security, etc. Therefore, the virtuous cycle of social entrepreneurship has come full circle– with social capital building more social capital. Every path breaking social movement/enterprise is ignited by the opportunity the entrepreneur sees in the times

of distress. History testifies that enterprising countries and communities have prospered. To be sure, enterprising people are found in every culture and society. It is up to the society to nurture these individuals and create an environment conducive to their growth. The fall of dictatorships and autocratic coupled with the spread of IT in the past century have contributed to the social entrepreneurship movement metamorphosing into a global movement. Applying entrepreneurial skills of innovation and resource leveraging to solve society's most pressing needs is the need of the hour. As the examples in this article illustrate, the enterprises have gone a long way in improving the lives of millions of poor, on their own. They have tremendously changed, the way we understand development work. While it may not be a panacea, social entrepreneurship has definitely altered the course of development work. No more will development be done in a "charity" mode. Focus will be more on empowering the poor than appeasing short-term needs. Society must nurture and cultivate the values of innovation, catalytic change, opportunity, resourcefulness, creativity and ethics if it wants to produce an 'entrepreneurial culture.' Nurturing this ethic becomes all the more important in tackling poverty.

**\*Livelihoods June-2012**

## 11. Employment Continuum

***Indian economy is the seventh largest economy in the world as per Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with \$ 2.308 trillion (April 2015). It is the fastest growing economy with a growth rate of 7.3%. Nearly 496.4 million workers are engaged in unorganized and organized sectors. Informal sector or unorganized sector has 94% of workforce in the country. Every year 13 million new workers and 25 million people who have left the farm sector, are entering into the labour pool. Only five million people are able to get work, mostly in unorganized sector. Indian economy, largely consisting of three major sectors of agriculture, industry and services sectors, saw tremendous changes by reforms in the era of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG).***



Indian economy is the seventh largest economy in the world as per Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with \$ 2.308 trillion (April 2015). It is the fastest growing economy with a growth rate of 7.3%. Nearly 496.4 million workers are engaged in unorganized and organized sectors. Informal sector or unorganized sector has 94% of workforce in the country. Even in organized sector also, informal workers have been increasing for more than two decades. Every year 13 million new workers and 25 million people who have left the farm sector, are entering into the labour pool. Only five million people are able to get work, mostly in unorganized sector. Indian economy, largely consisting of three major sectors such as agriculture, industry and services sectors, saw tremendous changes by reforms in the era of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). In this context, 'livelihoods' attempts to understand wage, job, employment and self-employment continuum in the country. Employment has always been a very important element in development policies of the country from the beginning. Over the decades, the government has designed different programs, policies, approaches and strategies to provide employment to the people. In early 1950's, the government designed an industry based strategy, in the first Five Year Plan (FYP) by assuming that the industrial sector would provide major employment to the people. Thereafter, the Government focused on developing small-scale industries assuming these industries would provide more employment and could resolve the unemployment problem. It thought skill-building of the workforce was the major concern; however, unemployment rose from 2.6% to 3.8% during 1956-72. Fifth FYP (1974-79) focused exclusively on the unemployment problem as a serious challenge, and re-oriented the growth pattern in favour of employment intensive sectors. Government recognized that economic growth alone cannot solve unemployment and poverty problems. It designed a number of special programs for reduction of unemployment and poverty. These programs can be divided into two categories. One developing employment intensive sectors and designing employment oriented macro-economic and sectoral policies; secondly, designing special employment programs creating both long term and short term wage employment and self-employment. Providing financial and other assistance for self-employment and offering supplementary wage employment to the unemployed persons became an important approach in combating unemployment problem. Over the decades, these programs were implemented in different forms. In early 2006, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was initiated by the government, with the aim to provide 100 work days per family in rural areas. Different programs to assist and provide employment, particularly the 1991 reforms, facilitated many changes in these three major sectors of agriculture, industry and services sector.

Agriculture sector includes crops, horticulture, milk and animal husbandry, aquaculture, fishing, sericulture, aviculture, forestry and related activities. Though this sector contributes only 17% to the GDP, but still it provides highest employment with 51% of total workforce in the country. Employment in the sector declined from 74% to 51% during 1972 to 2011. Contribution to GDP also declined from 41% to 17% during 1973 – 2011. Nearly 79% of female workers are engaged in agriculture works. Industry sector includes various manufacturing sub-sectors such as petroleum products and chemicals, pharmaceuticals, engineering, gems and jewellery, textile, mining etc. This sector contributes 18% to GDP and provides employment to 22% of total workforce. This sector has

witnessed an increase in contract labour system, since the inception of reforms. Industrialists are more interested in taking workers through contractors, rather than directly appointing them through industries' Human Resource (HR) departments. In manufacturing sector, contract workers' percentage increased from 13% to 34% during 1995 to 2011. Reforms removed protection measures and subsidies given to the small and cottage industries and caused many small industries to decline. Services sector includes construction, retail, software, Information Technology (IT), communications, hospitality, infrastructure operations, education, health care, banking, insurance and etc. As part of reforms, privatization of public sector enterprises particularly in health, education, communication, transport and power industries created a large number of jobs. Home tuitions increased in a big way. Along with educated and technically skilled persons, illiterates also engaged in different types of works in the service sector. For example, in urban areas there is a huge demand for domestic workers for cleaning, washing, cooking and take caring of children, elders, invalids etc. This sector provides the largest share to the GDP with 65% employing 27% of total workforce.

As part of reforms, government de-regularized domestic economic activities, liberalized foreign trade and initiated disinvestment in public sector. Public sector is one of the largest secure and quality employment providing sectors in the country. After 1990's, the creation of employment in this sector stagnated and since mid 1990's employment has been gradually on decline. Apart from the above, there have been some important changes, such as slow growth employment creation, increase of self-employment, increase of casual worker category and informal sector. Wage employment has been on increase for decades. Wage employment is a mutual agreement between employer and employee. In the agreement, the employee agrees to work for employer, based on agreed terms and conditions. According to the agreement, the employer has to pay in money or kind to the employee according to his / her work. Work may be in enterprises, government offices or other places. Generally, employee gets wage or salary for work. Wage is generally paid by the employer on a daily basis or weekly basis as per agreement, but salary is mostly paid on a monthly basis. Wage employment is always an agreement between two parties, such as an employee and an employer. It is in contractual nature and both parties are interrelated and interdependent. In this contract, the relation between the two parties looks similar to that of a master and a servant.

<b>Distribution of Workers Category of Employment %</b>			
Year	Self-Employed	Regular Employees	Casual Labourers
1972-73	61.37	15.37	23.26
1977-78	58.89	13.94	27.18
1983	57.31	13.82	28.87
1987-88	55.98	14.44	29.58
1993-94	54.70	13.53	31.77
1999-00	52.61	14.65	32.75
2004-05	56.38	15.35	28.27
2009-10	50.58	16.63	32.79
2010-11	51.00	15.50	33.50

Wage employment comes in the category of unorganized sector. Typically, wage seekers or labourers sit at labour 'addas' (Labourers and employers' meeting places in local language), where employers come and hires labourers after an agreement is reached between both the parties. This practice exists predominantly in urban areas compared to rural areas. Generally, these labourers come with their work implements and wait for employers. Sometimes, they may not get work or have to work for lesser wages depending upon the demand. Whereas in rural areas, labourers ask the employer for work, or get work information from colleagues, or employers come to labourers' homes and inform them about work. We can see wage labour on a large scale in agriculture works, construction works, small enterprises, events, functions and other temporary works. The average daily wage in urban areas is Rs. 365 and in rural areas is Rs. 232. In urban areas, male workers earn an average of Rs. 377 and female workers earn Rs. 309, while in rural areas male workers earn Rs. 249 and female workers earn Rs.159. As a matter of fact, there is more gender inequality in wage labour in rural areas than in urban areas. In urban areas, 41.4% workers earn regular wages, but in rural areas it is only 7.3%. Salary based employment is different from wage employment. The employees take salary on a monthly basis, based on contract and get extra perks based on their performance. In a few instances, their salary is deducted for their poor performance.

Generally in companies, there are two types of employees such as permanent and temporary employees. Presently, temporary employment has been increasing for decades in private companies and also in government departments. Private companies are making the activities into sub-activities and giving those sub-activities to the contractors. Contractors are responsible to employ people and pay based on the agreement. Companies' Human Resource (HR) departments in many cases do not have any direct communication or relation with those workers about their wages and social security issues. State governments are also taking employees on a contract basis from third parties. Governments provide authority to the agencies for a time period to hire contract employees to do works in various government departments. Government or its authorized selection boards are not involved in employees' selection and appointment. Government departments get work done through these employees, while salaries are paid to the employees by the agencies. Agreements between the agencies and employees are valid for one year in most of the cases. After the completion of the contract period, employees have to make agreements again with the agency or the agency may take new employees. There are only 4% of employees in secured jobs in the organized sector, which includes public sector and big industries. Organized sector provides different entitlements such as job security, yearly increments, health insurance, sick leaves, Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance etc. There are variations and changes happening in the entitlements of the job holders in the organized sector. Public sector jobs have been declining for the past two decades.

Wage Employment	Self-employment
The status of individual is an employee.	The status of individual is an employer or owner.
Individual works under another person or company etc.	Individual works for self.
Income comes from wage or salary.	Income comes from profit.
Income earning of the individual is limited and prefixed as per contract.	Income earning is unlimited and it depends upon the capacity and contribution of the individual.
Entire supervision and control done by employer.	Individual supervises and controls his/ her own work.

Self-employment is the largest segment of work force, with 57% of total workforce pursuing it in the country. Nearly 60% of the national income comes from self-employment. According to the National Commission for Enterprises (NCE), self-employed persons are 166 million and 96 million in farm and non-farm sectors respectively. We can call our country a nation of self-employed persons. Self-employment is working for oneself rather than working for any other person or company. Self-employment includes producing and selling goods, buying and selling goods and selling services. Self-employment exists in many sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, trading and services. A large number of self-employed persons belong to the unorganized sector. There are three types of self-employment categories namely: Non-farm sector, which has been growing for decades even in rural areas. In this sector, individuals who practice livelihoods come into self-employment category. The individuals may take work from within the family members or others, but they still considered as self-employed persons. They are involved in various livelihoods activities such as food processors, rickshaw pullers, beedi rollers, carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, petty/kirana shop owners, street vendors, tailors, barbers, traders, medical practitioners, accountants, masons, mechanics etc. In fact, self-employed persons are higher in rural areas with 54.2% people being self-employed, compared to 41.4% people in urban areas. Mostly, in self-employment people learn skills from their family members on traditional and caste based occupations; these people are farmers, priests, gold smiths, black smiths, potters, basket weavers, money lenders, pawn brokers etc. In other works like driving, teaching, health services, electric works, plumbing, tailoring and embroidery, computer etc people learn skills from outsiders.

We can broadly divide employment into two categories. One is wage labour, regular salaried, employee and second self-employment. There are many differences among wage employment and self-employment, which are as follows:

Self-employment has been gradually declining in the last four and half decades because of crisis situation in agriculture. Almost each year nearly 25 million people are coming out or leaving agriculture sector. There is a slight increase in regular employment. But casual labour has also been increasing in the last four and half decades. The changes in employment percentages are as follows:

Casual labourers are increasing in the country. The situation of this category of workers is vulnerable compared to other types of employees in terms of job stability, income levels, social security etc. Industrialists and entrepreneurs prefer casual labourers in their firms. Hiring them is more beneficial to the industrialists because they do not need to increase wages and provide PF, ESI, leaves etc. About 30% of casual labourers are working on a daily wage basis.

Government has designed different programs to provide employment and social welfare to people, particularly to

the workers in the country. The programs are as follows:

- National Old Age Pensions (NOAPs)
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
- Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)
- Handicraft Artisan Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HACWS)
- Pension to Master Craft Persons (PMCPs)
- National Scheme for Welfare of Fisherman and Training and Extension (NSWFTE)
- Janashree Bima Yojana (JBY)
- Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)
- Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Suraksha Yojana (PMJSY)

The Government of India (GOI) started Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to guarantee 100 wage employment days per family per year in rural areas across the country. Overall, it has not only reduced migration of the poor families, but also wage disparities among men and women in rural areas. Furthermore, it has contributed to the development of common resources and infrastructure in the villages. It has also led to an increase in wages of labourers, particularly agricultural labourers in rural areas; thereby, increasing labourers' bargaining power during negotiations with employers. Finally, it has helped in reducing rural poverty. Almost 38% of rural households have MGNREGS cards. GOI has recently launched three programs like PMJDY, APY and PMJSY. The purpose of the PMJDY is to ensure financial inclusion of all poor families in the country by opening zero bank account, where the government plans to deposit subsidy amount. APY provides pension based on the contribution of the beneficiary. Government contributes half of the beneficiaries' premium. After reaching the age of 60 years, beneficiaries will get a monthly pension of Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000. PMSBY provides accidental insurance for just Rs. 12 as premium per year. There are a number of Acts and Policies, which were designed to regulate employers in industrial relation issues and to ensure rights of the workers. There are almost 50 Acts existing in the country and some of these Acts exist from the pre-independence India. Those Acts have relevance till date to the country. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923: The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 provides compensation to the workers who get injured during the work or in the case of workers' death, compensation is given to the workers' dependents.

Trade Union Act, 1926: This Act sets rules and protection to the trade unions. It was amended in 2001.

Payment Wages Act, 1936: This Act directs and regulates the employers regarding distribution of wages to employees. It also directs the employers to deduct amount at the time of distribution of wages and to pay that amount to the state and central governments.

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946: This Act defines and sets employment standing orders in terms of job, working hours, timings, leave grant and productivity. According to the Act, these standing orders must be approved and certified by the government.

Industrial Disputes Act, 1947: This Act regulates employers to address industrial disputes such as lockouts, layoffs, retrenchments etc. It also directs the lawful process to settlements and negotiations between employees and employers.

Minimum Wages Act, 1948: This Act prescribes all wages in the enterprises. According to the Act, central and state governments have to revise wages. It also suggests that the minimum wages should be fixed according to work nature, location and other factors.

Industries (Regulation and Development) Act, 1951: This Act placed manufacturing industries under first schedule and it placed many manufacturing industries under central government regulations and in addition whatever laws state governments enact. This Act reserved 600 products to manufacture in small scale enterprises.

Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952: This Act ensures the financial security of the employees in establishments directing to start the system of savings. The Act directs the employers to pay equal contribution to that of employees to the Provident Fund (PF). According to the Act, the minimum contribution to PF should be 10%-12% of the wage. This amount includes employers' contribution payable to the employees after retirement or employees can take part of amount with specified purposes before retirement.

Maternity Benefit Act, 1962: This Act ensures maternity benefits to the women employees. According to the Act,

women employees who work for a minimum of 80 days in an establishment can access maternity benefits, leaves and medical allowances provided by the employers.

Payment of Bonus Act, 1965: This Act applies to enterprises which have 20 or more employees. According to the Act, the employers have to pay bonus to employees based on profits or production or productivity.

Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972: This Act applies to all enterprises which have 10 or more employees. According to the Act, gratuity is payable to the employees at the time of resignation or retirement and this payment amount should be 15 days of the salary of the each completed year during service of the employee. The maximum payment amount is Rs. 10, 00,000.

There are variations of employment across the country. In southern and western parts of India, workers gets good employment compared to central and eastern regions of the country. Himachal Pradesh stands in first place and Bihar stands in last place in providing good employment to the workers. Disadvantaged social groups like Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and large sections of the Other Backward Class (OBC) mostly are engaged in agriculture, construction works which are low paying. Most of the Muslim community is involved in small or petty low productive self-employment. Because of the reservation policy, SC and ST communities share increased presence in public sector from 1999-00 to 2011-12. Women are generally disadvantaged people in the employment market. Compared to men, women are mostly involved in low productive, low income and less secure jobs, belonging to the unorganized sector. There is a huge inequality in wages of casual / regular workers in unorganized sector and organized sector. An average daily casual worker earns Rs. 138 in rural and Rs. 173 in urban areas, regular worker earns Rs. 298 in rural and Rs. 448 in urban and public sector employee earns Rs. 2005 per day (2011-12 Census). Public sector employees have many benefits along with job security. Rural casual worker earns 7% of the wage of a public sector employee. There is still a considerable gap between wages in farm and non-farm sectors. Along with the disparities, the average real wages have been increasing at 3% per year since 1983. The productivity level of workers has increased three times during 1993-94 to 2011-12.

The population of elderly persons, the 60 years and above age group, has increased from 56.5 million to 103 million from 1991 to 2011. Elders' population is 8.3% in total population. India has the highest number of working elders in the world. Elderly persons directly participate in different livelihood activities and indirectly support activities in agriculture, dairy, goat rearing, poultry, artisan works, small enterprises (Tea shops, hotels, grocery shops and sale of fruits and vegetables), Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), processing works, domestic works, watchmen work etc. Almost 90% of working elders are in unorganized sector, which does not provide any insurance and pension after retirement. In conclusion, a large part of workers are engaging in various livelihoods activities as daily wage labourers, salaried employees, job holders in public sector and organized sector and half of the working people depend on self-employment. However, a very huge percentage of workers are in unorganized sector without having job security, insurance, PF, ESI, gratuity, leaves, maternity allowances etc. They have small assets, limited financial resources, less technical skills and they are unable to get good income by selling their skills or services. These small entrepreneurs need support in different fields such as inputs, finance, skill development and marketing. Collectives of workers, collective enterprises and federations of collective enterprises are the way to create more income for them and to enhance their living standards. Moreover, there is a need to encourage and develop the manufacturing sector, so it can ensure more employment opportunities. Lastly, and most importantly the government should focus on skill development of the workers.

**\* livelihoods August-2015**



## 12. Wage Labour

**More than 70% of the people in India depend on wage labour for their livelihood. Of this per cent majority of them are employed in unorganized sector, in both farm and nonfarm activities in rural and urban areas. Most of them are illiterate, low or unskilled, low paid and have poor access to resources and information. But this force contributes to more than 60% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Thus, they remain deprived of their due share.**



Any person, who lives mainly by selling his/her labour power to an employer for a wage is considered as a wage labourer. S/he may or may not have assets like land and even, if they have such assets income generated from them will usually be less than the income one gets from selling labour power. Therefore, such persons are also considered to be wage labourers. Based on this categorization, in India, more than 70% can be considered as wage labourers. This reveals enormity of their population, a strong force to reckon with and a challenge posed to the policy makers, development professionals and social transformation activists. Wage labour is largely concentrated in unorganized/ informal sector including agriculture, handloom, fishing, construction, infrastructure sector, handicrafts, beedi rolling, domestic workers, self-employed petty enterprises etc. Many of them are illiterate, unskilled and low paid, occupying lower economic rungs in the country. Even with a cursory look one can understand the mind-boggling diversity of the

activities in which wage labour is connected. Wage labour constitutes an important part of both rural as well as urban workforce. Though most of them constitute unorganized and informal workforce, they cater to multiple needs of workforce in organized work sectors.

According to 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, "Unorganized/Informal employment consists of casual and contributing family workers, self-employed persons in unorganized sectors and private households; and other employed in organized and unorganized enterprises not eligible for paid sick or annual leave or for any social security benefits given by the employer". In India nearly 93% of total workforce of 460 + million belongs to the unorganized/informal sector. Of this 93% unorganized workforce, about 55% are self-employed, 13% constitute regular workforce and 32% casual workforce. These workers contribute to more than 60 per cent to India's GDP growth, 68 per cent of income, 60 per cent of savings, 31% of agricultural exports and 41% of manufactured exports. As per the estimates of National Sample Survey (NSS) 2005, one-third of the informal sector workforce comprises of women. Child labour, as a proportion of the workforce, has steadily declined with rising school enrollments, though it is still large – 1.3 million in 2001 – with high visibility, as it is concentrated in selected industries and locations, often producing goods for export. Much of the wage labour emanates from Indian agriculture sector. However, due to ongoing crisis in agriculture sector, most of small and marginal farmers, as well as large number of agricultural labourers, are barely able to eke out a living. The crisis is more vivid in case of dry-land agriculture. Rural artisans like weavers, potters, carpenters, black smiths etc., traditionally dependent on farming community, basically producing goods or services required for farmers are now forced to move out of their occupations. Distant and dynamic markets, competition from new and big players and other influences of globalization is transforming many into wage labourers. The traditional small players are not able to market their small quantities of produce in distant markets and therefore are moving away from their traditional occupations. As they have no other marketable skills and have less opportunity to learn new skills, these people are also joining the bandwagon of wage labour.

The second largest workforce in rural areas can be seen in handloom sector. Competition from non-handloom textiles, constrained access to market for weavers and other factors has created a vacuum, in this sector for quite some time now. Many weavers are today working as labourers, on their own looms. Being cash-poor, coupled with limited access to credit, the weaver is not in a position to invest money for buying yarn and colours etc., thus, creating fertile conditions for depending on a master weaver, both for supply of inputs as well as for marketing his finished products. The weaver, weaves clothes as per the specifications of master weavers, for which the weaver will be paid wage, based on number of pieces s/he make or the number of days of work on loom for production. These wages are so low, that the producer of the cloth does not even get 30% of the consumer rupee. The situation is no different in case of fishing community. Most of poor fishermen, who cannot afford to buy a good mechanized boat and fishing nets work as wage labourers on big boats and trawlers. In spite of



having skill to fish and greater appetite for risk, the fisherman is being reduced to being a fishing labour. Lack of access to cheap credit, in many areas seems to be the key culprit.

<b>Percentage Distribution of Workers</b>	<b>Rural (93-94)</b>	<b>Rural (04-05)</b>	<b>Urban (93-94)</b>	<b>Urban (04-05)</b>	<b>Total (93-94)</b>	<b>Total (04-05)</b>
Farmer, Fisherman, Hunters, Loggers and Related Workers	76.1	69.5	26.6	25.5	57	52.1
Production and Related Workers, Transport Equipment Operators and Labourers	13.0	17.3	22.5	22.1	14.3	16.5
Sales Workers	4.3	5.2	15.7	15.5	8.1	8.5
Professional, Technical and Related Workers	2.1	2.5	5.1	5.4	2.8	3.1
Service Workers	2	2.4	20.9	21.4	10.8	11.7
Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers	0.9	1.7	3.4	5.4	4.4	5.9
Clerical and Related Workers	1.5	1.4	5.9	4.8	2.6	2.3
Others	0.03	0.03	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Significant number of workers, either to make their ends meet or to earn, some surplus money during non-agricultural season or otherwise, are increasingly travelling from rural areas to semi-urban and urban areas in search of work. Income from migration, has become a significant component in earnings portfolio of rural poor household. Having left their traditional occupation and not having alternative skills, most of them are taking up unskilled labour works. Construction sector, is one sector that absorbs, more wage labour after agriculture. Apart from construction, we can find wage labour mostly in transport, hotel and retail sectors. The woes of migrant labour are innumerable. Individuals or families engaged in construction labour are continuously moving from one construction site to the other. Because of this continuous migration, they live a very low quality of life without proper housing, water and sanitation facilities. They are unable to enroll their children in schools and these children end up as labourers, at these construction sites. Unable to establish their identity at the migration site, they are not able to access any government schemes like Public Distribution System (PDS) etc. Most of the construction labourers, depend on a master, who search work for all the labour in his group. Hence, their ability to find work heavily depends on these masters, who exploit the labourers by giving them very less wages. Moreover women workers, face lot of sexual exploitation from their masters. Where migrant labour has left families behind in the villages, the responsibility and vulnerability of women and elderly has increased largely.

While, organized workers enjoy steadily rising wages, improved working conditions and above all job security, it leads to excessive capital intensity. Unorganized workers, on the other hand, suffer from below subsistence level of wages, and abysmal working conditions with practically no income or social security. In short, wages are "too low" and employment too scarce and insecure. Most of the wage labourers are insecure of employment. Employment is highly seasonal. In lean seasons, they migrate to other places in search of work. They live in very harsh conditions, in migrated area and their children are left with no education and no opportunities to learn any skills, other than what their parents are doing. The situation of workforce in urban informal sector, seems to be somewhat better than, their rural counterparts particularly in terms of their earnings and diverse employment opportunities. However, though wages in urban informal sector are marginally higher than those in rural areas, they are still much lower than the wages in urban organized sector. Further, unskilled work done by wage labourers involves lot of risk, but they have minimal to no awareness of any risk reduction strategies and/or risk coping mechanisms. Many of them work in hazardous conditions, but still unable to demand their employers, to provide any safety nets. The wages of urban unorganized workers vary significantly depending on their skills, occupations, experience and location. With the spread of infrastructure, growing market based relationships between the organized and urban informal sectors are discernible, that could potentially lower entry barriers in labour intensive industries and services, giving rise to opportunities for acquisition of new skills, enhancement of existing skills and for self-employment.

Since, large number of workforce possesses no skills or training suited to the dynamic market their chances to take up alternative employment are bleak. Also, socially, a large number of unorganized workers belong to oppressed and exploited sections including Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). They are not organized and do not have strong platforms/leaders to fight for their rights. Because of all these reasons, their economic lot has failed to improve, even after five decades of planning.

### **About NREGA**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) passed in 2005 is being implemented across India with the aim to increase the number of employment days of the rural poor. Under the Act each rural poor household is guaranteed at least 100 days of work in a year. The works undertaken include constructing bunds, roads and such other works to improve village infrastructure. The Act provides for giving statutory minimum wages, legal entitlements to workers on working hours, rest, drinking water in place of work, first aid facilities, some risk coverage etc. The Act also forbids the use of contractors in the works. Usage of machinery is also not encouraged where feasible.

The Act is being implemented in various states with varying degrees of success. Apart from providing employment NREGA is also serving other objectives such as generating productive assets, empowering rural women, fostering social equity etc. However, issues like engaging contractors, using machinery, delay in issue of job cards, providing more than one job card to a single family, delays in payments, payments of less than the minimum wages, and absence of work site facilities etc., have come to the fore. Many states did not succeed in providing all the 100 days of employment.

Overall, NREGA claims to have increased the bargaining power of the rural wage labour. This, as it may sound good from the point of view of the wage labour, it has proved costly for the small and marginal farmers. Shortage of labour and high cost of labour where available is making agriculture an expensive proposition for the small and marginal farmers. As per the Act works should be provided to the rural poor in agriculture lean season but this rule is being flouted in many areas. Therefore, either providing for 100 days of employment strictly during non-agriculture season and/or evolving mechanisms to link NREGA works with the labour needs of small of marginal farmers may give some relief.

One of the objectives of NREGA is to slow down migration of the rural poor into urban centers in search of work. Whether this objective has been achieved or not is a matter of debate particularly in the changing context where income from migration is becoming a significant part of the earnings portfolio of the poor. Further, World Bank in its 2009 report says that mobility of labour is a yardstick of development. In Indian context, improving rural infrastructure relating to health, education, storage, agro-processing and others that will improve the quality of life of the rural folks can be aggressively pursued. At least this may considerably slow down distress/push migration.

One other lacuna in NREGA is that though the Act created a good avenue for employment, it has not created opportunities for people to graduate out of unskilled work. There is hardly any scope for the labour to learn new skills. Trainings and skill building can be add-on components of the Act.

Indian State has made legislations to protect wage labourers from exploitation. One such is Minimum Wages Act (MWA). The Minimum Wage Act, 1948 provides for fixation and enforcement of minimum wages in respect of schedule employments to prevent sweating or exploitation of labour through payment of low wages. The Act, requires appropriate government to fix minimum rates of wages, in respect of employment specified in schedule and review, revise minimum rates of wages at intervals not exceeding five years. In September 2007, national minimum floor level, wage was increased to Rs 80 per day for all scheduled employments from Rs 66 in 2004. However, in agriculture, as production is decentralized and geographically dispersed, government has little ability to effectively administer minimum wage laws. Even, where it is possible (as in urban industrial sector), enforcement of laws is not easy, as most of the employment contracts are informal, difficult to be verified by courts. Moreover, due to illiteracy, workers have little knowledge of their rights; even if they do, they are too poor to seek redress from administration or courts. In a situation of excess labour, possession of a job, is probably of far greater value than to seek officially mandated minimum wages for it. Moreover they are not organized enough to question this exploitation. Though, wage labour constitutes a significant number, they are highly heterogeneous lot in terms of the occupations they are engaged in. Therefore, it is great challenge to organize them. There are no simple solutions, easy methods to organize these people and help improve their lot. Bringing them closer to rights, upgrading their skills, providing new skills, scaling up of their activities, building support systems and institutions, providing them with risk coverage, developing solidarity networks, providing credit at cheaper rates of interest, improving working conditions, cooperative farming, sensitizing and influencing civil society organizations, law makers, state machinery and corporates etc. are some of the diverse approaches and strategies, that one needs to take into account.

We need to develop strategic objectives, sector specific objectives and corresponding programs to achieve them. There are issues of wage labourers, which can be addressed only by central government. There are certain new laws to be promulgated and old laws to be strictly implemented to protect the interests of wage labourers. There are certain issues, which Civil Society Organization (CSO) such as political parties, advocacy groups, media, and human rights organizations need to take up on a priority basis. We need to identify and bring issues into the agenda of the above said organizations. There are issues not only of basic needs like food, shelter but also things related to quality of life like health, education, leisure etc. Apart from wage hike, there are issues related to productive assets. How can we convert, wage labourer into an owner or member of producer collective? There are some welcoming trends like NREGA, insurance cover for workers, social security for unorganized sector workers, welfare boards for construction workers etc. How can we improve upon them and expansion should be the question, of our concern.

**\*Livelihoods June-2009**

## 13. Human Resources

***It is now established that poor can meet most of their needs by coming together. It is with this conviction many institutions of the poor are being promoted by the institutions that are working for the poor. Human resource, with appropriate knowledge, skills, abilities and aptitudes, is very crucial for not only delivering the goods and services for poor, but also for the sustainability of these institutions. But the gap between demand and supply of human resource on this front is quite conspicuous.***



The achievement of sustainable and equitable development remains the greatest challenge facing the human race. Despite good progress over the past few generations, billions of people still live in acute poverty and suffer with grossly inadequate access to the resources education, health services, infrastructure, land and credit, which are critical for improving the basic quality life. The essential task of development is to provide opportunities to these people and increase the reach of opportunities. David McClelland in his book “The Achieving Society” examined the factors contributing to the economic development of various countries in the early twentieth century. Based on his

research, he analyzed that the countries that have advanced economically, showed the evidence of human resource development activities as an integral part of the system. According, to World Development Report (WDR) of 1980, the development of any country depends upon the quality of human capital and human development activities undertaken. Developing the capacities of people is the essence of any human resource development effort and it is an important goal of all other development activities like plans, policies and programs. All forms of development i.e. social, economic, technological and agricultural are ultimately meant to serve the people in terms of improving their happiness through better standards of living. Human resource development holds key for economic development through enabling people to become more productive. As economic development of any country depends upon the development of the population, many developing countries are becoming increasingly aware of the need to involve people through participation, empowerment and better access to opportunities. The objective of Human Resource Development (HRD) is to develop competencies in individual, groups and collectives.

Developing competencies is a never-ending process because competency development is the driver of development for any nation. In economic terms, HRD in the early years (1950-60) was equated with human capital formation. The basic philosophy underlying this fact is that human resources are the most important assets and can be developed and increased to an unlimited extent. Currently, for most of the developing countries, HRD strategies are focusing on the alleviation of poverty to the most possible extent. For this purpose, investment in education and health services at the basic level and creation of employment and self-employment opportunities at the later become very critical. HRD is the need of any nation, which wants to be dynamic and growth-oriented to succeed in the fast changing environment. Countries can become competent in the global environment, only through the competency development of the human resources. The interesting HRD paradox in the 21st Century in India is that it is the second most populous country in the world and yet facing manpower crunch in most areas of its activity. There must be something terribly wrong with the way we have been managing our human resources. Despite a population of over 1.2 billion, and the fact that India has the world's youngest population with large number of people in the working age group, it is still facing an enormous shortage of employable talent and skill. India's public hospitals do not have adequate number of medical and paramedical personnel; there are not enough skilled engineers to build rail routes bridges, roads, or teachers in schools and colleges. Further, India's rapidly growing IT enabled service sector, manufacturing sector and financial services sector are not able to hire as many people they would need. There is a shortage of technicians, mechanics, plumbers, electricians and the list goes on. The human resource paradox of India has not left the Indian poor untouched. We need educated, skilled and affordable human resource in large numbers working towards delivering goods and services for poor and their organizations. But the gap between the demand and supply of human resource on this front is quite conspicuous. In this context, it would be worthwhile to understand variety of

human capital required and scale in which it is required to work with/for the poor in meeting the needs of the latter.

It is now established that poor can meet most of their needs by coming together. Hence, many organizations are promoting institutions of the poor. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) are growing around thrift and credit. There are tiers of collectives in their federal structures. We have occupation based collectives such as weavers' cooperatives, fishermen cooperatives, dairy cooperatives etc. We have credit cooperatives, craft cooperatives and cooperatives under new Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act (MACS) (and similar Acts). Trade unions, associations, trusts etc., are there to meet the diverse needs of people. Producer Companies (PC) are emerging. Whatever is the form and function of these institutions, the centrality is the member. The institutions of poor need professionals, who can support them in management of these institutions. Out of a total number of 25 crore households (approximately) in the country, if we assume that 10 crore households are in poverty (with an assumption of 40% of Indians are poor) we may require at least 4 lakh professionals (at a rate of one per 2500 families) to support these poor households in their efforts to coming out of poverty. We also need a minimum of 10 lakh internal animators (at a rate of one per 100 families) to help poor and their institutions at grassroots level. Further, we need Para professionals who can offer varieties of services that are required by the poor. Various kinds of institutions of poor are engaged in diverse activities such as health and nutrition, education etc. Currently, many institutions are focusing on enhancing the livelihoods of members by providing required support services. Unlike other activities, livelihood activities are too large to attempt for any standardization and systematization. Then, the moot question is, do we have people who can support/ facilitate these diverse livelihood activities? There are hundreds of livelihoods that we can see in any village. There are people who cultivate different varieties of crops, who do horticulture/ floriculture, who are casual labor, who do stone cutting, who do weaving etc. Are these people who can appreciate and support these livelihoods in total? It is anybody's guess that no person can master the entire value chain of any livelihood including the experts and hence the institutions of poor may not require experts/ specialists to support them in their livelihood activities. In fact, they may not afford them. Hence, they need generalists (in lakhs of numbers) who can analyze the existing livelihoods of poor by comparing their practices with best practices and identify the gaps and opportunities on which they can work on for betterment of their livelihoods. Further, there is a huge lacuna in the provision of support services for the livelihoods of the poor. Extension services are minimal to absent in many places for any kind of livelihood activity. The institutions can engage people, who can provide these services for a fee.

Apart from this, these institutions need strong leadership for taking them forward so that the members of these institutions access services of all other formal institutions to come out of poverty. Though, many institutions are able to find suitable first generation leaders, there is a huge gap in identifying and mentoring the second and third generation leaders, which is hampering the progress of these institutions. The organizations that are promoting institutions of poor are also mostly focusing on building the capacities of these first generation leaders, and are not focusing on identifying and nurturing second and third generation leaders for these institutions, which is a huge threat to the sustainability of the institutions. On the other hand, there are NGO's and voluntary organizations (nearly there are 14000 NGO's registered under Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) and in all 30000 in India) which act as intermediaries between donors and the poor, work on empowerment and help form CBOs to campaign for more rights from the state, and provide training and consulting services. Further, there are foundations generally registered under the Indian Trust Act or Bombay Public Trust Act. These foundations in India may be classified into two types: Grant making foundations and Operating or Service delivery foundations. Some of the foundations are: The Ratan Tata Foundation, Birla Foundations, Nanndi Foundation, Reddy Foundation, Godrej Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, etc. The organizations in social and development sector have grown into leaps and bounds in the 21st Century. Therefore, there is an increasing demand for human resource in the social and development sector. It has happened in spurts in the past. It has happened elsewhere in the world. But the trend is now strengthening in India. If one follows the recruitment patterns of the social and development sector in the country, one will see a perceptible change in its workforce profile. At least 0.3-0.5 per cent of the country's workforce is in this sector, and according to experts, there is significant increase in the number of engineering and management graduates opting to work for the not-for-profit organizations. This is apart from professional filmmakers, designers and mass communication graduates that constantly seek to satisfy their creative urges here. Further, the hiring pattern has changed both qualitatively and quantitatively due to the transformation to increased flow of funds from donors to the voluntary sector and the Government and a stronger inclination of the Government to implement projects through NGOs and CBOs working for the poor. Therefore, the overall demand for people in this sector has gone up. On the flip side, scope of work in these institutes has also enlarged to include more technical work, thus calling for absorption of technical graduates. But this trend also points to one niggling factor: Those institutes that are in a position to afford competitive remuneration to MBAs do hire their services and it is also true that they are hiring MBAs to inculcate professionalism as it exists in the corporate sector.

However, one questions the quality of these professionals. Do MBAs, from top business schools come to work for the poor? In most cases, they have the degree, but not the same level of expertise. At the same time, another development is taking place simultaneously: senior managers, having an MBA degree from top business schools, leaving their corporate job and opting for the institutes of the poor. However, doubts about top-class professionals opting for jobs in the social sector are answered by looking at the trend of past three year's summer placement preferences at the Indian Institutes of Management. About 20 students from the Institutes in Ahmadabad, Bangalore and Kolkata and the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, have chosen to go for an internship at the National Kidney Foundation, an NGO based in Singapore. Further, one can notice a trend that these organizations in the social and development sector have previously recruited students from top B schools in the US. In India, in the past, organizations such as Green Peace Foundation, Action Aid, Basix and Public Affairs Centre have approached the Institute for talent either for summer placement or lateral placements. For instance, CRY — which is in the field of consumer marketing — needs professionals with brand building skills and has recruited MBAs even in the early 1990s. Further, Joseph Thomas, Project Manager, Sustainable Access in Rural India (SARI), a project to bring Internet access to rural India using indigenous technologies, says this recruitment trend is nothing new. "They have been recruiting professionals and qualified people for quite some time now." Big business houses have promoted NGOs to work in different fields — science and technology, rural development, social development, energy, etc., and they naturally look for qualified manpower.

Moreover, International funding agencies like World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), are more comfortable with the autonomous societies or institutes that are especially established for implementing the various projects that have qualified people with high caliber. Even the flagship programmes of Government like Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the ready to launch National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) requires people who are committed, dedicated to work for the poor. So does this mean that voluntary work, which used to be a pastime for housewives with a philanthropic bent of mind, has changed into a pulsating new profession with lot of exciting growth possibilities, especially those that are technology-driven? What is their job role in the social and development sector? The work is primarily managing the affairs including implementation of projects. Experts say some also fit well with jobs in research areas, depending on their basic education and aptitude. Another emerging area is human resources management. Take the instance of NKF, which is 'not run like an NGO'. In other words, it is managed like an efficiently managed company with a lot of fund raising activities. NKF has the largest fund collecting outfits in this part of the world. And most of the funds are raised through TV shows and live events. These MBAs are expected to put together pretty much the same media, communication and a direct marketing plan, NKF is also looking at final placements from IIM, Bangalore. Career growth is unlimited with distinct possibilities of such professionals rising to the very top depending on their application, commitment and diligence. Some professionals work for the institutes of the poor in the beginning of their career and then move onto the corporate sector, and vice versa. This trend is expected to strengthen as many in the corporate sector are looking for people having background in the social and development sector as meaning of public relations has changed considerably in recent times. Further, a number of professionals are also on sabbaticals for pro bono work. Even, medium-sized companies now want to have a hand in social development — it could be through an employees' association, helping charity, or starting a school, or hospital or an extension agency for farmers.

Further, if one looks at Ma Foi Management Consultants Ltd., a Chennai-based manpower consultancy agency recruitment trend, NGOs typically look for someone with counseling skills, someone with a psychology or personnel management degree or masters in social welfare. Even MaFoi's London branch is headed by, Mustafa an XLRI graduate - who worked for some years with an NGO called Pradhan for quite some time. There are a few medical NGOs - that recruit doctors and nurses. One can point out that most institutes in the social and development sector operate with a skeletal core group and a large base of part-time volunteers. Working in social and development sector is not seen as a serious career option yet. It does require people with a different flavor and temperament. Although it involves sacrifices — one doesn't get corporate perks such as cars, housing etc — there is some attraction, there is value seen in working for social causes. Besides many foreign-funded NGOs (Ford Foundation), World Bank, UNDP do pay fairly competitive remuneration — and there are other bonuses such as opportunities to go abroad, attend seminars/symposia, earn media recognition, etc. However, here are grey areas that could be useful pointers to the issue. One should remember that many institutes of the poor have burnt their fingers after hiring management graduates. The reason for this is that there isn't a fit most of the times.

A management graduate does not have his finger on the pulse that's throbbing in the voluntary sector. What works in the corporate sector may work here but with differences. The hard and fast rules of buy and sell do not gel here. People who join such organizations may not be ideologically committed to empowering weaker sections. The primary motivation is to use their skills. It is incidental, that it involves helping disadvantaged

groups of some kinds. But perhaps there is nothing wrong with that since one has to have a lot of professionals available. On the other hand, the scenario has changed considerably in the social and development sector with profit no longer being word of taboo 10 years ago. Now sustainability is important. For this, it's important to have the right personnel and perhaps management graduates could just fit into the jigsaw puzzle that had the 'profit' space vacant and gaping. Of course, the marginalization is closing and the polarization is less pronounced. There's plenty of room for these professionals and there are opportunities for give and take from both sides. And we are also seeing the drying up of funds in the sector and realize we cannot depend on aid forever. Therefore, a career in cause related marketing is a very realistic option in the sector. However, one points out that, the fact that, the foundation for this should be laid at the professional colleges itself. The courses should be made part of the curriculum. They should be made to understand the supply-demand mechanisms of the social sector. Though management courses at the IIMs do not boast of any special electives in voluntary work, they do some kind of orientation in one subject devoted to Indian society and spirituality. Some of the institutes that are actually training their students in the area as the scope of work of the voluntary sector have diversified; many professional schools offer special courses. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) has a number of such electives as also Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR,) Jaipur. Even Ministry of Rural Development is offering PG Diploma in Rural Development through its premier research institute National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) located in Hyderabad. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and NIRD in collaboration with Central University of Hyderabad are offering distance education courses in Sustainable Rural Development. Further one need to question, does it require a different kind of mindset to opt for a career in the voluntary sector and how many young professionals actually possess this inclination? Experts in this field say that the first and the most basic necessity is motivation, which often is the best compensation for the right person. Inclination to do voluntary work is helpful as the work involves extensive fieldwork, travelling and communicating with a wide cross section of people from diverse backgrounds. Some young professionals have it in them but some others view it as a stepping stone for greener pastures. This work requires a different kind of orientation which most of them have before they enter the Institute. Most of them have their career paths chalked out and come here for professional qualification. Remuneration, is one area that needs a lot of bolstering in the social and development sector, but there are some who have started giving good salary to professionals, though not at par with corporate sector. Over the last decade, the voluntary sector in India has realized the meaning of the term: if you give peanuts, you will get monkeys. The remuneration is at par with the corporate sector as far as international donor agencies are concerned. Salary levels are not strictly comparable with, what is available in the corporate sector but they come close enough to attract a certain kind of talent. For many NGOs, the Pay Commission (PC) recommendations are some sort of a guideline/baseline — especially because there are a number of government-funded projects also.

Further, one need to question, is this committed career option or do some of them see it as a stepping stone to success in other areas? However, one need to note that those committed to voluntary work would get into the sector. If one is the sort, who wants to move on to corporate sector, this experience may be seen as a deterrent. Further, some have the commitment; they feel the responsibility and a tinge of idealism. Some retain it and continues. Others do get attractive offers or move on if they think they are stagnating and not getting what they want. This is an exciting trend. What perhaps would be ideal is a successful match between the outcome-driven approaches of these professionals with the process driven approach of the social and development sector working for poor. Finally, concluding one must not forget the remarks of Voltaire, who wrote in his Philosophical Dictionary, that God has bestowed two things on human beings as against beasts; one is a disposition to pity and the other, power to comprehend truth. These two gifts of God constitute the foundation of Civil Society. He further, pleads Fathers and Mothers to bestow on their children an education, which will soon render them social, and further, this education which confers on them a conscience. Thus, one needs to comprehend the truth that poverty is a malady and further, one have to believe that the poor are capable to come out of poverty if necessary support is provided to them and those who support and work with them are to be the people with Conscience.

The enormity of poverty in India, suggests that the need for a large number and variety of human resource, both within and outside, that is educated, skilled and cost effective is huge. We need logical and compassionate thinking minds in the governments, in the civil society, in research and educational institutions, in corporate social responsibility wings that can form a resource pool of bright brains and deliver. It is critical to appreciate the fact that the social sector is steadily gearing up to match the remunerations offered in the mainstream sectors. This is a definite boost for the fresh and bright graduates seeking a promising career. Building/nurturing/mentoring quality human resource, that can deliver effectively and efficiently for the poor should be the responsibility of every development stakeholder. We need sizeable number of educational institutions offering variety of generalized and specialized disciplines catering to development sector. We need seasoned development professionals come together and create number of platforms that can service as resource

centers building and enriching the development human resource. More and more poor, their organizations and organizations supporting them are coming forward to buy professional services, are we ready to deliver?

**\*Livelihoods September-2010**

# **II Farm Livelihoods**



## 14. Rainfed Farming

***Agriculture means not just food security; it is not just about productivity and contribution to country's GDP. Agriculture also means livelihood, of more than 60 per cent of the people in India. Of this 60 per cent about 400 million depend on rain-fed/dry land farms. About 68 per cent of the net sown area constitutes rain-fed regions in India. Characterized by water scarcity, poor infrastructure, low productivity and inadequate policies, about 30 million rain-fed farmers, are yet to see the silver lining around the dark cloud. The poverty of the country is mostly in rain-fed areas.***



Dry lands are home to more than 900 million people in this world! This is despite the fact, that these regions have low agricultural productivity. The erratic nature of rainfall places severe restrictions on the ability of the dry lands to produce agricultural crops. Farming in these areas, has huge component of risk. Cost-risk-return equation is highly unfavorable to dry land farming communities today. Dry lands often experience prolonged periods of dryness. The potential evaporation of water from the land in these areas exceeds the rainfall. The soil is often alkaline or saline. About 47 per cent of the world's land area is dry. There is no universally

accepted definition of dry lands. However, one widely accepted UNESCO classification of dry lands divides these lands into hyper-arid, arid, semiarid and dry sub-humid zones. The hyper-arid zones do not support any kind of crop growth without irrigation. They are mostly in Saharan, Arabian and Gobi deserts. The arid zones that receive about 200 to 300 mm rainfall cover about 15 per cent of the land surface. With sparse vegetation the land is mostly used for grazing. Africa and Asia account for most of hyper arid and arid zones in the world. Semi-arid zones are more extensive, have highly seasonal rainfall regimes and receive about 500 to 800 mm. Drier areas in these zones support grazing, while rain fed cropping is practiced in wetter parts. In dry sub-humid zones, rain fed cropping and animal husbandry is widely practiced.

In India, about 400 million depend on dry lands and rain fed lands for their livelihoods. According, to the Union Ministry of Agriculture rain fed regions in India account for 68 per cent of the total net sown area, which is about 86 million hectares. Most of the rain fed regions are concentrated in 13 states in India, including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. There are about 30 million dry land farmers in India. Rain fed regions are drought prone. In India, these regions suffer from drought at least once every 3 years. Western, Eastern Rajasthan, Gujarat, Western Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh are more vulnerable to droughts.

Rain fed crops account for 48 per cent of the total area under food crops and 68 per cent of the area under non-food crops in the country. Important crops grown are cereals, pulses and oilseeds including jowar, bajra, maize, millets like ragi, foxtail millet, pearl millet etc, blackgram, greengram, redgram, bengalgram, soyabean, groundnut, sunflower, castor, cotton, chillies, turmeric etc. About 73 per cent of the area, under cotton is rain fed. Around 60 per cent of livestock in the country are concentrated in dry land areas. Considering the diversity of crop wealth in dry land areas, one would assume reasonable level of prosperity here. However, the reality portrays a contrasting picture. The dry land farmers at the left end of the value chain are poor and marginalized for the most part. Dry land regions are characterized by water scarcity, fragile environments, drought and land degradation caused by low rainwater use efficiency, high population pressure, poverty, poor infrastructure and inappropriate policies. Dry land farmer owning more than 10 acres of land can be reeling in poverty, compared to their counterparts in wet areas owning about 1 - 2 acres of land. Green revolution left dry land areas untouched. All the investments towards research and infrastructure development were directed towards, promotion of agriculture in fertile and water abundant areas. High Yielding Varieties (HYV) were developed in crops, suited to areas with water facilities. When country was on the fringes of starvation and famine that might have been the

logical way forward to quickly increase food production and avert possible disasters. Unfortunately, even after India attained self-sufficiency in food grains, dry lands continue to be neglected.

Today, we are facing heat of rising food prices and food shortages. Government grain buffers are shrinking. Agriculture on the whole is facing crisis, mainly due to low productivity, decline in farmers' incomes, market volatility and impact of globalization etc. We continue to hear news, of farmers' suicides from dry land areas like Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, Vidharba in Central part of India and from other regions, mainly due to indebtedness. It is a paradox, that on one hand, we have food shortages and increased demand for food and on the other hand the producer of food (the farmers) remains poor and increasingly finds the livelihood of agriculture unviable. This trend might seem to be defying logic of demand-supply-price complex at the farmer level. This is

### Growth Rate in Rainfed Regions in India (NSDP - Net State Domestic Product)

State	Growth rate in NSDP agriculture (%)		% of rain fed area	% of irrigated area
	1984-85 to 1995-96	1995-96 to 2004-05		
Punjab	4.0	2.16	3	97
Haryana	4.6	1.98	17	83
UP	2.82	1.87	32	68
TN	4.95	-1.36	49	51
WB	4.63	2.67	49	51
Bihar	-1.71	3.51	52	48
AP	3.18	2.69	59	41
J&K	2.18	3.25	59	41
Gujarat	5.09	0.48	64	36
Rajasthan	5.52	0.3	70	30
Orissa	-1.18	0.11	73	27
MP	3.63	-0.23	74	26
Karnataka	3.92	0.03	75	25
Maharashtra	6.66	0.1	83	17
Kerala	3.6	-3.54	85	15
Assam	1.65	0.95	86	14
HP	1.64	5.51	81	19
All India	3.62	1.85	60	40

because, there are too many players in value chain between producers and consumers. To ameliorate, the situation GOI has recently come out with a Rs.60 + crore debt waiver scheme for farmers across the country. The farmers in dry land areas have little to benefit as the scheme has limited the beneficiaries to one or two hectare holdings. The loan waiver scheme did not have any special provision for dry land farmers. A careful look at the dry land crops reveals a changing trend from cultivating food crops to more of non-food crops. In fact, some "minor cereals" (native millets) like foxtail millet, pearl millet, pigeon pea are disappearing, for no demand though they are highly nutritious and can be an excellent dietary supplement. For instance, ragi is a grain of great nutritive value considered more sustaining to people than any other grain. Coarse cereals unfortunately carry with them the stigma of poor man's diet. Therefore, people have embarked on the process of "sanskritization" towards rice and other soft cereals. This is mostly, because of lack of awareness and their unfamiliarity in urban areas.

Cash crops like cotton, sunflower, turmeric etc are taking priority in these areas because of relatively better margins. Crops for bio-fuel like maize are gradually taking precedence. All these trends threaten the food security of the people in dry land areas in particular and people across in general. Pulses like arhar, greengram, blackgram, masur etc have ready markets, but they are short of supply. Most of the area, under these crops is

resource poor and yields are low. This gives little incomes to farmers compared to oilseeds and cotton. Another key disturbing influence on agriculture is rapid urbanization and proliferation of SEZs. Agricultural lands are getting converted for non-agricultural purposes mainly towards housing, mining and for industrial development works. Special Economic Zones are targeting single crop lands. Government, PDS distributes wet land produce like rice, wheat etc. Some sporadic attempts were made in the past to include coarse cereals in PDS and popularize value added health foods, but that did not take off well. Other government schemes like mid-day meals program, food-for-work program etc also distribute rice. Rs.2 kg rice scheme in AP caused a huge shift from native to soft cereal. It may be time, to relook at these and integrate dry land food grains into PDS and other schemes in a localized and decentralized manner. Andhra Pradesh alone spends about Rs.250 crores on mid-day meal scheme. If even Rs.100 crore is spent on procurement of jowar and other dry land millets, nearly 2 million tonnes of such grain can be purchased.

Due to high prices of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, many dry land farmers in India use organic matter for inputs. One can see this as a blessing in disguise to some extent. The growing middle class and neo-rich in urban areas are becoming more and more health conscious, looking for organic food in retail shops. They are

### Government Schemes

The government through its schemes has planned to develop 12,03, 863 sq km dry land area in the country— 7,45,914 sq km in 16 states under the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and 4,57,949 square km in seven states under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

DPAP is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, covering 972 blocks in 185 districts.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1995-96 till January 31, 2008 about 27,439 projects covering an area of 13.7195 million hectare have been sanctioned and Rs 2,739.84 crore was released.

The DDP being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Rajasthan covering an area 4,57,949 sq km in 235 blocks in 40 districts. The scheme includes hot arid non-sandy areas, hot arid sandy areas and cold arid areas.

The implementation of the government's two major schemes for dry land areas show that many sanctioned projects are yet to be completed and have overshot the timeframe. Mid-term evaluations conducted by independent agencies show some success stories in pocket areas, but more needs to be done to improve the lot of dry land farmers.

also looking for non-soft cereals. We see restaurants in cities advertising ragi balls, jowar and bajra roti as delicacies. It may be the time to capture this demand. The potential of the dry land areas need to be unleashed. The country has to invest in discovering high yielding, pest resistant varieties in dry land crops. We cannot continue to neglect dry lands that occur in 177 districts of India. It is time for a second green revolution with focus on dry land areas without creating negative consequences to the environment. CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) scientists are working to shorten the growing season of all dry land crops and develop better water management methods. The green revolution succeeded in shortening the growing season of irrigated crops thus allowing farmers to harvest more times in a year. Modern retailing is creating more and more avenues for direct marketing. For instance e-choupal purchases its produce directly from the farmers thus greatly shortening the value chain. But retailers like to deal with small number of large farmers for volumes and uniform quality. Dry land farmers have low production volumes, small marketed surplus and dispersed holdings and therefore lost in the modern retailing game. One way forward can be to build product-based collectives of dry land farmers and provide them with backward and forward linkages. There is a huge infrastructure gap in dry land areas. Major chunk of investments go into wet areas to improve irrigation and other infrastructure. Simple check dams to harvest rainwater can be built in dry land areas. There can be community maintenance funds and maintenance can be entrusted to the communities. In Dahod district, a major dry land area in Gujarat, tribal cooperatives manage the check dams. Check dams are not new to India. For instance, the Grand Anicut was built by Chola king in the Cauvery river delta in Tamil Nadu during 2nd century. Credit availability to dry land farmers should improve. Green revolution calculations are used to determine credit across. Dry land crops therefore do not get sufficient credit either as scale of finance or as overall quantum of support. Loan terms and conditions in the dry lands should integrate the risk of uncertain rainfall as well as insurance for such failure. Credit cycle should be different for irrigated areas vs rain fed areas, longer the cycles the better for dry lands.

MSP still remains a grey area for many of the dry land crops. This needs immediate attention. According to our agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan any MSP should include cost of production + 50 per cent of the cost of production. Otherwise agriculture cannot become a viable livelihood option. A recent NSS survey states that 50 per cent of farmers want to quit farming. There is huge hue and cry about subsidies to farmers in developing countries, but one has to be aware that farmers in the US and Europe get some of the largest agriculture

subsidies in the world. In Switzerland for instance, 70 per cent of the farming is subsidized by the government. Can our farmers, more so the dry land farmers withstand such unfair competition? Globalization has created more of free trade and less of fair trade! M.S. Swaminathan recommends setting up of Special Agricultural Zones (SAZ). These can be on the lines of collectives of poor farmers that are given the same opportunities and benefits as the SEZs of the rich. These collectives can take up value addition activities. Best practices can be identified and dissemination of knowledge can be done through these collectives. Dry land farms are overpopulated. It's important to create significant non-farm incomes to the farmers. Post harvest technology needs significant improvement. Youth can become valuable players in value addition activities. They need training; they need opportunities to build their skills. Majority of the land in India comes under arid and semi-arid zones. It's important to invest resources to convert these huge tracts into food baskets of the country in a sustainable manner with due regard to environment. Time is ripe to revisit dry land areas with a workable framework which can result in significant increase in net incomes of the dry land farmers. The progress in agricultural sector should be measured not just in terms of increase in productivity or increase in exports but increase in the net income of the dry land farmers.

**\*Livelihoods July-2008**

## 15.Natural Farming

***Natural Farming (NF) was the original form of agriculture that dates back to pre-historic times & is considered to be the most resilient agro-ecosystem. All NF is the considered to be organic farming. It was the form of forest gardening, which is world's oldest practice. The world witnessed advances in biochemistry & engineering during the pre-World War II period. These advancements brought profound changes in farming. Mechanized farm implements, hybrid seeds, changing labour equations, reduction in manual labour & animal labour, increase of herbicides, fertilizers and pesticides etc., created an era of mechanization of agriculture. The inorganic methods led to serious side effects on people and environment alike. This resulted in contemplation over the ongoing practices in agriculture and of revival of "modern organic farming".***



In post-World War II era, technological advances accelerated innovation in all aspects of agriculture, resulting in large advances in mechanization i.e., irrigation, fertilizers and pesticide usage. Chemicals, which were produced in large quantities for warfare i.e., Ammonium Nitrate & Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT) were used for agriculture, as general insecticide and widespread use of pesticide too. This sophisticated farm machinery allowed single farmers to work in larger areas of land, fields grew bigger and bigger.

Green Revolution (GR) started in 1944, when an international campaign was launched in Mexico with funding from US. The main goal was to encourage development of hybrid plants, chemical controls, large-scale irrigation and heavy mechanization in agriculture around the world. High global population growth was widespread, which kept GR going. With increased pollution, in 1970s the global movements took momentum on environment protection with increased focus on organic farming. With time, distinction between organic and conventional farming became clearer. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) was founded in 1975; Fukuoka emphasized his approach to small-scale grain production, with meticulous balance of local farming ecosystem and with minimum of human interference and labour by releasing his book "The One-Straw Revolution". By 1984, the first organic certification service was established in US and the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 tasked United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with developing national standards for organic products, and the final rule establishing the National Organic Program (NOP) was first published in Federal Register in 2000.

Increasingly, both farming and consumer groups across the globe are concerned about quality and safety of food. International agriculture experts, agricultural and ecological scientists believe that large scale shift to organic farming will increase world's food supply and will eradicate hunger. Critics had expressed fear that a large-scale shift in its direction would cause billions to starve! A project involving nine million farmers on nearly 30 million hectares conducted by University of Essex (looking at over 200 agricultural projects) converted to organic and ecological approaches; found that yields increased an average of 93 percent, with higher net profits, return on capital and labor. Natural farming is key and way forward for food security. Natural farming is a sophisticated combination of old wisdom and modern ecological innovations, helping to harness yield-boosting effects on nutrient cycles, beneficial insects and crop synergies. There are different methods involved in attaining sustainable agriculture, Integrated Farming (IF) is one among them. According to "International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC)", IF is a farming system, where high quality food, feed, fiber and renewable energy are produced by usage of resources, as well as regulating factors to farm sustainably and with less pollution inputs as possible.

The key objective of IF is based on attention to detail, continuous improvement & management of all available resources. It is through informed management processes that IF calls for attention to detail and continuous improvement in all areas of farming business. IF combines the best of modern tools and technologies with traditional practices and lays emphasis on holistic management. This model looks at the whole farm as a cross-linked unit on fundamental role & function of agro-ecosystems, on nutrient cycles; these are balanced & adapted to demands of crops, health & welfare of all livestock on farm. In IF, preserving & enhancing soil fertility; improving & maintaining a diverse environment; & the adherence to ethical & social criteria are indispensable elements.

Integrated Farming is a management & planning approach, which includes regular benchmarking of targets set against results achieved.

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is another method of holistic agriculture. This method was promoted by Mr. Subash Palekar and Masanobu Fukuoka (Natural Farming). It counters commercial expenditure and also reduces market dependency of farmers on external inputs (Seeds, fertilizers & pesticides). This method of farming involves utilization of locally available natural bio-degradable materials, and later combines it with scientific knowledge of ecology & modern technology, coupled with traditional farming practices, based on naturally occurring biological processes. ZBNF has some key principal methods, which are a) crop rotation; b) green manures; c) compost; d) biological pest control; and e) mechanical cultivation. The above measures use natural environment to enhance agricultural productivity and they are: a) legumes are planted to fix nitrogen in soil; b) natural insect predators are encouraged; c) crops rotated to confuse pests; d) renew soil and usage of natural materials (potassium bicarbonate & mulches) to control diseases & weeds.

Sustainable agriculture is farming in sustainable ways, based on understanding of services in an ecosystem, and study of relationships between organism & their environment. An integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will last over the long term.

In 1978, Permaculture, a term coined by Bill Mollison & David Holmgren, was developed. This is a system of agricultural and social design principles, which are centered on simulating or directly utilizing the patterns and features observed in natural ecosystems. According to Mollison, "Permaculture is a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labor; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system." Permaculture has its roots way back in 1929, when, Joseph Russell Smith in a book titled "Tree Crops: A Permanent Agriculture" summed up his long experience of experiments with fruits & nuts as crops for human food & animal feed. The book inspired many individuals intent of making agriculture more sustainable and it was in 1930s, that Toyohiko Kagawa pioneered it in forest farming in Japan. Permaculture has many branches including ecological design, ecological engineering, environmental design, construction and integrated water resources management; thus, developing sustainable architecture, regenerative, self-maintained habitat and agricultural systems modeled from natural ecosystems. Permaculture is based on three core tenets and they are:

Care for the earth: Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply. This is the first principle, because without a healthy earth, humans cannot flourish; Care for the people: Provision for people to access those resources necessary for their existence;

Return of surplus: Reinvesting surpluses back into the system to provide for the first two ethics. This includes returning waste back into the system to recycle into usefulness. The third ethic is sometimes referred to as a Fair Share to reflect that each of us should take no more than what we need before we reinvest the surplus.

This method emphasizes patterns of landscape, function and species assemblies, as central concept of permaculture is to maximize useful connections between components & synergy of final design. It seeks to minimize waste, human labor & energy input by building systems with maximal benefits between design elements to achieve high level of synergy.

Layering is one of the tools used in agriculture, that is both sustainable and beneficial to humans. An ecosystem has numerous relationships between the various components i.e., trees, understory, ground cover, soil, fungi, insects and animals. Reason that plants grow in different heights, and as a result a diverse community of life is able to grow in a relatively small space. Thus, vegetation occupies different layers. In layering, there are seven recognized layers in a food forest.

1. Canopy: the tallest trees in the system. Large trees dominate but typically do not saturate the area, i.e. there exist patches barren of trees.
2. Understory layer: trees that revel in the dappled light under the canopy.
3. Shrub layer: a diverse layer of woody perennials of limited height. Includes most berry bushes.
4. Herbaceous layer: Plants in this layer die back to the ground every winter (if winters are cold enough, that is). They do not produce woody stems as the Shrub layer does. Many culinary and medicinal herbs are in this layer. A large variety of beneficial plants fall into this layer. May be annuals, biennials or perennials.
5. Soil surface/Groundcover: There is some overlap with the Herbaceous layer and the Groundcover layer; however, plants in this layer grow much closer to the ground, grow densely to fill bare patches of soil, and often can tolerate some foot traffic. Cover crops retain soil and lessen erosion, along with green manures that add nutrients and organic matter to the soil, especially nitrogen.
6. Rhizosphere: Root layers within the soil. The major components of this layer are the soil and the organisms that live within it such as plant roots (including root crops such as potatoes and other edible tubers), fungi, insects, nematodes, worms, etc.



7. Vertical layer: climbers or vines, such as runner beans and lima beans (vine varieties).

Pest control is as old as agriculture in order to keep crops free from pests and maximize food production. Conventional approach and techniques which were used includes crop rotation, companion planting (intercropping) and selective breeding of pest resistant cultivators. The arrival of chemical pesticides date back to 4,500 years, when Sumerians used sulfur compounds as insecticides. With industrialization & mechanization of agriculture in 18th and 19th century and introduction of insecticides "pyrethrum & derris", pest control became widespread. Later in 20th century, synthetic insecticides i.e., DDT & herbicides boosted development, and it became the predominant type of pest control. Today, we are witnessing long-term effects, and there is a growing shift of pest control methods.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a multifaceted strategy. It is also known as Integrated Pest Control (IPC). FAO, defines IPM as "careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels, are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and environment. IPM emphasizes growth of a healthy crop with least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms." This mechanism includes managing insects, plant pathogens and weeds. Include synthetic pesticides as a last resort; both organic & conventional farms use IPM systems toward controlling pests.

Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) method, does not rely on pesticides and is used in organic production of food and in other situations when introduction of toxins is undesirable and pest control is achieved by biological means. In NPM, techniques include:

- Introduction of natural predators; Use of naturally occurring insecticides, such as Neem tree products, Margosa, Tulsi / Basil Leaf, Citrus Oil, Eucalyptus Oil, Onion, Garlic spray, Essential Oils. These are also referred to as Organic Pesticides; Use of trap crops which attract the insects away from the fields. The trap crops are regularly checked and pests are manually removed; Pest larvae which were killed by viruses can be crushed and sprayed over fields, thus killing the remaining larvae; Field sanitation; Timely sowing; Nutrient management; Maintain proper plant population; Go for soil solarisation; Deep summer ploughing.

Pests have withstood natural calamities & survived successfully. Since the introduction of chemical pesticides, the pests have developed resistance to extremely toxic chemical pesticides insecticides used by farmers. Thereby, attempt is being made to use traditional knowledge of farmers, who will be able to identify various crops pests and their natural enemies (the farmer friendly insects).

The effort is to minimize pests & restore natural balance of insects in crop ecosystems. Crops and pests are synonyms and to address pest problem, Genetically Modified (GM) crops were introduced. The aim was to bring in resistance to certain pests, diseases or environmental conditions, reduction of spoilage, resistance to chemical treatments, improve nutrient profile of the crop. GM crops have increased farm income worldwide, but critics viewed that *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (Bt). Cotton crop grown by small farmers in developing countries, showed economic returns highly variable over years, farm type and geographical location. GM technologies were developed to enable more sustainable agriculture, with aim of employing fewer land, water & nutrient resources. The GM engineering, patenting has led to the transformation of local variety of seeds into costly packets of intellectual property.

Various Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) i.e., Monsanto, DuPont, with assistance from World Bank (WB), World Trade Organization (WTO) have monopolized seeds. Advancement in agricultural biotechnology has pushed farmers to the door step of these large MNC seed giants. The prevailing model of industrial agriculture is burdening earth's resources; heavily reliant on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, fossil fuels and seemingly limitless supply of cheap water. The knowledgeable farmers were pushed to reduce diversity of crops, practice monocrops, reduce greater care for soil (rotation of crops), and these resulted out of GM technology advancements too.

Earlier, farmers saved seeds & other reproductive material i.e., tubers from grains, herbs, vegetables and flowers, towards use on yearly basis. The traditional way of farms & gardens were maintained in above mentioned way for last 12,000 years. Different seed saving methods involved different skills to ensure desired characteristics to be retained in landraces of plant variety, farmers maintained distance from plants belonging to same species for ensuring cross-pollination does not occur with another variety. They also ensured minimum number of plants to be grown, in order to preserve inherent genetic diversity. Farmers' skills involved knowledge & understanding breeding improvements, identification of diseases, which are seed-borne. Seeds are handled by women, in agriculture tradition across different cultures. Care, cleaning, treatment, storage & maintenance, etc., are done by women farmers. Local resource of ash is used as an important ingredient used by farmer community towards seed treatment.

Seed protection in traditional methods ensures valuable adaptive traits, unique to local varieties. Open pollination was most common method practiced by farmers for seed savings. As plants that reproduce through natural

means tend to adapt to local conditions overtime & evolve as reliable performers. In latter part of 20th century, shift occurred from saving to purchasing seeds annually from seed suppliers. GM made inroads, pushing farmers as buyers from "seed savers." Seed saver farmers, used various traditional methods associated with agriculture and one among them was Intercropping & Mixed cropping; which has been our traditional method.

Multiple cropping is a practice of growing two or more crops in the same piece of land, during a single growing season. Sowing different types of crops on the same plot & harvesting them at different times, is a tradition that is being revived. Double cropping is another method, where the second crop is planted after the first has been harvested. Companion planting is a method where gardening and intensive cultivation of vegetables and fruits are done. Intercropping is a multiple cropping practice, which involves growing two or more crops, and the goal is to produce greater yield in small patch of land, by utilizing available resources. Farmers in harmony with nature, practiced traditional agriculture as a sustainable way of living.

India is proudly known as the world's second largest food producer; however, the more farmers here are quitting from farming day by day due of lack of sustainability. In a nation, where more than half of the population directly depend on farming, farming in increasingly become unprofitable. Distress in farming, effects of industrial agriculture, small & landless farmers needing to increase capital investment, low returns, climate variability, poorly maintained irrigation systems, etc., have resulted in farming becoming neither economical nor environmentally sustainable. Yields dropping from farms, increase in population, show us a bleak picture of food scarcity in not-so-far future. The continuing prevalence of grim situation and deep agrarian crisis, has made policy makers, agriculture scientists and other key players to note & rethink of alternatives to save farmers-farming-agriculture. The answer seems to be that, NF is the way forward. Farming in harmony with nature, promoting healthy soils, water, moisture & land, etc. addresses all concerns surrounding agriculture.

To address distress in farming sector, various initiatives have been proposed to promote NF. It may help in restoring dignity in farming, reassuring farmers, increasing farmers' incomes, improving food security, reducing debt burden. However, climate change and weather variability continue to remain a challenge. With increase in temperature & carbon dioxide, frequency & severity of droughts & floods is posing a challenge for farmers, thereby threatening food security. Climate change is disrupting ecosystems affecting agricultural production, changing in farming practices & technologies. Extreme temperature & precipitation is preventing crops from growing extreme events, especially floods & droughts are harming crops & reducing yields. Dealing with drought has become a challenge in areas, where rising temperatures are causing soils to become drier. Livestock are at risk directly from heat stress & indirectly from reduced quality of food supply. Fisheries are affected by changes in water temperature, which is making water more hospitable to invasive species and shifting lifecycle timing of certain fish species. Climate variations; consecutive droughts and freakish weather, etc. are denting food grain production and are worsening rural distress. Weather woes coupled with drop in price of key crops. Horticulture has escaped weather shocks and production of fruits & vegetables increased/ either unaffected. Horticulture, with both long duration and short duration crops grown with assured irrigation, remains immune to monsoon deficits. Horticulture is grown mostly by marginal & small farmers, and resource poor farmers benefit most from growth in horticulture.

Natural Farming as an alternative path for sustainable agriculture, and has its examples set in India. Sikkim in India, became the first fully organic state; the state had implemented organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land based as per guidelines laid down in National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and this led to strike a harmonious balance with a complex series of ecosystems. This initiative began in 2003 and has led to subsistence of agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, and environmental protection. It has greatly built the soil health, resulted in sustained increased crop production. The State is already offering lessons to other states in organic farming. The old practice of jhum/ shifting cultivation, too are methods of natural farming. Apart from these methods, there are different models of farming; Annapurna, Giri-Laxmi & Navadhanya. These models assure nutritional security at household level and supply regular income to farmers. Different varieties of short, long duration crops, vegetables, fruits are cultivated in small patches of land. These models have proved a success.

Organizations such as Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Jattu Trust, Kovel Foundation (KF) have successfully implemented & are implementing the above models in agency tracts of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. With the revival of NF techniques, it is being ensured that small/marginal farm holders get food security. Revisiting of NF by new generation of young farmers is being encouraged by the growing health consciousness, among population for organic food and is reinstating hope among small, marginal & tenant farmers. Combination of old wisdom, coupled with modern ecological innovations have already begun showing results; increase in yields, restoring healthy soils, retaining moisture, judicious use of land & water. Effective & positive synergies in a given environment for sustainable agriculture are yielding results.



Natural Farming in totality encompasses forestry, fisheries, livestock, kitchen gardens (homesteads) and gardens and has the potential to eradicate hunger & feed population. Farmers in their backyard kitchen gardens and as well in their small farms are cultivating organic medicinal plants too which are proving beneficial to farmers i.e.

Natural Farming, reduces risks for farmers, such as; a) elimination of risk towards seed procurement; b) increased usage of landraces; c) optimal utilization of existing natural resources; d) increased efficiency of soils (nutrients); e) retaining healthy moisture in soils; f) reduced water pollution; g) natural methods to control pests; h) elimination of dependency on artificial synthetics; i) increased availability of healthy food to both consumers & farmers families; j) risk of extreme climatic conditions can be arrested with horticulture, mixed cropping; h) greater reduction in inputs costs by farmers; leading to increase in net incomes of farmer families; i) growing demand for organic food.

Organic certification in India is done by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APFEDA), under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Organic products hold promise for organic producers to tap a market which is growing steadily in domestic market. The Government of India (GoI) has implemented NPOP which is a national programme, involving accreditation for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming. The aim of certification is to assure quality & prevent fraud and promote commerce. There are different methods to certify a farm. Third Party certification and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), and other alternative certification options are there too. Third Party (TP) certification involves following steps:

Study the organic standards, which cover in specific detail what is and is not allowed for every aspect of farming, including storage, transport and sale. Compliance — farm facilities and production methods must comply with the standards, which may involve modifying facilities, sourcing and changing suppliers, etc.. Documentation — extensive paperwork is required, detailing farm history and current set-up, and usually including results of soil and water tests. Planning — a written annual production plan must be submitted, detailing everything from seed to sale: seed sources, field, crop locations, fertilization and pest control activities, harvest methods, storage locations, etc., Inspection — annual on-farm inspections are required, with a physical tour, examination of records, and an oral interview. Fee — an annual inspection/certification fee (currently starting at \$400–\$2,000/year, in US and Canada, depending on agency and size of the operation). There are financial assistance programs for qualifying certified operations. Record-keeping — written, day-to-day farming and marketing records, covering all activities, must be available for inspection at any time. PGS is an alternative to Third Party certification, adapted to local markets & short supply chains. Certification process enables direct participation of producers, consumers & other stakeholders in the choice and definition of standards; the development and implementation of certification procedures; the certification decisions. Effective measures taken and principles followed in NF can enable small & marginal farmers to increase their net incomes. NF scalability can be done with Farmer to Field Schools (FFS). Farmers, especially small & marginal ones, require ongoing education in agricultural operations. FFSs increase farmers' knowledge in areas of agriculture & help them adopt practices, which are environmentally sound, profitable & contribute to quality of life. Natural Farming, through FFS, leads to less harm to environment, reduced water & chemicals for crops, increased profits, sound financial management decisions, discover new economic opportunities, balance of eco-system, improved production & marketing methods.

Growing health consciousness among consumers, in recent years, has increased demand for organic produce. Natural Farming (NF), holding future to food security & feeding the population, needs to be converged. Family & small farms are vital to our economy & well-being as a nation. They protect & enhance natural resources & the environment, provide nursery for development of new enterprises & marketing systems, maintain rural populations, reduce distress in agriculture & migration. Need for convergence at all levels in various government schemes holds significance.

Convergence with line departments, increases confidence, production & profits for small / marginal farm holders, increase in improved practices & reduction in production costs, Increase risk management, identify & establish market opportunities, all farmers having equal access to various government programs & services. Convergence & collectivization of small/ marginal land holders is important with potential positive outcomes for reduction in rural poverty and ensuring continuous food supply. Collectivization of farmers enables small/marginal farmers to raise capital for themselves, reduction in input costs & also enables them to develop corpus fund for future sustainable agriculture operations. It enables farmer to farmer learning's & helps them to share their experiences. Aggregation of their crop produces for better marketing price. Lobby & advocacy for their rights, entitlements & demands. Reduction in distress migration. Increased risk bearing capacity, collective value addition to their produce & increased control on the value chain of their produce. Rise of organic farming among small, independent producers and demand for produce by consumers, is being witnessed to changing rules of agribusiness in organic market.

In recent decades, there has been growth in organic market, accelerating participation of agribusiness interests. To mitigate global warming, NF is a way forward in reducing energy consumption & mitigate negative effects of energy emissions, NF can provide and help farmers adapt to climate change, through strengthening of agro-ecosystems, diversify crops & increase livestock production, build farmer's knowledge base to prevent & confront changes in climate. Natural Farming method, with its many advantages, may well help improve the quality of food our citizens consume without the fear of eating food full of chemicals.

**\*livelihoods February-2017**

## 16. Minimum Support”- Myth or Reality?

**The issue of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy has occupied considerable space in the media and in political sphere in several states. However, a wider gamut of products/services is not covered in the minimum price mechanism. When covered (under the Minimum wages Act), the implementation is slack. Field studies indicate that MSP fixed for agriculture may be inadequate.**

India is home to 111 crore people and approximately, 25 crore households. The households, for living, produce goods (commodities, products and value-added products) and/or provide services (unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and professional services); some had secured (and/or with reasonable income) jobs in, while others offer specialized professional services. But a vast majority needs support – in the form of policy of minimum price for their goods and/or services, that guarantees fulfillment of basic needs and let them recover their costs so that they would continue to offer these goods/services (this needs to be revised from time-to-time); in terms of mechanisms to ensure that they get at least these minimum prices, if market is not able to offer these on its own, based on demand-supply situation or otherwise. Processed goods, high-end professional services like auditing, etc., may not require this support.

Following are the major industries in which labour require minimum support:

- Agricultural produce
- Seeds
- Irrigated and dry crops
- Food and commercial crops
- Seasonal crops , perennial crops, horticultural crops and plantation crops
- Milk (cow, buffalo, etc.)
- Small Livestock (eggs, broilers, chicken, goats, sheep, meat etc.)
- Fish (fresh water, marine)
- Other farm produce – toddy, coconuts,
- Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)
- Non-farm produce – handlooms (cotton, silk, wool), leather, etc.
- Labour
- Semi-skilled labour
- Skilled labour
- Piece-based services
- Labour-linked produce

For the labour, there are minimum wages. Being a state subject, the minimum wages are fixed by the state governments, for a range of industry-wise labour categories from the casual labour to the highly skilled labour [from Rs.60 to Rs.250 in AP]. These wages are different for rural and urban areas. Both men and women get the same wage for the same work. These prices and wages are revised periodically (mostly on an annual basis). All of us know that these wages are not implemented according to guidelines at many places, for example Rs.15 along with a bottle of toddy (may be spurious!) is the wage in some parts of Mahabubnagar district. This led Mahabubnagar’s labourers (popularly known as Palamur Labour) to migrate out in search of better wages and regular work year after year. The payment to labourers is not always based on the labour-time . They are also paid on a piece-basis. Indicative piece rates can be derived, for example for construction work, from the standard schedule of rates. The labour may get different wages based on their productive turn-out. For services, the prices are not fixed. Government, on the other hand, is bringing many of the services into service tax net. However, some associations of the service providers (for example, hairdressers and washer men) have fixed prices for the

### Minimum Support Prices: A historical perspective

The Price Support Policy of the Government is directed at providing insurance to agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. The minimum guaranteed prices are fixed to set the floor below which market prices cannot fall. Till the mid 1970s, Government announced two types of administered prices:

1. Minimum support price (MSP)
2. Procurement prices

The MSPs served as the floor prices and were fixed by the Government in the nature of a long-term guarantee for investment decisions of producers, with the assurance that prices of their commodities would not be allowed to fall below the level fixed by the Government, even in the case of a bumper crop.

Procurement prices were the prices of kharif and rabi cereals at which the grain was to be domestically procured by public agencies like FCI for release through PDS. It was announced soon after harvest began. Normally procurement price was lower than the open market price and higher than the MSP.

This policy of two official prices being announced continued with some variations up to 1973-74, in the case of paddy. In the case of wheat it was discontinued in 1969 and then revived in 1974-75 for one year only. Since there were too many demands for stepping up the MSP in 1975-75, the present system was evolved in which only one set of prices was announced for paddy, wheat and other crops being procured for buffer stock operations.

CROP	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Paddy	380	415	440	490	510	530	550	550	560	570	620
Jowar	310	360	390	415	445	485	490	505	515	525	540
Bajra	310	360	390	415	445	485	495	505	515	525	540
Maize	320	360	390	415	445	485	490	505	525	540	540
Ragi	310	360	390	415	445	485	490	505	515	525	540
Wheat	475	510	550	580	610	620	630	630	640	700	850
Tur(Arhar)	840	900	960	1105	1200	1320	1325	1360	1390	1400	1590
Moong	840	900	960	1105	1200	1320	1335	1370	1410	1520	1740
Urad	840	900	960	1105	1200	1320	1335	1370	1410	1520	1740
Groundnut-in-shell	920	980	1040	1155	1220	1340	1375	1400	1500	1520	1550
Soyabean Black	620	670	705	755	775	795	805	840	900	900	910
Soyabean Yellow	700	750	795	845	865	885	895	930	1000	1010	1050
Sunflower seed	960	1000	1060	1155	1170	1185	1210	1250	1340	1500	1510
Cotton	1180	1330	1440	1575	1625	1675	1695	1725	1760	1770	1800

Note: The MSP indicated is inclusive of special drought relief and incentive bonus, if any.

individuals they charge. Many service providers do not have associations and neither are members of any association.

Regulatory mechanisms to implement the minimum wages in organized sectors do exist, Labour Departments focus on this but in unorganized sector the mechanisms are either weak or non-existent. The problem gets compounded where the employer does not get remunerative return on her/his production and service offering. In reality, these minimum wages have become the wages that governments offer in their work areas, rather than in the state/ country. Government of India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), is a mechanism that ensures people get work for a minimum of 100 days in a year. Implemented on a pilot basis in 2005, it is now planned to be universalized in all 620 districts from April 2008. This has been an important legislation ensuring minimum wages (and wages better than they were getting) for the people of rural areas. Government does not fix minimum support prices for many of them. For large agricultural produce items, the minimum support price is fixed and revised regularly. There is an independent Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) that recommends MSP for 25 items – Kharif (14) (Paddy, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Red gram, Green gram, Black gram, Cotton, Groundnut in shell, Sunflower seed, Soyabean, Sesamum, Niger seed), Rabi (7) (Wheat, Barley, Gram, Masoor (lentil), Mustard, Safflower, Toria), Others (4) (Copra, Jute, Sugarcane, Tobacco). Based on its recommendation, Government of India announces the MSP. This can be either for Kharif or Rabi or both. On several occasions Government has announced MSP, which was very different from the recommendation of the CACP. It may be noted that the MSP is a function of cost of cultivation, estimated production and demand-supply situation. See the box for more details of calculation involved in recommending MSP. Thus, MSP, in a way controls the market situation and market prices. For example, , the market prices of wheat have hovered around Rs.600- 650, more or less the same as MSP of Rs.600 -640 till last before year. A trend in the MSPs of selected items can be seen in Table The graph depicting changes in MSP in wheat and paddy for the last 10 years can also be seen.

**Box: CACP's Methodology for Cost Calculation**

The minimum support prices for major agricultural products are announced each year after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). While recommending prices, the CACP takes into account all important factors including

1. Cost of production
2. Changes in input prices
3. Input/output price parity
4. Trends in market prices
5. Inter-crop price parity
6. Demand and supply situation
7. Effect on industrial cost structure
8. Effect on general price level
9. Effect on cost of living
10. International market price situation
11. Parity between prices paid and prices received by farmers (Terms of trade)

Among these multiple factors that go into the formulation of support price policy, the cost of production is the most significant. Thus, for making the

support price policy functionally meaningful, the minimum guaranteed prices ought to cover at least the reasonable cost of production in a normal agricultural season obtained from efficient farming.

The CACP analyses the cost of production data for various States in respect of various commodities in consultation with the States. After a meeting of the State Chief Ministers, the MSP/procurement prices are declared. With costs of production for the same crops varying between regions and also across farms within the same region and for different producers, the level of costs that could be accepted as a norm poses enormous difficulties.

**Cost concepts**

In fixing the support prices, CACP relies on the cost concept which covers all items of expenses of cultivation including in that the imputed value of inputs owned by farmers such as rental value of owned land and interest on fixed capital. Some of the important cost concepts used by CACP are the C2 and C3 costs.

**C2 cost**

C2 costs includes

- All actual expenses in cash and kind incurred in production by actual owner
- Rent paid for leased land
- Imputed value of family labour
- Interest on value of owned capital assets (excluding land)
- Rental value of owned land (net of land revenue).

**C3 cost**

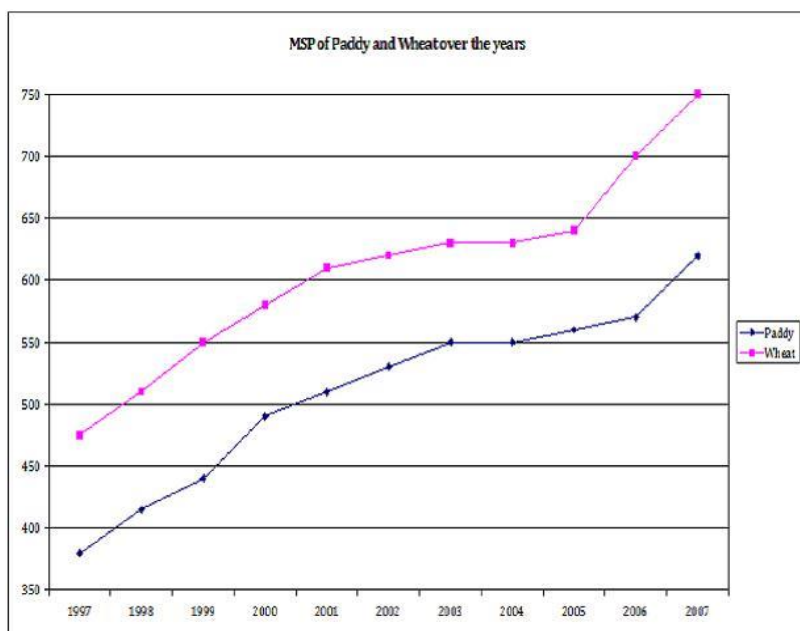
The farmer spends some management time in his farm. This cost is added to C2 to obtain C3. As this cost is difficult to measure, a flat 10% of the cost of C2 is imputed for managerial remuneration to the farmers.

Cost of production are calculated both on a per quintal and per hectare basis. Since cost variation are large over states, CACP recommends that MSP should be considered on the basis of C<sub>2</sub> cost.

Some of these crops get incentive bonus. For example, wheat is allowed Rs.100/quintal of incentive bonus over and above MSP of Rs.750 last year. Wheat regularly got the incentive bonus. On the other hand, paddy has received incentive bonus only once so far. Its MSP this year is Rs.645 (Rs.675 on Grade A) per quintal. Responding to various rallies, dharnas, representations, etc., for increasing paddy MSP (given that the year is a good year for paddy), Prime Minister, so far, offered to consider 'bonus' but not revising MSP. When we look at a typical farming household in Palnadu (Guntur), its cost of cultivation, including managerial remuneration, comes to Rs.750/quintal where it gets canal water whereas in the absence of canal water, this comes to Rs.800. An MSP, including bonus, if any, should be above this level. Actual MSP should be finalized, taking the interests of the consumers into account. Whenever the market price is below MSP, Government makes arrangements for procuring the produce at MSP. Much of this produce is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and NAFED. This happens to be the main source of grains for Public Distribution System (PDS). More than a decade ago, Government of India (GoI) implemented Market Intervention Operation (MIO) in Edible Oilseeds/Oils through National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices and consumers do not have to pay exploitative prices. Government of India's foreign trade policies, forward markets (and futures trading), creation of storage and processing infrastructure, credit against the stored produce, and collective procurement and marketing are some of the other mechanisms which receive support from the governments. The issue is that there are other crops which do not have MSP. These include agricultural crops like onions, potato, chillies, castor, turmeric, ginger, garlic, etc., fruits and vegetables, minor cereals, plantation crops like tea, coffee, etc., horticultural crops like cashew, etc. Further, the Government has not found good enough to think about minimum support prices for various value-added products of these basic agricultural and horticultural produce. For example, rice, flour, oil, dal, sugar, jaggery, etc. If a farmers' collective wants to pool paddy produce of farmers, store and process it into rice and sell, it will not be sure of minimum returns. This is a deterrent in farmers' collectivization, in addition to other legal aspects.

This 'minimum support' is missing for milk, livestock and livestock-related produce like eggs, meat, wool, etc. The pioneering effort of Dairy Board and the state Governments have definitely attracted more than half of rural India into dairying and made India self-sufficient in milk. In terms of remunerative prices, more than half of them are far from getting them. The prices announced by co-operatives are like 'minimum support prices' for milk. The private players match or offer better prices when they see competition from cooperatives. The National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC) announces market rates for eggs. However, the 'minimum support' is still missing from Government for livestock and related produce. It is also not available for NTFP like gum, tamarind, soap nuts, honey, etc. Thankfully, some of the tribal development corporations, forest corporations and TRIFED tried and come to the rescue of the tribal NTFPs by collecting their produce. However, all these are just limited to a token share in the consumer rupee and not commensurate with the uniqueness, effort, labour and risk involved.





Other risky produce is fish, both inland and marine, for which there is no 'minimum support' available. Other sea produce like seaweeds, shells, etc., also do not get this 'support'. Likewise salt has no 'minimum support'. Produce like toddy tapping, another major indigenous produce in South India, does get 'minimum support', linked to minimum wages. It does not take into account of the woman's work in selling toddy, which is almost full-time. The products of occupational livelihoods (and these are declining) like handlooms (a variety of weaves, using a variety of raw materials – cotton, silk, wool, mixed), bamboo work, wood work, metalwork, stonework, leather work, pottery, handicrafts, etc also do not have minimum prices. We have only their

corporations/ federations that try and pull up the marketing effort so that they may get a better price. The services, like water management in tanks and canals, village watch and ward, temple services, sanitation, hairdressing, washing, entertainment, etc., are also not in the 'minimum support' purview. In view of this, Governments at various levels, Local, State and Country, have to look at MINIMUM SUPPORT comprehensively and come up with an overarching policy, price fixation and mechanisms. This is of paramount importance in the light of globalization, when we need to compete not locally but globally – for example, with New Zealand and Sweden for Milk, with China for Rice, with Brazil for coffee etc.

**\*Livelihoods November – 2007**

## 17.Small Livestock

***India has largest livestock population in the world. Small livestock plays an important role in livelihoods of rural poor in India, particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers and women. It plays an important role in national economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. According to FAO, the major livestock population in the world in 2005 comprised of 1,059.8 million sheep, 790 million goats, 943.8 million pigs, 729 and one billion broilers.***

India has the largest livestock population in the world. Small livestock plays an important role in livelihoods of rural poor in India, particularly among the landless, small, marginal farmers and women. It plays an important role in national economy and in socio-economic development of the country. According to FAO, the major livestock population in the world, in 2005 comprised of 1,059.8 million sheep, 790 million goats, 943.8 million pigs, 729 and one billion broilers. Besides providing nutritious food to millions of people, livestock sector plays a significant role in supplementing family incomes and generating employment in rural sector. Small livestock are domesticated animals intentionally reared in an agricultural setting for the purpose of profit or subsistence. Goats, sheeps, pigs, camels, donkeys, horses, yaks, poultry etc., have been providing several human requirements including milk, meat, wool, egg and leather, manure, draught power, transport, companionship, entertainment, research experimentation, sports security etc., The type of livestock reared varies worldwide and depends on factors such as climate, consumer demand, native animals, local traditions, and land type.



India has the largest livestock population in the world, distributed over 100 million households in approximately 600,000 villages, Indian farmers' stock animals that are, as varied as the little known Yak and Mithun to the seemingly insignificant backyard poultry. In rural areas, about 73% of people own some form of livestock. This livestock can be grouped into 3 categories depending on their utility - milk yielding animals; animals used to procure meat and egg laying animals; and animals used for agriculture and transport. Small livestock are mostly used for meat, egg, wool and leather. Poultry industry, which provides the cheapest source of animal protein, has taken a quantum jump during the last three decades, evolving from a simple backyard practice to a venture of industrial promotion (Anonymous, 2015). These days in India, poultry is one of the faster growing segments of the agricultural sector. It is remarkable to note, that nearly 94% of the total production of egg is contributed by fowl followed by duck and other poultry birds, which contribute 3% each. Recently, a systematic focus has been given to the backyard poultry production, which has been an age old practice in rural areas of the country. Most of the backyard poultry production comprises rearing of indigenous birds with poor production performances. The potentiality of indigenous birds, in terms of egg production is merely 70-80 eggs for a bird per year and the meat production is also very less. To improve the socio-economic status of the traditional farmers, backyard poultry is a handy enterprise with low cost initial investment, but high economic return along with guarantee of enriching protein deficiency among the poor farmers.

The largest producer of egg in India, is Andhra Pradesh, which produces 32.0% of the total egg production in the country followed by Tamil Nadu which produces 17.1% of the egg production, West Bengal is the third largest egg producer state in the country, which produce 6.8% of the total production, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Karnatka, Orissa, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh are the states, which produce 6.5, 6.0, 5.4, 5.3, 3.3, 3.2 and 2.4%, respectively of the total egg production of India. A large number of people from weaker sections of the community in the hilly, drought prone and desert areas of the country depend mainly on sheep rearing. India possesses about 61.5 million sheep. Because of their ability to graze very close, sheep can utilize sparse vegetation on which other species of livestock may not able to subsist. Sheep droppings improve the fertility of soil considerably and penning of sheep in harvested fields brings an additional income to the crop owners. Sheep farming is mainly in the hands of weaker sections of the community, who either do not possess land, or their land holdings are so small, that crop cultivation does not provide remunerative employment all year round. Furthermore, in the major sheep rearing areas, especially in North-Western (NW) districts of Rajasthan, grazing and stock watering resources are available only for few months in a year, compelling shepherds to lead a nomadic life. The other

important category of small ruminants, that majority of poor people prefer to rear is the goat. Goat population in India, during the last four decades has increased at the fastest rate, amongst various livestock species. The current goat population is estimated to be around 124.4 million. In many parts of the country, the current practice is to purchase the crop of sheep or goat many months ahead of their sale, on an arbitrarily settled price. Consequently, the poor have no control over, what price they get for their stock and at what age they are required to sell them. Invariably most stock is sold by the time they are six months and weigh around 10 to 12 kgs, while the recommended standard weight for sale should not be less than 25-30 kilos, if these animals have to fetch commercially attractive price. One of the reasons for early sale of animals by the shepherds is non-availability of the required credit, leaving farmers at the mercy of traders.

Sheep and Goat are reared mainly for production of wool and meat in India. Wool production has remained constant in the country in spite of large number of sheep population at about 45 million kg, out of which around 4 million kg, is of fine quality while the remaining of medium and coarse quality. The requirement of industry is estimated at around 35 to 40 million kg of fine wool, which is met mainly through imports. There is also a large unsatisfied market for mutton in the country. About 36% of total sheep and 41% of goat population is slaughtered annually for meat purposes. Due to social reasons, the consumption of cow meat is restricted in India. The consumption of buffalo and pork is also limited. Similarly, the meat exported from India is also fresh and chilled, but very small portion goes into value addition and export. Within the livestock, the sector that provides employment opportunity is the poultry. The Indian poultry industry has transformed from meager backyard poultry farming to a well-organized scientific techno commercial industry. The majority of the poultry industry is in organized sector contributing nearly 70% of the total output, while the rest 30% is from unorganized sector. It is estimated that more than 2 million people are employed directly or indirectly in this sector. It is further estimated that an increase of one egg and 50 gms of meat, per capita consumption would create an employment opportunity for about 25,000 and 20,000 persons respectively. This sector provides employment to even unskilled labourers and women, thereby providing income generation to the vulnerable groups. Today, India ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in egg production and 19<sup>th</sup> in broiler production in the world. It is estimated that, egg production in the country is about 45,200 millions and poultry meat production is about 2.0 million tons per annum. Though, there is increase in volume of poultry products, it is mainly because of commercial poultry units. There is not much focus on development of backyard poultry, which can give some additional income to rural households.

Pig rearing is the most important activity in North-Eastern (NE) region of the country, especially in tribal areas. Pork is an important item in daily food habits of these people. There are more than 128 lakh pigs in the country, of which approximately 14.5 per cent are graded and exotic variety. There are about 158 pig breeding farms in the country run by State Governments/ Union Territories (UT). Pig production is invariably a small-scale, backyard, market-oriented enterprise. It is a low-external input enterprise depending upon family – mainly women's – labour and on other local inputs, particularly feed, that are of no or low opportunity cost. Despite being small-scale (generally no more than one to five pigs), production contributes significantly to the livelihood of the majority of pig-rearing households. The income from pig sales, meets essential household and farming expenses, and provides some financial independence to the women in the family. The under-privileged livestock producers face a number of constraints. Their access to modern livestock services, especially veterinary services are poor. Their access to the market is also poor. The prices received by them for products are low. Credit support for purchase of animals and their maintenance is not easily available to the small holders. Goat, pigs and backyard poultry are most commonly kept by underprivileged and these people get very little development/ research support. Improved animals that would 'niche well' with systems of underprivileged and adverse agro/ ecological conditions in which majority of them live, particularly the ecologically fragile regions, are not available.

Demand for animal-based products, such as meat and eggs, has significantly increased due to sustained growth in income, urbanization, change in food preferences and increased awareness about nutritional intake. In order to meet the emerging demand for livestock-based products, both in domestic and global markets, there is a renewed need to enhance livestock production and productivity. The major challenge before the Indian livestock sector is sufficient supply of livestock inputs, that is feed, fodder and concentrate. As land-scarce poor households face feed and fodder scarcity, they tend to give up livestock rearing, particularly that of large ruminants. Adequate availability of quality fodder is essential for enhancing livestock productivity. For this, there is a need to target at least 10% of the cultivable land for growing fodder crops. Measures should be taken, to increase the extent of common grazing lands and control over these lands, should be given to the small livestock owner groups. External markets are an extremely important source of demand and these should be tapped much more aggressively. Although, the possibility of export of livestock products is immense, but it has not been realized fully because India is unable to adjust effectively to the open trade regime under WTO particularly in respect of requirements under Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime. In order to encourage exports, all licensing control for processing of livestock products/ byproducts should be repealed and all restrictions on the export of livestock and its products need to be removed. The minimum requirements for sustainable export are



creation of disease-free zones, organic farming and potable water; these should be made available in selected areas, having large marketable surplus.

**Advantages of livestock production:**

- Majority of livestock are kept by smallholders.
- Feeding cost is less- diet is mostly made up of residues from the farmer's own crops, and the livestock graze and scavenge on waste land.
- Land requirement is less.
- Less affected by natural calamities.
- Animal products in form of milk and meat provide food and nutrients.
- By-products- Source of income, wool, egg etc.
- Converts low quality fibre to high good quality protein.
- Quick source of income.
- Initial investment is low.

Since many years, efforts were made by the government to control diseases of the livestock especially Rinderpest, Black quarter, Hemorrhagic Septicemia, Anthrax and Food and Mouth disease. The Rinderpest has been eradicated from the country and India was declared to be free from Rinderpest infection in year 2006 by the International Committee of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Paris. However, other diseases still continue to pose a major threat to animal production programmes. Some of the emerging diseases like Peste des Petitis Ruminants (PPR), Bluetongue, Sheep pox and Goat Pox, Swine Fever etc., are causing substantial economic losses. The Department of Animal Husbandry (DoAH) and Dairying is not well equipped with necessary infrastructure and adequate technical manpower to execute various programmes on animal health and biosecurity. When it comes to poultry industry, the productivity in both broilers and layers has improved tremendously, due to implementation of good management practices, optimum nutrition and scientific breeding. The government has to now play a limited role concerning policies confronting the organized sector and to provide support to development of rural poultry.

Small holders, who hold bulk of livestock resources, derive large amount of animal feed, fodder and water from CPRs, which in turn have been deteriorating due to the distribution of common lands to the landless, under government land distribution policy, encroachment by the influential rural rich and lack of proper management. The structural changes in livestock distribution within various categories of households show that livestock rearing is becoming a specialized commercial activity, which is sidelining the marginal households and smallholders – as these groups lack resources in terms of land, feed, fodder and water to maintain livestock herds. Therefore, proper management of CPRs is essential for the development of livestock sector. The livestock sector in India, has experienced remarkable growth during the last two decades due to increased demand for livestock products in both domestic and global markets. But compared with the potential this growth is minimal. Much of the livestock at the production stage is a family occupation in India. The poor in India in large numbers depend on livestock as their significant source of secondary/ supplementary incomes. They need a variety of support systems in place including finance, market, infrastructure, institutions, transport, agricultural extension and veterinary services etc. The domain of value addition in livestock is largely occupied by big players. The poor need access to this domain. Animal products not only represent a source of high-quality food, but, equally importantly, they are a source of income for many small farmers in developing countries, for purchasing food as well as agricultural inputs, such as seed, fertilizers and pesticides. Livestock has achieved, the highest growth in production, over the last three decades, and it is expected, that it will continue to grow faster than all other agricultural sub-sectors in the next 20 years. At farm level, cash can be generated regularly from direct sales of livestock products, such as milk, eggs and manure, occasionally from sale of live animals, wool, meat, hides and from fees for draught power or transport services.

Livestock also provide increased economic stability to the farm or household, acting as a cash buffer, as well as a deterrent against inflation. In mixed-farming systems, livestock reduce the risks associated with crop production. They also represent, liquid assets that can be realized at any time, adding further stability to the production system. Goat, sheep, poultry and rabbit husbandry, especially in backyard production systems, provides an important source of part-time job opportunities, particularly for landless women and children. The livestock-product processing sector has also been identified as a contributor to employment generation and reduction of rural depopulation. Small-scale milk processing/ marketing is labour-intensive, generates employment and income from local manufacturing of at least part of equipment's required. The meat sector also provides significant employment opportunities. Based on UN published data and experience from FAO projects, estimates have been made of labour requirements in small to medium-sized slaughter and meat processing operations. In rural areas

many developing countries, financial services such as credit, banking and insurance are virtually non-existent. In these areas, livestock can play an important role as a means of saving and capital investment, and they often provide a substantially higher return, than alternative investments. A combination of small and large livestock that can be sold to meet petty-cash requirements to cover seasonal consumption deficits or to finance larger expenditures represents a valuable asset for the farmer.

In spite of ambitious programmes launched by Government of India (GOI) and State Governments, they were not able to deliver the expected results. There was no significant breakthrough in improving the productivity both in the milch and meat sectors and also in reaching the poor for their livelihood.

The reasons for slow progress were:

- Inadequate skills of para-vets resulting in poor conception and infertility;
- Reduction of grazing lands, food grain crops and mechanization in crop harvesting works;
- Absence of field-oriented conservation strategy for indigenous breeds;
- Lack of coordination among various agencies engaged in livestock husbandry;
- Poor extension services to motivate small farmers to adopt dairy husbandry for income generation;
- Absence of suitable policies and programs to promote small livestock;
- Poor health conditions, high rate of mortality due to lack of preventive vaccinations and timely diagnosis of health problems; Lack of coordinated efforts to eradicate common diseases;
- High cost of veterinary services leading to neglect of sick animals;
- Spread of communicable diseases such as Brucellosis, TB, etc. to other animals as well as human beings in absence of separate facilities; Lack of technical guidance to farmers to improve their animal husbandry practices;
- Poor linkage between research institutions and farmers resulting in use of outdated technologies.

Market opportunities have opened up livestock sector following economic liberalization. But the sector's ability to capitalize on new market opportunities is constrained by availability and quality of support services. At present, Government is the main provider of these services. The quality of services is, however, not satisfactory and these services are not available at the doorsteps of producers. The present structure of livestock improvement is based on fixed model of a Veterinary Hospital/ Dispensary, which is the key nodal structure at ground level from, where services and goods are currently distributed. There is a need to restructure service delivery mechanism to become conducive to the requirement of rural livestock producers. Livestock extension services include transfer of technology and also strengthening of locally relevant innovation systems; advisory service; the provision of access to a range of services that include input and output markets; strengthening and support of farmers' organizations. Small livestock extension service should assist livestock farmers through educational process, to improve livestock farming methods and techniques, increase production efficiency and income, better levels of living, and lift social and educational standards of rural life through livestock enterprise. For this, there is a great need to increase number of veterinary dispensaries in rural areas. It is even more important to train para-veterinarians from among the community, who are always available to provide animal health services. Due to lack of education, the sheep owners are not able to appreciate and adopt improved sheep husbandry practices, which even, otherwise are not brought to them by extension workers. Sheep husbandry has thus remained in a neglected state. Migration and grazing practices have an impact on present status of sheep husbandry in the country. In last few decades, Government's policies of protecting forest areas and not permitting sheep flocks to graze, they have brought immense pressure on the sheep farmers. Even degradation of common grazing lands in villages is posing a problem.

Lack of credit for livestock production has been a major problem. Public sector lending is abysmally very low. The commercial banks are not favorably disposed to providing credit to livestock farmers and cooperative credit system is very weak, resulting in excessive dependency of livestock farmers on informal sources, usually at exorbitant interest rates. The strategy should be to correct these distortions and ensure timely availability of inputs and services including credit to livestock farmers. The small livestock rearing in India is also highly segmented. A vast majority of livestock producers come from underprivileged sections of rural community. The contribution of animals to both agricultural and overall economic development has not been adequately evaluated. Official statistics grossly underestimate, the contribution of livestock since many important non-food outputs - most of which are difficult to quantify in monetary terms - are excluded.

Non-Government Organizations like Anthra and various Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are working in different ways to promote small livestock rearing. Anthra is providing health services and CBOs are providing financial and technical services through linking people with banks and other departments. It is very important to

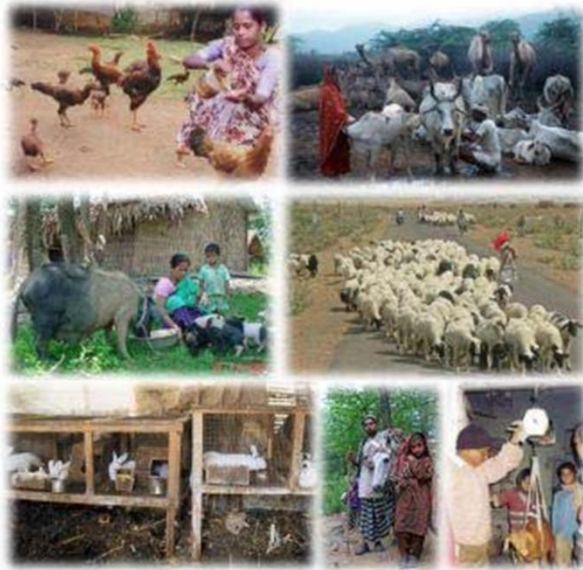
promote small ruminant owners' associations such as Federation of SHGs, Cooperatives, Producer Companies (PC) and Associations at grassroots level for promotion of production, procurement and marketing of small ruminants. There is also a great potentiality for export of mutton, especially to Gulf and Middle East countries. The sheep development programme should, therefore, concentrate on improvement of mutton production. However, there isn't a well-organized marketing system for livestock in India. Since, poor farmers mostly graze sheep, there is a need to organize them into cooperative groups on the pattern of Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) to take advantage of organized sale. This would prevent exploitation by traders and help the farmers to get an appropriate share of consumer price. Support should be provided to modernization of meat sector.

Registration of all slaughter houses in cities/ towns is essential for clean meat production and protection of environment. The establishment of rural-based abattoirs in animal tracts would reduce the need for transportation of live animals to urban areas for slaughter. In addition, modern Abattoirs/ Meat processing plants should be supported to promote export. Greater attention should be given to provision of facilities and credit linkages, veterinary services, skill up-gradation to livestock rearing people, and on establishing and strengthening cooperatives and designing suitable policies for promotion of small livestock.

**\*livelihoods February-2016**

## 18.Livestock Livelihoods

**India has the largest livestock population in the world. Livestock forms an important part of the livelihoods of the rural poor in India particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers and women. Livestock sector plays an important role in national economy and in socio-economic development of the country. Though, major players in the sector are small livestock holders, the government policies are much favorable, to the large exporters than the small holders. There is a strong need for these small holders to come together to make government work for them.**



Livestock are domesticated animals intentionally reared in an agricultural setting for the purpose of profit or subsistence. Cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep, pigs, camels, donkeys, horses, yaks, poultry etc have been providing for several of human requirements including milk, meat, wool, egg and leather, manure, draught power, companionship, entertainment, research experimentation, sports and security etc. The type of livestock reared varies worldwide and depends on factors such as climate, consumer demand, native animals, local traditions, and land type. Livestock forms an important part of the livelihoods of the rural poor particularly among the landless, small and marginal farmers and women. Approximately, 80 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion poor live in rural areas and about 680 million have livestock. According to FAO, the major livestock population in the world in 2005 comprised of 1,365 million cattle, 172 million buffaloes, 1,059.8 million sheep, 790 million goats and 943.8 million pigs. Besides, providing for nutritious food to millions of people, livestock sector plays a significant role in

supplementing family incomes and generating employment in the rural sector. India has the largest livestock population in the world. Distributed over 100 million households in approximately 600,000 villages, Indian farmers' stock animals as varied as the little known Yak and Mithun to the seemingly insignificant backyard poultry. According to the live stock census of 2003 the country had 485 million livestock population and 489 million poultry population, being the first in cattle and buffalo population, second in respect of goat and third in respect of sheep population in the world. India has 57% of the world's buffalo and 16% of the world's cattle population.

Livestock sector plays an important role in the national economy and in the socio economic development of the country. The contribution of this sector is estimated to be about 25 per cent of the total value of output of agricultural sector. Of the total households in rural areas, about 73% own some form of livestock. These livestock can be grouped into 3 categories depending on their utility - milk yielding animals; animals used to procure meat and egg laying animals and animals used for agriculture and transport. With its rich agro-ecological diversity, one can find a concurrent range of unique livestock population systems in India that have evolved in each region in tune with the naturally available resources and needs of the people. This diversity begins with the choice of species reared; breeds that have evolved, management and feeding practices, healthcare systems that are closely linked to the natural flora and fauna, and local marketing systems. Milk production alone involves more than 30 million small producers. The livestock rearing in India is also highly segmented. A vast majority of livestock producers come from underprivileged section of rural community. Livestock are important in their livelihood culture, and they have limited alternative opportunities for employment. Studies have shown that development of small holders' mixed crop - livestock production is one of the most effective methods of poverty alleviation. In India, livestock provides a large share of draught power, with about half the cattle population and 25 percent of the buffalo population being used to cultivate 60 million hectare of cropland. Draught animal power, highly suitable to the needs of the farmers with small land holding and areas, where mechanized implements cannot be brought to use, is making a significant contribution to agricultural production. The contribution is roughly estimated to be to the tune of Rs.10, 000crores per year besides saving approximately six million tons of petroleum worth Rs. 6,000 crores. A significant output from small and backyard dairy farming is the production of dung, which is important organic manure. The dung cakes are sole source of energy of poor, for cooking and for heating their dwellings during winter.

Dairying constitutes secondary occupation for about 69% of farming community in India. It contributes close to a third of the gross income of rural households and in case of those without land, nearly half of their gross income.

A decentralized structure of family operations predominate milk production in India. With the success of Operation Flood (OF) and other programs, India has achieved the distinction of becoming the largest milk producing country in the world with current level of production estimated at 94.6 million tons per annum. However, in spite of India's position as the highest producer of milk, the average annual milk yield from cattle and buffalo is only 1214 kg as against the world average of 2104 kg per lactation. Increasing population of non-descript cows and buffaloes causing genetic deterioration, shortage of feed and fodder, lack of adequate access to veterinary services etc., have contributed to low milk productivity. A large section of population from weaker sections of the community in hilly, drought prone and desert areas of the country depend mainly on sheep rearing. India possesses about 61.5 million sheep. Because of their ability to graze very close, sheep can utilize spares vegetation on which other species of livestock may not able to subsist. Sheep droppings improve the fertility of soil considerably and penning of sheep in harvested fields brings an additional income to the crop owners. Sheep farming is mainly in hands of weaker sections of the community, which either do not possess land or their land holdings are so small, that crop cultivation does not provide remunerative employment all the year round. Further, in the major sheep rearing areas, especially in North-Western districts of Rajasthan, grazing and stock watering resources are available only for few months in a year compelling Sheppard to lead a nomadic life. Due to lack of education, the sheep owners are not able to appreciate and adopt improved sheep husbandry practices, which even, otherwise are not brought to them by extension workers. Sheep husbandry has thus remained in a neglected state. Migration and grazing practices have an impact on the present status of sheep husbandry in the country. In the last few decades, the Government policies of protecting forest areas and not permitting sheep flocks to graze have brought immense pressure on the sheep farmers. Even the degradation of common grazing lands in the villages is posing problem. The other important category of small ruminants, that majority of poor people prefer to rear is the goat. Goat population in India, during the last four decades has increased at the fastest rate amongst various livestock species. The current goat population is estimated to be around 124.4 million. In many parts of the country, the current practice is to purchase the crop of sheep or goat many months ahead of their sale on an arbitrarily settled price. Consequently, the poor have no control on what price they get for their stock and at what age they are required to sell them. Invariably most stock is sold by the time they are six months and weigh around 10 to 12 kgs while the recommended standard weight for sale should not be less than 25-30 kilos if these animals have to fetch commercially attractive price. One of the reasons for early sale of animals by the shepherds is non-availability of required credit leaving farmers at the mercy of traders.

The species-wise breakup of the livestock population in India					
S. No	Species	Livestock population (in 000)			
		1997		2003	
		Number	%	Number	%
1	Crossbred cattle	20099	4.14	24686	5.09
2	Indigenous cattle	178782	36.83	160495	33.09
	<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>198881</b>	<b>40.97</b>	<b>185181</b>	<b>38.18</b>
3	Buffaloes	89918	18.53	97922	20.19
4	Yaks	59	0.01	65	0.01
5	Mithuns	177	0.04	278	0.06
	<b>Total bovines</b>	<b>289035</b>	<b>59.55</b>	<b>283446</b>	<b>58.44</b>
6	Sheep	57494	11.85	61469	12.67
7	Goats	122721	25.28	124358	25.64
8	Pigs	13291	2.74	13519	2.79
9	Horses & ponies	827	0.17	751	0.15
10	Mules	221	0.05	176	0.04
11	Donkeys	882	0.18	650	0.13
12	Camels	912	0.19	632	0.13
	<b>Total livestock</b>	<b>485383</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>485001</b>	<b>100.00</b>

(Source: 17<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census, 2003)

Sheep and Goat are reared, mainly for production of wool and meat in India. But, wool production has remained constant in the country in spite of large number of sheep population at about 45 million kgs out of which around 4 million kgs is of fine quality, while the remaining of medium and coarse quality. The requirement of industry is estimated at around 35 to 40 million kgs of fine wool, which is met mainly through imports. There is also a large unsatisfied market for mutton in the country. About 36% of total sheep and 41% of goat population is slaughtered annually for meat purposes. Due to social reasons, the consumption of cow meat is restricted in India. The consumption of buffalo and pork is also limited. Mostly in India, large animals which are slaughtered for meat purposes are spent animals from work or milk production. There is no special breeding or feeding animals for meat production, except by export oriented plants, so that high quality meat is obtained for international markets. Only 2% of the meat produced in India is processed for value addition. There are many limitations to the value addition because of food habits in India. Similarly, meat exported from India is also fresh and chilled, but very small portion goes into value addition and export. Within the livestock sector that provides great employment opportunity is the poultry. The Indian poultry industry has transformed from meager backyard poultry farming to a well-organized scientific techno commercial industry. Majority of poultry industry is in organized sector contributing nearly 70% of the total output, while the rest 30% is coming from unorganized sector. It is estimated that more than 2 million people are employed directly or indirectly in this sector. It is further estimated, that an increase of one egg and 50gms of meat per capita consumption, would create an employment opportunity for about 20, 000 and 25, 000 persons respectively. This sector provides employment to even unskilled laborers and women there by providing income generation to the vulnerable groups. Today India ranks 4th in egg production and 19th in the broiler production in the world. It is estimated that the egg production in the country is about 45200 millions and poultry meat production is about 2.0 million tons per annum. Though there is lot of increase in the volume of poultry products, it is mainly because of the commercial poultry units. There is not much focus on

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the development of backyard poultry which can give some additional income to the rural households. Pig husbandry is the most important activity in the northeastern region of the country especially in the tribal areas. Pork is an important item in the daily food habits of these people. There are more than 128 lakh pigs in the country of which approximately 14.5 per cent are graded and exotic variety. There are about 158 pig breeding farms in the country run by the State Governments/Union Territories. Exotic breeds like Large White Yorkshire, Hampshire and Landrace are maintained at these farms. Pig production is invariably a small-scale, backyard, marketed-oriented enterprise. It is a low-external input enterprise depending upon family – mainly women's – labour and on other local inputs, particularly feed, that are of no or low opportunity cost. Despite being small-scale (generally no more than one to five pigs), production contributes significantly to the livelihood of the majority of pig-rearing households. The income from pig sales meets essential household and farming expenses, and provides some financial independence to the women in the family.

The under-privileged livestock producers face a number of constraints. Their access to modern livestock services, especially veterinary services are poor. Their access to the market is also poor. The prices received by them for products are low. Credit support for purchase of animals and its maintenance is not easily available to the small holders. Goat, pigs and backyard poultry are most commonly kept by the underprivileged and these get very little development/ research support. Improved animals that would 'niche well' with the systems of the underprivileged and adverse agro ecological conditions in which majority of them live, particularly the ecologically fragile regions, are not available. There are hardly any programmes to assess their needs and produce or make available such animals. Feed, fodder availability is a major constraint and conventional approach to improve the situation does not work with the underprivileged. Market opportunities have opened up for the livestock sector following the economic liberalization. But the sector's ability to capitalize on new market opportunity is constrained by the availability and quality of support services. At present, Government is the main provider of these services. The quality of the services is however not satisfactory and these services are not available at the doorsteps of the producers. The present structure of livestock improvement is based on fixed model of a Veterinary Hospital/ Dispensary being the key nodal structure at the ground level from where services and goods are currently distributed. There is a need to restructure service delivery mechanism to become conducive to the requirement of the rural livestock producers. Livestock extension service includes transfer of technology and also strengthening of locally relevant innovation systems; advisory service; the provision of access to a range of services that include input and output markets; and the strengthening and support of farmers' organizations. Livestock extension service should assist livestock farmers through educational process, to improve livestock farming methods and techniques, increase production efficiency and income, better levels of living, and lift the social and educational standards of rural life through livestock enterprise. For this, there is great need to increase the number of veterinary dispensaries in the rural areas. It is more important, to train Para veterinarians from among the community, who are always available to provide animal health services.

Lack of credit, for livestock production has been a major problem. Public sector lending is abysmally very low. The commercial banks are not favorably disposed to providing credit to livestock farmers and the cooperative credit system is very weak resulting in excessive dependence of livestock farmers on informal sources usually at exorbitant interest rates. The strategy should be to correct these distortions and ensure timely availability of inputs and services including credit to livestock farmers. Demand for animal-based products such as milk, meat and eggs has significantly increased due to sustained growth in income, urbanization, change in food preferences and increased awareness on nutritional intake. In order to meet the emerging demand for livestock-based products both in domestic and global markets, there is a renewed need to enhance livestock production and productivity. The major challenge before the Indian livestock sector is sufficient supply of livestock inputs that is feed, fodder and concentrate. As land-scarce poor households face feed and fodder scarcity, they tend to give up livestock rearing, particularly that of large ruminants. Adequate availability of quality fodder is essential for enhancing livestock productivity. For this, there is a need to target at least ten percent of cultivable land for growing fodder crops. Measures should be taken to increase extent of common grazing lands and control over these lands should be given to the small livestock owners groups. External markets are an extremely important source of demand and these should be tapped much more aggressively. Although, possibility of export of livestock products is immense, but it is not realized fully because India is unable to adjust effectively to the open trade regime, under the World Trade Organization (WTO) particularly in respect of requirements under Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regime. In order to encourage exports, all licensing control for processing of livestock products/by products should be repealed and all restrictions on export of livestock and its products need to be removed. The minimum requirements for sustainable export are creation of disease-free zones, organic farming and potable water; these should be made available in selected areas having large marketable surplus.

Since many years, efforts were made by the government to control diseases of livestock especially Rinderpest, Black quarter, Hemorrhagic Septicemia, Anthrax and Food and Mouth disease. The Rinderpest has been eradicated from the country and India was declared free from Rinderpest infection in the year 2006 by the International Committee of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Paris. While, Rinderpest has been eradicated, other diseases still continue to pose a major threat to animal production programme. Some of the emerging diseases like Peste des Petitis Ruminants (PPR), Bluetongue, Sheep pox and Goat Pox, Swine Fever etc., are causing substantial economic losses. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is not well equipped with necessary infrastructure and adequate technical manpower to execute various programmes on animal health and bio security. When it comes to poultry industry, productivity in both broilers and layers has improved tremendously due to the implementation of good management practices, optimum nutrition and scientific breeding. The government has now to play a limited role concerning policies confronting the organized

sector and to provide support to development of rural poultry. Similarly, no serious attempt has been made to develop Yak and Mithun, which are otherwise important in their home state. It is very important to promote small ruminant owners associations, such as Federation of SHG, Cooperatives, Producer Companies and Associations at the grassroots level for promotion of production, procurement and marketing of small ruminants. There is also a great potentiality for export of mutton especially to Gulf and Middle East countries. The sheep development programme should, therefore, concentrate on improvement for mutton production. However, there is no well-organized marketing system for livestock in India. Since, poor farmers mostly graze sheep; there is a need to organize them into cooperative groups on the pattern of Dairy Cooperative Societies to take advantage of organized sale. This would prevent exploitation by traders and help them to get appropriate share of consumer price. Support should be provided towards modernization of meat sector. Registration of all slaughter houses in cities/towns is essential, for clean meat production and protection of environment. The establishment of rural based abattoirs in animal tracts would reduce the need for transportation of live animal to urban areas for slaughter. In addition, modern Abattoirs/Meat Processing Plants should be supported to promote export. The small holders, who hold bulk of livestock resources, derive large amount of animal feed, fodder and water from CPRs, which in turn have been deteriorating due to distribution of common lands to landless under government land distribution policy, encroachment by influential rural rich and lack of proper management. The structural changes in livestock distribution, within various categories of households show that livestock are becoming a specialized commercial activity, which is sidelining the marginal households and smallholders – as these groups lack resources in terms of land, feed, fodder and water to maintain livestock herds. Therefore, proper management of CPRs is essential for development of livestock sector.

The livestock sector in India has experienced remarkable growth during the last two decades, due to increased demand for livestock products in both domestic and global markets. But compared with the potential, this growth is minimal. Much of the livestock at the production stage is a family occupation in India. The poor in India in large numbers depend on livestock as their significant source of secondary/supplementary incomes. They need variety of support systems in place including finance, market, infrastructure, institutions, transport, agricultural extension and veterinary services etc. The domain of value addition in livestock is largely occupied by big players. The poor need access to this domain. Many see, Livestock making up the next Food Revolution. Global production and consumption of livestock products is increasing rapidly. Developing countries are rapidly expanding their share of production and consumption. Livestock production is developing from a multifunctional activity independent of markets into a globally integrated market activity. Meat products are increasingly replacing cereal products in the human diet. The fodder is increasingly based on cereals; Claims on grazing land are growing; Industrial production and processing are subject to rapid technological changes. If India has to become a part of this Revolution it cannot, but co-opt millions of its small producers, work with them and work for them.

**\*Livelihoods May-2009**



## 19.Drought

***Drought affects our lives in many different ways, as water is an essential part of our day today activities. We, along with animals and plants, need water to survive; we need water to grow food, to drink, to wash and to do all human chores. When there is not enough water for daily activities because of a drought, people across the regions go through tough times, and various human activities get affected in many different ways.***

Drought affects our lives in many different ways as water is an essential part of our day today activities. We, along with animals and plants, need water to survive; we need water to grow food, to drink, to wash and to do all human chores. When there is not enough water for daily activities because of a drought, people across the regions go through tough times, and various human activities get affected in many different ways. History, clearly shows that prolonged droughts have always caused mass migrations, humanitarian crisis as most of the arid ecosystems, have inherently low productivity. Interestingly, most prolonged drought in the world recorded in history occurred in Atacama Desert in Chile, around 400 years ago. Drought, very commonly known as a “creeping phenomenon”, is an insidious hazard of nature impacting the world in various ways. It is a period of below-average precipitation in any given region, resulting in prolonged shortages of water supply. A drought can last for months, years, or can be declared after as few as 15 days.



Drought always has a substantial impact, on the ecosystem and agriculture of the region, and harms the local economy. In tropics, the annual dry seasons can significantly increase the chances of a drought developing and subsequent bush fires. The periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening the evaporation of water. The impact of drought conditions varies from region to region; therefore, it becomes critical for people to understand its implications. As the drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time; thus, it is all the more difficult to define a drought, because what may be considered as a drought in certain areas, may not be a drought in other areas,

Genesis of Drought, in India droughts have been officially recorded since the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and have caused tens of millions of deaths over the course of time. India is predominantly a agrarian economy, with agriculture being heavily dependent on climatic conditions. However, it has been experiencing frequent drought phenomena. Droughts in the past, have periodically led to major Indian famines, including Bengal famine of 1770, in which up to one-third of population in affected areas died; the 1876-1877 famine, in which over five million people died; and the 1899 famine, in which over 4.5 million died.

Recurrence and extent of drought, out of the total geographical area of India, almost one-sixth of the area, which is home to 12% of the population, is drought-prone. The areas that receive an annual rainfall of up to 60 cm are the most prone areas. In 1972, Irrigation Commission (IC) had for the first time identified 67 districts as drought-prone areas, which comprised of 326 taluks, located in 8 states, covering an area of 49.73 m. ha. Later in 1976, The National Commission on Agriculture (MoA) had identified a few more drought-prone areas, with slightly different criteria. Later on, based on detailed studies, 74 districts of the country have been identified as drought-prone. Most of the drought-prone areas are found in arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid regions of the country, which experience less than the average annual rainfall. In our country, drought-affected areas can be divided into two tracts- The first tract, comprising of desert and semi-arid regions covering an area of 0.6 million sq.km, is a rectangle shaped area, whose one side extends from Ahmedabad to Kanpur and other from Kanpur to Jullundur. The rainfall here is less than 750 mm and at some places, it is even less than 400 mm. The second tract comprises of regions, east of the western ghats up to a distance of about 300 km from coast. As, it is in the rain shadow area of the western ghats, the rainfall here is less than 750 mm and is highly erratic; moreover, this



region is thickly populated, and periodic droughts have been known to cause considerable suffering and distress. Drought expansion; climate change, monsoon, rainfall; around 50 million people are affected annually by drought in India. Of the 90 million hectares of rain-fed areas, about 40 million hectares are prone to scanty or no rain and rainfall is poor in 9 meteorological subdivisions out of 36 subdivisions (each meteorological subdivision covers a geographic area of more than ten revenue districts in India). In recent decades, drought has become a recurrent phenomenon, resulting in widespread adverse impacts on vulnerable people's livelihoods and young children's nutrition status. Over the years, droughts have caused and continue to cause severe suffering in the affected areas, including effects on poverty, hunger and unemployment. The monsoon provides 80 percent of total rainfall in the subcontinent, and our country is completely dependent on it for its agriculture. These day's droughts are increasingly becoming recurrent, due to failure of monsoon in India. The monsoon has been lately showing, some disturbing changes. There has been a decline in the average total seasonal rain during the period from 1980-2011, and changes have also been observed in atmosphere, wind and moisture. These are likely to be responsible for the changes in wet and dry spells and trends of monsoon rains, over the last 60 years.

The warnings of extreme weather conditions, which were being given by experts, are close to becoming a reality now and would affect the future too. There has been a decreasing trend over the monsoon "core" since 1951, as the mean rainfall during July-August showed a significant (10 percent significant level) decrease in the data set of India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has been consistent with reported decrease in all-India rainfall. The variation, though relatively small, has a strong influence on agricultural production, stocks and commodities markets. There are also long-term studies of rainfall and temperature changes, that are being conducted using historical data: For instance, in Kerala, the state which the Indian monsoon first hits, between the year 1999 and 2005, there has been close to 10 % less annual rainfall. The rainfall pattern is definitely changing, as the southwest monsoon from June to July has been found to be decreasing, while the post-monsoon rains of October and November have been increasing. The local climatic changes are also dependent on the type of vegetation in the region, as can be seen in state of Goa, where due to extensive mining, there has been a harsh impact on climate. The changes in vegetation of a region can pave way for invasive species to dominate a landscape and drought phenomena can make the area dry and fire-prone. Thus, the natural vegetation is badly hit and invasive species are not palatable to the animals. The changing trends in monsoons have had and continue to have ripple effects, especially increasing the conflict between humans and animals. As climate variability increases, these kinds of effects are going to increase. In the more recent past, El Nino has been in news for poor monsoon across the country. Understanding El Nino and how it affects monsoon in India and its GDP is crucial. Pacific Ocean is huge and occupies almost a whole hemisphere and receives more sunlight than any other region. The ocean stores this sunlight in the form of heat and El Nino – Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a temperature anomaly, where there are fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and the atmosphere in the east-central equatorial pacific.

When the temperatures in the above mentioned region of the pacific is near average or normal, it is known as ENSO neutral; La Nina. These two phases typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for a year or so, they often begin to form between June and August and reach peak strength between December and April and then decay between May and July of the following year. The periodicity is highly irregular and occurs every three to five years. Thus, Indian monsoon has El Nino conditions persisting through the summer and impacts on normal monsoon. It not only affects India, but also other regions of south and Southeast Asia and Australia. It is the most monetarily important event in our country, because of its serious influence on economy of the nation. The drought conditions across the regions, in the country are directly linked to ENSO, as the summer temperatures over much of India rises to as high as 45 degrees Celsius. The Indian monsoon coincides with El Nino with deficient monsoon rains. Asia "breathes-in" and "breathes-out" and the inhalation is the summer monsoon or the southwest monsoon and the exhalation is the northwest monsoon for us. It is not only El-Nino, but growing cause of concern has been climate change.

The rise in temperatures is having drastic effects on human population, food security and so on. India is already experiencing a warm climate and due to this, many regions are experiencing unusual and unprecedented spells of hot weather. As the new high-temperature climatic regimes are going to increase, it will have significant impacts on agriculture. Due to climate change, there would be changing rainfall patterns, a decline in monsoon rainfall, since 1950s has already been observed and also the frequency of heavy rainfall events has also increased over the years. It is estimated that a 2 degree C rise in world's average temperature will make India's summer monsoon highly unpredictable. An abrupt change in monsoon could precipitate a major crisis, triggering more frequent droughts as well as greater flooding in large parts of India, and India's northwest and south eastern coastal region could see higher than average rainfall; furthermore, dry years are expected to be drier and wet years wetter. The impacts of climate change will be severe, in terms of drought, as evidence indicates that parts of South Asia have become drier, since the 1970s with an increase in number of droughts.

The droughts have and will have major consequences, as can be seen in 1987 and in 2002-2003; droughts affected more than half of India's cropped area and led to a huge fall in crop production. Droughts are expected to be more frequent in some areas, especially in north-western India; and also in Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh, the crop yields are expected to fall significantly, because of extreme heat by the 2040s. Because of the climate changes, groundwater scenario would be worse in coming years as more than 60% of India's agriculture is rain-fed, making the country highly dependent on groundwater. As of today, even without climate change, 15% of India's groundwater resources are overexploited. The glaciers are melting fast and temperatures are rising by 2.5 C, the Himalayas are expected to lose much of their snow cover, threatening the stability and reliability of Northern India's primarily glacier-fed rivers, especially the Indus and Brahmaputra, and would eventually result in sea level rise.

The sub-continent would see much rise in sea levels than higher latitudes, due to it being closer to the equator. The storms resulting out of high sea-level would lead to salt water intrusion in the coastal areas, impacting agriculture, degrading groundwater quality, contaminating drinking water, and possibly causing a rise in diarrhoea and other epidemics. Climate change will have its impact on agriculture, food security, energy security, water security, health, nutrition, migration and conflict. In the coming years, seasonal water scarcity, rising temperatures and intrusion of sea water would threaten crop yields, jeopardizing country's food security, reductions in both rice and wheat production. On the energy security front, hydropower plants will have to face challenge and decrease in availability of water and increase in temperature will pose major risk factors to thermal power generation. On the water security front, there would be shortages of water in some regions and surplus in other areas due to erratic rainfall and climate change. According, to some studies, water security is very high over central India and in some north-eastern states. Climate change is already increasing climate refugees, as it is impacting their livelihoods across various regions in the country. The impacts, because of droughts are already being felt and it is extreme across human populations.

Impact of drought on poor, drought produces a complex web of impacts, both direct and indirect on the poor people. The direct impacts are reduced crop, rangeland, and forest productivity, increased fire hazard, reduced water levels, increased livestock and wildlife mortality rates and damage to wildlife and fish habitat. As a result of these direct impacts, it exacerbates on the poor, as a reduction in crop rangeland will result in reduced income for farmers and agribusiness, increased prices for food and timber, unemployment, reduced tax revenues because of reduced expenditures, foreclosures on bank loans to farmers and businesses, migration and disaster relief programs. The various types of drought impacts can be categorized as

- a) Economic impacts.
- b) Environmental impacts; and
- c) Social impacts.

The economic impacts are harsher, as they occur in agriculture, as this sector is dependent on surface and groundwater supplies. In addition to losses in yields, in crops and livestock production, drought is associated with insect infestations, plant diseases and wind erosion. On the poor, income loss is an important indicator, as it is an impact of drought. The reduced income for farmers produces a ripple effect and people, who provide goods and services to farmers can face reduced business. The above factor leads to unemployment, increases credit risk for financial institutions, capital shortfalls, and eventual loss of tax revenue for local, state and federal governments. In some cases, local shortages of certain goods results in importing these goods from outside the drought-stricken region. Reduced water supply impairs the navigability of rivers and results in increased transportation costs because products must be transported by alternative means. On the environmental front, drought damages to plant and animal species, wildlife habitat, and air and water quality, forest and range fires, degradation of landscape quality, loss of biodiversity, and soil erosion. At times, these effects are short-term, conditions returning to normal following the end of the drought. In case of harsh environment, the environmental effects last for some time and may even become permanent. The degradation of landscape quality, including increased soil erosion, may lead to a more permanent loss of biological productivity.

Social impacts involve public safety, health, conflicts between water users, reduced quality of life and inequities in distribution of impacts and disaster relief. Many of the impacts identified as economic and environmental have social components as well. Migration is usually to urban areas i.e. within the stressed area, or to regions outside the drought area. Migration may even be to adjacent countries. When drought is abated, the migrants seldom return home, depriving rural areas of valuable human resources. The drought migrants place increasing pressure on the social infrastructure of urban areas, leading to increased poverty and social unrest. As drought represents a major constraint on food production and about 23 million hectares are drought-prone, representing a fifth of total rice area of the region. Drought is showing, its impacts on farmers' livelihoods in these areas and economic costs of drought are and can be enormous. With continuous drought situation across the country, its effect on human societies has now become multidimensional. Drought has now become a recurring climatic

event and a global phenomenon, having varied features differing from region to region. It can be addressed provided, we individuals come together to mitigate drought and raise our sensitivities towards the less-privileged.

How to arrest drought? Drought to some extent can be mitigated as investments can be flowed into water storage capacity to benefit from increased river flowing during spring and later compensate for lower flows. Crop diversification should be promoted, through government schemes and increasing efficient water use, improve soil management practices together with the development of drought-resistant crops, which could help in reduction of some of the negative impacts. To arrest climate refugees, migration and conflict, government should promote and boost local livelihoods. Improvements in irrigation systems should be enhanced water harvesting techniques and more-efficient agricultural water management systems should be aggressively promoted, followed by regional cooperation on water issues. Drought is different from other natural disasters, so it is difficult to determine its effects, as it accumulates slowly over a considerable period of time and may linger for years after the event is terminated. Thus, this being so complex an issue, with high adverse impacts on many sectors of the economy and reach far beyond the geographical boundaries; we need a comprehensive drought mitigation plan and regional co-ordination to arrest drought.

Drought, over the years, has become a recurring phenomena affecting agriculture and livelihoods of millions of farmers and agriculture labourers and many others. The socio-economic impact of drought is now enormous. The growing increase on wage income, asset depletion and public relief are the major mechanisms being used to meet the shortfall in income, and the significance of above strategies is attaining, its importance in India. But sadly, these coping mechanisms are inadequate in preventing reduction in income, especially of poor and vulnerable groups.

**\*livelihoods April-2016**

# **III Lives and Livelihoods of Tribals**

## 20. Adivasi Livelihoods

***The livelihoods of Adivasis of India are in crisis. While, many traditional livelihoods are dying out others are sailing through rough seas. Increased population pressure continues to place enormous stress on forests and other natural resources and adivasis are left to compete with the mainstream, for which they are ill-equipped. Being a minority in many States of India, their voice is seldom heard. The Adivasis occupy the bottom rung of the development ladder and about 50 per cent of them are poor. Studies indicate that some of them can be placed at par with the poorest in sub-Saharan African countries.***

The term Adivasi means aboriginal or indigenous. These people are considered as the original inhabitants. In common parlance Adivasis are referred to as Tribes. Also, because their habitations are predominantly in forest and hilly terrains, these people are called Girijans or Vanavasis. Officially they are referred to as Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the Indian Government under the 5th Schedule of the Constitution of India. According to 2001 census, tribes constitute 8.3% of India's population, about 84 million people. Tribals are present in almost all States of India but their concentration varies. The largest tribes like Gonds, Santhals, Oraons are found in the States of Chhattisgarh, MP and Orissa and to some extent in AP. There is also concentration of tribals in Maharashtra, Orissa and in West Bengal. Smaller tribal groups are found in Karnataka, TN, Kerala, Gujarat, Rajasthan and the islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar, few of them are on brink of extinction. The census lists 461 groups as tribes, and estimates reaches up to 635. A unique feature of the geographical distribution of Indian tribes is the simultaneous occurrence of high density and their existence as numerical minority in the region's population. This is true for all major regions of Adivasi concentration, except the Northeast. More than 90 per cent of Adivasis, lives in States where they form less than 25 per cent of the population. In the Northeastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland 90 per cent of the population are tribals.



Broadly there are hill tribes, plain tribes, nomadic tribes, denotified tribes and primitive tribal groups (PTGs now referred to as vulnerable). Tribes in India are mostly concentrated in heavily forested and hilly areas, which are inaccessible. Historically, the economy of tribes was based on subsistence agriculture, hunting and food gathering. They traded with outside communities only for very few necessities like salt. Forests met most of their needs like fodder, fuel, food, medicinal etc. Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) is an important source of livelihood for the tribes. In India, about 50 million people depend on NTFP for subsistence and cash income. NTFPs (Non Tribal Forest Products) are a collection of biological resources, derived from both natural and managed forests and other wooded areas. Examples include a variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, oils, spices, resins, gums, medicinal plants and many more products specific to particular areas from where they originate. NTFPs are culturally important, cheap and accessible to local people. Women are mostly, engaged in NTFP collection. Traditionally, tribes in India practiced shifting cultivation, popularly called podu, penda or jhum cultivation. Ownership of land is a foreign concept to many tribes. Under shifting cultivation, tribes shift cultivated area regularly to allow soil properties to recover naturally. The land is left fallow for 10 to 20 years. Simple lifestyle and subsistence agriculture supported the viability of shifting cultivation. Native varieties like jowar, millets and bajra are grown.

The nomadic communities practiced many livelihoods like cattle-rearing, collecting honey, catching birds, making crafts etc. They traded silver ornaments, earthenware, mats etc in their travels. The nomads were also musicians, acrobats, jugglers and fortune tellers. Today, the livelihoods of these tribes are in distress especially in States, where they constitute a minority. Their self-sustaining economies are rapidly, becoming a thing of the past. The forces of industrialization and globalization have not left them untouched. They are ill-equipped to cope up with these changes. According to Van Haimendorf, spread of centralized administration into tribal areas during the British rule had stolen the autonomy of tribes. Where ownership of land was an unknown, introducing land titles, land revenue etc proved disastrous. By the time, the tribals realized the importance of land titles (Patta), it was too late. The tribals lost their lands to nontribals in increasing numbers. The tribes in states, where they constitute a majority (the states of Northeast India) received more protection and autonomy than the rest of the tribes scattered in other States. Even in terms of literacy, the former fared far better than the latter. After independence, Government made several provisions from time to time to protect tribes from the onslaught of mainstream intrusions. But unfortunately, their implementation and impact was from dismal to nil. The

Constitution of India under 5th and 6th Schedules has provided for self-governance in designated tribal majority areas. Provision was made for setting up of Tribal Advisory Councils (TAC) for administration of tribal areas.

Forests are the mainstay of adivasis in India. Seventy one per cent of the forests, are inhabited by tribal communities. Forests constitute a major economic resource for the adivasis, and this vital resource is dwindling. The total forest cover in the country, as estimated in 1999 is 19.39 per cent of the total geographical area. The State Forest Report 1999 claims that the forest cover has actually increased compared a decade earlier. However, the increase is due to increase in the plantations by different agencies. The natural forests are actually decreasing. According to Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), the rate of deforestation in India is 0.6 per cent. This decline in forest cover has either deprived the tribes of their vital economic resource or pushed them into denser forests. To protect the forests, several Forest Acts have been passed from time to time - The Forest Act of 1864, Indian Forest Act of 1927, the Forest Policy of 1952, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and the Forest Conservation Act(FCA) of 1980 and 1988. Reserved forests were created and the access of tribals to forests was further restricted. All the forest Acts/Policies sidelined tribes under the guise of environmental conservation. The tribes were seen as encroachers, rather than an integral part of the forest environment. They were denied access, to their traditional forest lands. This means loss of their major livelihood. However the passage of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 seems to offer a ray of hope. For the first time the state admits that the rights of forest dwelling people have been violated. The Bill proposes to give primary role to forest communities in forest management. The right to homestead, cultivable and grazing land and right to NTFP are recognized. However, the real effectiveness of the Bill, depends on how the states take it forward and implement.

More than 70 per cent of the adivasis depend on NTFP, for consumption and for trade. According to UN and FAO, there are about 150 non-wood forest products, in international markets. But so far little attention, has been paid in India on exploring and marketing NTFP. Many varieties of NTFP that have market remain untapped. Even those NTFP that are exploited, so far earned Rs.39.7 billion from export. The adivasis, the collectors of forest produce however continue to remain on the exploited end of NTFP value chain. The intermediaries are pocketing major chunk of the profit. The collectors only get about 16 to 20 per cent of the market price from the intermediaries. About Rs.1000 crore NTFP trade took place in Bastar alone but only 20 per cent of the terminal value reached the tribals. In some districts of Orissa even today the forest dwellers barter valuable NTFPs like sal seeds and tamarind for equal quantity of raw salt. A bundle of 50 sal leaf plates, which is procured at source in Orissa, at less than Rs.12, is exported from Kolkata at Rs.932. This scenario should change, if the adivasis are to get their rightful share. More value additions of NTFP, at the local level should be made. The adivasis should be trained, in scientific ways of collecting NTFP. Interventions like that of Kovel Foundation in AP, for instance gum karaya can be replicated, where possible. Cooperatives of NTFP, should be promoted. The Bajawand Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Society (BPFPCS) in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, headed by tribal woman today has a surplus of Rs. 78,000.

The Scheduled Tribes (ST) account for 55 per cent of the total displaced population in India. Their lands have been appropriated; their rights to forests denied, and they became a cheap source of labor. It is reported that, 8.5 million tribals have been displaced by the construction of hydro-electric dams, heavy industry, coal mines, highways and steel plants. The displacement caused or likely to be caused by exploiting uranium mines in Jaduguda, Chhattisgarh or iron ore in Orissa or Bauxite in Visakhapatnam in AP or the threat of polavaram dam across Godavari and Krishna rivers in Papikondalu, AP, are still fresh in our memory. In the name of industrialization, and to compete with global economies the Governments, are letting the tribals fall through cracks. The struggle of tribals, displaced by Sardar Sarovar dam, is still going on. There are about 3000 dams in tribal areas, which is only irrigated about 20 per cent of the tribal lands. Industrialization, liberalization and globalization for whom and at what cost? To what extent, will these forces trample, the lives and livelihoods of the adivasis? The Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RR) packages fall short on several accounts. The loss of livelihoods is not compensated. And how could one compensate loss of access to forest produce, loss of kinship, loss of tradition and culture? The traditional wisdom of adivasis to cope with stress and disease is disturbed. Compensating equity is a distant cry. Tribals lack the skill set needed for industrial societies and they lose out. They get absorbed temporarily, as unskilled labour. increased pressure on land, shrunk shifting cultivation cycle from 10 years to 2 years. The soil cannot regenerate its nutrients, in such short period and thereby the yields are poor. Not willing to understand the science behind, the mainstream made a hue and cry about ecological destruction caused by shifting cultivation. Unlike, earlier when subsistence agriculture was practiced, the tribal farmer is now forced to sell his crop in the market for cash. This means his native crops (rich in nutrition) have no market and should be replaced with paddy and also cash crops like cotton. The dynamics of mainstream intensive cultivation are new to the adivasis. The cost of inputs - seed, fertilizer, pesticides are high. The tribal farmer can meet, these costs only from the money borrowed from the moneylender. When the crop fails or the prices drop the tribal is caught in the quagmire of debt. As such the agriculture sector in India is doing poorly. The tribals have now joined the bandwagon.

Tribes are increasingly migrating to nearby villages, towns and cities in search of livelihoods. Being not part of the traditional village economic system which is mostly based on agriculture they remain in pockets on the outskirts of the village. They remain foreigners to the village till they pick up some skills and render services to the village. Some of the nomadic tribes have moved to cities and are taking up construction works. Many of them are driving auto rickshaws as well. They join the urban slums. Can we protect our adivasis? Or do we want to follow suit of the West which strategically eliminated the aboriginals and their systems of economic dependence and confined the remaining to arid areas. To think of preserving the secluded lifestyles of adivasis of India might be utopian.

They cannot escape transition. But one can mitigate the pains of transition. The adivasis should get their fair share in development. The Government of India gives reservation to Scheduled Tribes in education and employment and in government machinery. But without appropriate schools and appropriate skills and resources to compete with the mainstream reservation becomes meaningless. The adivasis of India are struggling to eke out a living. The voices of 84 million people remain submerged and unheard. They need all support that the rest of India can provide. They need people and organizations, working for them and supporting them. It's a shame that India maintains poverty standards at least in some pockets that are comparable to those of the poorest nations in sub-Saharan Africa. Efforts should be made to restore and strengthen the livelihoods of adivasis of India. We do not want the words of Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to become true. We do not want adivasis of India to disappear by 2020.

**\*Livelihoods February-2008**

## 21. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

***Tribal communities are often identified by, some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness. Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features, such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).***

Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness. Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Characteristics of PVTGs, in 1973, the Debra Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc., The need for identification for PVTGs, is crucial, as they are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which, PVTGs need more funds directed for their development. In this context, in 1975, the Gol initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 17 states and one UT, in the country (2011 census).

Government of India (Gol) designed a procedure to identify PVTGs. According to the procedure, the state governments or UT governments submit proposals to the Central Ministry of Tribal Welfare (CMTW) for identification of PVTGs. The central ministry then examines the proposals in consultation with the Planning Commission. After ensuring the criteria is fulfilled, the central ministry selects those groups as PVTGs. About 4% of the global population comprises of tribal people. Across the world, most of the poorest of the poor people belong to this group. In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country. The places they live vary from plains, forests, hills, inaccessible areas etc. PVTGs are scattered in different geographical areas of the country. According to 2001 census, the PVTGs population is approximately. 27, 68,322. There are 12 PVTGs having a population above 50,000 and the remaining groups have a population of 1000 or less. The PVTG of Sahariyas has the highest population of 4, 50,217, while the PVTGs of Sentinelese and Andamanese has a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively.

State / UT Name	PVTGs Name
Andhra Pradesh	1. BodoGadaba 2. BondoPoroja 3. Chenchu 4. DongriaKhond 5. GutobGadaba 6. Khond Poroja 7. Kolam 8. Kondareddis 9. KondaSavaras 10. KutiaKhond 11. Parengi Poroja 12. Thoti
Bihar	13. Asurs 14. Birhor 15. Birjia 16. Hill Kharia 17. Korwas 18. Mal Paharia 19. Parhaiyas 20. SauriaPaharia 21. Savar
Jharkhand	Same as above
Gujarat	22. Kathodi 23. Kotwalia 24. Padhar 25. Siddi 26. Kolgha



Karnataka	27. JenuKuruba 28. Koraga
Kerala	29. Cholanaikayan (a section of Kattunaickans) 30. Kadar 31. Kattunayakan 32. Kurumbas 33. Koraga
Madhya Pradesh	34. Abujh Marias 35. Baigas 36. Bharias 37. Hill Korbas 38. Kamars 39. Saharias 40. Birhor
Chhattisgarh	Same as above
Maharashtra	41. Katkaria (Kathodia) 42. Kolam 43. Maria Gond
Manipur	44. MarramNagas
Odisha	45. Birhor 46. Bondo 47. Didayi 48. Dongria-Khond 49. Juangs 50. Kharias 51. KutiaKondh 52. Lanjia Sauras 53. Lodhas 54. Mankidias 55. PaudiBhuyans 56. Soura 57. Chuktia Bhunjia
Rajasthan	58. Seharias
Tamil Nadu	59. KattuNayakans 60. Kotas 61. Kurumbas 62. Irulas 63. Paniyans 64. Todas
Tripura	65. Reangs
Uttar Pradesh	66. Buxas 67. Rajis
Uttarakhand-	Same as above
West Bengal	68. Birhor 69. Lodhas 70. Totos
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	71. Great Andamanese 72. Jarawas 73. Onges 74. Sentinelese 75. Shom Pens

The cultural practices, systems, self governance and livelihood practices of PVTGs have a lot of variations, depending on the group and locality. These tribal groups are widely different culturally. The level of inequalities in social and economical conditions is very high amongst PVTGs. Their problems are also very different from group to group. The growth of PVTGs' population is either stagnating or declining, compared to the general population growth, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where the declining rate is very high. There are five PVTGs in the Andaman Islands such as Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentineles and Shom Pens. In

#### ***Scheme for PVTGs, 2008***

*The Scheme for Development of Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), came into effect from April 1, 2008. The Scheme defines PVTGs as the most vulnerable among the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheme therefore seeks to prioritise their protection and development. It identifies 75 PVTGs. The Scheme seeks to adopt a holistic approach to the socio-economic development of PVTGs and gives state governments flexibility in planning initiatives that are geared towards the specific socio-cultural imperatives of the specific groups at hand. Activities may thus include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, construction of link roads, installation of nonconventional sources of energy, social security, etc. Funds are available only for activities essential for the survival, protection and development of PVTGs and not already funded by any other Scheme of the central/state governments. Each state and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' administration, is required to prepare a long term Conservation-cum-Development (CCD) plan. valid for a period of five years for each PVTG within its territory. outlining the initiatives*

1858, the Great Andamanese were estimated at nearly 3500, in 1901 their number declined to 625. According to the 2001 Census, the Great Andamanese stood at just 43, Jarawas are 241, Onges are 96, Sentineles are 39 and Shom Pens are 398. PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food-gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest. The forest is their life and livelihood. They collect various NTFP items such as honey, gum, amla, bamboo, shrubs, fuel-wood, dry leaves, nuts, sprouts, wax, medical plants, roots and tubes. Most of the NTFP items they gather are for consumption and they sell the remaining to middle men. But due to the shrinking

forests, environmental changes and new forest conservation policies, their NTFP collection is getting hampered. Because of the lack of awareness about the value of NTFP produce, PVTGs have been exploited by the middle men.

PVTGs depend on forests for shifting cultivation or pudu or penda or jhum cultivation. Under this cultivation, they select a piece of land and cut the trees and bushes, partially or fully. After cutting the bushes and trees they leave it to dry and then burn them. In those lands they plant the seeds without using ploughs into holes. Depending on the altitude, they grow maize, millets, pulses, rice, potatoes, vegetables, chilies, beans, sweet potatoes, mustard, sugar cane, sesame, pineapples, citrus, bananas and jackfruits. After some years, when they find that the crop yield is decreasing, they leave that land and move to another land. After 5 to 20 years, they restart cultivation in their previous lands. This cultivation is practiced by PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha states. But the government declared their shifting lands as reserved forest areas and forced the PVTGs to prepare new lands for shifting cultivation. PVTGs rear different types of livestock such as goats, sheep, cows, bullocks, buffaloes, pigs and poultry. Forest is their only source for raising livestock. But due to lack of access to land for grazing, their livestock rearing livelihood has been declining for decades. Livestock is a major source of milk and meat to the PVTGs. They used to get nutritious food and income from livestock. They hunt for various types of animals in the forest for food. They hunt for different animals like fowls, rabbits, deer, hogs, monkeys and peacocks etc. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA,1980) and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WPA,1972) and other policies are not letting them rear livestock and are also restricting them from doing shifting cultivation and from hunting. They also catch fishes in streams, tanks, ponds, seashore, lagoons and rivers for consumption. Odisha has the largest PVTGs population in the country, with 13 PVTGs. Along with shifting cultivation, livestock rearing, hunting and NTFP collection, PVTGs in Odisha make different articles for their livelihoods. They have various artisan skills such as basket and rope making with sialifibre, sabi grass and jute weaving, bead necklace making, carpet weaving, bamboo stick making, vegetable cultivation, broom stick making, embroidery, wall painting, comb making and mat making etc. The PVTGs' innocence and lack of collective purchasing centers set up by the Government, makes them vulnerable to middle men, who buy their products for a pittance.

In the name of industrialization, governments are exploiting natural resources and constructing various projects, dams and infrastructure facilities. These interventions force the PVTGs to displace them from their dwelling places. They are forced to move to remote and hilly areas. For PVTGs, displacement is not changing a place. It directly impacts their livelihoods, as forests are their only source for all their livelihoods and moving out from it, makes them lose their livelihoods. Governments failed to protect the PVTGs' traditional rights on forests. The social and economical conditions of PVTGs are vulnerable. There are many causes for this situation such as anthropological and genetic factors, remoteness of their habitat, limited resources, lack of accessibility to services, food habits, unavoidable traditional practices and displacement by external interventions such as mining projects and infrastructural development projects etc. Earlier, they used to depend on forest for shifting cultivation, NTFP collection and animal hunting. These livelihoods sources have been taken away by industrialization interventions, forest conservation policies and wildlife protection Acts. Now, they are being displaced from their habitats and are prevented by the forest officials to practice shifting cultivation, NTFP collection and animal hunting. Their previous livelihoods have become unviable to survive. PVTGs are suffering from starvation, death due to starvation and sometimes due to starvation; they are forced to eat poisonous nuts. Malnutrition is also very high in PVTGs.

Health is a prerequisite for human development and it is an essential component in well-being of humankind. Health problems of any community are influenced by different factors such as social, economical and political factors. The health status of PVTGs is in an awful condition because of multiple factors like poverty, illiteracy, lack of safe drinking water, bad sanitary conditions, difficult terrain, malnutrition, poor maternal and child health services, unavailability of health and nutritional services, superstition and deforestation. The diseases like anemia, upper respiratory problem, malaria; gastro-intestinal disorders like acute diarrhea, Intestinal protozoan; micronutrient deficiency and skin infection diseases are common among PVTGs. Many of these diseases can be prevented by providing nutrition food, timely medical facilities and health awareness. The condition of education

is also very poor, with an average literacy rate of 10% to 44% in PVTGs. The condition of women in PVTGs is more vulnerable even though by and large they have a better standing in their family and society compared with non-tribal communities. At the same time they take a lot of workload by participating both in making a livelihood and household chores. Their health and educational status is very poor compared to their men. They face a high rate of sexual harassment. There are many Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) working for the entitlements, employment, NTFP livelihoods, agriculture, livestock, health, education and rights of the PVTGs. These organizations are Marshal Cooperative, Ama Sangathan, AVMS, Center for Cooperative Development (CCD), Gram Swaraj, VARASA, Madhyam Foundation, VASUNDHARA, RCDC, Banabasi Chetan Mandal (BCM), PRADAN, ORMAS, Jaunga Development Agency, Choktia-Bhahunjia Development Agency (CBDA),

In 2006, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA) prepared a National Policy to address the developmental issues of tribals and particularly issues of PVTGs. To tackle the problems of PVTGs, the Policy designed proposals as follows:

- Efforts should be made to bring them on par with other tribal groups, in a definite time frame,
- Developmental efforts should be tribe-specific and suited to local environment,
- Effective preventive and curative health systems should be introduced,
- PVTGs traditional healthcare practices must be examined and validated,
- To combat the low level of literacy among PVTGs, educational interventions should be designed in a area specific and need based way, including skills up-gradation,
- Formal schooling should be strengthened by utilizing 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' educational program and by placing trained tribal youth as teachers,
- Teaching should be in the tribals' mother tongue or dialect,
- Considering PVTGs extreme poverty, their school going children should be provided incentives,
- Emphasis should be on vocational education and training,
- Ensure that PVTGs have the right to land. Any form of land alienation should be prevented and land should be distributed to landless PVTGs, &
- Public Distribution System (PDS) should be introduced to ensure food supply and they should establish 'Grain Banks' to provide food during crisis time.

Facilitate PVTGs' participation in forest management and ensure that forest management should meet their economical needs and fulfill their emotional attachment to forest. Their livelihoods and lives are on threat. Governments are not providing proper administrative, health, education and livelihoods support services. Government of India started development programs at the time Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79). But the state governments did not do any surveys on PVTGs to get adequate information about their demographic, health, education and economical aspects. This work has been pending for decades. This is a pre-condition to prepare a comprehensive development plan for PVTGs. They are being alienated from their habitats because of various developmental projects. Governments should protect PVTGs' from exploitation by the middle men, the forest department and the police. From 1993 onwards, no new tribal group has been added to the PVTGs category. There are some tribal groups which meet the criteria to be a PVTG; these groups are practicing pre-agriculture technologies and the group's population is stagnant or declining. But governments are reluctant to recommend these groups to the PVTGs category. Central government sponsored funds and state schemes are not reaching most of the PVTGs. The development programs are only being partially implemented. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been introduced in most of the states where PVTGs live. But it does not provide employment for the full working days. Public Distribution System (PDS) has been implemented, but it is not protecting the PVTGs from hunger and malnourishment. The PVTGs' development should be considered as topmost priority. There is a need to allocate sufficient funds, especially for the comprehensive development of PVTGs. The Planning Commission of India stated that "A decline in their (PVTGs) sustenance base and resultant food insecurity, malnutrition and ill-health force them to live in the most fragile conditions and some of them are even under the threat of getting extinct." This statement describes the vulnerable situation of the PVTGs. The state governments and central government should implement the schemes on providing rights on land through Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) or Integrated Tribal

Development Agencies (ITDAs), Tribal Research Institutions (TRIs), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), National Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for PVTGs development. PVTGs development should be an important item in the government programs.

**\*Livelihoods June-2014**

## 22. IDPs in India

***Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are among the worlds most vulnerable people and they are homeless at home and yet cannot cross borders and seek “outside” help. IDPs have not crossed an international border to find sanctuary, but have remained inside their home countries. IDPs, few which had fled their home, for very much reason as refugees due to armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations are forced to remain as the “other” within the boundaries of their “own” national states. Numbers of homeless and displaced people, which, for more than two decades, are known as “Internally Displaced Persons” (IDPs), constitute twice the number of refugees since 1990s.***



Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are among the world's most vulnerable people and they are homeless at home and yet cannot cross borders and seek “outside” help. IDPs have not crossed an international border to find sanctuary, but have remained inside their home countries. IDPs, few which had fled their home, for very much reason as refugees due to armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations are forced to remain as the “other” within the boundaries of their “own” national states. Numbers of homeless and displaced people, which, for more than two decades, are known as IDPs, constitute twice the number of refugees, since 1990s. Across the globe, millions of other civilians, who have been made homeless by natural disasters, are also considered as IDPs. The IDPs legally remain under the

protection of their own government, in many cases the government might be the cause of their fight. Internally Displaced Person's situation breaks up the immediate family, as they are forced to cut off important social and community ties, terminate stable employment relationships, precludes or forecloses formal educational opportunities, deprives infants, expectant mothers and the sick to access to food, adequate shelter, vital health services and makes the displaced population vulnerable to acts of violence.

Across the world, the number of IDPs has taken a sharp rise since the beginning of 1990s, after the end of cold war and with the ascendancy of a “unipolar world.” Globalization is a process by which regional economies, societies and cultures have become integrated through a global network of communication, transportation and trade. This phenomenon of globalization is characterized by extensive and rapid movements of people. The rising numbers of people are becoming displaced within their home lands as a result of a multitude of interconnected factors like uneven development of “new” industries in the hinterland of cheap labours, environmental / climatic changes etc. The majority of these displaced persons are women and children.

In South-Asia, conflict affected internal displacements in India has been on rise, as insurgency and retaliatory operations by security forces have been and continue to be a major factor of displacement, especially in Kashmir

“Internally displaced people (also known as DPRE in many civil and military organizations which assist) are people or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”

and Northeast and in central parts of India, where the local populations have been directly targeted by the militant groups. Majority of the IDPs have not been able to return for several years, either due to protracted conflicts or unresolved issues related to land and property. In

situations like these the nations response towards its own population has been or is very often ad-hoc and largely insufficient. In North-East (NE) part of India, IDPs in Assam, Tripura and Manipur, has been on rise, due to spurred ethnic conflicts over land, fighting for political autonomy, flooding of massive population, leading to

competition for resources and jobs. In recent past, NE has been the scene of repeated ethnically motivated conflicts, where the fight for a perceived homeland has also resulted in ethnic cleansing. The largest forced displacement movements have occurred in the states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. In central India, internal displacement of populations has been high and significantly increased, mainly due to insurgent activities; these include states of Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkand, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. In states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, discrimination and deprivation against the tribal population coupled with displacement by large development projects and government failure to ensure food security have been the main reasons for the rapid spread of Naxalite movement.

According to an estimate in year 2005 the naxalites had extended their influence to 155 districts in 15 states, affecting close to 300 million people across 7,000 towns and villages, this population controlling almost 20% of India's forests over an area two and half times the size of Bangladesh. Among the worst affected are Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkand were most severely affected, followed by Maharashtra and Orissa. Across the naxalite affected areas, the edifice of the state structure remains weak and state governments have virtually failed to deliver to the citizens even the basic amenities. The increasing conflicts as a result of the acquisition of lands either for development of industrial projects, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) without prior, informed consent, proper, appropriate relief and rehabilitation of the displaced persons is the problem. These are the serious fallouts of the development process, which has displaced many people. There is a typology of IDPs in South Asia and we find five types of IDPs which are relevant to India too. The first being development-related displacement, as commissioning of big development projects have caused displacement and these projects have impacted directly or indirectly the populations. As the installation and functioning of the projects continuously push up the consumption of natural and environmental resources and deprive the native population of their means of sustenance. Second being ethnicity-related displacement where the exclusive and exclusionary claims lead to ethnic tensions, violence accelerating large-scale displacement of the other/ outsider communities. Border-related displacement has two kinds of IDPs; internal border-related disputes and displacement (border disputes between Manipur and Nagaland) and external or international border related conflicts and displacement (displacement owing to Indo-Pak border conflicts). The fourth typology is externally-induced displacement, which has a situation when large number of migrants pour in and put pressure on land and livelihood of the native population and as a result the once displaced persons might face further displacement. The last typology is potentially displaced persons, under this category the old, infirm, children and women, who cannot migrate to other places for saving their lives and livelihood, this group, live constantly in a "displaced-like situation." Natural-disaster related displacement has been on the rise. In 2006 the coastal states of South Asia had faced such type of displacement due to Tsunami. Climate change impacts have put South Asian states on flood-prone list. The eastern and north-eastern provincial states of India; entire Bangladesh; parts of Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Maldives and even Pakistan are worst affected by flood during monsoon.

**Estimate and Assessment of IDPs:** The estimates of IDPs is very difficult, as we do not have any government agency responsible for monitoring the numbers of people displaced, returning and humanitarian and human rights agencies have limited access to them. A conservative estimate states that total number of people displaced by conflict and violence would be close to 650,000 (August 2010). Besides, a large unknown number of displaced people are living in various Indian cities. World Commission of Dams (WCD), have shown that between 40 and 80 million people have been forced to leave their homes, due to development-induced displacement i.e., construction of large hydroelectric dams alone. In 1994, Government of India (GoI) admitted that 10 million people were displaced by dams, mines, deforestation and other development projects and were awaiting rehabilitation. Assessment of IDP populations is very difficult, as these populations aren't constant, as a few of them would be returning home and while others fleeing, other populations may periodically return to IDP camps to take the humanitarian aid. It is very difficult to assess those IDPs who flee to larger towns and cities. Most official figures only include those displaced by conflict or natural disasters and development –induced IDPs often are not included in assessments.

#### **International Law Protecting IDPs**

Protection and assistance to IDPs is not a new issue, according to International Law it is the responsibility of the government concerned to provide assistance and protection to the IDPs in their country. As many of the displaced are a result of civil conflict and violence and where the authority of the central state is in doubt, there is no local authority willing to provide assistance and protection and it has been estimated that some 5 million IDPs in 11 countries are without any significant humanitarian assistance from their governments. Unlike the case of refugees, there is no international humanitarian institution, which has the overall responsibility of protecting and assisting the refugees as well as the internally displaced. The UNHCR was

#### **Largest IDP Populations found**

**Syria, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Sudan, Azerbaijan**

mandated by General Assembly Resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950 to “lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems... guided by the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 protocol.” Since 1972 it had relief and rehabilitation programs for those displaced within a country. However, in cases where there is a specific request by the UN Secretary General and with the consent of the state concerned it has been willing to respond by assisting IDPs in a given instance. By year 2005 it was helping some 5.6 million IDPs out of over 25 million, but only about 1.1 million in Africa. The ICRC has mandate of ensuring the application of International Humanitarian Law as it affects civilians in the midst of armed conflict. They have traditionally not distinguished between civilians, who are internally displaced and those who remain in their homes. Director of Operations has earlier recognized that IDPs “deprived of shelter and their habitual sources of food, water, medicine and money, they have different, and often more urgent, material needs.”

**Collaborative Approach:** The previous system set up internationally to address the needs of IDPs was referred to as the collaborative approach as the responsibility for protecting and assisting IDPs was shared among the UN agencies i.e., UNHCR, Unicef, WFP, UNDP, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-Governmental Organization (IOM), the ICRC and International NGOs. Coordination is the responsibility of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Humanitarian Coordinator in the country concerned. They are assisted by the Inter-Agency Displacement Division which was created in 2004 and is housed in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In 2005 there was an attempt to fix the problem by giving sectoral responsibilities to different humanitarian agencies, most notably with the UNHCR taking on the responsibility for protection and the management of camps and emergency shelters.

#### International Law

Unlike the case of refugees, there is no international treaty which applied specifically to IDPs, some have advocated re-thinking the definitions and protections for refugees to apply to IDPs, but so far no solid actions have come to fruition.

**Right of Return:** In so-called “post-conflict” situations, there has traditionally been an emphasis in the international community to seek to return to the pre-war status-quo. However, opinions are gradually changing, because violent conflict destroys political, economic and social structures and new structures develop as a result, quite often irreversibly. IDPs and refugees right of return can represent one of the most complex aspects of this issue. Normally, pressure is applied by the International Community and Humanitarian Organization (ICHO) to ensure displaced people are able to return to their areas of origin and the same property. Restitution rights are of key importance to IDPs and refugees around the world, and it is important to try preventing aggressors benefitting from conflict.

**Indian Scenario:** India being prone to violence has generated few refugees. War, conflicts, human right abuses and forced relocation have created a high level of internal displacement. Given the number of IDPs in our country is problematic, coupled with lack of central monitoring co-coordinating authority, at the same time the political sensitivities at the state level prevent release of the data on the exact and nature of displacement. There is huge variation in estimates of the number of IDPs in India. The majority of cases in which people have been forced to flee their homes are consequence of government pursuit and political goals and development objectives. Development induced displacement has overwhelmingly dominated the IDP scenario in India. Our country has no national policy and legal framework to deal with either refugee or IDPs. As we have not yet ratified the 1951 convention and 1967 protocol and does not permit UNHCR access to most refugee groups. In absence of this permanent institutional structure to oversee refugee issues, the granting of refugee status has been at the discretion of the political authorities. Due to a similar absence of a national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation of IDPs there have been only piecemeal and adhoc initiatives at the project and state level. In 2013 September 26, India adopted a historic new bill which, for the first time, addressed internal displacement caused by development. “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Act” (LARR). This new bill abolished India’s century old Land Acquisition Act (LAA) of 1894, based on coerced land acquisition through the state’s power. As this act also wrongly de-coupled such acquisition from its effects such as impoverishment and human upheaval, and also that LAA was also silent on the recovery of those victimized by dispossession of land and property. The LARR institutes rules for acquiring land, but also legislates the obligation of the project which causes the displacement to resettle affected communities and enable their recovery. This act also provides, for the first time, a measure of protection of the human rights of IDPs; rights trampled upon and denied to them in previous displacements. This act also sets forth new economic entitlements for IDPs, rights which are trampled upon and denied to them in previous displacements. Not only the above it also sets forth new economic entitlements for IDPs and new entitlements to information and consultation on the changes that displacement imposes on their work, income and entire existence. Looking at the genesis, earlier there was a bitter saga and made this adoption indispensable. In India there has been tragic narrative of mass displacements, violent expropriations under the LAA brutalized, impoverished and devastated the livelihoods of tens of millions of farmers. Walter Fernandes and his team found

that between 1950 and 2005, over 65 million people were internally displaced by development projects and the overwhelming majority of these 65 million were worse off than before displacement. Further, Fernandes documented that only about 33 percent of these IDPs "...have been resettled in a planned manner. For the other two-thirds [over 40 million] there is no evidence of planned resettlement." Many ended up in the slums surrounding New Delhi, Kolkata and other cities. As we are well aware that displacement breeds resistance and political instability and the magnitude and catastrophic consequences of displacement have triggered growing resistance by those affected. A pan-India social movement opposed to displacement has snowballed over the last four to five decades and this led to violent opposition, armed clashes and political instability. The farmer's and tribal people in defense of their land succeeded in delaying for years, the hardening political and physical opposition to compulsory displacement played a direct role in the decision of India's leadership and political class to replace the anachronism LAA. Looking at the new political economy, the core content of LAAs was replaced with different basic principles. On political front the LARRs fundamental change is to give farming families the previously nonexistent legal power of prior consent to land acquisition, albeit with serious limitations. On the economic front, the major change is to partially replace administrative coercion for land acquisition with market transactions and to channel vastly increased financing to those left without land or livelihoods. The two mutually reinforcing changes are to be implemented through an institutional architecture for DFDR, to be created immediately and these changes represent genuine progress and as they reflect a major shift away from India's obsolete previous political economy of non-market coerced land acquisition and deliberately under-financed resettlement although this shift is still incomplete. The government accountability for consequence of state imposed displacement has been virtually absent. They have disregarded the plight of those who are displaced. The Draft National Policy for Rehabilitation is a multidimensional response to displacement with full rehabilitation covering. Broadly, it covers landless labourers, landholders, houseless, householders, unemployed and forest dwellers, their socio-cultural cost of development, economic dimensions such as upgrading of skill levels & accumulation of physical assets as well as social capital.

There seems to be no immediate solution to IDP issues in India. The intricacies and complexities involved in the situations under which they are forced to leave their homes. The low priority given by both the central and state governments to IDP and refugee, the absence of clear cut policy and national legal institutions to deal with pre-post displacement situations. Our country must develop various effective measures to deal with IDPs otherwise displacement may increase and become even more complex. The Government should take some paramount measures, such as:

World Refugee Survey put the total number of IDPs in India as 507,000; the Indian Social Institute in Delhi and the Global IDP Project place it is at 21.3 million

1. Reduce the level of violence against non-combatants, irrespective of the nature of conflict.
2. Deal with potential and ongoing ethnic conflicts.
3. Minimize non-ethnic civil conflicts.
4. Avoid repressive measures and lay more focus on preventive rather than ameliorative measures.
5. Consider development projects in the larger perspective of sustainable development and human needs.
6. Ensure rapid resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced people.
7. Implement national laws and policies to deal with multi-dimensional character of IDP groups.

Consequently, in the areas where there is neither law nor order remained dominant. There are various causes of internal displacement in India, the serious fallouts of the development process, which has displaced many populations. Various stakeholders must devise the necessary mechanism and strategies to allow a legitimate space for marginalized sections of the indigenous population with the development framework to prevent and reduce the process of emerging problem of IDPs in the state. The post colonial Indian state too failed miserably to resolve the issues raised by the identity. It is important to step up to improve assistance to IDPs would be to conduct surveys in conflict-affected areas in order to document the magnitude of the problem as well as the needs of the displaced.

**\* Livelihoods April 2015**



## 23.Forest-based Occupations

***More than 300 million in India depend on forest for their livelihoods either directly or indirectly. Of this number nearly 100 million live in forests. The richness of Indian forests has been an abode of wealth for a broad range of societies from the traditional hunter-gatherers, NTFP collectors, shifting cultivators to the neo-rich industrialized timber-based economies. But, over a period of time the traditional forest-based communities are losing out; their traditional rights to forests are being impinged upon; development vs. environment dilemma has become over-arching. Combining native knowledge with scientific inputs can help enhance forest-based livelihoods of the poor in a sustainable manner.***



Forests constitute 23.28 per cent of the geographical area of India, which is about 77 million hectares. Of this the dense forest, open forest and mangroves constitute 11.48, 7.76 and 0.15 per cent respectively. Among the states in the country, Madhya Pradesh accounts for 20.68 per cent of the forest cover followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 10.80 per cent, Orissa 7.38 per cent, Maharashtra 7.32 per cent and Andhra Pradesh 6.94 per cent. The seven North-Eastern (NE) states together comprise 25.70 per cent of the total forest cover. In the sphere of mangroves, about 85 per cent occur in the inter-tidal regions of West Bengal, Gujarat and the Andaman and Nicobar

(A&N) Islands. Forest lands across the country are notified, either as Reserved Forest (R.F) or Protected Forest (P.F) or Private Protected Forest (P.P.F) by the government. These notified areas are governed by Forest Acts. In some areas, village forests come under the Revenue Department (RD) and are managed by the village level bodies, as per the prescriptions of the State Acts, Rules and Customary Laws.

Indian forests are rich in resources and offer a variety of livelihoods for people, who are dependent on them. An interesting contrast is that two third of the rich forests in the country are also home to some of the economically poorer tribal communities. There is an estimated 100 million people in the country, who live in and around forests and another 275 million for whom forests constitute an important source of livelihood. Shifting cultivation, livestock rearing, collection and processing of NTFP, employment in forest based industries and mining together make up for some, of the prominent forest based occupations, impacting a large section of the population. NTFP alone generates about 70 per cent of employment in Indian forestry sector. NTFP includes a variety of fruits, nuts, seeds, oils, spices, resins, gums, medicinal plants and many more products specific to particular areas from which they originate. About 3000 species in forests of India are the potential source of NTFP. In India, nearly 50 million people are dependent on NTFP for subsistence and cash income. 60 per cent of NTFP is consumed as food or dietary supplement especially during lean season by forest dwellers.

The revenue from NTFP is growing faster than the revenue from timber. Export earnings from NTFP on an average account for about 60-70% of total exports of forest products. Commercial NTFPs, alone are estimated to generate Rs.3 billion annually. However, there is still vast untapped potential in this arena. The current production of NTFP is only about 60% of potential production, and in case of non-edible fibres and flowers, only 7-12% of the potential is exploited. NTFP collection, an important source of income for forest dwellers and rural poor, varies from state to state ranging from 5.4 to 55 percent. Most significant contribution in terms of quantity and revenue of NTFP comes from five states in India namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. It is estimated that NTFP collection alone generates over 2 million person days of work annually. This number further expands significantly, when the person days engaged in NTFP processing and marketing are considered.

With the promulgation of Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), some brakes have been set on access to NTFP and in some states; this has caused deterioration of relationship between forest department and forest users group. However, some states where the forest rules are less stringent, have given relatively easy access to collecting some NTFP including fodder grasses, dry and fallen twigs and branches, leaf litter and leaves and where available mushrooms, edible tubers, flowers, fruits and medicinal herbs. Even here, more valuable NTFP like cashew nuts, bamboo and fibrous grasses are excluded from free access. Another dimension to NTFP collection

is that the local communities, most often do not realize fair price/get reasonable incomes for NTFP collection. They get only collection charges, even for products that have a very high market value. There are also products, for which appropriate prices have not been set in the market. In some cases, marketing channels do not even exist. Most often than not, the market price for the NTFP or the profits from products is appropriated by middleman contractors, traders, industry etc.

The marketing of almost all important NTFP in the country is channeled through government bodies/agencies and the stated intention is to help tribal communities and other rural poor to get a fair deal. But these efforts in some ways have reduced the number of other buyers and also created delays in free flow of goods and payment to collectors. These gaps gave room, for the entry of contractors and other spurious elements. These players though appear to benefit the collectors on the face of it; they thoroughly exploit the system in reality.

The next significant forest-based occupation seems to be shifting cultivation popularly called Podu / Penda or Jhum cultivation. It is estimated that about 3 million people practice shifting cultivation in the country. Nearly 5 million hectares in the country, is under this type of cultivation. After a piece of land is selected, trees or bushes are cut down partially or fully, left to dry and then burnt in situ. In the cleared land, seeds of crops are dibbled into holes or broadcast, without using ploughs or animal power.

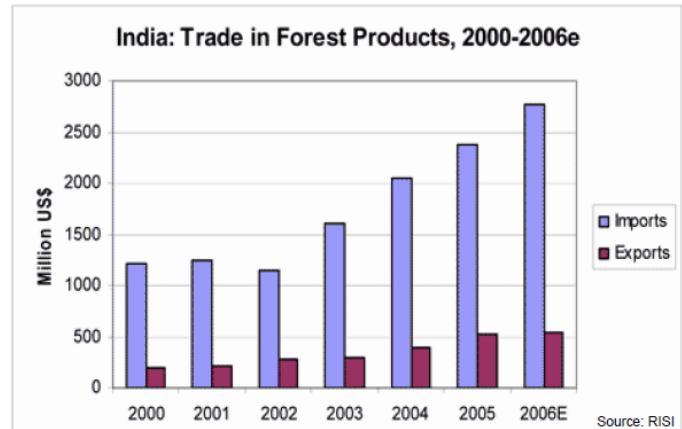
When the crop yields begin to decrease, after some years the cultivator moves to a new patch of forest to repeat the process, and allows the abandoned land to recuperate. After a period, varying from two to twenty years, he returns to the same land for cultivation.

This system of shifting cultivation works towards self sufficiency. It does not lead to any capital formation or growth. Human labour and land, in its widest sense, are the chief factors of production. It is both a labour-intensive and land-extensive system, based on low technology. There are two divergent views about shifting cultivation one condemning it and another, a liberal one, upholding it as a humane practice. The first one, often termed an "outsider's view", states that it dries up the springs of the hills, causes soil erosion, destroys valuable forests and adversely affects rainfall and deprives people of the benefits of forest produce. The second one, often called an "insider's view", considers it as "an organic response of the people engaged in it to certain specific ecological conditions, rather than to a particular eco-techno system.

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs), including trees, shrubs, grasses and vines, are a central resource for traditional health systems, as well as for pharmaceutical medicines. There are more than 8,000 plant species in South Asia with known medicinal uses. The MAPs that grow in the forests play a vital role not only in providing native health solutions but also in creating livelihoods to those engaged in collecting and processing them. According to World Health Organization (WHO), MAPs are an accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate source of primary health care for more than 80% of Asia's population. Marginalized, rural and indigenous people, who cannot afford or access formal health care systems, are especially dependent on these culturally familiar, technically simple, financially affordable and generally effective traditional medicines. The collection, processing and trading of medicinal plants, contribute significantly to the cash income of the poor and women in the forest regions. For instance, in Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) of Himachal Pradesh, almost all the local people are dependent on medicinal plants collection for their livelihood and earn around \$100/HH/year through collection and sales. Medicinal plants have also been used to develop family-based health and livelihood oriented enterprises in rural areas. Many traditional healers have been running MAP-based health care system to earn their livelihoods.

The native forest-dwellers, the adivasis also engage themselves in making beautiful handicrafts from raw material available in forests and earn a living by selling those products. In majority of cases, handicraft is considered as a part time occupation or territory activity in the economic ladder. The revenue generated from handicrafts has substantial share of the total household income. During a survey conducted by the Planning Commission of India (PCI), it is observed that the income from the handicrafts constitute more than 30% of total household income of the craftsmen. Handicraft items based on wood, cane, bamboo, reeds and grasses have good market in some areas and in some cases have also entered the export market. Various state governments have taken initiatives to promote these crafts and set up exclusive tribal craft shops in their respective states. National level melas are also organized at various centers displaying these forest-based crafts. In spite of lucrative market, the producers of these products end up making a pittance for their workmanship. Both demand and supply side potential largely remains unexplored. Efforts towards refining existing skills or efforts to reorient the producers to changing markets are almost minimal to absent. Middlemen play a critical role in selling of forest-based handicrafts.

Nearly, 30 per cent of fodder requirement of the country is met from forests. More than half of the livestock population in the country grazes in forests. However, conservationists claim that this large extent of grazing,



which is much more than the sustainable capacity of the forests, adversely affects forests. The debate goes on. Forming Joint Forest Management (JFM) collectives/groups by local population can be a way forward to conserve traditional forest rights, forest-based livelihoods and also the environment. Forests also attract tourists, thereby providing scope for tourism-based livelihoods. Ecotourism is gaining popularity and is providing employment to many youth like guides, tour operators, travel agents, security guards, porters, personnel manning rest houses etc. Apart from generating local livelihoods, forests also play a significant role in the country's industrialization, development and growth. Furniture, building and transport materials, several agricultural and industrial implements, reading and writing materials boxes and containers and leather or fur articles have their sources in the forests. Pharmaceutical firms draw richly on forest bio-diversity with a number of commonly used and vital drugs sourced from natural vegetation. The growth possibilities of pharmaceutical sector further open up prospects of bio-prospecting in which local knowledge is valuable.

In spite of the multitude of livelihood avenues that forests offer, much of the forest potential is mostly untapped. Average forest productivity is about one-third of potential rates. But on the contrary, an estimated 40% of the forest cover has been degraded in the past several decades. From the graph, it is evident that India's deficit in forest products trade has more than doubled over five years. Agricultural expansion, logging, hunting, over-grazing and forest fires are destroying or degrading forests and in turn reducing the contribution that forests make to people's livelihoods. Deforestation and logging destroy wild plants used for food and medicines and may also increase certain infectious diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, chagas, and yellow fever. The over-exploitation of timber products can eventually lead to less wood to cook meals and fewer raw materials for small-scale entrepreneurs and artisans to use for generating income. The national government is committed to conserving forest and developing new forests to meet the goal of increasing forest cover to 33 percent of the land area by 2012. To achieve this goal Gol has actively promoted JFM throughout the country. Under this program, the state governments have to involve local communities in management of forests. It is envisaged that the communities, in lieu of their participation in protection and development of forest areas, will be entitled to sharing of usufructs in a manner specified by the concerned State Forest Departments (SFD). Most communities participating in JFM fail to tap the potential of forests to improve local livelihoods. Forest communities still tend to use forests mainly as a safety net during difficult economic periods, or for seasonal subsistence products, such as fuel wood and fodder. For communities to capture more of this untapped potential, wide ranging and phased reforms are required at both the national and state levels.

Similarly, incomes and the environment are threatened when local people lose access to forests in favour of commercial farmers, ranchers, or when logging and mining companies move onto their land. Many times government policies frequently favour these groups with concessions, licenses, permits and new roads, while denying similar rights to poorer inhabitants. In India, the forests are endowed with very rich mineral wealth. Mining is being promoted in the country under the guise of generating employment. But, the truth is that the modern mining industry is highly mechanized and requires less manpower. According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) Report, between 1991 and 2004, the value of mineral production in India increased four-fold but at the same time, employment plummeted by 30 per cent in this sector.

The presence of large mineral deposits in ecologically sensitive areas threatens India's already vulnerable forests. Though, the government states that the total forested land diverted for mining between 1980 and 2005 was only 95,003 ha, the truth of the matter is that an estimated 1, 64,610 ha of forest land has been lost to mining. Apart from mining, many "development" projects are displacing traditional forest dwellers from their lands and livelihoods. These people after migrating to the areas away from the forests and are taking up unskilled wage labour because their forest-based skills seem to be irrelevant in the migrated areas.

Further, declining markets and increasing competition from foreign producers also threaten the contribution forests make to the day to day income of the poor or less advantaged. Trade liberalization, has forced many small farmers and forest-based micro-enterprises to increase their timber and forest product harvesting in order to compete with multinational companies and their cheaper imports. It is important to protect our forests to protect livelihoods of about 300 million people in the country. Government policy-makers and those designing poverty-reduction strategies need to consider all of the options available to protect those forest and tree-based resources that are important to the livelihoods of rural households. This will also be in the interest of sustainable development and environment conservation.

It is important to give the local communities control over forest resources and encourage equitable distribution of these resources. Government should avoid the policies that encourage forest destruction. Livelihood and landscape approach should be brought into conservation efforts, so that forest dwellers do not lose access to their resources. A newly-released World Bank Report states that with greater community control over forest management, income from forests could rise from an estimated US\$222 million in 2004 to approximately US\$2 billion per annum in 2020. The report indicates that community-based forestry offers vast potential for poverty reduction and rural economic growth in India while also supporting critical national conservative goals. This is possible by undertaking effective reforms in managing community forest resources and improving forest productivity.

The development of local forest-based enterprises including local aggregation, storage, grading and processing through community collectives represents an opportunity for strengthening the livelihoods of poor, forest-

dependent people, at the same time providing an economic incentive to conserve forests through sustainable management. At the same time, markets are complex, and heavily dominated by particular interest groups. Local and national markets are generally easier to enter but less remunerative than international ones. A good understanding of the relevant markets is crucial for the development of local forest-based enterprises and their successful positioning in supply chains. A number of international market trends currently act in their favour. Small-scale operators can benefit from innovations in production technologies, as well as communication and information systems.

There is a growing world demand for many naturally derived products. Scarcities in some of them like particular tropical hardwoods, various NTFPs mean that prices are higher than in the past. A growing international awareness of issues of product origin is also increasing the market for goods produced through fair trade, with ecological and or/social certification – although it is often difficult for small producers to enter these particular markets. Collectives of people involved in NTFP collection, processing and marketing can be promoted and strengthened so that they can enter into these potential markets. Further NTFP collectors have to be trained in sustainable harvesting methods of NTFP. New market instruments like certification (Fair trade, Organic and Eco-friendly) should be proactively used with institutional safeguard to ensure the interests of the poor.

The urgency and need to protect the fast disappearing medicinal plants-based traditional knowledge, which is still abundant with forest dwellers, cannot be overemphasized. If proper values can be added to the traditional medical knowledge-based health practices and subsistence-oriented Medicinal and Aromatic Plant applications, a large number of jobs can be created in rural areas. Even at current level of conversion of traditional medicinal knowledge into economic opportunities, enterprise-based application can account for thousands of jobs in rural areas.

Recently, Ecotourism has emerged as development tool, which aims to protect the natural environment and cultural diversity by attracting the eco tourists and generating the source of revenue for the local people without harming the nature. It has the potential to create many livelihoods and to enhance the incomes of the poor households. But efforts should be put into making ecotourism into responsible tourism, which does not cause any damage to the environment and also to the traditions and cultures of the local people.

Apart from the above, serious efforts should be put into increasing the forest cover in the country. Planned conservation and afforestation efforts and promotion of eco-friendly development models, can help create significant employment and income enhancement opportunities for the poor. Joint Forest Management efforts can be taken up more vigorously and seriously. Providing technical/scientific inputs to the collectors of forest produce, making sure that they realize a fair share in the market value of their produce and facilitating value-addition activities will not only help enhance their income levels but also pave way for sustainable forests.

Robert Frost said “The woods are lovely, dark and deep.....” Indeed, they are! And we have promises to keep towards preserving those woods for protecting the mother earth and the lives and livelihoods of millions of her poor children. If not now, it may be a little too late...

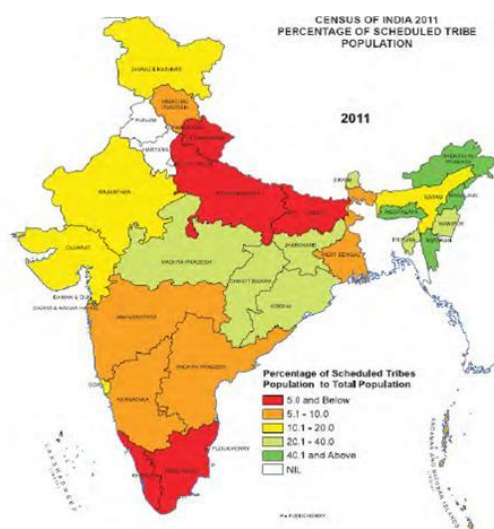
**\*Livelihoods April-2009**

## 24. Tribal Development

***The Government of India (GOI) has been implementing various development schemes and projects by mobilizing human, financial and material resources for the well-being of tribal people, since independence. Various Acts, Policies and Schedules were designed to develop tribal people and protect their interests. The Famous Five Principles were articulated by the first Prime Minister (PM) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru for better administration in tribal areas. Tribal development was included in Five Years Plans (FYPs) as an important and integral part to these FYPs. The GOI established separate departments and agencies across the country at different levels for tribal development.***

The Government of India (GOI) has been implementing various development schemes and projects by mobilizing human, financial and material resources for well-being of tribal people, since independence. Various Acts, Policies and Schedules were designed to develop tribal people and protect their interests. The famous “Panchsheel” or Five Principles were articulated by the first Prime Minister (PM) Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru for better administration in tribal areas. Tribal development was included in Five Years Plans (FYPs) as an important and integral part to these FYPs. The GOI established separate departments and agencies across the country at different levels for tribal development.

India is home to largest tribal population in the world, next to Africa. Tribal people fall under the category of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and they are listed as specific to state / Union Territory (UT). To identify STs, the Lokur committee suggested five essential characteristics, such as indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, shyness of contact with the community at large, geographical isolation and backwardness. Out of 5653 distinct communities in the country, 635 communities are recognized as tribal or adivasi communities. Only 593 communities were listed as STs. Mainly, STs inhabit Central India and North-Eastern (NE) parts of the country. In our country, out of total 640 districts, there are only 50 districts, which do not have ST population and there are 49 districts having more than 75% of ST population. On the state front, Mizoram has the highest ST population, with 94.93% and Uttar Pradesh (UP) has the lowest ST population, with 0.57%. According to the 2011 census, the tribal population is 10.43 crore people, which constitutes 8.6% of the total population in the country. Also, around 89.97% tribal people live in rural areas and 10.03% lives in urban areas.



Tribal communities are considered poor and vulnerable compared to any other communities in the country. Tribal people have been facing multiple problems i.e., social, economic, cultural and political problems for centuries. Their forest-based livelihoods and resources are shrinking. Displacement is very high among tribal populations. Changes in their livelihoods and establishment of various development projects have forced many of them towards displacement. Close to 55% of the tribal population has been displaced in our country, mainly due to various development interventions such as construction of dams, roads, mining, industries and forest reserve policies. In wake of the above-mentioned factors, the tribal population is unable to access proper health services, educational facilities, safe drinking water, food security, transportation and communication services. The influx of plainsmen in their habitations have, also alienated them from their native habitats, which has resulted in taking away their rights and entitlements, pushing the tribal population further into danger. In light of this, the GOI designed various tribal development projects and schemes for tribal people's well-being.

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The tribal populated areas were divided into three categories i.e., predominately tribal states / UTs, Scheduled Areas (SA) in the states / UTs, and Non-Scheduled (NS) Areas. All tribal populated areas were considered as a special category and were allocated funds. Development and administration in tribal areas was taken care of, by the central government, even though these areas are integrated parts of the states. 'Panchaseel' or five

principles were formulated in 1950 under the leadership of the first PM of independent India for better administration in tribal areas. The five principles are as follows:

- Tribal people should be encouraged to develop in their own way and to protect their culture and arts.
- Tribal rights on land and forest should be respected.
- Should train tribal people and build teams to work for their development. In the beginning, some technical personnel may be required, but their presence should be reduced, minimum outsiders into tribal administration and development works.
- Should not over administer or overwhelm them with multiple schemes. Should facilitate work through tribal people's own social and cultural institutions.
- Should judge results based on improvement in quality of human life instead quantity of amount spent.

The tribal development integrated approach was taken broadly, in two ways such as protective and promotional measures. Policies were designed to protect tribal peoples' land, forest resources, culture and traditions. There are many Constitutional provisions which are as follows:

- Statutory recognition of tribal communities.
- Designating scheduled areas for development projects and schemes.
- Representation in parliament, legislative assemblies and local bodies.
- Special privileges in educational institutions and government jobs.
- Recognition of tribal people's local languages and provide space for professing faith.

In addition to the above-mentioned Constitutional provisions, the GOI designed fifth and sixth Schedules and Acts. According to fifth Schedule, union government has been given power to provide directions to the states in administration matters of tribal areas. The sixth Schedule allocates powers to tribal areas in Assam Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya, where the autonomous district and regional councils have been constituted. These councils have been given powers in administration matters, such as to make laws for management of land, forest, appointment of headman to the tribal groups, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce and social customs.

In 1961, the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission (SASTC) prepared policy to work for advancement of tribals without disturbing the core culture of tribal life. The Commission further suggested that only economic development cannot uplift the tribals' lives, and that focus has to be on development of resources i.e., land, forests, cattle, wealth, cottage and village industries. The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act, 1996) was enacted to allocate powers to Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Gram Sabhas (GS), to consider and work with customary law, social and religious practices and community resources management practices, and approval power of social and economic development plans and projects, and implementation powers to GPs at village level.

The Planning Commission (PC) gave top priority to tribal development and almost in all FYPs, tribal development projects and schemes was included. In the first FYP (1951-56), Community Development Projects (CDPs) were established for all-round development of tribal habitations; and among the vulnerable sections. In second FYP (1956-61), the Ministry of Community Development (MCD) established Special Multi-Purpose Tribal Blocks (SMPT) in predominately tribal areas; Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) provided funds to MCD. In third FYP (1961-66), SMPT blocks were renamed as Tribal Development Blocks (TDBs) and TDBs were started in all areas having more than 60% of the tribal population and Rs. 12 lakh was allotted per Community Development Block (CDB). During the Three Annual Plans (1966-1969), special funds were allotted for tribal development. In fourth FYP (1969-74), various programs were initiated to develop tribal people with a target approach mode, instead of the area approach mode. The Small Farmers Development Agencies (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agriculture Labourers Development Agencies (MFALDA) and Drought Prone Area Programme ((DPAP) were established to develop, identify individuals based on the mentioned criteria. Four Tribal Development Agencies (TDA's) were established. From the first FYP to the fourth FYP, the GOI had focused on tribal development covering education, economic upliftment, health, housing and etc.

During the fifth FYP (1974-79), a new approach was evolved for tribal development. The Tribal Sub-plan (TSP) strategy envisaged and focused on integrating tribal development programs of Government organizations and semi-government organizations, financing through Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP). The first TSP (1974-79), gave highest priority to eliminate exploitation of tribal people. During sixth FYP (1980-85) and seventh FYP (1985-90), the TSP continued. During eighth FYP (1992-97), along with TSP, Modified Area Development Approach (MADA), Scattered Development Plans (SDPs) and Primitive Tribes Development Plans (PTDPs) were initiated. During ninth FYP (1997-2002), the focus was on generation of adequate productive



employment, eradication of poverty and empowerment of women in weaker sections.

Various agencies and organizations were established for advancement of tribal people. In October 1999, the GOI constituted a separate Ministry for tribal development by making bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) for social and economic development of tribal people. At the time of fifth FYP, the TSP approach was adopted, and funds were allocated for tribal people's welfare and development on the basis of their population proportion. The TSP strategy has been in implementation in schemes, through 196 Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs) / Integrated Development Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), 259 Modified MADA packets, 82 clusters and 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in 23 TSP states / UTs. The TSP has been implementing income generating programs, infrastructure development and administrative reinforcement in the country. The various tribal development programs are as follows:

- Educational promotion schemes like schools, residential schools, hostels, scholarships and special coaching / training etc.,
- Agriculture and allied activities by providing minor and medium irrigation facilities, livestock etc.,
- Credit and marketing facilities for Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and agriculture produce.
- Special training programs for tribal farmers.
- Irrigation and power facilities to develop agriculture and small scale industries and cottage industries.
- Social and economic development through community centers, community network, educational institutions, health centers, rural electrification, drinking water, roads and other facilities.
- ITDP, MADA, cluster and PTG special comprehensive development projects.

The TSP funds are mobilized from different sources such as funds from states / UTs plans and central Ministries / departments, Special Central Assistance (SCA), Grants under article 275 (1) of the Constitution, funds through central sector schemes, funds from centrally sponsored schemes and financial institutions. State Governments allocate funds to TSP under state / UT plans for tribal development based on tribal population proportion to TSP. Similarly, central Ministries and departments allocate funds to TSP for tribal development. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) was established for remunerative price for NTFP and agriculture produce of tribal people. The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) were established to provide credit, employment generation and skill development. The Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) were established for social and economic development of tribal people, through income generation schemes, infrastructure development programs and protection of tribals from exploitation. ITDA projects are generally implemented at block level. So far, 194 ITDPs / ITDAs are existing in the country.

In 1999, the Central Standing Tripartite was setup with the representatives of Planning Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (SCs) & (STs), concerned states / UTs and Ministry/ departments. In 2002, the Ministry of Tribal Development Affairs (MTDA) revised the guidelines to release funds based on specific projects, development of critical infrastructure facilities, health, education, food security, housing and other entitlements to bridge the gap between STs and other communities. Tribal development programs were implemented broadly in two approaches such as community approach at Block level and ITDA approach under TSP. Community development approach was designed in first FYP to facilitate tribal community participation in tribal development programs and to cater to needs of smallest unit. As a part of this approach, TDBs

were identified to cater specific needs of geographically isolated and hilly areas. After reviewing community approach to achieve better results, TSP integrated approach was designed. The purpose of this approach is to maximize utilization of resources for tribal development. Under TSP, integrated development approach was prepared for each tribal community.

Schemes for Tribal Development: Largely tribal development schemes were divided into two categories, such as central schemes and states schemes. In central schemes, complete finance was provided by central government, and in state schemes, central government sponsored only a partial amount and rest of the amount was contributed by the states. The Ministry of tribal development has been implementing 10 Central Sector (CS) schemes and six Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for social and economic empowerment and development of tribal communities. Achieving social empowerment of tribal communities has been taken up by various educational schemes, such as Post – Metric Scholarships (PMS), book banks and up-gradation of merit of students, hostels for boys and girls, Ashram schools in TSP areas, educational complexes in low literacy pockets and Rajiv Gandhi national fellowship to pursue M. Phil and Ph. d degrees. For economic empowerment of tribal communities, different income generating activities have been taken up such as Vocational Training Centers (VTC), providing financial assistance with low rate of interest to STs, particularly to ST women beneficiaries by National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), providing financial support to the

ST entrepreneurs by State Scheduled Tribal Development & Finance Corporations (SSTDFCs), providing marketing support and remunerative prices to NTFP and agriculture produce by TRIFED. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) had released Rs.1322.40 crore for CS and CSS schemes' implementation during the tenth FYP; it has been doubled compared to the time of ninth FYP's allocated amount, which was Rs. 640 crore only.

Institutional financial support is an important element in economic development of tribal communities. Mostly, income generative activities' success depends on banks, credit availability and market linkages. Finance support flows from different financial institutions like commercial banks, cooperative banks, NSTFDC, TRIFED and others in various ways such as loans, grants, subsidies and margin money etc. Along with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, there are other Ministries / Departments implementing many schemes and programs for tribal communities' development in the country such as Human Resource Development (HRD), Health & Family Welfare, Rural Development (FWRD), Women & Child Development (WCD), Water Resources Department (WRD), Labour and Employment (WRLE), Power, Urban Development (UD), Village Small Scale Industries (VSSI) and other Ministries / Departments. There are many poverty elimination schemes / programs, which are being implemented under rural development by District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Jawahar Gram SwarojgarYojana (JGSY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira AwasYojana (IAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Program (ARWSP), Central Rural Sanitation Program (CRSP), National Social Assistant Program (NSAP), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Rajiv Gandhi Vidyuti Karan Yojana (RVKY), Bharat Nirman (BN), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) etc. Many Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) and other Support Organizations (SO) are working for tribal rights' protection and development across the country. These organizations are mobilizing tribal people, particularly women in Community Based Organizations (CBOs), running health and educational institutions, Common Properties Resources (CPRs) preservation, skill development programs, agriculture development programs, promoting artisan activities, livestock promotion programs, tribal rights protection etc., Many Ministries / departments have been implementing number of schemes / programs for nearly seven decades in the country. There is improvement in education, health, drinking water availability, electricity, road connectivity, agriculture practices, skill development and employment opportunities. Overall, there is a slight improvement in the lives and livelihoods of tribal people; however, the amount spent has not brought any significant changes among the tribal population, as many are still caught in the web of hunger, health problems, illiteracy, rights violation and exploitation. Coupled with the above-mentioned problems is displacement. Their traditional livelihoods and resources are gradually declining and almost after seven decades in independent India; most of the tribal population are unable to access developmental results.

The main causes of poor achievement in the arena of tribal people's development mainly center's around policy at implementation level. There is lack of clear and comprehensive policies in terms of specific and time-bound objectives. Also, the governments have been allocating insufficient funds towards tribal development and these insufficient funds are not being utilized to their fullest potential. Governance is also another key problem in tribal areas, as many of the government departments are not providing quality and timely services to the tribal populations. Lack of monitoring is also a serious problem, as many of the non-tribal employees show reluctance to work for tribal development with commitment. The tribal habitats, which are resource rich areas, have become a curse for tribal populations. Due to resource availability, many development projects have been initiated and continue to displace tribal populations from their native habitats and the tribals are not availing proper compensation from the government. Their rights and entitlements are not being implemented in full spirit. Sadly, many departments and various, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are not in sync (convergence) to effectively work for tribal development. The tribal community's need of the hour is awareness about their rights and entitlements. However, the most critical aspect for tribal development is the participation of tribals in their development process from the beginning itself; as tribals know the best about their culture, and a mix of traditional knowledge and modern science can go a long way for the betterment of tribal people.

**\*livelihoods January-2016**



# **IV Non-Farm Livelihoods**

## 25. Rural Non-farm Livelihoods

***Among the rural poor in India, non-farm livelihoods are a part of a diversified livelihood portfolio and trends indicate that non-farm component is increasingly emerging, as a strong player in the income of the rural poor household.***



Rural non-farm livelihoods comprise an important component of the rural livelihoods portfolio. According to National Sample Survey (NSS), the percentage of employment in the rural non-farm sector in total rural employment increased from 18.4 per cent in 1983 to 23.8 per cent in 1999-2000 and its share is since increasing. Changes in agriculture, changes in the market and the influences of urbanization and globalization, have brought about significant changes in the rural non-farm segment. While most of the agriculture-dependent traditional non-farm livelihoods are struggling to retain their ground, some new ones are gaining ground. Agriculture has been and continues largely to be the bastion of rural India.

More than 60 per cent of people, in India, depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In support of this green economy, multiple secondary and tertiary activities/livelihoods have come into being and co-existed with agriculture. There are also activities like mining, tourism, timber processing etc., that are agriculture independent and contribute directly to the local economic growth and rural livelihoods. Together, these activities make up for the rural non-farm livelihoods. Today, the rural non-farm economy accounts for nearly 30 to 40 per cent of rural incomes and the importance of non-farm activity increases in rural towns, where it accounts for more than 60 per cent of employment. Tertiary activities account for more than 50 per cent of rural non-farm activity.

The rural non-farm occupations comprise all those non-agricultural activities, which generate income to rural households including income in kind and remittances, either through wage labour or self-employment. All primary production of food, flowers and fibers including growing crops, rearing livestock, horticulture, forestry and fisheries are regarded as agriculture. Traditional non-farm occupations in India like weaving, black smithy, gold smithy, shoe making, basket/mat weaving, carpentry, toddy tapping, making repairs to agriculture tools and implements etc., for long thrived as auxiliary pillars for the agriculture dominated village economies. Many players including barbers, washer men, providers of funeral services, wedding services, festival services/entertainment, healing services, religious instructors and priests, musicians, entertainers, medicine man, pawn brokers, money lenders, cooked food sellers etc., engaged in service-based livelihoods that supported and were supported by agriculture. The payment in return for their services was mostly made in the form of grain and other kind. The villages largely functioned as self-sufficient economies, with agriculture as the backbone and multitude of supporting livelihoods. However, this scenario has undergone and is continuing to undergo significant changes. Demand dynamics, arising from agricultural growth are very significant to rural economies. Rural non-farm economy is vibrant, when and where the local farm economy is prosperous. Rising farm productivity is the driver of the rural non-farm economy with linkages both from production like processing and agro-industries and consumption like increased demand for manufactured products, inputs and other consumables and for services. But the current decline in agriculture productivity and decline in incomes from agriculture excepting dairy and livestock, have blown a death knell to some of the traditional non-farm livelihoods. This situation is further accentuated with urbanization and overarching cash economy. With improved transportation, large number of products and services are flowing into rural areas from urban centers. For instance, potters are left to compete with plastic and steel. Mechanization, assembly line shops have negatively impacted the livelihoods of black smiths, gold smiths, shoe makers etc. Erstwhile owners of products, skills, services are now transforming into wage workers. Some with better financial and market linkages have taken to trading and retailing. Agro-processing or value-addition of agriculture produce is happening outside the villages for the most part and the produce is returning to the villages as packaged finished products at higher cost. In the realm of weaving, the second largest employment provider in rural India next to agriculture, while some weavers with better access to resources have quickly graduated to master weaver level, majority are living on wages (piece rates).

Improved access to urban/new markets has brought in new players and new non-farm livelihoods into the villages. Among the relatively new non-farm livelihoods transportation of both goods and people seems to be flourishing. The seven-seater auto has changed the face of transportation in rural areas greatly. Similarly, public bus and private mini bus services, small vehicles transporting goods are reaching remote villages. Another emerging non-farm livelihood in rural areas is retailing. Retail shops selling products ranging from rice, pulses to 'lays' chips and colas are a common sight in the villages today. Other significantly emerging non-farm livelihoods include various public service providers like teachers, Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery (ANM), health workers, Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP), postman, veterinary services, agriculture extension services, police services etc. Most of these services are occupied by educated and skilled people. In the realm of private services finance, insurance, real estate and business services are gaining momentum. Rural tourism is gaining ground and generating tourism-based livelihood opportunities in the villages like hotels, home stays, souvenir shops, site seeing, guides, travel agencies etc apart from selling rural products and services to the tourists. Tourism is also acting as springboard for other livelihood activities like phone booths with STD/ISD facilities, internet, fax and photocopying etc.

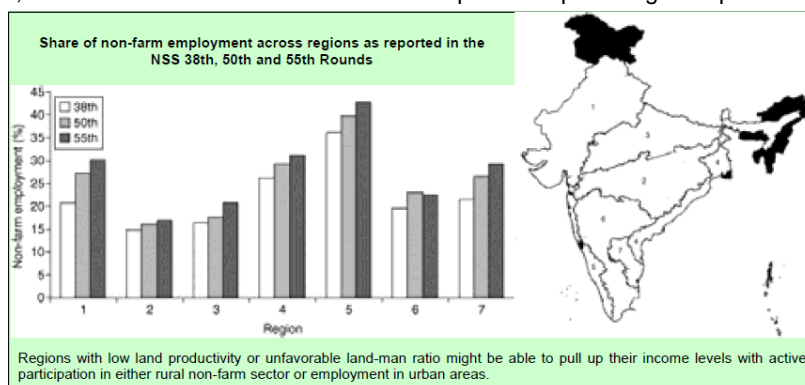
<b>Rural non-farm activity</b>	<b>Sub activities</b>	<b>How are they placed</b>
Non-farm primary; and Processing	Mining of minerals, Quarrying and production of building materials like stones, sand, bricks etc, Charcoal production, Salt extraction, Fuel  wood gathering and trading, Water collection	Often small scale but quarrying maybe industrial in scale
Manufacture and repair of consumer goods for local rural market and urban markets and beyond	Making Furniture, Domestic utensils, Clothes, Shoes, Blankets, Mats, Baskets, Pots, Ice blocks, Ceramics, Wood carvings, Local Music/entertainment instruments, Decorations, Tourist items, Engaging in Black smithy, Gold smithy, Carpentry, Toddy tapping, Repairs of tools, utensils, clothes, shoes, electrical, vehicles etc	Almost always artisan industry  carried out in small workshops at micro level
Industrial	Textiles and clothing, Glass, Metals, Plastics, Electronics	Uncommon, Examples include subcontracting from urban businesses, local subsidies from government etc
Trading and Transport of manufactured goods, mainly from urban factories and warehouses for the local rural market	Transport and haulage, Wholesale trading and storage, Retailing including street vending	Much of this is small-scale, owner operated involving low capital
Provision of services for local rural market , Private Services	Barbers, Salons, Washer men, Funeral services, Wedding services, Healing, Cooked food sale including café, tea stall, hotels etc, Cleaning, Cooking, Lodgings and accommodation, Auto, rickshaw, bus and other local transport services, Construction and building repairs, Photography, Musicians, Entertainers, Festival based services/ entertainment, Religious instructors and Priests, Teachers,	Micro scale usually

	Medicine practitioners/  Medicine man, Pawn brokers, money lenders, deposit-takers, insurance services, real estate brokers, Typing, Photocopying, Phone booth.	
Public services	Primary and secondary schools - Teachers, helpers, watchman, cleaners etc, Anganwadi centers, Health posts and centers (ANMs, Midwives) Police services, Agriculture and Veterinary extension services	Relatively well paid, dependable employment. Many times these posts are occupied by outsiders and not by the local residents
Processing, trading and transport of farm outputs	Value-addition activities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy, Rolling Beedies, Honey cleaning, Making soda/soft drinks, local ice-cream, Oil crushing and extraction, Timber sawing and drying, Cotton ginning, Transport, storage and hauling of all these items	Mostly carried out prior to shipping  produce to urban markets, but some processing is done for local consumption
Production, trading and transport of farm inputs	Simple tool making and repair, Animal feed making, Wholesale and retail of fertilizer and agro-chemicals, veterinary medicines, Tractor and ox ploughing and other mechanical hire services	Much of the production happens in market towns and urban centers but retailed in rural areas

Almost everywhere, the number of poor people in rural areas exceeds the capacity of agriculture to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities. Though out, migration is emerging as a significant alternative, it is not possible for all types of people. Further, urban centers cannot be assumed capable of providing adequate livelihood opportunities for all those unable to make a living in agriculture. For these reasons, a healthy rural non-farm economy seems to hold a promise of improved livelihoods for people living in rural areas.

A household enters non-farm employment due to demand-pull or distress-push, for coping or accumulating, to fulfill a need or take advantage of the opportunity etc. Some studies indicate that distress-

push factors drives majority of the poor into rural non-farm employment. There are some significant factors that determine a household's access to non-farm livelihood opportunities. Education helps people increasingly get into service areas like teaching, health, police and other government jobs. Similarly those who have market-driven vocational skills are either graduating to employer level in their skill area or getting absorbed into the newly emerging non-farm livelihoods with relative ease. Social capital in the form of networks is also a key determinant. Well established networks will help improved access to financial systems and markets. Access to credit helps non-farm economy significantly. For instance, in some villages, SHG members borrowed money to buy auto rickshaws for their livelihood. Villages with better physical infrastructure like roads, electricity etc., are better placed to diversify into multitude of livelihoods. So is the case with the level of public services. Closeness to urban markets creates lot of opportunities for rural non-farm activities but it may also mean that goods or services produced within the rural household become vulnerable to competition from factory-made substitutes from urban centers. Caste system also plays some influencing role in a household adopting a particular non-farm activity. When we look rural non-farm activities from gender perspective, the average participation of women in non-farm employment is generally less compared to women in rural areas especially among the newly emerging ones like transport, repairs, plumbing and electrical works etc. In addition to this, in areas that are endowed with natural resources much of the non-farm employment opportunities crop from mining, quarrying, timber works and tourism



etc. And surpluses from agriculture and/or remittances from migration help some households to engage in non-farm activities as alternative livelihoods.

The rural non-farm activities are of great importance to rural economy because of their production linkages and employment effects. The income they provide to rural households represents a substantial and sometimes growing share of rural incomes. Often this share is particularly high for the rural poor. There is evidence that these contributions are becoming increasingly significant for food security, poverty alleviation and farm sector competitiveness and productivity. However, returns from rural non-farm sector are highly variable and depend on activities taken up. Usually, the returns from self-employment exceed hired work. There is a wide gap in returns between activities that require little or no capital to enter, and skills and that can be easily acquired on the job and those activities that demand capital, land or formal education. Although, the rural non-farm sector has tremendous potential of removing unemployment in villages, the government has not been serious to address the basic problems plaguing this sector. Major bottlenecks in the holistic development of this sector are poor quality of employment and incomes, shortage of skilled manpower, unavailability of credit facilities, absence of marketing networks, poor transportation facilities, low public investment in villages, lack of basic amenities in rural areas, poor law and order scenario, erratic power supply, etc. Besides, not much has been done to develop technologies relevant for the sector. Entrepreneurs are by and large reluctant to invest in the rural non-farm sector. Not many NGOs, CSOs and political groups are engaged in organizing and empowering the rural communities to be proactive and develop non-farm sector enterprises on their own.

Improved infrastructure like electricity, cold storage etc in rural areas will give impetus to agro-processing activities and associated livelihoods. India has multitude and highly diverse livelihoods, most of which are household or small enterprises. These entrepreneurs can come together. Labour-intensive, capital-light, local-resource based rural manufacturing can be taken up. The strength of SHGs can be leveraged for this. The skills of many artisanal groups are quickly becoming irrelevant or facing stiff competition with technology improvements and mechanization. While the skills of some of these artisans can be upgraded and market linkages facilitated, others need access to alternative skills/vocations. Collectives like Producers Companies (PC) can help in procurement, marketing and redistribution of non-farm products and services. Efforts can be made to ensure that timely credit flows seamlessly into the rural sectors. PURA needs to gain momentum. The depth and breadth of public services in rural areas should proliferate. Apart from generating new livelihood opportunities for the youth within the public services itself, these measures will create an enabling environment for other non-farm livelihoods to take off and gain momentum. Social security measures and minimum wages need to come in place quickly. While government programs have given some fillip to rural employment opportunities, parallel efforts should be made to impart new skills, upgrade existing skills of the vast rural workforce, so they have the advantage of competing in any market on par with their urban counterparts. Education and vocational trainings hold the key to unleash the potential of rural India. Now is the time!

**\*Livelihoods March-2009**

## 26. Indian Handicrafts

***India is known globally for its rich heritage of Arts and Crafts. The handicrafts sector enjoys a special significance in the country's economy in terms of employment generation and earnings of foreign exchange through exports. Many agricultural and pastoral communities depend on their traditional craft skills as a secondary source of income in times of drought, lean harvests, floods or famine. In the era of globalization and mechanization, protecting and preserving the traditional skills of Indian artisans, while ensuring that they provide viable livelihood option for their owners is a great challenge.***



Handicrafts are a unique expression of a country's culture, tradition and heritage. India has a history of rich and diverse culture and tradition. And among its diversity, the legacy of India's craft culture always occupies a special place owing to its beauty, dignity, form, style and aesthetics. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defined "Handicrafts" as products, which are produced either completely by hand or with the help of tools. Mechanical tools may be used as long as the direct manual contribution of the artisan remains the most substantial component of the finished product. Handicrafts are made from raw materials and can be produced in unlimited numbers. Such products can be utilitarian, aesthetic, artistic, creative, culturally attached, decorative,

functional, traditional, religiously and socially symbolic and significant. The GoI defined "Handicrafts" as the products, which are made by hand; should have some artistic value; they may or may not have functional utility. It is a fact, that Indian handicrafts have very ancient origin and of high quality. They have customarily received royal and aristocratic patronage and handicrafts men were honored by other communities.

Handicrafts play very important role in representing the culture and traditions of any country or region. Handicrafts are a substantial medium to preserve rich traditional art, heritage and culture, traditional skills and talents, which are associated with people's lifestyle and history. Handicrafts also play important role in terms of economic development, as they provide ample opportunities for employment, even with low capital investments and become a prominent medium for foreign earnings. In India, Handicrafts form an important sector of the economy, contributing substantially to manufacturing income, employment, and exports, and the scale of these contributions is increasing. The part-time, rural nature of much crafts activity also complements the lifestyles of many crafts workers, provides supplementary income to seasonal agricultural workers and part-time income to women, and provides craftspeople with the means to remain in their traditional villages, where alternative employment opportunities are limited. In India, more than 8 million people including a large number of women are employed in handicrafts industry directly. These crafts persons are provided with inherent skill, technique and traditional craftsmanship. It is estimated that another 15 million people are engaged in the entire supply chain of handicrafts products. As per the survey of National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), of the total workforce engaged in Indian handicrafts industry, about 47% are women while 37% of the workforce comes under the backward communities like SCs and STs. Many craftspeople themselves express the strong desire to remain in their traditional profession. And although many are highly talented and extremely skilled in their own craft form, most are poorly educated or illiterate and come from caste groups of low social status.

The Handicraft sector is highly creative sector and produces large variety of crafts products. This industry is localized segment of the domestic and international market. The sector is highly labour intensive, cottage based and decentralized industry. The total worth of India's handicrafts industry stood at \$100 billion per annum and India's share in the world handicraft's market is 1.2%. Handicrafts industry comprises diversified products portfolio and there is large variety available in market. Handicrafts products can be distinguished into Metal ware, Wood ware, Hand printed textiles, Embroidered and crocheted goods, Shawls, Carpets, Bamboo products, Zari goods, Imitation jewelry, Paintings, Earthenware, Jute products, Marble Sculpture, Bronze Sculpture, Leather Products and other miscellaneous handicrafts. These products can be classified into two categories: articles of everyday use and decorative items. Of these diverse range of products textile based handicrafts, form an important segment and is concentrated in many pockets across the country. Hand printed textiles including block and screen printing, batik, kalamkari (hand printing by pen) and bandhani (tie and die) are used in products ranging from bed-covers to sheets, dress material to upholstery and tapestry. The famous embroidered articles of silk and cotton often embellished with mirrors, shells, beads, and metallic pieces are also found in India.

Embroidery is done too on leather,? and velvet etc. This segment of the industry accounts for almost half a million strong employment in addition to a large number of designers, block makers, weavers and packers involved in the trade.

Brass, copper, bronze, bell metal etc are used for a variety of wares and in a variety of finishes. Scintillating ornaments are available in a wide range of patterns, styles and compositions. Made from precious metals, base metals, precious and semi-precious stones; these ornaments have traditional as well as modern styles. Wooden

### **Handicrafts Centers of India:**

Handicraft industry in India is spread throughout the country with greater concentration in rural and suburban areas of country.

#### **Metal ware and Bronze sculpture:**

Major Manufacturing units are located in Moradabad, Sambhal, Aligarh, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Delhi, Thanjavur, Jagadhari etc.

#### **Wooden art ware and sculpture:**

Major Manufacturing units are located in Sharanpur, Nagina, Hoshiarpur, Srinagar, Amritsar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bangalore, Mysore, Behrampur etc.

#### **Embroidered item:**

Manufacturing Units are located in Kutch, Jaisalmer, Baroda, Lucknow, Jodhpur, Agra, Amritsar, Kullu and Srinagar.

#### **Marble and soft stones crafts:**

Agra, Madras, Bastar and Jodhpur are famous for these craft products.

#### **Paper Crafts:**

These manufacturing units are located in places of Kashmir and Jaipur.

**Terracotta units** are located in state of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bastar.

#### **Hand printed textiles and scarves:**

Amroha, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Farrukhabad, Bagru and Sanganer consist of manufacturing units.

**Zari and zari products** are manufactured at units located at Surat, Agra, Varanasi and Amritsar.

#### **Imitation Jewelry:**

Parts of Delhi, Moradabad, Sambhal, Jaipur and Kohima consist of manufacturing units for these jewelry products.

articles in India range from the ornately carved to the absolutely simple. One can find toys, furniture, decorative articles, etc. bearing the art and individuality of the craftsman. India is known particularly for its lacquered wood articles. The intricately carved stoneware made of marble, alabaster or soapstone, etc., inlaid with semiprecious stones carry on the heritage of Indian stone crafts. Glass and ceramic products are a fast upcoming segment in the handicrafts from India. The age-old production process of mouth-blowing the glass instills a nostalgic feeling. The varied shapes of ceramic and glass in a number of colors, would appeal to Western aesthetics while retaining the Indian touch. The craftsmen and craftswomen, who create these different handicrafts often have learned their art as a hereditary profession and are taught from infancy. Some skills are so intricate and so specialized (such as the famous thewa gold filigree-on-glass jewelry or the grinding of local stones and minerals into paint pigments) that the manufacturing process is a secret still closely guarded by a small number of families. Others acquire their individual luster through lifelong apprenticeship and practice. Some are regional specialties whose techniques, motifs, and materials make them instantly identifiable; others are found, with some variation, in communities throughout India. What all the many thousands of beautiful and unique craft expressions in India have in common, though, is that the weavers, potters, carvers, painters, embroiderers, goldsmiths, and others who create such beauty with consummate skill and knowledge enjoy few of the fruits of their labor.

When it comes to the marketing of handicraft products, there are majorly three channels of distribution. Retailers/direct sales are the most common distribution channel for selling handicrafts in India. There are large numbers of retailers who provide wide range of products in India. Apart from retail and direct sales channels, wholesalers and distributors also provide large range of handicraft products. Wholesalers can keep product stock in bulk and can sell direct to final consumer or retailer. Internet has emerged as one of the promising distribution channel for selling the handicrafts products. It is estimated that internet will be one of the major channel for the distribution of handicrafts products through E-Commerce. Easily available on global basis and cost effective way has made Internet a good marketplace to buy, sell, and promote the products. Handicraft sector in India has emerged as one of the major contributors for Export and foreign earnings. India's major export markets are USA, Germany, UK, France and Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, and Italy etc and wide range of products like Art Metal wares, Wood wares, Hand printed textiles, Embroidered and Crocheted goods, Shawls as art wares, Zari goods, Imitation jewelry, Carpets, Leather products, Jute products, Paintings, Bamboo products, Earthen ware, Marble Sculpture, Bronze Sculpture etc are exported to these countries. Recognizing its importance in the country's economy, Government of India has taken many steps to supplement the efforts of concerned states (as



handicrafts is a state subject as per the Constitution) for the promotion of handicrafts sector. Many schemes such as Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Marketing Support and Service Scheme, Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme, Training and Extension Scheme etc were introduced by the Government to help the crafts persons in achieving better gains from the production and marketing of handicrafts.

Apart from the above schemes, the government is also taking special measures for promotion and development of crafts by encouraging the artists through awards and by popularizing the products through exhibitions and establishing handicraft emporiums. Besides, the All India Handicrafts Board was established in 1952 to study the problems confronting the handicrafts, to improve and develop the production techniques and new designs to suit the changing tastes and to promote marketing in India and abroad. In a global context, the International Trade Centre (ITC) point out that support to crafts has "become a must on the path towards poverty alleviation and environment protection, two topical and compelling concerns worldwide". The growing interest in the role that crafts can play in the development process has also led to increasing involvement in this area by a great many international organizations and agencies, among them the International Development Bank (IDB), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and others. However, all these interventions have not much benefited the rural crafts persons. Though the volume of trade and earnings in the sector has increased multifold, the growth has not helped in improving the status of the poor artisans. Further, they are fallen into much dire situations. They are many problems that led them to this situation. Though some problems are specific to the concerned craft items, some basic problems are common to all and the most important of them are as follows.

As there has been the evolution of the modern market economy, the artisans have lost their holds over the old patron-client business network and jajmani relationship. In the globalization times, though with their products going global and increasing demand for it, there is a rise in the handicraft sector economy, still the artisans have become increasingly dependent on middle men and trader entrepreneurs who pay the artisans wages on piece rate bases. The low bargaining power of the artists in a liberalized and comparatively more competitive market has forced the artisans to depend upon the middle-men. The government's initiative to create cooperatives has not become much successful. Craft workers who have little formal education and are rarely organized are subject to many exploitative work conditions. Artisans generally lack knowledge of and access to means of increasing quality and productivity, especially in the areas of skill development, design input (to meet market requirements), and technical innovation (in such areas as laborsaving methodology, standardization, productivity enhancement, and environmental concerns and consumer safety).

Crafts producers suffer greatly from lack of working capital and access to credit and loan facilities. The producer who receives a large order will often not be able to find the funds necessary to purchase raw material in bulk, or to support the family while the work is in process. And the irony is that the amounts that could make a real difference to the crafts producer are often extremely modest. Various credit schemes are available to craftspeople, primarily through government institutions, but it is difficult for the uneducated artisan to understand and access these programs, and it is often impossible for a poor crafts person to manage the necessary collateral or funds for required bribes. A major disadvantage of life in the "unorganized sector" is the total lack of civic, professional, and social service infrastructure. The individual crafts person suffers from all of these problems. Scarce and irregular electricity, lack of good roads, and absence of transportation facilities are professional problems as well as daily aggravations. Craft specific professional infrastructure—work sheds, storage space, shipping and packing facilities—is totally lacking for most rural crafts producers. And social services infrastructure—insurance, pension plans, medical care—is something beyond hope.

In addition to these practical problems, the crafts person in most cases gets little recognition or tangible reward for extraordinary skill or talent. This lack of professional respect is at least partially because crafts production in India is still linked to caste status, and crafts-producing communities, with very few exceptions, are at the lower levels of the social scale. Further, the crafts producer has little means of protecting individual creative innovations or traditional community knowledge. Copying is a way of life in India, and exploitation is pervasive at every level. Dealers and designers freely appropriate designs of traditional artisans. Crafts producers who specialize in unique, time-consuming processes suffer competition from cheap knockoffs in local markets. And craftspeople themselves often leak unique designs belonging to their clients to the highest bidder. On a larger scale, a recent trend has been for buyers to have samples designed and produced in India, but manufactured in bulk in China or Southeast Asia. The original producer, needless to say, benefits from this not at all. It has also been observed that many quotidian crafts are replaced by cheap machine made finished items these days. Plastic sandals are replaced by the leather made chappals, clay pottery items are being replaced by plastic plates, jugs etc.

As a consequence of all these problems, most of the artists are now a days choosing to shift to other professions rather than to stick into their hereditary occupation. A UN report suggests that over the past three-four decades in India, the number of artisans has declined by at least 30 % with many joining the ranks of casual laborers and the informal economy.

It is high time for providing fuller support, both financial and skill based, from the government to the local yet valuable crafts persons of our great cultural heritage, since once lost nothing can replace it. The illiterate poor artists and the vulnerable crafts still need strong support from the government, not half-heartedly with a



withdrawal motivation, rather with sincere and genuine efforts. The government should spend more money in this sector in promoting and marketing the crafts and giving training to the artists.

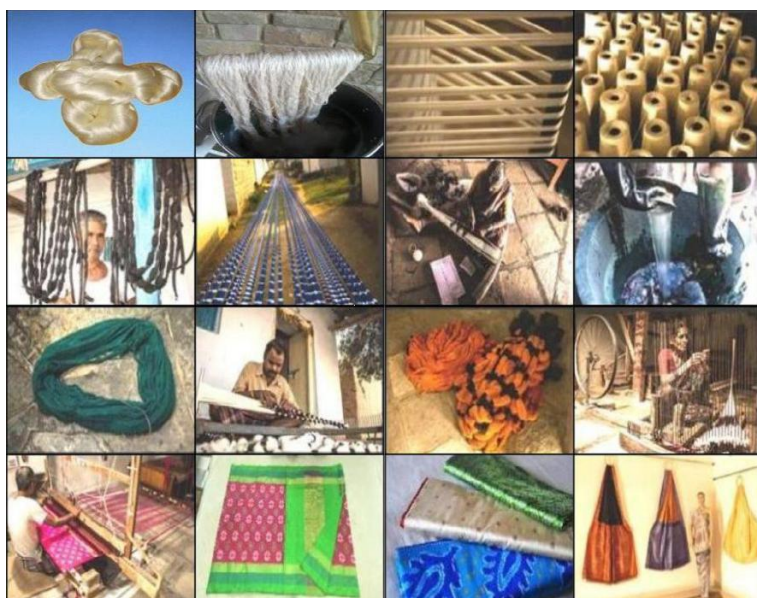
In addition, various co-operatives, voluntary associations also need to put sincere efforts for the better working condition of the artists. Some NGOs have already started supporting the traditional crafts with various varieties of interventions. For example DWARAKA (Development of Weavers and Rural Artisans in Kalamkari Art), an organization supports hundreds of Kalamkari artists of Andhra Pradesh by providing loans for the education of their children and providing medical and marriage expenses. Similarly 'Dastakar', an NGO, facilitates skilled artisans from different states to sell their products through its various exhibitions. These kinds of efforts need to be scaled up and replicated across all kinds of handicrafts and craft persons. The production base in Indian handicrafts sector is much unorganized. The craftsmen use traditional tools and techniques for which the production base is very weak. So, for improvement in the quality of production, it is necessary to upgrade the skill of the artists who should be supplied with quality raw material and adequate financial assistance. At the same time care should be taken for innovation but it should not root out originality. Besides, the marketing and export of the products need special attention. The craftsmen should also be properly exposed to the market leaving a little room for the intrusion of the middlemen.

Various developmental institutions like World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UNESCO etc are considering the handicrafts sector as an important source of employment creation and are viewing the support to be extended to this industry as an investment in development rather than expenditure. This shift in understanding, if happened across all the stakeholders of the sector, will go a long way in reviving the sector. India's rapidly growing middle class, in search of an identity that is both Indian and contemporary, provides a natural and growing market for a utilitarian yet aesthetic handcrafted product at a price that is competitive and cost effective. We cannot afford to ignore these new markets and needs. Craft products will have to be developed differently, marketed and promoted in innovative and varied ways, if they are to compete and survive.

**\*Livelihoods May-2011**

## 27.Handloom Industry

*The handloom sector plays a very important role in country's economy. It is second largest economic activity providing direct employment next to agriculture. Over 65 lakhs persons are engaged in weaving and allied activities. This industry is largely household-based, carried out with labour contributed by the entire family. It is dispersed, spread across thousands of villages and towns in the country. The industry also exhibits much diversity in terms of products, organizational base, as well as in relations between actors within the production structure. The handloom is a simple machine used for weaving. The loom is made of wood and powered by hand.*



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Handloom Industry has very different organizational structures: On the basis of organizational structure and the relations of production, the handloom sector can be divided into following sectors: i) Independent Weavers, ii) Co-operative sector and iii) Master-Weavers.

**1. Independent Weavers:** Independent weavers are those, who produce cloth on their own. They also own the instruments of production and purchase raw materials from the traders in the market, after producing fabric with family labour and sell products in the local market or to traders.

**2. Co-operative Sector:** The handloom co-operatives are a major segment accounting for a large proportion of weavers as members. These co-operatives, that emerged as a mechanism for protecting the weavers from the dominant master-weavers and traders and had recorded notable success in their objective, have seen a decline since 1980s. The handloom co-operative societies will give raw materials to those, who are members in their societies. Then, the co-operative societies will buy back the products from weavers. Besides this, co-operative provides thrift to weavers and loan advance also.

**3. Master-Weavers:** The master-weavers or handloom entrepreneurs produce cloth by employing wage laborers. Either they directly market the product or sell it to traders. Here two kinds of production practices exist: i) put-out system and ii) Kharkhana or shed system, the weavers works at their home on their own loom, using raw material along with designs and supplied by the master-weavers for a piece rate wage. The entire families of the weavers are involved in production process – with adult members engaged in weaving and aged and children helping in the preparation of accessories. In the kharkhana or shed-worker system, the weavers work on looms, provided by the master weavers under one roof.

Handloom products are silk sarees, cotton sarees, cotton dress material, bed sheets with pillow covers, deewan sets, half sarees, towels, lungis, suits and shirting and others. And, also Handloom industry caters to home

furnishing products such as fridge covers, curtain covers, bags and other products.

Handloom varieties:

**North East (Handloom Situation):** The handloom industry plays a dominant role in culture and economic development of rural masses in majority of the North- Eastern (NE) States. In this region, almost all tribes and communities in hills and the plains are actively engaged in this handloom activity. As per the Handloom census 2010, out of 27.8 lakh handloom worker households in India, nearly 61% belonged to NE region, which comprises of states like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. In terms of total workforce in handlooms, there are around 43.3 lakh weavers in India, out of whom 21.6 lakh belong to NE region. It contributed half of the total workforce in handloom sector. Over 53% of the looms in the country and more than 50% of the weavers belong to north-east and bulk of the handloom output is contributed by people residing in hills and rural areas. Hence, handloom sector plays a significant role in economy of the region. Major product are towels, it is called as 'Gamcha'.

**Tussar silk:** One of the famous handloom varieties in the world is Tussar silk and India is the second largest producer of Tussar silk and the exclusive producer of Indian Tussar, which is largely tended to by tribals. Much of it is produced in Bhagalpur (where it is called Bhagalpur silk) in Bihar and Malda district of West Bengal. Tussar silk is also used for Odisha's Patachitras and West Bengal's Kantha stitches. Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh also produce Tussar silk. In recent years, Jharkhand state has emerged, as the biggest producer of Tussar silk. The total value of annual trade is around Rs. 100 crores, about half of which comes from exports.

**Banaras silk:** Banaras is one of the rich weaving craft centres of India. It is famous for brocade sarees and dress materials. The unique and intricate silk brocades and sarees of Banaras have made it world famous. The sarees are made of silk warp and silk weft, on plain/satin ground base, brocaded with extra weft patterns in different layouts introducing Buties, Bells, Creepers, Buttas in ground, border and anchal (pallu) for getting glamorous appearance. With the change in time and consumer preference, the weavers of the clusters are also undertaking changes in the designs and patterns of the products along with product diversification. In order to cater to the need of the overseas and domestic buyers, the weavers of the clusters are also producing silk dhotis, stoles, scarfs, mufflers, mats, dress materials, wall hangings, home furnishings like curtains, cushion covers, table covers, napkins, runners, etc.,

**Kalamkari:** Kalamkari is an ancient hand printed textile art that finds its roots in the state of Andhra Pradesh. "Kalam" implies pen and "kari" means art, a name given by the Mughals when they discovered the art during their reign over the Deccan region. Kalamkari is the art of drawing and painting with a bamboo pen using natural dyes. There are two main styles of Kalamkari. The block printed style, that is practiced in the town of Machilipatnam of Andhra Pradesh and the hand painted style that is largely practiced in the town of Srikalahasti of Andhra Pradesh. While the block printed Kalamkari is commonly seen and used in a variety of lifestyle and home products, the hand painted style is lesser seen. Research is going-on on the hand painted Kalamkari to try and increase its visibility by targeting the younger market.

**Other handloom varieties:** India is famous for handlooms and its sarees. Indian sarees have a huge demand and popularity on the global scene. Handloom weavers from various parts of the country produce diverse varieties of sarees, which have some special and distinctive features.

1. Banarasi sarees: Banarasi sarees are one of the most popular forms of traditional handloom sarees in India and the world, perfect for weddings as well as other festive occasions.
2. Patola sarees: Patola sarees are the handloom sarees from the state of Gujarat. They are made from a special type of fabric called Patola silk and need the hand of an expert craftsman to make them.
3. Sambalpuri sarees: Sambalpuri sarees are one of the best varieties of handloom sarees in India, having their roots in the state of Odisha. The most outstanding thing about them are the natural dyes used to give them the vibrant colors they feature, a process which may take up to five weeks.
4. Kanjivaram/Kanchipuram silk sarees: Kanjivaram/Kanchipuram silk sarees are the traditional South Indian traditional sarees. These sarees are native to Tamil Nadu and come in elegant designs and bold color contrasts.
5. Tussar silk sarees: Tussar silk sarees are elegant handloom sarees which come from Bihar and carry the touch of the famous Madhubani printing designs, which make them absolutely unique.
6. Kantha sarees: Kantha sarees are a gift of the eastern state of West Bengal, which exhibit stylish patterns in the form of simple stitching all over the saree surface.
7. Bandhini sarees: Bandhini sarees are made through the traditional art of tie and dye which is indigenous to

the state of Gujarat and these handloom sarees are appreciated for their unique designs created with the liberal usage of wax.

8. Tant Sarees: Tant sarees come from the artistic state of West Bengal. These sarees carry a wide border with elegant silk thread work, while the pallu exhibits elaborate designs.
9. Chanderi silk sarees: Chanderi silk sarees are the traditional handloom sarees hailing from the state of Madhya Pradesh. They are light weight sarees done in soft cotton or silk texture and look extremely graceful, with narrow border and booti designs.
10. Munga sarees: Munga sarees are crafted in the traditional silk fabric which comes from Assam. These sarees come in traditional designs and present a unique three dimensional effect, which makes them very stylish.
11. Pochampally Ikat sarees: Pochampally Ikat is also the first product from India's traditional craft sector from the state of Telangana. It has Rajkot design with tie & die done with silk texture and looks extremely graceful.

**Jute:** Handloom is a traditional technology to produce specialty fabrics as well as ordinary fabrics in the rural and semi-urban areas scattered throughout India. West Bengal is traditionally rich in both cotton handloom and jute yarn making by its technology and availability. Although jute is an age old fibre, its use in small scale weaving sector has not been popular, so far probably due to the non-availability of relatively small quantity or good quality of jute or jute blended yarn readily from the mills or from the retail market for weaving on handlooms and lack of suitable technology with the handloom weavers for production of jute and jute blended fabrics in the economical way.

**Bamboo weaving:** In the context of handloom, some of the handloom weavers are doing weaving with bamboo fibres. Bamboo fibres are produced from Bamboo Plants. Predominantly, bamboo fibres and textiles are used in bed linen, bath robes, flannels, bath mats, towels, aprons, oven gloves, tea towels, nappies, sanitary napkins, intimate apparels, sweaters, bath-suits, blankets, underwear, swimwear, t-shirts, socks, bandages, mask, surgical cloths, wall papers, curtains & furnishing fabrics.

**Jamdani weaving:** Jamdani sarees are one of the popular textiles of Bengali women. Popularly known as Dhakai Jamdani or simply Dhakai, this art of textile weaving has its roots in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Considered to be one of finest varieties of muslin, that is hand woven from cotton, the art flourished under the Mughal patronage. Even the name, Jamdani, is of Persian origin and comes from the word "jam" meaning flower and "dani" meaning vase. The name is suggestive of the beautiful floral motifs on these sarees.

**Allied handloom sector:** According to 2009-10 census, it was captured that there were only 15.2% male workers engaged in allied jobs in the handloom sector and 84.8% females were found in allied activities in India. In the handloom households, mostly female members engage themselves in winding of yarn, warping, winding of pirns, dyeing, sizing and post-loom operations, resulting in higher female participation than male participation in allied activities. Entire India, women workers play major role in handlooms and allied workers.

**Organizations working for Handloom:** In India, there are many organizations working for handloom industry. Along with state handloom cooperatives, private organizations also playing major role. In this regards, we are focusing on some organizations, those are Dastakar Andhra, Fab India and Rangasutra.

**Dastakar Andhra:** Dastakar Andhra promotes rural livelihoods by providing technical training for handloom weavers and linking rural co-operative institutions to marketing networks in urban India. This ensures sustainable livelihoods for handloom weavers, who face the threat of large scale migration into urban slums and helps a generation of weavers to come out of poverty.

**Fab India:** Fab India is an Indian chain store retailing garments, furnishings, fabrics and ethnic products handmade by craftspeople across rural India. The products of FabIndia are mainly sourced from villages helping to provide and sustain rural employment in India. The hand-crafted products also encourage good craftsmanship. Now catering to urban India as well, Fab India differentiated itself from other government-owned and often subsidized players in handloom fabrics and apparel sector like Khadi Village Industry Corporation (KVIC) and various state emporiums by adapting its fabrics and designs to urban taste.

**Rangasutra:** Rangasutra is a community owned Craft Company (CC) of over a thousand artisans from remote regions of India – the deserts of Rajasthan and plains of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and all the way to Manipur in the North East. Rangasutra ensures sustainable livelihoods for artisans and farmers by creating top quality hand made products based on the principles of fair trade and a celebration of India's rich craft heritage. Rangasutra was created to ensure regular work and market access to artisans. Artisans are co-owners and shareholders in the enterprise. They are part of board of directors and have a say in costing, planning, production and wages. The framed company share certificate prominently displayed on the wall of an artisan's hut in rural Rajasthan,

signifies a small but important transformation in many lives.

**Organic cotton:** The cotton was traditionally the single largest natural fibre used in clothing. Today, India occupies the second place in cotton production in the world. Many varieties of cotton are produced in our country, the majority being the short staple variety which is ideal for hand spinning. In 2011, cotton cloth constituted nearly 73% of total clothes produced by the mill sector; 87% of the handloom sector; 31% of decentralized powerloom sector; and 86% of decentralized hosiery sector. Overall, the share of cotton is nearly 51%. It has moved away from growing short staple varieties, but still produces good amounts of cotton both for domestic use and for export. Heavy use of pesticide had led to many problems and so now there is a shift to organic farming.

**Natural dyes/ vegetable colors:** In the handloom, role of colors is very important. But, majority of the handloom weavers are using chemical colors. They are often highly toxic, carcinogenic, and sometimes even explosive. The dye effluents that are dumped into rivers are also highly toxic and kill aquatic organisms. In this regard, some of the handloom weavers are shifting towards natural colors. In the present scenario of sustainable design, becoming eco-friendly is the buzzword. Thus, people are shifting towards using natural dyes. Men play major role in dyeing activities in handlooms.

According to the 2009-10 Census, nearly 27.83 lakh handloom households are engaged in weaving and allied activities, out of which 87% are located in rural areas and remaining 13% are in urban areas. The majority (82%) of handloom households are weaver households, which means that at least one member of every such household is engaged in weaving. Out of the 38.47 lakh adult persons engaged in weaving and allied activities in the country, 77.90% are women. 10.13% belong to the Scheduled Castes (SC), 18.12% belong to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 45.18% belong to Other Backward Classes (OBC).

#### **Entire Handloom process:**

**Warping process:** The length of silk yarn after dyeing is brought simultaneously, in winding process. The warping is carried out in streets preferably in the early morning, so that the color of the silk yarn would not be sun-bleached. The length of the yarn is tied between the two poles and the warp is stretched. Entangles in the yarn are checked and then knotted. A cotton thread is laced into the warp as it helps to trace the entangled silk threads.

**Designing and dyeing:** The designer draws lines across the yarn to indicate the design. Rubber bindings are placed on the yarn, according to the markings of designer. These bindings will resist the dye. The yarn is then dyed with the initial base color. The bindings are removed. The yarn is stretched out on poles in the sun to dry.

**Bobbin Winding:** Yarn in the hank form is wound onto bobbins in this process. This is the first step in transforming the yarn from the hank form to a linear form. Dyed hank yarn is wound on to bobbins with the help of charkhas. This process enables laying out of yarn lengths for weaving. Bobbin winding is done by women in the weaver households.

**Attaching the warp onto the loom:** Individual warp threads are drawn through heddles taken through a set of reeds and tied onto beams located on both ends of the loom. The heddles separate the warp into two sections, which allows the weft threads to pass between them easily. Checks and stripes are created by segmenting the warp and weft yarn. For motifs, looms are equipped with "dobbies" or "jacquard" cards which help in lifting segments of warp yarn into the weft. Heddles are made out of rods or cords, each with an eye through, which the warp thread is drawn. Reed is a comb like frame that pushes the weft yarn firmly against the finished cloth after each insertion.

**Weaving Process:** Weaving is done on fly shuttle pit looms. The weaver interlaces the threads of weft and warp. The shuttle passes through the opens formed when the pedal is operated to interlock the threads of warp and the weft. Once the shuttle is passed, the suspended rope from jacquard is pulled to form the weave. The portion of woven cloth is wound to the wooden beam which is in front of the weaver. In case of sarees, after weaving of six meters of weft, the portion of unwoven warp is intentionally left before and after the saree weaving which is later knotted for fringe. Thus the weaving is completed; the unwoven stands are cut out with a small metal blade and sari is folded in traditional manner for marketing. It takes nearly four to five days to complete one saree.

**Weavers are leaving the profession:** From the last decade, lots of weavers are quitting weaving and going out for other works like (watchmen, shop keepers, workers in shopping malls, kirana shops, etc.). Decline and transformation was a worldwide phenomenon in 19th and early 20th century in the artisan group. Increasing use of capital intensive technology and competition are typically the chief characteristics of industrialization. Handloom is facing problems like powerlooms, foreign clothes products, lack of market support, increasing raw material costs, lack of sufficient support from the government and increasing the labour cost. The number of

India's handloom weavers is on the decline, as low pay and rising costs are making traditional workers look to other trades.

Non-weavers communities are adopting & practicing handlooms: Non-weavers are coming into the handloom industry especially people belong to the backward castes. They are securing employment from the handloom industry. They do their community works as primary livelihoods and handloom works as secondary works. The non-weaver communities do handloom work during offseason.

**New Products/changing:** The weavers of handloom industry demonstrates, the richness and diversity of Indian culture, with over 4.3 million people directly involved in the production. Indian handloom products are known for their unique design and finesse. The trend is to mix old designs with new techniques and create original products. Handloom industry has strong infrastructure, with about 2.4 million looms of varied designs and construction, indicating significant production capacity.

**Geographical Indication (GI):** Pochampally, a natural cluster in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana is the single largest handloom tie and dye weaving center famous for "Ikat- Tie and Dye" sarees. Pochampally Ikat is also the first product from India's traditional craft sector to be awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) status under the Indian Geographical Indications Act, 1999. Geographical Indications (GI), one of the six Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), seeks to provide protection to products registered as GI goods.

**Pochampally Handloom Park Ltd (PHPL):** The Pochampally Handloom Park Limited (PHPL) established in 2008 at Kanumukkula village. It is about 9 kilometers from Pochampally headquarters and is spread over a 24 acre land. 35 entrepreneurs from Pochampally have come together to take up the initiative of the Government of India (GoI) in setting up the Handloom park. The Handloom Park is supported by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The sprawling premises have the capacity of accommodating around 500 looms. It is an integrated handloom textile facility comprising designing, tying and dyeing, weaving, etc., all under a single roof with a focus to sustain the unique Ikat technique on textiles. The aim is to provide livelihoods for weavers and to train the new generation of weavers at the skills school in the art of IKAT.

**Institutions and Policies:** The handloom sector is the beneficiary of many government schemes designs to aid and increase the livelihoods of the weavers in what is a crucial sector of the economy, especially in rural areas. The 'clusters' and Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) centers, receive grants and funding from the government in procurement, training and marketing stages.

The Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) is a non-profit organization, established to promote market access, awareness and trade for the handloom sector. It does this by arranging trade fares, promoting trade links and disseminating information to handloom sector, such as market analyses and product/technology innovations.

The weavers also have access to many government schemes such as the Apadbhandu scheme which provides money to the weavers' family in case of injury or death; the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), provides health insurance to weavers to the amount of Rs. 60,000 for natural death and Rs.75,000 for accidents; a Thrift Fund, which is made up of money given by the central and state governments as well as the weavers themselves, which serves as a five year capital fund; Eye camp schemes where weavers are treated for diseases, such as cataracts which is paid for by the government and the Weaver Credit Card (WCC) scheme, where weavers can collect credit from the banks.

The Ministry of Textiles (MoT) has several schemes in place to combat the needs of the weavers, especially focusing on the need for credit and cheap inputs. The Ministry provides margin money assistance to the tune of Rs. 4,200 per weaver, interest subsidies at 3% a year for three years and credit guarantees for three years. The MoT also runs and facilitates marketing events, exhibitions and buyer seller meetings in order to increase the exposure of the handloom sector to new markets, both domestic and foreign.

Government intervention through financial assistance and implementation of various development and welfare schemes to handloom sector has been able to withstand competition from the power loom and mill sectors. It contributes nearly 19% of the total cloth produced in the country and also adds substantially to export earnings.

Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies' (HWCS) situation in India: As per, All India Handloom Census (2009-10), there are 23.77 lakh handlooms across the country. Furthermore, there are 44 Apex and 15926 functional Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies (PWCS) across the country.

#### **Issues of the Handloom Sector:**

**Raw materials:** Today, a major difficulty of handloom weavers across the country is the non-availability of adequate quantities of good quality yarn at reasonable prices. The gap between the supply and demand for hank yarn – which is, what is used by the handloom sector – is around 150 million kgs. Yarn shortages and steep

prices are continuing problems in the handloom sector. The yarn availability scenario is also affected by the proliferation of the power loom sector. Though power looms use cone yarn, they seek to avoid high yarn duty imposed on it by buying up hank yarn and converting it to cones (the cost of re-reeling being minimal). There is thus, a considerable diversion of hank yarn meant for the handloom sector to other players, creating conditions of shortage, high rates, etc.

There are other problems as well:

- First one, governmental intervention regarding yarn supply is confined to the co-operative sector. However, according to one estimate, only 20.3% of weavers come under this umbrella. For the rest working outside the co-operative fold, yarn access remains difficult. Since it passes through various hands, and dealers at each level add their own commissions, the price is considerably higher than mill rates. Most of this cost burden is transferred onto the weaver, especially since weavers are unable to bargain with yarn merchants or master weavers.
- Second one, weavers in different regions require different counts of yarn. This is not always available, leading to a mismatch in demand and supply.
- Third one, the supply and process of yarn have fluctuated with the fortunes of the cotton crop, as well as with policies pertaining to the export of yarn.

**Competition from Powerlooms:** For Handloom Industry, the major competition is from the powerloom industries. Another cause of concern is the phenomenal growth of the number of powerlooms despite all regulation. Today, authorized (registered) powerlooms stand at 16.55 lakhs, with the total being 34 lakhs inclusive of the unauthorized. The demand for the handloom fabric is appropriated by cheap powerloom imitations and the customer is cheated. In recent years, the powerlooms comprise an industry of considerable proportions. Thus, the modern powerloom industry is the most significant form of industrialization in India and unquestionably, one of the world's largest industries.

In 2011, the finance minister allocated Rs. 3000 crores to revive the handloom industry in the country with loan waiver and strengthening the weavers' cooperatives. Ironically, even after three years, the money has not reached the weavers and the revival itself seems a distant dream. In reality, the common persons too are cheated, when they purchase handloom products, designs, which actually is the product of a machine operated powerloom.

**Credit needs:** For handloom weavers, the credit facilities currently available to them are far from adequate. Even those made available through cooperatives rarely reach to whom it is intended. This is because master weavers control a number of co-operatives and tend to corner a substantial proportion of institutional credit. As indicated earlier, the majority of weavers are to be found outside the co-operative fold, weaving usually for master weavers or on their own. The credit needs of this sector have remained unaddressed. The existing situation is one, where the local master weaver provides consumption loans and/or advances, which, over time, render the weaver completely indebted to the master weaver.

**Marketing:** For handloom production, marketing is very important. There is a significant mismatch between cloth production and marketing which has yet to be seriously tackled. The decline of local markets for handlooms is a reality today, which has to be addressed both in terms of cost factor as well as other strategies. The separation of producers from the market has given rise to middlemen. Trader entrepreneurs, who may know the market well and thus be able to meet new demands often dominate existing marketing channels. But as traders, they also block the trickle-down of benefits even though the profit margin is quite high. The centralized marketing bodies of weaver co-operatives too have been malfunctioning. Not receiving payments in time, for the products supplied by the apex marketing agency, has led to the collapse of a number of co-operatives, since they are unable to generate/rotate capital for subsequent rounds of production.

**Health issues: Cataract problem, Back pain:** The weavers spend more than half of their income on health problems. The weavers are prone to catch contagious diseases as they live in unhygienic conditions as the places they live do not have proper hygiene, ventilation and light. As more people are crammed into a narrow space, contagious diseases spread fast from one to the other. Ambient atmosphere also becomes so stifling, given the humid and hot conditions in the area. Lack of proper nutrition and timely food is also a debilitating factor. Most of the weavers are suffering with asthma, T.B, arthritis, hydrosol, piles, reproductive problems, vision problem and bronchial problems. Moreover, as their work requires a lot of hard work and meticulousness, vision-related problems and back-related problems are high.

**Weavers Shift to Silk Handloom Weaving:** In these days, handloom industry is becoming stronger in some places in the country. As the handloom industry has been getting orders for handloom products from government

and traders. In some places many of the weavers are coming from powerlooms to handloom around the country to shift to silk handloom, weaving due to assured orders and steady wages.

For Example: In Pochampally, from the last three years onwards handloom weavers are adopting new design like Rajkot/ikat. As it has a very good market in the society or business market. So, the handloom weavers are working on that and getting good income and lot of weavers are getting employment.

**Conclusion:** Handloom industry is now facing many challenges because of the globalization and rapid technological developments. And, next generations not interest to continue with handloom sector. The handloom products are now being imitated on powerlooms, at much lower prices so there is a need to strengthen this sector by making quality products & create market demand for those products. Strengthening handloom industry requires various initiatives, such as bring all the weavers mandatory members under the umbrella of cooperatives, provide raw material at low cost, eliminate middlemen in the entire supply chain, establish forward and backward linkages for weavers' cooperatives with government, private, public and private players, government should provide insurance health, life and assets (loom and fabric), provide basic pensions to all the weavers (above 55), provide trainings on latest designs based on market trends, establish handloom parks for extensive promotion of the handloom products, specific state budget for handloom industry.

**\*livelihoods May-2017**



## 28. Street Vending

***Street vendors make 'invisible' but indispensable contribution to all categories of people in India and to national economy. However, the returns they get are trivial, both in terms of income or appreciation. Being part of informal sector, they are deprived of several benefits that their counterparts enjoy in organized sector. At least one out of five families, have a livelihood of street vending. There are some street vendors, who move from house-to-house or street-to-street; there are some who bring home, the products and tools at the end-of-the-day, after sales at a certain points or set of points of sale on the street/s; some are using foot paths and some others are using temporary shops and the diversity goes on into their other aspects of trade.***

'street vending' brings to mind two activities - that of a trader, who walks around the city offering goods and services without a fixed place, from which to operate, and that of a trader who sells merchandise or provides services from a fixed point, on the public thoroughfare. So, we are essentially talking about itinerant or mobile vending and stationary vending. The National Policy for Urban Street Vendors (NPUSV) recognizes another dimension: that of the traders, who carry out vending but not on a regular basis and without a specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals and so on. The main characteristic feature distinguishing street vendors from others, as per the National Policy, appears to be 'permanent built up structure' in a street. On the contrary, the street vendors with whom 'livelihoods' interacted, conceptualized someone as a street vendor if the person (a) had to pack and shift his/her normal merchandise every night from the place of sale to a safe location like his home, (b) approaches the customers (or is approached by the customers) while being on the streets, and the cue is person calling out in the street, and (c) the negotiation of sale is almost complete on the street itself. While they opined that the casual labour getting together at various places (labour addas) are also included in street vendors, people carrying loads to serve specific households only (like those selling sarees) would not qualify as street vendors. They felt that the latter were more like delivering gas cylinder refills to the households. Further, people who own small wooden structures (like paan/tea shops) are also not included, as they do not have to shift their merchandise back, to their homes every night. In a similar light, the road shows conducted as a sales strategy to penetrate newer areas and generate inquiries would not qualify as street vending as the negotiation of sale is nowhere complete at these stalls (road shows).



As one of its priority tasks, the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) set about estimating the number of street vendors. The estimates were based on the data, available in 55th round of National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted during 1999-2000. Workers engaged in retail trade according to their location of work were identified, and their number was 43.64 lakh. On the other hand, workers who describe themselves as street vendors and boot polishers working in different locations, including urban/ rural streets or without any fixed location were 30.50 lakh. The difference between the lower and higher estimate, might be due to the fact, that a number of 'workers engaged in retail trade and working in streets or without any fixed place of work' do not describe, themselves as street vendors. According to a study conducted during 1999-2000, by National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), Mumbai has the largest number of street vendors numbering around 250,000. Kolkata has more than 150,000 street vendors. Ahmedabad and Patna have around 80,000 each and Indore, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar have around 30,000 street vendors. Food vendors constitute a large part of the street vendors. here are various dimensions, in which street vending can be analyzed. Each dimension results in a separate way of categorization and each category has different requirements in terms of resources and capacities to take up street vending and imposes different kinds of constraints. One should be aware, of these different types before taking upon supporting street vending.

Stationary vendors sell the wares (or preparations) by being at one place on all the days. The place can be a small, semi-permanent shop like paanwallahs, or it might not have any structure at all. This calls for investing in taking licenses, building relationships with local people and staking claim over the place on the footpath. The

recurring expenses involve payment of fees and other charges (legal or otherwise). The benefits are in terms of cultivating clientele (where possible) and some ease in estimating the quantities to purchase, and highly reduced rents compared to a regular shop in the locality. The mobile vendors can be moving within a short distance or moving across larger distances or moving from one market to another, but most sales happen when they put up shop in the market. These three different categories require different investments and different supportive environments at home. Those moving within short distances need to stake claim to a territory for the purpose of sale and cultivate clients in locality, so that they do not purchase from other persons, coming to sell in their territory. In most cases, those moving over larger distances move in groups. These people will have to invest, in cultivating relationships with a few households in the distant locations, so that they can store their stock and get some shelter during night. This quid pro quo is different for different trades and needs to be understood. Another dimension for analysis is the extent of time for which the goods can be held. Some are involved in vending perishable goods like fruits and milk and some sell freshly prepared food items. Some are engaged in vending non-perishable goods like plastic goods and clothes, and some in seasonal goods like winter clothing. Vending fruits or freshly prepared snack foods calls for a better judgement of stocks to purchase/prepare, but has a quick turnover of the working capital. This also imposes limitations, on the extent of movement by the peddlers. Sometimes, this is on a daily basis and people depend on daily loans to be taken in the morning and repaid in the evening with interest. In the case of the first category, whether they would take up vending the next day depends a lot on the prices that prevail on the day. Several mobile fruit vendors do not take up the work on occasions when the prices are high, like festivals. On the other hand, those vending non-perishable and non-seasonal items like plastic goods, garlands made out of cheaper beads (baubles), etc., usually have to make investments that they feel are beyond their capacity. As these items weather out a lot, there is also wastage in the merchandise which they will have to deal with. In contrast, those engaged in vending seasonal items are somewhere in between. They need to estimate the stock to purchase in a conservative manner, while getting in all the variety required. Since they deal with some items only, and in a seasonal manner, they have difficulty in getting trade credit. They have some free time, during the season, in which they do not sell, and using this time effectively offers scope for improving their livelihood.

The rules governing street vending are determined by four major stakeholders:

- the street vendors themselves,
- the government and various persons claiming authority through the government,
- the residents where the mobile vendors go to sell their wares, and
- the creditors, the wholesale shops supplying items for sale and commuters associations.

The street vendors themselves have some informal agreements about, who sells what and where and at what time and when a new person can compete for a share in the trade. Generally, these rights are by first entrant into a locality, but thereafter are subject to intense negotiations and protection mechanisms. Since, the right to exclusively sell in a locality is not a legal right (and licenses can be given to many vendors to sell the same kind of items in the same locality), protecting rights requires, street vendors to develop support mechanisms, including good relationships with leaders of the locality of sale, as also the leaders of their own trade. The government regulates street vending by zoning and licensing. The objectives of regulation are de-congesting streets, maintaining law and order, ensuring that no one illegally occupies government land, ensuring quality (particularly with respect to food items) and ensuring revenue to the local bodies. However, the main economic advantage of street vending (in being a supply channel vending the cheaper varieties of goods) has often been ignored. National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (USV) has been adopted, under which the State Governments have been asked to regulate street vending without destroying the livelihoods of street vendors and without causing inconvenience to the public. While, most busy streets offer good business for street vendors, these form parts of the restricted zones under the policies adopted by State Governments. However, no policy till now exists, in regard to those not vending in urban areas. Government could impose special restrictions, on sale of hazardous items like fire crackers, liquor, etc. The residents in areas, where vendors go also try to regulate vending. Gated communities in urban areas, generally have restrictions on, who can come in for vending and at what times. Some communities are known, to have vigorously objected overcrowding of the streets with hawkers; and sometimes have objected to new hawkers coming on to the street.

The structure of the trade also imposes certain limitations on, who can take up the trade. For example, vegetables are available in wholesale markets as early as 4.30 am, and the mobile sales happen mostly in the early hours of the day from 7 am to 10.30 am. Hence, the person engaged in this occupation is out of the home by 3 am till 11 am. Due to these timings, women having responsibility of small children or have to cook for family cannot get into this occupation. While, such restrictions also appear in case of those involved in preparation of breakfast items, this is not the case with mobile sales of fruits. The creditors influence, street vending by deciding the amount of credit that they supply the vendors, while the constant struggle for space between

commuters' associations and the street vendors makes commuters' associations relevant. Street vending as an occupation is highly heterogeneous in nature. Different types of products and services are sold and the number of ways in which business is carried is large. Also, while some have street vending as their primary occupation, for significant number it serves as an alternative livelihood. Listing some of the challenges and travails faced by the street vendors will help and give better insights into their lives and livelihoods. Most of the street vendors work in areas devoid of civic amenities for a major part of the day. This is particularly difficult for women and stationary vendors, who put up shops in busy streets in residential areas. Street vending occupation entails regular long working hours and work at odd hours much in contrary to the organized sector, where hours of work are regulated and when working at odd hours, some shift system is in place. This places additional burden on women engaged in street vending. Most of them depend on crucial support at home, for which they need to compromise, a lot of their own dignity. For those who go around, the main restriction on the scale of business is the area; they can serve during the hour of purchase. Hence, the success depends on identification of two different but contiguous markets, which have different purchase times. But in most cases, the items purchased (or quality of items purchased) in these two markets are different and managing this variety becomes difficult. Advantages of scale cannot be realized. Carrying heavier loads or making arrangements for stocking at an intermediate point needs to be resorted to. As persons, who can move by cycle can cover larger area, they are at an advantage. But women vendors feel that the consumers would discriminate against them if they use cycle.

The contractor (who pays the local body at the beginning of the year) collects a higher rate than the rates fixed by the government for vending. As the contractor collects the fee at specific locations at specific times, the street vendors have to allocate, some of their time to be at the location and pay the fee. As the fee is collected on a daily basis, this imposes additional burden on the street vendors. The mobile street vendors moving within short distances generally move alone, and have to manage small change. They regularly lose in managing this change, as they have to get the change by paying commission. Entire basket or trolley is destroyed in the case of bandhs or hartals, etc. However, this loss is rare as the vendors get into small lanes and take shelter. There is a limit to licenses given by the civic bodies, but many more are engaged in this occupation. Such persons, who do not have licenses, suffer on two counts: (a) They have to pay the daily fee to the contractor like others who have licenses and (b) They face the threat of loss due to confiscation of their goods, often on account of drives of the civic administration to clear the streets of the vendors, who do not have licenses. There are weight losses while breaking the bulk. This loss is to the tune of 10% in case of vegetables and fruits. (However, such losses are not there in the case of street vendors engaged in food preparations.) Further, there are losses due to selection. After all the good ones are picked, the vendors have to sell the remaining stock (like cloth/sarees, fruits, etc.) at a very low price. The vendors cannot increase the price of good ones beyond a certain level (say 20% of the main market) as doing so could decrease their sales. To balance these losses and earn some profit, these vendors take recourse to weighing stones with approximate weights. But when caught by the legal metrology department, they have to pay a high price for this. The frequency of this happens once in two years.

Turnover handled per day depends on when the day starts and the trade cycle. For those, who have to start the day early (i.e., before 5 am.), the daily finance is generally not available. They have to depend exclusively on trade credit. On the other hand, daily finance is available for those who start their activities later in the day, say by about 8 am. This difference is at the root of differences in turnover per day. Savings that can be withdrawn are not trusted as family members may not have self control; a visiting son-in-law can wipe off the entire savings. Since, increased investments in the trade from the surplus generated from the trade is a form of saving, the street vendors do not prefer to plough back their earnings into the trade. This is particularly, so in the case of street vendors whose trade cycle is a day and the entire stock gets converted back into cash by the end of the day. Hence, the trade is almost always using a loan. They take additional loan to meet emergencies, if any, and repay it in daily or weekly installments. Even when available, the loans from formal sources like SHGs are not invested in the trade as it gets converted into cash at the end of the day and the extra cash is not trusted. In most cases, such credit assistance is used to meet some other need and is not invested in trade (though the use of the assistance is recorded as street vending/ business). Most goods undergo spoilage. This is the case even with non-perishables like plastic items, utensils, and clothes. This loss is put at 5 - 10% of the turnover. This needs to be factored into, and the spoiled goods are not taken back by the suppliers.

To succeed, persons engaged in street vending need to understand the positioning of goods sold by way of street vending. The positioning as articulated by a group of street vendors with whom 'livelihoods' interacted is: "low cost - low quality items that are replaced in less than a year". In line with this positioning, no warranty/ guarantee is offered. Further, the main business value offered in most cases is the satisfaction of "a good bargain". Therefore, concepts like 'repeat customers' and 'cultivating a loyal customer base' become irrelevant. On the contrary, knowledge of and access to spurious goods and brand imitations appear to be the key for success as street vendors. Therefore, some familiarity with the supply channels is a must to make profits in this business. But as not many organized 'business development service providers' are comfortable with the idea of

encouraging and sourcing counterfeits, the persons who come forward to start street vending must be asked to work as apprentices to another street vendor. (However, this is not so in the case of vegetables and fruits. Some street vendors like those dealing with sarees cultivate a loyal customer base. While purchasing, they select the sarees keeping in the mind the past purchase history of individual clients and thus offer customized service). For hawkers, who sell on the streets at stationary points, parking of vehicles is a bigger problem. When a lot of vehicles are parked in front of the shop, the hawker becomes less accessible for several persons driving/walking on the street. This leads to some conflict between the owners of the vehicles and the hawkers. As most of the zones in the urban areas where street vending is allowed are also 'parking zones', these conflicts are ever present. Access to public transport at cheaper rates appears to be a problem for the street vendors. As the time of the travel (along with their goods) for many street vendors coincides with that of the busy times on city buses or rural routes, the street vendors have to depend more on the mini-transport sector which is slightly costlier.

Therefore, while the sector is considered as the first stepping stone by several poor people, the development actors who support such efforts need to sensitize the new entrants towards several of these issues/ dimensions which are not applicable to regular trading activities. Moreover, the development actors also need to be sensitive to the needs of the street vendors and customize their services accordingly. For example, micro-finance products may have to be reoriented to reflect their preference for daily finance. Such sensitization and sensitivity could increase the likelihood of success of the people entering street vending. Efforts are underway by different players to improve the working conditions of street vendors. For instance, under Jawarharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Project (JNNURM), Rs. 25 crore has been sanctioned for rehabilitation of the street vendors. SEWA, one of the largest non-government platforms for street vendors promoted NASVI. This association also publishes 'Footpath Ki Awaz' to regularly bring out the issues facing the street vendors. A transnational alliance of street vendors Street Net International (SNI) was launched in Durban, South Africa, in November 2002. For more on this, please see: [streetnet.org.za](http://streetnet.org.za). Given the highly diverse nature of the work of the street vendors, it is quite challenging to organize all of them around many common issues. Even within a single trade, the way business is conducted is highly diverse. Ways of procuring raw material, ways of processing the raw material into finished products, ways of selling the finished products, the vendor-creditor relations, the vendor-customer relations all can differ. The vendor may or may not be the producer. Therefore, it is critical to appreciate that interventions in this sector have to be made at appropriate levels. For instance, while advocacy for identity cards for street vendors or creating solidarity platforms can be done at a higher level for several heterogeneous groups, interventions like improving the supply-chain, facilitating credit etc., require some degree of homogeneity. Similarly while building consumer collectives can benefit sizeable diverse section of the population, product or service collectives need groups with fairly common trade characteristics.

Street vendors make 'invisible' but indispensable contribution to all categories of people in India and to the national economy. However, the returns they get are trivial both in terms of income or appreciation. Being part of the informal sector they are deprived of several benefits that their counterparts enjoy in the organized sector. The force of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) is steadily blowing a death knell to many of the street vending occupations. Street vendors need help, support and appreciation. They need skills and credit. They need institutions/programs to suit their diversity. They need opportunities to improve their existing trade or to take up other trade/employment. They need more platforms at various levels to voice their concerns. They need mechanisms to come together to improve their bargaining power, to come under the radar of social security and rightfully enjoy all the benefits that rest of India does.

**\*Livelihoods January-2009**

## 29.FACELESS Livelihoods!

***'FACELESS' livelihoods are characterized by not having numbers on their side. The numbers are so small that they are not reckoned with in any political or social arithmetic. Many of these are not enumerated in the list of vocations/occupations of the people while declaring minimum wages. No banker is willing to consider supporting these activities. Probably, the incomes from them are far below the minimum wage level for a casual/skilled worker.***

In any society, we can broadly categorize the economic realm into three sectors – Primary, Secondary and Tertiary. Looking through common lens, all livelihood activities taken up whether at the individual level or at the organizational level fit into one of the three sectors. This is how we have come to understand the economic system. However what is not recognized and understood is that there are several 'faceless' livelihoods/ economic activities practiced by large number of people that do not get counted in any of the three sectors due to their insignificance. Each of these activities needs different skills and tools. Some of these livelihoods are



disappearing or on the verge of disappearance giving room to alternative and new livelihoods. The term 'faceless' sounds derogatory. The focus here is not to demean these livelihoods but to identify, list and bring to the limelight these diverse, useful, and yet 'faceless' livelihoods that continue to remain unorganized and outside the radar of many development initiatives in place. In India various governments, Civil

Society Organizations (CSO), political parties, peoples' agencies and peoples' movements organize, advocate and fight for the agendas of farmers, weavers, fisheries and the like. Apparently, numbers matter – the number of people practicing these livelihoods are large and their voices are heard. The neglected one's are those who are in the domain of 'faceless' livelihoods. This domain has people engaged in many different livelihoods therefore the numbers in each livelihood is small. In fact, the existence of some of these livelihoods is not in the reckoning of general public at large. The demand for services rendered by some of them is becoming history and re-skilling and rehabilitation is a distant cry for them. These people are left behind in the bandwagon of development. A sheer attempt to list their livelihoods, recognize their existence and the services they deliver will give face to these 'faceless' livelihoods and find them room in the inclusive growth agenda.

**'FACELESS' LIVELIHOODS... the list is not exhaustive!**

1. Maid servants	46. People selling vegetables in bamboo baskets	91. Quail bird vendors
2. Drainage cleaners	47. People cutting and whipping themselves for entertainment during certain village festivals	92. Performers during fairs and jataras
3. Earwax cleaners	48. Watchman	93. People knitting cots with iron wires
4. Attar (scent) vendors	49. Cattle herders	94. People knitting chairs with plastic wires
5. Beads thread/wire and comb vendors	50. Wig makers (long hair)	95. People selling powders used during marriage and other occasions
6. Balloon vendors	51. Small road side restaurants	96. Copra sweet vendors
7. Vendors selling Colour powder used during festivals like Holi, Pongaletc	52. Broom stick makers	97. People moving from shop to shop and burning incense powder
8. Vermillion vendors	53. Street performers with costumes. They also do miming.	98. People selling bronze bracelets, finger rings and metal ear buds
9. People engaged in making and repairing keys	54. Dried palm sap and palm pulp vendors	99. Flower garland makers
10. Welders welding metal pitchers	55. Preparing old cotton for making new mattresses, quilts	100. Local magicians
11. People repairing umbrellas	56. Shaivaite fortune tellers	101. Mahouts
12. People engaged in knife sharpening	57. Used cloth sellers	102. Leather workers
13. Plastic pitcher vendors	58. People making and selling used cloth mattresses	103. Rag pickers picking plastic bags
14. Welders welding plastic buckets, pitcher, tubs etc	59. Vendors selling cooking oil on a very small scale	104. Used cloth auctioneers
15. Finger rings and neck chain vendors	60. Local honey vendors	105. Organizers of local gambling like card games
16. Mirror vendors	61. People dying clothes both new and used	106. Copper vessel makers
17. People selling scissors, knives, screw drivers etc	62. Native circus (Garadi)	107. Torch repairers
18. People selling cleaned up pesticide barrels	63. People making and selling native eyeliner	108. People painting and repairing trunk boxes
19. Iron stove makers	64. Rope makers	109. Rat trappers
20. People selling variety of plastic items	65. Welders welding used vessels	110. People engaged in soil works
21. Fruit vendors	66. People doing lantern repairs	111. Wage labour engaged in farmers' homes
22. Vegetable vendors	67. People renting out kerosene lights	112. People engaged in seasonal livelihoods
23. Flower vendors	68. People renting curtains	113. Assistant masons
24. Kova/Mawa vendors	69. Massagers (Maalish)	114. People making weed mattresses, pillows and door mats

25. Snake charmers	70. Shoe polishers	115. Bamboo basket weavers
26. Street performers using monkey to perform	71. Vendors selling tendu leaf plates	116. People engaged in local irrigation activities
27. Street performers using black bears to perform	72. Vendors selling mats and baskets made of palm	117. People fixing bicycle tyre punctures
28. People dressing up ox and taking it from house to house during festivals like Sankranthi etc...	73. People making grinding stone	118. Cobblers
29. Fortune tellers using parrot	74. People making mosquito nets	119. Silver cleaners
30. Palm readers	75. Fish vendors	120. Metal pickers
31. Medicinal herb vendors	76. Toddy vendors	121. People filtering drainage water near goldsmiths' workshop
32. Perfume vendors	77. Handloom workers	122. People selling finger foods in trains
33. Remote and TV cover vendors	78. Boat makers and repairers	123. Bird hunters
34. Street gymnasts	79. Women fortune tellers	124. People selling fresh snacks on carts
35. Merry-go-round and Ferris wheel operators	80. Narrators of legends, folk stories and mythologies - Harikatha, Burrakatha, oggukatha etc	125. People selling roasted groundnuts, puff rice, kabulichanna and other finger foods
36. Security for water bodies like ponds, lakes etc	81. Washer men (dobhi)	126. Assistants to cooks during functions
37. Security for agricultural lands and produce	82. Tattoo makers	127. People moving house to house and selling breakfast
38. Midwives	83. Potter	128. Rabbit trappers
39. Indigenous surgeons	84. Tailors	129. Movie players using projectors in the villages
40. Indigenous veterinary service providers	85. People selling batteries, umbrellas and bangles	130. People operating puppet shows
41. Exorcists	86. Seasonable fruit vendors	131. People engaged in gathering and selling firewood
42. Priests	87. People selling jute, cot beams and jute weavers	132. People engaged in ironing clothes
43. Graveyard keepers	88. Barbers on footpath	133. People extracting fat out of dead animals and selling the same
44. People leading funeral processions (Dasari)	89. Garbage collectors from each household	134. People collecting bones of dead animals and selling the same
45. Local priests	90. Cotton candy vendors	135. People moving from house to house and selling cleaning agents like phenol

The rural economic system was organized around agriculture. There were some who, owned land and carried out agriculture. Some others came to work on these lands for wages, whenever the work arises. Some others, mostly artisans and nomadic groups, provided services to these families (indicatively - a priest, a weaver, a toddy tapper, a carpenter, a blacksmith, a goldsmith, a teacher, a potter, a cobbler, a hairdresser, a washerman, a dai, a kirana shop, a fish vendor, a milk man, a watch and ward, an entertainer, a musician, a dancer, a history keeper, a letter writer, a money lender, a transport provider, a night watchman, a water manager, a rice pounding unit, a flour mill, a chilli mill, an oil mill, a pan wala, a cycle shop, etc., and many more). These service providers



had access to the demand – in a sense they had ownership of the demand. There were arrangements for payment – in kind/cash. Taking care of them was an obligation on farmers. Serving the farmers and other families was an obligation on these service providers. Similar interdependent systems existed in the urban areas. With time, these systems have begun to collapse. Market forces have taken the dominant role. Gradually the obligations on farmers and vice-versa have started disappearing. Some of those arrangements were exploitative in nature and they needed to go. Some others could not withstand the changes in the market, tastes, culture, technology etc. Further, a set of new livelihoods have also started taking root. While some livelihoods have larger canvas and have more numbers, but, a large number, are 'small'. The number of such 'small' livelihoods should be easily in four figures. Our quick attempt to list them produced more than 100. Each of these livelihoods is doing a productive and useful function to the society at large. We take their services, pay for them, and forget.

These 'small' livelihoods are characterized by not having numbers on their side. The numbers are so small that they are not reckoned with in any political or social arithmetic. Many of these are not enumerated in the list of vocations/occupations of the people while declaring minimum wages. No banker is willing to consider supporting these activities. Probably, the incomes from them are far below the minimum wage level for a casual/skilled worker. Typically, the works are seasonal and/or erratic. It may be occupying a person for not more than 100 days a year. Mostly, an individual is involved. But we also see many families and teams/groups involved in 'small' livelihoods. In some cases, this livelihood is a minor item in the entire livelihoods kitty (portfolio) of the family. While most of the traditional artisanal service providers have caste tags around the livelihoods, the 'modern' service providers have no such caste tags. Further, we notice entry and exit of individuals from and into services reserved earlier for a particular caste group traditionally. Paradoxically, some live on 'small' livelihood and find it less remunerative, unreliable, risky and not safe, while some others find the same more remunerative, and better than their previous livelihoods option. Like its happening in many large traditional livelihoods (farming, weaving, fishing etc.), the old generation does not want its new generation to take up many of these 'small' livelihoods. Further, the new generation, particularly, the literate, is reluctant to be in them. The new trades/vocations that can absorb them are missing. We hear that Europe offers training in more than 3000 trades as against a mere 150 in India. A country with more than 100 Crore population with enormous diversity geographically, socially, culturally should have to have training in thousands of trades!

Interestingly, individually 'small' livelihoods together are not small. A quick estimate is that they account for more than 25% of the families. Thus, as a block, it is comparable with farming, wage labour and larger than weaving, fishing, toddy tapping etc. Here lies the clue for their significance politically, socially and economically. They need to be organized into collectives for their solidarity, security, reduced expenditure, diversified risk and enterprises. These may have to be around their food security, mutual risk reduction, savings and credit, meeting 'consumption' needs. Further, they need to build partnerships and consortia with other marginalized – tribals, dalits, disabled, elders and so on. Then the 'small' 'voiceless' 'minorities' will acquire the significance of becoming 'big' and move on to the path of prosperity. Of course, some of them require skill building support; some require tools and/or additional tools; some require a space to practice their livelihoods; some require a brand; some require storage space; some require market information and intelligence; some require working capital support; some require food now; some require recognition; some require 'reservation'; some require patronage; some require 'modernization'; some require access to common facilities; some require identity cards; some require jobs that require their skills; some can graduate into entrepreneurs; still some can be collectives. They are needed by the society and vice-versa.

When 'small' is faceless and 'big' is not possible, then collective 'small' is beautiful.

**\*Livelihoods December-2007**



## 30.Livelihoods ‘on the move’

***Mobility is fundamental to life. Mobility is vital for development. Mobility of people and their goods and services has been in place from times immemorial. While mobility has been constant what changed with time is means of mobility, the variety in the means and more importantly the number of people supporting and making a living through this means.***



Transport is required for sustained growth and modernization. It is significant for diversifying nation's production base, expanding trade and linking together resources and markets into an integrated economy. It is also necessary for connecting villages with towns, market centers and in bringing together remote and developing regions closer to one another. Internationally, transport is now recognized as a key ingredient to achieving MDGs and for inclusive, sustainable globalization to overcome poverty, promote growth, access challenges in fragile states and for Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Indian transport sector has a smorgasbord of means of transport ranging all the way from human heads to human pulled rickshaws and carts, animal carts, bicycles and various forms of mechanized/ sophisticated transport on road, rail, water and air. Railways and roadways are

lifelines, both in urban and rural India. Indian Railways is one of the largest railway systems in the world, carrying about 18 million passengers and more than 2 million tons of freight per day. It continues to be the world's largest utility employer with more than 1.4 million employees. In the sphere of roadways, India has 3.34 km of road network, the second largest in the world. It is estimated that, this network carries nearly 65% of the freight and 85% of the passenger traffic in the country. However, national highways comprise only 2% of the total road network, but carry nearly 40% of the total traffic. In spite, of such vast network still 25% of the villages in the country have no road link and about 60% of the villages have no all-weather road link. In states like Orissa situation, stands very bleak with only 15% of the villages connected with all-weather roads.

Unlike road and rail transport, air transport in India caters to the needs of elite largely, but in times of natural disasters, it becomes almost the only lifeline to render relief and rescue efforts in the affected areas. Water transport on the other hand played an important role in ancient Indian transport system, but its significance particularly that of inland water transport is declining gradually with the expansion of road and rail transport. The diversification of river water for irrigation, siltation in rivers and failure to modernize has put much of the inland water transport in India to disuse. Transportation of goods and people in organized form is more or less seen only in North-East India, West Bengal and Goa. However, increase in tourism in various regions seems to be giving boost to some inland water transport. With a long coastline and 11 major ports the shipping industry in India is quite significant in transporting bulky goods.

Considering ,the fact that a sizeable chunk (about 12%) of the workforce in India is engaged in diversified transport-based livelihoods it becomes imperative to try to list and make efforts to gain some insights on these

**Contribution of transport sector to GDP and the proportion of Public Expenditure on this sector**

Year	Share of Transport in GDP (%)	Share of Transport in Total Expenditure (%)
1999-2000	5.7	3.2
2000-2001	5.8	4.5
2001-2002	5.8	4.8
2002-2003	6.0	4.1
2003-2004	6.2	3.9
2004-2005	6.4	4.2

Source: Central Statistics Office, GOI 2006

livelihoods 'on the move'. The list is by no means exhaustive but may help gain some perspectives on the wide array of livelihoods the transport sector paves way for both directly and indirectly.

**List of Livelihoods 'on the move'**

- Bullock/Camel/Horse driven carts transporting produce/
- Goods/people
- Care taker of the cart animals other than the owner
- Human driven carts/rickshaws transporting people/goods
- Shop (s) catering to making cart parts and shops catering cart repairs
- Head loaders/Porters/Hamalis
- Auto rickshaw/tempo/minivan owners/drivers
- Bus drivers/cleaners/conductors and other personnel
- Truck owners/drivers/cleaners and other personnel
- Manufacturers of various transport vehicles
- Service personnel in mechanic shops for the repair and maintenance of different transport vehicles
- Skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour in the construction of roadways, railways, runways etc
- Various personnel engaged in ship building
- Loading and unloading in the docks
- Labour engaged in ship breaking
- Works at different levels in the Indian Railways
- Works at different levels in the Indian Roadways
- Works at different levels in the Indian Waterways
- Works at different levels in the Indian Airways
- Food and other vendors in the trains/buses/stations
- Food and other vendors catering on the highway meeting the needs of long distance travelers, for instance Dhabas that come in handy for truck drivers etc
- People selling number plates, helmets
- People engaged in selling fuel for the vehicles
- Toll-gate workers
- Road-side pollution check personnel
- Travel agencies
- Motor Driving Schools
- Brokers
- Taxi owners/drivers
- People working in the workers unions

Improved roads in the villages coupled with increased need to access job/produce/service markets in the semi-urban and urban areas gave way for new and different modes of transport suitable to local needs. For instance, 7-seater auto rickshaws in the villages of Andhra Pradesh are not only transporting people, but have created a new wave of employment opportunities for the youth. Financing vehicles, at an affordable cost has received a big push in the recent past. This move has created opportunities for many buy and operate taxis, auto rickshaws etc. Manual transport with people carrying head loads, human pulled rickshaws and carts are seen sparingly in the villages today and are increasingly giving way to auto rickshaws and tempos.

However, one cannot ignore the fact that there are still large numbers of villages in India that have no roads whatsoever and many more have roads that get washed out during rains. Quantity and quality of roads, therefore continues to be a gap yet to be bridged. Poor quality roads also mean more expenses for the transporter in terms of fuel and repairs; it also means increased risk in times of heavy rains and floods. On the other hand, it is extremely critical to create awareness, enhance capacities and empower the local population in the villages particularly those in the tribal and other remote villages even before access roads are laid. Without meeting these prerequisites road access can result in economic, social and cultural exploitation of the villagers by the mainstream folks.

Village roads providing local connectivity are managed and maintained by local bodies (panchayat). The centrally sponsored rural roads program (e.g., Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana [PMGSY]) is managed by the state rural roads development agency under the guidance

of the central National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA). Funding for the PMGSY comes from the central government. Roads managed by the public works departments are developed maintained, and managed with funds from the state's budget. Some degree of central support to the states for developing and maintaining their roads comes from the Central Road Fund (CRF) and the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FC) allocation. However, adequate funding for road maintenance remains a problem. The Government of India (GoI) is planning on investing several billion dollars in improving road network, in the coming 5 years. One has to wait and watch.

Much of the wage labour engaged in road construction in India is unskilled or poorly skilled. But India is increasingly moving towards mechanized construction of roads using both in-house and exported machinery. There is a huge need to train people in handling and using this machinery. While training institutes like National Academy of Construction (NAC), Hyderabad can play an important role in trainings, programs like NREGA can make provisions for skill-building of the wage labourers.

The springing up of several BPOs and associated concerns in urban centers, created ample opportunities for call taxis, company cabs and the like. Many unemployed youth in rural areas moved to urban centers to take up the

slot of driving. Setting up of new infrastructure like building new airports also expanded the taxi business. Similarly, increase in disposable incomes in cities and towns have given fresh impetus to car rentals business.

With increase in number of vehicles purchased each year, there is a proportionate increase in need for service personnel. Jobs in motor vehicle repair and maintenance sector seems to hold some promise. General and brand based certificate courses offered both in public and private space can help youth to latch on to these opportunities.

The risk associated with transport-based livelihoods particularly transporting goods/people over long distances is quite high. The risks can range from accidents to natural disasters to HIV/AIDS. Apart from increasing level of awareness it is crucial that employer provide a social security cover like insurance for all the people servicing the transport vehicle. It is a sad irony that most of the times the vehicle is insured for, but not the driver or the cleaner. This lacuna is widely prevalent in private transport system and needs attention. Ship breaking or dismantling is an industry that provides thousands of jobs to local and migrant workers but has several risks associated with it. Worldwide between 200 and 600 large ships are broken up and recycled every year. The steel, other scrap material and equipment from the dismantled ship constitute valuable raw materials. Much of this dismantling happens in India, China, Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, there are lots of environmental and health hazards associated with this activity. Ships have a lot of toxic substances that are handled with bare hands and without masks and are dumped into the seas. The scope for accidents is quite high when handling sharp and combustible substances in the ships. Most of the low level workers are hired as contract labor and lack any kind of security. Inland water ways has great untapped potential in India. Though, there are 14,500 km of potentially navigable inland waterways, only about .24% is exploited in the organized sector mainly for freight movement. There are no full-fledged inland water transport ports in the country and infrastructural facilities are dismal leading to higher costs of transport. This sector also stands neglected in the human resource front.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), being the nodal agency for inland waterways development in the country can gear up to give impetus to this mode of transport and also explore more ways to promote safe and environmentally conscious public private partnerships. Currently, there are some private operators ferrying people across often loading the vessel with twice or more its capacity leading to accidents.

Indian transport industry was mostly government owned and operated but the past couple of decades have seen many private players proliferating in this sector. This can mean better competition, better services and better prices for the traveler. However on the flip side more and more workforce will be joining the rungs of unorganized labour force with poor bargaining power, no social security and often engaged in hazardous occupations endangering their health and safety. Even with the government transport system the trend is to have several low level positions filled on contract basis that is temporary in nature and devoid of any welfare facilities and social security.

Transport sector in India has decent number of workers unions like the Indian National Transport Workers Federation (INTWF), All India Railway men's Federation (AIRF) , National Federation of Indian Railway men (NFIR), All India Road Transport Workers Federation (AIRTWF) , All India Port & Dock Workers Federation (AIPDWF) etc. There are several local unions at the regional, state and levels below. Also present are the Auto and Taxi Drivers Unions. Majority of the issues handled by these unions are financial in nature. However, in December last year several transport workers unions undertook large rallies on World AIDS Day to spread awareness about the risk of HIV/AIDS. These unions can also take up issues and conduct awareness drives relating to traffic rules, health and environment safety. Issues like making transport system elderly and disabled friendly can also surface in their agenda. Some form of collectivization among the unorganized workforce, in the transport sector will help improve their bargaining power, access to social security benefits and safe working environment.

In India the transport sector is the second largest consumer of energy next only to industry. Transport sector also accounts for a large and growing proportion of emissions particularly from the road transport. Efforts are made in various cities and towns to promote CNG-based vehicles and also supply of lead-free gasoline. Improving road conditions is key to enhancing fuel efficiency. In addition to these efforts, there is an urgent need to evolve and promote multimodal transport. Improving inland waterways can help.

Child labour is quite prevalent in repair shops and in cleaning works. It is important for the government and civil society organizations and other players to take note of this and devise ways to rehabilitate them, build their skills and prepare them for being part of the organized workforce.

With India on the growth trajectory, Indian transport system the key element of economic development has already embarked on the path of expansion. The sector requires skilled human resource at different levels. It is

important to identify these skills and facilitate trainings to youth so they can take advantage of the upcoming job opportunities. Further, some modes of transport will gradually be phased out in the process of expansion which is already happening in cities like Mumbai. Auto rickshaws are not allowed to run in some congested areas of Mumbai. In such cases having skills in others areas of the transport sector or elsewhere will enable relatively seamless livelihoods shift.

India looks forward to a booming transport system that is multimodal, integrated, disabled, elderly, environment and tourist friendly, providing ample employment opportunities for the youth and a system that can cater to the needs of thousands of its unorganized workforce whose contribution is invaluable at various levels and yet goes invisible to a large extent. It is time to recognize and appropriately reward these multitudes of livelihoods 'on the move'.

**\*Livelihoods August-2009**

## 31.Night Shift Livelihoods

***Urban economies are characterized by greater degree of commercialization; thus, poor families need higher cash incomes, unlike their rural counterparts, who rely on subsistence agriculture or payment in kind, and are also more likely to have access to free or Common Property Resources (CPR). Given the above scenario, urban areas provide much greater opportunity and fewer social restrictions on the livelihood possibilities open to the poor, when compared to rural areas.***



Globalization has played an important role in the employment scenario in India. Since 1990s, economic liberalization policies brought about significant improvement in employment sector. There was significant rise in customer base which slowly gave rise to consumer markets, the demand-supply chains. The supply brought in direct employment. Increased supply led to more production, leading to increase in employment. As a result, a number of segments in various sectors of industry grew, to cite a few they are- agro products, personal and beauty care, health care, information technology and so on.

On the parallel front, demand for quality workforce too grew and many young people joined various segments/ industry sectors. With growth centres in cities, there has been an influx of new migrants from rural areas such as villages/ towns to cities in search of new employment opportunities. The period witnessed increase in unorganized sector as well, which saw improved rate of employment in both unorganized and allied sectors, with increased pay packages.

Today, we are urbanizing on a rapid scale; the global urban population in 2014 was almost 3.9 billion. By 2050, it is expected to reach 6.3 billion. In India, the population will be making the move to urban centers in search of jobs and better lives. The migrated population, in search of better lives, end up living in slums. The conditions of urban poor have been going from bad to worse. Nowadays in India, one in six urban citizens live Below Poverty Line (BPL).

As Rural-Urban migration continues, populations face multi-faceted nature of poverty, as they live in informal settlements. New migrants or poor develop diverse and changing livelihood portfolios within the context of pervasive vulnerability. Populations vulnerability begins from little or no access to basic services; water, sanitation, power, lack of houses and waste management.

Urban economies are characterized by greater degree of commercialization; thus, poor families need higher cash incomes, unlike their rural counterparts, who rely on subsistence agriculture or payment in kind, and are also more likely to have access to free or Common Property Resources (CPR). Given the above scenario, urban areas provide much greater opportunity and fewer social restrictions on the livelihood possibilities open to the poor when compared to rural areas.

The sector activities provide poor men and women with low cash incomes and they continue their livelihoods in insecure conditions.

The nature of work of every occupation has its own entity. Livelihoods carried out during night hours are largely a result from policies of liberalization and structural adjustments that have affected employment in a few areas and losses of formal manufacturing jobs in a few sectors and down-sizing in the public sector, which resulted in a large number of men and women looking for jobs in other areas, such as employment in part-time services sector or the informal sector.

As a result, it has increased vulnerability of many poor men and women, who through loss of secure employment and its replacement with irregular or informal sources of income carry out livelihoods during night hours; they are working as watchmen, bus conductors, bus drivers, construction equipment operators, mining machine operators, crane operators, tower operators, cab drivers, tea sellers/ hotel workers at Bus & Railway junctions, medical shop

workers, self-employed businessmen, factory workers, workers in organized sector, cinema mall ticket collectors, bartenders, lift operators, doctors, nurses, waiters, waitresses, dancers, choreographers, mid-wives.

To work in "graveyard shift" is not a pleasure, but due to vulnerable conditions, that they live in they continue to do it. In order to improve their lives, many of these poor populations are left with no choice, but to take to livelihoods that are carried out during night hours with day to day challenges that they encounter. Different types of livelihoods, that are carried out during graveyard shift timings have their own unique challenges and issues.

Today, an increasing number of workers do shift and night work as part of their work contract, which include economies of continuous production, business needs, provision of 24 hours commercial or emergency services. There are many different types of works at night, with variation in shift duration depending on many factors, which include business needs and type of works being undertaken.

Let's begin with the case of factory workers who are poor and vulnerable as they are not formally employed. Thus, they fall in the category of unorganized sector. Factory workers, as and when their employer wants them, have to work hard but earn very small income for their work. For instance, sewers in garment factories and labourers are used to lift heavy packages. These people are hired and paid on an hourly basis and which is not enough for them to subsist.

In production sector, we have a large number of workers working in night shifts in chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals sector. The workers in graveyard shift are at high risk of being victims of work-related accidents and illnesses. The workers need constant vigilance in this sector as they deal with highly complex chemicals to be safe from occupational health hazards.

The workers working in this sector, especially in the night, are constantly exposed to several concomitant exposures, such as chemicals, noise and vibrations. Adding to the above, the workers in the night, who are to be awake, might be under the influence of alcohol ingestion, cigarette smoking and coexistent diseases that might influence the workers susceptibility to occupational exposures.

Globalization has led to a rapid pace of urbanization, leading to increase in leisure and entertainment activities, which include bars, restaurants, concerts and discos. It is when almost closing time at night that the entire town comes to the bars, discos, concerts and restaurants. Populations working in leisure and entertainment sectors are challenged in dealing with customers, who frequent these places.

Many a times, customers do not understand as to what closing time means, and the workers work throughout the graveyard shift, and end up facing with annoying few customers. The workers in the entertainment industry who are at the mercy of owners are vulnerable to abuses, both verbally and physically. This industry has its own issues involving law and enforcement issues, and workers are constantly under the vigil of law makers.

Artistes working in entertainment industry! The industry employs a large number of daily wage workers who work as spot boys, light boys, make-up artistes and other works in the industry. The workers are at the mercy of their bosses and their work involves graveyard shift timings based on time of shooting, place of shooting, story scripts.

In product delivery sector, we have night workers who work to ensure early next day products delivery and they include bakery and newspaper segments. This sector too employs a large number of workers from poor and vulnerable families. In case of food industry, we have been witnessing rapid changes happening with choice of breads and use of baked food, with fast changing lifestyle of an average Indian. The growing demand for varieties of bakery products has revolutionized the baking industry.

In this sector, which falls under product delivery, we have workers working in this industry, who constantly have to meet the challenges with development of modern retailers and also follow the "Food Safety Regulations" to survive in the industry and also to satisfy the palate of every customer. Being on contract, the workers in the industry have to diversify and are constantly under pressure to up-grade the technology to survive and be able to remain competitive and relevant in the industry and also to assist the industry to deliver quality bakery foods.

Print media is another product delivery sector. The working time arrangement is a key issue, as it is linked to human capacities with production means as the basic condition. The print, especially the newspaper segment, deals with publications with no error. The printing segment has production vis-à-vis reproduction of written material/images in multiple copies. The workers have to be on vigil with relief printing, lithography, screen process printing, intaglio and constantly printing using flexible rubber plates and rapid-drying inks. Workers in night shift, have to be constantly on vigil and cannot take to chances of error in printing.

Utility services provider 24/7!! Utilities i.e., water, electricity, gas are essential services that play a vital role in social and economic development. The utilities and their quality are a pre-requisite for effective poverty

eradiation. We have a large number of workers who work in this sector and who need to be available round the clock. In recent years, there is increased competition in this sector, which has brought about changes in ownership structure of enterprises and also business diversification.

These changes have impacted the job security of workers and also the working conditions. The workers have to constantly undergo training in use of new technologies for ensuring efficiency and safety in the workplace. Majority of workers in this sector are on contract basis and graveyard shifts make them vulnerable to safety concerns.

Transportation sector involves bus drivers, bus conductors, cab drivers, private drivers and all. The challenges faced by the workers who are either self-employed or on contract are unique. In case of bus conductors, their job requires more of physical and interactive skills. They also require being multi-lingual and to have tactical communication skills because they have to continuously interact with commuters of varied nature. In case of women conductors, they reach home during very late hours and this leads of physical, mental stress and family related problems.

Drivers in transportation sector have different challenges, as they have to concentrate on driving for safety of passengers to the destination, more so ever, when they have to drive in the night on long distance journeys. The drivers, either self-employed or on contract, have to deal with commuters of varied nature, and many a times are vulnerable/susceptible to verbal and physical abuses. The vigilance, tact, alertness are prerequisites for the drivers, especially while driving during graveyard shifts.

In medical field, doctors and nurses are highly stressed and they are “on call round the clock.” They don’t earn hourly wages unlike the labourers and enjoy several benefits, but put their health at stake. Nurses working in hospitals are constantly challenged as they need to be alert, constantly monitor patient’s health, need to be on vigil and attend to all emergencies. Many of the nurses working in private hospitals and in government hospitals are on contract rolls, thus making them highly susceptible to job loss, poor income and exploitation. The workers are at the mercy of hospital management authorities with minimal to no choice at all.

Emergency services and Helpline services require round-the-clock workers, the drivers and paramedics working also fall under unorganized sector, and they, at very short notices, reach out to save critical patients’ lives and mostly during “night” hours. These workers’ challenges include being available 24/7 and high presence of mind to deal with patients, who are in critical conditions.

In rural areas, we have ANMs, popularly known as “multi-purpose workers”, who provide multi-faceted services i.e., family planning, immunization, sanitation, infectious disease prevention/care and ante-natal and post-natal care and they face different challenges. As we are aware, the rate of institutional delivery is low among rural and marginalized populations due to poor or no infrastructure; thus, it is not possible that all normal births are attended by doctors. Therefore, ANMs, on very short notices, conduct deliveries at village level, which are far and remotely inaccessible areas. These multi-purpose health workers are vulnerable and have to be available and provide services as and when required till wee hours to ensure safe deliveries.

We have night workers to ensure early next day service delivery and they are post, couriers and transport. This sector employs a good sizable number of workers on contract depending on speed of the delivery (courier service) and the type of consignments the workers have to deliver. The sector has different type of courier services; parcels to be delivered on same day, overnight services and so on. The workers in this sector have to follow the delivery times which are strictly defined, leaving no choice for the workers.

Night shifts are taxing, as logistics are clear, working on process of managing the flow of operations between the point of collection to point of delivery. So we have workers working in warehouses i.e., cargo and freight transport. By water, in dockyards a numbers of workers do contract work who handle processes i.e., inventory, shipping, packaging, warehousing and security functions for shipments. Deadlines being strict, and with the means of transportation being largely by road, the drivers in graveyard shift timing are hard pressed on deadlines to reach the destination to deliver the parcel or consignment.

Construction workers! Our country’s economy needs huge infrastructure development to sustain its growth and we have a huge chunk of labour employed in this industry i.e., Special Economic Zones (SEZ), power plants, airports, metro railways, highways and bridges. The industry is one of the India’s largest employers; they are migrants from the decimated agricultural sector, escaping from poverty and diseases at home.

With growing construction boom, the labour work 24/7 in unsafe working environments and inhuman living conditions with little access to basic amenities and almost complete social exclusion, due to which they are at

high risk. During graveyard shift timings, they handle construction equipment's, work as operators and move from project to project, extremely vulnerable to occupational hazards.

We have scavengers and sweepers who are contract workers and carry out work during night hours. These workers are at very high risk due to lack of any safety measures put in place by the institutions which hire them. For instance, during night hours, sweepers sweep roads while vehicles are plying and pose threat to their lives due to accidents. Lack of safety equipment's for scavengers makes them highly vulnerable to occupational hazards during graveyard shift timings.

With rapid urbanization happening and workers working 24/7, we also have poor families who are self-employed at these work sites and run small tea shops, snacks corner and other items during night hours to supplement their income as well as sell small items to night workers. Individuals involved in self-employment during night hours face many risks and challenges with the degrees of them varying on day to day basis.

Workers working across different international time zones! Call Centers!! Night shifts are crucial to work across different international time zones, but the workers doing these shifts face challenges with families, safety, and traditional values. Women in this sector are at high risk due to transport security and also conflict with patriarchal family values, increased family problems, gender discrimination at work (eve teasing, sexual harassment), unequal pay / wages and poor promoting practices.

Watchmen, night livelihoods! Almost every apartment and a few independent houses have watchmen. Their timings are "graveyard shift" timings. Many of the watchmen are migrants from Nepal who for generations have been working here. Due to lack of employment opportunities and indebtedness, they are forced to work here. These migrants are marginalized and work under vulnerable circumstances. They have no formal contract for their job and employee to employer relation. They only carry a whistle and bamboo stick in the name of security equipment. Migrants of Nepal working as watchmen face many problems, which are unique to them, such as language; owing to nationality, health hazards, difficulties regarding administrative rules and regulations, lack of help during the time of crisis etc. In general, watchmen are exploited as they are unregulated by laws and workers toil completely at the whims and fancies of their masters.

Poor families engaged in night livelihoods for seeking a better life are at the mercy of owners. One of the key issues is that of labour legislation for the workers in unorganized sector. In unorganized sector, labour is vulnerable to exploitation due to illiteracy and do not have effective bargaining power. For example, different wages are fixed for the same work in different sectors, a watchman in the shop or commercial establishment may get higher or lower wages than a watchman in the plastic industry, in construction, maintenance of roads, or building operations.

Night livelihoods have acquired growing importance in recent decades in relation to the development of new technologies and extension of basic services to general populations that require continuous human assistance and control over the work processes during the 24 hour day. The 24 hour society involves both consumers and producers and availability of goods and services, making consumption and production possible at any time of the day and night; this has increased intensively and resulted in extensive exploitation of productive systems.

Livelihoods in the night carried out by various sections of population increase the risk of development of many disorders. They are as follows:

- Disruption of internal body clock (circadian rhythms).
- Sleeping difficulties
- Fatigue
- Health effects
- Social and family factors
- Errors and accidents.

Livelihoods carried out during graveyard timings give rise to various ailments in the long run i.e., sleep disorder; circadian rhythm sleep disorder, characterized by insomnia or excessive sleepiness or both. In men, risk of diabetes mellitus type 2 is increased, and women whose work involves night shifts have a 48% increased risk of developing breast cancer. Night livelihoods also increase the risk of other types of cancer. The other health problems increase the risk of developing cluster headaches, heart attacks, fatigues, stress, sexual dysfunction, depression, dementia, obesity, metabolic disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, musculoskeletal disorders and reproductive disorders.



The poor and vulnerable families, who continue to strive for a better living, work under harshest conditions and pressure by engaging in livelihoods even during night hours by putting their health at risk and stake. Chronic fatigue from night and shift work has its severe implications on gastrointestinal illnesses (abdominal pain, chronic gastritis, peptic ulcers and cardiovascular illnesses i.e., hypertension, coronary heart disease. For female workers who work in the night hours have implications on reproductive system. Graveyard shift timings are also known to exacerbate pre-existing illnesses for night and shift workers, which include asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and psychiatric illnesses.

The continuous struggle to come out of poverty also drives individuals who take to night livelihoods to adapt, cope and change their behaviours, and mostly they are impacted negatively (alcohol consumption, irregular diet and poor fitness levels). The social and family factors too have a big impact on their mental health, as they do not have sufficient time to interact with their families and friends, and many a times, they feel deprived and isolated, leading to negativity and moodiness, impacting their relationships both at work as well as at home.

Graveyard shift timings have high risk of errors and accidents due to rise in increase in shift length over an 8 hour threshold, increase over successive shifts (especially night shifts) and lack of sufficient breaks for workers. Due to the above factors, errors and accidents can result which can be a mixture of minor and major incidents.

As the nature of employment is in contract, casual and bonded labour, these workers by and large face various types of problems in their regular life. Very low wages is the main problem for unorganized workers, with extended long hours of working, maximum workers do not have any perfect living areas near to their work place, poor or no knowledge about work hazardous and occupational safety, lack of quality employment due to fraudulent acting of contractors, workers are thrown out in most deplorable conditions, high level of job insecurity etc are common in unorganized sector. In case of women, it is more difficult, women are more vulnerable and draw very low wages, face harassment issues at work place and are also susceptible to diseases.

The continuous challenges and issues the urban poor face push them to look out for livelihoods irrespective of whether it is a day or night job. As these poor cannot afford decent living, they live in poor environments, insanitary conditions and in location lacking access to livelihood generating assets. The desperation for graveyard shift livelihoods is threatening poor men's and women's health and security. The poor urban environments directly affect their ability to undertake and continue with livelihoods activities. Reducing poverty in urban areas has become a growing task for key stakeholders!

Note: Fire, Police, prisons, engineers and other emergency services, railway employees (rail mail) who are government employees, have secured livelihood with all government benefits are not covered in this article. As we are focusing only on contract, poor, vulnerable individuals, who have no choice but to carry out night livelihoods!

Secondly, government passed the order to keep the stores open 24/7, but except for medical / pharmacy shops, none of the shops are kept open 24/7.

**\*livelihoods May-2018**

Emergency Services	Ambulance, Fire, Hospital, Police, Prisons, Engineers.
Security Services	Watchmen
Utility Services	Electricity, Gas, Water
Production	Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Manufacturing
Leisure & Entertainment Activities	Bars, Hotels, Concerts, Discos
Next Day (early) Service Delivery	Post, Couriers, Transport
Product Delivery	Bakery, Newspaper
Work across different International Time Zones	Call Centres

## 32. Brick Kiln Industry

**Bricks are back bone for construction industry. Country progress, population growth and urbanization facilitated demand for construction of residential, commercial, industrial buildings and roads. Residential and non-residential structures are one of the important indicators in defining country prosperity. Bringing this shining to the country, millions of poor and downtrodden people are working 12 to 16 hours a day without rights and entitlements in extremely hazardous and tough conditions in bricks kilns. Brick kiln industry is largely unorganized sector in the country. Our country is the second largest producer in bricks, making with 200 to 240 billion bricks production per year and it contributes 13% in total bricks production in the world.**



Bricks are back bone for construction industry. Country progress, population growth and urbanization facilitated demand for construction of residential, commercial, industrial buildings and roads. Residential and non-residential structures are one of the important indicators in defining country prosperity. Bringing this shining to the country, millions of poor and downtrodden people are working 12 to 16 hours a day without rights and entitlements in extremely hazardous and tough conditions in bricks kilns. Brick kiln industry is largely

unorganized sector in the country. Our country is the second largest producer in bricks making with 200 to 240 billion bricks production per year and it contributes 13% in total bricks production in the world. According to National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), above 1 lakh clay fired brick kilns are functioning. Directly and indirectly 23 million workers are involved across the country in brick kiln units. It is 5% of country total workforce of 460 million workers (Estimated by NSSO in 2009-10). Bricks making units are situated in villages semi-urban areas and urban peripheries. Various Non Government Organizations (NGOs) are working in brick kiln industry for well-being of bricks workers.

Clay fired bricks making has been practiced in the country for millenniums. We can find evidence of brick making in Indus valley civilization during 2500 – 1500 BC. Historical monuments, at Saranath, Nalanda and Qutab Minar were constructed by clay fired bricks. The above continued during Mughal and British era. It was in 18th century, that mechanization of clay bricks are introduced in Malabar Coast.

British rulers introduced large size bricks (10 inches X 5 inches X 3 inches) and they supported to establish large size bricks making units near big cities. In 1881, largest brick making unit (20 - 30 million bricks production per year) was established at Akra, Kolkata. After independence, initiatives were taken to introduce advanced technologies in brick making. But, these initiatives were not materialized up to the mark. Environmental regulations were introduced in 1990 to prevent air pollution by brick kiln units. This intervention facilitated little improvement in bricks making.

Brick kiln units are functioning almost in all states (Except three to four northeast states) in the country. Number units and production quantity various across the country. Bricks units are situated broadly in three regions such as northern mountainous region, Gangetic plain and peninsula. Region wise brick kiln units details are as follows...

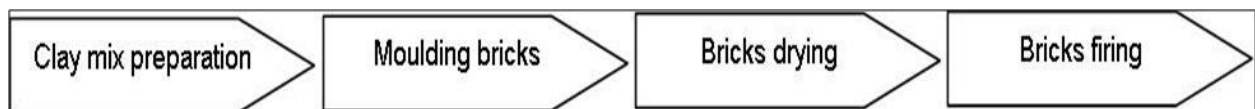
Brick Kiln Units in Three Regions in the Country				
S. No	Name of the Region	% in Production	Name of the Important Areas / Sates	Remarks
1	Northern region	-	Srinagar, Jammu and Dehradun	Very less production and confined to limited places in valleys only.

2	Gangetic plain	65	Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal	Medium and large production units (2 -10 million bricks per year) located in clusters around major towns and cities based on fertile soils of Gangetic plains.
3	Peninsular and Coastal region	35	Gujarat, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	Largely small units (0.1 to 3 million per year) are functioning in this region.

Brick kiln units are largely non mechanized units. Only 1% of the units are mechanized and semi-mechanized in the country. There are various types of clay bricks firing technologies such as Fixed Chimney Bull's Trench Kiln (FCBTK), Clamps, Zig – zag and Vertical Shaft Brick Kilns (VSBK). FCBTK is major technology and it contributes 70% in total brick production in the country. It is more prevalent in Gangetic plains. Clamps are prevalent in peninsular region and it contributes 25% in total brick production. Remaining 5% production is organized through Zig-zag (4%) and VSBK (1%) technologies.

Clay bricks are predominant in the market. It captures nearly 70% of the bricks market in the country. Clay bricks are mostly produced in small and medium brick kiln units. Bricks making required surface soil. The soil collects from river banks, tanks and ponds. Along with soil, bricks making required various materials such as coal, ash (by product from cement), water, husk and fly ash. Bricks' drying is mostly done in open. So, brick units' owners prefer summer season (dry months) for brick production. Brick making is a seasonal enterprise and runs for a period of six months from November to May. In this industry, unorganized players are placed at all stages from purchase of raw material to selling finished products to customers. Brick making process involves four stages, such as clay mixing, moulding, drying and firing.

Various activities involved in bricks making are; bringing raw material like clay, coal, fly ash and rice husk, crushing the clay, removing limestone residues, mixing the clay by adding water, repeated drying and moistening, mixing rice husk, fly ash to clay paste, molding clay mix into bricks, drying molded bricks in the kilns, preparing bricks stack for bricks firing, firing the bricks, loading bricks into vehicles, transporting, unloading bricks and bricks selling etc,. More than 20 million workers are involved in brick kiln sector. The brick making sector involves different types of workers, engaged in works such as moulding, helpers, hamali work, drivers, supervisors, watchmen, raw material supplier, brick sellers, accountants and others.



The industry is predominantly dominated by wage labours. Migrant labour from inter and intra states are pillars to this industry. The labours are either forced or are bonded labourers. Majority of them belong to socially and economically excluded marginalized communities. Migrant labour migrate during lean seasons for a brief period of six months. The period is from November to May. Labour predominantly belong to land-less community and also include small and marginal farmers, who have no irrigation facilities back home and are dependent on rain-fed agriculture. These above drivers, push these families to migrate in search of other livelihoods, during lean months.

Modus Operandi; Brick Klin Industry: Middlemen play crucial role in this industry. The Middlemen identify labour in the villages and these middlemen belong to the same state. The distress condition of poor vulnerable families, is taken to advantage by the middlemen. The middlemen lends credit to these families to meet their basic needs. Further, they are caught in the net of brick kiln units, as these families are provided with advance amount to work as labour in brick kiln units. The advance amount is provided by the brick kiln unit owners. Each family comprising of four members, middle men pay advance amount of an average of Rs. 20,000/- and brick kiln unit owners pay an average Rs.4000/- to Rs.5,000/- to middle men per labourer on commission basis.

Identification of labour by middle men begins from month of October, as they start collecting information (labour demand) from brick kiln owners, payment details, terms and conditions. Role of middlemen involves; identification of potential labourers, collection of information on age, health condition, family situation, convincing the labourers for brick work, payment settlement, raising awareness on terms and conditions, informing labourers detail to brick owners and finally to send labourers to brick kiln units.

Brick owners pay amount to labourers based on Piece -Rate Method (PRM). Total works can be divided in to two broad categories such as one is preparation bricks including drying and second carrying dried bricks to stacks for firing. For 1000 bricks, labourer get Rs. 300/- for bricks preparation and Rs. 200/- for carrying bricks to stack.

During work period at brick kiln unit, labourers paid specified amount per week to purchase basic items for consumption. Owners paid remaining amount to labourers at the time going back to their villages, after deducting advance, weekly payment from total payment based on total bricks prepared / carried in the season. Owners did not count women and children work in the payment.

During the season, labourers reside in temporary make-shift accommodations like small rooms (Actually, these structures look as small huts with eight meter height and less width); with their family members in brick kiln unit premises only. They reside in vulnerable conditions, mostly without safe drinking water, toilets, electricity and medical facilities. Their children did not have school facility at or near brick kiln unit. They work average 12 to 16 hours per day. They did not have weekly offs or festival holidays. Women labourers face more problems.

Vulnerable conditions in brick kiln industry are the result of lack of efficient implementation of regulations. It is one of the largest informal sectors, which are providing employment in the country. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), bricks production per year is 240 to 260 billion in above one lakh brick units across the country. The existing regulations focus on environment, labourers' rights and entitlements and governance. There are four major existing regulations in the brick kiln industry as follows...

1. Location of land
2. Mining seigniorage fee
3. Environmental clearance
4. Labour department

**Location of land:** The entrepreneurs have to get no objection certificate or licence from concerned local bodies (Gram Panchayat or Municipal office) to establish brick kiln unit. Local bodies give no objection certificate after ensuring measures such as brick kiln should be constructed one km away from human habitations, health, education and other institutions, it should be away minimum 50 meters from agriculture / horticulture lands, 100 from flood banks of rivers, 200 meters from national and state highways and 25 meters from village roads. Entrepreneurs have to submit requisition letter to industries department, along with no objection certificate and licence. District Industries Centre (DIC) General Manager (GM) approves the application after ensuring stated measures at time of availing no objection certificate from local body and also other measures as follows...

1. Minimize fugitive emissions generations
2. Everyday ash should be disposed or reused in bricks making
3. It should effect agriculture activity

Revenue authorities can take action on default brick units which are not implementing regulations. Overall concerned district collector monitor regulation implementations in brick kiln sector.

**Mining seigniorage fee:** Clay or brick earth used in bricks making is treated as minor mineral by the state governments and impose fee on extracting clay.

**Environment clearance:** Extraction of clay less than five hectares area categorised under "B2 Category" by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India. Clay extraction area exceeded and more than five hectares, it will fall under Category "B1" and in both categories brick kiln owners have to take environment clearance certificate.

**Labour department:** As per labour Act, any brick kiln employee who employs labourers in bricks has to take permission from labour department.

There are various other policies directly or indirectly related to brick kiln sector. Those policies are as follows...

1. Industrial policies
2. Environmental policies
3. Production policies
4. Technology policies
5. Finance policies
6. Market policies
7. Labour policies

Unfortunate thing that, there are no specified policies designed to brick workers in the brick sector. Above policies implementation at different levels associated directly or indirectly with various organizations such as Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of

Power, Ministry of Labour, Bureau of Indian Standards and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) etc.,. These are national level organizations. Mostly policy making is central subject and implementation is state subject. Along with DICs, there are different organizations are associated in implementing regulations.

Despite the environmental concern because taking large amounts of coal and fertile surface land for bricks making, brick kiln industry is important sector. It is providing livelihoods to large number of poor people during agriculture lean season. Government of India has been initiating various programs and designing notifications focus with brick kiln sector. These initiatives designed to introduce mechanization, reduce air pollution and make it formal in labourers' aspects. Till date, there is no comprehensive environment policy for brick industry. Brick industry related environment policy first designed in 1996 to reduce air pollution by restricting open clamps, to protect top soil and fly ash disposal or reutilization in brick making.

In brick kiln industry, lack of proper implementation of regulations is major issue. There is no regular monitoring of brick kilns from labour welfare department or DIC officials. These departments did not have sufficient staff to supervise the units. Most of the places, brick kiln units' owners are violating regulations by using with financial positions, local status and political contacts and they are not providing minimum facilities to labourers at work places. There is no proper data at DICs or labour welfare departments about number of brick kiln units functioning and number labourers involving in brick making works and their details. Labourers are doing drudgery work but they are getting less wages comparing national average wage, because lack of proper records and transparency methods about labourers work. There is no health and life insurances facility to labourers.

Animals are much cheaper, than vehicles like tractors and also animals are better suited in terrain areas. According to Brooke India and Donkey Sanctuary India study, in our country nearly 3, 80,000 animals are involving in works brick kiln industry. These animals are using for transporting finished bricks and other raw material. 80% of the animals migrate within the district and also outside of the district for brick kiln work by their owners. Donkeys are mostly used in works in brick kiln units than horses and other animals. Donkeys do more hard work and resilient than other animals.

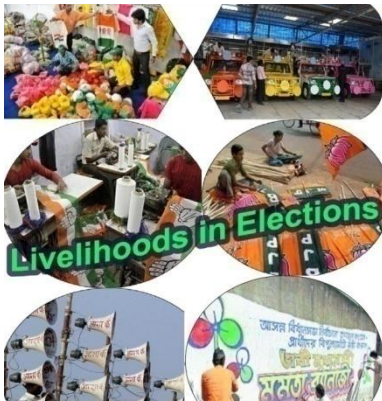
Various Non Government Organizations (NGOs) such International Labour Organization (ILO-<http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>), anti-slavery international (<https://www.antislavery.org/>), Prayas Centre for Labour Research and Action (PCLRA - <http://www.clra.in>), Volunteers for Social Justice (VSJ - <http://www.vsj-ddva.org/>), Jana Jagriti Kendra (JJK), Jan Sahas – Social Development Society (<http://www.jansahasindia.org/>), are working with brick kiln workers. These organizations focus on workers' rights and entitlements and also facilitate technology adoption in drudgery works in brick making process. They are organizing workers into unions for ensuring workers' rights and also availing their entitlements. They are also doing advocacy work with governments at various levels for designing comprehensive policies and proper implementation of existing polices.

Bonded labour or forced labour most prevalent in brick kiln industry for many reasons like informal nature, seasonal activity, wage labour mode associated with migration and labourers belong to downtrodden and marginalized communities from drought areas. There is an urgent need to focus on concerns of brick kiln labourers from government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Governments should take various measures such as implementing regulations properly, conducting national wide survey on banded labourers particularly in brick kiln units, training labour inspection staff, maintaining data base of brick making labourers, regular monitoring, promoting technology adoption drudgery works in brick making, ensuring pollution reduction, ensuring all brick labourers to be unionise, providing entitlements at work place, strengthening National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to address bonded labour, promoting brick making labourers collectives, increasing rehabilitation amount from Rs. 20,000/- to specified amount recommended by NHRC, providing health and life insurance.

**\*livelihoods November-2017**

## 33.Livelihoods in Elections

***16th General Elections is the lengthiest and costliest elections in the world. The contesting parties are expected to spend Rs. 30,500 crores in these elections (Centre for Media Studies estimation). There are a number of activities, which are livelihoods during this election time. Along with MP elections, there are MLA elections and village level / municipal level elections which are conducted once in every five Years.***



In India, the 16th general elections or Lok Sabha elections will be held from 7th April to 12th May 2014. The elections will be conducted in all 543 Parliamentary constituencies, in 9 stages, 672 districts, 29 states and 7 UTs to elect Members of Parliament (MP) for Lok Sabha. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), presently there are 81.45 crore voters in the country. 9, 30,000 polling stations will be setup to conduct the elections. This is the lengthiest and costliest elections in the world. The contesting parties are expected to spend Rs. 30,500 crores in these elections according to Centre for Media Studies (CMS) estimation. There are a number of activities, which are livelihoods during these elections. Along with MP elections, there are MLA elections and village level / municipal level elections, that are conducted once in every five Years. This month, 'livelihoods' tries to understand the livelihood opportunities in elections.

In the 15th general elections, in 2009, nearly 364 political parties and 8,070 candidates contested. Last general elections were held in four stages; in a one month period and 41.81 crore voters (58.4%) utilized their voting right, out of total 71.6 crore voters in the country. Nearly 8,28,804 polling stations and 13,68,430 electronic voting machines were setup, 65 lakh election staff and 11 lakh police forces were deployed. The expenditure of the 15th general elections was approximately Rs. 10,000 crores.

In the 16th general elections, 10 crore additional voters have been added. 9,30,000 polling stations, 13,00,000 electronic voting machines, 1.10 crore election staff and police forces are participating in present elections. Almost 9000 candidates may be participating in elections.

According to the Delimitation Commission (DC) of India, the Parliament Constituency's (PC) size ranges from 50,000 voters to maximum 25 lakhs voters.

In our country there are three types of elections- Panchayat / Municipal level election, Assembly constituencies' election and PCselection. Totally, 4,120 MLAs (Including 100 MLAs from 2 UTs Delhi and Pondicherry) are elected every 5 years. Along with these elections, Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTC) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTC) elections are conducted every 5 years. The election process will last for more than two months and mostly the general elections and the Assembly elections are conducted, separately in many states in the country. This time only four states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Sikkim are also having elections to elect a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) simultaneously. Recently MLA elections were completed in five states such as Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram states. Particularly, this time Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states are conducting Municipal elections, MPTC and ZPTC elections, along with MP and MLA elections.

The elections are a good season for various livelihoods opportunities for more than 2 months. It may not be exaggeration to say that in these two months of general elections period, different types of entrepreneurs may earn yearly income by working in the election related livelihoods. Election surveys and enrollment of the voters by party activists will start before election announcement by the EC. Pre poll survey work is a very big activity. There

are various levels of surveys, such as national, state and regional level surveys. Many organizations are involved in this activity. They have to interact with minimum Rs. 50,000/- (0.06% in total number) voters across the country. These surveys are conducted in two ways- online poll survey or direct interaction with voters in the villages or towns. In preparing questionnaires, interactions with voters in the field, data entry, consolidation, logistical works and presentation activities, require different types of skilled people. It is not a one-time activity. Almost all major national media managements, different parties, individuals, organizations etc, may ask for a survey.

Election campaign is a very important process in elections. The campaign broadly contains advertising the parties' manifestoes particularly its promises, achievements, contested persons qualifications and visions about the development of the people in constituencies. Parties consider the election campaign as essential and a very important strategy in winning the votes. The campaign decides the fate of the candidate in the elections. In election campaigns, the candidates have to spend on various items.

Regarding expenditure items in the election campaign, the Election Commission (EC) suggested items used as follows-

1. Hiring charges of Loudspeaker with amplifier and microphone.
2. Construction of podium/pandal (standard size to seat 4-5 persons).
3. Cloth Banner.
4. Cloth Flags.
5. Plastic Flags.
6. Hand Bills.
7. Posters.
8. Hoardings.
9. Cut outs (wooden).
10. Cut outs (Cloth/Plastic).
11. Video Cassettes.
12. Audio Cassettes.
13. Erection of gates for meetings.
14. Erection of arches.
15. Daily hiring charges of vehicles.
  - (i) Jeep/Tempo/Trucker, etc.
  - (ii) Sumo/Qualis.
  - (iii) Cars.
  - (iv) Three – Wheelers.
  - (v) Cycle – Rickshaw.
16. Hiring charges of hotel rooms/guest houses.
17. Charges of drivers, salary.
18. Hiring charges of furniture (chairs, sofa, etc.) and fixtures.

Along with above stated items; candidates spend on other items like- stickers, badges, caps, T-shirts, kanduvas, printing polling slips, model ballot papers, hiring cultural teams, traditional and modern musical groups, distributing gift items, advertisements in print media and electronic media, hiring offices on rent basis, payments to office in-charges, meetings' organizers, serving food, cool drinks, butter milk to the participating people in meetings/rallies, logistical works' organizers, tickets booking, and supervisors etc. They also mobilize people for

meetings, visit voter's houses, promising to solve the individual/village/slum/mandal / block/division level problems.

After EC's declaration about polling dates, parties start to select suitable candidates for constituencies and publish the candidates' lists. The selected candidates begin the election campaign with posters, stickers, identity cards and pamphlets. In the pamphlets, leaflets and posters they print the parties' promises in general and include the constituency issues and related promises. This gives huge work to printing presses and Desktop Publishing (DTP) centers. The workers have to do double shifts, to meet the orders from the candidates and the managements have to take additional workforce for this work. The printing press owners earn yearly income in this election period by printing posters, pamphlets, leaflets and stickers. Works like pasting posters, distributing pamphlets and stickers, putting hoardings and banners and constructing podiums and arranging mike systems and electricity, requires many workers for more than a month.

Wearing party symbol caps, kanduvas, T-shirts/shirts and flags is an old practice and its relevance has been increasing in a party's election campaign. It differentiates the parties, and gives the party propaganda. Thousands of caps, kanduvas, shirts and flags are required in the campaign. It provides lots of work to the tailors and also brings demand to the cloth shops.

MP constituencies have an average of 200 to 400 villages under their constituency. Candidates have to visit all major villages or supporters of candidates have to visit all habitations. This campaign requires many vehicles like Jeep/Tempo/Trucker, Sumo / Qualis, Cars and Three – Wheelers. Those who have vehicles either own or rented, can get good income by renting their vehicles for election campaign works. Three wheelers like autos play important role in election campaign, not only transporting the passengers, auto / jeep drivers stick or paste party banners, flags and posters and use mikes on vehicles to campaign. This arrangement serves the parties' propaganda purpose.

Social media influence has been increasing for campaigning in last 10 years by the use of smart phones. According to Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), almost 160 MP seats out of 543 seats, are influenced by the social media and political parties are spending 2% to 5% of their total expenditure on social media. 4 out of 10 urban voters have online connectivity, in the country. Almost 3-4% votes can be mapped through online campaigns. The candidates are using the social media options such as facebook, twitter, blogs, web-sites, e-mails, apps, youtube and other applications, as it is easy to reach a vast number of people. Regularly updating the party status, interacting with people and facilitating space for their opinions can be possible through social media. Major national and state level parties are spending money on social media for advertising. Almost 1 in 3 persons has mobile phones in our country. Candidates are using messaging services for election campaigns. Telecom service providers are getting huge income with this. A lot of people having technical knowledge on internet, web designing, portal making, apps and video making are in demand. According to Google India, this year it is getting 250-300% income on advertisements from political parties, in the country.

There are 6, 40,867 villages and 7,933 towns in the country. Major political parties set up party offices in the villages and in slums in the towns, to coordinate the election works, particularly election campaign work. The candidates rent houses for party offices, hire office boys, chairs, tables and tents. These offices become central points to all election related works and party activists' gatherings. The candidates arrange water cans, tea, breakfast, snacks and meals from hotels for the party activists. These small entrepreneurs get good income in this month.

Mobilizing people for meetings and rallies are important in election campaigns. The candidates organize various meetings, particularly big and medium meetings, which provide many livelihoods such as setting stage, arranging banners, flags, electricity connection, cultural teams' performances, vehicles to mobilize people to the meetings and propaganda to the meetings, arranging mike-set, selling different snacks items and preparing tea and breakfast for the organizers. Water packets selling, ice creams selling, coconut selling and cool drinks selling people also get good income in the meetings. People also get Rs. 200/- per meeting to participate.



Election campaign through wall writing has been gradually decreasing for decades, yet political parties are depending on wall writing for election campaign. This provides bright income opportunity to the artists, through wall writing to the contested candidates.

In the election campaign, candidates, parties' representatives, cultural teams and their supporters have to move around the constituency and representatives have to travel from state headquarters and nation headquarters for election campaigns. The candidates have to make travel arrangements for those persons. This gives work such as booking vehicles, tickets for buses, rail and flight to the travel agents. The candidates have to book accommodation for the parties' representatives and others in hotels and lodges which provides good income to them.

Print media and electronic media are key instruments in election campaigns. Almost every contested candidate gives advertisement in print and electronic media several times. They spend lakhs of rupees on advertisement. Print media is also useful to print pamphlets, brochures and leaflets to the people, which are then given to the paper agents, who put it in news papers and distribute it along with newspapers to the subscribers. The paper agents get extra income from this opportunity.

Candidates make preparations to ensure voter identity cards to every person, particularly their supports. They give this responsibility to the core activists, to facilitate voters to get voter cards. The candidates are also involved in providing printouts and xerox copies of the polling slips to distribute to the voters in Election Day and before Election Day. Xerox shops get lots of work for xerox copies, printouts and preparing identity cards for the voters.

Political parties take services, form detective agencies to enquire about candidates details, opposite candidates strategies and people's aspirations. Almost 10,000 detective agencies are working in the country. They are charging from 5—20 lakhs for their service.

Gifts distribution is also one of the methods practiced by the candidates in the election campaign. For example some candidates, with election symbols like bamboo basket, vessel, iron box etc distribute those gifts to the people. Candidates also distribute sarees or ornaments to the women voters at the time of election campaign. These practices give lots of opportunities to the gift selling people and gift making people.

Before the polling, on polling day and after polling, people are required to- bring polling material, assisting polling staff, providing tea, tiffin, meals to the staff, arranging tents etc. Almost all major parties put their supporters as polling agents. They play the role of identifying voters and preventing duplication or fake voters in polling. The candidates pay money to their polling agents. There may be more people indirectly depending, in various elections related works, across the country.

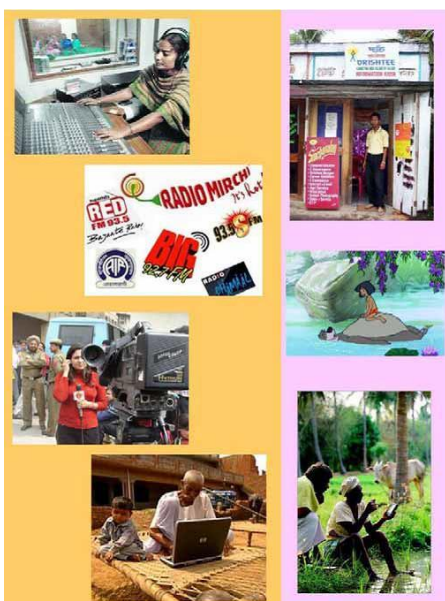
After elections, the elected candidates celebrate their victory. In those celebrations lot of crackers and garlands are used. It provides income to the flower garlands sellers and crackers sellers.

After elections the new governments try to implement, some of the election promises in the first year. These promises' materialization will definitely influence and impact crores of people's lives and livelihoods at different levels.

**\*Livelihoods March-2014**

## 34. Infotainment – Livelihoods in & around

***Information + Communication + Entertainment = Infotainment is a sector in the upswing supporting a large variety of livelihoods and continuously expanding scope for new livelihoods. Infotainment is a new word but the sector has been in existence for very long. What changed and continues to change is the medium of infotainment, the technology used, the volume, variety and quality of information delivered. These changes demand the need for acquiring new skill sets and also ask for the dynamism in adapting to rapidly changing skills. India is seen as a huge consumer market for infotainment. But what is hidden and ignored is the country's vast potential to produce huge skilled human resource market for grabbing the prospects of infotainment.***



Alvin Toffler's Third Wave talked about Information Age way back in 1980 and detailed how flood of information will permeate into various aspects of our life, how significant and inescapable it will make itself. We have seen the 'Third Wave' unfold and beyond. The sources of information, the volume, variety and quality of information, the reach of information, the different mediums and technology used and the multitude ways in which information is being presented is quite astounding and further expanding. Similar is the scenario in the entertainment sphere. In this context 'infotainment', the buzz word seems to be gaining momentum. Some also see it as a new fad. Infotainment is information plus entertainment. It is information-based media content or programming that also includes entertainment content in an effort to enhance popularity with audiences and consumers. There seems to be a tendency to view infotainment and TV as synonymous but such definition amounts to a parochial view and ignores multitude of other means and media that existed traditionally and those that are emerging. A careful understanding of this sector called infotainment throws light on the fact that this combination of information and entertainment is not a recent phenomenon. It has been in practice for ages. Infotainment is an age-old sector. Traditionally in India, local entertainment mediums like street plays, theatre, puppet shows, mythological recitals and other

folk media were used to disseminate information. Information on the ills associated with dowry system, alcoholism, child marriages, large family, malnutrition and under-nutrition was propagated using various entertaining performances like Hari Katha, Burra Katha, and Street Plays etc. Even news like outbreak of an epidemic and the safety measures to be adopted, the advent of crop pests and remedial measures to be taken, were shared using the folk entertainment mediums. With large sections of illiterate population leveraging entertainment media for disseminating important information served best and continues to do so even today.

After the fulfillment of the basic needs of life, entertainment takes up the very next slot in the needs of human life. History says that with the advent of wheel and practice of growing food crops human species tasted leisure for the first time. With leisure came religion, arts and many other activities that engaged people and entertained them. Entertainment thus existed as part and parcel of human life since long. We understand, it much better than other mediums; we identify more quickly with it. Infotainment assumes greater significance in this context. Information, Education, Communication and Entertainment (ICE) plays a pivotal role in creating awareness, mobilizing people and making development participatory through advocacy and by transferring knowledge, skills and techniques to the people and when ICE embraces entertainment as a delivery mechanism it is comprehended and accepted with relatively less efforts. Today radio and TV percolated into various corners of the country disseminating a smorgasbord of information. Many channels have programmes like talk shows, interviews, debates, panel discussions, quiz, news and etc present information on a variety of aspects including democracy, politics,

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economy, role of women, laws and policies, education, employment and livelihood opportunities, news from within the country and from the world interspersed with other programmes. Some channels like National Geographic, Discovery, for instance are good examples of infotainment. Several channels are dedicated for regional, national and world news. Another significant development is the availability of TV channels in almost all major languages of the country. In a country like India, with many linguistic groups and high rate of illiteracy TV plays a vital role, it informs and educates even as it entertains. Similarly, the increase in the number of private FM radio operators only shows the popularity of radio as a medium providing quality entertainment and information across the country. FM radio services in our country are now set to expand to 275 cities across the world. Community radio got popularity in some parts of rural India. For instance Radio Bundelkhand uses traditional Bundelkhandi songs, folk music and natak, discussions, reports, commodity prices, phone-ins, experts speak, coverage of events in villages, jokes and satire, listeners' letters and feedback to cover a variety of issues including employment and livelihood opportunities, development of women, girl's education, legal rights, farmers' issues, training etc. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) there are 38 operational community-radio stations in the country and more are in the pipeline. Print media, whether pictographic or alphabetic has equally stormed nook and corner of the country. Regional and national newspapers, weekly/fortnightly/monthly magazines, quarterly digests etc., also carry information, entertainment and infotainment to the doorstep. Huge variety of information/ entertainment catering to different age groups is disseminated by the print media. They carry sections for women, children, cartoons reflecting happenings in the country's political, economic, social and cultural sphere, information on sports and tourism and the list goes on.

The reach of telecommunication across India, particularly mobile phones is without doubt one of the great achievements of the country in the 20th century. According to a research done by Reliance Communications, phones in semi-urban and rural India, are not only used to make and receive calls but a sizable portion of its customers in Bihar, MP, Rajasthan and UP are using cell phones to log on to the net and for all sorts of infotainment. Internet is emerging as a fast growing infotainment media in the world and India is no exception. According to comScore World Matrix, the leader in measuring digital world, India has one of the fastest-growing Internet Populations in the world with more than 28 million users having access and this number is growing quickly. Net cafes around the corner in small establishments housing copier, fax, scan and other services under the same roof are a very common sight in India. Infotainment in automobiles is making news currently. Companies in India are vying to provide cost-effective and multi-featured infotainment gadgets in built in cars. The gadgets are being designed for both small and premium cars and are supposed to enable passengers to browse the net, watch internet television, operate Bluetooth-enabled phone through voice commands and use camera displays for navigation purposes. Apart from the above, other mediums of infotainment in vogue include songs, street performances, puppet shows, exhibitions, documentaries, movies, podcast, parades etc. The emerging technologies in the infotainment sector are allowing a much faster and universal access of information across the country. They are expanding the scope for many new livelihoods. At the same time, technologies like TV and radio and their reach practically to every corner of the country is paving way for diminishing the popularity of some traditional rural infotainment mediums like street performances, folklore etc. The artists and others hitherto dependent on rural infotainment livelihoods are losing out. They need additional and new skills to catch up with the emerging technologies in the sector.

The vast expanse of infotainment sector supports large variety of livelihoods both within and without. The number of livelihoods directly engaged in the sector can be anywhere in the order of 25% of working population. For instance, media itself supports a huge variety of livelihoods including floor assistants, runners, technicians with various levels of skills, set security, floor maintenance persons, drivers, anchors, editors, camera crew, sound crew, actors, reporters, writers, directors, producers, personnel in administration, research and marketing, assistants at various levels and many more. The infotainment equipment manufacturing sector also provides great number and varied job opportunities. Most jobs in the infotainment sector are semi-skilled and skilled. The scope for unskilled jobs is limited.

Trainings offered currently in the infotainment sector are mostly in the private space. Institutions offering trainings in multimedia are found more often than others. Colleges like Image College of Arts, Animation and Technology have 3- year programme in digital media. According to Nasscom animation industry, in India is expected to reach a turnover of \$1.5 billion by the end of 2009. This means lot of employment opportunities here. Most jobs in animation sector require schooling till 12th grade and diploma from recognized animation institute. There is great need to tie up unemployed youth in rural and urban India to this emerging sector. They need trainings and government and corporate sector can help subsidize these trainings for them. Institutions analogous to National Academy of Construction (NAC), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and National School of Drama (NSD) should emerge to build and nurture youth as quality human resource for the infotainment industry. Such institutions can have district level centers to attract youth from rural and semi-urban areas. In addition to the multitude of livelihoods that the infotainment industry directly supports, several livelihoods outside the sector are also influenced by it. Kiosks in village centers for instance provide useful information on agriculture inputs, market trends and prices. Cell phones have enabled producers, vendors and service providers to transact business with consumers over phone and deliver actual goods/services only after agreeing to each others' terms thus saving time and efforts for both parties. According to a study conducted by Robert Jensen, Harvard University economist, the use of mobile phones by the fishermen in Kerala have not only eliminated the need for fishermen to dump unsold fish into the sea, but also helped them increase their margins by 8%, while reducing the prices for consumers by 4%. Mobile phones also enabled fishermen to expand their markets beyond their home markets. However, the existing infrastructure is not enough to meet the emerging demand. Infotainment can actually bring the consumer closer to the producer by eliminating, some middle players in the value chain thus ensuring a better share for producer in the consumer rupee spent. The scope of expanding infotainment in the rural market that would benefit the rural economy, rural producers and rural consumers is huge. Such scope needs to be identified and defined, rural resources including human resources and institutions should be leveraged, infrastructure needs to be scaled up and above all community needs to be taken into consideration. Infotainment is a fast-growing sector all around the world. The value added services segment in infotainment sector is huge and is expected to log a turnover of over Rs.200 billion by the year 2015. The world sees India particularly rural India as a huge consumer market for this sector. But India should use this opportunity to also build skilled manpower to latch on to the employment prospects that this emerging sector offers. Identifying regional needs, gaps and opportunities and accordingly bringing in cost-effective and quality infotainment, identifying potential youth and building them to join the infotainment bandwagon as entrepreneurs, service providers, employees, consultants etc., will immensely help.

Number of Television Stations in India	562
Number of Television Sets	63,000,000
Television Sets per 1,000	61.2
Number of Cable Subscribers	39,112,150
Cable Subscribers per 1,000	38.5
Number of Radio Stations	312
Number of Radio Receivers	116,000,000
Radio Receivers per 1,000	112.6
Number of Individuals with Computers	4,600,000
Computers per 1,000	4.5
Number of Individuals with Internet Access	5,000,000
Internet Access per 1,000	4.9

**\*Livelihoods October - 2009**

# **V Poor, Poverty and Reduction**

## 35. Child Labour

**India, the second fastest growing economy in the world, has the largest number of child labour in the world. Millions of kids below 14 years of age are toiling hard for survival. Nearly, 60 million children are working as child labour in the country. If we include all the children, who are not going to school, the number will reach nearly to 100 million child labourers. It is 30% of the world's child labour. There are a number of international, regional, national and state level organizations and Governments, working to eradicate child labour in the country. At the National and State level, different Acts and Policies were designed to abolish the child labour system. But child labour is still prevalent across the country, depriving the kids from physical & mental development, healthy and prosperous life and accessibility to education. Millions of kids' wonderful childhood is being crushed under inhuman conditions, restricted locations, dark rooms, high temperature and breathing poisonous fumes in processing centers, manufacturing factories, enterprises and agriculture fields. There is an urgent need to eradicate child labour in the country. It requires multiple interventions and particularly tremendous commitment to protect the children from the iron clutches of child labour.**



India, the second fastest growing economy in the world, has the largest number of child labour in the world. Millions of kids below 14 years of age are toiling hard for survival. Nearly, 60 million children are working as child labour in the country. If we include all the children, who are not going to school, the number will reach nearly 100 million child labourers. It is 30% of the world's child labour. There are a number of international, regional, national and state level organizations and Governments, working to eradicate child labour in the country. At the National and State level, different Acts and Policies were designed to abolish the child labour system. But child labour is prevalent across the country, depriving the kids from physical & mental development, healthy and prosperous life and accessibility to education. Millions of kids' wonderful childhood is being crushed under inhuman conditions, restricted locations, dark rooms, high temperature and breathing poisonous fumes in processing centers, manufacturing factories, enterprises and agriculture fields. There is an urgent need to eradicate child labour in the

country. It requires multiple interventions and particularly tremendous commitment to protect the children from the iron clutches of child labour. In this context 'livelihoods' explores 'Child Labour' in the country.

Children are the most valuable asset to the any country in the world. They are the future nation-builders. Child labour,

is any work which deprives children from right to education, joy of childhood, leisure, and harms the child's health and prevents physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of children. Children are more sensitive than adults. They are less resistant to diseases and suffer more from chemical hazards and radiation than adults. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution prohibits child labour in any factory, industry, mine and agriculture fields or any hazardous employment. Children are working in all sectors such as agriculture, industrial and service sectors and particularly in informal sector. Child labourers make up 6% of total population, 15% of children's population and 4% of total labour force in the country. More than 60% of child labourers are in agriculture, livestock rearing, forestry and fishing; 25% in service sector and 15% in manufacturing sector. Most of the children are working in the informal sector. On an average, child labourers work from 12 to 18 hours a day, seven days a week and without facilities in work places or holidays.

Child labour, may be part-time or full-time; it may be domestic work or other work or even a type of bondage work. Mostly, children are getting low wages and in some cases they didn't even get any income. Sometimes,

they are involved in supportive roles, particularly in artisan works at homes. Mostly, girl children are involved in domestic works such as cleaning, cooking, bringing water and taking care of kids etc. at home. Thousands of rich families prefer to hire children for household chores and for looking after their own kids, in-return providing for labourer's food, clothes and other minimum necessities. In rural areas, child labourer's are involved in different works in agriculture, particularly in works such as cotton seeding, where the farmers prefer children. In agriculture and artisan works, children may be completely involved or may play a support role. According to the MV Foundation, nearly 4 lakh children, mostly girl children, between the age group of 7 to 14 years are working 14 to 16 hours a day in cotton seed production in Andhra Pradesh (Including Telangana state). The deadly pesticides such as Endosulphan and Methanol damage the children's lungs and their health is affected by standing for so long in the wet mud in the agriculture fields.

Livestock rearing is also one of the major occupations, which absorb child labourers. In rural areas, particularly in poor families most of the children are engaged in household works such as collecting water, firewood, cleaning houses, taking care of kids, livestock and cleaning utensils etc. Child labour is prevalent in many places such as hotels, restaurants, sweet shops, glass manufacturing units, tourism industry, diamond industry, hybrid seeds production units, textile units, rice mills, jewellery industries, tailoring centers, tea stalls, matches, fireworks and explosive industries, bangles factories, beedi-making, carpet-making, lock making, brassware, export oriented garment units, gem polishing industries, salt mines and manufacturing units, leather units, diamond industries, construction works, brick factories, mechanic shops, carpentry shops, painting, plumber works, stone cutting industries, mining industries, cooking, selling different items etc.

Siva Kasi in Tamil Nadu is famous for manufacturing of crackers and also famous for engaging children in those dangerous works. There are nearly 45000 to 60000 thousand children working in cracker-making factories; of which 65% of the child labourers are girls. These factories are situated in poor villages of Siva Kasi area. The factory owners get the child labourers from their agents who reside in the villages. The agents give advances to the child labourer's parents to send their children for work in the cracker-making factories. Every morning between 3am to 5am, agents come along with buses and pick-up the half-asleep children from their homes and drop the kids back between 6pm to 7pm. They work with the dangerous chemicals, mixing them for 12 hours a day in poorly-ventilated rooms, without minimum safety measures. The kids return home tired. Fire accidents, which take the children's precious lives, are common in the area. They have to sit for long hours in the same position, harming their posture and damaging their eye sight and respiratory system. They get anywhere between Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per day, per 12 hours. Most of the children have never been to a school. The carpet industry is another major industry employing children.

In many small and medium factories, cottage industries, hotels, mechanic shops and other enterprises employers largely prefer to take children as workers. They prefer child labourers due to various reasons such as -children can work for long hours, they engage actively in works, they don't demand higher wages and other facilities and they have no unions which fight for better working conditions for them etc. India has the largest informal sector with lakhs of small and marginal industries, construction works, artisan enterprises which take child labourers in its clutches. In urban areas, the practice of engaging girl children in domestic work has been increasing for the last three to four decades in the country. The girl children work in rich and middle class houses as domestic workers. The middle class is growing and now it makes up 20% of total population and most of the families in this category have both husband and wife doing jobs or running enterprises. So they require the girl child labourers to do the household chores, caring for elders and children. The girl child labourers have to deal with many problems such as getting low wages, insufficient food, no holidays and emotional/sexual abuse in the domestic work. Their situation reflects the life of a slave. Many children are involved in selling tea, snacks, and vegetables etc. in shops, near bus stops, railway stations, busy centers and moving from one place to another, it is particularly more prevalent in urban areas. They work from morning to evening or half a day. They have to stand in hot and cold temperatures for long hours to earn money for survival.

We can see many children involved in rag-picking on the roads and streets, from a number of dustbins and garbage dumps, particularly in urban areas. They wake up very early in the morning and take bags and collect recyclable things from the excreta and toxic waste on the roads and from garbage dumps and dustbins till evening and sell the collected things in shops at very less prices. They collect recyclable things without gloves, shoes and mask. These kids get injured while collecting needles and sharp glass pieces, bites from infected animals and fall ill because of handling garbage. A number of children engage in begging in both rural and urban areas in places such as railway stations, bus stands, busy centers, devotional places, markets, shops etc. In many places, begging women use little kids below age of one to two years for begging and pay some amount to the kids' mothers. Some of the children are forced into doing illegal activities, such as supplying drugs and other prohibited activities, which endanger their life. The Police also harass these children, whenever there are any crimes. Poverty is the main cause for child labour. Particularly, the growing gap between the poor and rich and



privatization of public sector are also contributing to the child labour. In many poor families, parents prefer to send their children to work instead of school. As they feel that if the child went to work instead of school, the child can contribute to the total family income and they can additionally escape from the education expenditure. According to one survey, children as labourers are contributing 25% to 40% to their family income. The poor parents, who are mostly illiterates, do not recognize the importance of education. They do not see education as a meaningful alternative option for their children's survival because of the huge number of educated unemployed people in their surroundings. They are not aware about the bad effects of the child labour.

Poor parents borrow money from the rich or factory owners or money-lenders. When they do not repay the money, they are forced to send their children to work in the money-lenders' enterprises. According to the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, there are about 10 million bonded child labourers in the country. It is a form of slavery. Earlier, bonded labour was prevalent mostly in agriculture. Now it has expanded to beedi-making, brick kilns, carpet-weaving, hotels, fire-works, leather works, mines, quarries etc. Most of the bonded labourers belong to Dalit and tribal communities. Migration is also one of the major causes for child labour. Lack of qualitative Government schools is also one of the causes for child labour. In localities of the poor people, on one-side there are Government schools in poor quality and on another-side there are private schools which provide quality education, but charge a lot of money. So, the recognizable percent of poor parents do not want to send their children to schools. India is predominately an agriculture-based economy, with more than 75% of the farmers belonging to marginal and small farmer's category. These families do agriculture as a family enterprise. They use their children in many activities in agriculture. Culture is one of the important causes for child labour. According to the culture, children should follow elder's footsteps in all aspects, including livelihoods. So, a recognizable number of children follow their parent's business or occupation. Largely, our society does not give equal importance to girl child in all aspects, particularly in the aspect of education. Most of the poor parents think that there is no need to provide education to girls, as girl children play vital roles in household chores. These cultural factors prevent most of the girl children from education or force them to dropout from schools, particularly girl children from poor families. A number of policies have evolved to eradicate child labour, from the pre-independence era to the present era. The Indian Factory Act, 1881 prohibited a child below 7 years of age for employment in factories. It was amended in 1891, to increase the minimum age limit of a child employed in factories to 9 years. The Constitution of India says that child labour is a wrong practice and that it should be eliminated by the law. In this process, the Government of India appointed Guruprasad swamy committee to study and prepare recommendations to eradicate child labour in the country. In 1986, The Child Labour Act was introduced to eradicate child labour in the country. It states that child labour is illegal and fixes the minimum age of employment at 14 years. In 1989, a national policy on child labour was introduced to rehabilitate the child labourers from the dangerous works. But The Child Labour Act, 1986 allows child labour in non-hazardous industries. The Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and Democratic people put pressure on Government to bring changes in the Act. In 1993, the Punjab and Haryana High Court gave order to abolish child labour in both hazardous and non-hazardous industries. But it also allows the children to work in family-based occupations and trades to learn occupational skills. The Commissions of Child Rights Protection Act, 2005 was introduced to protect, promote and defend child rights in every state. It facilitated to form the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and State Level Commissions in each state.

The Government has designed various programs at the state and national level to eradicate child labour in the country. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program was started in 1979, to provide nutritious food and pre-school education to the poor children. Later the Centre extended its services to pregnant and lactating women. By March 2014, there were 13, 42,146 ICDS centers (Anganwadi Centers and Mini Anganwadi Centers) providing its services to 3.7 crore children in the country. In 1982, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the Noon Meals Program (NMP) to ensure food to children at least once a day. Later, it expanded to other states in the country and adopted as a national program. The Government of India is running special pre-schools for the poor children in many states and presently there are 6.7 lakh mid-day meal centers providing food to 10.45 crore children in 11.58 lakh schools in the country. There are many international organizations working on the protection of child rights across the world. Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) has 2189 member organizations across the world from various NGOs, United Nation (UN) agencies, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), research institutions, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs). CRIN publishes reports regarding child rights situation in the world. These reports are submitted to CRIN by the member organizations. In child rights protection, along with CRIN there are many international organizations such as International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), Child Helpline International (CHI), Amnesty International, Action Aid International, Children International, Child Information and Documentation Center (CRIDOC), International Labour Organization (ILO), Defense for Children International, Global Action for Children, PLAN International etc. working across the world. In the country, there are many organizations working for the protection of child rights in all the states and Union Territories (UTs) like Butterflies, Concern for Working Child, Child Rights and You (CRY), Rescue Foundation, Safer India, Shakti



Vahini, South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), Meljol, Asha for Education, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MVF), SOS Children's Villages India, Save the Children India, Child Help Line etc., working for the protection of child rights in the country. These NGOs are working on different activities such as running schools and shelter homes, awareness programs, children protection cells, convergence programs on children rights, legal aid centers for children etc.

There is a slight change in the child labour situation in the country. The continuous efforts of Governments, CBOs and NGOs and changes in the thinking of people about education-facilitated gradual decline in child labour. The poor people also prefer to send their kids to schools instead of sending them to work in fields or factories. This trend has been growing for the last two to three decades. But part-time child labourers and student drop-outs are also increasing. This is the direct result of poverty, unemployment, lack of quality and sufficient residential schools with good facilities and poor education in Government schools. So, the poor children have to work as part-time workers to meet the financial needs of the family. Child labourers are very high in the country, even though there are national and state level Governments programs and international and national organizations' initiatives running in the country to eradicate child labour. The prevalence of child labour has many causes such as lack of multiple interventions, lack of focus on poverty reduction and conviction on programs, implementation of Acts, insufficient funds' allocation, lack of quality universal education with residential facility to poor children, cultural barricades etc. Every child has a right to enjoy a joy-filled childhood and have access to physical, mental and spiritual development. Our country has the potentiality to eradicate child labour if the Governments strived in a committed and a time-bound manner. To eradicate child labour in the country, the Government has to take some important steps, which are as follows:

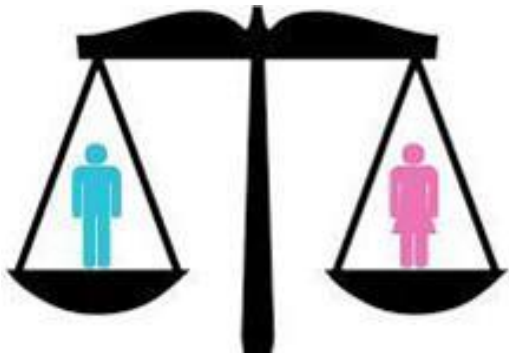
- Recognize the elimination of child labour as a top-most priority,
- Design a comprehensive plan with time-bound results, involving NGOs, CBOs, experts, legal advisers and rights activists;
- Allocate sufficient funds;
- Design multiple programs, including poverty elimination;
- Provide sufficient ICDS centers;
- Establish children's court in each district;
- Provide quality residential schools;
- Conduct continuous awareness programs on child labour;
- Design Acts, which ban all types of labour, including hazardous and non-hazardous categories;
- Strict implementation of Acts and strict punishments to the employers, who take kids in their enterprises as child labourers.

The Government should do continuous monitoring and evaluation of child labour eradication programs and bridge the gaps without delay. Child labour is a complete violation of the Constitution -which ensures the protection of children and their rights. The Government should ensure equal opportunities for all children, particularly those from the poorest of the poor families.

**\* Livelihoods November 2014**

## 36. Gender

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Men and women are involved in livelihoods. Women workforce is less than men workforce. Women not only spend time on household works, they also take up income generating activities. In 21st century, women are continuing to face discrimination in many ways across India. Though different types of programmes, have been designed for women's development, they have been insufficient. India is a male dominated society, and women do not have equal rights as men.

Human rights are for both men and women. This means that women are entitled to the same human rights as men.

However, all over the world women have historically often been discriminated against the men in many ways. In India, women are worshipped as a Devi/Goddess, but are still deprived of basic human rights. Even though there have been some improvements; unfortunately, this kind of discrimination still exists in our societies. Gender is a common term, whereas gender discrimination is associated only with women, because women are the potential victims of gender discrimination. Females are nearly half of the total population, but their representation in public life is very low.

In Gender situation context, half of the world's population is female. India has more working women, than any country in the world. Women are doing 2/3rd of the total work in the world, but received only one-tenth of the world's total income. Nearly 2/3 of the women are illiterates and they have possessed only one percent of the total world's assets. In the world, only 1/4 of the families are headed by females. In India, which is a male dominated society, gender discrimination is customized habitually.

Presently, India's population is 121 crores; constituting of 62 crore men (52%) and 58 crore women (48%). Sex ratio is 943 females for 1000 males. India's total female population is 586 million as per 2011 census. According to the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) 2010 report, it is estimated that India had 112 million female workers in India. In India, presently 30% of population lives in cities. More than 30% of women live in cities. India's gender inequality rank is 132 out of 187 countries according to the United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Report (UNDPHHR) 2013. To add insult to injury, UNDP - HDR 2013 had stated through its rankings that the rest of the South Asian countries, except Afghanistan, were a better place for women equality than India; Sri Lanka ranked 75, Nepal ranked 102 and Bangladesh ranked 111 in gender inequality.

As per the (NSSO survey), the workforce participation rate of female in rural areas was 26.1 in 2009-10, while male was 54.7 in India. In urban sector, women workforce was 13.8 and 54.3 for males. In the rural sector 55.7% females are self employed, 4.4% females have regular employment and 39.9% females are casuals labourers compared with 53.5% self employed, 8.5% regular employment, and 38% male are casual labourers.

In Manu Samhita, it is said that 'A Guru who teaches Veda is 10 times superior to an ordinary teacher and the father is 100 times more than a teacher, but the mother is 1000

In 2011, only 29% of women above 15 years of age were part of the country's workforce, whereas 80.7% of men above 15 years of age were part of the workforce in India. Only 10.9% of women are lawmakers in Parliament. Only 26.6% of the women above 25 years received secondary education in 2010, compared to 50.4% of men.

UNDP-HDR also said that 200 women died in every one lakh childbirths in India. Statistics say that close to 245 million Indian women, lack the basic capability to read and write. Only 13.9% women are employed in the urban sector and 29% in the domestic and agriculture sector.

The decline in female participation in the workforce has continued irrespective of the country's economic growth, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) in February 2013. Despite rapid economic growth in India, female participation in the workforce fell from 37% to 29% between 2004-05 and 2009-10. According to the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2011-12, among the women, around 39% in rural areas and about 50% in urban areas spent most of their time on domestic work. The total literacy rate of India is 74%; while women's literacy rate is 65%. But there are differences between urban and rural literacy rate of women. Women's urban literacy rate is 80% and rural literacy rate is 59% in India.

<b>Women and men's role in various livelihoods</b>		
<b>Livelihood</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	Do works like ploughing, carrying product bags, carrying fertilizer bags, applying pesticide, watering crops, selling products in the market, etc.	Do agriculture works like seeding, planting, weeding, watering, pesticide applying, grading products, cleaning land, etc.
<b>Dairy</b>	Cleaning cattle shed, watering animals, fodder supply, taking animals to grazing land, milking animals, selling milk etc.	Cleaning cattle shed, watering for animals, fodder bringing, taking animals to grazing land, milking from animals etc.
<b>Backyard Poultry</b>	Do this only when women are not available at house but are involved only selling poultry.	Do cleaning, giving grains, carrying poultry etc.
<b>Weaving</b>	Weaving, colouring, dyeing, designing, warping, selling sarees etc.	Supporting in warping, dyeing, tying, colouring, yarn winding, barbing, etc.
<b>Goat/Sheep Rearing</b>	animals to grazing, protecting from forest animals, immunization, iron netting, protecting animals from thieves in night time etc.	Supporting works in goat/sheep rearing.
<b>Artisans</b>	Do all major works like black smith works, carpentry works, gold smith works etc.	Do supporting works
<b>Tailoring</b>	Stitch both men and women's clothes	Stitch only women's clothes but women take up tailoring work more than men in India comparatively.
<b>Govt/Pvt Jobs</b>	Men and women do all works equally in private or government sector.	
<b>NTFP</b>	Men go to forest to collect NTFP products like honey, gum karaya, amla, palm items, etc.	Women collect leaves, firewood, cashew, amla, etc, and also grading NTFPs.
<b>Entrepreneurs</b>	Men do major works like market study, buying raw materials, selling items, book keeping, etc.	Women are also running enterprises like clothes store, boutique, grocery shop, etc.
<b>Driving</b>	Men drive all vehicles.	Very less women are working as drivers.

Women handle various responsibilities, generally in India, a woman starts her day early in the morning by doing households chores i.e. cleaning house, fetching water, cooking food, cleaning vessels, washing clothes etc. She takes care of the children and family members, their health, and also attends to various incomes generation activities. She also manages all the household matters, takes care of the family assets, and livestock; handles the household purchases, and financial matters, and works almost 14-16 hours per day. In rural India, women also spend their time in making cow-dung patties for use as cooking fuel, collecting firewood, sewing, tailoring, collecting drinking water etc.

There is no recognition for their hard work; we cannot evaluate their work in terms of money. In majority of cases, if a woman falls sick, she does not complain and family members do not even notice because, she continues to work as usual for the sake of the family. Women's views are ignored and they are dominated even if the

discussion requires their involvement. As a result, today women suffer the most in the society due to drudgery, ill health, illiteracy, deprivation and humiliation. Backwardness of women is a sign of poverty and they suffer the worst, during the period of drought calamity in the country. India hosts over one-third of the poor in the world; the main reason for which is lack of women empowerment in India.

It is a socially-accepted reality in most Indian households, even where both spouses are working that women end up handling most household chores. A study by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) says that Indian women spend 298 minutes per day on housework like cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, home maintenance etc. They spend 221 minutes per day on leisure which includes watching TV, sports, entertaining etc., compared to 283 minutes per day for men. The average Indian man spends more than 703 minutes per day on personal care like sleeping, eating, drinking.

Women are performing multiple roles as wives, mothers, daughters and also income generators. Women collect water and firewood, apart from cleaning, cooking, and giving support to their families. These works are unpaid and are time consuming processes. Gender disparities can be seen in access to economic resources, credit, land, economic power sharing, assets sharing, etc., and limited access to agriculture inputs, especially food crops for women. In our society, women are the prime care takers of children, elderly people, family members and ill persons.

On the workforce front, rural women work more than urban women in India. But now overall, the labour force participation rate for women is falling from 37% in 2004-05 to 29% in 2009-10. Gender pay wage gap is shrinking in India. Women earn 56% of what their male workers earn for performing the same work. Indian labour force is growing. Gender plays a vital role in the livelihoods dimension in India. People depend on different kinds of livelihoods for income. Most of the people continue their occupational livelihoods in the rural areas. But now occupational livelihoods are declining so that people are shifting to new livelihoods from occupational livelihoods; mostly artisan and agriculture families are shifting. It is assumed that men do heavy works and women do minor works, but the fact is women also do heavy works.

In India, most of the rural families depend on agriculture, artisanship and its related livelihoods. And in urban areas, people are dependent on non-farming livelihoods like construction, wage labours, etc. Presently, some changes are happening in women and men's livelihoods dimensions. Women are doing all works equal to men. But still women are facing discrimination in getting wage. Under MGNREGS, women and men get equal wage for their work. Compared to men, women are working more hours than men, but their works are not accountable in the society.

For example: An illiterate woman does occupational work, which does not require skills and averages earnings of Rs.85/- for a day and an illiterate man doing the same job averages Rs.177/- for a day.

Women are mostly involved in livelihoods mentioned below:

1. Agriculture: Most of the rural women are involved in agriculture works. An estimated 68.5% or 77 million of women are working in farming sector. Majority of women are involved in agriculture, while the rest rear livestock. While male farmers are more in number than woman farmers, at the same time, women workers are more in number than men workers in farming sector in India. 46.6% of male workers and 73.3% female are employed in farming.
2. Tobacco products and clothes manufacturing: Roughly 10.8% of the women are engaged in manufacturing sector, but industries are less in number. 2.6% of the women are engaged in tobacco and followed by 2.3% in textile industry.
3. Construction: Most of the women are working in construction sector. 5.7% 5.7 million of the women are working in construction sector. Construction is the third largest sector to provide employment for women in India. Women provide support to them in their works by carrying bricks, cement etc. Men do the masonry works.
4. Schools: An estimated 3.8% of women are working in education; most of them in primary education, which employs nearly 2.5% million women.
5. Grocery Stores: About 2.1% of women are working in grocery stores that sell flour, lentils, rice and food items etc.
6. Housework: An estimated 1.6% of women are working as in-house maid. But now this percentage is coming down, five years back it was 2.1%.

It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing – Swamy Vivekananda

7. Personal Services: About 1.5% of women provide personal services like washing clothes, washing vessels, cleaning houses, beauty treatments etc.
8. Health Care: About 1.1% (1.25 million) of women are working in health sector in India.
9. The bureaucracy: About 1% of women are working in government departments as government employees in India.

Women are under great pressure to balance their office work and personal life.

In India, traditional roles of women as homemakers, care takers are deeply entrenched. Now women are also working outside as employees, but work-family balance becomes a huge challenge for women. Gradually, women's participation is increasing in the workforce in India.

In Gender, it is a known fact that women are more vulnerable than men. Certain group of women and girls are especially vulnerable to violence such as indigenous women, women with disabilities, refugee women, and transgender people. They are vulnerable due to lack of capital, low wage rate, gendered work norms, child care responsibilities etc. Women have lower status as compared to men in Indian society. They have little control on resources and on important decisions related to their lives. Early marriage is also one of the reasons; about 28% of girls get married before turning 18 years in India. Maternal mortality ratio is 540 deaths per one lakh live births as per National Family Health. Women face domestic violence, sexual abuse at the homes and work places. It has become a regular scenario in the news that women are raped, murdered, sexually harassed in their work place, public places etc. Women are exploited in various aspects like economic, social etc. Men do not belong to vulnerable group, because they play the main role in the society and have ownership on house, land, assets etc.

As land holders, everywhere in the country, women have limited access to land. Family heads allocate land to sons because they are considered as traditional legal heirs of the family; women do not have right as per traditional rules, but government has declared that women and men have equal rights to get assets from their family. As per Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, 9.5% of the women are land holders in India i.e., only 12 million women owned land out of 120 million landholders in India.

Government of India did several constitutional amendments for women's social, economic, and political benefits, but situation is not changing at a rapid pace. After many years, lots of changes happened in the situation of women in India after 1950s, even after independence, women have still not gained their freedom and are being exploited through dowry crimes, sexual harassment at work places, molestation, eve-teasing, etc.

**Participation in socio-economic conditions:** women involve in both sectors like organized sector and unorganized sector, each of which may be in the formal or informal sector. Participation of women in economic activities in formal sectors like industries, services, and agriculture sector is measurable, but activities of women in informal, such as house works, nurturing children, serving to elders and others in the family. As per the 2011 census, women's workforce participation rate is 25.51% and male workforce participation rate is 53.26%. Workforce participation is more or less equal for rural and urban males, but there is a huge gap in rural and urban females' workforce participation. The unemployment rate for women in rural areas was 2.9 against 2.1 for men.

**Women's control over their bodies:** woman does not have full rights on their bodies. Women alone cannot take decision on expansion of family, as families have more controlled and right her body. In India, most of the women do not have a right to wear what they want to wear because they have some limitations and control from family members and society. What she wears is treated like a symbol of her respect for tradition, culture, family values, religion, family honour etc.

Women do not have freedom to move anywhere in the world. Most of the women do not travel alone in India; they travel along with their family members. In the 21st century, women are doing space travel, but family members are scared to send women on long distances alone. Women have to cook in the house because of family and elders' beliefs that it is the responsibility of only women. But they cannot eat before husband and in laws or family members.

On responsibilities of children, women have to take care of their children; women have more responsibilities than men. Women have to take care of children's chores like bathing, giving food, protection, preparing lunch box, etc., however men if interested drop and pick children from school. Women's roles are restricted to only giving suggestion on children education and marriages. Final decisions are taken by male members of the family. Nowadays, women are travelling across the globe, there is difference between literate and illiterate women. Literate women travel across the globe anywhere, but illiterate women have to take male members' support to travel new places. Literate women drive two wheelers, four wheelers for different purposes. In India, we are increasingly seeing literate women, who are driving more number of vehicles as much as men.

**Livelihoods Mobility:** women in rural and urban India unlike men they are also do ploughing, working defense forces, working film industry, working as IT professionals, producing movie, fly flights, drive trains, navigates ships, cultivate crops, manage household works, work as public representatives, drive heavy load vehicles, climb toddy trees and various fruit bearing trees etc. In recent decades, men are also lending their hand in activities such as washing clothes, cooking, cleaning house, working male nurses, mopping clothes, taking care of children, fetching water, cleaning utensils, stitching women clothes, weeding, plucking cotton, beautician etc.

Women are working for lesser wages or salary than men for the same work. They have to earn income equal to men. Women have to shift to better income jobs from less income jobs to high income jobs. Women are good at any job they take up like teaching, caring for children, and working as CEOs, farmers, cooking, maintaining family, doing savings etc. and giving tough competition to men across various livelihoods sector. If given the right opportunities through education and empowerment, women can excel. Men have to support women's sensitive situations at working places, public places, houses, institutions. Men have to interact with women politely and without any gender bias. Sometimes, women suffer from various health related problems, therefore men have to continuously provide support to women, in order to understand and empower them.

**Women in Higher Positions:** In society, decision making power to women is denied. All the important decision in a family and society are decided by men. Women though are visible in public life in recent past women are able to access position of authority more in number than three decades ago. Women are in this space of judiciary, parliament and various professional associations to boardroom. The global proportion of women national parliamentarians rose from 11.3% to 22% between 1995 and 2015. Forty percent of the women are involved in formal labour force. Women have made in roles in police forces and boardroom of corporate sector. Women CEOs of 500 companies rose from 0 in 1995 to 26 in 2015.

In 2015, 8 out of 45 women occupied ministerial positions in the Central Council of Ministers (CCM), Government of India. 62 female have been elected in 2014 elections constituting more than 11% share in the lower house. Female participation in elections had been 66% in the 16th general elections in 2014. Decision making power among women ensures their specific needs and interests are promoted and defended. Because women are living in more poverty than men, it is essential that, they need a voice to ask for opportunities and achieve their aspirations. They need to be given decision making opportunities like how many children they need to have, family planning, job, children's education etc. In office life, decision making is better; there is consideration for their decision making and they have equal power as men. But in government offices, women have less decision making power than in private offices. But both in government or private offices, women suffer from sexual harassment from male colleagues.

**Women in Panchayats:** State governments have ensured at least 30% seats for women in panchayats. Accordingly, overall 46.7% women represent in various government institutions. As per National Sample Survey (NSSO-68th Round), in rural areas, 11.5% of total households and 12.4% of total households in urban areas were female headed households in India.

How will we make knowledge and tools available for women? Women and men have to be made aware about their empowerment and gender equality. Trainings for gender equality and women's empowerment is an essential component for achieving gender equality and it is a transformative process that aims to provide knowledge, techniques and tools to develop skills and changes in attitudes and behaviours. It is long term and continuous process. Training is a tools strategy that affects individual and collective transformation towards gender equality and reduce gender disparity by raising awareness, knowledge building and skill development.

**Focus on women's competences and concerns:** Both men and women have competences like taking care of family, children, elders, planning, managing any business, throw innovative ideas, etc. Largely, women capability and competencies is disrespected, therefore men need to give due respect to women's capabilities and competencies and engage women in decision making process.

**Women Entitlements:** Some of the entitlements government have brought to them are as follows: women who are of 58 years of age can get 50% of the railway ticket concessions and men who are of 60 years of age can get 40% of the railway ticket concessions in India. Separate seats and buses in government buses for only women. Government has given 33% of reservations for women in panchayats, municipalities, parliaments etc. Six months of maternity leave for working women. State governments provide entitlement for women; Rajasthan gives 30% of concession in bus tickets and Tamil Nadu gives nine months of maternity leave for working women.

**Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and Emotional Quotient (EQ):** Men and women have different kinds of IQ and EQ. IQ and EQ are different from person to person and not just between men and women. But if somebody states that women have more EQ than men and men have more IQ than women, then that is a form of gender bias.

Many women may have higher IQ and lower EQ than men. Correct EQ and IQ is 80: 20 as per studies. Women are equal to men in intelligence. Presently, women are equal to men in all sectors; they are entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, professors, IAS officers, celebrities, farmers etc.

**Women's ownership:** Women play a central role in ensuring family food security across the globe. They are cultivating and engage in agricultural activities higher than men. Women lack accessibility to land and land title deeds. In India, around 87.3% of women are dependent on agriculture, but not more than 10.34% own land, which is the most important household asset. According to agriculture census data 2010-11, of the total operational holding in India, about 12.78% were operated by women. In India, women do not have properties like houses or lands on their names because men have inheritance rights (traditional) to access assets from elders. Women are less likely, than men to own and control assets. Across India, only 13% of farmland is owned by women according to census data. Hindu Succession Act, Amendments in 2015, which governs inheritance among Hindus, made women's inheritance rights equal to men. Landlessness among women also raises the risk of domestic violence against them. Lack of ownership and control over assets result in poverty and economic vulnerability among women; especially, at the time of divorce or death of the husband. Men have ownership on land, housing, livestock, business assets, financial assets, physical assets. Women and men have other assets such as vehicles, jewellery, etc. In 2005, India passed the Hindu Succession Act, the law gave daughters equal rights to inherit land, which covers how more than 80% of the country inherits. But even though women now have ownership on houses and lands, men are still controlling these assets.

Both in pre-independent/post-independent era various governments and development agencies have been working on gender issues in development planning and policies. Gender equity in resource access and allocation as well as opportunities for social and economic advancement are important items. Government, development agencies, NGOs, private sector etc. have to focus on following critical areas of concern:

- The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women.
- Inequalities and inadequacies, and unequal access to, education and training.
- Violence against women.
- The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation.
- Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources.
- Inequality between men and women in sharing of power and decision making at all levels.
- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels, to promote the advancement of women.
- Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights in particular to women.
- Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially the media.
- Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and safeguarding of the environment.
- Persistent discrimination against and violation of rights of girl child.

**Gender empowerment in livelihoods:** Women form a vital part of the Indian Economy, who constitute one third of the labour resource. Women play an important role in the family and society, but they are being discriminated in all key areas of life like education, income, choice of partner, inheritance laws, property laws, decision making processes, community organization or access to leadership positions in education, business, or politics. Women need empowerment in the present social scenario.

Women have strength to manage their households and communities out of poverty. But they are facing gender inequality; they are not able to expand their economic empowerment, social advancement and political participation. Gender equality is an essential component of sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Empowerment of women helps to improve women's position in the society. Since independence, a lot of development programmes are being implemented for upliftment of women in our country.

**Government Interventions for women empowerment:** Setting of the National Commission for women in 1990 by an act of Parliament, to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women.

- The 73 and 74 Constitutional Amendments in 1993 to provide for reservation of seats for women in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities.
- India's ratification of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 to secure equal rights for women.
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women- to empower women socially, economically and educationally.

- National Policy for Empowerment of Women in 2001- to bring about women's advancement, development and empowerment.

**Special Legislations for Women:**

- Legal Practitioners Women Act , 1923
- Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PNDT)
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- Crimes Identified under IPC
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- Indecent Representation of Women Act (Prohibition), 1986
- Commission of Sati (prevention) Act, 1987
- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Swayamsidha, 2001 women empowerment through formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs)

**Transgenders:** Transgender is a third gender. They are 4.9 lakh population as per 2011 census. Supreme Court (SC) has considered Transgender as third gender. Transgender are famously called as Hijras. Transgender falls under the LGBT group (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender). Supreme Court had asked to central government to treat transgender as socially and economically backward group. Transgenders are considered as OBC, A total of 28,341 Transgenders are registered as voters in rural areas, over 66% of the population live in rural India. Transgender literacy rate is just 46%, compared to 74% literacy in the general population.

- Transgender people are shunned by the family and the society.
- They have restricted access to education, health services, and public spaces.
- Uptill now they were excluded from effectively participating in social and cultural life.
- Politics and decision making processes have been out of their reach.
- Transgender people have difficulty in exercising their basic civil rights.
- Reports of harassment, violence, denial of services, and unfair treatment against transgender persons were reported.
- Sexual activity between two persons of the same sex is criminalized and is punishable by incarceration.

As per SC, the transgender community is entitled to basic rights; such as right to personal liberty, dignity, freedom of expression, right to education and employment, right against violence, discrimination and exploitation and right to work. Transgender people earn money by dancing, singing and begging. They are begging at traffic signals, in moving trains, other crowded places. Some transgender people earn money by prostitution. Some families invite them for events like marriages, child birth and shop opening to perform traditional activities and their arrival considered as auspicious by the families and pay them. NGOs are working on transgender people development in India.

There are various issues and they are cultural taboos, about female employment make the problem more pronounced in urban areas. Even if women are highly educated, they are not allowed by in-laws and husbands to do jobs outside home. In many parts of India, women are considered an economic liability despite their contribution in several ways to society and economy. The crime graph against women is increasing nowadays in India. Widows' conditions are very bad. Women's contribution towards home as housewife is not recognized. In India, domestic violence, rape, sexual exploitation, molestation, eve-teasing, forced prostitution, sexual harassment at workplaces etc. are a common affair today. Women's life is affected by reproduction, which has direct impact on their health, education, and employment and earning opportunities; but they have little say in the matter.

A nation or society cannot achieve development without the participation of women. If we minimise gender discrimination, women will deliver all the potentials, skills, knowledge, to develop the family, the nation and the whole world altogether. Presently, women in India have slowly started recognizing their true potential. They are questioning for about their rights and entitlements. As a result, they are breaking barriers and getting respectable



position in the society; but still most of the women are not empowered. Today, Indian women excel in each and every field in the country. Now, women are entering into politics, sports, entertainment, literature, technology, social work, business, space etc. But still there are miles to go in empowering the women. Equality, education, entitlements, ownership, control, reservations, decision making power are some important aspects need to be addressed etc., Therefore, governments and development organizations should focus on these gaps, so as to tap the true potential of women; and stand as equals beside men.

**\*livelihoods June-2017**

## 37. Urban 'Poor' livelihoods

**India is witnessing a steady exodus of people from rural to urban areas. According to the ASSOCHAM estimates, the number of poor living in urban areas will increase from current 190 million to 225 million by 2015. The traditional livelihoods in rural areas including agriculture, handlooms and other satellite livelihoods, have fallen short of meeting the needs of the people. Most of these sectors are overcrowded. Infrastructure in rural India including schools, hospitals, electricity facilities, roads etc are of no match to those available in urban areas. Urban India is providing a ray of hope, in terms of employment opportunities for many poor. People are migrating in large numbers. While migrants are gaining on some fronts, they are losing out on the quality of life by living in slums.**



According to the estimates, in the World Population Report 2007, more than half of the world's population of 3.3 billion is already living in the cities and in next two decades, more people will migrate to cities. It is expected; about 80 per cent will be living in the cities by 2027. Urbanization in developing countries is at its peak. India is no exception to this.

According to United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), India is getting urbanized at a faster rate, than the rest of the world and by 2030 more than 40 per cent of the country's population will be living in urban areas. With increase in employment opportunities and better wages, states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are witnessing rapid

urbanization, than those like Bihar and Assam. Going by 2001 census, the number of metropolitan cities with a million plus population has risen to 35 % in India. According, to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), there will be 70 million cities with a million plus population by 2030.

Many cities are expanding their geographical base and absorbing satellite villages into their fold, like, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, there is steady exodus of people from rural to urban areas. While, some are migrating in search of better and alternative livelihoods, others are migrating to leverage the infrastructure facilities in the cities like schooling for children, skill building opportunities etc and some for combination of both.

The traditional employment sectors like agriculture, handlooms are over populated. The excess supply of labor force, in these sectors needs opportunities elsewhere. Many other village based traditional livelihoods, are seeing a downtrend, due to lack of patronage. People, so far practicing them needs alternative livelihoods. The youth do not want to continue with traditional occupations anymore . They want to move out and find space in the urban bandwagon. The infrastructure facilities in urban India, though fall short on several aspects compared to world standards are yet far better than the facilities in rural India. Urban India promises better access to schools, colleges, hospitals, roads, electricity, drinking water, sanitation and etc.

The urban poor are engaged in multiplicity of livelihoods but majority of them are doing unskilled works. They need skill building and trainings to improve their incomes and employment opportunities. They need institutional support on various fronts.

The poor are moving in significant numbers to urban areas. According to ASSOCHAM estimates, there are 190 million poor living in urban India and this number is likely to go upto 225 million in just 8 years. Construction in urban India, has become a promising employment sector for the poor. New commercial complexes, companies, hospitals, entertainment places, roads, residential buildings, are mushrooming everywhere. The demand for both skilled and unskilled laborers, as electricians, plumbers and etc is high. While, some poor are migrating on a temporary basis, i.e. for duration of the work, others are moving to cities permanently. Huge retail outlets have increased the demand for cashiers, security and service people. These jobs at some level demands soft skills. With more and more families having working couples, the demand for maids has increased significantly. A recent

field visit to Jharkhand showed that many girls are migrating to Delhi and Mumbai to take up jobs as maids. The demand for watchman in residential apartments is also huge.

Nuclear families have become the order of the day in India, for the most part. The sick and the old are moving to care taker or old age homes. There is great demand for patient care and old age care personnel. While, skilled hands are preferred many employers are ready to take in, unskilled workforce and train them on the job.

Poor in the urban areas are also finding space in the transport sector. Many of them, are taking up employment as cab drivers, auto drivers, truck drivers etc. 7-seater shared autos on one hand, are providing affordable transport to the poor and on the other, also providing employment to the driver.

A glance at one street in a metro, could list more than 50 different livelihoods that the poor practices. To provide services to the poor many other poor are finding opportunities like selling breakfast, snacks and lunch on carts, road side Chinese joints are commonly seen and tea stalls remains busy.

But, all is not rosy for the poor in urban areas. Housing continues to remain a major problem more so, with skyrocketing rents. Slums with most unhygienic conditions are proliferating. In times of rain the slums get flooded. Securing a place to dwell, even in these slums require some money power and/or contacts with informal owners of slums. The atmosphere for raising children in slums, can be highly inappropriate. Slums on the other hand provides a sense of security, solidarity and a network that helps find employment more easily, than when the poor families reside elsewhere in the city by themselves. But will these advantages make up for the poor quality of life

**List of livelihoods of the Urban Poor identified within half a kilometer on a busy street in a city**

⇒ Fruit vending cart	⇒ Bangle cart
⇒ Selling Flowers	⇒ Selling cane juice
⇒ Fruit juice shop	⇒ Selling ice
⇒ Repairing flat types	⇒ Spice cart
⇒ Repairing keys	⇒ Selling incense sticks
⇒ Selling clothes in auto rickshaw	⇒ Selling leather belts, caps
⇒ Repairing bags	⇒ Repairing wooden items
⇒ Selling slippers	⇒ Tailoring shop
⇒ Selling beedies and cigarettes	⇒ Roasted groundnut and lentil cart
⇒ Making picture frames	⇒ Selling carbonated water (soda)
⇒ Making rubber stamps	⇒ Selling audio cassettes
⇒ Small stationary shop	⇒ Coin-based public telephone
⇒ Repairing watches	⇒ Selling cloth for car wash
⇒ Iron mart	⇒ Small building repair works
⇒ Melting iron	⇒ Buying used paper, plastic items
⇒ Selling used books	⇒ Mechanic shop
⇒ Making mattress	⇒ Selling sandal wood
⇒ Selling corn cobs	⇒ Fortune teller
⇒ Selling beetle leaves	⇒ Making coffee powder from coffee beans
⇒ Pan shop	⇒ Selling paper plates
⇒ Selling lemon	⇒ selling coconuts and coconut fiber
⇒ Fruit juice cart	⇒ binding works
⇒ Vegetable cart	⇒ Repairing electrical items
⇒ Repairing bronze, steel and iron items	⇒ Repairing gold and silver items
⇒ Selling balloons	⇒ Ironing clothes
⇒ Sweets shop	⇒ selling pickles
⇒ Selling plantain leaves	⇒ meat shop
⇒ Selling tender coconuts	⇒ employees in the tailoring and embroidery shops
⇒ Mending shoes	⇒ making copies using copier machine
⇒ Barber shop	⇒ repairing mobile phones
⇒ Selling exotic vegetables	⇒ selling curries
⇒ Tea stall	⇒ cart selling toys for kids
⇒ Snack cart including chat	⇒ employees in various shops including retail

in slums?

Many poor engage in street hawking and vending in urban areas. They are engaged in selling anything from fruits, vegetables, flowers, pots, plastic ware, snacks, clothes, sandals, rain jackets, sweaters, sunglasses, plaster of paris toys etc. The volume of their business is usually low. Most of their business is seasonal in nature. They procure items from the wholesaler and sell them. Quite frequently, these vendors have to deal with police and others with muscle power and pay them to continue their selling. During times of rain their business gets affected due to lack of proper shelters. While some metros have carved out zones for vending, but there are implementation gaps. Most recently SEWA in Gujarat has set up National Association of Street Vendors (NASV) in India, to provide a platform for the hawkers and vendors to come together and raise their concerns.

Most of the construction laborers migrate to cities, through labor contractors and face exploitation in terms of wages, working conditions, working hours etc. Many a time employers prefer to engage cheap labor from outside the state and try to avoid dealing with local workforce networks. The labor in Kerala with higher wage, rates faces competition from the cheap workforce from Bihar, West Bengal etc. Though governments are making rules to protect local workforce through employment regulations, the labor contractors and employers are successful in finding cheap workforce around. Women construction workers remain in unskilled layers for the most part of their life and receive lower wages.

Majority of the urban poor workforce is unorganized. They are spread over in multiplicity of livelihoods and bringing them together onto a single platform is a challenging task by itself. Several networks/solidarity groups rallying around different issues can help.

Much of the poor workforce in India is unskilled and remains at the lower rungs of any employment sector. They need skill building and trainings on a large scale. It is important to keep track of the services of relevance in the market and build skills accordingly. There are several NGOs and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs rendering skill based trainings to poor youth, but not enough research is being done on the demand side. This gap needs to be addressed.

### **ADDA Labour**

Increasing urbanization across has prompted increased migration into urban areas. The poor particularly are moving into the cities and towns in search of wage labor and better incomes. Majority of them are working in construction sector either as masons, skilled or unskilled labor, electricians, plumbers etc. While some of them make it to the cities through a labor contractor and continue to work for the duration of the contract, others just migrate to the cities and search for work. The second category gathers every morning at some centers called ADDA.

People who are in need of labor come to the ADDA in search of the laborers. After due business talk and haggling and bargaining on the labor price the laborers are picked up for work. Among the ADDA laborers while some do free lancing many are associated with a mason.

In Dayaru ADDA in Hyderabad nearly 500 laborers congregate for work every day. Of them about 25 are masons and the rest are laborers. 50 per cent of the gathered laborers are women. They arrive at the ADDA between 8 and 10:30 AM. While the masons earn anywhere about 300 rupees per day the male labourer gets 230 to 250 rupees and the females get 125 to 150. The ADDA laborers usually find work for 22 to 25 days in a month. These laborers have migrated from different districts including Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam and Krishna districts. They dwell in the surrounding areas of Dayaru ADDA and pay a rent of 1000 to 1800 per month.

Most of the construction labours carry their own implements and lunch. On a given day when they do not find work they finish some pending personal work or watch a movie. About 60 per cent of ADDA labor in Dayaru market area have settled in Hyderabad while the rest shuttle between their native town and the ADDA every day. During the monsoon most of the labor return to their villages to take part in the agricultural operations.

Apart from labour ADDA in Hyderabad one can also see ADDAs of priests. The services of these priests are available for performing various rituals and ceremonies including those related to both birth and death. Most of them carry a business card, a cell phone and ride scooters.

Regional planning is imperative to stop overcrowding the cities. Each state should have multiple growth centres rather than just a handful of cities. When health, education, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services ramp up in rural areas, they provide significant employment opportunities for the youth. The youth needs to gear up for these opportunities. Time for APJ's Provision of Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA) is ripe.

India is still a young nation, with large number of productive workforce. Unemployment and under-employment are still looming large in the country. The productive and creative energies of the youth need to be tapped. The urban poor have proved the point, that they are highly flexible in adapting to new and changing skills. This is a huge opportunity that can be leveraged.

Urbanization is happening. It is important to ensure, that the huge chunk of urban poor are not lost out. They need organizations working for them. They need credit. They need skills to improve their livelihoods. They need to form service collectives. And, they need opportunities to transform from being 'urban poor' to 'urban workforce'!

**\*Livelihoods September-2008**

## 38. Needs of Poor

***Poor need everything that a non-poor need, to lead a decent quality of life. However, while the non-poor have graduated to needs + +....the basic needs of the poor remain largely unmet. They seem to be caught in a quagmire of issues pertaining to affordability and accessibility that continue to hamper their fulfillment of needs including those of food, health, education, housing, livelihood, security etc. 1/3rd of the world's hungry live in India; we still record, some of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and recent statistics from UN on wasted and stunted children of India is very disturbing. Large numbers of poor children are either out of the school system or are exposed to sub-standard quality of education. The livelihoods of the poor are uncertain, risky and less remunerative. The poor are vulnerable, face exploitation and are voiceless. Their coping mechanisms are minimal to absent.***



As progressing human beings, we all need some basic things to lead a decent quality of life. Whether rich or poor these basic things are non-negotiable. Beyond the basics, the needs transform into wants. Wants per se, may not be bad, as long as they do not situate themselves in a pernicious position with respect to exploitation of resources. To repeat M K Gandhi – ‘There is enough for everyone’s need but not enough for everyone’s greed’. Unfortunately, what we see today is over-exploitation of resources by a few, for their wants, comforts and luxuries, causing huge damage to the environment, resulting in skewed distribution

of wealth, perpetual poverty and exploitation of poor and the voiceless. As we attempt to enumerate the needs of the poor, deep within it becomes imperative to build the premise that the needs of the poor are not different from that of the needs of the non-poor. However, unlike the latter, the needs of the poor remain largely unmet. They are plagued with issues pertaining to accessibility and affordability. Food is fundamental for survival. Accessibility and affordability of food, both in terms of quantity and quality is critical. According to United Nations (UN) data, every fourth Indian is hungry today. India has surpassed sub-Saharan Africa as the capital of hunger. The poor collect food, they grow food, they buy and sell food. Poor collect Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) from forests for self-consumption and sale. However, ecological degradation and exploitation, happening largely in the name of development is severely hampering poor’s access to this natural capital. India is home to millions of small and marginal farmers and landless peasants, who meet more than half of the country’s food requirements. The sad paradox is that these very producers of food are themselves struggling from hunger and malnutrition. Thanks to the deepening agrarian crisis, Public Distribution System (PDS) ridden with inefficiencies and corruption, increasing food inflation and declining access to healthy and nutritious food! As producers and sellers of food, the poor in India are receiving a scanty share of the consumer rupee spent and as buyers of food they are paying skyrocketing prices. This contrast needs to be reversed.

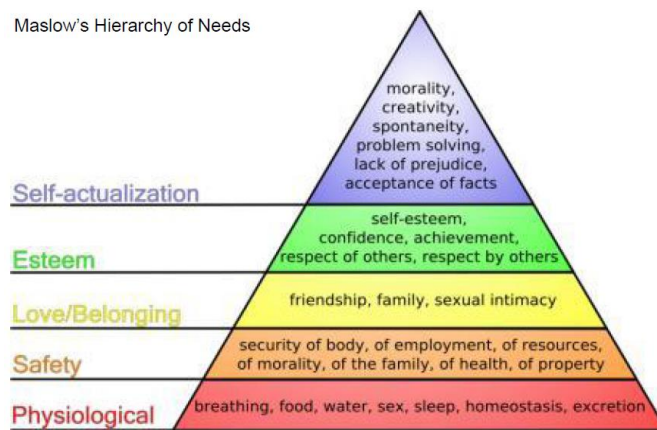
Food is critical component for healthy growth of a child right from the time; it is in the mother’s womb. Intake of sufficient quantity and nutritious food by the mother is directly related to the healthy development of child in her/his life. Many pregnant and lactating mothers among the poor in India are in dire straits with dismal access to proper nutrition. It is indeed heart wrenching to see one million children dying in India every year as a result of under-nutrition and hunger; 61 million children stunted; 25 million children wasted. India is home to 42% of underweight children in the world. In spite of the plethora of schemes like health and nutrition centers, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), anganwadi centers etc the crisis continues. This calls for reviewing, revamping and strengthening the system. Making these systems accountable, to the users of these systems may produce better results. Efforts are on in some places to make the users, effective owners and contributors to the



system. Poor quality and quantity of food translates to poor health, poor health means feeble physical and mental faculties to work and poor work means low income and low income hampers access to quality of life including good education and fulfilling other critical needs. This is a vicious cycle. Large number of interventions, multiple doses of support through integrated and democratic approach can cause a dent in this cycle. The Right to Food Act will soon be unveiled. Will it provide some much needed answers?

'Health is Wealth' - the age-old adage cannot be ignored. While health is directly related to food, it has other dimensions as well. Today, India has a vast health system in place; the fact that people from other developing countries are seeking health services in India is almost in everyday news. However, even in this space the poor are losing out. The affordable health care system is not accessible and of poor quality and the accessible health care is simply not affordable. The poor engage in livelihoods that entail lot of physical labour and health is a huge capital that they constantly bank upon. Livelihoods that pose great deal of health risk like beedi making, carpet weaving, low level works in chemical factories and many hard and hazardous jobs are exclusive reserve of the poor. Ill health poses a huge risk to the poor and hampers their day to day survival. Public health system in India is largely dysfunctional. PPP (Public-Private Partnership) in the health space is the current buzz word. One has to wait and see how this will accommodate the poor. Health insurance is critical for the poor. It is imperative to have poor-friendly health insurance products, where premiums are affordable, terms are amicable and the network of hospitals accessible. Many poor today are willing to pay for health insurance; they are just looking for the right products. Alongside creating access to affordable modern health facilities, reviving indigenous and traditional health systems is also important. Building community health workers is critical for sustainability. Poor need

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



decent place to live. While the problem of housing is relatively less in rural areas, their urban counterparts have to deal with slums and the surrounding murky environment. The plight of migrant wage laborers is even more deplorable. Tree shades, road medians, footpaths, shaded areas under the flyovers, plastic shacks etc., have become their homes. To graduate to better homes means higher payoffs in terms of rent. Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation is critical. Lack of these amenities, has tremendously increased the burden of the women in the poor household. Instances where women have to lose their day's work in search of water are no

surprise. And the plight of people dwelling in low lying areas is anybody's guess.

Poor quality human resource negatively impacts the individual, the household and the nation at large. In this context, education and skill-building become inescapable. There is no gainsaying that these two components help people graduate out of poverty and exploitative, unskilled and unorganized employment zone to skilled and organized zone that offer better safety mechanisms. Education and skills help the poor deal with market in an informed way; help them significantly in improving their bargaining power. India has come a long way in terms of education, thanks to programs like Sarva Siksha Abiayaan (SSA), at least children are enrolling into schools in good number. But we still have miles to go in terms of quality and also reach. The public school system is blemished with many gaps. From April 1st this year, the Right to Education Act (RTE) has come into force and has become a subject of fierce debate in terms of bridging the existing gaps. The children need schools within reach, with proper infrastructure and with qualified teachers. Currently, more than 5.23 lakh teacher posts are vacant. States like Assam, Bihar, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand etc., have high percentage of untrained teachers. Vocational education needs increased resource allocation and increase in the variety and improvement in quality. With rapid urbanization and ensuing rural-urban migration, migrant children are one of the worse affected in terms of education. They have silently fallen through cracks. On similar lines children of the urban poor. The urban poor are paying huge money to educate their children in private schools which may be slightly better than the government schools but still much below the required standards. Education in India is set on the path of privatization, which so far has translated into higher fees.

The poor need variety of skills. India is a land of vastly diversified livelihoods and poor households practice multiple livelihoods. Skills are needed to enhance the existing livelihoods, pursue supplementary or alternative livelihoods, to take up self-employment, to take up job employment, to become entrepreneurs, to build enterprises. Thousands of quality skill-based trainings need to be offered to the poor. Poor, particularly the youth, need counseling, so they are better informed when choosing a particular stream of education and skill. Poor need opportunities to constantly upgrade their existing skills and/or learn new skills to keep pace with the changing

market demands. The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM), can get more aggressive and comprehensive. The livelihoods of poor are small in scale, earnings and duration. They are large in terms of risk, physical labour and uncertainty. Improved incomes, reduced expenditure, increase in the employment days and reduced risks are some of the indubitable needs of the poor. Any efforts in this direction need to aim at sustainability. To achieve positive changes in these four parameters the poor need accessibility and affordability to various capitals like – natural, physical, financial, social, human and spiritual. Poor need their rights to natural capital protected. Nature has a direct bearing on majority of the livelihoods of the poor and vice versa. Such relationship builds poor as better care takers of natural capital like land, water, forests etc. What we increasingly see today is various regulations on natural capital in name of preservation, jeopardizing rights of the poor, while at the same time being biased towards the non-poor. Quality drinking water, a fundamental life sustaining natural resource is becoming scarce all over. While, the rich can afford to buy bottled water the poor have to travel long distances only to get murky/fluoride water. How skewed is the distribution of land in India is anybody's guess. We are a nation where the landless, small and marginal farmers are languishing in poverty on one hand and on the other hand, we have 2 Indians listed among the top 10 richest people in the Forbes list. In all we have 23 billionaires in India! Physical infrastructure like roads, bridges, drying platforms, community shelters, infrastructure pertaining to provision of electricity and irrigation has significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of the poor. Whether it is the question of access to market or school or hospital or emergency evacuations the significance of roads cannot be emphasized enough. Similarly drying platforms, provision of electricity helps poor producers engage in value addition activities and enhance their incomes. However, while the current physical infrastructure in place is left unused and/or poorly maintained, budgets are actively formulated for new ones and then history repeats itself. Where poor have been made party to infrastructure development and maintenance, experience says that the results are better. The success of community driven watersheds needs to be revisited.

Technology that is useful, accessible and affordable is needed for the poor to reduce drudgery, increase their economies of scale, undertake value addition and ensure quality standards. It is however critical to make sure that the technology thus introduced does not conflict with the aspects of sustainability and/or jeopardize other livelihoods that does not use this technology. Introduction of technology should be accompanied by transfer of knowledge to the poor on the significance of technology and its appropriate use. Further, technology cannot be imposed but must cater to fulfilling the felt needs of the poor. Otherwise, it can become a dead investment and in some cases an unwanted burden. Poor need credit. They need credit for production as well as consumption purposes. They need varying amounts of credit, flexible and affordable credit terms and multiple doses of credit. The concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across India have largely contained the exploitative elements like money lenders, though in some places in UP and Bihar, the poor still fall prey to costly debts. But the amount of loans distributed through SHGs is small and not enough to take up any activity on a decent scale. Socially responsible micro finance institutions owned by poor and managed by hired professionals seems to hold a promise. Apart from credit, poverty being such a deep hole to emerge out of, poor need substantial amount of money as grants. They need poor friendly subsidies. Poor are willing to contribute their time, but they need to be compensated for their time. Poor have low risk appetite and therefore need a variety of risk mitigating and coping mechanisms. In the financial sphere, they need variety of savings options, money transfer options, insurance options, investment options. The non-poor, intellectuals, management gurus can work towards bringing as many such products as possible. Whenever feasible, poor are willing to collectivize, reduce cost of operations and also to derive the benefits from dealing with large volumes. Poor need to engage in collective sales and purchases. They need variety of collective platforms, may it be cooperatives or MACS or Producers' Company (PC) etc to facilitate their operations. Collective purchases have proved to be a time tested strategy for bringing down consumption expenditure of the poor.

Institutions of poor are critical. A network of institutions starting from household level and extending to relatives, neighbours, SHGs and their federations, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), financial institutions, collectives, government institutions etc., are necessary to meet variety of needs of poor. The needs can range from cultural, solidarity and spiritual needs, to meet the needs in the economic and political milieu. These institutions need to be dynamic to accommodate the changing needs of the poor. Apart from institutions, poor need skilled and bright minds to work with them and for them. They need quality human resource handholding them, facilitating them and working with them. Today, the quality human resource is absorbed by the mainstream sector and development sector is housed with mediocre minds. This needs a change. While the development sector is gearing to compete with the mainstream sector, it has still some ways to go in terms of matching the mainstream remuneration levels. Currently, the poor cannot afford to hire such services, but they will be able to eventually, after getting benefitted from such services. This means that the development sector and non-poor players should gear up to make provision for these services initially. Information is critical to gauge the trends in livelihoods and adapt accordingly. Poor need access to affordable and quality information. All poor, as producers and consumers need access to market information. Certain livelihoods demand information on specific aspects. For instance,

fishermen need access to cyclonic information, the weaver needs access to information on newer designs and changing consumer tastes, the farmer needs information on sustainable agriculture methods and the list can go on. In times of natural disasters, the poor bear a significant brunt. Quality and timely information can help poor lessen, if not avoid the impact of the disaster. With high levels of illiteracy the poor need the information to be disseminated through narration and/or performances, illiterate-friendly kiosks etc. Extension services for the livelihoods practiced, by the poor need to be upgraded. Even after facilitating the intricate maze of opportunities for development, some poor will still be left out. Their poverty and vulnerability is such that they cannot latch on and make use of some or any of these opportunities. They cannot compete with the other poor without some additional help. In some cases, they can never compete at all. These are the poorest of the poor. The severely disabled, the very old and the destitute among the poor need attention of the welfare state at a different level. They may need different set of ladders to climb out of poverty. For those, who have been able to graduate out of poverty and are living on the bottom step of the prosperity ladder, it is critical to create safety mechanisms to ensure that they do not fall back into poverty. In number of instances, death in the family, unforeseen health expenditure or a natural disaster pushes households into poverty. This calls for having varied risk mitigation and risk coping mechanisms in place. In the Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the poor in India are still struggling to fulfill the needs listed in the bottom of the pyramid. We as a nation are only inching forward to meet the MDGs. Poor management of resources has in many ways jeopardized the needs of the poor. 'Everybody STILL loves a good drought!' While the poor in the country are starving, the food godowns are overflowing with rotting food. Lack of coordination and integration among various government programs is a severe lacuna. We have too many arm chair thinkers. The poor know what they need. They need to be heard. The voices of the poor are loud and clear. They need to emerge out of poverty. We need to hear them.

**\*Livelihoods May-2010**



## 39. Meeting the Needs

*Issues of accessibility and affordability plague the needs of the poor, in many different ways. Poverty in India is at such levels where even the basic needs of life remain largely unmet for the poor. This calls for an integrated and comprehensive strategy, with a network of institutions and individuals, offering multiple doses of support, to the poor in meeting their needs. The Government of India (GoI), being the single largest and key player in this regard, continues to launch variety of programs to cater to the various needs of the poor. The results seem to be significant in some areas, but in others, gaps continue to prevail on a noticeable scale.*



Whether poor or non-poor, people have needs to be fulfilled to lead a decent quality of life. However, while the non-poor are able to meet their needs including the ones, which are on the top of the hierarchy, the needs of the poor are largely unmet. Most of the poor in country are struggling to meet even their basic needs such as food, water, shelter, health and education etc. Meeting the needs beyond basics such as learning new skills, good infrastructure, risk cover etc. are beyond the capability of the poor in many cases.

Poor need multiple support systems and multiple doses of support to meet their needs and to come out of poverty. One significant player that can deliver this on a

scale is undeniably, the government. In fact this is one of the key responsibilities of the government (s) in India.

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular, declared that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability or other lack of livelihood. The Preamble to the Constitution of India sets out Justice - social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and opportunity and Fraternity assuring dignity of individual and integrity of the nation as the objectives. The Constitution set out fundamental rights of citizens, especially, equality, freedom of speech and expression, protection of life and liberty, non-discrimination, abolition of untouchability and prohibition of forced labour. The Directive Principles of State Policy envisaged a social order in which justice - social, economic and political - will inform all institutions of national life, minimising inequalities of income status and opportunities, the right to adequate means of livelihood as well as the equitable control and ownership of material resources of the community. The protection of the interests of the weaker sections of the people, particularly the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from social injustice and all forms of exploitation is a specific directive incorporated in Article 46 of the Constitution. Almost all the issues, which the poor confront in their daily lives find place in the Indian Constitution - whether it is equality, freedom, human dignity, non-discrimination, social and economic justice, right to livelihood, right to work, living wage or protection from exploitation. During the last five decades, Supreme Court too through its corpus of active jurisprudence has read into the meaning and scope of the Constitutional provisions, fundamental rights, such as the right to dignity; right to livelihood; right to speedy trial; right to health; right to education; right to gender equality and right to environment. The Indian constitution is thus a quest for equal and just society.

State on its part thought growth will take care of the needs of the poor and went on to build industry, irrigation dams and so on. It also thought that some poorest of the poor and vulnerable people require some 'charity'. For this defining poverty line has become significant. Unfortunately, this poverty line was defined taking only calories required to survive into consideration as if people don't require nutrition, clothes and shelter. These calories

loosely linked to income, the poverty line was arrived at and revised periodically. For some unknown reasons, it was not revised since 1991. The recent Suresh Tendulkar Committee report has recommended the abandoning of the calorie -norm for estimating the poverty line. As per the recommendations of the committee, new poverty lines are expected to meet not just food requirements, but also those of education and health that are important basic needs.

Food is basic human need. Food means a balanced composition of carbohydrates, proteins, fats and water. Meeting food needs of a family includes making food available, accessible and affordable. If all these are met it means that the family has food security. 'Green revolution' in the 60's addressed food shortage crisis by increasing agricultural productivity that led to the growth of comfortable buffer stocks in 1980s. The procurement operation of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) expanded the volume of food grain provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS). To make food accessible to the poorest of poor, who find it difficult even to purchase food grains through PDS, popular schemes like Rs.2 per kg rice/wheat were introduced. As there was a realization that providing food on subsidy is not the only solution to address the issue of hunger, particularly when there are situations like drought, government has introduced programs like food for work, grain banks and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Civil society groups have also shown some models of food security like Rice Credit Line (RCL), food on wheels etc. Though many programs have been taken up, it is a sad irony that millions of people in India are still not in a position to access food. The coming of Right to Food Act (RFA) is a ray of hope and promises to solve the issue of hunger in the country.

Water for drinking, irrigation and other purposes is also an important need of human beings. 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. Governments have made many attempts to make water available to the poor. The Rural Water Supply program (RWSP) has made significant impact by making safe drinking water available to the rural folk. Large irrigation projects made it possible to grow two crops in a year, even three crops in some places thus increasing agricultural production. 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 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. Watershed programs in the country have shown significant impact by increasing the natural resource base. Many civil society organizations are also actively involved in programs like watershed management, providing safe drinking water, tank management etc. The concept of watershed plus is now gaining momentum in which activities like improved water management, minor irrigation works, the provision of drinking water and sanitation, forestry and interventions to address the specific needs of the poorest, including provision of credit, collection and processing of Non-Timber Forest Products, (NTFP) aquaculture and crafts are included.

In India, protection of 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). Government is also playing a major role in mass vaccination programs like pulse polio. Health extension services are also improved drastically in recent years by recruiting health workers such as ASHA workers, ANMs, MPHWs etc., on a large scale. Andhra Pradesh government has implemented innovative program like Arogya Sri through which corporate health services are made accessible to poor people. Health and nutrition needs of women and children are also addressed through Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). Provisions are also made for making health insurance available to the community by both state and non-state players. Non-Government Organizations are also playing a key role in addressing health needs of the poor by organizing health camps, health awareness programs, providing aids and appliances for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), setting up of hospitals in remote areas etc. Models like Community Rural Health Program (CRHP) of Jamkhed, have become very popular and are being replicated by many agencies across the country. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has made health facilities accessible to many poor. 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 improves 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 (WCD), Sanitation, Elementary Education, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development.

Everyone needs a decent place to live in. There have been many schemes of Government, such as Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Samagra Awas Yojana (SAY), Rural Pucca House etc., to provide shelter to the poor. Schemes like HUDCO have addressed the housing needs of urban slum dwellers and also extended their services to rural poor. The schemes supported the poor to construct their own house by providing loans and subsidies.

Many longitudinal studies reveal that education alone has contributed to poverty reduction in a sustainable manner. Therefore, a lot of importance has been given to provide a minimum of primary education to all the citizens. Government is providing free education to all the children up to secondary education level. Keeping in view the issues of poverty, backwardness etc. government has also designed and implementing several programs for child labour, children from tribal and other marginalized communities. Programs are like mid-day meals, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) have helped in increasing the enrollment of children into the schools. Similarly, there are programs to encourage education of girl children. Setting up of social welfare hostels has made education accessible for children from marginalized communities. Scholarships, that are offered by government and non-government players and loans provided by commercial banks are encouraging students from poor families to pursue higher education. Schemes like National Literacy Mission (NLM) have focused on adult education. New Saakshar Bharat program is also aimed at promoting and strengthening adult education especially of women. Recently, Right to Education Act (RTE) has made education as a fundamental right of every child. However, it is still a challenge for the government to fulfill all the promises that are made under the Act.

To be meaningfully occupied, poor need skills. The school going children need competency assessment, counseling and exposure to various options available, including options to continue in existing traditional livelihoods and avenues for skills. With increasing globalization, liberalization and privatization together with increasing pace of life, the education cannot ignore offering metaskills early on. Government of India has set up ITI/ITCs to provide vocational skills. Various attempts have been made to provide trainings in informal sector through community polytechnics, Jan Shikshan Sansthan etc., Institutes like RUDSETI are also providing required skills to the rural youth. India is now offering skills in less than 150 vocations and this is far less and inadequate compared to the west which is more homogenous in terms of occupation and still provides scope for 3000 + skill-based trainings. Innovative public-private - NGO partnerships are needed to meet the diverse skill requirements of informal sector. The GOI has launched National Skill Development Mission (NSDM), which is expected to look at 20 areas of growth for skill development in manufacturing and services. About 70 million jobs are expected to be created during the 11th Plan and hope is that the Mission will train people to make the best of these opportunities.

Decent employment is important for the poor to come out of poverty. However, all people may not need same kind of employment. Some people want job employment, some want self-employment, some want to be entrepreneurs. These needs are met to some extent through various programs implemented by the government. The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), has provided assistance to rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods. Subsequently, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) were introduced as sub-programmes of IRDP to take care of the specific needs of the rural population. On 1 April 1999, the IRDP and allied programmes, including the Million Wells Scheme (MWS), were merged into a single programme known as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The SGSY is conceived as a holistic programme of micro enterprise development in rural areas with emphasis on organizing the rural poor into self-help groups, capacity-building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure support, technology, credit and marketing linkages. It seeks to promote a network of agencies, namely, the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), line departments of state governments, banks, NGOs and panchayati raj Institutions (PRIs) for implementation of the programme. The Wage employment programmes such as National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programmes (RLEGP) were started as an important component of the anti-poverty strategy, have sought to achieve multiple objectives. They not only provide employment opportunities during lean agricultural seasons but also in times of floods, droughts and other natural calamities. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was meant to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas through the creation of economic infrastructure and community and social assets. To promote and support village and cottage industries,

organizations like Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) were set up. Programs such as Jawahar Gram Samrudhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) etc. were also implemented and played a significant role in creation of rural employment. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that came into existence in the year 2005, essentially guarantees employment to the unemployed in rural areas for at least 100 days in a year through works such as constructing roads, improving water supply and works that are necessary to improve village infrastructure. This scheme has shown significant impact on cash flows of rural households, migration and also on portfolio of livelihoods of the rural poor.

Poor also need support to their existing livelihoods. Generally, poor have multiple livelihoods. Poor are both producers and consumers. As producers of goods and services, poor need support in terms of credit, technology, infrastructure, training in best practices, inputs at subsidized prices, information related to markets, prices and marketing etc. Previously credit support is mostly provided by informal institutions, which charge exorbitant interest rates. Nationalization of Banks by the Government of India in 70's has brought significant change in poor people's access to credit. The establishment of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has provided avenues for rural poor to take loans at reasonable interest rates and also to save their little surpluses. After the success of Anand Milk Union's Limited (AMUL), in the 60's, began the dairy cooperative movement. Operation Flood (OF) and Operation Golden Flow (OGF) has made big difference, to the poor in 70's and 80's. This has encouraged, beginning of state-supported wasteland development efforts in 80's and 90's. Many poor producers have been organized into cooperatives around their livelihood activity by both government and non-government organizations through which their needs for credit, inputs, marketing are addressed to some extent. Many NGOs are also providing livelihoods support services to the poor by providing skill development trainings, required extension services, marketing support, infrastructure etc. However, India is still lagging behind in providing extension services for many livelihoods. Rural traditional livelihoods are going through turbulence as they are not able to withstand the global competition. They need support in modern designs, marketing, skills etc. for which very few opportunities are available. Many of the existing cooperatives are not able to meet the needs of the poor producers as they are suffering with problems of political interference, corruption and increased involvement of bureaucracy. The new 1995 Cooperative Act for Mutual Aid has heralded possibilities for truly member-driven collectives. These acts, now in 16 states, and a friendly central act and a provision in the Company Act (CA) to have Producer's Companies (PC) work like member controlled collectives have provided examples of good cooperatives that are independent of state control and regulation. These kinds of Mutually Aided Cooperatives (MAC) and Producer's Companies (PC) can be a way forward. National Rural Employment Mission (NREM) is bringing in more promises.

Many poor people depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Hence, rights on/ access to natural resources is very important for the poor to practice their livelihood. Land reforms have had a significant impact on poor people's access to land. Bhoodan (Land donation) movement of Vinobha Bhave has handed over more than 40 lakh acres of land to the hands of poor. The Panchayats (Extension of Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 extended the provisions of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, to the Scheduled Areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. The PESA enables tribal's to assume control over their own destiny and to preserve and conserve their traditional rights over natural resources, including land. However, the stringent provisions of this law have remained only on paper and have not been operationalized by state governments. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognized the rights of the Schedule Tribes (ST) and traditional forest dwellers and while, ensuring livelihoods and food security it also included the forest dwellers responsibilities and authority for forest resources, conservation of biodiversity and maintaining of ecological balance. Efforts are on in protecting the coastal eco systems for protecting the bio diversity as well as livelihoods of the fisher folk who are dependent on these eco systems. However, still there are many issues with regard to poor people's access to natural resources. Poor people are getting alienated from their lands, forests, sea etc. in the name of development, industrialization, environmental protection etc. while at the same time richer people are exploiting these natural resources for their interests without any concern towards the said issues.

Physical infrastructure like roads, electricity, transport, warehouses etc. are also very important needs of the poor as this infrastructure not only provides a better standard of living for them but also an important requisite for enhancing their livelihoods. Programs like Gram Sadak Yojana (GSY), Bharat Nirman, and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) etc. have enabled some infrastructure accessible to the poor. But still there is huge infrastructural gap, particularly infrastructure that is required for the poor, such as warehouses

to store their produce, infrastructure to do value addition to their produce such as drying platforms etc. These gaps should be bridged, by involving poor people in planning of infrastructure development.

Government has also started many social security programs for the poor and vulnerable. Pensions for old age people, widows and disabled people apart from programs like Antyodaya and Annapuran enabled vulnerable people to at least have food security. As poor are more vulnerable to health and other risks, several insurance programs were introduced for them such as Janasri Bima Yojana (JBY), Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) etc. Unorganized Workers Social Security Bill is expected to provide safety nets to the large number of unorganized workers in the country.

Poor and their institutions need support of professionals in their efforts to fight with poverty. Institutes like IRMA, TISS, and XISS etc. have established to address this need. Many Universities are now offering rural development and social work related courses for the students and are bringing professionals into the development sector. Apart from this, organizations like PRADAN, AKRSP, CAPART and MYRADA etc. have also started bringing professionals into the sector. Some of these professionals could establish and run grassroots organizations. Still there is a huge gap in the availability of professionals and paraprofessionals in the sector.

'Self Help Group' movement has covered millions of women in SHGs and their higher order institutions. Women have become the center of development initiatives. SHG federations were formed in many places and these federations are providing credit to the members for variety of purposes.

There has also been impressive progress on the information technology, computerization, enterprise wise resource planning, communication technology etc. Telephone and mobile density has increased. Channels are increasing. Communication has become easier. Right to Information Act (RTI) has proved its importance by making public information really accessible to public. However, there is a lot to do on this front to make this technology available to the poor and poorest and providing required information to them by using this Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Government(s) are taking the space of NGOs and creating Government NGOs. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Foundations and initiatives are growing. More and more development activities are happening through Community Based Organizations (CBOs). All these different kinds of institutions, are meeting the needs of poor in different ways. However, there is a lot more to be done.

India is still lagging behind in many development indices. Many poor are still dying out of hunger. Many children and women are suffering from malnutrition. Shelters less families are still visible on footpaths. Quality health services and education are still a distant dream to millions. Indian women are still walking miles to fetch a pot of water. Livelihoods of poor are still not able to give them incomes that are reasonable enough to lead a decent quality of life. Lot more issues needs to be resolved and lot more miles to walk to realize the dream of a poverty free country.

Programs, for the poor are many. But what requires is the accountability and transparency. 73rd and 74th amendments to constitution to transfer 29 subjects and local bodies with powers and responsibilities are slowly making progress. The task of building communities to seek accountability from local governments is difficult, but is necessary for increasing accountability. Urbanization, climate changes, push migration are bringing in newer challenges for which we still need to find solutions. We need many more professionals to work on the issues of poverty particularly in this dynamic context. We need to collectivize, poor based on various issues. For this, we need to have various favorable legal avenues.

By now, a new paradigm to address poverty reduction (Prosperity paradigm) –where we need to work with poor, who have just graduated out of poverty; where we need to work with the poorest, marginalized, vulnerable and left out very differently- is unfolding. The contours of this new paradigm need to be evolved. A lot more research has to be done to understand avenues for people, who are migrating out of traditional livelihoods. We need to invest on this. Many more skill training institutes have to come up, to train our youth and unskilled workers to train in skills required for different emerging sectors. It is now widely accepted that people's participation is key for any development program to show better results. We need to search for ways and means to make community participate in their own development.

We are at cross roads. We have entered two-digit growth rate. Indians found place in world's list of billionaires. Yet, some of us are starving and sleeping hungry. Malnutrition levels are high. In fact, we are no better than some of the sub-Saharan African countries in hunger, malnutrition etc... This could not be ignored. We, as a nation, need to move towards inclusive growth and prosperity.

**\*Livelihoods June-2010**

## 40. Continuum of Poor and Their Livelihoods

*This Article showcases the struggles and triumphs of people, their true stories as they fought for their survival against all odds. The main opponent being poverty, which for few proved a challenge and they fought against it and won the battle, yet there were others, who lost the battle and had to succumb to its fury.*

*In these real life stories, we find that education, hard work, development of skills, perseverance and determination, foresight, commitment, correct advise etc. proved to assist the individuals in their endeavours and help them emerge as winners. The foresight of the individuals and the ability to tackle the problems and overcome them rendered them to lead comfortable lives by following their chosen livelihoods. They opine that poverty does not have partiality and we find in these true sagas that many well to do simple folk were struck by oddities in life and had to face hard times. Poverty, Illiteracy, addiction to bad habits, lack of skills and opportunities, lack of determination, ill-health are causes which drive people to a point of no return in their lives. This in turn also affects their family and surroundings. In order to wade through a comfortable life, it is imperative that an individual has 'a consistent and capable Livelihood'.*



issues at the tea stalls.

### Emerging Livelihoods:

#### Tea Stall

Tea may not run in the blood of Indians, but it sure comes close. India is the largest consumer of this beverage in the world, consuming nearly 25 percent of the global tea production. Tea is cheap, affordable and addictive in nature. Nearly 90 percent of Indian households regularly drink tea. A lot of people in India depend on tea business for their livelihood. They are established on roadsides, so that they do not have to pay exorbitant rental charges. People throng to tea stalls in large numbers. There is no need for a big investment and workers in this venture. They brew variety of tea like ginger tea, black tea, green tea, white tea and herbal tea apart from the conventional one and the costs are also reasonable. One can find tea-stalls near, institutions, parks, markets, colleges, companies, restaurants and hotels and of course roadside. People chit chat with neighbors on various

### Security Guards

When we go inside corporate institutions, inside retail shop, inside theatres, we need to take the permission of a security guard be it a common citizen people or a political leader. There is an Increase in demand for Security guards to protect any premises from a possible attack or mishap. One of the features of most emerging markets shares is the potential for an expanded role in the private security guard industry. Data on the number of security guards in most emerging markets is unavailable or unreliable. Security personnel include a wide variety of functions such as alarms, investigative services, safety guards, and electronic surveillance. Presently, the need

for security guards is increasing in urban areas both private and government. Private agencies give security guard service and agencies take to Retired army people, youth and people below 50yrs having studied SSC and even those who are moderately educated and can understand English. After imparting training, even in weapon handling, agencies take women and men as security guards. Security guards get bonus and provident fund along with salary, which is anywhere between 5000 and above. They render their services at banks, ATM centers, malls, hospitals, government and private institutions, industries, houses, apartments, hotels etc. Security guards need to maintain dress code and a weapon, if they are serving at a sensitive place and work on 8hrs, 12hrs and 24hrs shifts depending on the need of the client.

### **Band Melam(Sound Team)**

Band melam, sannayi, tabla and dappu are entertainment tools used in functions. Traditional families like sannayi, tabla while other families prefer band melam. Youth too enjoy bandmelam during marriage processions, ganesh processions, funeral march, winning processions like elections, bullock competitions and others. A decade ago people enjoyed sannayi, dolu and dappu and other community related tools. Now, in band mela lot of changes came with different type of rhythms. One single team has 5 to 10 members and one master. These teams charge a fee anywhere above Rs 5000. In urban areas they have to maintain dress code. Village band melam people do not follow dress code, but some big and affluent families provide uniform to them for free. Youth dance along with the music in accordance with rhythm and enjoy.

### **Fast Food Centers**

Fast food centers have mushroomed in urban areas and towns. A lot of fast food centers can be seen on roadside and as open shops. They provide different types of food items like fried rice, noodles, manchurian and other items and also veg and non-veg items, which is tasty and spicy, enjoyed by both youth and children. Migrants, mostly from the north east are doing this business. Fast food rates are less compared to other food available hence, students and bachelors depend on this kind of food.

### **People: or Individuals?**

#### **ESHG Leaders**

HelpAge India formed SHGs with elders, who are above 60 years. Each group has 10-15 elders and elected leader from them. These groups work for elders only. These groups are mixed group means male and female members present in the group. Leaders take main role for their group development. They conduct regular meetings like weekly and monthly. Group leaders take lead role. Leaders conduct meetings on fixed dates, as well as maintain minutes, books and pass book. Leaders participate in monthly village level association meetings and mandal level samaikhya meetings as representative from their groups. Leaders take action on, who does not regularly pay their savings. In their regular meetings they discuss about their health problems, economical problems, livelihoods issues and their rights and also their family problems. Elders' group leaders' give internal loans to their group members, who need for personal purpose like health, livelihood and family needs. Give health and other information to their group members. Group members take eye operations, physiotherapy and other services with help of HelpAge India and local Non-government organizations. Leaders got trainings on group strengthen, book keeping and roles responsibilities. Leaders play main role in group development. Elders get relief through groups. Elder groups are working actively, but that group needs support like financial, manual and moral support.

#### **Community Leaders**

Community group leaders play important role in their community. Every community form group with their community people. Every community formed as a one group. Each family took membership from their community group. One person elected as a community group president by their community people. He manages and monitors whole group with the help of community people. He may have more knowledgeable and might be experienced person in the community. They may or may not be educated. Families took membership from their group. Groups conducts meeting every month. President manage group meeting. Usually, community groups meet at evening time, because they come to home from work in the evening. Community groups give loans to actually needy people with interest from membership fee and interest rate may be 12%, 18% and 24% depending on group situation. People have to repay next month with interest otherwise at least will pay interest to group. Otherwise president will take fine from them.

President involves in their personal issues like family problems, land issues, money issues, personal issues and other issues. Community people invite for all functions to him. Community leaders play role in community function, traditions and festivals. He takes decision on community level festivals and special activities with community people advice. People repay loan amount because they think about image. They do not cross the community norms. Community norms are very strong. Community people do not go to police stations, for issues because they meet community leader. Now, some places community groups are defaulting, lot of reasons are



there like political issues, some people do not accept leaders' advices; younger generation wants changes and may be another reason. Now, Political issues play key role in the community groups.

#### **Community Worker:**

##### **BalaBadi Teacher**

BalaBadi teacher is the instructor in community governed and community managed BalaBadi centre, which is an initiation of Indira KranthiPatham in coordination with Jattu Foundation as 'Early Childhood Education.' She works for the total development of physical, motor, cognitive, language, emotional, social and moral parameters of the children aged 3-5 years.

BalaBadi teacher works in 2 sessions –

In first session i.e. in the morning, she teaches letters and expressions through interactive games and rhymes. After that the children have lunch at anganwadi centre, she then teaches them language, mathematics, arts etc. He/ she maintain a register of the progress of the children. She also conducts a parent's meeting every week-end, so that the children's parents come to know about the growth of their child.

Selection of the instructor/ teacher-

A local candidate, who has fluency in speaking the local dialect with cultural and artistic talents, is preferred. Written test and interview is conducted by the state level resource team for the final selection of the instructor. He/ she then get trained at state level resource centers, so that they are equipped to impart their knowledge learnt in the training to the children. On the last Saturday of every month, a school festival is conducted at the district level, in which the instructors submit their monthly reports and the children demonstrate their learning of the month. The remuneration for the instructors is paid by the VO on the school festival day.

##### **Bank Mitra/ TFI CRP**

Bank Mitra/ Total Financial inclusion CRP is an active community leader, selected from the members of mature SHGs. A woman, who has tasted bitter poverty and has come out of it with the support and assistance by SHG. A woman with minimum 4 years of experience as a member in the group and has taken multiple spells of loans which improved her livelihood base and standard of living is eligible as a Bank Mitra. Such women are identified by Mandal Samakhya and are recommended to zilla samakhya for final selection through interviews. She is then trained thoroughly by Zilla Samakhya in different aspects related to financial management such as:

1. Book keeping, 2. Saving and inter-lending. 3. Bank linkage, 4. Experimental learning methods through community to community cross learning approach, 5. Preparation of Micro Credit Plans, 7. Recovery of bank loans due under SHG bank linkage, 8. Using ICT devices to carry out the banking functions at the door step of the customer.

The period of training depends on the concept and quality of the CRP undergoing the training.

She then works as Bank Mitra, i.e. as a linkage between the banks and the SHG members, thereby reducing burden on banking officials as well as simplifying the process of bank linkage for the women. She has to work in a Mandal which is not her own. Each person will cover one village for 3 months working for 15 days in a month.

##### **Roles and responsibilities:**

Monitoring group functioning – group meetings, attendance, book keeping, helping members in maintaining books and other registers up to date. Imparting knowledge and spreading awareness about financial discipline and punctuality – i.e. regular meetings, up to date books, regular savings and loan repayment. Providing training for members in case of requirement in group functioning. Bringing awareness among the members about bank linkage advantages and encouraging them to take up livelihood activities to shake away their poverty. Providing assistance in opening bank accounts, helping the group in preparation of Micro-Credit Plan (MCP) for getting loan from the bank, recovering loan from existing customers, thereby saving a lot of time of both customers and the banks. Identifying POPs, who are not yet been a part of groups and facilitate formation of new groups. Depending on requirement, they work with different banks to connect them with the women clientele. For this very useful service, she is paid Rs 250 per day (recourse fee @ Rs 200 institutional charges @ Rs 50) for 15 days in a month excluding travel and food charges which are reimbursed later.

##### **Volunteer/ Professional:**

##### **Gender CRPs**

SHG Women developed a support system by establishing Social Action Committees (SAC) and community managed family counseling centers to deal specifically with violence against women. To up scale the same process in all other districts Gender CRP strategy was designed and being implemented in nine districts. An Active, articulate women belonging to the SACs with good knowledge base on community based institutions



(SHG, VO, MS, ZS) and Social Action Committees, on social agenda and who further can train other SAC members act as paralegals / Gender CRPs.

#### **Roles of Gender CRP:**

\*Gender CRPs will establish Gender Point persons in every SHG, VO and MS to monitor social agenda on regular basis. \*Provide services to form Social Action Committees and identify active women as prospective internal CRPs in every village to take forward the social agenda. \*Help VOs to establish their gender forums in village. \*Form adolescent girls groups in every village and provide training on personal safety, personal hygiene and child rights. \*Gender CRPs will deal with domestic violence cases, mobilize help, attend negotiations etc., while dealing with cases across the district. \*Identifying Gender issues in the villages and help VOs to develop a Social Action Plan for their village. \*Helping to establish family counseling centers and establish linkages with the existing shelters for victims. \*She herself acts as a support system to the women in distress and serves as a catalyst to implement gender sensitive programs at the village level and provide affordable and immediate justice with care and compassion. \*Initiate formation of Social Action committees wherever they are not yet formed. \*Wherever necessary they will help other districts also in dealing with cases for negotiation, counseling etc.

Gender CRPs should have certain specific qualities like patience, listening to victims, comprehension, empathy to poor women, capacity to maintain confidentiality, sincerity, punctuality, commonsense to resolve the other's problems. Gender CRPs should have capability of negotiating with officials particularly with police hospitals, mandal level officials, and lawyers and at large with several sections of the civil society, while resolving the cases. A married woman of above 35 years of age, who is a member of SHG and have personally, faced a case of domestic violence or external violence, so that she can understand the other woman's pain. If not faced a case herself, she should have had experience in supporting, helping working for someone in a case of domestic or external violence, or any other social issues. These Gender CRPs are also called external CRPs, which will be paid Rs.310 which includes resource fee, travel and food allowance per day.

#### **Job Resource Persons**

Jobs Resource Persons (JRP) are from the community and play an important role in the processes of mobilizing, convincing and motivating the rural youth to enroll in trainings and take up jobs in organized sectors – an initiative taken by EGMM (Employment Generation and Marketing Mission).

#### **Roles:**

\*Mobilizing the registered un-employed youth to participate in various trainings through Mandal Samakhyas (MS) and Village Organizations. \*Orienting VOs and MS on job component by explaining how jobs improve lives of families and how it can come in support of the various other programs under IKP. \*Making jobs an agenda item in VO and MS meetings. \*They will carry a calendar of trainings and according to the training ahead in near future and mobilize youth for those trainings based on qualification and interest of un-employed youth. \*Registering and maintaining un-employed youth database and computerizing it. \*Facilitating VOs to fill the jobs register and track placements. \*Facilitating MS to monitor infrastructure. \*Monitor drop outs in trainings and remobilize them. \*Counseling parents of youth and ensuring that they send their children for jobs in urban and semi urban areas. \*Arrange alumni interaction with VO/MS/ZS meetings in order to motivate un-employed youth to take up placement. Qualification for a JRP is of 17-27 years age and passed minimum intermediate with effective communication in local language. After selection, these JRPs are trained or oriented in facilitating the jobs agenda and also covering other aspects like leadership skills, motivational skills, communication skills, managerial skills, interpersonal skills mobilizing skills and Team playing skills. After starting working, a JRP reports to ZillaSamakhya (ZS), Assistant Project manager – (APM-Jobs) and Project Director.

These Job Resource Persons are paid a fixed monthly salary along with travel allowance.

#### **Common Person Interviews:**

##### **My Hopes are on My Son...**

*Nagamani (45) is washerwomen at Chatanpally village in Shadnagar Mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. She tells about her 'livelihoods' about her work and life.*

##### **Tell about your family details?**

I stay with my family; husband, two daughters and one son is there. Last year I performed my eldest daughter wedding.

##### **What is your occupation? And since how long you are doing that work?**

We belong to washerman community. We have been doing this work for past 25 years. I wash clothes at homes, near Shadnagar town. I also launder clothes.

##### **In how many houses are you washing clothes?**

I wash clothes in 10 houses in Shadnagar. They pay me Rs. 100 per member/ per month for washing their clothes. The amount is not sufficient. We have been demanding Rs. 150 per person per month for washing clothes. Presently, on an average I earn Rs. 3000 per month. At times householders give Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 as an additional income for washing blankets and give food. My work timings are from early hours till post lunch.

**What about your family members? And what they are doing?**

My husband has a laundry shop in Shadnagar. My son studied up to 9th class. He is also supporting my husband with laundry work. Earlier, my husband ran a laundry shop at Chattanpally, but we experienced losses. So, he shifted his shop to Shadnagar, there he took one shop for Rs, 2000 monthly rent basis. At times I also take to laundry work at the shop. My second daughter is studying in 4<sup>th</sup> class at government school in the village. She is studying well. I have put hopes on my daughter. Earlier, I planned to provide good education to my son. But he didn't study well and failed in studies.

**How much does your husband earn?**

My husband earns Rs. 5000 per month, by laundry work, he being analcoholic; spends his earnings on consumption of alcohol. Remaining amount he spends on shop rent, coal purchase and electricity charges. He doesn't give any amount for family. Only my income is the source for our family maintenance.

**What kind of problems are you facing?**

Washing clothes is very tough and involves hard work, I suffer from body pains. Even at the time of sickness, I have to do washing work. Otherwise I have to do more work. I didn't have rest in my life. After washing works, I have to do other domestic works back at my house.

**Do you have any assets in your native place?**

I have a small house in my village; it is in dilapidated condition, as it leaks during rainy season.

**Did you get any schemes and support from the Government?**

No, I applied for Indiramma house 7 years ago and I am yet to become a beneficiary of the scheme.

**Do you get any loans?**

Yes, I availed loan towards house repair of Rs. 10000 on 48% interest per year from money lender in the village. Later, I availed loan from my SHG amounting to Rs. 20,000/- . A total sum of Rs. 30,000 loan I have availed and spent it towards house repair.

**Do you have membership at any SHG?**

Yes, my SHG group name is Dhanalaxmi SHG. I am first leader in the group. . I save Rs. 100 per month. I availed two loans from the group and presently I am paying installment for my loan Rs. 2,000 /- per month on loan.

**What kind of support you want from the government?**

I want to construct house of my own and thus seeking support from government.

**What are your future plans?**

I want to send my daughter for higher education. Moreover, my son will be settled in private job in future.

**Fate did not Change**

Yadaiah migrated from a small village to Hyderabad but still, he misses his village. He is not comfortable in city, but he has to work here since he can't go back to his village. He shares his experience with livelihoods.

**What is your name?**

My name is B.Yadaiah. I am 65yrs old.

**Did you go to school?**

No, my parents did not have the knowledge of school during their time. They believed that it was not for the poor people.

**What do you do?**

I work as a watch man in Manohar Apartments in Vidhyanagar, Hyderabad since past 3 years on a salary of Rs 4,000 per month.

**Tell us about your family?**

I live with my wife, younger son and grandson at Manikeswarnagar in Hyderabad. Our daughter is married. My elder son expired due to a heart attack five years back. His wife returned to her native place. Younger son is still unmarried and works as an electrician and my wife work as daily labourer. My grandson goes to school.

**Tell us about your grandson?**

My grandson's name is Charan. He is 6yrs old and is studying in UKG in a private school. He studies well and goes to school regularly. His father died when he was 2 months old and his mother went away when he was 3yrs old. We now shoulder all his responsibilities. We want to give him good education, but we may not live more than 10-15yrs after that his uncle has to care of him.

**Which is your native place?**

We belong to Rajakkapeta village, Dubbakmandal, Medak district. We migrated 25yrs back from Rajakkapeta. Our village people were helpful and affectionate and we were cultivating crops but we had to migrate due to problems like irrigation, electricity etc. since we did not get profits. In city also, there are problems of housing, water and electricity. I am not comfortable here. I often wonder why we came to Hyderabad I remember and miss my village a lot.

**What did you do before this job?**

I worked as watchmen since I came to this city. I worked 6yrs in Amberpet, 4yrs in East Maredpally, Secunderabad and six years in Prakashnagar in Hyderabad. Some family members in the apartments are good and help us and few families utilized our service but did not help us. I got experience by doing various jobs and have met different persons.

**How did you join in this job?**

I joined Manohar apartment with the help of a security guard, who also works in the same apartment.

**What do you do as a watch man in Manohar Apartment?**

I work from 6AM to 7PM daily. I clean all floors and premises with water. I distribute electricity bills, water bills and give letters to the residents every month. I help them to pay their bills and ferry vegetables, groceries and other heavy things. Monthly, I also clean water tanks. I don't have holidays. If I fall sick, my wife works in my place. 36 families live in our apartment from different places and sometimes I perform their personal chores also. I do it under duress, or else they may report adversely to the secretary.

**Do you have any loan?**

Yes, we have taken 5 lakhs rupees loan at 36 % for our daughter's marriage from our relatives. We have to pay that amount. My wife, son and I are working hard to pay that off..

**Tell us about your experiences in Hyderabad?**

We came to Hyderabad on advice of our relatives. We have been staying here for the last 25 years. Lot of changes has taken place in the city but our fate has not changed.

**What is your future goal?**

I don't have any future goals, but my concentration is only on my grandson's future. I hope that he will not face any problems in the future.

**Grassroots Worker Interviews:**

**Don't Forget Elders.....**

**In Help Age India, Indrajith works with elders for creating awareness about elder's rights, health, social security and counseling at Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh. He shares his experience ...**

**What is your Name? Age?**

My name is P. Indrajith. I am 24yrs old.

**What is your native place?**

My native place is Ranapoor village, Sarangapoomandal, Adilabad district. At present, I stay at Adilabad.

**What are your education qualifications?**

I completed Masters in Social Work (MSW) atPaloncha in Khammam district in 2012.

**What do you do?**

I work as a counselor at Help Age India in Adilabaddist, Andhra Pradesh, since March 2013.

**Tell us something about your family?**

My parents and two sisters constitute my family. We have 10 acres of agriculture land. Father and mother work in agriculture field and we cultivate cotton, soya and maize. Both my Sisters are studying.

**Tell us about your Job?**

I work as a counselor in Adilabad district. We identify elders, take details and give advantage cards to them. We conduct four monthly meetings with elders and senior citizens in every ward. So far, we have identified about 2000 elders and we have given advantage cards to 500 elders. We get 100 cards monthly from HelpAge India,

Delhi. Elders get medicine, less consultation fee and other concessions. We meet elders regularly and discuss about requirements with doctors, shop owners and others. So far I have counseled three elders on property issues. I maintain records and send reports to our state level office. A large number of parents are being neglected by their families and exposed to lack of emotional, physical, and financial support. These older generations thus face a lot of problems due to absence of adequate social security. My roles and responsibilities constitute counseling elders, coordinating with officials, documentation, record maintenance, visitors counseling and handling, rescue and rehabilitation of elders, maintaining data base, formation of senior citizens associations, finding volunteers, meeting, organizing and conducting special events like elders day, and elders abuse day, old age homes visiting and fund raising.

**Do you have any previous experience?**

Yes, I worked as a cluster coordinator in SIRI organization at Paloncha in Khammam district. I participated in migration study on Internally Displaced People (IDP). I gained good experience from this study. Over the past thirty years, Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh has seen a huge influx of IDPs from neighboring state of Chhattisgarh, due to local disturbances and insurgency. There, they have no legal access, limited access to resources and government entitlements. Most of them are unaware of their rights.

**Did you participate in any training programmes?**

No, I have participated in a review meeting where our seniors shared their experiences. I have gained a lot of insight by their suggestions and experiences.

**Tell us about your Help Age India organization?**

HelpAge reaches out to the underprivileged elderly through its various services in areas of financial, health and emotional security. HelpAge is slowly moving from welfare to integrated age care services for the elderly in urban and rural areas. In many cities our Elder Helpline (1253) has been working to address the loneliness and neglect of elders.

**What is your future goal?**

I want to work with elder people. We have to give support to them in their elder stage. They gave maximum service & their life for us. We should never forget them in their elder years. Today, a number of voluntary organizations work for elders' rights, social security, health and financial support. A number of elders live in old age homes, orphanage, footpath and temples due to apathy from their families. I want to convey my thanks to Help Age India, because it has given opportunity to people like us to serve our elders.

**Work is Their World ...**

**V. Venkatesh works for the Alluri Sitaramaraju Nagar slum people to improve their life conditions and to develop the area. The people there know nothing about health and hygiene, education, sanitation, nutrition and their basic rights. Indeed leading a very backward life, which Venkatesh aspires to change.**

**What is your name? Age?**

My name is V. Venkatesh. I am 26 yrs.

**What did you study?**

I did my Master of Social Work (MSW) from Roda Mistry College of Social Work & Research Centre (RMCSWRC), Gachibowli in Hyderabad.

**Tell us about your family? What is your native place?**

My family consists of my mother, grandparents and a younger brother. We are native of Veerannapet village, Cheryal mandal, Warangal District. Recently, I lost my father. My family owns 2 acres of agriculture land and we do not cultivate. My younger brother works with a private organization in Hyderabad.

**What do you do?**

I work as a facilitator in Bala Raksha project in Divya Disha organization at Alluri Sitaramaraju Nagar in Hyderabad.

**Did you have any past experience?**

I worked on sustainable agriculture issues in SECURE organization in Khammam district, where I learnt about sustainable agriculture, which is very important for our farmers. They bring in good profits without much investment, if they adopt the norms of sustainable agriculture. Therefore, much awareness needs to be created among the farmers regarding sustainable agriculture. I also worked with commercial sex workers and was part of a migration study undertaken by the organisation.

**Tell about your job?**

From January 2013, I have been working as a facilitator for slum dwellers under the Bala Raksha project at Allurisitaramaraju nagar near Gudi Malakapur since January 2013.

My roles and responsibilities are:

Visiting 20 households daily, facilitating committees meetings, interacting with slum people, meeting government officials about slum issues along with slum people, committees' strengthening meetings, drop out students identification and creating awareness, joining the children below the age of five years in the Anganwadi centres, conducting cultural activities for children, identifying child labour scenarios, conducting health camps along with health department and also conduct awareness meetings about water, education, health and other issues troubling the slum. We formed six committees with slum people i.e., father's committee, mother's committee, youth committee, stakeholder's committee and slum leader's committee for their slum development. These committees conduct meetings every month to discuss issues troubling their slum.

#### **Tell us something about the slum?**

The slum came into existence around 15yrs back. The residents of slum are migrants from Rayalseema District and have settled here 15 years ago they lived at MGBS and then they relocated from MGBS to Allurisitaramaraju Nagar. In year 2000 government gave flats to them. These people collect scrap and earn their livelihoods and face severe health problems. Children too help their family members in collecting and grading scrap.

#### **So far, what have you done for the slum people?**

We have conducted two health camps with the help of staff of Niloufer hospital. We solved the drainage issues. Identified 30 drop out students and guided the children back to the school and joined children below the age of five years into anganwadi centers. Two anganwadi centers work in this slum. I interact with slum people daily to enhance their development. In this slum people spend more time collecting scrap without taking any precautions of their health. Daily, they go to the field early in the morning and return home late in the afternoon afterwards they get busy in grading the scrap. They segregate iron, plastic, and other items from heap of the scrap. Children also participate in this work. There are some 478 families in the slum doing the same work. Frequently, they suffer from allergy, fever, headache and other diseases.

#### **Tell us something about the organization DivyaDisha?**

DivyaDisha was established in 1987 in Hyderabad. Divya Disha implemented Bala Raksha project in 10 slums and also plan to add 15 more slums next year. In over a period of 25 years of working with children and youth, Divya Disha has been instrumental in empowering individuals, and building communities for the inhabitants. Presently, the organization is functioning in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Warangal and Srikakulam districts working primarily with street children, child labour, migrant children, runaway children, domestic child labour, children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, orphans, victims of abuse and neglect, vocational trainings, recreation and sports etc.

#### **What is your future goal?**

I would like to work on issues concerning children, health, rights, education and other issues. I want to work as a social worker for the rural/slum India. They largely lack in awareness on various schemes, education, health, sanitation, water and fundamental rights.

#### **Vulnerable People:**

##### **Child Labour**

According to 2001 Census nearly 1.26 crore children constitute childlabour force in India. The number may significantly exceed since children working in the domestic thresholds like taking care of younger siblings, chores like cleaning, cooking, helping in the household livelihood, bringing water and firewood etc was not counted as child labour works.

Almost 60% of the 'child labour' is engaged in the agriculture sector and related activities and remaining in the non - farm sectors namely, construction, brick making kilns, fishing, hotels, way side restaurants and lodges. Children are also employed in hazardous units like fireworks and match boxes making factories, beedi making, gem cutting, polishing, and dyeing and selling different type of products. There is lack of law implementation in the informal sector and studies reveal that nearly 20% of the children work in this sector as bonded labour striving to repay the debt of their parents. Poverty, ignorance, poor sense of education, dearth of employment opportunities, population growth, backwardness and increasing cost of living are some causes leading to child labour. In addition, crop failures, displacement and migration, man-made and natural disasters and social vices and alcoholism too contribute to the societal malady called child labour. Since children don't demand rights and form unions and hence can be exploited with ease, owners of a number of enterprises prefer children to work for them. The innocent children who work as child labour are deprived of valuable and beautiful opportunities of fun time and gay of childhood. Being sensitive, due to the stress of the job and workplace they sadly develop a

warped mental and physical growth. Due to hazardous conditions at in the factories and workplaces, working for long hours is exhausting for the children. The extreme climatic conditions too play havoc on their physical and mental well-being. Average children are working 10 to 12 hours per day for minimum wage which less than Rs.100 per day. Government and non - governmental organizations have been striving to design programs for decades to eradicate child labour in the country. Government departments are working along with the sectarian framework to abolish child labour by levying fine and punishment to the defaulters who employ children. There is a requirement for comprehensive multi-level programs to eradicate child labour. Poverty is the one of the major cause behind the child labour. So, without focusing on increasing the income of the poor families' abolition of child labour may not possible. Poor families consider child labour as one of the income source to the families. Secondary social and cultural factors are very much causing the child labour. According to one survey nearly 67.3% of the children engaged in labour belong to Scheduled Caste (SC). Continuous large scale social awareness campaign is required. Government should allocate adequate funds for child welfare and ensure quality universal education and proper implementation of child labour legislations. Community participation is sought in eradicating child labour, therefore, programs need to be conceived by the government with active participation by non-governmental organizations, civil societies, children and their families and communities.

### **Toddy Tappers**

Toddy tapping is prevalent in South Indian states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Toddy tappers extract sap from the toddy trees. They cut toddy flower stump and fix a pot or plastic cone to extract sap. A white liquid sap or neera is collected from toddy flower stump which is sweet to taste and is non-alcoholic till two hours after extraction. To prevent the sap from fermentation, the toddy tappers add lime to the collected sap. They store the sap and sell the sap (Locally known as neera) from anywhere between Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per litre according to season and place. Neera is popular tradition liquor in rural areas in the state. The Toddy tappers work for 200 days in a year. An average toddy tree gives 3 to 5 liters per day. The toddy tappers earn around Rs. 3500 per month. The toddy tappers also face problems from police. The Tamil Nadu government has banned toddy extraction. Thousands of people depend on toddy tapping for their livelihood. In Andhra Pradesh toddy tappers collect two types of saps one from the palm trees and the other sap from the palm trees. Toddy tapping is the one of the riskiest livelihoods in the country. The tappers have to climb very tall trees which require lot of skill. Climbing toddy trees during rainy season is quite hazardous, due to the slippery bark of the trees. The tappers need to roam about from early morning to late in the evening to extract sap from toddy trees. There are chances of snake bites. Many toddy tappers don't have membership in the unions nor do they have insurance. If a toddy tapper falls down from the toddy tree, he may be permanently disabled or may even die rendering their family into dire state. Not many in the younger generation are willing to take up this profession because of low income and high risks job.

### **Slum Dwellers**

Poor people from rural areas come to nearby cities in search of livelihood. The slump in agriculture and traditional rural livelihoods has facilitated forced migration of people from villages to urban areas. Numbers of un-skilled, semi-skilled people migrate to the cities to seek livelihoods at construction sites and private firms at low wages and face an uncertain future in cities which have a high cost of living even for dwelling units. Hence, are forced to live in very small houses or huts in densely populated areas called slums situated beside drainage canals or ponds or near factories or on government land. In our country nearly 93 million people reside in slums. Around 50% of Delhi and 60% of Bombay population resides in slums. These slum dwellers don't have access to proper drinking water, sanitation, health, education, ration cards and proper electric facilities. The slums have few public water taps catering to the dwellers, many of them are forced to fetch water from the nearby apartments. Due to poor sanitary conditions, they are susceptible to various diseases. They have to face threats to vacate from their residences from local goons or real estate people or government people due to the lack of legal documents of their proof of residence. With no proper legal documents of their houses, they don't have accessibility to the Public Distribution Service (PDS) cards. So, they need to purchase rice, pulses and oil and other raw food items in open market. The slum dwellers face more losses than others at time of disasters like heavy rains and fire accidents and adverse weather conditions.

### **Vulnerabilities:**

#### **Drinking Water Contamination**

Drinking water contamination has become a big problem for the people in tribal, rural and slum areas in the country. These people, being poor cannot purchase safe drinking water. So, are forced to drink the water available

to them, resulting in various diseases. Consuming contaminated drinking water is leading to disastrous situations. According to a survey, 37.5 million people including children annually are affected by water related diseases and nearly 73 million working days are lost per year due to water contamination. Chemical contamination such as

fluoride and arsenic contamination is present in drinking water among 1.95 lakhs in habitations in the country. Nearly 66 million people are facing fluoride water contamination in 20 states and 10 million people are facing arsenic water contamination problem. Presently iron contamination is becoming a problem. The other causes of contamination are heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers over the crops, over exploitation of ground water, industrial wastages getting mixed with ground-water, rivers, lakes and ponds, mining activities, leakage in fresh water pipes and its improper maintenance. Improper drinking water preservation methods and poor regulations of water pollution are contributing to water contamination. Ground water is the drinking water source for 80% of the people but no action is being taken on industries, factories and enterprises, which are mixing the wastage in the ground water. The public water system is limited to the poor since majority of the population prefers purified water especially at the public places.

### **Earning Member Death**

In our country people indulge in various livelihoods activities for their survival. Many livelihoods such as fishing, toddy tapping, construction sites, transport, NTFP collection, mining works, farming etc. are quite risky and the chances of accident is very high while performing these activities. The earning member of the family attracts life risks while at work like accidents or snake bites or suicides because of crop failures, debt crisis and business losses or contracting diseases due to pollution at the work place. The death of the earning member leads the family into vulnerable situation since many households don't have savings, insurances, deposits and assets which can give regular income to the family. So, the death of an earning member has tremendous impact on the family, sometimes they are forced to sell their land, assets or business for lesser prices for their survival. Many a time the victim's family doesn't get insurance and also the ex-gratia or compensation from the government due to lack of awareness about the schemes. Getting government compensation takes lot of time, recommendation and energy. In our country usually male members particularly husbands are the main earning members in the families. Death of the husband pushes women into economic, social and cultural problems. She has to earn and manage the family matters which may not have been familiar to her. The family structure of our country is very unique. Husband is the head of the family and the main decision maker and is the owner of family assets like houses, lands and plots. The wives get respect as per the status of their husbands. The death of the husband proves to be disastrous for the women such that even the relatives and others try to cheat them taking advantage of the volatile situation, especially regarding the financial matters. The children in the family too get affected by the situation since in many situations they have to cease their studies and earn for the family. The death of the earning member of a family makes the family vulnerable owing to government non-cooperation, family structure and pathetic society and cultural backwardness. Government should hasten to provide compensation and regular pension to the unfortunate women and efforts should be made to educate the children of the victims. Role of women should be strengthened in the nuances of family management and should be given respect and equal status at par with others in the society.

### **Crops Prices Fluctuations**

Crop prices fluctuations are quite common in our country. Generally the crop prices are determined by a number of factors such as consumers' preferences, product quality, buyer's willingness, availability of products and seasonality of the products etc. Crops prices fluctuations became a major problem after there was a shift to cash crops (crops production for sale). Earlier most of the farmers cultivated crops for self-consumption and remaining part of the produce was sold in the market. Then the situation completely changed since the farmers started to cultivate mostly to sell. So, market became more and more important. Dependency on the market for purchasing inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides has increased. Every year the prices of these inputs are increasing and new diseases are affecting the crops. Farmers therefore are forced to purchase new variety of pesticides and also increase its quantity. Transportation and marketing charges are increasing yearly. More and more farmers depend on ground water for irrigation hence are investing lakhs of rupees on bore wells and on electricity charges. Agriculture labour wages have increased. All these factors have contributed in the increase in agriculture investments. In rural areas, during the seeding time there is a trend to increase the price of agriculture products. The prices of the products decline during post-harvest and marketing. Many times farmers don't get enough profit due to price fluctuations and are exposed to vulnerable situations. The price which they get may not be sufficient even to transport the products thereby rendering huge losses to the farmers. They need to clear the past crop loans which were taken from banks, money lenders, traders; shop owners etc and take fresh loans for the next crops. This leads the farmers into the vicious circle of debt and in many cases forces them to sell their lands and other assets. The crop prices fluctuations affect the small and marginal farmers more who constitute nearly 80% with 44% agriculture land holding area in the country. They lack of proper storage facilities to keep the agriculture products stops them from waiting for a good price and they have to repay the loans which were taken as agriculture investment. They are not aware of the crops prices at different places markets across the state and thus depends on middle-men operating in the markets. There is a lack of unity

among the small and marginal farmers. All these causes force the small and marginal farmers sell their agricultural products at lesser prices and face undesirable consequences.

### **Untouchability**

Untouchability is one of the most inhuman age-old social practices in our country based on the traditional hierarchy of the social groups. It provides different social status to the different caste groups though all human beings are same. The caste system is being practiced in our country for centuries quite opposite to the modern values of equality, equity, self-respect, dignity and freedom. Origin of its evolution stands for a long debate. After independence the Constitution framers prepared various Acts to abolish the various inhuman caste practices. The consecutive government devised schemes to provide education and employment opportunities to the under privileged helping them in acquiring awareness thereby leading to a decline in the severity of the untouchability practices. But nearly one sixth of population (17 Crore People) have been meted out this treatment and the 'Dalits' who have been at the bottom of hierarchical caste system are main victims. Caste system is very predominant in rural areas in the country. The houses of dalits are situated at the peripheries of villages, they are not allowed to draw water from the common drinking wells, enter temples or higher caste houses. The caste system does not allow any inter-caste marriages between different caste groups and viewed it as a crime. They depend on agriculture labour and wage labour for living. In the present times, the scenario is changing wherein they have access to education and employment. The Government has conceived the idea of reserving some social security measures which need to be publicized. Government and civil society should come forward to eradicate such practices to progress towards an equitable society.

### **Individual Enterprises:**

#### **Tailoring Center**

Padmavathi is a 42 year old successful entrepreneur who is a favorite customer of the bank serving her village Vavilla, Vidavalu rmandal, in Nellore Dt. Born and brought up in a comparatively small town area called Buchi, Padmavathi studied till intermediate and also learnt sewing and tailoring with great enthusiasm. She then got married to a farmer Surendra, having 5 acres of land. She then went on to fulfill her responsibilities as a home maker, but still experienced some emptiness in her life. In order to overcome that void she started a tailor shop with a loan of Rs 10000 taken from SHG bank linkage Program. She repaid the loan on time, which encouraged the bank to increase her loan amount to 30,000. She invested the loan money to buy a state of art sewing machine with applications like zigzag, embroidery etc. She also started tailoring classes for young girls in the village at a nominal fee. Excerpts as told by her:

Initially it was very difficult to get customers. But gradually my efforts picked up. I stuck strictly to the promised date and time of delivery. Planned my work accordingly so that my customers won't face any problem' says beaming Padmavathi. Apart from her, there is a sole male tailor in the village. That proved to be an advantage for her to garner more customers. She then borrowed another sewing machine from her friend who had bought it from SHG loan but was not using it due to some preoccupations. Padmavathi charges Rs 150/- per blouse for normal stitching and Rs 300 /- for a designer blouse and Rs 20/- persaree for zig-zag. "I earn minimum Rs 400 per day in off season and upto 900 per day during the festival seasons." says Padmavathi. Two girls have joined Padmavathi's classes to learn tailoring at a fee of Rs 500/- per month from each one with a simple clause that these trainees who learn tailoring from her have to work with her for a minimum of three months at a nominal salary. This clause has benefited both – the trainees as well as Padmavathi. The girls gain experience and learn valuable tips which cannot be learnt otherwise during training. Padmavathi is able to earn more money as she is paying them comparatively less and earning more by delivering more goods on time to the customers. She utilizes quality time to monitor the work of the trainees and tries to minimize the mistakes so that there are no complaints from the customers. Padmavathi has earned lot of appreciation and respect from her family members and the fellow villagers.

#### **Billboard Painter**

Rajesh Kumar Natin, a 35-year-old billboard painter from the town of Niwari, in Tikamgarh district, had familiarised himself with the trapeze, despite being born into a family of barbers. That profession had always seemed mundane to Rajesh who had dreamt of bigger things. Fortunate enough to receive good education, Rajesh became a school teacher in his twenties. His daily routine involved six hours in school, followed by private tuitions in the evenings and on weekends. His hard work fetched him a little over Rs 3000 a month, a decent income in these parts. However, Rajesh was dissatisfied as his teaching jobs left him no time for anything else. It was quite impossible for him to get leave during the school term and he could not afford to lose the wages from the extra tuition that took up the rest of his hours. So, Rajesh had to miss family weddings and religious ceremonies, could rarely find time to make essential purchases in bigger towns and could not even consider the luxury of free time. Nevertheless, he continued with his job to support his wife and two young sons.



Then one day, opportunity knocked.

Rajesh recalls how he heard the concept of a self-help group from a friend: "I thought that these groups were formed by an organization called Development Alternatives (DA) and that they had their own vested interests, but, nevertheless, I was keen on joining such a group, since I knew I could get a loan from it. I had already began planning a business with the talent I had developed as a child, but lacked funds for my venture." So, after a little more than a year of saving, Rajesh's group had a total of Rs 50, 000/- . Four members, including Rajesh, took a loan of Rs 50,000 /- each from State Bank of India (SBI). This loan was basic safety net that, Rajesh needed to quit teaching and adopt a profession, he had longed for since childhood. Thus Niwari's resident billboard painter was born. A self-taught artist and a confident, content man today, Rajesh earns an average of Rs 11000 a month for doing the work he loves. He buys all the raw material— including cloth for banners, oil paints, radium and wood—from Jhansi. He comfortably meets his clients' deadlines and also sets his own timetable. He quite enjoys his independence, attending ceremonies and weddings and taking time off work for shopping and errands. Rajesh has painted nearly 2000 placards and banners used by his clients for various events. On the strength of his reputation, he has received an order from the Government to write the key points of NREGA on 472 public walls. For each wall that he painted in the 138 villages of Niwari Block, he received Rs 275/-. A soft-spoken and shy man from Bundelkhand, Rajesh gives full credit to the SHG, banks and of course his will power on his achievement as a painter, without which his progress would have been 'much slower'. Moreover, his neighbours feel he is savvier than them. However, when they ask him for advice on how to form a Self-Help Group (SHG), this confident SHG member uses his erstwhile teaching skills to pass on the lessons, he has learnt.

### **Photo Studio**

Kairamkonda Santhosh Kumar (28) belonging to Pochampally village, Nalgonda District is a graduate. He hails from a weaver's family. But he is not keen on joining the family occupation. He selected DTP and Web designing as his career which is more of technical in nature. He proceeded to undertake MS-Office and DTP courses in the AV computer center in Pochampally, there after he underwent training on Web designing and DTP designs at the SV Institute in Dilukhnagar, Hyderabad. After the completion of training he got a job as DTP operator at a Photo Studio in Abdullapurmet. He worked for three years there and then shifted to another Photo Studio at Autonagar in Hyderabad, worked for one year and acquired more skills in photography and video editing. He and his friend has been planning to start a Photo studio since past few years. Their parents consented to their idea and Santosh purchased the studio where he worked earlier. Santhosh and his friend purchased the studio for Rs.180, 000 located at Abdullapurmet, near Ramoji Film City. Thereafter they also bought Video Camera, Photo camera, Computer and a printer. Both invested approximately 3 lakhs on the Photo studio. His friend takes up assignments of clicking photos and videos on orders (like Marriage, festivals, family- functions, and even functions held in Schools, while Santhosh undertakes the job of video editing and DTP designing work. Now their business is going well.

### **Small Dhaba**

Draupadi of the Indian epic, Mahabharata, was given a bowl by Lord Krishna; a bowl that would never let anybody starve, irrespective of the innumerable mouths she had to feed. 'Mummy' of Bhojpura has assumed a similar kind of a role for the workers at the stone-crushing unit opposite her dhaba in Bhojpura village, Tikamgarh. Twenty years ago, Mummy, or Maheshwari Devi, used to accompany her husband to the stone crushing unit where he worked. As his hours were long, she looked for ways to keep boredom at bay. Soon after, Maheshwari bought some cigarettes, gutkhas and bidis from Jhansi and started selling them on the roadside. "I had bought things worth Rs.50 and was amazed that they were all sold the same day," says Maheshwari. This gave her the first taste of income and boost in self-confidence. Gradually, Maheshwari increased the variety and amount of goods, consequently increasing her income. Conversations with her customers made her realize that she could also run a tea stall. Subsequently, she began making tea in the open, nurturing hopes of constructing a small shack. Soon after, Maheshwari got her eldest son a job as a labour contractor with a nearby stone-crushing unit. His earnings lent stability to the family and enabled her husband to quit his strenuous job. However, once her husband's income stopped, Maheshwari found it difficult to run the family. Being a member of Raja Bhoj SHG, Rajeshwari promptly and wisely used the SHG to fulfill her desire to build a covered shack to sell her items. She borrowed Rs.5000/- from the group's revolving fund and by paying Rs.200/- to transfer a small piece of government wasteland into her name. Thereafter, she used some of her son's earnings along with her loan to construct a small but formal tea stall, serving biscuits and, later, full meals at the customers' behest. Today, the shack has graduated into a dhaba. Thalish (Indian combo meals) are available for Rs.25/- and one can also order rotis at Rs.2 /-each, sabji or dal for Rs.10/- and so on. Her regular customers alone account for about 18 thalis a day. Maheshwari procures all the raw material in bulk from Jhansi once a week, usually on Mondays when the stone-crushing units remain shut. Her business is doing very well and has inspired two others to open similar

shops close by. Maheshwari Mummy, however, has not lost out to competition since she maintains high standards, ensuring prompt service and hot food. For now, though, Maheshwari has marriage on her mind. She has already married off her eldest daughter and is confident that she will succeed in doing the same for the remaining five, she says," as long as God allows me and the shop runs like it is running now and if my son continues to contribute his earnings." In view of the fact that a daughter's wedding is such an expensive affair in India, Maheshwari's confidence in the matter is an indication that this enterprising lady is doing very well.

### **Collective Enterprises:**

#### **Catering Utensils**

Jankalyan group, an Elder Self Help Group (ESHG) formed with 15 elder people running a utensil custom hiring shop located in Shiv Chak area of West Medhinipur, West Bengal. This group has been formed by a local NGO - Child and Social welfare Society under the initiation called – Sponsor a Gran Program by the Giant NGO working for elders- Help Age India. Animators of CSWS have identified the elders who are otherwise majorly dependent on their children or living alone in the Shiv Chak area and motivated them to form a Self Help Group which will be helpful in many ways irrespective of the gender, caste and religion. Under this program, HelpAge India has supported each group with Rs 13,500/- as livelihood seed capital and Rs 10,000/- as commodity support in order to make them self dependent and make them socially and financially secured. Thus formed Jankalyan group has 15 elders as group members with president: Pankaj Kr Behera, Secretary: Ahripadajana and treasurer: Aurobinda Mait. With this source, they have bought a set of catering utensils with Rs 10,000/- which they used to give for rent in different occasions such as functions, meetings and festivals for good income. With the remaining money, they gave loans to some of the group members to set up their own activities such as vermin compost, mat weaving etc. From the income earned by renting the utensils, the group is buying more utensils in order to increase the scale of business. Though the Physical possession of the utensils is with the president, the activity of renting is taken care by all members with group understanding. The group charges comparatively less rent than that of the market rate for the utensils, which earned them more customers not only from same village but also from far off villages. When asked why they are not using the common income for consumption or other purpose, they say that they want to scale up the business such that the income earned from it should not only be able to cater the needs of the members but also lonely and needy destitute elders I also be benefitted as they are planning to adopt 2 destitute elders to take care of.

#### **Margin Free Shop**

A margin free shop was run by two Elder Self Help Groups (ESHG) in Kothagudem, Andhra Pradesh. These groups are Karunambika and Mother Teresa consisting of 13 and 9 members each. Uniqueness of this shop is that all the members / beneficiaries of this margin free shop are leprosy patients, who were kept at a distance by the normal community. Most of the members are elders with more than 50 years age. They started this shop with the help and support provided by OCDS, a local NGO who has been taking care of these leprosy colony people for years and Help Age India. HelpAge India provided financial support to give financial and commodity support to them so that these people can take care of themselves as well as other destitute elders in need. They have started a common Margin Free Shop on 19-10-2011 with the objective of selling household requirements at lower rates and on credit for the members so that they can take care of the destitute elders by utilizing the income. They started this business by spending Rs 15,000 /- out of Rs. 24, 125/- supported by HelpAge India. With this money, they bought groceries at wholesale price and sold them to members on credit with a ROI of Rs. 2100 /- per month, whenever necessary. This initiation has made the people feel secured as in time of difficulty, they can get food or groceries on credit at lower interest which otherwise they cannot get from outside. Initially this shop was looked after by the community animator and the interest collected was not utilized for its purpose i.e. destitute care. Due to some hurdles like the non-repayments by the beneficiaries, non-members coming forward to buy groceries from this shop, it was closed a year later. But later the members realized the real importance of the shop and came forward to continue the activities. They selected one of their group members to look after the shop, financials etc., and they promised to repay the credit amount on time with full interest.

### **Out of Poverty:**

#### **Fresh-Life with Fresh Vegetables**

Saraswati (48) is a vegetable seller at Vidyanagar,. She dropped out from school in 4th standard and got married to her cousin Seshu at the age of 16. Her husband was a licensed railway coolie at Secunderabad railway station and had 2 children including one boy and one girl. When the children were in their early teens, he left them and married another woman, which badly affected the financial and social condition of the family. While doing small petty works to feed her family, she observed the activities of the shop from where she bought vegetables daily where the seller was a woman and was able to earn very good income daily. She then decided to sell vegetables. Being new to the business, she did not take the risk of solely depending on selling only. She started to buy

vegetables from a nearby raithu bazar at cheap rates and sold vegetables taking them from door to door on a basket in the areas which are bit far from the market so that all her vegetables get sold. She started selling from early hours to 10 O'clock. Then she resumed her daily labour work and sent her children to school. This continued for 3 years and her business slowly picked up. One day while she was returning from her relative's home near Vidyanagar, she noticed that many people went for a morning walk. She then realized that the area was populated with families earning good income. Hence she thought upon a plan that instead of selling vegetables from door to door, she can sell them in this area so that the people who came for a walk will buy them while returning home. She then started selling vegetables in this locality. She bought vegetables from the wholesale vegetable market and segregated them into small qualities of half kg and 1 kg and tied them up in polythene carry bags. She took utmost care of selecting good quality vegetables while buying from the market so that the quality of her vegetables should be good enough to get more customers. She then developed a good rapport with them and took permission from the President of an apartment to allow her to sell vegetables in the apartment in the morning hours. She sells the vegetables in the apartment at relatively higher price than that on the roadside. She maintains good quality and makes Rs 10 to 30/- profit per kg depending on the type of vegetables. On an average she earns Rs. 400 /- after deducting all expenses.

### **Bright Future Made of Determination**

Sampoorna, is a 27 old married woman working as a Community Resource Person under Indira Kranthi Pratham in Vidavalur mandal, Nellore Dt. Her parents married her off at the age of 17 while she was still studying intermediate, to B. Ramesh who was working in a private company in Hyderabad as accountant and having good property. Soon after, she realized that all the information about his job and property was a lie and he was a drunkard, working as contractual labor in Hyderabad. She then determined to shape her future on her own and to give her children a bright future. Despite constant resistance from her husband and in-laws, Sampurna completed her intermediate and started working as book keeper for the Self Help Groups in the village. She was then appointed to sit in the premises of local RRB, Andhra Pragathi Grameen Bank and write the transaction slips for the illiterate SHG members coming to the bank. The bank and the SHG members used to pay her for the service. Encouraged by the banking staff, she successfully completed degree and soon generated good will among the beneficiaries as well as bank staff.

However her family situation got worse with the demise of her in-laws and her husband continued to drink and harass her. Being the leader of a Self Help Group, she secured a loan of Rs 10000 initially to buy a buffalo. She repaid the money on time and became eligible for Rs 25,000 /- from which she bought an electrical sewing machine. She used to stitch blouses for the women in the village while at home apart from her work as a book keeper. She then grabbed the work opportunity of pension disbursement, mobile book keeping and is presently selected as Bank Community Resource Person under IKP. She has to work 15 days in a month as CRP during which she does loan recovery, identification of beneficiaries, solving group disputes, helping groups in getting loans from bank from income generation etc. She earns Rs 250 /- per day as CRP. She also secured Rs 45,000 /- as SHG loan to buy a zig-zag sewing machine which she has rented out due to paucity of time. From the various sources of income, she is now able to earn a minimum of Rs 1000/- per day which has improved her family situation, "though my husband is not helping me in household activities, I am happy that he is not harassing me and my children. I am sending my children to private school and want them to do well in future. I know that I have to work harder in order to full fill my dreams. With the help of my parents and the community members, I am confident that I can achieve my goal."

### **Savings Save a Family From Poverty**

Gangaiah, an autodriver lives near Balapur chourastha, Hyderabad. He migrated from Achampeta village, Mahabubnagar to the city 30 years ago in search of livelihood. After failed attempts in trying different occupations, he decided to rely on his skill of driving and took up auto driving as livelihood.

His wife Jogamma, started working as a sweeper in a nearby private hospital. They had 2 sons and 2 daughters. As they knew that it was difficult to survive in the city with low income, they believed in 'expend less and save more' policy and run the family with minimum expenditure and more savings. 'We started to save money while our children were small. This money has helped us to build our own home. By the time they grew older, we had built our own home with our savings and chit funds. It took 15 years for us to complete this without getting trapped in debts. Our new home also saved us a lot of money which would have been otherwise spent on rent.' He bought an auto in finance and repaid the loan on time with in 3 years. Then, he married off one of his daughter 2 years back, for which he took a loan of Rs 80,000 /- and sold his auto too. Later his elder son got married and started to live separately by breaking all contacts with them. This depressed Gangaiah which affected his health. However his younger son, who has discontinued education after intermediate, also took up auto driving as livelihood. Initially they thought of buying another auto, but due to Gangaiah's health condition, he and his son run a single auto on alternate days which they bought on finance by earning a minimum of Rs 400 /-

per day. Now his family is earning a minimum of 17000 per month and is looking forward to marry off their second daughter to an eligible groom. 'My wife should be appreciated for the present condition of my family. Despite being illiterate she showed courage to work in those difficult days and ran my family with minimum expenditure so that we could fulfill our dream of building our own house.'

### **Guddi Devi Reborn**

Guddi, a young lady from Madhya Pradesh, had an inherent talent for bamboo work. Times were extremely hard for her family, who relied on manual labour to make both ends meet. One day someone started a women's group in the village of Makara and the inquisitive Guddi discovered that the members would be taught to make bamboo items. To her it sounded more enjoyable than moving soil all day. However, Guddi's family and neighbors forbade her from joining the course. After all, bamboo craftwork was not a suitable profession for a respectable lady from the Vanshkar caste, even if one had to move soil all day. Guddi, being an unconventional sort of person, persevered and attended the training despite all odds. And, from that moment, she didn't look back! The late starter became the best trainee, a trainer and then the 'master trainer'. Central to Guddi's success story is Preetam Ahirwar, her husband. When Guddi tries to persuade other women (and erstwhile trainees) to adopt bamboo craft, their response is, "You sell things outside the village. Where would we sell?"—a relevant question since their husbands barely let them leave Makara. However, Guddi has been lucky enough to go to Bhopal, Delhi, Digora, ChhatapurKherai, Jhagar, Bhadora and other places to display her work and train people. Preetam, who was initially against the whole idea later bowed down to public opinion and now not only accompanies her on these tours, but is very actively involved ever since he quit as a labourer to pursue bamboo craft. Consequently, the attitude of their extended family has gradually softened to the extent that they lend a hand by minding the children when the couple is away. Furthermore, Preetam's support has helped to counteract the village opposition—a constant obstacle in terms of local success; it is only outside Makara that 'Guddi' is called 'Madam'. For executing training courses on behalf of Niwari Block, the couple received around Rs.9000 /- per month—three times their joint labour wages. They continue to advance and have been given a contract to run a two-month, district-level course and manage a fund of Rs.80,000 /- (which covers the trainees' provisions and their own salaries). This is being funded by the former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. Guddi, an empowered woman, is continuously adding to her collection of useful contact numbers of government officials she meets at the fairs. Guddi and Preetam have no intention of decelerating in the future and intend maintaining their hectic schedule. They are planning to extend their house to allow for a separate working area. The workshop will be entirely lined and furnished with bamboo.

### **Into Poverty:**

#### **Alcohol Addiction Made Life Vulnerable**

Suguna (38), resides in a colony located besides a railway track near Osmania University and works as a domestic help in the nearby apartment. Her husband, Chinababu is a trenching worker. Their earnings are not at all sufficient for their family of 6 members - 2 daughters and one son and Chinababu's younger sister. Initially, they were doing quite well, when they were staying at Domalguda. Suguna got married at a very young age and soon had children though her husband was not yet settled. He used to work as a labourer and the income was meager to sustain the whole family. By the time he was able to secure a decent livelihood, he had to fulfill the responsibility of his sister's marriage. Being the sole bread winner of the family and with no other source of income, Chinababu was forced to sell their own house in Domalguda and marry his sister off. It became very difficult for them to live in a rented house in that area as major part of their income was spent on rent. They then had to relocate near their relative's house, who was settled besides a railway track, where they bought a small house with the money left after his sister's marriage. He then started going for trenching work along with his neighbours.

In spite of limited income, Suguna just managed to run the family without any complaints. Things were going well until the surrounding environment started affecting their lives. Chinababu got addicted to alcohol and became reluctant to work which affected the family finances. With three small children to look after and repeatedly failed attempts to make her husband quit drinking, Suguna decided to look for a livelihood which would earn food for her family. With the help of her friends, she managed to join as a domestic maid in 3 flats in a nearby apartment, from where she could earn Rs 2000 per month. As the kids grew, expenditure too increased but her income remained more or less the same and she continued to face financial problems. Gradually her income increased to Rs. 5000/- per month as she started working in an office as house keeper along with the work in the apartment. She dreamt to educate her children, which would secure their future. However her eldest son, fell prey to the spoilt environment and quit his studies in the middle of his course in polytechnic. However her two daughters showed interest in studies. But due to the rapid increase in the cost of living, she was not in a position to afford costly higher education. Now her elder daughter is pursuing degree (BSc first year) and tutors children in the neighborhood in the evenings earning around Rs. 800 /- per month. Chinababu's sister too returned to her

maternal home after her husband's death since her in-laws were reluctant to accept her. Suguna is worried about their children's future as she is not in a position to afford higher education for her children and her son who is able wanders with his friends and unwilling to complete his studies. An insecure livelihood with rise in cost of living makes Suguna quite worried about the future.

### **Small Hands Cannot Hold Poverty**

Uma a 22 years old young woman lives in Konaipally village of Konadapaka mandal, Medak district. The area is dry with insufficient water for cultivation. She lives with her mother Susheela and younger brother Raju. She has two married elder sisters. Her father was a toddy tapper and addicted to drinking, which later took away his life when Uma was 10 years old. After her sister's marriage, she had to work along with her mother to earn their living. They have 30 kuntas of dry land, where they grow maize, cotton depending on season. Since, it is a dry area, they only have 2 months of work in the fields in a year, the rest of the time, they have to depend on other sources of income –

- Having 10 toddy trees they rented them out for an income of Rs 3000 /- per year.
- Uma's mother Susheela goes for labor work including MNRGA.
- Uma prepares beedis throughout the year – mostly for 15 days per month, from which she earns Rs 100 /- per day.
- Her brother Raju, has discontinued studies and joined in an electrical shop as helper in Gajwel for Rs 2500 /- per month.

Due to the gradual closing down of beedi industries, there is not much work available. Working for such long hours has badly affected her health.

They get moderate income from the work done on their own piece of land. Recently they have encountered huge losses when they grew cotton due to the insufficient rain fall.

"We had taken loan of Rs 50,000 /- for my sister's marriage, which has now become 70,000 /- with interest. We have to earn more now than before in order to clear our debts and lead a decent life, which seems quite distant in near future. We do our own cultivation without outside help. Though my sister's families support us financially in crisis, we don't want to trouble them. I want my brother to study and get a job to lead a good life." Says Uma.

### **Lack of planning**

Ramanamma and Chiranjeevulu have been married for the past 32 years with 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. They live in Gudur, Nellore dt, Andhra Pradesh.

Chiranjeevulu had remarried Ramanamma after his first wife expired due to complications during pregnancy. By the time Ramanamma got married, her husband was a well settled man with own house and was successfully running a hotel at Gudur Bus stand. His mother who had been a helping hand for him in the hotel operations died suddenly, leaving all responsibilities on him. His elder brother and he shared the property in which the hotel was constructed and his brother sold out his part leaving Chiranjeevulu unable to run his business properly. Ramanamma was unable to help her husband in the business being unaware of the business activities except drudgery. Gradually the business became weak as competition increased with different business hubs mushrooming nearby. But Chiranjeevulu didn't realize the urgency and need to change or modify his business accordingly so as to stand in the market. After facing continuous loses, he wrapped up his hotel and started selling soda bottles. His elder brother lived separately from him as he had his own family responsibilities. Two factors then turned his financial condition upside down.

One : he failed to manage cash flow from business to family i.e. being a large family of 6 members and having low profits from the business, he started to consume the revenue received on his business there by badly decreasing the scales of his business. This in turn further affected his income and nudged him towards poverty.

Two: The bus stand where he had earned his entire livelihood was shifted to another place about 2 km away from his previous location. Already suffering from financial crisis, he could not dare to take any risk by leaving his own land and taking land for rent at the new location on a higher rent.

Unable to feed the family, he took up a job as a helper in a local bangle store and asked his wife to manage the soda shop. As the children grew up, he hoped that his elder son Narayana will bail out the family from this crisis once he completes his studies. But his son was not interested in studying and took up a job as courier boy, operating between Andhra Pradesh and Chennai. While things were almost going fine, the family was again hit by a bad tide. While travelling on the foot board of the train at early hours on his job, Narayana fell asleep and slipped from the running train there by losing his both legs. Chiranjeevulu was shattered with this incident, and his health was badly affected. He then hurriedly married off both his daughters by selling his land near the bus stop. Presently, Narayana is doing odd jobs like writing account books for SHGs in the area and earning some

money, the family's hopes now rest on their younger son, Ayyappa, who is studying Intermediate and is aspiring to become a police officer.

#### **No Future Forecast**

Naini Ellam and Rajamani have been married for the last 8 years and have 2 sons. They belong to the Konaipally village of Kondapaka mandal, Medak district in Andhra Pradesh., but they migrated to Hyderabad in search of livelihood as the small land holding of his family was not sufficient to fetch enough income. He learnt painting walls and took up painting under contract as his livelihood. He then got married to Rajamani and settled in Hyderabad. Rajamani learnt tailoring and started tailoring for their friends and neighbors. But since their children were small, she didn't take it up as a full time activity. But life changed when his father died due to health issues. He came back to his village to claim his share of 1 acre land. But his brothers refused to give him his share since he hardly stayed in the village and that he would leave the land barren. In order to take hold of his part of land, he then had to shift his family to Konaipally and took up the task of cultivating his part of land. But being not involved in agriculture activity previously, every step became a problem for him. Selection of crop according to the climatic conditions was a major issue in his village as it was a dry land with low rainfall, he had to hire labor since he was novice in agriculture for every chore and that required money. As it was a village, he was not able to get any other work to earn money. He then started to go to nearby villages and mandal in search of painting work so that he could meet his family as well as agriculture expenses. Despite her tailoring skill which could earn them money, Rajamani was not able to get work in the village, as most of the villagers went to the nearby town for getting their clothes stitched. She too then started to go for work in own field as well as that of others to earn some money. The family was not able to get work under NREG scheme since; they didn't have any address proof in their village. Nevertheless, they have big dreams of providing their children good education for their better future.

#### **Into Employment:**

##### **Utilized Opportunity**

P. Venkatesh (48) his wife and 3 children belongs to Pedda Kaparathi village, Chityala mandal and Nalgonda District.

He belongs to the weaving community and used to work on the handlooms till 6 years back. Having studied up to B.Sc, B.Ed. he went to teach in a School in Chityala. He worked for 16 months in the School and gained experience in teaching. Thereafter he left the job and applied for better opportunities in some Schools and Colleges in Hyderabad. But was unsuccessful and had to wait for 1 year. One of his friends was working at CAP Foundation as coordinator in their Education project. He sought for an opportunity in that organization and joined as a teacher in the Balawadi center and worked for a year. He then applied to Dr. Reddy's Foundation for a job as a Residential Bridge School Teacher and got appointed as Teacher RBC at Doolapally, Rangareddy District. There too he worked for one year. Then he was jobless and some time spent at home without any work. Three months ago on reference from his relative he got a Job as a Warden and Remedial teacher at a Degree College in Nallakunta, Hyderabad. He is receiving a good salary from the college. He and his family are living happily ever after.

##### **With Hard Work Got Good Job**

Gandham Chandra Sekhar S/O Laxmaiah (28) belongs to Gopalpeta Village & mandal, Mahaboobnagar District. He stays with his wife ,son and parents in the Village. He has two brothers who stay in Hyderabad. His family works as Agriculture labour and draw meagre income. Interested in higher studies strived to complete B.Sc. B.Ed. and MSW from Palamuru University. He worked as a labourer to pay through his college fees. After completion of his studies he searched for a job in a School. Adjacent to his hostel there was a NGO named Eco Club. He used to visit that organization regularly and was close to the director of organization who suggested him to do MSW. After successful completion of MSW, he worked for two months on a survey project at Eklaspeta village sponsored by Osmania University. Thereafter he got a job in a NGO in Adilabad. But due to unexpected ill health of his he could not join that assignment and was rendered jobless for a while. On advice of a friend, he joined a survey project and completed it thereafter he gained some experience in livelihoods and applied for posts in some NGOs. Finally, he got a good job at ALC India organization as Project executive in Farmers' sustainable livelihoods project. He joined that post at Shadnagar in Mahaboobnagar district. After completing 8 months of service, he happened to see a notification which required personnel in SSA-RVM on contract basis. He then secured a job as Cluster Resource Person (CRP) in Schools. His responsibilities were to monitor 15 Schools in 5 Villages in Gopalpet mandal. Now he is very happy man and is expects his job to be regularized. He is also vying for a job in the government. At present he is getting a salary of Rs. 7000/-. But he says, "This salary is not sufficient to take care of the family expenditure, though I am getting good respect due to this job in the society and Schools.

## **Out of Employment:**

### **Lack of English Skills; Lost Employment**

Sankarapally Upendra Chary (32) belongs to Somaram village, Paravathagiri mandal, Warangal District. His family has 1.5 acres of dry land. His family depends on agriculture and agriculture labour work. Upendra Chary studied up to BA,B.Ed along with agriculture work. After, completing his studies looked for job and joined at Private School in Parvathagiri as a Teacher. Thereafter, he got married and has two children but his parents got separated. English teaching was required in the school that he worked so the management organized a training program for all Teachers in English and Computer knowledge. Thereafter, the teachers were instructed to teach in English only. All teachers started practicing to teach in English and Upendra too practiced but he was unable to teach in English. Having problems in the language and unable to cope he resigned as a teacher. After that for a while he was jobless. Then, he decided to take up Painting work and started working as painter in the village which was a seasonal work during marriages and construction of new houses. Remaining days, he remains free. Presently he does not have a stable work.

### **Attitude and Behaviour Cost the Job**

Nagaraju (38) belongs to Gadwala town in Mahaboobnagar District. He has wife and two children. His family belongs to the weaver's community and his parents depend on the handlooms. He helped them in the work as he studied up to M.Sc. (maths). After completion of studies he searched for job in schools and colleges. Being clever in maths he got a job as a Lecturer in a Degree College in Gadwal town, where he worked for 3 years. He had some administrative clashes due to his straight forwardness with the management while being employed there. He resigned from the college. He then migrated to Alampur in search for a job in colleges there. He then secured a good job in a college as a lecturer for maths subject. There he worked for two years. He again behaved in an irregular manner and was reprimanded by the management and was asked to follow the rules and regulations of the college. When Nagaraju did not pay any heed to the norms he was terminated from the college. At present he is searching for job and depends on his wife who is a Head Master (HM) in a Private School in Gadwala.

## **Intervention:**

### **Community-Managed Sustainable Agriculture**

In the backdrop of spate of suicides by farmers, unable to repay debts due to repeated crop failures and high investments required in cultivation hugely dependent on usage of chemical fertilizers. The government through SERP in collaboration with active NGOs in the area looked at alternative models of agriculture and promoted Non-Pesticide Management. This evolved gradually into a program, the Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA). CMSA focus is on small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, agriculture labourers and women. Its objective is to sustain and enhance the portfolio of livelihoods of the small farmers, by addressing major causes of agriculture distress – extensive use of chemical inputs, high costs of agriculture, displacement of local knowledge, unsustainable agricultural practices like mono-cropping, imperfect markets etc. Specific objectives include reducing the cost of cultivation by avoiding chemical pesticides and fertilizers without compromising on yields, bringing sustainability to agriculture based livelihoods, providing nutritional security to the households, providing livelihoods to the land less poor through land lease and NPM shops etc., improving the quality of life, and enhancing Natural Resource base. Building the knowledge base of the community, community learning platform and creative space for innovative practices is the key aspect of the strategy of the program. CMSA, in essence is a farmer centred program, led by local best practitioner farmers in transferring the best practices. The core investment is on supporting community managed extension system rather than on material inputs. The first step in the intervention is to form committees at ZS, MS and VO level and convince them to take up NPM method of cultivation. The members of these committees motivate farmers and convince them to take up NPM method of cultivation. It is a Herculean task to win over confidence of farmers, who are already in distress, to change the cultivation practices which they are familiar with and adapt to a new method of cultivation. The committee goes on to hire suitable staff to work exclusively on the issue. Reviewing activities of the staff and paying them salaries is another important responsibility taken up by the committees.

Initially farmers meetings are organized in the villages selected for the implementation of NPM where an orientation is given to the farmers about the program. Identification of farmers who are interested to take up the NPM activity also happens during these meetings. These farmers are organized into Sasyamitra Sanghas ("Organic Farmers Groups). Each farm family, including farmers outside SHG fold, has to pay an amount of Rs.100/- per acre per year as registration fee to join the sangha. Village Activist (VA) dedicated to the implementation of NPM program at village level organizes Farmers Field Schools" (PolamBadi) where training is imparted to the members of Sasyamitra Sanghas on NPM practices. Cluster Activists (CA) supports the VAs and the village level NPM subcommittees in imparting trainings to the members and also in monitoring the implementation of NPM practices by the farmers. PolamBadi is a platform where all the NPM farmers come

together and share their experiences and also share observations made by CAs about crops, pests and methods of farming. Important points are also written on the notice board of Gram Panchayat. At Polambadi, the farmers also learn to make organic extractions and fertilizers, also viewed as an income generation activity and take up the preparation of organic extracts on behalf of other farmers and sell it. Cluster Activists, Community Resource Persons and Village Activists are the key persons in the intervention. They form the knowledge bank. All those familiar with local farming methods, are selected from within the community itself. They themselves take a lead in adopting CMSA method of cultivation thereby becoming the role models. The important tasks of documenting details of farmers, land details and their cultivation methods are documented by VA, who is from the same village. The key benefits of the decentralized extension system, led by practicing farmers and women SHGs, are that the adoption rates of sustainable agriculture practices are very high (above 90%) resulting in drastic reduction in pesticide and fertilizer consumption leading to Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) and Eco-agriculture. The study has found that the less hazardous CMSA practices have reduced the consumption of harmful (for the health of the farmers) chemical fertilizers and pesticides to a large extent. Intercropping of pulses, border crops and poly crops have enhanced the nutritional security of the households under CMSA cultivation. Further, as CMSA practices mostly use locally available bio-pesticides, fertilizers like vermi-compost, neem concoctions etc., go for pest control without using pesticides and adopt intensive cropping patterns etc., leading to lower cost of cultivation.

### **Health interventions**

The thought of making quality healthcare affordable and accessible to the poor was felt way back in 1991-92, when DHAN Foundation started mobilising poor towards its community banking program. The program started as an advocacy effort to improve the services of PHCs and add on new components to it. Health programs are implemented through groups formed by Kalanjiam Foundation. The objective is to enable Kalanjiam groups to devise 'Self Health governance' and a partnership with government healthcare system to ensure quality healthcare for all the poor. Health programs undertaken by Kalanjiam today can be grouped as:

1. Community health program – the objective here is to reduce health related expenditure of the poor by providing Health insurance, 2. Bringing behavioural changes that result in better health, 3. Product development under Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)– like Bio sand filters that ensures safe drinking water, 4. Malaria control and safe motherhood programs in – Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, 5. Curative healthcare – affordable quality healthcare by setting up community managed Sustainable Healthcare Advancement (SUHAM) hospitals and small healthcare centres, 6. RCH program – anaemia control campaign to bring awareness among adolescent girls and pregnant women. Health programs are implemented in partnership with government like the Health department and Department of Disabled, Municipal corporations and also private donors like ICICI, Rishi valley and other private hospitals. Funds have also been raised by holding innovative events like organising Marathons to support the projects. Each of the above programs has been piloted and projects like RCH and Health insurance have been implemented in most of the project area.

**Health insurance:** Health insurance is the most talked about health programs by the Kalanjiam members. The primary objective of the venture is to reduce leakages in family cash flows of the poor in the form of medical expenses. People's Mutual trust promoted by Kalanjiam Foundation has designed an integrated healthcare & financing program. The scheme provides cover for the health risks of primary, secondary and tertiary care, whereas only hospitalization cover is available under the mainstream health insurance products. The programme involves establishment of primary healthcare clinics at Federations and community hospitals providing cash- less secondary care at the district level where community hospitals are not available. Secondary and tertiary care is arranged through network of referral private hospitals and government hospitals. Wage loss compensation i.e. 15 days at the rate of Rs.75 a day in a year is additionally available if the patient is hospitalized in Government hospitals. The insurance scheme is offered in partnership with National Insurance Company, which provides health insurance, floater hospitalization cover of Rs.30, 000 in a year for a family of 5. Moreover NIC has covered the 75 %of the health risks under mutual insurance. By paying a premium of Rs. 350, a member can obtain health insurance for herself and four other dependents. If they need to cover extra person they need to pay Rs.100 more for each person insured. The insurance provides 75% subsidy on the entire cost of healthcare which includes primary healthcare expenses like consultation charges and medication, secondary healthcare like lab tests etc and tertiary healthcare like hospitalization. The intervention was first experimented at Kadamalai in April 2000. On successful implementation, it is now replicated in 5 other regions. As of 2010, 38,330 people have been covered under Health mutuals.

**Curative healthcare:** It is called the affordable quality healthcare setting by community managed Sustainable Healthcare Advancement (SUHAM) hospital. SUHAM is a collective health intervention model evolved by the Kalanjiam Federations promoted by DHAN. This model combines a community owned multispecialty hospital with a mutual health insurance package. The insurance package covers the healthcare costs from primary care to



advanced treatment of the Kalanjiam members. The hospital provides treatment to the public at the same cost as for SHG members. Both the hospitals have an operation theatre, an outpatient section, a laboratory and a pharmacy. For X-ray, scan and trauma care which are presently not available in these hospitals, it has tie up with other local hospitals. There are ten primary care centres operating in Federation offices in both Theni and Madurai districts, to compliment with the SUHAM Hospitals. These centres, which supplement the role of primary health centres, function in the afternoons and evenings. Medical camps are organised by the Hospital in villages in association with the local PHCs. A mobile medical unit provides service in interior villages and is also used to bring patients to the hospital in an emergency. The first hospital was started in Theni followed by another hospital in Madurai in 2008. Both the hospitals put together are catering to the needs of 70,000 Kalanjiam members. Though the services of the hospital were earlier limited only to the Kalanjiam members is now open to outsiders also. However they don't get the benefit of insurance cover, but they say that they give preference to this hospital over others since they are treated with respect and the cost too is comparatively less than the other private hospitals. That is what draws them to SUHAM.

**Management:** The hospital is a trust managed by Federation representatives as its trustees. SHGs have provided Rs. 12 lacs initially and the remaining was mobilised from national and international philanthropic institutions. Kalanjiam leaders review the functioning of hospitals twice a month. There is a sense of pride and ownership in them. Currently the hospital is able to cover only part of the running cost from the service charges and remaining deficit is contributed by the Federations. The administrator of the hospital says that it would take another 10 years for it to break even. The strategy would be to get more and more Kalanjiam members to take up health insurance and avail the services.

**Initiatives in other areas:** Depending on the availability of resources new components have been added to increase people's access to healthcare. Like for example in Madanpally there is a tie up with the Rishi valley Hospital and Usha hospital (private hospital) where Kalanjiam members get healthcare facilities at 75% subsidy.

**\*Livelihoods September-2013**

## 41. Occupations Losing Ground

***Other Backward Castes (BC) constitute more than 50% of India's population. Majority of them are skilled artisans, service providers and food producers. Today many are languishing at lower levels of economic ladder. Except for few, several sadly missed out on education and economic opportunities and continue their dependence on traditional occupations that are overcrowded, losing patronage and waning into obscurity. Their skills and services that were once critical to village economies are now steadily being replaced with more mechanized and urban services. Even, where their skills are in demand, they remain at the extreme end of the value-chain, thereby leaving little window for them to adapt to the realities of the changing market.***

Other Backward Castes (OBCs) together comprises of more than 50% of India's population. The term 'Other' is used to distinguish this category from SCs groups. OBC category, formally came into existence when in 1953, the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was tasked with identifying the socially and educationally backward communities. At that time, more than 2000 castes' were identified as OBCs. Later in 1979, the central government established Mandal Commission with the similar task. The Commission adopted 11 criteria, grouped under social, economic and educational to identify OBCs. Based on the criteria as many as 3,743 castes were considered to be 'backward'. To understand livelihoods of OBCs and their current reality, a succinct glance into India's history is important. Historically, Indian society was divided on the basis of Varna system comprising of the Brahmin, the Kshatriya, the Vaishyas and the Shudra categories. The Shudra was the service providing community, including manual and farm laborers and artisans. The services they rendered through their diverse skills served as critical lifelines, to these self-sufficient village economies. Some of

With eroding customer-base, lack of education, lack of alternative skills and social pressure restricting occupational mobility to lower-level jobs, many of the OBCs are languishing in poverty.



the traditional occupations of SCs included - agriculture, agriculture labor, weaving, fishing, toddy tapping, washing clothes, stone cutting, earth works, masonry, hair dressing, basket weaving, petty trade, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmith, goldsmith, pottery, oil pressing, gunny business, sheep and cattle rearing, selling bangles, wall painting, sculpting, etc. This group was also engaged in various activities, for entertaining people in the villages both on a daily basis, during times of festivals and other events like child birth, weddings etc. The SCs households were linked through hereditary bonds to the patron households and received seasonal payments of grain, clothing and money. From generation to generation, the clients owed their patron political allegiance in addition to their labors, while patrons owed their clients protection and security. The SCs were not subjected to social discrimination as much as the Dalits (then called Panchamas) and lived within the village.

There are instances in history, where few SCs could break rigid caste barriers and became scholars, rulers, businessmen and landlords. But these instances were only rare happenings. During the Mughal period, new opportunities opened up for the Shudras. The Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas for the most part were critical of Mughal rule and remained cautious and silent

spectators. More unskilled and flexible groups among the Shudras latched; on to the new found opportunities. They became village revenue officials and also took up other employment in the administrative sphere. Some among them set on to acquire lands. The power that comes with property ownership coupled with mobility and exposure gave raise to dominant groups/castes among the Shudras. Some new castes emerged to suit the new economic structure. In the process of sanskritization, some artisanal groups among the Shudras adopted brahminical traditions like dwija. What started, during the Mughal period got stabilized under the British rule in the

form of Zamindari and the ryotwari systems, reinforcing the power of the dominant castes among Shudras. They became landlords and the educated among them took up important positions in administration. Those communities among the Shudras that could not join the bandwagon continued to rely on their traditional skills and occupations. Some artisanal groups saw the decline of patronage to their products and services but due to lack of other skills, they continued with their traditional occupation. Under affirmative action, some measures like reservation were taken up for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes. However, they were largely meant for Schedule castes and scheduled tribes.

In post-independent India, several constitutional measures were adopted, for advancement of the backward castes, but it was only after Kelkar Commission, was set up in 1953, that the Other Backward Castes were formally acknowledged as backward and measures were suggested for upliftment of OBCs including implementing land reforms, developing livestock, dairy farming, bee-keeping, fisheries, literacy program, public

*The National Commission for Backward Classes considers the following guidelines to recognize a community as OBC*

*1. Social – Castes and Communities*

- *generally considered as socially backward*
- *mainly depend on agriculture or other manual labor and lacking significant resource base*
- *whose women are engaged in wage labor*
- *whose children are engaged in wage labor*
- *identified with traditional crafts/occupations considered undignified/unclean*
- *that are nomadic and semi-nomadic*
- *that are de-notified*
- *having poor representation in the state legislature or PRIs during 10 years preceding the date of application*

*2. Educational – Castes and Communities*

- *whose literacy rate is at least 8% less than the state or district average*
- *whose proportion of matriculates is at least 20% less than the state or district average*
- *whose proportion of graduates is at least 20% less than the state or district average*

*3. Economic – Castes or Communities*

- *whose significant number of population lives in kaccha houses*
- *the share of whose members in the number of cases and in extent of agricultural lands surrendered under the Ceiling Act of the state is nil or significantly low*
- *the share of whose members in the government posts and services is not in proportion to their population*

health etc. The report was rejected by the central government on the grounds that the Commission did not apply any objective tests for identifying OBCs. In 1979, Mandal Commission (MC) was appointed. Based on the recommendations of the Mandal report, reservations were made for OBCs in government services and most recently reservations were also given to them in the institutes of higher learning. However, there continues to be a huge backlog of OBC vacancies in the government jobs. Many OBCs, continue to practice their traditional livelihoods and also pass them on from generation to generation. In the past, skill-based livelihoods kept the entire family busy enough for the entire day, so they could hardly take out time to join the education bandwagon. Today, there is significant number of illiterates among them. For some, the mobility was stopped due to poverty and lack of exposure. In modern India, the artisans are being challenged by expanding commercial markets and mass-produced factory goods. Their skills and service that were once critical to village economies are now steadily being replaced with more mechanized and urban services. Even, where their skills are in demand, they remain at the extreme end of the value-chain, thereby leaving little window for them, to adapt to the realities of the changing market.

The traditional mutual obligations between the patron and the client have disappeared for the most. Agriculture-based village economies are undergoing rapid transitions. The erstwhile patrons have moved or are moving out of the villages for 'greener pastures' in urban areas. The artisans and service providers are no longer occupied for the entire day or even for a decent part of the year. Their number of days of work has declined sharply. The handloom weavers are fighting, some of their last battles against power loom and mills, the toddy customer base is steadily shifting to arrack and IMFL, the potter has to decide between a earthen pot or a plastic container within his own household. The washermen occupation became unviable with the patrons, shifting from payment in kind to payment in cash, increasing prices of cleaning material and large scale pollution of water bodies. All in all, there is an unfortunate shift in the ratio between the artisans/labor/service providers and the patrons/customers. While the former still continue in large numbers, the latter are rapidly disappearing. In addition, some non-traditional workers are taking up the traditional occupations of the OBCs with improved techniques and methods and on a larger scale. With eroding customer-base, lack of education, lack of alternative skills and social pressure restricting occupational mobility to lower-level jobs, many of the OBCs are languishing in poverty. By

virtue of privileges granted to them, by the Constitution very early on after independence, the SCs and STs have entered the education and the employment sectors in higher numbers than the OBCs. The younger generation among the OBCs is not interested in continuing with the family occupation. They want to move into mainstream sectors but, lack of education is hampering their mobility.

While, constant efforts should be made to improve education, training and employment opportunities, for those continuing with the traditional occupations, opportunities should be created to enhance their existing skills and learning new skills. They need support to access improved technology; they need support to carve their own niche; they need support to form skill-based collectives and service-based collectives; they need credit; they need support to venture into value-addition activities; they need exposure to markets. Margin free shops can be set up to market their products. The OBCs, have demonstrated their merit and excellence for thousands of years through diverse skills. Efforts should be made with integrity, to preserve this treasure, wherever possible and create avenues to adapt them to the changing realities.

**\*Livelihoods November-2008**

## 42. Migration

***Migration is emerging as a significant part of the livelihood portfolio for the poor. Income from migration has become more significant for the poorest areas of the country and sometimes exceeds income generated locally. Regional imbalances in development contribute, to the push and pull factors of migration. About 30 million + are engaged in temporary & seasonal migration. Migrant labours constitute important building blocks of urban growth centers but their contribution largely goes unrecognized. Instead of emphasizing and making efforts to bridge intra-state and inter-state development gaps, short-term measures are being taken up to slow down and stop migration.***



Migration of people is considered integral to development. People across have been migrating for centuries, from rural to urban, from urban to urban and from one country to another. However, migration as we are seeing in 21<sup>st</sup> century particularly, in developing countries, is quite unprecedented. Migration within these countries or internal migration from rural to rural, rural to urban and urban to urban areas has become more a norm than an exception. Among the poor, migration is emerging as a significant part of their livelihood portfolio and for some households the income remitted from places of migration, is more than the income generated locally in the village. While some households migrate on a permanent basis, temporary or circular migration is emerging as a dominant pattern, among the poor in India. Permanent migration rates are higher, among the more educated, but people with lower literacy and lower marketable skills constitute majority in temporary migration. Temporary migration, ranges from trips that last for several months to daily commuters to work, depending on the distance from the economic centers and also the demand for particular type of skills/works in those centers. This

also includes workers migrating to Middle-Eastern countries, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc for livelihood in which case trips last for few years at a stretch. One pattern of temporary migration, commonly seen is seasonal migration. One type of seasonal migration works around agriculture season. This kind of seasonal migration is not mostly out of choice, but also out of necessity. For instance agriculture labour and small and marginal farmers from West Bengal migrate to Delhi and Haryana during non-agriculture season and engage in pulling rickshaws. On the contrary, some poor from Bihar migrate to agriculturally rich states like Punjab, during agriculture season and engage in agriculture operations like weeding, harvesting etc. There is another kind of seasonal migration we see among cattle herders especially mobility between plains and hills. This migration is not forced, but inherent in the livelihood itself and outside the scope, of our current discussion.

The estimates of number of temporary migrants in India vary between 30 – 100 million and this number is increasing. Why do poor migrate? What are the pull and push factors involved? What are the emerging trends in these factors that are propelling migration? Nearly two-thirds of the arable land in India is semiarid and drought prone. These areas have shown high rates of seasonal migration. Agriculture, which is the mainstay of the village economy in India, has slowed down in terms of productivity, job creation, real wages etc. The land-people ratio is worsening. The increase in prices of agriculture inputs, water scarcity and persistent drought, volatile commodity markets, have placed enormous financial burden on small and marginal farmers leading to debt traps. The changes in cropping pattern, particularly towards horticulture requiring less person-day, unused or barren lands have accentuated the situation. Apart from small, marginal farmers and agriculture labour, the fallout in agriculture has also negatively impacted the entire farming system and other livelihood sectors within in the villages, including the artisans and service providers. Areas dominated by these push factors are significantly contributing to numbers of migrant labour. Seasonal migration is often linked to debt cycles and the need for money for repaying debts, covering deficits created by losses in agriculture or meeting expenditures of large magnitude on account of marriages, festivals and ceremonies. The reluctance of the youth, with some schooling to continue in agriculture, other traditional occupations and absence of remunerative opportunities in the vicinity for them, is causing further stress.

*In India some of the poorest areas are most densely populated. Therefore, it is imperative to set up growth centers, infrastructure and services in those poor areas rather than shift the entire population to urban growth centers.*

On the contrary, in other areas especially those close to urban centers are moving under the force of pull factors. Improved communication and roads, new economic opportunities arising from urbanization and changing market context are determining mobility. Urban labour markets offer opportunities to switch jobs rapidly, diversify

incomes and become upwardly mobile with very low asset-base and skills. Migration is also increasingly being viewed by the migrants not just as survival mechanism, but as an accumulating mechanism and a way to break caste constraints.

Regional imbalance in development acts as both a push and pull factor for migration. The rural poor are concentrated in eastern India and in the rainfall-dependent parts of central and western India which continue to have low agricultural productivity, while the bulk of jobs are being created in western and southern India. Developed western and northern states such as Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat are major destinations for inter-state migrants from the poorer states of the east including Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, there is lot of rural-urban migration within the states, due to sharp regional inequalities. Migration destinations are towns and cities, industrial zones, stone quarries and coastal areas for fishing and salt panning. Jobs tend to be in factories, agro-processing plants or working as porters, domestic servants, rickshaw pullers, street hawkers, petty traders and construction workers. A recent and growing trend is the migration as domestic workers, for instance - tribal girls on a large scale from Jharkhand and West Bengal to Delhi. Power looms and diamond polishing businesses in Gujarat attract migrants from Orissa. A switch is happening from rural-rural to urban-rural temporary migration in areas, where agricultural employment is declining and industrial jobs are being created, either at the same destinations or elsewhere. A study of migration, from Bihar indicates that migrants, who used to go to Punjab for agricultural works are now travelling to urban centers and industry in other destinations. This is because of the relatively higher wages and diversified opportunities in industrial/urban areas compared to agricultural areas.

Temporary/circular migration is high among the poor, either by necessity or by choice. A study in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, found that many rural migrant households cultivated one rain-fed subsistence crop recognizing, that keeping in touch with both rural and urban economies provides them greater security. Combining rural and urban livelihoods provides a dual advantage to the poor. Agricultural laboring and marginal farming are important safety nets, when urban employment is mainly in the informal sector, which is high risk. Commuting is the most preferred mobility option because it allows people to keep rural social and economic links alive and cuts down the considerable costs of food and housing in urban locations. It also allows households to retain access to government services that are based on resident criteria such as subsidized food, healthcare and education. Is grass always greener for migrants? The answer is NO. Migrant labour is paid lower wages, longer timings and harsher terms compared to local labour, and the implementation of Interstate Migrant Workman (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act of 1979, is largely on paper. Migrants from backward regions are willing to accept any distress wages that are offered as long as they have access to employment. In the bargain, they undercut the employment prospects of local labour. Their excess supply, also contributes to reducing the wage rate. Employers prefer to hire migrant labour, as they are considered to be cheaper and more docile than local labour. Consequently, labourers need to migrate in search of jobs, which they are denied in their native region. This perpetuates a vicious cycle of migration. We also notice an interesting phenomenon – the people migrate out, from area X on one hand and some others migrate into the same area X. Migrants particularly women, face mistreatment at the hands of employers. They live and work in appalling conditions, with uncertain jobs and underpaid works. Whatever little education the children might be getting in the villages is now disrupted with migration. Slums, where most migrants dwell hardly provide any decent atmosphere for the children. Young adult populations, have a greater propensity to migrate. In such cases the old parents are left behind in the villages to fend for themselves. In cases, where men have migrated leaving the women and children behind the burden of women has become manifold.

One of the key players in the migrant labour value chain is the labour contractor. It is a semi-formalized system in which the labour contractor (locally called 'mistry', 'mukadam' or 'sardar' etc) establishes links with potential employers, he herds the labourers in the villages and organizes them into groups and sends them to different employment destinations. Apart from this, the contractor also establishes other relationships with labourers, like giving them high interest loans in times of need etc., which will be paid back from migration earnings. Because of the high dependence of labourers on the contractor, this system paves way to a lot of exploitation. For instance, labourers from Orissa are brought to work, in the brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh. They work for 12 to 15 hours, for a wage of Rs.70 per day. Unfortunately, this wage is more than, what they get locally in Orissa, which is about Rs.50. When time for final settlement the contractor deducts transportation costs, food costs and money spent for other expenses from the labour wages. These kind of exploitative systems exist in the migrant labour markets, for the migrant labour from the poorest areas in particular. These include labour from Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh (Srikakulam and Palamur). Some migrant workers work as freelancers. In such cases, they receive better wages but work will not come by every day. On an average, they get work for 3 days in a week. The contractor based system, on the other hand assures more days of work and payment of some advances, but there is a cut (15-50%) from the labour wages as commission. Further, under contractor system hardly any labour graduate, to the formal sector apart, from remaining underpaid and ill informed. On the contrary, there are arguments supporting the contractor system. These arguments state that the contractor provides information on work availability creates market and indirectly gives exposure to the workers, to urban opportunities. In this process, migrants can establish their own contacts and get better understanding of the urban labour market.

In spite of the difficulties associated with migration, poor are willing to migrate at the given opportunity. This is particularly true, among those coming from marginal areas, where wages are too low to make a living. Evidences from micro-studies indicate that migration can reduce poverty, inequality and contribute to growth. But for the most part one can see only mixed trends. For instance, in Kerala migration to Gulf countries has caused wages to rise, reduced unemployment and improved economic situation of those left behind. On the other hand, impact

of labour migration in tribal western India has not led to any significant increase in assets or reduction in poverty. The watershed programs and rural employment guarantee programs have provided additional days of casual employment to a large number of families providing additional incomes to a good number of families that migrate. However, these programs could not make a serious difference, in changing the trends of migration yet. Remittances form a significant percentage, of rural household income in poor areas compared to prosperous areas. Remittances coming from migrants, have streamlined income flows of some households. It increased their disposable income, which is invested in a variety of production and consumption uses. Remittances are used to finance expenses including food, health, weddings, funerals etc. The way remittances are invested, back at home show tremendous variation by context. The poor need opportunities/ideas to invest the remittances gainfully.

Many governments see migration, as a socially and economically destabilizing process. Therefore, most rural development and Natural Resource Management (NRM) programs have an implicit aim of controlling people mobility. Migration is stated as the cause of degradation of rural and urban ecological resources, of urban poverty, of spread of HIV/AIDS and crime. However, what is not admitted is the failure of government to take up regional planning, measures for regional development and growth and provide for basic services and infrastructure in rural areas. PURA still remains a distant dream for much of India. Drawing comparison between China and India, the WDR 2009 states that in China it is not viable to set up growth centers and infrastructure in poorer areas as these areas are sparsely populated. Therefore, the government should motivate such population to migrate to urban growth centers. In India, on the contrary some of the poorest areas are most densely populated. Therefore, it is imperative to set up growth centers, infrastructure and services into those poor areas rather than shift the entire population to urban growth centers. But today in India, the governments are on one hand trying to control the mobility of people through NREGA, horticulture schemes and the like and on the other hand are not actively distributing the growth centers or at least providing for basic services in the rural areas. While efforts like 108 and 104 health services are a welcome measure they need to be taken up quickly by the entire country. Agriculture needs fresh energies. A recent DFID study shows that for each percentage point increase in agricultural productivity there was a 0.6-1.2% decrease in the number of people earning less than a dollar a day. The moot question is – can this be raised at all?

This is not to say that people's mobility need to be controlled. In fact, migration is the choice of every individual. The government(s) and civil society have to reckon with the reality of migration and see how to better the infrastructure and systems required for migrant families and policy framework that protects the migrants and their families. Environment at both the origin and destination of migrants should be ameliorated for the benefit of the poor. For instance, sending money back home is expensive and/or risky for the migrants. They rely on friends, family or other informal channels. Theft, cheating and delays are common. Migration exchanges can be set up facilitated by banks at the destinations to streamline the process of sending money and also to provide other services to the migrants. These exchanges can also link up employers and migrant workers thus diminishing the role of labour contractors. Migrants need protective legislation and social security. Minimum wage rates need to be revised and implemented strictly, opportunities for training and skill building should be created, living and working conditions should be improved. Schools for migrant children are critical and so is access to health care. It is important to create a national database on migration. Multi-purpose identity cards should be issued to all and migrants should be able to access PDS and other programs using these cards even in the destination places. The contribution of migrant workers to urban growth is largely undervalued. However, if not for toil of migrant poor, the cities cannot have infrastructure like roads, flyovers, security guards, domestic help and many more services at the scale we are seeing and availing today. Mindful and well-planned regional growth is more a political will. Instead of decrying migration it helps to distribute employment opportunities across all sectors and multiple geographical areas. Let people have choices including the choice of migration!

**\*Livelihoods February-2009**



## 43. Inclusion

***Exclusion and poverty share a symbiotic relationship. Some of India's poorest communities also happen to be its most excluded and marginalized. What are the kinds of exclusion the poor face? What is their impact? And what has been done to stop exclusion in our country?***



Exclusion is the state in which an individual does not have the right or access to resources at par with others to be an active, functioning part of a society. Exclusion can be multidimensional and can include race, geographic location, class, personal habits and appearance, education, religion economics and politics. . Exclusion could be based on “group characteristics” – caste, race, etc on individual attributes – disability, etc. Paul Spicker in his book “The Idea of Poverty” explains that exclusion is closely associated with solidarity in a society. People live in societies or communities that are a network of relationships. This network serves as a support system for the individual. And by virtue of being a part of this network, each person has certain responsibilities. It is the individuals who cannot fulfil these responsibilities who are left out of this pattern of relationships. Generally, the excluded individuals have limited social relationships. The interrelationships in a society are established by the dominant class or ideology. The message conveyed by the laws, mores and institutions in this scenario have disparate social and economic consequences for different social classes. Poverty and exclusion have a symbiotic relationship - one leads to the other. Exclusion has three defining features: a) it is rooted in social and economic interrelationships; b) its outcome is deprivation and c) low income and high degree of poverty among the excluded groups. Further, exclusion usually happens to culturally defined “groups”. This implies that exclusion is on the basis of ascribed rather achieved identity. Amartya Sen adds that exclusion could be both active and passive. Active exclusion is when a community is deliberately kept out of the network of relationships, eg. the “untouchables”. Passive exclusion is when certain communities are left out by chance eg. due geographic location. In the former, the exclusion is itself impoverishing, but in its passive form, exclusion *leads* to impoverishment.

**Discontinuation Rates in Education Among Different Social Groups (IHDS 2004-05) in %**

Social Group	Men					Women				
	Never Enrolled	Between Classes				Never Enrolled	Between Classes			
		1to 5	5 to 10	10 to 12	Above 12		1to 5	5 to 10	10 to 12	Above 12
Age 7+	Age 12+	Age 17+	Age 19+	Age 23+	Age 7+	Age 12+	Age 17+	Age 19+	Age 23+	
All India	20	15	50	43	44	40	16	57	45	44
High Caste Hindu	8	8	37	36	39	25	11	48	40	40
OBC	18	15	52	47	47	41	16	61	50	46
Dalit	26	19	61	51	53	48	21	66	47	55
Adivasi	31	23	65	43	54	54	25	69	48	49
Muslim	26	21	59	45	47	43	23	66	51	54
Other religion	8	6	34	45	41	14	8	42	40	45



Inclusion is the opposite of exclusion. It is the condition where all the members of a society have equal access to resources and rights without discrimination on the grounds of class, gender, caste, region, etc. Inclusion has five kinds of impact:

- Access: Inclusion of a community implies that it is able to access the resources available. It is able to do so without the fear of discrimination.
- Ownership: While access of resources is one thing, their ownership is also critical. Ownership gives the community control over the resources.
- Participation: Inclusion allows communities to actively participate in the institutions of society. It ensures that all individuals are able to voice out their opinions.
- Decision-making: Inclusion ensures that the voice and opinion of every individual is given equal weightage. Decisions are made on the collective opinion of all and not the opinion of a single section.
- Empowerment: Inclusion ensures empowerment - to feel equal and not deprived, the courage to raise questions on discrimination, etc.

Inclusion is an important dimension of development; some put it even before poverty reduction. Putting individuals and communities in a position to access and own resources and to make them participate as empowered members of society is in itself sufficient to reduce their poverty. Conscious efforts are being made to include the marginalised into the mainstream. Amartya Sen describes two dimensions: while some people are knowingly kept out of the mainstream, some are also forced to be included in a society. He terms this as unfavourable exclusion and unfavourable inclusion. The trouble with unfavourable inclusion is that communities tend to lose their unique identities in the process. It is evident that exclusion is pervasive and multi-faceted. Therefore, it requires solutions (inclusion) that are also multi-faceted. It requires conscious inclusion at the economic, social, cultural, educational and technological levels. Though inclusion is a complex whole, three important types of inclusion are at the forefront of reducing poverty: a) social inclusion, b) financial inclusion and c) livelihoods inclusion.

#### Social Integration, Social Networks, and Crime Victimization (FDI Report)

	<i>Percent of Households Reporting</i>			
	Membership in Any Organization	Village /Neighbourhood Having Some Conflict	Victim of Crime/ Threat Last Year	Mean Number of Social Network Connections
All India	36	48	6.7	1
High Caste Hindu	33	49	5.5	1.4
OBC	39	46	6.3	1.1
Dalit	35	51	8.8	0.8
Adivasi	42	43	5.3	0.6
Muslim	30	48	7	0.8
Other religion	45	38	5	1.3

Social exclusion is a multidimensional process of depriving people as a group or as an individual from social entitlements, social participation and institutions in the society, in the process hindering the normal societal activities. In India, socially excluded communities include SCs, STs, religious and linguistic minorities, disabled, homeless, sexual minorities, etc., Some of the disadvantages of this exclusion or marginalization are poor social networking, unemployment, poverty, low income, access to markets, voicing out the rights, quality of life is minimal and these people are not allowed into any process of decision making regarding the society. Social exclusion reflects inadequate social cohesion or integration. Social inclusion is affirmative action to change the circumstances and habits that lead to social exclusion. Social inclusion is a coordinated response to a very complex problem of social exclusion. Social inclusion initiatives combat social exclusion by involving; engaging and bringing socially excluded people to the forefront to ensure their holistic and equal participation in accessing social, cultural, political and economic resources.

An inclusive society, by definition, is characterized by respect for identity of all and a reasonable balance between the rights and duties of all individuals and society as a whole. *Inclusion, as a concept took roots in*

*sociology and was later extended to the economic sphere. Every society, at any point in time has hosted inequalities and marginalized. In some societies, it is attributed to individual characteristics and in many it is attributed to "group characteristics". In India, the age-old caste system has propagated and established a hierarchy that excludes certain communities.*

Many states have developed specific social inclusion policies for the groups of population vulnerable due to exclusion and poverty. Promoting social inclusion usually includes promoting equal opportunities for those who are excluded and eliminating discrimination and so there is clearly a link between promoting social inclusion and promoting equality and diversity. However, promoting social inclusion is wider than just equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination. It is usually also about addressing wider social needs. The ancient caste system has been the most potent agent of social exclusion in India. It systematically excludes certain communities by assigning them a lower status. Discrimination through the caste system has a more far-reaching impact as it determines the occupation of the individual. The lower castes and untouchables are assigned occupations such as scavenging. The rigid structure and rules of the system, prevents them from pursuing other livelihoods. Similarly, tribes, women and religious minorities have been at the receiving end of rigid societal rules. Tribal communities in India continue to live on the fringes. More than other vulnerable communities, tribals continue to be systematically kept out of mainstream society. Their culture, religion, language, etc. do not appear on national forums. They are still looked at with deep rooted and ill-perceived prejudices. Further, the inclusive measures of the State do not take into account their needs or context. The process of mainstreaming of indigenous tribes dilutes their identity. The percolation of mainstream culture through TV, mobile phones, cinema, etc. is also eroding their identity and lifestyle. At the same time, they are not able to progress in their livelihoods. Their natural resource based portfolio of livelihoods is rapidly being discarded and they do not have the resources – education, nutrition, infrastructure, etc. - to pursue new livelihoods.

In a patriarchal society, women have been deprived of education and livelihood opportunities. For long they did not have right over property. Violence on women continues unabated. Of course, now as the hold of caste hierarchy and traditional societal rules wanes in modern India, these long-excluded communities are entering the mainstream. The State has had a major role in ensuring these communities are included. The Constitution provides for Fundamental Rights that ensure equality and bestows freedom on all citizens of India, no matter what their gender, caste, religion or region is. It abolishes untouchability and offers a right against exploitation. Further, the State has adopted many policies – such as the contentious reservation policy to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised communities in the country are given equal opportunities in education and employment. Though, this has become a political instrument, reservation has benefited a large number of marginalised communities and has allowed them to pursue education and employment. Sulabh International (SI) works towards eradicating manual scavenging and taking up welfare activities for them. Helpage India (HI) is working on uplifting of elderly people, affected and infected HIV/AIDS people. Most of the NGOs are also taking up poverty alleviation programs to bring the disadvantaged sections into the mainstream of society. Old Age Homes, Rescue Homes, Rehabilitation Centers and Orphanages are doing their little bit to bring back and give relief to the socially excluded people. Apart from this social and community organizations, such as A.P.B.C. Welfare Association, MRPS, VHPS, GHPS, LHPS, KVPS, KNPS, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar welfare societies, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Welfare Societies, Christian Welfare Associations, Buddhist and Minority Welfare Associations and various BC, SC, ST Welfare Associations are working for the social inclusion of these disadvantaged sections.

The self-help and cooperative movement that has brought about a silent revolution in many parts of rural India holds promise of ensuring inclusion and empowerment of the marginalized. The collective power of these communities is hard to ignore. It gives them a stage to voice their opinions and take social action. However, despite these provisions and initiatives, many marginalized communities in the country find it difficult to emerge out of oppression. For many, living with the oppression has become a habit; they are not aware of their rights and have no access to opportunities. There is still a long way to go for these communities to become equal, active and empowered members of the society. Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of "ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit" when needed, for vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups "at an affordable cost" as per NABARD in the Report of the Committee of Financial Inclusion, Government Of India, 2008. The RBI vision for 2020 is to open nearly 60 crores, new customer bank accounts and service them through a variety of channels by leveraging on IT. Increase in number of loan accounts will decrease the dependence on money lenders and bring poor out of the debt cycle. This will reduce the risk of poor and include them in growth.

### Utilization of Medical Care and Expenditure for Illnesses and Delivery (HDI Report )

	Cough, Fever, Diarrhea			No Treatment	Long-term Illness				Maternity	
	Treated in Government Centre (In %)	Treated Outside Local Area (In %)	Median Expense s if Sick (In Rs.)		Hospitalized	Treated in Government Centre (In %)	Treated Outside Local Area (In %)	Median Expense s if Sick (In Rs.)	Doctor Delivery (In %)	Expense Delivery in Public Hospital (In %)
All India	17	42	120	9	25	23	62	1900	42	51
Sex										
Male	17	44	126	10	27	25	63	2100		
Female	18	41	105	8	24	22	62	1700	42	51
Social Groups										
High Caste Hindu	16	39	115	6	23	20	58	2250	58	44
OBC	17	46	150	9	26	21	65	1800	44	47
Dalit	17	39	100	11	26	27	63	1500	35	65
Adivasi	24	50	80	20	32	28	64	600	18	68
Muslim	17	40	120	7	24	27	64	2025	36	60
Other religion	22	37	150	5	24	22	58	2400	84	24

*The goal of social inclusion is to give all people an equal chance for participation in society. In order to achieve this goal, the barriers to participation in all aspects of life, such as education, employment, leisure, and citizenship must be addressed. The barriers may be material, such as physical inaccessibility; but very often the barriers are intangible, for example, discrimination, which serves to exclude.*

Rural Finance Access Survey (2003) conducted by World Bank and NCAER depicted the rural financial structure. The statistics survey revealed that 59% rural households do not have debit accounts and 79% of rural households do not have access to credit from formal agencies. In rural areas large farmers-66% were having debit accounts and 44% were having credit accounts where as middle farmers- 70% did not have bank accounts and 87% had no access to credit, micro-enterprises almost did not have credit access at all, underlining the pathetic position of financial exclusion and alarming situation. All these sections are left to the mercy of moneylenders and informal agencies. Though the Government constituted Financial Inclusion Fund-FIF with Rs.500 crores, Financial Inclusion Technology Fund-FITF with Rs. 500 crores corpus fund in 2006, and National Rural Financial Inclusion Plan-NRFIP with financial support of 50% (5.577 crores) for rural cultivators and non-cultivator households by 2012, and financial support to 50% by 2015 through Commercial Banks/ RRBs and set a target of opening 250 new accounts per branch per annum needs to be evaluated. Apart from the above institutions Post Office Savings Accounts (POSA), Insurance and other formal agencies are to support Total Financial Inclusion (TFI).

#### **Twenty One Steps for Twenty First Century Financial Inclusion**

*Step 1: A New Financial Architecture to Suit the Needs of Inclusive Growth:* Keeping in view the dynamics of the changing economy, there is a strong need to restructure the financial system particularly the rural financial system. The present system which was enshrined in the late 70s greatly needs a rigorous relook.

*Step 2: Coordination with UIDAI:* Government of India's ambitious programme of issuance of multi-purpose Unique Identity Cards by UIDAI should be of great help for achieving financial inclusion. There needs to be proper systematic coordination with UIDAI in order to make the best use of it for the purpose of financial inclusion.

*Step 3: Formation of National Financial Inclusion Mission:* The authors recommended formation of National Financial Inclusion Mission on the lines of National Literacy Mission to carry out systematic and coordinated drive for financial inclusion.

*Step 4: Involvement of Education Sector for furthering Financial Inclusion:* Involving educational institutions, particularly college students for financial inclusion drive would not only be cost effective but also would create wide public awareness.

*Step 5: Establishment of Financial Counseling Centres:* Financial Inclusion drive should not be short-lived; instead a systematic effort should be structured by establishing FCCs (Financial Counseling Centres) on the lines of e-Seva centres in Andhra Pradesh for providing financial services.

*Step 6: Building Client Capacities:* As the saying goes “teach him to fish instead of giving him fish”, it should be the effort of all concerned (particularly the financial institutions) to develop these poor people as prospective customers. Building client capacities would definitely help all the stakeholders and would lead to a vibrant financial system

*Step 7: Partnership with Dedicated NGOs and MFIs:* Partnering with trustworthy and acclaimed people's organisations would definitely accelerate the process of financial inclusion especially in the rural areas. Specific financial as well as non-financial incentives have to be designed for the spirited involvement of such organisations

*Step 8: Financial Inclusion as Part of Course Curriculum in High Schools:* Financial Inclusion should be imbibed into the course curriculum in high schools so that the students would understand the importance of financial inclusion for inclusive growth in the economy which in turn would motivate them to automatically participate in the financial system.

*Step 9: Digitise the Documentation Process for Opening of Bank Accounts:* One of the often stated reasons for slow pace of financial inclusion has been the hassles involved in opening of bank accounts and availing of loans from financial institutions due to the long process of documentation. To overcome this, there is a need to digitise the public records for dual purpose of easy accessibility and storage.

*Step 10: Strategize the Provision of Bank Credit:* Need is felt to strategize the provision of bank credit to the rural farmer households. Majority of the marginal farmer households are not at all covered by the formal finance. As such public sector banks and the co-operative banks in the rural areas have to be sensitized about the need for provision of timely and cheaper credit to these segments. Reserve Bank of India in consultation with NABARD should come out with a comprehensive strategy for revitalizing the quiescent rural credit mechanism.

*Step 11: Exclusive Focus on the Socially Excluded and the Poor:* It is imminent to encompass the socially excluded sections and the poor like, tenant farmers, oral lessees and share croppers, marginal farmers with small uneconomical land holdings, agricultural laborers, rural artisans and people involved in making handicrafts and also majority of weavers in handloom Sector.

*Step 12: Extensive use of Co-operatives:* PACS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies) could provide valuable services to their members with a sense of belongingness. Accordingly, there is a need to revitalize these cooperatives as per the Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations and use them extensively for financial inclusion in the rural areas.

*Step 13: Undoubtedly a Greater Role for NABARD:* NABARD has to play a pro-active role by partnering with the rural credit institutions in the field and identify new initiatives that will contribute to effectively improving the extent of financial inclusion involving SHGs, MFIs, etc.

*Step 14: Procedural / Documentation Changes:* It is inevitable on the part of the regulators to find out an easy way of procuring the documents for opening of bank accounts and availing loans. The present guidelines are more tedious and result in huge costs for the poor in accessing the banks for any kind of services. Simplifying Mortgage Requirements, Exemption from Stamp Duty for Loans to Small and Marginal Farmers, Saral Documentation for Agricultural Loans.

*Step 15: Proactive Role of Government:* State Governments should be asked by the Central Government to play a proactive role in facilitating Financial Inclusion. Issuing official identity documents for opening accounts, creating awareness and involving district and block level functionaries in the entire process, meeting cost of cards and other devices for pilots, undertaking financial literacy drives are some of the ways in which the State and district administration have involved themselves.

Government of India set up the National Mission on Financial Inclusion (NaMFI) to provide financial services to poor through formal institutions like banks, agriculture cooperatives. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed State Level Bankers Committees (SLBC) to identify one district in each state to have 100% financial inclusion and promote financial inclusion across the country.

*Step 16: Role for Rural Post Offices:* Post Offices in rural areas can be asked to provide their services in accelerating the financial inclusion activity. In view of the postman's intimate knowledge of the local population and the enormous trust reposed in him post offices can be of good use in the process of financial inclusion

*Step 17: Effective Use of Information Technology Solutions:* The use of IT enables banks to handle enormous increase in the volume of transactions for millions of households for processing, credit scoring, credit record and

follow up. The use of IT solutions for providing banking facilities at doorstep holds the potential for scalability of the Financial Inclusion initiatives.

*Step 18: Adequate Publicity for the Project of Financial Inclusion:* In a huge country like India, there needs to be huge publicity for popularizing the concept and its benefits to the common man. In this direction, a comprehensive approach has to be developed involving all the concerned at all levels to impress upon the need for financial inclusion for accelerating the economic growth in the country.

*Step 19: Financial Inclusion as a Corporate Social Responsibility of all the Banks and Financial Institutions:* It should be the endeavour of all the financial institutions to adopt financial inclusion as a corporate social responsibility and chalk out strategies in tune with the national policy on financial inclusion.

*Step 20: Role of RBI:* Reserve Bank needs to take a pro-active role in accelerating financial inclusion by involving all the stake holders in the financial system by using its power of moral suasion as well as regulatory powers.

Political will is an all important aspect in any developmental effort. Political leadership should accord adequate importance for financial inclusion in order to motivate and mobilise all the weaker sections of the society in favour of financial inclusion for their economic upbringing. (Source: Role of Financial Inclusion for Inclusive Growth in India - Issues & Challenges by Dr. Vighneswara Swamy and Dr. Vijayalakshmi)

Micro-finance has redefined, the financial inclusion of poor. Under this concept, the poor, usually women are organised into groups of 5-20. The groups have bank accounts and can avail loans, or micro loans. In the Grameen Model, these groups are known as Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and are provided micro loans by microfinance institutions. In the self-help model, these groups are called Self-help Groups (SHGs) or Common Interest Groups (CIGs). These groups have a wider mandate (such as serving as solidarity mechanisms) and also have the provision of savings for the members. These groups lend internally from their corpus to meet small credit requirements of the members. The groups submit Micro Credit Plans (based on individual households needs) to the bank to avail loans. The bank lends to them keeping in mind the past record of the group and its discipline in repayment, savings, internal lending, etc. Presently the SHGs are getting average Rs. 50,000 the first time at an average interest rate of 8% to 12%. In TFI Slum or village selected for financial inclusion. The IKP staff made survey about SHGs members' loan amount and interest rate from money lenders, relatives, friends and business persons. The staff interacts with every member and also collects documents as evidence of the loan from outsiders. This also include 25% of the loan for income generation activities. Total amount sanctioned from bank as a loan to the members in the area. The staff makes proper arrangements for loan amount utilization. This intervention has been in implementation in Andhra Pradesh. Livelihoods exclusion is an important yet under-debated dimension of exclusion. It is the result of exclusion on many counts including social and financial. Livelihoods exclusion also involves economic exclusion, technological exclusion, education exclusion, nutrition exclusion, etc. It refers to the resource deprived context, in which poor exist. They do not have the infrastructure to pursue viable livelihoods or improve existing ones. The existing rules in the economy do not support their entry into the market. The education they have is limited and inadequate to enter into the labour force.

The nutrition they receive during infancy and early childhood is insufficient to support their mental and physical growth. It is believed that the nutrition and learning support a child receives between the ages 3 and 7 is critical in the development. Hence when this period is ignored, a whole generation is lost. In some instances, certain livelihoods and those who practice it are entirely excluded. For instance, scavenging is not taken into account as a "decent livelihood". Sex workers are often at the receiving end of harsh discrimination. The stigma surrounding these livelihoods makes it difficult for its practitioners to live decently and as active or equal members in a society. Livelihoods inclusion implies combating all these stigmas and removing all these barriers in pursuing better livelihoods. The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) of the Government of India (GoI) hopes for a paradigm shift in livelihoods inclusion of the poor. It advocates social inclusion and financial inclusion as the base for livelihoods inclusion. It calls for all poor in the country to be organized into collectives that work, as social integration agents and are also a route for financial inclusion. Based on this, these collectives would gradually start to engage in livelihoods activities. As collectives achieve markets of scale, the poor will have the ability to govern and meet the demand in the market for better returns. They would be able to take up activities such as value addition and marketing rather than Public programs have been designed to assist the poor since the planning process began in 1951. Some have succeeded more than others. Most have evolved over time. Some have been transformed into virtually new programs. The IHDS investigated several important programmes that existed in 2005:

1. Public Distribution System, in existence since the 1960s, often modified since then, and supplemented in December 2001 by Antyodaya for the poorest of the poor;
2. School assistance, such as free books and uniforms;

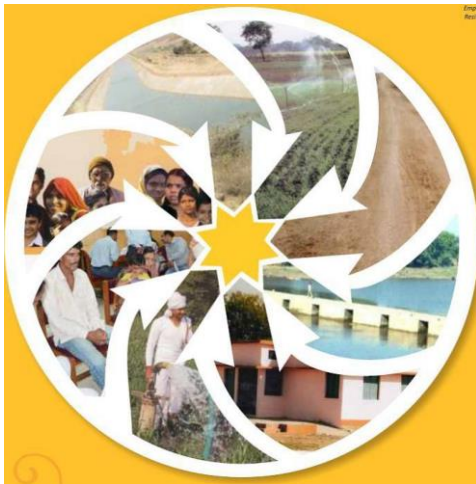
3. Midday Meal (MDM) program which was extended to schools across the nation since the 1990s;
4. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), since the mid-1970s;
5. Food for Work Program started in 2000–1 as part of the Employment Assurance Scheme; and
6. Program directed at the elderly, such as the NOAP, Widow Pension, and Annapurna. ((HDI Report)

relying on external agents. The Mission calls for legal recognition of these collectives as cooperatives, companies or producers companies and establishing proper systems and procedures for their administration. In other words, it is an attempt to bring an element of organisation and professionalism into the organisations of poor. This image overhaul would result in them being considered as players to reckon with and no longer perceived as ill-managed. The Mission also provides for bringing large number of unemployed youth into the workforce by providing technical skills and soft skills and placement in the industry. This ensures that youth enter mainstream, organised sector. Exclusion is not exclusive to poor. All individuals are excluded in one dimension or the other. It could be due to disability, stigmatized diseases such as HIV, livelihoods such as scavenging, cultural identities such as language or region. The means that one has to cope with this exclusion determines its impact on the individual. Empowering the individual and strengthening social relations that result in solidarity are emerging as important mechanisms of inclusion. It is important to note that existing forms of exclusion are the premise for further, deepening of exclusion. As the world becomes increasingly globalised, the poor and marginalised are at a risk of being left out of new developments. This has happened in case of technology and knowledge revolution, which has conspicuously left the poor out. To avoid such instances again, it is necessary that these very instruments be used to provide the poor with services at par with the others.

**\*Livelihoods December-2012**

## 44. Convergence

***In our country, both Central and State level governments have been implementing various programs and schemes through different departments across the country. Furthermore, various departments have been designing different guidelines, administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs to foster development. However, the results have not been up to the desirable level. To achieve efficient results, most of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for convergence in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring different departments on a common platform, and to work together and facilitate local governments' participation in programs from stage of planning to implementation to achieve efficacious results.***



In our country, both the Central and State level governments have been implementing various programs and schemes through different departments across the country. Furthermore, various departments have been designing different guidelines, administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs to foster development. However, the results have not been up to the desirable level. To achieve efficient results, most of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for convergence in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring different departments on a common platform, and to work together and facilitate local governments' participation in programs from stage of planning to implementation to achieve efficacious results. Since the dawn of Independence, the Central and the State governments have been implementing various programs and schemes, through different departments across the country. Each

department has been designing its own guidelines, and administrative and institutional mechanisms to implement programs for the targeted beneficiaries. However, the results have not been adequately reaching the targeted groups. In order to achieve efficient results, many of the evaluation studies have recommended the need for "convergence" in programs, right from the stage of planning to implementation. Convergence is a mechanism to bring in different departments on a common platform, and to work together through co-ordination, facilitate local government's participation in programs to achieve competent results. Thus, convergence holds significance, as it bridges the gaps in program execution. Various programs, working for the development of the poor and for the eradication of poverty, have been allocated lakhs of crores of rupees by respective Central and State governments, but without any appropriate results. The programs/schemes, which aimed at targeted communities, many times ended up addressing various needs of a same community, in terms of household level, group level, village level and cluster level needs. Therefore, the programs targeted for the poor, did not achieve desirable results against the allocated budget. If we look at some of the programs/schemes that have been under implementation are as follows:

- ◆ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- ◆ National Health Mission (NHM)
- ◆ National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)
- ◆ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- ◆ National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- ◆ Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- ◆ PradhanManthri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- ◆ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)
- ◆ Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

- ◆ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
- ◆ Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)
- ◆ Public Distribution System (PDS)
- ◆ Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)
- ◆ Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)
- ◆ Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)
- ◆ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
- ◆ Individual Sanitary Latrines (ISLs)

Various departments and agencies have been implementing divergent programs and schemes, with close to similar objectives targeting same beneficiaries and operational areas. Consequently, there has been duplication in implementation of works, through different programs designed to address the same problems. Many times, different departments are engaged in different schemes in the same operational area, where the target beneficiaries are the same. This situation has always brought in lacunae in resource planning and mobilization for schemes, poor implementation of schemes, and complete lack of community participation from planning to implementation stages of schemes. This has been a regular feature, as program implementation by various departments involved various activities i.e., resource mobilization, beneficiary identification, selection, disbursement of funds, monitoring and evaluation of activities; therefore, different departments would do similar activities, multiple times with same beneficiaries in operational areas. The repetition of works, ended up in wastage of human, financial and social resources in program implementation. Thereby, resource mobilization gradually became a burden for implementation of multiple programs.

Duplication of work in implementation of these schemes, is mainly due to poor communication and coordination among various departments, closely followed by poor community participation, lack of transparency, outdated technologies, lack of qualified personnel, existence of top-down approaches, lack of accountability, non-involvement of local government institutions in program planning and implementation. As a result of these roadblocks, various departments are unable to implement programs/schemes successfully and achieve maximum results from the ground. Due to these fallacies, many a time, only a few lucky beneficiaries are successfully accessing multiple programs, while the needy are left out due to multiple factors and at the end of the day, they are unable to access key program/scheme benefits. Additionally, it is important to understand, reasons behind why this sector-wise thrust in development has been more of a failure, than success. The operational mechanism of programs/schemes to be implemented by various departments, have similarities in "procedures and processes" in implementation of schemes; however, they differ in approval systems, implementation mechanism and agencies involved. Going by the failure of implementation of programs/schemes and the poor reach of the schemes to the targeted beneficiaries, there have been calls for linkages; which can be achieved by improving program specified guidelines and bringing in uniformity in guidelines, such as identification of beneficiaries, release of funds, sanction of funds, monitoring and evaluation of programs/schemes. Therefore, in this context, convergence is a crucial element for successful implementation of the programs to achieve the maximum results and to bring about improvements in multiple goals; strengthen the partnership among government and community stakeholders; address the needs of marginalized/vulnerable communities; aid in establishing good governance structures; and facilitate sustainable development. In order to initiate convergence, various elements have to be considered, which are as follows:

- Goal setting: Objectives have to be designed without compromising essential characteristics of the programs in convergence to form partnerships at grassroots level. The convergence approach should facilitate target communities to realize their common goal of poverty reduction, creation of durable and qualitative assets.
- Local needs, problems and other issues: Decentralization is a crucial element in convergence. Facilitating the inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged people in programs, from planning to implementation activities, provides space for decision-making and in assigning priorities. Participatory planning ensures identification of local needs and problems, and also goals fulfillment.
- Identification of potential areas/activities/schemes: Existing various programs' annual plans have to evaluate and find potential areas/activities.
- Technical knowledge and administrative guidance: Suitable technologies are an integral part in convergence, so as to facilitate technology institutions, according to problems in programs implementation.
- Setting time-frame for activities: Setting a time-frame for all the activities of the programs is an important element in convergence. It is also a precondition for all departments and partner agencies.
- Role clarity among stakeholders: As there are various departments and stakeholders who are involved; therefore, clarity of their roles is a key element in convergence. It enhances understanding among different departments and stakeholders, and also solves problems.
- Funds flow consistent with – time-frame activities: Funds are critical for implementation of programs, but



ensuring consistency of fund flow with time-frame activities is equally crucial. As most of the times, there are many delays, because of lack of funds to undertake the activities. So, adequate funds mobilization at district level, with the support of state and central governments is an important element.

- Consultation with stakeholders at various levels: The information on district level proceedings have to be sent to stakeholders at block/mandal level and at Gram Panchayat (GP) level, so as to get feedback on the proceedings; which facilitates the preparation of comprehensive plans for convergence.
- New activities mapping: Involving stakeholders in the workshop and ensuring preparation of a plan of the time-frame activities with regard to the expected outcomes, is an important element in convergence. Convergence plan should be prepared at the unit level. It would be a reference for all stakeholders who are involved in the programs.
- Capacity building: Different stakeholders from various departments to target communities working together is the fundamental element in convergence. Different departments' functionaries, target communities and other stakeholders' capacities needs to be enhanced and they be made to understand their roles at different levels, so as to implement the programs efficiently and effectively. Getting knowledge of technologies is also required. Functionaries and target communities need to have understanding of program benefits, costs and risks.

Convergence, in the context of our discussion, refers to all resources i.e., human, financial and physical components coming together at one point, for efficient delivery of deliverables. There are broad categories of convergence and convergence in planning is a must. Convergence of services can be possible, when an integrated approach is applied, as it would help in achieving the intended outcomes. Thus, convergence at planning, resource level and implementation is crucial. For achieving convergence, the authorities must be empowered to ensure inter-departmental co-ordination, resource pooling, call for changes in guidelines, identify areas of convergence, bring about appropriate amendments to guidelines and circulars, bring in flexibility for facilitating convergence, put up appropriate monitoring mechanism to avoid double recording of work in different programs, etc..Convergence should happen at all the levels, right from household level through community, village and cluster level. Convergence is required in three activities at the initial stage: identification of flagship programs and documenting the results; studying various institutional measures i.e., planning approval, sanctioning, fund disbursement and monitoring; and lastly finding opportunities for convergence and design measures.

As plans should be prepared at district level, whereby only the activities identified & included in the district plan should be taken up under any scheme by the nodal department and decentralization of planning should be the way to enhance participation of all the key stakeholders. Along the lines, resource endowments should be done on a detailed needs analysis, without any relation to a specific scheme or a programme. Convergence of schemes should enable local government to function as units of self-governance, devolution of funds, function and functionaries. Establishing proper procedures of process monitoring, ensuring accountability and transparency from planning to implementation stages, will go a long way in generating confidence among the citizens in the process. Convergence at various levels will establish linkages between panchayats and other departments, which further have to be streamlined, strengthened and institutionalized. Thus, convergence would bring in more integrated plans for more delivery of outputs. However, there are many issues in achieving convergence, such as reluctance among the sectoral departments to commit funds for projects, as they have the fear of losing control over their resources; secondly, lack of institutional platform for convergence, as monitoring of planned convergence becomes difficult, as resources may be under the control of some of the agencies outside the fold of the main programs seeking convergence; and lack of harmonization in guidelines for convergence. Calls have been made for convergence of financial and human resources to enhance productivity, value addition through backward and forward linkages. Convergence has to begin from the grassroots level which proposes for intensive integrated planning and implementation at village levels. As participatory planning from the base i.e., grassroots level moving upwards led by the local governments will lead to a sense of ownership among the key stakeholders, which in turn would pave the way for much better results in local development.

**\* livelihoods November-2015**

## 45. Microfinance

### Concept, Evolution and Challenges

***NABARD defines microfinance as “provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and products of very small amounts to the poor in rural, semi urban or urban areas, for enabling them to raise their income levels and improve living standards”. Microfinance is an answer to the question as to how to provide access to financial services such as loans, money transfers and micro insurance to the poor. Microfinance is often mistaken with microcredit. Microcredit is lending very small loans to the poor against little or no collateral. It falls into the wider ambit of microfinance. However, microcredit cannot be an all-weather solution to the problem of financial exclusion of the poor. Thus, services such as savings, insurance and remittances also come under the purview of microfinance.***



A notable aspect of the microfinance sector is how, it prefers to lend to women, rather than men. This is true across the board, no matter which model of microfinance. This practice is based on the belief that women are more inclined, to invest in their families' welfare than men. One of the first instances of microfinance, through a formal institution can be traced back to 1700s' Ireland. Author and nationalist Jonathan Swift established the Irish Fund loan system with the idea of providing small, short term loans on interest. At its peak, the Irish Fund Loan system catered to about 20% of Ireland's population. During the 19th century a variety of formal savings and credit

institutions known as People's Banks, Credit Unions, and Savings and Credit Co-operatives sprung up. Indonesian People's Credit Banks or the Bank Perkreditan Rakyat opened in 1895 and soon became a major presence in the country with nearly 9,000 clients. In the period between 1950's and 70's focus was on providing agriculture credit at subsidized interest rates. However, this proved highly unfavorable to the credit providers thanks to below-the-market interest rates; poor loan repayment discipline and also the funds rarely reached the farmers they were really meant for.

The 1970's proved to be a turning point in the sector, when Prof. Yunus Khan designed a means to disburse and recover loans from the poor through banks. In 1983, he established the Grameen Bank and thus the Grameen model came into existence. Since then, this model has been widely replicated. In the intermittent period, two earlier doubted facts were proven true: that rural poor can repay loans regularly and also that they can afford high interest rates. This meant Microfinance Institutions (MFI's) could cover their costs and thus their sustainability was ensured. This enabled them to reach a large number of clients. According to an estimate, by the World Bank, only the top 25% of economically active population in developing countries have access to basic financial services through formal institutions. In an environment where access to financial services to the poor is next to absent, the poor face a major challenge in accessing basic financial services like loans, savings and insurance. The poor, like the rest, depend on financial support structures to sustain their enterprises, build assets and manage risk. In the absence of any formal institution, they resort to developing informal financial relationships which are not governed by any discernible rules. Therefore, microfinance has bigger role to play in the developing country like India for its inclusive growth.

There are approximately 60 million households, below the poverty line in India and only about 20% of these households have access to credit in India. Microfinance is based on the premise that credit on reasonable terms, will reduce poverty significantly in the country. The annual credit usage of poor households is estimated at Rs. 45,000 crores and 80% of this is borrowed from informal sources. The concept of microfinance preexists in the

country even before, it became a global phenomenon to alleviate poverty. From the initial years, the focus of providing credit to rural poor was on:

- Expansion of institutional structure
- Directed lending,
- Concessional or subsidized credit

The All India Rural Credit Survey (AIRCS) of 1954 recommended the creation of an integrated rural credit scheme focusing on providing credit to farmers on low interest.

In 1975, the nationalized banks were told to open Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to provide financial services in rural areas. The RRBs were to work with the attitude a cooperative which had the ins and outs of rural problems combined with the approach of a commercial organization. Also in the 1970' and 80's the SHG movement was beginning to gain ground in the country. In the 80's the SHGs began to be linked with banks for credit. Still, the vacuum of financial services to the poor wasn't filled, and the 90's saw a spurt in MFIs, which has followed the Grameen model. The microfinance sector in India today is dominated by two major models, namely the Grameen model and the SHGs. Though both co-exist with numerous clients present in both systems simultaneously, there is a debate as to which of the models is more feasible. The Grameen model is inspired by Mohammad Yunus Grameen Bank model, which is relatively easier to implement than the SHG model. The Grameen model requires the identification and organization of the poor, especially the women into groups. Once the groups are formed and if they satisfy the credit provider by showing signs of being able to function as a group, the credit provider gives loans. Unlike in SHGs, savings are not a priority in this model. This is partly due to regulatory considerations and also because the organizations that promote this model are credit oriented. The members of the group are to follow certain rules like attending meetings regularly, repay loans on time, but do not have any decision making or book keeping role.

List of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) based on SHG Model		
Sl. No.	Institution Name	Location
1	Madura Micro Finance Ltd (MMFL)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2	Sarvodaya Nano Finance Ltd (SNFL)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
3	BWDA Finance Ltd (BFL)	Villupuram, Tamil Nadu
4	Future Financial Services Ltd (FFSI)	Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
5	MYRADA	Bangalore, Karnataka
6	Rasthriya Seva Samithi (RASS)	Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
7	Sahara Utsarga Welfare Society (SUWS)	Kolkata, West Bengal
8	Hand in Hand (HH)	Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu
9	Aadarsha Welfare Society (AWS)	Mehaboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh
10	Indur Intideepam MACS Federation Ltd (IIMF)	Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh
11	Welfare Organisation For multipurpose Mass awareness Society (WOMEN)	Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu
12	Pragathi Mutually Aided Cooperative Credit and Marketing Federation Ltd (PMACS)	Warangal, Andhra Pradesh
13	Sewa Mutually Aided Cooperative Thrift Society Federation (Sewa)	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
14	Initiative for development Foundation (IDF)	Bangalore, Karnataka
15	Gandhi Smaraka Gram Sewa Kendram (GSGSK)	Alappuzha, Kerala
16	Swayamshree Micro Credit Services (SMCS)	Bhubaneswar, Orissa
17	Janobaya Trust	Bangalore, Karnataka
18	Community Development Centre (Trust)	Gengavarapatti, Tamil Nadu
19	PWMACTS	Payakaraopeta, Andhra Pradesh

The SHG model is a home grown experiment that has met with varying degrees of success across the country. SHGs are more like "micro cooperatives" where savings of the group is given utmost importance. The savings of the group enables the group to lend to its members after a certain point in time. SHG members are expected to play the role of leaders of the group and also are involved in the accounting role. The women are not only members of the group, but also run the groups themselves. This is in contrast to the Grameen

model where the members do not enjoy the ownership of their groups and the groups are managed by the organization. SHGs receive loans by establishing bank linkages and the loans are given to the member who most needs it in the group. Yet another key factor, which differentiates the Grameen model from the SHG model, is the high rates of interest and drain of wealth in the former model. Not only are high interests rates charged, the profits made by the organization are routed to its investors and not to the community. This renders these micro finance institutions no different from any other commercial organization. This in the recent times has shown the problem due to uncontrolled profit motive by MFI's in different states of the country and its effects on the poor.

Microfinance providers in India involve an entire gamut of players, some who failed to fill the space they were expected to and some who evolved in the process. Post office, co-operative setup, chit funds, Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC), mortgage institutions are some of the microfinance providers apart from the much spoken about MFIs and banks. In many countries, cooperatives have been able to elevate its position as a powerful economic model. In some countries they are a sizeable force within the national economy. The slow

growth of co-operatives in India especially with respect to the credit sector can be attributed to various reasons including – mismanagement and manipulation: the democratic set up of co-operatives got corrupted and farmers with large holdings grew more powerful. Government interference, functional weakness in terms of lack of trained personnel, restricted coverage is some of the other reasons. Similarly, the entire set up of RRBs – established to meet the needs of the rural sector in general and the poor, in particular – has proved a colossal failure. Saddled with the burden of directed credit and a restrictive interest-rate regime, the financial position of the RRBs deteriorated quickly. With co-operatives and RRBs unable to fill the gap between the formal and informal sources of microfinance, the percentage of money lenders grew manifold. It was during this time that micro credit and microfinance to women groups started gaining momentum. Initially NGOs started this process of providing credit through cooperative banks and then they started operating as microfinance institutions.

Basically, the MFIs in India are of three categories:

- Not for profit MFI, which include the NGOs
- Mutual Benefit MFIs, which include mutually-aided cooperative credit and Profit MFIs, which include the NBFCs.

NABARD refinances the Financial Institutions engaged in micro finance, to the extent of actual disbursement. NABARD, SIDBI are 'bulk financiers', who cleverly leverage resources obtained from a variety of sources (donors, government, market) for rural finance including microfinance.

Reasons for the success of MFIs are:

1. MFIs became the bridge between banks and the poor people who depended on informal sources of credit like local moneylenders.
2. For a small amount of loan from a formal institution like bank, a person had to run from pillar to post before finally getting the loan sanctioned. But in the case of MFIs the MFI employee will go to their house and give them the money.
3. Despite the high interest rates charged by the MFI, they still flourished because poor people felt it is better than the interest rates charged by the moneylender.
4. MFIs continue to make huge profits as the poor do not voluntarily want to default.
5. MFIs deal with women's groups which have a better track record of repayment than individual lending.
6. There has been no competition to this MFI model of money lending from the other formal set ups like banks.

There are three main allegations levied against the MFIS:

- They charge exorbitant amount of interest rates ranging from 24 percent to 48 percent. Further, MFIs lack the transparency with regard to their interest rate practices which is helping them to transfer various costs on the borrowers.
- MFIs are resorting to unethical ways of recovering loans.
- MFIs are aggressively poaching from government and banks to capture their borrowers. They are luring the members of the SHGs and leading to multiple loans.

But all these allegations are not the only reason for the current stir caused in the MFI sector. Civil society organizations and governments are worried that in the name of helping poor, MFIs are becoming mainly profit making organizations. One of the significant developments in the coming years which will also become the distinguishing factor for the MFIs is the MF 'plus' services that they can render. MF plus services refers to all the services that the MFI offer in addition to the microcredit or financial services. The increasing economic uncertainty and rapidly changing external environment, compounded by increasing competition within the microfinance sector, MFIs are already being forced to innovate new service offerings in order to differentiate themselves. This additional component helps MFIs in generating additional revenues and also provides clients with a greater variety of products and services. MFIs partner with private companies to expand their outreach and also provide an additional product or service offering to their clients. Examples of such partnerships are prevalent in all parts of the globe. A notable example is the partnership between Grameen Bank and Dannon Foods to develop low cost manufacturing units. The collaboration between Village Financial Services (VFS) and Hindustan Unilever enable poor households to purchase HUL's Pure it water purifiers through the VFS network. The VFS credit customers can take loan at zero rate of interest to buy the purifier and the loan would be repayable weekly over a period of eight months. Such partnerships are generally cost-revenue sharing agreements between the MFI and the organization.

**Here are some of the microfinance plus activities:**

1. Financial literacy training (SEWA Bank in Ahmadabad).
2. Entrepreneurial / business skills training (Mann Deshi in Maharashtra).
3. Health Education.
4. Helping establish co-ops.
5. Market linkage including both backward and forward linkage.

### **Islamic microfinance**

An estimated 72 per cent of people living in Muslim-majority countries do not use formal financial services. Even when financial services are available, some people view conventional products as incompatible with the financial principles set forth in Islamic law. In recent years, some MFIs have stepped in to service low-income Muslim clients who demand products consistent with Islamic financial principles— leading to the emergence of Islamic microfinance as a new market niche. The basic concept apart from no interest based transactions is: Fund providers must share the business risk i.e. providers of funds are not considered creditors (who are typically guaranteed a predetermined rate of return), but rather investors (who share the rewards as well as risks associated with their investment). The following are the most widely available types of Islamic microfinance contracts. Each can either operate individually or be combined with other contracts to create hybrid instruments. Murabaha Sale (cost plus mark-up sale contract); Typically, the client requests a specific commodity for purchase, which the financier procures directly from the market and subsequently resells to the client, after adding a fixed “mark-up” for the service provided. . However, ownership of the commodity (and the risk inherent thereto) strictly lies with the financier until the client has fully paid the financier. The mark-up is distinct from interest because it remains fixed at the initial amount, even if the client repays past the due date. Ijarah (leasing contract); Ijarah is a leasing contract typically used for financing equipment, such as small machinery. The ijarah contract must specify that the ownership of the asset, and responsibility for its maintenance, remains with the financier. An ijarah contract may be followed by a sale contract, in which event the ownership of the commodity is transferred to the lessee. Musharaka and Mudaraba (profit and loss sharing);Musharaka is equity participation in a business venture, in which the parties share the profits or losses according to a predetermined ratio. Musharaka can be used for assets or for working capital. Mudaraba denotes trustee financing, in which one party acts as financier by providing the funds, while the other party provides the managerial expertise in executing the project. In mudaraba, profits are shared according to a predetermined ratio; any losses are borne entirely by the financier. If the mudaraba joint venture results in a loss, the financier loses the contributed capital and the manager loses time and effort. Takaful (mutual insurance): The equivalent of Islamic insurance, takaful is a mutual insurance scheme. The word originates from the Arabic word “kafala,” which means guaranteeing each other or joint guarantee. Each participant contributes to a fund that is used to support the group in times of need, such as death, crop loss, or accidents.

Post the controversy that struck the microfinance sector late last year, the AP state (which was the epicenter of the crisis) came up with an act to regulate the MFIs in the state. The Central government too is mulling over measures to check the thus far unabated growth of MFIs. In the light of such a policy environment, the going will get tough for the MFIs especially with the government thrusting banks to branch out into rural areas. If the banks do spread their presence in the rural areas, the MFIs which owe their existence to the absence of banks in the microfinance sector will lose their meaning. To find a good enough premise to continue in the field and continue to function they have so far would mean a complete rehaul of their organization. A major challenge to the MFIs is restraining from being commercialized. Since they function in the development sector, they cannot charge as they wish. The sector is also facing a serious human resource crunch that is innovative. Most in the sector do not have a passion for rural development nor do they feel attached to their job, which impacts on their commitment to serving the clients. As MFIs stabilize and become mature players in the sector, they have to look to providing services apart from financial services. This is a key to their sustainability. The big MFIs which dominate the sector are likely to become more prominent in the future. This would mean the scope of operation for smaller MFIs will be lessened greatly. The funding agencies too will prefer the bigger MFIs over the small ones.

With more money being pumped into the sector, the role of MFIs in the coming years cannot be undermined. It is now proven worldwide that multiple doses of micro credit to the poor is the way forward to help the poor come out of poverty. And financial inclusion of the poor can happen, only if microfinance reaches them at the right time. Besides, in such a set-up, it is important that the policies governing these MFIs and other such institutions are firmly in place. More importantly, an apex body which will perform the role of both regulation as well as a monitoring exclusively for microfinance could be envisaged, if the country is determined to eradicate poverty from the face of India. So far, government role in offering microfinance services has been only at the state levels, where each state has its own rural livelihood mission. Following the success of such interventions in states like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the SHG movement is now set to go national. And with the introduction of the

NRLM, it will further get strengthen. The vision of NRLM is to enhance livelihoods of rural poor by organizing them into groups that will help them access credit on time.

**\*Livelihoods July-2011**



## 46. Social Audit

***Social auditing means verification of schemes and programs, at all stages from planning to implementation by the community, local organizations and all stakeholders involved. It provides space for community voice in reviewing and evaluating programme performance, in all aspects including financial and non financial activities.***

In Latin audit means 'to hear'. In ancient times, the kings used to send persons as 'auditors' to get information about people's opinion on king's rule and employee's attitude towards people and people's situation in the kingdom. These 'auditors' used to go to public places and interact with people to collect opinion from the people. Kings were used to make changes, in the kingdom according to 'auditors' information. There are three types of audits, such as government or institutional audit, people's audit and social audit. Government or institutional audit is basically in-house audit, conducted by external persons or professionals or auditing institutions. These audits don't give much space for the people's participation and concerned beneficiaries feedback. People's audits are organized by people and the beneficiaries with the cooperation of movements and NGOs. In this audit, there is no role for government agencies. Therefore, it becomes just as a technical thing.



Social auditing, as a concept first emerged in 1972 by Charles Medawar to ensure accountability from corporate, government and professionals in medicine policies application. The concept designed on the basic principle of democracy. In democracy, the decision makers should be accountable to the people at the time of using their powers and also understand all concerns of the people. This is the core principle, in designing social audit. Later many corporate groups implemented social auditing as a tool to get feedback from the people on their activities. They consider the Social auditing report, as a performance appraisal. In 1970s UK and European countries considered social auditing as an evaluation tool to appreciate impact of the policies on jobs, community and environment. NGOs also implemented social auditing to get people's response on their activities and evaluate performance in meeting the people's needs. Social auditing was started before establishment of common accepted and structured evaluations method. Dunston social auditing evolved as a comprehensive tool in 1982 and it is widely discussed across the globe. In 1984 Co-operative Retail Society (CRS) practiced social auditing and gave inspiration to many large organizations to implement social audit.

Accountability, transparency and community participation in decision making are key elements in democracy. Social auditing evolved to restore transparency, accountability from community participation from planning to evolution of the programs or schemes. It measures, understands and evaluates programs in order to improve performance. It involves all stake holders in the process and enriches the programs. Social auditing verifies the program, on the basis of values laid down by the community. Social audit's key contribution is that it facilitates the development of social capital by strengthening citizen's organizations and establishing transparency, accountability and people's participation. Participation of stakeholders in the auditing process can give comprehensive understanding about the programs / schemes. Social auditing, assures this participation from both sides. Financial auditing alone doesn't suffice to understand the program/project implementation and impact. It focuses more on implementation method, ways of creating awareness, beneficiaries' identification and payment. Whereas social auditing goal is to appreciate the stated goals and reality and measuring, understanding and improving the social performance of the organization. It helps to reduce the gaps, between stated goals and vision and realities. It values the feedback of various stakeholders, particularly the marginalized sections of the people, whose voices are almost neglected in mainstream auditing process and focus the neglected matters of social performance. It strengthens the local governing bodies by promoting accountability and transparency in governance. It focuses more on various stake holders in auditing process for social performance improvement. It's a tool to understand, verify, measure and report social performance.

Social auditing could be conducted at any stage of the scheme and program from planning stage to post implementation stage. It can be done at planning stage, preparation stage, implementation stage and post completion stage.

Social auditing can be done at various levels of government and civil society and often in a year period. It can be done at different stages such as planning, preparation, implementation and completion stages. Stakeholders are critical of social audit. The stakeholders have a key role in understanding, measuring, reporting and improving the social performance of the organization. Stakeholders are individuals/institutions/organizations that benefits from the program or affected by the program. They can be shareholders, employees, customers, community, state government, local body, banks and investors, Gram Panchayats (GP), SHGs, Village Level Organizations (VLO), youth clubs, NGOs, and community leaders etc. In social auditing stakeholder's analysis provides awareness on programs and schemes to the concerned persons or groups and strengthens the connectivity between the organizations and stakeholders. Gram Panchayat (GP) is the lowest governing body in planning and monitoring the programs and schemes. The schemes and programs guidelines recommend social auditing by GP. For example, in MGNREGS guidelines clearly recommended social auditing by GP. Sometimes GP credibility and willingness also become very important in programs and schemes.

**The Basic Principles or Salient Features in Social Audit:** The very important principle of social auditing is the continuous enhancement of performance according to stated social objectives. There are 8 basic principles in Social auditing. Which are as follows:

**Multi Perspective/ Polyvocal:** It takes the feedback of all peoples (stakeholders), those who participated and affected by the programs or schemes of organization or agency or government.

**Participatory:** It gives space for community participation and values their sharing's on programs or schemes.

**Comprehensive:** It appreciates all aspects of organization and its works.

**Multidirectional:** It provides place for community feedback on multiple aspects of the programs and schemes.

**Regular:** It's not one time event. It is regular process and become an internal part of the organization and all its activities.

**Comparative:** It is comparative. An organization can compare its achievements, with earlier year's achievements. It provides external norms or benchmarks for performance comparison. It also gives space to compare with other organizations, which are doing same works.

**Verified:** It verifies and ensures the social auditing correctness by the experts or agencies, without any narrow interests of the organization.

**Disclosed:** Its fundamental aim is to enhance transparency and accountability in the organization. To ensure this, it discloses the audit to the stakeholders and wider community without any filtration.

Social auditing designed to enhance social engagement, transparency and public awareness, about programs and schemes and accountability from decision makers, representatives, government officers and managers. The success of social auditing depends on suitable socio-economic, administrative, legal and democratic setting. The core concept of social auditing is that it strengthens democracy and people's participation.

The application of social auditing can facilitate good governance by strengthening transparency and accountability.

**Non- Negotiable Principles in Social Audit:** There are many non- negotiable principles as follows:

Purity should be maintained in any circumstance and never politicize social audit.

The roles and responsibilities of government administrative and social auditing teams, should be clearly defined and each one should respect others roles.

No official or political pressure, allowed in social auditing.

The persons who do social auditing shouldn't bring their organizational agenda.

All the required books, records, receipts, vouchers etc. should be available to the social auditing, team members

Social auditors should be neutral on collected facts, they should not bring their personal interests, likes, dislikes, assumptions in to study process and report writing.

Gaps or mistakes in the schemes and programs, must be supported with proofs, without evidences social audit can't bring the shortcomings or issues.

All the aspects of scheme or program should be verified in the study.

The social auditors can't make quick generalizations, by interacting with very few people they have to interact with all the stakeholders, who are connected with the scheme or program



Social auditor shouldn't show any discrimination like caste, religion, race and profession.

Social auditing can be used as a tool to get critical feedback from the stakeholders on government initiatives and to assess the impact of programs and schemes, on well-being of the people. It measures the programs and schemes results. Apart from this, it gives many inputs as follows:

- To monitor the social impact and performance of the organization.
- To provide inputs to design strategies in socially responsible and accountable way.
- To facilitate the organization to improve its performance.
- To contribute institutional strategies, which are concern for their influence and performance on community and their institutions.
- To create awareness in community about resource allocation including money and time. This helps to ensure accountability in governance.

**Benefits of Social Audit:** There are more benefits, of social auditing particularly for the government departments.

**Enhances Reputation:** The collected information from social auditing is a vital source of knowledge to the government departments regarding their services. Social angle, describes the reality or perception of the people about service delivery. Social auditing helps managers or officials in understanding the community's interests, perspectives, expectations and opinions regarding the program. It gives information of stakeholders concerns and improves the communication between the community and policy makers. Social auditing maps the gaps in implementation and specifies, the improvements in existing management system and employees working method. It recommends the changes according to the issues and concerns of the stakeholders. Social auditing gives more importance to openness and accountability from the governments. To ensure this the collected information should be accurate and fair. We can say that the performance of the SA depends on organization improvement. It also aims to redesign their priorities, according to people's concerns. Social auditing helps the organizations to increase confidence among the people. It identifies the past mistakes and gives solutions for rectification. In this way the organizations increase their confidence.

**Social Audit Methodology** -Social auditing consists of various components such as economic, political, environment, health & education and social components.

**Economic Component** - In economic component, social auditor has to analyse economic indicators like per capita income, unemployment rate, percentage of families in poverty, wage rate etc..Using these indicators, the social auditor has to describe the economical situation of the community.

**Political Component** - Analysis of community's political settings contributes better idea to identifying the problems and finding solutions. The analysis by the informed citizenry and political activists ,of local government welfare programs can be taken as indicators.

**Environment Component:** The SA has to analyse, the environmental aspects like air quality, noise, visual pollution, water availability and recreational facilities. These factors affect the quality of life.

**Health and Education Components:** Health and education components analysis, such as availability and accessibility of health care, educational facilities accessibility can provide useful indicators in social auditing. These indicators reflect the better functioning of social systems, higher health and educational standards.

**Social Component:** Social component measures social relationships and provide understanding, about general living conditions which is availability of telephones, transport facilities, housing, sanitation and opportunities for the individuals to express themselves and get empowered .

**Conducting a Social Audit:** Social Auditors should decide the type of information according to the study purpose and should fix the reasonable time period for auditing. People can't recollect or tell about the programs / schemes feedback of many years ago. It's better to confine the social auditing period for last one year. The auditors should prepare suitable formats for required information.

**Social Audit to Whom:** The scope of the social audit may differ according to government institutions, civil society and private enterprises. In the case of private enterprises, the focus is the financial viability, impact and community expectations. In case of NGOs, the focus is on maximum impact of the programs / schemes on the community.

**Key Steps in Social Audit:** There are various steps and activities involved in social auditing. Creating awareness in people about their rights, entitlements and obligations in scheme and program, preparing or motivating the people to participate in social auditing process, making formats, questionnaires and documents in simple and understandable way according to people's language, disseminating the collected information to people, by publicly displaying on boards or read the information aloud for the people in the case, if they are

illiterates and ensuring corrections or rectifications of schemes and programs according to the social auditing feedback.

### **Steps of a Social Audit**

There are six key steps in social auditing such as:

**1. Preparatory Activities:** Understanding the key principles of social audit, identifying the core values of the organization/program/ schemes, collecting the objectives of the scheme or program implementing organization, matching the organization activities with its objectives, mapping current practices and services delivery systems, fixing the responsibility for social auditing and budgeting for the social auditing.

**2. Defining Social Audit Boundaries and Identifying Stakeholders:** Formulating key issues of social audit according to the stated social objectives, designing purpose, objectives, key issues and activities, identifying the stakeholders from civil society and government departments, making agreement according to audit boundaries and formalizing commitments.

**3. Social Accounting and Book Keeping:** Selecting performance indicators, identifying existing records to use, identifying the additional data collection including the responsible persons and method and time, preparing stakeholders interactions and method, preparing social accounting plan and monitoring plan for social auditing activities.

**4. Preparing And Using Social Accounts:** Preparing social accounts by using the existing and collected data and feedback from stakeholders, identifying key issues, preparing objectives, activities and values and setting targets for future.

**5. Social Audit Report Dissemination:** Preparing social audit report based on submitted social accounts and stakeholders feedback, disseminating the final social audit report to the implementing organization and civil society and planning for next cycle of social accounting.

**6. Feedback and Institutionalization of Social Audit:** Submitting the social audit feedback aim to improve policy, legislative and administrative aspects and program orientation, followup action, review of civil society participation and institutionalization of the process.

Social audit's credibility depends on the administration, legislature, cultural circumstances and organizational values and social auditor's sincerity. This environment is required for best social audit. Presently, social audit output is influenced by the political leaders and department officials. Social auditors are also demanding bribe to cover the short comings in the schemes or programs. Social auditors are passing on information about their audit to the concerned officers or employees before the study begin. Social audit's one of the crucial concerns is to prevent corruption in schemes or programs implementation. Social auditors aren't properly disseminating the social audit report to the community and also social audit inputs aren't up to the mark.

Lack of transparency and accountability, are leading to so many short comings in schemes and programs implementation. Preventing these short comings and enhancing the performance of schemes, programs are essential to provide better services to the people.

**\*Livelihoods June-2013**

## 47. Universal Basic Income

***Universal Basic Income (UBI), a concept which proposes a no-conditions-attached basic income for all citizens of a country that adopts it, has been much in news the world over lately. UBI's advocate's claim that adopting this could help in providing a safety net to people in developed countries who face imminent large scale unemployment due to automation; while in poorer and developing nations, it could help attack acute poverty and its side effects like malnutrition, destitution, etc. The UBI debate has reached our Indian shores with a whole chapter being dedicated to UBI in the Economic Survey 2016-17, supporting its potential as a future tool against poverty. However, most of the world's economists, policy makers and social activists are at loggerheads with each other about UBI; with some idealists deeming it as a one-stop measure to a free and equitable world, while others being cynical about its over-simplified route to welfare.***



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Survey 2016-17, supporting its potential as a future tool against poverty. However, most of the world's economists, policy makers and social activists are at loggerheads, with each other about UBI; with some idealists deeming it as a one-stop measure to a free and equitable world, while others being cynical about its over-simplified route to welfare.

Introduction to the concept of Universal Basic Income: Social security systems have been used across the world, for helping the poor since time immemorial. The idea of provision of a basic income from the country to its citizens is not a new thing. A guaranteed minimum income had first been proposed by American political activist Thomas Paine in 1797. But a social security income has always been given conditionally, generally, to those who lacked means; therefore, these initiatives cannot be called universal. Most of the countries across the world over are running conditional basic income or in-kind (food, medicines, etc) based schemes to people, who meet certain criteria such as poverty, vulnerability, unemployment, homelessness, etc.

Universal Basic Income (UBI), on the other hand, is a type of social security that proposes to usher in a future, where every adult citizen in a country gets an income from the government to meet their basic needs irrespective of their socio-economic, employment, gender status. The fact that each and every citizen of a country that adopts UBI in its essence, will be getting this income irrespective to whether he is rich or poor forms the crux of a "Universal" Basic Income and is the difference between routine unemployment or poverty-based social security income.

Poverty and unemployment are two issues, that are not just plaguing developing countries, but also the rich, developed countries. Over half of the world's population lives on less than 1.9USD per day. Most of them don't have access to food, homes, education, sanitation, and healthcare. On one hand, developing countries have been spending money in trillions for battling poverty and related issues by running a variety of social welfare schemes, like social security income or in-kind benefits; the results, however, have been slow and tedious, with bureaucratic expenditure, red-tapism and corruption acting as hurdles. In the end, poor are not able to get 50%

of what the governments have allocated to them. While on the other hand, developed countries are facing large rates of unemployment; a by-product of mechanization, outsourcing of work and automation replacing fallible human resources. The presidential election results, in some developed countries will vouch for how unemployment card has played a huge role in swinging public opinion in developed nations. According to some reports, 50% of the jobs in the market, might be replaced by artificial intelligence by 2030.

In this scenario, concept of Universal Basic Income, which proposes the provision of an assured income to every citizen of a country to cover his/her basic expenses, is being advocated by tech giants like Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk and co., citing large-scale loss of jobs in developed countries due to automation taking over manual jobs in the near future. Therefore, an income for all people covering basic necessities like food, housing, etc will help people live life without worrying about life's uncertainties and people don't have to work in unsatisfactory jobs just to make a living. Moreover, UBI in a poverty-ridden developing country, intellectuals and social activists argue, will help in attacking acute poverty and malnutrition levels at the grassroots level and will have resounding positive impacts on education, sanitation, child and women mortality rates. However, the problem of how people may react to almost "free money" is anybody's guess at this stage. The incentive to work may lessen in those getting UBI, thereby, impacting economies. Yes, UBI is a well-intentioned almost utopian method of providing welfare to people. But the concept is in its testing stages, with no research backing its positive impacts to apply it on neither a large scale nor negative repercussions to throw it out.

Finland was the first to announce its decision of trying out UBI, too much hype and fanfare, but when it did roll out the trial, it started the trial on a meagre 2000 unemployed volunteers, who gave up on other benefits, for two years. An important point that distinguishes it from unemployment based income is that the volunteers will continue getting the income even, if they take up employment in these two years. However, other countries are going to try it on small villages and areas.

Coming to gauging UBI's impact in poor countries, an American charity called Give Directly has recently started a large scale trial in Kenya. Wherein, it will test giving basic income to three groups of 6000 each in different patterns (such as one group getting monthly basic income of \$20 each for 12 years; second group getting \$20 for only for two years; and the third group getting the two year income in one-go). These three groups will be compared with the rest of the surrounding villages that have not been provided with a basic income. The results, whatever they might be, are being awaited by the whole world.

**UBI in India:** India, as a welfare state, has been running many social welfare mechanisms since its inception. Our Constitution and its makers laid great focus on social equality and welfare. At the time of independence, around 47-50% of the population was in abject poverty. Ridding India of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, ill health, unemployment, etc were a matter great importance to the country. Seventy years later, the fact that these problems are still a matter of grave concern and are still progress is disheartening. Yes, the percentage of poor people has come down to 21% of our population according to national estimates (₹35-40 per day); but if we take international criteria for determining poverty (less than USD1.90 per day), the numbers will increase alarmingly. Furthermore, the rich-poor divide is increasing with the top 1% of the population owning more than 50% of the wealth in the world.

It is not that the schemes and mechanisms are not in place; the government of India has been running more than 900 welfare schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for providing work to labour in lean season, Mid-day Meal Scheme (MDM) for improving nutrition among school children, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for promoting education for all, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for housing and giving many subsidies such as food through Public Distribution System (PDS), etc.

Though allocation is a major problem- as spending on critical areas such as Education and Healthcare is much lesser than most other developing countries (in budget 2017-18, for instance, allocations for schemes such as MGNREGS, SSA, MDM, National Health Mission (NHM) have not increased much from the previous budget); it is implementation, which is the major roadblock to development in our country. According to sources, only around ¼th of the amount allocated to schemes reaches grassroots level beneficiaries, as the bureaucratic expenditure, leakages, middlemen, eat into allocated sum.

Furthermore, the biggest failing has been in identifying most deserving beneficiaries from people, as poorest of the poor people are left out of the system and lack access to schemes meant for them. The menace of fake beneficiaries taking the identities of these genuine people and claiming food from PDS, getting houses under housing schemes, etc has been undermining the efforts of authorities. To counter this inequality and inefficiency is the main reason, noted economists and social activists are rooting for UBI in India; i.e., giving every citizen of India a fixed monthly income to meet his/ her basic needs. They further feel, that this move could directly attack at the problem of poverty and hunger, give vulnerable people and women a say in financial matters, improve

education, nutrition status of children, help people in crisis management, reduce crime rates, etc.

**Implementation of UBI:** Leaving aside the very problematic monetary matters for later discussion, the first question that arises is as to how you could give every citizen of a country a basic income without proper mechanisms in place to orchestrate it. The mass financial inclusion drive by current government in power with the of banks and banking correspondents may act as the foundation, for a basic income in the future. As on date, 30.64 crore people have Jan Dhan accounts.

The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) method, which has been started in 2013 as a measure to directly transfer benefits in schemes and subsidies to beneficiaries' bank accounts to stop leakage and ensure transparency and which has received general success in verifying beneficiaries, could be seen almost as a precursor to UBI. The DBT method is being implemented through the JAM route- Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhar cards and Mobile number. As the Jan Dhan accounts will be seeded with Aadhar cards and mobile numbers, the identification of people is easier to verify. This very same model could be replicated for UBI to ensure transparency.

However, even this being implemented on such a scale, there are still around 15-20% of people out of the banking systems. These people need to be brought into the system first.

Estimated cost and cost-cutting: Giving a universal basic income to every citizen is easier said than done. How much of a basic income could we afford to give and which would make a difference to people. ₹1000 per month or ₹12000 per year would be ideal, but just going by simple maths alone, would put the expense at 17 lakh core or almost equal to the total Indian budget expenditure of 2017-18.

A more plausible universal basic income of ₹500 per month or ₹6000 per year for every citizen of our country would cost around 8 lakh crores; or almost the entire amount spent by India on welfare schemes and subsidies. While ₹500 might actually be insufficient to make any change, the funds needed for even this amount may make government reluctant to continue to spend more on other critical sectors like health, education and welfare subsidies like PDS. This would sound like government shirking of its responsibilities towards its people by just doling out money leaving the welfare of people in their hands.

A UBI in India should not work as sole agent of welfare, but has to work as a complement around welfare schemes and expenditure. Which, monetarily at least, is not feasible for now. Experts suggest that in future, the money could come from removing corporate tax exemptions, subsidies in LPG, etc.

Criticisms: Not only in India, but around the world, there are many people, who have doubts regarding the success of giving a basic income to people, as this may act as a disincentive towards earning a living and breed laziness. However, as the UBI will typically be basic in nature in developing countries, barely covering expenses, this may not be a problem. But, it will certainly drive the wage labour rates up; this in turn will increase cost of agriculture up. UBI brings in more bargaining power to the poor people, which is again a positive outcome. In India, men are the ones to access financial services. In that case, will a UBI meant for covering basic necessities be used for buying those by them or will they be used for demerit goods on alcohol and tobacco. Another important issue is the "universal" in UBI; why would a person owning luxury goods such as ACs and cars, need a basic income for? The experts may argue that it is already happening through corruption in our system, but knowingly giving a basic income to a rich person will be a waste of precious money meant for the poor.

Alternatives: Instead of a UBI it is better to start with a targeted basic income for women, as this will ensure financial inclusion for women and the chance of it getting utilized for family expenditure and children's education and nutrition. Or removing the top 25% of those earning or the creamy layer from basic income could reduce the burden. Moreover, starting a uniform pension for the old on a large scale could be taken up. Even if, UBI were to be taken up, it could be started in a small way in areas, where the poverty rates are very high, as this will help retrace our mistake in case of failure of UBI.

Conclusion: The discussion on UBI has been simmering for a while, now all over the world and has been gaining momentum with a couple of countries running trial runs, some countries rejecting it outright, and others on the verge of implementing it. UBI is probably the likely future of the world. But the purchasing power of money keeps changing, just giving money to people and expecting them to take care of themselves, will not do. The UBI should be a component of welfare schemes and should not be a lone welfare measure. Developed countries already have the infrastructure and money necessary for other sectors and can manage to give UBI without worry. In India, however, the huge spending it entails will leave little money available for important sectors. India may probably implement it in future, but until we can the answer, where the money will come from, it is better to go for a Targeted Basic Income.

**\*livelihoods December-2017**

## 48. Aspirations of a Common Person

*16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections are coming. People have been electing public representatives since the last 6 decades with hope of better life and livelihoods. In the last 15 elections, in 63 years many political parties came with different election manifestos promising many things to the people particularly to the poor. In this period, many schemes and programs were designed to eradicate poverty and provide livelihoods support to the people. Different schemes were introduced to provide basic needs of the people such as food, health, education, electricity, housing etc to the people in the part their election manifestos and pressure from people to materialize those promises. Lakhs of crores expenditure was invested in to those schemes and programs. Poverty has been existing along with hundreds number of schemes and poverty elimination programs poverty also existing for decades. According to World Bank Report (2010) 32.27% of the people are below poverty line with very less income US\$ 1.25 per day and 68.7% people living with only US\$ 2 per day. Employment, food security, housing, health, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity, transport, minimum support prices, social security, insurances are stressing problems of the in the poor in the country. Basic needs prices have been increasing in an unimaginable way. Poor are struggling to survive with skyrocketing prices.*



Agriculture Sector which has been providing employment to more than half of the population in the country has been facing problem for 3 decades. Large numbers of small and marginal farmers are dependent upon agriculture in rural areas. They are not even getting minimum income from the agriculture. Farmer's suicides are very high in the country. The uneven rains, increasing inputs cost, fluctuations of the crops prices, lack of support systems are putting huge burden on farmers. Second largest employment providing occupation weaving is also facing problems. With the increasing input cost and severe competition with power looms they push the weaving sector into the vulnerable condition. Small scale industries and cottage industries are facing tremendous pressure from big industries. Lack of investment and increasing production cost taking these industries to sick stage. Productivity has been gradually decreasing and unable to provide income to the dependent communities in fishing and Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). Different sections of the people like farmers, weavers, artisans, agriculture, wage labourers, fishermen, small entrepreneurs, NTFP collectors, small produces, and unemployed persons are suffering with serious livelihoods related problems. The coming government should focus on the problems of the various sections of the people and design & implement the schemes and programs to meet their needs. Here, their major demands as follows:

### **Farmers:**

- \* Governments ensure that, every farmer should get minimum Rs. 50,000/- income per year.
- \* Agriculture products prices should be 50% higher than the production cost.
- \* Provide in time and sufficient agriculture loans to the farmers at 3 % interest rate.
- \* Provide seeds, fertilizers and pesticides sufficiently with 50% subsidy rates through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS).
- \* Include small farmers' agriculture works particularly harvesting works in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- \* Provide crop compensation of minimum Rs. 10,000/- per acre.
- \* Establish agricultural based industries in villages.
- \* Provide in time and sufficient agriculture extended services.

- \* Establish cold storages in each major Gram Panchayat (GP).
- \* Ban Genetically Modified (GM) crops until those crop are proven safe.
- \* Allot 50% of research investment to promote organic practices research and promotion.
- \* Increase investment research to enhance crops productivity and endurance.
- \* Setup farmers training centers and include organic farming in the curriculum and use best farmers as resource persons in trainings.
- \* Strengthen utilize the resources for their livelihoods enhancement and lobbying for policies to support agriculture
- \* Establish village level collective procurement centers.
- \* Establish kiosk centers in every major gram panchayat to provide update information about seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, best practices and crops prices.

**Weavers:**

- \* Separate handloom and textiles and allot separate budget to handloom.
- \* Provide raw material including yarn (warp, weft & jari), colours, chemicals and machinery with 50% subsidy
- \* Increase health scheme amount from Rs. 15,000 to Rs.30, 000/-.
- \* Increase weavers pension from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000/-.
- \* Establish Andhra Pradesh Cooperative (APCO) procurement centers at society level (10 to 15 villages).
- \* Increase handloom budget to Rs. 5000/- crores.
- \* Provide life insurance to all weavers and increase insurance amount from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 2 Lakhs.
- \* Provide loans to all weavers at 3% interest rate.
- \* Provide exhibitions across the country to handloom products.
- \* Include handloom works in MGNREGS.
- \* Reduce production cost and ensure to Rs. 50,000 income per weaving family per year/-.
- \* Provide training to weavers on new designs according to present generations' requirements.

**Labour:**

- \* Provide employment 270 working days per year to all kinds of labours.
- \* Minimum wage should be Rs. 150 /- in rural areas and Rs. 250/- in urban areas to the labour.
- \* Ensure equal wages to men and women.
- \* Provide skills up gradation programs.
- \* Provide insurance to all labours and increase the compensation amount up to Rs. 2 Lakhs.
- \* Establish day care centers at work places for labour children.
- \* Provide safe drinking water facility at work places.
- \* Provide health insurance to all labours.
- \* Provide special schools to migrant labours' children.
- \* Ensure safety measures at work places.
- \* Provide 150 work days per eligible labour under MGNREGS.

**Artisans:**

- \* Establish village level and occupation based artisan collective and provide training to meet the market needs.
- \* Provide sheds and electricity to the artisans.
- \* Establish and promote research institutes to develop new design according to consumer's interest.
- \* Provide raw material at subsidy rate.
- \* Provide loans at 3% interest.
- \* Provide tax exemption on artisans' products and their raw material.
- \* Establish district level artisans cooperatives under PCs.
- \* Artisans' products should be patented.
- \* Organize exhibitions and promote artisans products.
- \* Provide insurance to all artisans.
- \* Provide quality health and education facilities to all artisan families.
- \* Provide reservation for artisan products in government institutions

**Small Entrepreneurs:**

- \* Provide raw material and uninterrupted electricity at subsidy prices.
- \* Provide loan at 3% interest.
- \* Provide skill trainings to the small entrepreneurs.
- \* Invest in research & in designing suitable technologies for small entrepreneurs.
- \* Provide safety measures to protect from corporate.
- \* Make easy accessibility to get permissions and license.
- \* Provide all types of insurances.
- \* Organize entrepreneurs in collectives.
- \* Protect from the harassments of local rowdies and police personnel at business places.
- \* Create and promote suitable environment to entrepreneurship development.
- \* Design policies to promote small entrepreneurship.

**Workers in Unorganized Sector:**

- \* Increase the wages according to the inflation.
- \* Ensure safe conditions at work places.
- \* Ensure to implement labour Acts in the industries and factories.
- \* Ensure unionization in industries and factories
- \* Provide sufficient compensation at the time accidents.
- \* Provide basic needs at work places.
- \* Provide health and life insurance to the workers.
- \* Provide quality education to the workers' children.

**NTFP Collectors:**

- \* Provide minimum prices to Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP).
- \* Ensure right to tribals to access NTFP produces from forest.
- \* Form NTFP collectors' collectives.
- \* Establish collective NTFP procurement centers.
- \* Provide insurance to NTFP collectors.
- \* Provide quality health and education facilities to NTFP families.
- \* Provide training on NTFP collection.
- \* Provide tools to NTFP collectors.
- \* Provide loans at 0 % interest rate.
- \* Involve NTFP tribals in forest regeneration and preservation activities.
- \* Ensure to get 270 working days with Rs. 150 /- per day to per person to all NTFP collectors.

There are millions of people depending on various livelihoods. They are facing different problems and getting minimum income from their livelihoods. They are struggling to meet basic needs and livelihoods enhancement. They need lot of direct and indirect support and services to their lives and livelihoods. These 16th elections may save some of their aspirations.

**Interviews:****Vote to Sincere Candidate**

**Taddy Mahesh (24) is Marketing Executive at a Pharmaceutical Company in Visakhapatnam. His native place is Nayuduvalasa, Vizianagaram District.**

**How many members are there in your family?**

We are 3 members in the family –me, my mother and brother. They live in my native village Nayuduvalasa of Vizianagaram district. My mother is a daily wage labourer and my brother is a student.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous election?**

Yes I casted my vote in the last election.

**What were your expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected that the candidates would provide welfare and some development programs to the people.

**Did you receive any benefits?**



No, I did not get any benefits from the party and government in last elections.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming elections. I want to cast my vote for a sincere candidate who will work for the development of their constituency. My only demand is that everybody should get the benefits entitled to them from the government. These should not be held back or delivered late.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

My financial problems increase every passing day. Price rise in food and essential commodities has only made life more difficult. I hope the next government would take measures to control prices.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

Yes, since my family is a white-card holder (BPL) we are entitled to a host of schemes. However, I got only college fee reimbursement from the government this year.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to develop my skills in my career and get good opportunity.

### **Reduce Commodities' Prices**

**P. Balaram Singh (50) working as a *dhobi* & Ironing to clothes in Dhoolpet, Hyderabad.**

**Tell us about your family?**

We are 6 members in the family - Me, my wife, 3 sons and 1 daughter.

**What is your present occupation? How much do you earn per month?**

I run a laundry. I earn Rs 400/- day, besides my wife also runs a laundry shop in Dhoolpet she earns Rs. 200/- day.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous election?**

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous elections 7 times.

**What were your expectations when you casted your vote?**

I wanted the government to act on reducing the commodity prices, create more jobs. I was also expecting to avail a scheme to from the government to construct a house.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I will cast my vote. I hope to get financial support from the government towards the construction of a new house, create more jobs.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

My children don't have a job even though they are graduates. Besides that, I have no proper house to live in.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

I take my ration from the PDS shop.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to open a new laundry shop; provide good jobs to my children.

### **Loan For Own House**

**Nagesh (22) is running a Chat stall at Kachiguda, Hyderabad.**

**Tell us about your family?**

We are 6 members in the family - my father, mother, 3 sisters and me. We are an agricultural family and back in our village.

**What is your present occupation? How much do you earn per day/month?**

I am running a chat stall near Kachiguda Railway station, Hyderabad. I earned Rs 500/day.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?**

Yes, I have voted in the previous elections.

**What were your expectations when you casted your vote?**

I hoped the government would support me in building my own house, availing financial support for my business, etc.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I will cast my vote. My expectations remain unchanged; I hope to get financial support from the government to construct a new house.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

I am the only earning member in the family. At times, I earn only Rs 100 to 200/- day. I struggle to support my family.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

I get ration from the PDS and a subsidized gas cylinder.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to open a sweet shop.

### **Reduce Petrol Prices**

**Pasha (40) is an Auto Driver in Hyderabad.**

**Tell us about your family.**

We are totally 4 members in the family. They are my wife, and two children, 1 boy and 1 girl.

**What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per day/month?**

I am an auto driver. I have been in this profession for the past 11 years. Before that I used to work as a mechanic. I earn Rs 10,000/month.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?**

Yes, I casted my vote in the previous elections.

**What were your expectations when you casted your vote?**

Yes, when I voted I hoped that the government would do something to decrease petrol prices and financial support from the government to buy a car and start a taxi service. I also want support to build a house.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I will cast my vote. I expect that I may get financial support from the government to buy a car and own a new house.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

I don't have enough money to provide quality education my children.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

I am accessing the PDS scheme, subsidized gas cylinder.

**What are your future plans?**

I want to start a taxi service.

### **Provide Employment**

**Mahesh Kumar (25) is running a small provision shop in Narayanaguda, Hyderabad.**

**Tell us about your family.**

I live with my parents and my brother. My parents stay at home. My brother just finished his MBA.

**What is your present occupation? How much do you earn per month?**

I am running a small provision shop. I earned 8000 /month.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?**

Yes I have casted my vote in the previous 2 elections.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected the government will give me employment opportunity; and reduce the prices of the commodities.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I expect the government to support livelihoods of the poor and provide financial assistance to the poor.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

Yes, I got PDS ration card, subsidized gas cylinder card under the scheme of Deepam and the government gave flat to my grandfather.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to get employment in public sector (job of any kind).

### **Provide Health Services**

**Laxmi (40) is Bamboo product vendor in Barkatpura, Hyderabad.**

**Tell us about your family.**

We are 5 members in the family - 2 sons and one daughter. My daughter is married.

**What is your present occupation? How much do you earn per day/month?**

I have been running a shop which sells baskets and other bamboo products for 25 years now. I earn Rs 7000/- per month.

**Did you cast your vote in the previous elections?**

Yes, I casted my vote in the previous election. I have voted in 6 elections.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected that the government would provide me an Aarogyasri card, and some financial support.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I am not getting any financial support from the government. I want to expand my shop with the money.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I will cast my vote. I expect to get financial support from the government to construct a new house and new shop.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

We are facing some health problems, besides this Traffic police are collecting from us is Rs. 200/- per month.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the government? If so, what are they?**

I benefit from the PDS scheme, subsidized cylinder from the government.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to open a new tent house shop.

### **I Didn't Get Benefits**

**Bibi (50) is a Rag picker in Hyderabad. Her family migrated from Mallepally, Nizamabad.**

**Tell us about your family.**

I live with my husband and daughter.

**What is your present occupation? How much do you earn per day/month?**

I collect waste papers, plastic bags and other reusable items from the garbage. I earn Rs 300/day. The work is not frequent. Some days I get Rs 500, other day Rs 150. My income depends upon the availability of waste papers.

**Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?**

Yes, I have casted my vote in the previous 3 elections.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

Yes, I thought I would get financial assistance life loans from the government.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I will cast my vote. My expectations were not met last time. So they remain the same. I hope to get some financial assistance from the government or party for building a new house.

**What kind of problems do you face in your daily life?**

The prices of food and essential commodities are increasing every day. This is making things tough. Our living conditions are already so bad, it is only worsening now. I hope the new government would be more in tune with our needs.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

I have not got any benefit from any government scheme.

**What are your future plans?**

My immediate plan is to build a house for my family.

**Should Work For People**

**Prameela (30) is running a Flour mill in Manikeshwarnagar, Secunderbad.**

**What is your educational qualification?**

I have studied till 7th class and dropped out of the school because of financial constraints.

**What is your family background? How many members are there in your family?**

I live along with my husband and 2 children who are presently pursuing their education. Till date they are being educated in the government school. As my child got a good result in his 10th class examination I am thinking of getting him admitted into a private college. My family stays at Manikeshwarnagar, Tarnaka, Secunderbaad.

**What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?**

I run a small shop which houses a flour-mill. I earn nearly Rs 3,000/- per month.

**Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?**

Yes, I have cast my vote in the last election.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected that the elected representatives would note the people concerns and would take care of their problems. For example - our area has an overflowing drainage but even though many representatives have come by, none of them have sorted the problem.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I have not been entitled to any of the benefits. 3 years ago I paid some amount towards the housing scheme announced by the government. Till date I haven't received any communication from their side. I am not a member of any SHG.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I am willing to participate in the upcoming elections. I want a promise on the provision of basic amenities like housing and education of my children, as majority of the expenses are towards the rent and education of my children.

**What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?**

I am not able to provide quality education to my children even though they are performing well in their studies because of insufficient income. Besides, the prices are continuously increasing making family sustenance difficult.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

No, I am not entitled to any of the benefits given by the government.

**What are your future plans?**

I would like to develop my business given the support of the government in the form of soft loans and lead a happy secure life in my own house.

**No Benefits Received**

**RayabandaVenkata Chary (31) is a Photographer / TV repairer in Julur in Pochampally.**

**What are your educational qualification and your native village?**

I have studied up to SSC. I belong to Julur Village, Pochampally Mandal, Nalgonda District.

**What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?**

There are 4 members in my family. I have 1 1/2 acres land in the village and I gave my land to lease. My wife is a member in a Self Help Group in the village. She does tailoring in the village.

**What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?**

I am a Photographer in the village. I take photos for marriages and functions. Besides this work I repair electronic items. In the off-season, I do TV repairing work in the village. From the Photography I earn approximately Rs.60, 000 and from the TV repairing Rs. 40,000 per year.

**Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?**

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous 2 elections.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected that the candidate would do some development activities for people in the village.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

I did not get any benefits from the government. I had hoped that the candidate would develop our region. But they did not do proper work.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I am very much willing to vote in the upcoming elections. Being a small entrepreneur I would demand that I and everyone in my village to get eligibility to entitlements from the coming government. I expect that the candidate should provide better services to poor through schemes, loans and development programs.

**What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?**

There is a huge competition and a lack of credit availability. I hope in coming elections a good person will win and from that person we will get better services to our village. These days inflation is there, all rates are increasing and we are not able to meet the family expenditure. Present ruling government is not doing anything to reduce inflation.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

So far, I did not get any benefits from the government. I have applied for Indiramma house in the village but I did not get a house from the scheme.

**What are your future plans?**

I want to construct a house in the village and establish a Photo Studio in Pochampally and I want to give better education to my children.

**Elders Should Get Entitlements**

**Vegi Mahalaxmi (60) is Secretary to Elders Manda IMahila Samakhya in Korukonda mandal, East Godavari district.**

**What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?**

I am illiterate. I did not go to school due to financial constraints. I live alone at home. I have two sons. They are married and stay separately in our village. My husband died 5 years ago.

**What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?**

As I am 60 years, I am not able to work. But I am a member of an Elders Self Help Group (ESHG) in my village. It is one of the ESHGs formed in our (Korukonda) mandal under the name Karuna Project by HelpAge India. From the last 2 years, I have also been the Secretary of Mandala Samakhya (MS). I do not have an income.

**Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?**

Yes, I have cast my vote in the previous election.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I expected the candidate, who won in the last election to fulfill his promise of development in our village. But no such thing has happened.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

No, I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

Yes, I am willing to vote in the upcoming election. I want to vote for a good candidate who will work for the growth and development of my constituency. I want to demand the upcoming government to give the eligible people whatever they are entitled to under the various government schemes. I want better roads and sanitation facilities in my village.

**What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?**

I do not have any financial problems. But I have some health problems due to my age.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

Yes, I got a house loan through one of the schemes. I am also eligible for PDS.

**What are your future plans?**

I don't have any future plans. Elders' should get all entitlements from the government.

**Provide Good Education**

**KasaboguYacobu (48) is construction labour in Kurnool.**

**What is your educational qualification? What is your native village?**

I have studied till 7th class. I stay at Dharmapeta in Kurnool.

**What is your family background? How many members are there in your family and what are their conditions of life?**

We are 7 members at home. My family consists of me, my wife and 5 children. My wife is working as daily wage labour in Kurnool. My daughters are working as maids at apartments in Kurnool. They are also doing their B.Tech and Inter.

**What is your present occupation? If employed, how much do you earn per month?**

I work as a construction labour in Kurnool. I earn Rs. 5000 per month. I get about 15-20 days of work for month.

**Did you cast your vote in the previously held election?**

Yes, I did. But my vote was declared invalid. I never found out why, I assume it was a casualty of corrupt politics.

**What were your fundamental expectations when you casted your vote?**

I didn't expect anything; anyway I was thoroughly disappointed in the political system after my vote was declared invalid for no evident reason.

**Did the government live up to your expectations?**

No, I did not get any benefits from the government.

**Are you willing to vote in the upcoming elections? If yes, what are your demands for the elected representatives?**

No, I am not willing to vote in the upcoming election. But, as a common man I would demand the upcoming government to give the eligible people whatever they are entitled for under the various government schemes. Under labour act, every labourer should get work and wage from the government. And government should provide good education to the children of construction labourers. Labourers should get more welfare schemes.

**What are the fundamental problems that are being faced in your daily life?**

I have financial problems. I am not able to meet family expenditures and children education fees also. I get construction labour work only 15-20days in every month and the rest of the days I am staying at home idly.

**Are you entitled to any of the schemes being implemented by the governments? If so, what are they?**

Yes, I am getting PDS from the government.

**What are your future plans?**

In future, I want to give better education to my children and I hope that they would settle in a good position.

**\*Livelihoods November-2013**

## 49. Sustainable Development Goals

*25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, marked an important day at the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit, where world leaders adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2030, which included a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality, injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals otherwise known as the Global Goals, were built on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and had eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieve by 2015.*



25<sup>th</sup> September 2015, marked an important day at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, where world leaders adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2030, which included a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality, injustice and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs otherwise known as the Global Goals, were built on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and had eight anti-poverty targets, that the world committed to achieve by 2015. The MDGs, on the other hand, which were adopted in theyear 2000, mainly aimed at an array of issues, such as slashing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality and access to water and sanitation. A good amount of progress has been made on the MDGs; however, despite

this success, the indignity of poverty had not ended for all. The MDGs showed the value of a unifying agenda, underpinned by goals and targets. The new SDGs and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. It is clear that the SDGs will now finish the job of the MDGs and would also ensure that no one is left behind.

Need for SDGs is to transform the world by 2030, SDGs are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators, that the UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. The need for SDGs rose from the eight MDGs which were focused on the following: reduce poverty and hunger; achieve universal education; promote gender equality; reduce child and maternal deaths; combat HIV, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; develop global partnership; wherein, it failed to consider the root causes of poverty and also overlooked gender inequality, as well as the holistic nature of development. The goals had made no mention of human rights and did not specifically address economic development. MDGs , in theory, applied to all the countries, but in reality, they were considered targets for the poor countries to achieve finance from wealthy states. Conversely, every country will be expected to work towards achieving the SDGs. We are aware that although MDG deadlines are approaching, around 1 billion people are still living on less than \$. 1.25 a day; and according to the World Bank's measure on poverty, there are more than 800 million people who are not having enough food to eat, women are still continuing to fight hard for their rights, and millions of women are still dying during childbirth.

How do we understand these goals and why do we need them now? The world needs to end poverty in all forms; end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; ensure inclusive and equitable quality education; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment; build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; reduce inequality within and among countries; make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; take urgent action to

combat climate change and its impacts; conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources; protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. The above agenda is built on the MDGs, which were adopted in 2000 and were to be achieved by 2015; however, with 2015 drawing to a close, it was time to call for a new set of goals. There were discussions on the lines of “do we actually need another set of global goals?”. The document was viewed more as a political document, as criticisms poured in that 17 goals with 169 targets make it a complex task to monitor, ensure reporting and hold governments accountable. It is for the first time, that all nations are to adopt the same set of goals, regardless of their relative position on the development continuum, given that emerging economies in the developing world will play a significant role as donors in their own right, even as the developing world negotiates with the developed world to keep its commitments on ODA and other forms of financial structural reform, the goals are more than just 17 desirables.

How were the SDGs framed? Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs were chosen; wherein, the UN had conducted its largest consultation programme to gauge the opinion on, what the SDGs should include. As we are aware that establishing post-2015 goals was primarily an outcome of the Rio+20 summit in 2012, which mandated the creation of an open working group to come up with a draft agenda. The open working group, which had representatives from 70 countries, had held its first meeting in March 2013 and had published its final draft, with its suggestions amounting to 17 in number, in July 2014. The draft was presented to the UN general assembly in September 2014. The Member states negotiations followed, and the final wording of the goals and targets and the preamble and declaration that came were agreed in August 2015. On the parallel side, the UN had conducted a series of “global conversations”, which included 11 thematic and 83 national consultations and door-to-door surveys. Further on, the UN also launched an online “My World Survey”, asking people to prioritize the areas they would like to see addressed in the goals, and the results of these consultations were simultaneously fed into the working group discussions. Though all the Member states agreed on 17 goals, a few governments were not happy about the goals because they felt that the agenda consisting of 17 goals was too unwieldy to implement and preferred for a narrower brief; however, many others believed that fewer goals would mean not being able to address some critical issues, such as women’s empowerment, good governance and peace and security. The negotiations that lasted from 2012 to 2015, with 193 Member States of the UN as participants, agreed upon the new document titled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The agenda contains 17 goals and 169 targets, and the goals are to be achieved by all member countries within the next fifteen years.

The SDG Goals are:

- ◆ End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- ◆ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- ◆ Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- ◆ Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girl
- ◆ Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- ◆ Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- ◆ Promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- ◆ Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- ◆ Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- ◆ Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- ◆ Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ◆ Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum).
- ◆ Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



- ◆ Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.
- ◆ Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- ◆ Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

What is the SDG framework all about? The proposed SDGs offer major improvements on the MDGs. The proposed SDGs' framework addresses key systematic barriers for sustainable development; the areas which the MDGs had neglected i.e., inequality, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity and environmental degradation. The SDG framework would benefit from an overall narrative, articulating as to how the goals will lead to broader outcomes for the people and the planet. The current SDG framework does not identify the wide range of social groups that will need to be mobilized to deliver on the goals as agents of change alongside governments. In total, if one looks at the SDG targets, out of 169 targets, 49 (29%) are considered well developed, 91 (54%) could be strengthened by being more specific and 29 (17%) require significant work. The key agreements include post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (FDRR), the UNFCCC negotiations with the new climate agreement, expected in December 2015, and the process on financing for development. The report also suggests harmonization of targets with the Aichi Biodiversity (AB) targets and ILO social protection floors. How will the SDGs be funded? The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), has put the rough calculations; the cost of providing a social safety net to eradicate extreme poverty at about \$66bn (£43bn) a year, while the annual investments in improving infrastructure such as water, agriculture, transport, power could be up to a total of \$ 7tn globally. In a report, the committee clearly stated that the money generated from the private sector, through tax reforms and through a crackdown on illicit financial flow and corruption was vital. Indicators for measuring the SDGs goals: As of now, the indicators are still being thrashed out by an expert group, and also that each indicator is being assessed for its feasibility, relevance and suitability, and it is estimated that roughly around two indicators for each target are expected. The indicators are due to be finalized by March 2016.

How will the SDGs be implemented? All the goals are interlinked; thus, many of the targets may also contribute to several goals, and some goals and targets may come into conflict. By tackling targets in an integrated way the desired results can be achieved by many targets. For Instance, "SDG 1's progress on ending poverty cannot be achieved without progress on the food security target under SDG 2 and also macroeconomic policies related to targets on full and productive employment and decent work under SDG 8. The reduction of inequality under SDG 10 cannot be achieved, without enhancing resilience to climate change under SDG 13, success in these will lead to better health and well being, thus contributing to achievement of SDG 3." The roles of SDGs and UNDP; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SDGs are connected, as UNDP's strategic plan's focus areas encompass sustainable development, democratic governance, peace building, climate and disaster resilience. Central to UNDP's current work and long-term plans are SDGs on poverty, inequality and governance. SDG number 1 on poverty, number 10 on inequality and number 16 on governance are particularly central to UNDP's current work and long-term plans. Having an integrated approach, to support progress across the multiple goals, is crucial for achieving the SDG Goals, and UNDP is uniquely placed to support the process. It is important to understand that UNDP supports countries in three different ways through the MAPS Approach: Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS).

- ◆ Providing support to governments to reflect the new global agenda in national development plans and policies; this work is already underway in many countries at national request;
- ◆ Supporting countries to accelerate progress on SDG targets. In this, they will make use of their extensive experience over the past five years with the MDG Acceleration Framework; and
- ◆ Making the UN's policy expertise on sustainable development and governance available to governments at all stages of implementation.

Collectively, all the partners involved can support by communication of the new agenda, strengthening partnerships for implementation and filling gaps/lacunae in available data for monitoring and review. Also, as Co-Chair of the UNGD Sustainable Development Working Group, UNDP will lead the preparation of Guidelines for National SDG reports, which are relevant and appropriate for the countries in which they work. As of now, UNDP is already deeply involved in all processes around the SDG roll out, and also that they have the extensive

programming experience to support countries to develop their national SDG effort. SDGs will become applicable from January 2016 and the deadline for the SDGs is 2030.

What would be the key challenges for SDGs? The first would be monitoring and review, for any effective and accountable governance, monitoring and review mechanisms are essential; thus, they should be integrated into implementation mechanisms of the SDGs from early stages. From the institutional perspective, the need of the hour is to make sure that monitoring, review and reporting mechanisms are integrated into policy making processes at all levels, and the information is effectively used for improving decisions. Second on conflicting perspectives; One of the key challenges, that would emerge is the sheer volume and complexity of the diverse set of socio-economic environmental data and indicators, which may provide conflicting perspectives on progress. Best Measurement and Assessment: Principles for the measurement and assessment practices will be needed and would also pose a challenge. This challenge can be addressed by establishing scientifically consistent and transparent protocols, common ontologies and conceptual frameworks for indicators that would reflect systematic perspectives. Compliance with norms and their implementation would depend either on the political will of the decision-makers or on the capacities of local actors and institutions. Discussing gaps and barriers is another key challenge, which can be addressed by sharing lessons, learning lessons, finding best practices and making recommendations.

What are the challenges in the Indian context? Defining indicators to measure outcomes will pose a challenge. Financing SDGs is another major issue, so the government needs to devote a significant portion of their resources on the social sector; otherwise, there would be a significant funding gap. Monitoring and ownership is a very significant problem, and it would be a mammoth task to be addressed, as ownership should be both at the state and local level. Measuring progress will be a critical issue, in terms of periodicity issues and incomplete coverage of administrative data. The biggest challenge is to address economic inequality in the country, as one can witness it to be the visible aspect of economy, which entails inequality of opportunities accentuated by gender, ethnicity, disability and age. India is emerging as the world's second largest economy with 15% of the global labour force. However, rapid growth has not transformed the labour market and the employment conditions in the country. As the distribution of income and expenditures has become more unequal; poor people have not gained sufficiently from rapid economic growth. It is very clear that the poor human development attainment is linked to poverty, which contributes to an inequitable growth process and lost economic opportunities for the poor. As an inclusive economic growth model is necessary to promote equitable access to resources and services, so as to create decent jobs and livelihoods for all women and men. This can be attained, when both central and state governments take to transparency, accountability and effective utilization of the tax money towards social welfare measures, invest and improve on human development and not drain allocated money into other activities. Thus, in order to achieve the goals by 2030, both the national and state governments need to identify priorities, decide on locally relevant policies, focus on institutional buildings, harnessing innovation, call for ensuring implementation and monitoring of plans to come close to SDGs. On the whole, one thing is quite clear, nations cannot eradicate poverty, until the root causes of economic inequalities are addressed, and this is where the SDGs can succeed where the others failed.

**\* livelihoods December-2015**

# **VI Vulnerable Groups**

## 50. Women & Livelihoods

***There are no “women specific” livelihoods. Women are everywhere. Women have consistently and for long proved that they can engage themselves in all livelihoods at par with/better than men. They have more physical stamina and mental endurance than men. In fact, women are exclusively sought after in some fields like teaching, care taking, counseling etc. At the grassroots level, women have increasingly come together and proved to be harbingers of positive change and development. The fact that various organizations, institutions, governments have been increasingly coming forward to work with women and their groups but not with men proves the point. However, lot of work done by women, particularly by the poor women goes unacknowledged. Household chores do not come into any reckoning.***

If we look at the history of human development from the perspective of livelihoods, it has happened in four stages -

- Hunter-gatherer;
- Subsistence agriculture;
- Small surplus production;
- Production for market.

In the hunter-gatherer stage division of work, between men and women was very basic and women played a pivotal role in various aspects of life.

Gradually human beings started agriculture and animal husbandry. The work division became more defined and explicit. Men were

taking up more tasks outside home under the sun like grazing cattle, plowing the fields, providing security to the group etc., while women took to more creative work, including food production, raising herbs, handicrafts, apart from raising children. Gradually, conflicts between clans to gain access to resources, including women raised its ugly head. While the men, on the losing side were eliminated women were taken as slaves. This paved way for the practice of polygamy and the importance of giving birth to children and raising children declined and perceived as routine. This simultaneously, led to perceived higher importance to the activities taken up by men. Polygamy provided more women labor engaged in food production. Increased food production, resulted in small surpluses and introduction of barter. Satellite occupations around agriculture economy like weaving, carpentry, pottery etc., came into being. Inter-dependent household economy emerged. As people gained more control over nature, men started focusing more on inter-household transactions and women were relegated to intra-household activities.

Control over nature increased agriculture productivity. The labor force was freed from agriculture work was able to get involved in army, entertainment, fine arts and other non-production activities. To facilitate this transition, the new activities were placed on a premium. Trade and market came into existence, for exchange of goods and services. Men having got their feet wet in inter-household transactions could quickly adapt to market needs and women remained in the background and were further pushed inside. The increased market transactions, called for monetary system, which in turn graduated into a capitalist system that ensured consolidation of men and women stereotypes in all spheres. The literature was also created to ensure this consolidation. Over the last 100 years, however slowly and steadily, some cracks have appeared for women to enter into spaces hitherto, reserved for men. Naturally, women started performing better, wherever they entered those spaces. Some men started acknowledging this reality and women also recognized that they have better capabilities and started demanding their rightful spaces. Changes are visible, systems are changing to accommodate the women force,

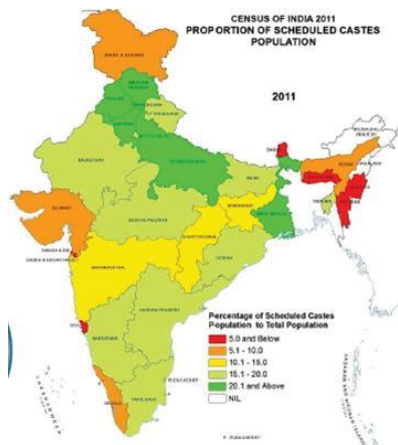


the tone of literature is changing, education is supporting, and statutes are also supporting this. Now there is hardly any space in which women have not entered. However, women have to go a long way in having equal rights and opportunities in all spheres. The society has to ensure that this happens double quick because, we have denied them all these for a very long time!

**\*Livelihoods October-2008**

## 51. SCs/STs/NTs

*Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Nomadic Tribes (NTs) are considered as marginalized groups in the country. Most of the poor people in India are in these groups. These communities have been denied basic services, opportunities, better livelihoods, social recognition, facilities etc. The illiteracy rate, malnutrition, infant mortality, health problems, landlessness, least participation in governance, rights violation, migration, displacement etc. are very high in these communities. Most of the livelihoods in these communities are traditional and non-remunerative and their livelihoods and resources are highly impacted by the on-going globalization, liberalization and privatization policies. On one side, these changes are providing some new opportunities, while on the other side they are enhancing these communities' vulnerable conditions.*



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SCs and STs are 16.6% and 8.6% respectively in the total population of the country. According to the 2011 census, there are 1241 individual ethnic groups in SC category and 705 tribal groups in ST category. Out of the 29 states and 7 Union Territories (UTs), Punjab and Haryana have no ST population; while Mizoram, Lakshadweep have the highest ST population (95%); Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Andaman Nicobar islands have no SC population; Punjab has the highest SC population (32%) in the country. The nomadic tribes and de-notified tribal people make up of nearly 60 million people. There are 315 nomadic tribes and 198 de-notified tribes in the country.

The SCs are called 'Dalits'. It means crushed or oppressed. Mostly, the SC communities' are located in rural, tribal and urban areas, and traditionally engaged in providing services and help in many activities in the villages. Traditionally, they depend on agricultural labour, removing animals carcasses, cleaning dead animals, as cobblers, as drummers in fairs, taking care of other people's cattle, helping in events, providing messages (Including delivering messages of death), cutting fire wood, manual scavenging, sweeping and cleaning drainages, keepers at the graveyard, village jogini or devadasi or matangi, grave digging, watching crops and water tanks, talari, construction works, performing of animal sacrifices, weaving etc. Many of these livelihoods are poorly paid and their works are also deemed as not respectable by the society. Lack of resources or capital and social stigma attached to their economical activities have denied them developmental results. They were excluded from the work opportunities in production, processing and sales. Almost, 77% of the SCs are landless laborers and without productive assets and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.

Because of reservations, SCs are accessing educational and employment opportunities. Now many people are shifting from their traditional livelihoods and doing government jobs, private jobs and running enterprises. Their situation has been gradually changing, but not at a desirable level. Many people, particularly in the villages are still in vulnerable conditions and surviving with least paid livelihoods. Most of the SCs are still in the clutches of

poverty. SCs have been facing various forms of discrimination and oppression for centuries by upper castes in the country. According to United Nations (UN), 2, 50,000,000 people have been suffering with different forms of discrimination and oppression across the world and out of this number, nearly 180,000,000 people are SCs belonging to our country. The discrimination and oppression are in-part due to untouchability. This untouchability has been preventing the SCs from the economical opportunities and social positions. With support of reservations and social welfare schemes, SCs got educational, employment opportunities and financial assistance for enterprises. Government has established different departments and made many schemes for the welfare of SCs. A number of Non-Governmental Organizations and societies like Society for Eradication of Rural Poverty (SERP) or Indira Kranthi Patham are working to enhance the livelihoods and rights of SCs. Only a small portion of SCs, who are better off than others in their community are accessing the benefits, but majority of sections or sub-groups are unable to access the benefits. These opportunities facilitate the changes in economical conditions of the SCs. Educated and employed SCs have awareness and fight their problems with the help of Constitutional Acts for their rights and self respect. These efforts are gradually facilitating changes in social conditions of SCs. The ongoing liberalization, privatization and globalization policies are providing new opportunities for a small section of people within SCs. However, most of the people are not benefitting from privatization. Earlier, they used to go government schools and hospital for education and health needs respectively, but now they are being forced to invest money on these services.

Scheduled Tribes (ST) are called Adivasis, which means aboriginals or indigenous. STs are also referred to as Tribals. STs are mainly located in the forest areas, hilly areas, rural and urban areas. Broadly, STs are categorized in five groups such as hilly tribes, plain tribes, nomadic tribes, de-notified tribes and primitive tribal groups. STs are unable to access basic facilities such as education, health, transport, electricity, telecom services etc., as they are mainly located in hilly and forest areas and also due to lack of concern in providing sufficient and quality services to the STs. They are accessing some facilities such as education and health institutions but these facilities are functioning poorly. Illiteracy, diseases, malnutrition and infant mortality are very high in STs. They are located in very resource-rich places but these resources are not utilized for the development of STs, instead because of these resources they are forced to displace from their homelands. Nearly, 8.5 million STs are displaced by hydro-electric dams, heavy industries, mines, steel plants, irrigation projects and highways. Almost, 55% of the displaced persons belong to the STs, in the country. STs are mainly dependent on shifting cultivation, NTFP collection, and livestock rearing and raising, basket making, making crafts, selling fake jewellery, wage labor, etc. These are less remunerative jobs and require a lot of hard work. The livelihoods of STs such as shifting cultivation, livestock rearing, NTFP collection, crafts making, fishing and hunting etc., are dependent on forests. Because of the climate changes, mining activities, irrigation projects and other developmental projects they are being pushed into more remote areas, which then shrinks the resources they need for their livelihoods. Middle men and traders are exploiting the STs because of their innocence and illiteracy; while forest officials are preventing them from collecting NTFP produce from the forest due to different forest protection Acts and animal conservation Acts. Declining resources for livelihoods and the many different types of development projects are forcing STs to migrate to towns and cities in search of livelihoods to survive. These migrated STs are engaging in unskilled-work like labors in small factories, wage labors in construction works, watchmen in enterprises or apartments and other works with less payment, more hard work and no job security.

The central and state governments provide reservations for STs in education, employment and financial assistance. The government established integrated tribal welfare agencies and departments provide different services in areas such as education, health, housing, infrastructure facilities, employment opportunities, trainings and market linkages for their products, financial assistance for enterprises establishment etc. A very minuscule section of people, within the community, are utilizing the reservations and welfare schemes getting government jobs and other opportunities.

Nomadic tribes are not found in specific areas as they move from place to place in search of their livelihoods. There are more than 500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes, with them making up 10% of the total population in the country. Among these tribes, nearly 470 tribes are placed in SC, ST and BC categories. Most of the nomadic tribes do not have ration cards, voter cards, bank accounts and aadhar cards. Due to this situation, they are unable to access any government schemes. Some nomadic tribes are always moving from place to place, so it prevents educational opportunities to their children.

Most of the communities are dependent on hunting, livestock rearing, selling bangles, beads, threads, ribbons, pins, perfumes and artificial hair; selling agriculture tools and implements in agriculture season; grinding stones for household use; hunting and selling animals; traditional healing by using medicine from plants; selling meat; performing dances, basket making, fortune telling, snakes catching, performing monkey shows and puppet

shows, selling salt etc. Most of their livelihoods depend on agriculture directly or indirectly. Now there are a lot of changes such as changes in farm and non-farm livelihoods, electronic media, mobiles, small enterprises, declining grazing lands, evolving new Acts to prevent animal hunting and accessing NTFP from forest, cultural changes etc. These changes have influenced the livelihoods of Nomadic tribes. Their traditional livelihoods have been declining and they are forced to shift to other livelihoods. These conditions lead them to do un-skilled wage labor works or other small works or begging. Nomadic tribes are among the most un-organized communities in the country, due to their way of living. They move from place to place for living. So, it is difficult to organize nomadic people into Self-Help Groups or cooperatives, collectives and associations. This situation has made their condition more vulnerable, particularly the De-notified Tribes (DNT). In these, some communities are unjustly notified as 'criminal tribes' under Criminal Tribes Act, 1871 and these communities have been facing harassment from the police and forest officials and also this identification is preventing them to get employment opportunities in enterprises

### **I. Sub-groups in Scheduled Caste (SC):**

#### **1. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana**

1. Adi Andhra 2. Adi Dravida 3. Anamuk 4. Aray Mala 5. Arundhatiya 6. Arwa Mala 7. Bariki 8. Bavuri 9. Beda (Budga) Jangam (in the districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medak, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda) 10. Bindla 11. Byagara, Byagari 12. Chachati 13. Chalavadi 14. Chamar, Mochi, Muchi, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Rohidas] 15. Chambhar 16. Chandala 17. Dakkal, Dokkalwar 18. Dandasi 19. Dhor 20. Dom, Dombara, Paidi, Pano 21. Ellamalawar, Yellammalawandlu 22. Ghasi, Haddi, Relli, Chanchandi 23. Godagali, Godagula (in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam) 24. Godari 25. Gosangi 26. Holey 27. Holey Dasari 28. Jaggali 29. Jambuvulu 30. Kolupulvandlu, Pambada, Pambanda, Pambala] 31. Madasi Kuruva, Madari Kuruva 32. Madiga 33. Madiga Dasu, Mashteen 34. Mahar 35. Mala, Mala Ayawaru] 36. Mala Dasari 37. Mala Dasu 38. Mala Hannai 39. Malajangam 40. Mala Masti 41. Mala Sale, Nethani 42. Mala Sanyasi 43. Mang 44. Mang Garodi 45. Manne 46. Mashti 47. Matangi 48. Mehtar 49. Miitha Ayyalvar 50. Mundala 51. Paky, Moti, Thoti 52. Pamidi 53. Panchama, Pariah 54. Relli 55. Samagara 56. Samban 57. Sapru 58. Sindhollu, Chindollu 59. Yatala 60. Valluvan

#### **2. Assam**

1. Bansphor 2. Bhuinmali, Mali 3. Brittial Bania, Bania 4. Bhupi, Dhobi 5. Dugla, Dholi 6. Hira 7. Jalkeot 8. Jhalo, Malo, Jhalo-Malo 9. Kaibartta, Jaliya 10. Lalbegi 11. Mahara 12. Mehtar, Bhangi 13. Muchi, Rishi 14. Namasudra 15. Patni 16. Sutradhar

#### **3. Bihar**

1. Bantar 2. Bauri 3. Bhogta 4. Bhuiya 5. Bhumij 6. Chamar, Mochi, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Rohidas, Charmarkar] 7. Chaupal 8. Dabgar 9. Dhobi, Rajak] 10. Dom, Dhangad, Bansphor, Dharikar, Dharkar, Domra] 11. Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi 12. Ghasi 13. Halalkhor 14. Hari, Mehtar, Bhangi 15. Kanjar 16. Kurariar 17. Lalbegi 18. Mushar 19. Nat 20. Pan, Sawasi, Panr] 21. Pasi 22. Rajwar 23. Turi

#### **4. Chhattisgarh**

1. Audhelia 2. Bagri, Bagdi 3. Bahna, Bahana 4. Balahi, Balai 5. Banchada 6. Barahar, Basod 7. Bargunda 8. Basor, Burud, Bansor, Bansodi, Bansphor, Basar 9. Bedia 10. Beldar, Sunkar 11. Bhangi, Mehtar, Balmiki, Lalbegi, Dharkar 12. Bhanumati 13. Chadar 14. Chamar, Chamari, Bairwa, Bhambhi, Jatav, Mochi, Regar, Nona, Rohidas, Ramnami, Satnami, Surjyabanshi, Surjyaramnami, Ahirwar, Chamar, Mangan, Raidas 15. Chidar 16. Chikwa, Chikvi 17. Chitar 18. Dahait, Dahayat, Dahat 19. Dewar 20. Dhanuk 21. Dhed, Dher 22. Dohor 23. Dom, Dumar, Dome, Domar, Doris 24. Ganda, Gandhi 25. Ghasi, Ghasia 26. Holiya 27. Kanjar 28. Katia, Patharia 29. Khatik 30. Koli, Kori 31. Khangar, Kanera, Mirdha 32. Kuchbandhia 33. Mahar, Mehra, Mehar 34. Mang, Mang Garodi, Mang Garudi, Dankhani Mang, Mang Mahasi, Madari, Garudi, Radhe Mang 35. Meghwal 36. Moghia 37. Muskhan 38. Nat, Kalbelia, Saper, Navdigar, Kubutar 39. Pasi 40. Rujjhar 41. Sansi, Sansia 42. Silawat 43. Zamral 44. Turi

#### **5. Goa**

1. Bhangi (Hadi) 2. Chambhar 3. Mahar 4. Mahyavanshi (Vankar) 5. Mang

#### **6. Gujarat**

1. Ager 2. Bakad, Bant 3. Bawa-Dedh Debh-Sadhu 4. Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chamar-Ravidas, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, (in Dangs district and Umergaon Taluka of Valsad district only), Nalia, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit, Samgar] 5. Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar,



Zadmali, Barwashia, Barwasia, Jamphoda, Zampada, Zampda, Rushi, Valmiki] 6. Chalvadi, Channayya 7. Chenna Dasar, Holaya Dasar 8. Dangashia 9. Dhor, Kakkayya, Kankayya 10. Garmatang 11. Garoda, Garo 12. Halleer 13. Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar, Halasvar 14. Holar, Valhar 15. Holaya, Holer 16. Lingader 17. Mahar, Taral, Dhegu Megu 18. Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Dhedh, Vankar, Maru Vankar, Antyaj 19. Mang, Matang, Minimadig 20. Mang-Garudi 21. Meghval, Meghwal, Menghvar 22. Mukri 23. Nadia, Hadi 24. Pasi 25. Senva, Shenva, Chenva, Sedma, Rawat 26. Shemalia 27. Thori 28. Tirgar, Tirbanda 29. Turi 30. Turi Barot, Dedh Barot. 31. Balahi, Balai 32. Bhangi, Mehtar 33. Chamar 34. Chikwa, Chikvi 35. Koli, Kori 36. Kotwal (in Bhind, Dhar, Dewas, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jhabua, Khargone, Mansaur, Morena, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Ujjain and Vidisha districts).

## 7. Haryana

1. Ad Dharmi 2. Balmiki, Chura, Bhangi 3. Bangali 4. Barar, Burar, Berar <sup>1</sup>[5. Batwal, Barwala] 6. Bauria, Bawaria 7. Bazigar 8. Bhanjra 9. Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Balahi, Batoi, Bhatoi, Bhambi, Chamar-Rohidas, Jatav, Jatava, Mochi, Ramdasia] 10. Chanal 11. Dagi 12. Darain 13. Deha, Dhaya, Dhea 14. Dhanak 15. Dhogri, Dhangri, Sigg 16. Dumna, Mahasha, Doom 17. Gagra 18. Gandhila, Gandil Gondola 19. Kabirpanthi, Julaha 20. Khatik 21. Kori, Koli 22. Marija, Marecha 23. Mazhabi, Mazhabi Sikh] 24. Megh, Meghwal] 25. Nat, Badi] 26. Od 27. Pasi 28. Perna 29. Pherera 30. Sanhai 31. Sanhal 32. Sansi, Bhedkut, Manesh 33. Sansoi 34. Sapela, Sapera] 35. Sarera 36. Sikligar, Bariya] 37. Sirkiband

## 8. Himachal Pradesh

1. Ad Dharmi 2. Badhi, Nagalu 3. Balmiki, Bhangi, Chuhra, Chura, Chuhre 4. Bandhela 5. Bangali 6. Banjara 7. Bansi 8. Barad 9. Barar, Burar, Berar 10. Batwal 11. Bauria, Bawaria 12. Bazigar 13. Bhanjra, Bhanjre 14. Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Ramdasia, Mochi 15. Chanal 16. Chhimbe, Dhobi 17. Dagi 18. Darain 19. Darai, Daryai 20. Daule, Deole 21. Dhaki, Toori 22. Dhanak 23. Dhaogri, Dhuai 24. Dhogri, Dhangri, Sigg 25. Doom, Doomna, Dumna, Dumne, Mahasha 26. Gagra 27. Gandhila, Gandil, Gondola 28. Hali 29. Hesi 30. Jogi 31. Julaha, Julahe, Kabirpanthi, Keer 32. Kamoh, Dagoli 33. Karoack 34. Khatik 35. Kori, Koli 36. Lohar 37. Marija, Marecha 38. Mazhabi 39. Megh 40. Nat 41. Od 42. Pasi 43. Perna 44. Phrera, Pherera 45. Rehar, Rehara 46. Sanhai 47. Sanhal 48. Sansi, Bhedkut, Manesh 49. Sansoi 50. Sapela 51. Sarde, Sarera, Sarare, Siryare, Sarehde 52. Sikligar 53. Sipi 54. Sirkiband 55. Teli 56. Thathiar, Thathera 57. Barwala

## 9. Jharkhand

1. Bantar 2. Bauri 3. Bhogta 4. Bhuiya 5. Chamar, Mochi 6. Choupal 7. Dabajar 8. Dhobi 9. Dom, Dhangad 10. Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi 11. Ghasi 12. Halalkhor 13. Hair, Mehtar, Bhangi 14. Kanjar 15. Kuraiar 16. Lalbegi 17. Musahar 18. Nat 19. Pan, Sawasi 20. Pasi 21. Rajwar 22. Turi.

## 10. Karnataka

1. Adi Andhra 2. Adi Dravida 3. Adi Karnataka 4. Adiya (in Coorg district) 5. Ager 6. Ajila 7. Anamuk 8. Aray Mala 9. Arunthathiyar 10. Arwa Mala 11. Baira 12. Bakad 13. Vant (In Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and North Kanara District) 14. Bakuda 15. Balagai 16. Bandi <sup>1</sup>[17. Banjara, Lambani, Lambada, Lambadi, Lamani, Sugali, Sukali] 18. Bathada 19. Beda Jangam, Budga Jangam 20. Bellara 21. Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar, Zadmali 22. Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, Muchi, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit, Samgar <sup>1</sup>[23. Bhovi, Od, Odde, Vaddar, Waddar, Voddar, Woddar] 24. Bindla 25. Byagara 26. Chakkiliyan 27. Chalavadi, Chalvadi, Channayya 28. Chandala 29. Chenna Dasar, Holaya Dasar 30. Dakkal, Dokkalwar 31. Dakkaliga 32. Dhor, Kakkayya, Kankayya 33. Dom, Dombara, Paidi, Pano 34. Ellamalwar, Yellammalawandlu 35. Ganti Chores 36. Garoda, Garo 37. Godda 38. Gosangi 39. Halleer 40. Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar, Halasvar 41. Handi Jogis 42. Hasla 43. Holar, Valhar 44. Holaya, Holer, Holey 45. Holey Dasari 46. Jaggali 47. Jambuvulu 48. Kadaiyan 49. Kalladi 50. Kepmaris 51. Kolupulvandlu 52. Koosa 53. Koracha, Korachar 54. Korama, Korava, Koravar] 55. Kotegar, Metri 56. Kudumban 57. Kuravan 58. Lingader 59. Machala 60. Madari 61. Madiga 62. Mahar, Taral, Dhegu Megu 63. Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar, Maru-maru-vonkar 64. Maila 65. Mala 66. Mala Dasari 67. Mala Hannai 68. Mala Jangam 69. Mala Masti 70. Mala Sale, Netkani 71. Mala Sanyasi 72. Mang, Matang, Minimadig 73. Mang Garudi, Mang Garodi 74. Manne 75. Masthi 76. Mavilan 77. Meghwal, Menghvar 78. Moger 79. Mukri 80. Mundala 81. Nadia, Hadi 82. Nalkadaya 83. Nalakeyava 84. Nayadi 85. Pale 86. Pallan 87. Pambada 88. Panchama 89. Panniandi 90. Paraiyan, Paraya 91. Paravan 92. Raneyar 93. Samagara 94. Samban 95. Sapari 96. Sillekyathas 97. Sindhollu, Chindollu 98. Sudugadu Siddha 99. Thoti 100. Tirgar, Tirbanda 101. Valluvan.

## 11. Kerala

1. Adi Andhra 2. Adi Dravida 3. Adi Karnataka 4. Ajila 5. Arunthathiyar 6. Ayyanavar 7. Baira 8. Bakuda 9. Bathada 10. Bharathar (other than Parathar), Paravan 11. Chakkiliyan 12. Chamar, Muchi 13. Chandala 14. Cheruman 15. Domban 16. Gosangi 17. Hasla 18. Holeya 19. Kadaiyan 20. Kakkalan, Kakkal] 21. Kalladi 22. Kanakkan, Padanna, Padannan] 23. Kavara (other than Telugu speaking or Tamil speaking Baliya, Kavarai, Gavarai, Gavarai Naidu, Baliya Naidu, Gajalu Baliya or Valai Chetty)] 24. Koosa 25. Kootan, Koodan 33. Kudumban . 26 Kuravan, Sidhanar, Kuravar, Kurava, Sidhana] 27. Maila 28. Malayan 29. Mannan, Pathiyan, Perumannan, Vannan Velan] 30. Moger (other than Mogeyar)] 31. Mundala 32. Nalakeyava 33. Nakadaya 34. Nayadi . 35. Pallan 36. Palluvan 37. Pambada 38. Panan 39. Paraiyan, Parayan, Sambavar, Sambavan, Sambava, Paraya, Paraiya, Parayar] 40. Pulayan, Cheramar, Pulaya, Pulayar, Cherama, Cheraman, Wayanad Pulayan, Wayanadan Pulayan, Matha, Matha Pulayan] 41. Puthirai Vannan 42. Raneva 43. Samagara 44. Samban 45. Semman, Chemaman, Chemmar] 46. Thandan 47. Thoti 48. Vallon

## 12. Madhya Pradesh

1. Audhelia 2. Bagri, Bagdi(excluding Rajput, Thakur sub-castes among Bagri, Bagdi] 3. Bahna, Bahana 4. Balahi, Balai 5. Banchada 6. Barahar Basod 7. Bargunda 8. Basor, Burud, Bansor, Bansodi, Bansphor, Basar 9. Bedia 10. Beldar, Sunkar 11. Bhangi, Mehtar, Balmiki, Lalbegi, Dharkar 12. Bhanumati 13. Chadar 14. Chamar, Chamari, Bairwa, Bhambhi, Jatav, Mochi, Regar, Nona, Rohidas, Ramnami, Satnami, Surjyabanshi, surjyaramnami, Ahirwar, Chamar, Mangan, Raidas 15. Chidar 16. Chikwa, Chikvi 17. Chitar 18. Dahait, Dahayat, Dahat 19. Dewar 20. Dhanuh 21. Dhed, Dher 22. Dhobi (in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore distirct) 23. Dohor 24. Dom, Dumar, Dome, Domar, Doris 25. Ganda, Gandhi 26. Ghasi, Ghasia 27. Holiya 28. Kanjar 29. Katia, Patharia 30. Khatik 31. Koli, Kori 32. Kotwal (in Bhind, Dhar, Dewas, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jhabua, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur, Shivpuri Ujjain and Vidisha Districts) 33. Khangar, Kanera, Mirdha 34. Kuchbandhia 35. Kumar (in Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi and Tikamgarh districts) <sup>1</sup>[36. Mahar, Mehra, Mehar, Mahara] 37. Mang, Mang Garodi, Mang Garudi, Dankhani Mang, Mang Mahasi, Madari, Garudi, Radhe Mang 38. Meghwal 39. Moghia 40. Muskhan 41. Nat, Kalbelia, Sapera, Navdigar, Kubutar 42. Pardhi (in Bhind, Dhar, Dewas, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jhabua, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Ujjain and Vidisha Distirct) 43. Pasi 44. Rujjhar 45. Sansi, Sansia 46. Silawat 47. Zamral 48. Sargara

## 13. Maharashtra

1. Ager 2. Anamuk 3. Aray Mala 4. Arwa Mala 5. Bahna, Bahana 6. Bakad, Bant 7. Balahi, Balai 8. <sup>2</sup>[Basor, Burud, Bansor, Bansodi, Basod] 9. Beda Jangam, Budga Jangam 10. Bedar <sup>2</sup>[11. Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chamari, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, Telegu Mochi, Kamati, Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Nona, Ramnami, Rohit, Samgar, Samagara, Satnami, Surjyabanshi, Surjyaramnami, Charmakar, Pardeshi Chamar; 12. Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar, Zadmalli, Hela.]13. Bindla 14. Byagara 15. Chalvadi, Channayya 16. Chenna Dasar, Holaya Dasar, Holeya Dasari 17. Dakkal, Dokkalwar 18. Dhor, Kakkayya, Kankayya, Dohor 19. Dom, Dumar 20. Ellamalvar, Yellammalawandlu 21. Ganda, Gandhi 22. Garoda, Garo 23. Ghasi, Ghasia 24. Halleer 25. Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar, Halasvar 26. Holar, Valhar 27. Holaya, Holer, Holeya, Holiya 28. Kaikadi (in Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Buldana, Nagpur, Wardha and Yavatmal districts and Chandrapur district, other than Rajura tahsil) 29. Katia, Patharia 30. Khangar, Kanera, Mirdha 31. Khatik, Chikwa, Chikvi 32. Kolupulvandlu 33. Kori 34. Lingader 35. Madgi 36. Madiga 37. Mahar, Mehra, Taral, Dhegu Megu 38. Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar, Maru Vankar 39. Mala 40. Mala Dasari 41. Mala Hannai 42. Mala Jangam 43. Mala Masti 44. Mala Sale, Netkani 45. Mala Sanyasi 46. Mang, Matang, Minimadig, Dankhni Mang, Mang Mahashi, Madari, Garudi, Radhe Mang 47. Mang Garodi, Mang Garudi 48. Manne 49. Mashti 50. Meghval, Menghvar 51. Mitha Ayyalvar 52. Mukri 53. Nadia, Hadi 54. Pasi 55. Sansi 56. Shenva, Chenva, Sedma, Ravat 57. Sindhollu, Chindollu 58. Tirgar, Tirbanda 59. Turi.

## 14. Manipur

1. Dhupi, Dhobi 2. Lois 3. Muchi, Ravidas 4. Namasudra 5. Patni 6. Sutradhar 7. Yaithibi.

## 15. Meghalaya

1. Bansphor 2. Bhuinmali, Mali 3. Brittial Bania, Bania 4. Dhupi, Dhobi 5. Dugla, Dholi 6. Hira 7. Jalkeot 8. Jhalo, Malo, Jhalo-Malo 9. Kaibartta, Jaliya 10. Lalbegi 11. Mahara 12. Mehtar, Bhangi 13. Muchi, Rishi 14. Namasudra 15. Patni 16. Sutradhar.

## 16. Mizoram

1. Bansphor 2. Bhuinmali or Mali 3. Brittial-Bania or Bania 4. Dhupi or Dhobi 5. Dugla or Dholi 6. Hira 7. Jalkeot 8. Jhalo, Malo or Jhalo-Malo 9. Kaibartta or Jaliya 10. Lalbegi 11. Mahara 12. Mehtar or Bhangi 13. Muchi or Rishi 14. Namasudra 15. Patni 16. Sutradhar

## 17. Odisha

1. Adi Andhra 2. Amant, Amat, Dandachhatra Majhi] 3. Audhelia 4. Badaik 5. Bagheti, Baghuti 6. Bajjar 7. Bari 8. Bariki 9. Basor, Burud 10. Bauri, Buna Bauri, Dasia Bauri] 11. Bauti 12. Bavuri 13. Bedia, Bejia 14. Beldar 15. Bhata 16. Bhoi 17. Chachati 18. Chakali 19. Chamar, Chamara, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Rohidas, Mochi, Muchi, Satnamij] 20. Chandala 21. Chandai Maru 23. Dandasi <sup>1</sup>[24. Dewar, Dhibara, Keuta, Kaibarta] 25. Dhanwar 26. Dhoba, Dhobi 27. Dom, Dombu, Duria Dom 28. Dosadha 29. Ganda 30. Ghantarghada, Ghantra 31. Ghasi, Ghasia 32. Ghogia 33. Ghusuria 34. Godagali 35. Godari 36. Godra 37. Gokha 38. Gorait, Korait 39. Haddi, Hadi, Hari 40. Irika 41. Jaggali 42. Kandra, Kandara, Kadama, Kuduma, Kodma, Kodama] 43. Karua 44. Katia <sup>1</sup>[45. Kela, Sapua Kela, Nalua Kela, Sabakhia Kela, Matia Kela 46. Khadala 47. Kodalo, Khodalo 48. Kori 49. Kummari 50. Kurunga 51. Laban 52. Laheri 53. Madari 54. Madiga 55. Mahuria <sup>1</sup>[56. Mala, Jhala, Malo, Zala, Malha, Jhola] 57. Mang 58. Mangan 59. Mehra, Mahar 60. Mehtar, Bhangji 61. Mewar 62. Mundapotta 63. Musahar 64. Nagarchi 65. Namasudra 66. Paidi 67. Painsa 68. Pamidi <sup>1</sup>[69. Pan, Pano, Buna Pana, Desua Pana] 70. Panchama 71. Panika 72. Panka 73. Pantanti 74. Pap 75. Pasi 76. Patial, Patikar, Patratanti, Patua 77. Rajna 78. Relli 79. Sabakhia 80. Samasi 81. Sanei 82. Sapari 83. Sauntia, Santia 84. Sidhria 85. Sinduria <sup>1</sup>[86. Siyal, Khajuria] 87. Tamadia 88. Tamudia 89. Tanla 91. Turi 92. Ujia 93. Valamiki, Valmiki 94. Mangali (in Koraput and Kalahandi districts) 95. Mirgan (in Navrangpur districts).

## 18. Punjab

1. Ad Dharmi 2. Balmiki, Chura, Bhangji 3. Bangali 4. Barar, Burar, Berar <sup>1</sup>[5. Batwal, Barwala] 6. Bauria, Bawaria 7. Bazigar 8. Bhanjra 9. Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Ramdasia, Ramdasia Sikh, Ravidasia, Ravidasia Sikh] 10. Chanal 11. Dagi 12. Darain 13. Deha, Dhaya, Dhea 14. Dhanak 15. Dhogri, Dhangri, Siggji 16. Dumna, Mahasha, Doom 17. Gagra 18. Gandhila, Gandil, Gondola 19. Kabirpanthi, Julaha 20. Khatik 21. Kori, Koli 22. Marija, Marecha 23. Mazhabi, Mazhabi Sikh] 24. Megh 25. Nat 26. Od 27. Pasi 28. Perna 29. Pherera 30. Sanhai 31. Sanhal 32. Sansi, Bhedkut, Manesh 33. Sansoi 34. Sapela 35. Sarera 36. Sikligar 37. Sirkiband. 3[38. Mochi.39. Mahatam, Rai Sikh

## 19. Rajasthan

1. Adi Dharmi 2. Aheri 3. Badi 4. Bagri, Bagdi 5. Bairwa, Berwa 6. Bajjar 7. Balai 8. Bansphor, Bansphod 9. Baori 10. Bargi, Vargi, Birgi 11. Bawaria 12. Bedia, Beria 13. Bhand 14. Bhangji, Chura, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Valmiki, Korar, Zadmalli 15. Bidakia 16. Bola 17. Chamar, Bhambhi, Bambhi, Bhambi, Jatia, Jatav, Jatava, Mochi, Raidas, Rohidas, Regar, Raigar, Ramdasia, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigai, Mochigar, Majar, Madig, Telugu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohit, Sangar 18. Chandal 19. Dabgar 20. Dhanak, Dhanuk 21. Dhankia 22. Dhobi 23. Dholi 24. Dome, Dom 25. Gandia 26. Garancha, Gancha 27. Garo, Garura, Gurda, Garoda 28. Gavaria 29. Godhi 30. Jingar 31. Kalbelia, Sapera 32. Kamad, Kamadia 33. Kanjar, Kunjar 34. Kapadia Sansi 35. Khangar 36. Khatik 37. Koli, Kori 38. Kooch Band, Kuchband 39. Korla 40. Madari, Bazigar 41. Mahar, Taral, Dhegumegu 42. Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Dheda, Vankar, Maru, Vankar 43. Majhabi 44. Mang, Matang, Minimadig 45. Mang Garodi, Mang Garudi 46. Megh, Meghval, Meghwal, Menghvar 47. Mehar 48. Nat, Nut 49. Pasi 50. Rawal 51. Salvi 52. Sansi 53. Santia, Satia 54. Sarbhangi 55. Sargara 56. Singiwala 57. Thori, Nayak 58. Tirgar, Tirbanda 59. Turi.

## 20. Tamil Nadu

1. Adi Andhra 2. Adi Dravida 3. Adi Karnataka 4. Ajila 5. Arunthathiyar 6. Ayyanavar (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 7. Baira 8. Bakuda 9. Bandi 10. Bellara 11. Bharatar (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 12. Chakkiliyan 13. Chalavadi 14. Chamar, Muchi 15. Chandala 16. Cheruman 17. Devendrakulathan 18. Dom, Dombara, Paidi, Pano 19. Domban 20. Godagali 21. Godda 22. Gosangi 23. Holey 24. Jaggali 25. Jambuvulu 26. Kadaiyan 27. Kakkalan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 28. Kalladi 29. Kanakkan, Padanna (in the Nilgiris district) 30. Karimpalan 31. Kavara (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 32. Koliyan 33. Koosa 34. Kootan, Koodan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 35. Kudumban 36. Kuravan, Sidhanar 37. Madari 38. Madiga 39. Malia 40. Mala 41. Mannan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 42. Mavilan 43. Moger 44. Mundala 45. Nalakeyava 46. Nayadi 47. Padannan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 48. Pagadai 49. Pallan 50. Palluvan 51. Pambada 52. Panan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 53. Panchama 54. Pannadi 55. Panniandi 56. Paraiyan, Parayan, Sambavar 57. Paravan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 58. Pathiyan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 59. Pulayan, Cheramar 60. Puthirai Vannan 61. Raneyar 62. Samagara 63. Samban 64. Sapari 65. Semman 66. Thandan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli

district) 67. Thoti 68. Tiruvalluvar 69. Vallon 70. Valluvan 71. Vannan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 72. Vathiriyan 73. Velan 74. Vetan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 75. Vettiyan 76. Vettuvan (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district).

## **21. Tripura**

1. Bagdi 2. Bhuimali 3. Bhunar 4. Chamar, Muchi 5. Dandasi 6. Dhenuar 7. Dhoba 8. Dum 9. Ghasi 10. Gour 11. Gur 12. Jalia Kaibarta 13. Kahar 14. Kalindi 15. Kan 16. Kanda 17. Kanugh 18. Keot 19. Khadit 20. Kharia 21. Koch 22. Koir 23. Kol 24. Kora 25. Kotal 26. Mahisyadas 27. Mali 28. Mehtor 29. Musahar 30. Namasudra 31. Patni 32. Sabar. 33. Dhulhi, Sabdakar, Badyakar 34. Natta, Nat

## **22. Uttaranchal**

1. Agaria 2. Badhik 3. Badi 4. Baheliya 5. Baiga 6. Baiswar 7. Bajaniya 8. Bajgi 9. Balhar 10. Balai 11. Balmiki 12. Bangali 13. Banmanus 14. Bansphor 15. Barwar 16. Basor 17. Bawariya 18. Beldar 19. Beriya 20. Bhantu 21. Bhuiya 22. Bhuyiar 23. Boria 24. Chamar, Dhusia, Jhusia, Jatava 25. Chero 26. Dabgar 27. Dhangar 28. Dhanuk 29. Dharkar 30. Dhobi 31. Dom 32. Domar 33. Dusadh 34. Dharmi 35. Dhariya 36. Gond 37. Gwal 38. Habura 39. Hari 40. Hela 41. Kalabaz 42. Kanjar 43. Kapariya 44. Karwal 45. Kharaita 46. Kharwar (excluding Vanwasi) 47. Khatik 48. Kharot 49. Kol 50. Kori 51. Korwa 52. Lalbegi 53. Majhwar 54. Mazhabi 55. Musahar 56. Nat 57. Pankha 58. Parahiya 59. Pasi, Tarmali 60. Patari 61. Sahariya 62. Sanaurhiya 63. Sansiya 64. Shilpkar 65. Turaiha

## **23. Uttar Pradesh**

1. Agariya 2[excluding Sonbhadra districts] 2. Badhik 3. Badi 4. Baheliya 5. Baiga 2[excluding Sonbhadra districts] 6. Baiswar 7. Bajaniya 8. Bajgi 9. Balahar 10. Balai 11. Balmiki 12. Bangali 13. Banmanus 14. Bansphor 15. Barwar 16. Basor 17. Bawariya 18. Beldar 19. Beriya 20. Bhantu 21. Bhuiya 2[excluding Sonbhadra district] 22. Bhuyiar 23. Boira 24. Chamar, Dhusia, Jhusia, Jatava 25. Chero 1[excluding Sonbhadra and Varanasi districts] 26. Dabgar 27. Dhangar 28. Dhanuk 29. Dharkar 30. Dhobi 31. Dom 32. Domar 33. Busadh 34. Gharami 35. Ghasiya 36. Gond 1[excluding Mehraganj, Sidharth Nagar, Basti Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Azamgarh, Jonpur Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts] 37. Gual 38. Habura 39. Hari 40. Hela 41. Kalabaz 42. Kanjar 43. Kapariya 44. Karwal 45. Khairaha 46. Kharwar(excluding Benbansi) (excluding Deoria, Balia Gazipur, Varanasi and Sonbhadra districts)] 47. Khatik 48. Khorot 49. Kol 50. Kori 51. Korwa 52. Lalbegi 53. Majhwar 54. Mazhabi 55. Musahar 56. Nat 57. Pankha 1[excluding Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts] 58. Parahiya 1[excluding Sonbhadra district] 59. Pasitarmali 60. Patari [excluding Sonbhadra district] 61. Rawat 62. Saharya 1[excluding Lalitpur district] 63. Sanaurhiya 64. Sansiya 65. Shilpkar 66. Turaiha

## **24. West Bengal**

1. Bagdi, Duley 2. Bahelia 3. Baiti 4. Bantar 5. Bauri 6. Beldar 7. Bhogta 8. Bhuimali 9. Bhuiya 10. Bind 11. Chamar, Charmakar, Mochi, Muchi, Rabidas, Ruidas, Rishi 12. Chaupal 13. Dabgar 14. Damai (Nepali) 15. Dhoba, Dhobi 16. Doai 17. Dom, Dhangad 18. Dosadh, Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi 19. Ghasi 20. Gonrhi 21. Halalkhor 3[22. Hari, Mehtar, Mehtor, Bhangi, Balmiki] 23. Jalia Kaibartta 24. Jhalo Malo, Malo 25. Kadar 26. Kami (Nepali) 27. Kandra 28. Kanjar 29. Kaora 30. Karenga, Koranga 31. Kaur 32. Keot, Keyot 33. Khaira 34. Khatik 35. Koch 36. Konai 37. Konwar 38. Kotal 39. Kurariar 40. Lalbegi 41. Lohar 42. Mahar 43. Mal 44. Mallah 45. Musahar 46. Namasudra 47. Nat 48. Nuniya 49. Paliya 50. Pan, Sawasi 51. Pasi 52. Patni 53. Pod, Poundra 54. Rajbanshi 55. Rajwar 56. Sarki (Nepali) 57. Sunri (excluding Saha) 58. Tiyar 59. Turi. 60. Chain (in Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and Dakhin Dinajpur districts).

## **II. Sub-groups in Scheduled Tribes (ST):**

### **1. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana**

1. Andh 2. Bagata 3. Bhil 4. Chenchu, Chenchwar 5. Gadabas 6. Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond 7. Goudu (in the Agency tracts, i.e.: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts) 8. Hill Reddis 9. Jatapus 10. Kammara 11. Kattunayakan 12. Kolam, Mannervarlu 13. Konda Dhoras 14. Konda Kapus 15. Kondareddis 16. Kondhs, Kodi, Kodhu, Desaya Kondhs, Dongria Kondhs, Kuttiya Kondhs, Tikiria Kondhs, Yenity Kondhs 17. Kotia, Bentho Oriya, Bartika, Dhulia, Dulia, Holva, Paiko, Putiya, Sanrona, Sidhopaiko 18. Koya, Goud, Rajah, Rasha Koya, Lingadhari Koya (ordinary), Kottu Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya 19. Kulia 20. Malis (excluding Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Warangal districts) 21. Manna Dhora 22. Mukha Dhora, Nooka Dhora 23. Nayaks (in the Agency tracts, i.e.: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts) 24. Pardhan 25. Porja, Parangiperja 26. Reddi Dhoras 27. Rona, Rena 28. Savaras, Kapu Savaras, Maliya Savaras, Khutto Savaras 29. Sugalis, Lambadis 30. Thoti (in Adilabad, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khammam,

Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Warangal districts) 31. Valmiki (in the Agency tracts, i.e.: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts) 32. Yenadis 33. Yerukulas

## **2. Arunachal Pradesh**

1. Abor 2. Aka 3. Apatani 4. Dafla 5. Galo 6. Khampti 7. Khowa 8. Mishmi  
9. Momba 10. Any Naga tribes 11. Sherdukpen 12. Singpho

## **3. Assam**

1. Chakma 2. Dimasa, Kachari 3. Garo 4. Hajong 5. Hmar 6. Khasi, Jaintia, Synteng, Pnar, War, Bhoi, Lyngngam 7. Any Kuki Tribes, including: (1. Biate, Biete 2. Changsan 3. Chongloi 4. DOUNGEL 5. Gamalhou 6. Gangte 7. Guite 8. Hanneng 9. Haokip, Hauptit 10. Haolai 11. Hengna 12. Hongsung 13. Hrangkhwal, Rangkhoh 14. Jongbe 15. Khawchung 16. Khawthlang, Khothalong 17. Khelma 18. Kholhou 19. Kipgen 20. Kuki 21. Lengthang 22. Lhangum 23. Lhoujem 24. Lhouvun 25. Lumpheng 26. Mangjel 27. Misao 28. Rieng 29. Sairhem 30. Selnam 31. Singson 32. Sitlhou 33. Sukte 34. Thado 35. Thangngeu 36. Uibuh 37. Vaiphei) 8. Lakher 9. Man (Tai speaking) 10. Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes 11. Mikir 12. Any Naga tribes 13. Pawi 14. Syntheng **Other areas** 1. Barmans in Cachar 2. Boro, Borokachari 3. Deori 4. Hojai 5. Kachari, Sonwal 6. Lalung 7. Mech 8. Miri 9. Rabha

## **4. Bihar**

1. Asur 2. Baiga 3. Banjara 4. Bathudi 5. Bedia 6. Bhumij in North Chotanagpur and South Chotanagpur divisions and in Santal Parganas district. North Chotanagpur division comprises Dhanbad, Giridih and Hazaribag districts; South Chotanagpur division comprises Palamu, Lohardaga, Gumla, Ranchi, Purbi Singhbhum and Pashchimi Singhbhum districts; Santal Parganas district comprises Godda, Sahibganj, Dumka and Deoghar districts. 7. Binjhia 8. Birhor 9. Birjia 10. Chero 11. Chick Baraik 12. Gond 13. Gorait 14. Ho 15. Karmali 16. Kharia 17. Kharwar 18. Kondh 19. Kisan 20. Kora 21. Korwa 22. Lohara, Lohra 23. Mahli 24. Mal Pahariya 25. Munda 26. Oraon 27. Parhaiya 28. Santal 29. Sauria Paharia 30. Savar

## **5. Chhattisgarh**

1. Agariya 2. Andh 3. Baiga 4. Bhaina 5. Bharia Bhumia, Bhuinhar Bhumia, Bhumiya, Bharia, Paliha, Pando 6. Bhattra 7. Bhil, Bhilala, Barela, Patelia 8. Bhil Mina 9. Bhunjia 10. Biar, Biyar 11. Binjhwar 12. Birhul, Birhor 13. Damor, Damaria 14. Dhanwar 15. Gadaba, Gadba 16. Gond; (Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Kolibhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond, Gowari Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj Gond, 'Sonjhari, Jhareka, Thatia, Thoty, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi ) 17. Halba, Halbi 18. Kamar 19. Karku 20. Kavar, Kanwar, Kaur, Cherwa, Rathia, Tanwar, Chattri 21. Khairwar, Kondar 22. Kharia 23. Kondh, Khond, Kandh 24. Kol 25. Kolam 26. Korku, Bopchi, Mouasi, Nihar, Nahul, Bondhi, Bondeya 27. Korwa, Kodaku 28. Majhi 29. Majhwar 30. Mawasi 31. Munda 32. Nagesia, Nagasia 33. Oraon, Dhanka, Dhangad 34. Pao 35. Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti 36. Pardhi, Bahelia, Bahellia, Chita Pardhi, Langoli Pardhi, Phans Pardhi, Shikari, Takankar, Takia (in (i) Bastar, Dantewara, Kanker, Raigarh, Jashpurnagar, Surguja and Korba districts; (ii) Katghora, Pali, Kartala and Korba tehsils of Korba district' (iii) Bilaspur, Pendra, Kota and Takhatpur tehsils of Bilaspur district; (iv) Durg, Patan, Gunderdehi, Dhamdha, Balod, Gurur and Dondilohara tehsils of Durg district; (v) Chowki, Manpur and Mohala Revenue Inspector Circles of Rajnandgon district' (vi) Mahasamund, Saraipali and Basna tehsils of Mahasamund district; (vii) Bindra-Navagarh Rajim and Deobhog tehsils of Raipur district; and (viii) Dhamtari, Kurud and Sihava tehsils of Dhamtari district) 37. Parja 38. Sahariya, Saharia, Sehari, Sehria, Sosia, Sor 39. Saonta, Saunta 40. Saur 41. Sawar, Sawara 42. Sonr

## **6. Goa**

1. Dhodia 2. Dubla (Halpati) 3. Naikda (Talavia) 4. Siddi (Nayaka) 5. Varli

## **7. Gujarat**

1. Barda 2. Bavacha, Bamcha 3. Bharwad (in the Nesses of the forests of Alech, Barada and Gir). The area comprises Jamnagar and Junagadh districts. 4. Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadv Bhil, Bhagaliala, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave 5. Charan (in the Nesses of the forests of Alech, Barada and Gir). The area comprises Jamnagar and Junagadh districts. 6. Chaudhri (in Surat and Valsad districts) 7. Chodhara 8. Dhanka, Tadv, Tetaria, Valvi 9. Dhodia 10. Dubla, Talavia, Halpati 11. Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvi 12. Gond, Rajgond 13. Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari 14. Kokna, Kokni, Kukna 15. Koli (in Kachchh district) 16. Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha 17. Kunbi (in the Dangs district) 18. Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka,

Nana Nayaka 19. Padhar 20. Paradhi (in Kachchh district) 21. Pardhi, Advichincher, Phanse Pardhi (excluding Amreli, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kachchh, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts) 22. Patelia 23. Pomla 24. Rabari (in the Nesses of the forests of Alech, Barada and Gir). The area comprises Jamnagar and Junagadh districts. 25. Rathawa 26. Siddi (in Amreli, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Rajkot and Surendranagar districts) 27. Vaghri (in Kachchh district)b 28. Varli 29. Vitola, Kotwalia, Barodia

#### **8. Himachal Pradesh**

1. Bhot, Bodh 2. Gaddi 3. Gujjar 4. Jad, Lamba, Khampa 5. Kanaura, Kinnara 6. Lahaula 7. Pangwala 8. Swangla

#### **9. Jammu and Kashmir**

1. Bakarwal 2. Balti 3. Beda 4. Bot, Boto 5. Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin 6. Changpa 7. Gaddi 8. Garra 9. Gujjar 10. Mon 11. Purigpa 12. Sippi

#### **10. Jharkhand**

1. Asur 2. Baiga 3. Banjara 4. Bathudi 5. Bedia 6. Binjhia 7. Birhor 8. Birjia 9. Chero 10. Chick Baraik 11. Gond 12. Gorait 13. Ho 14. Karmali 15. Kharia 16. Kharwar 17. Khond 18. Kisan 19. Kora 20. Korwa 21. Lohra 22. Mahli 23. Mal Pahariya 24. Munda 25. Oraon 26. Parhaiya 27. Santhal 28. Sauria Paharia 29. Savar 30. Bhumij

#### **11. Karnataka**

1. Adiyana 2. Barda 3. Bavacha, Bamcha 4. Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvil Bhil, Bhagalila, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave 5. Chenchu, Chenchwar 6. Chodhara 7. Dubla, Talavia, Halpati 8. Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvi, Valvi 9. Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond 10. Gowdalu 11. Hakkipikki 12. Hasalaru 13. Irular 14. Iruliga 15. Jenu Kuruba 16. Kadu Kuruba 17. Kammara (in Dakshina Kannada district and Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district) 18. Kaniyan, Kanyan (in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district) 19. Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari 20. Kattunayakan 21. Kokna, Kokni, Kukna 22. Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha 23. Konda Kapus 24. Koraga 25. Kota 26. Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya 27. Kudiya, Melakud 28. Kuruba (in Kodagu district) 29. Kurumans 30. Maha Malasar 31. Malaikudi 32. Malasar 33. Malayekandi 34. Maleru 35. Maratha (in Kodagu district) 36. Marati (n Dakshina Kannada district) 37. Meda 38. Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka, Nana Nayaka, Naik, Nayak, Beda, Bedar and Valmiki 39. Palliyana 40. Paniyan 41. Pardhi, Advichincher, Phanse Pardhi 42. Patelia 43. Rathawa 44. Sholaga 45. Soligar 46. Toda 47. Varli 48. Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia 49. Yerava

#### **12. Kerala**

1. Adiyana 2. Arandan 3. Eravallan 4. Hill Pulaya 5. Irular, Irulan 6. Kadar 7. Kammara (in the areas comprising the Malabar district as specified by sub-section (2) of section 5 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (37 of 1956)). Malabar district comprises Kannur (earlier Cannanore), Kozhikode, Malappuram districts and Palakkad (earlier Palaghat) district excluding Chittur taluk. 8. Kanikaran, Kanikkar 9. Kattunayakan 10. Kochu Velan 11. Konda Kapus 12. Kondareddis 13. Koraga 14. Kota 15. Kudiya, Melakudi 16. Kurichchan 17. Kurumans 18. Kurumbas 19. Maha Malasar 20. Malai Arayan 21. Malai Pandaram 22. Malai Vedan 23. Malakkuravan 24. Malasar 25. Malayan (in the areas comprising the Malabar district as specified by sub-section (2) of section 5 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 (37 of 1956)). Malabar district comprises Kannur (earlier Cannanore), Kozhikode, Malappuram districts and Palakkad (earlier Palaghat) district excluding Chittur taluk. 26. Malayarayar 27. Mannan 28. Marati (in Hosdrug and Kasaragod taluks of Kasaragod district) 29. Muthuvan, Mudugar, Muduvan 30. Palleyan 31. Palliyana 32. Palliyar 33. Paniyan 34. Ulladan 35. Uraly

#### **13. Madhya Pradesh**

1. Agariya 2. Andh 3. Baiga 4. Bhaina 5. Bharia Bhumia, Bhuinhar Bhumia, Bhumiya, Bharia, Paliha, Pando 6. Bhattra 7. Bhil, Bhilala, Barela, Patelia 8. Bhil Mina 9. Bhunjia 10. Biar, Biyar 11. Binjhar 12. Birhul, Birhor 13. Damor, Damaria 14. Dhanwar 15. Gadaba, Gadba 16. Gond; (Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koliabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Daroi) 17. Halba, Halbi 18. Kamar 19. Karku 20. Kawar, Kanwar, Kaur, Cherwa, Rathia, Tanwar, Chattri 21. Keer (in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts) 22. Khairwar, Kondar 23. Kharia 24. Kondh, Khond, Kandh 25. Kol 26. Kolam] 27. Korku, Bopchi, Mouasi, Nihal, Nahul, Bondhi, Bondeya 28. Korwa, Kodaku 29. Majhi 30. Majhwar 31. Mawasi 32. Mina (in Sironj sub-division of Vidisha district) 33. Munda 34. Nagesia, Nagasia 35. Oraon, Dhanka, Dhangad 36. Panika (in Chhatarpur, Datia, Panna, Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi

and Tikamgarh districts) 37. Pao 38. Pardhan, Pathari Saroti 39. Pardhi (in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts) 40. Pardhi; Bahelia, Bahellia, Chita Pardhi, Langoli Pardhi, Phans Pardhi, Shikari, Takankar, Takia (in (i) Bastar, Chhindwara, Mandla, Raigarh, Seoni and Surguja districts; (ii) Baihar tehsil of Balaghat district; (iii) Betul and Bhainsdehi tehsils of Betul district; (iv) Bilaspur and Katghora tehsils of Bilaspur district; (v) Durg and Balod tehsils of Durg district; (vi) Chowki, Manpur and Mohala Revenue Inspectors Circles of Rajnandgaon district; (vii) Murwara, Patan and Sihora tehsils of Jabalpur district; (viii) Hoshangabad and Sohagpur tehsils of Hoshangabad district and Narsimhapur district; (ix) Harsud tehil of East Nimar district; and (x) Dhamtari and Mahasamund districts and Bindra-Nawagarh tehsil of Raipur district) 41. Parja 42. Sahariya, Saharia, Seharia, Sehria, Sosia, Sor 43. Saonta, Saunta 44. Saur 45. Sawar, Sawara 46. Sonr

#### **14. Maharashtra**

1. Anhd 2. Baiga 3. Barda 4. Bavacha, Bamcha 5. Bhaina 6. Bharia Bhumia, Bhuinhar Bhumia, Pando 7. Bhattra 8. Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvil Bhil, Bhagalila, Bhilalala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave 9. Bhunjia 10. Binjhar 11. Birhul, Birhor 12. Chodhara (excluding Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Gondiya, Buldana, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal, Aurangabad, Jalna, Bid, Nanded, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani and Hingoli districts) 13. Dhanka, Tadvil, Tetaria, Valvi 14. Dhanwar 15. Dhodia 16. Dubla, Talavia, Halpati 17. Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvil 18. Gond (Rajgond, Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond, Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Naikpod, Nagwanshi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari Jhareka, Thatia, Thotya, Wade Maria, Vade Maria) 19. Halba, Halbi 20. Kamar 21. Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Kathkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari 22. Kawar, Kanwar, Kaur, Cherwa, Rathia, Tanwar, Chattri 23. Khairwar 24. Kharia 25. Kokna, Kokni, Kukna 26. Kol 27. Kolam, Mannervaru 28. Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha 29. Koli Mahadev, Dongar Koli 30. Koli Malhar 31. Kondh, Khond, Kandh 32. Korku, Bopchi, Mouasi, Nihal, Nahul, Bondhi, Bondeya 33. Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya 34. Nagesia, Nagasia 35. Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka, Nana Nayaka 36. Oraon, Dhangad 37. Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti 38. Pardhi: Advichincher, Phans Pardhi, Phanse Pardhi, Langoli Pardhi, Bahelia, Bahellia, Chita Pardhi, Shikari, Takankar, Takia 39. Parja 40. Patelia 41. Pomla 42. Rathawa 43. Sawar, Sawara 44. Thakur, Thakar, Ka Thakur, Ka Thakar, Ma Thakur, Ma Thakar 45. Thoti (in Aurangabad, Jalna, Bid, Nanded, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani and Hingoli districts and Rajura tehsil of Chandrapur district) 46. Varli 47. Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia

#### **15. Manipur**

1. Aimol 2. Anal 3. Angami 4. Chiru 5. Chothe 6. Gangte 7. Hmar 8. Kabui 9. Kacha Naga 10. Koirao 11. Koireng 12. Kom 13. Lamgang 14. Mao 15. Maram 16. Maring 17. Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes 18. Monsang 19. Moyon 20. Paite 21. Purum 22. Ralte 23. Sem 24. Simte 25. Suhte 26. Tangkhul 27. Thadou 28. Vaiphui 29. Zou

#### **16. Meghalaya**

1. Boro Kacharis 2. Chakma 3. Dimasa, Kachari 4. Garo 5. Hajong 6. Hmar 7. Khasi, Jaintia, Synteng, Pnar, War, Bhoi, Lyngngam 8. Koch 9. Any Kuki Tribes, including: (1. Biate, Biete 2. Changsan 3. Chongloi 4. Doungel 5. Gamalhou 6. Gangte 7. Guite 8. Hanneng 9. Haokip, Hauptit 10. Haolai 11. Hengna 12. Hongsungh 13. Hrangkhwal, Rangkhoh 14. Jongbe 15. Khawchung 16. Khawathlang, Khothalong 17. Khelma 18. Kholhou 19. Kipgen 20. Kuki 21. Lengthang 22. Lhangum 23. Lhoujem 24. Lhouvun 25. Lupheng 26. Mangjel 27. Misao 28. Rieng 29. Sairhem 30. Selnam 31. Singson 32. Sitlhou 33. Sukte 34. Thado 35. Thangngeu 36. Uibuh 37. Vaiphei) 10. Lakher 11. Man (Tai speaking) 12. Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes 13. Mikir 14. Any Naga tribes 15. Pawi 16. Raba, Rava 17. Synteng

#### **17. Mizoram**

1. Chakma 2. Dimasa (Kachari) 3. Garo 4. Hajong 5. Hmar 6. Khasi and Jaintia (including Khasi Synteng or Pnar, War, Bhoi or Lyngngam) 7. Any Kuki Tribes, including: (1. Biate, Biete 2. Changsan 3. Chongloi 4. Doungel 5. Gamalhou 6. Gangte 7. Guite 8. Hanneng 9. Haokip, Hauptit 10. Haolai 11. Hengna 12. Hongsungh 13. Hrangkhwal, Rangkhoh 14. Jongbe 15. Khawchung 16. Khawathlang, Khothalong 17. Khelma 18. Kholhou 19. Kipgen 20. Kuki 21. Lengthang 22. Lhangum 23. Lhoujem 24. Lhouvun 25. Lupheng 26. Mangjel 27. Misao 28. Rieng 29. Sairhem 30. Selnam 31. Singson 32. Sitlhou 33. Sukte 34. Thado 35. Thangngeu 36. Uibuh 37. Vaiphei) 8. Lakher 9. Man (Tai speaking) 10. Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes 11. Mikir 12. Any Naga tribes 13. Pawi 14. Synteng

#### **18. Nagaland**

1. Garo 2. Kachari 3. Kuki 4. Mikir 5. Naga

## **19. Odisha**

1. Bagata 2. Baiga 3. Banjara, Banjari 4. Bathudi 5. Bhattada, Dhotada 6. Bhuiya, Bhuyan 7. Bhumia 8. Bhumij 9. Bhunjia 10. Binjhal 11. Binjhia, Binjhoa 12. Birhor 13. Bondo Poraja 14. Chenchu 15. Dal 16. Desua Bhumij 17. Dharua 18. Didayi 19. Gadaba 20. Gandia 21. Ghara 22. Gond, Gondo 23. Ho 24. Holva 25. Jatapus|Jatapu 26. Juang 27. Kandha Gauda 28. Kawar 29. Kharia, Kharian 30. Kharwar 31. Khond, Kond, Kandha, Nanguli Kandha, Sitha Kandha 32. Kisan 33. Kol 34. Kolah Loharas, Kol Loharas 35. Kolha 36. Koli, Malhar 37. Kondadora 38. Kora 39. Korua 40. Kotia 41. Koya 42. Kulis 43. Lodha 44. Madia 45. Mahali 46. Mankidi 47. Mankirdia 48. Matya 49. Mirdhas 50. Munda, Munda Lohara, Munda Mahalis 51. Mundari 52. Omanatya 53. Oraon 54. Parenga 55. Paroja 56. Pentia 57. Rajuar 58. Santal 59. Saora, Savar, Saura, Sahara 60. Shabar, Lodha 61. Sounti 62. Tharua

## **20. Rajasthan**

1. Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvil Bhil, Bhagaliala, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave 2. Bhil Mina 3. Damor, Damaria 4. Dhanka, Tadvil, Tetaria, Valvi 5. Garasia (excluding Rajput Garasia) 6. Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari 7. Kokna, Kokni, Kukna 8. Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha 9. Mina 10. Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka, Nana Nayaka 11. Patelia 12. Sehariala, Sehria, Sahariyal 13. dhushar

## **21. Sikkim**

1. Bhutia (including Chumbipa, Dophthapa, Dukpa, Kagatey, Sherpa, Tibetan, Tromopa, Yolmo) 2. Lepcha

## **22. Tamil Nadu**

1. Adiyar 2. Aranadan 3. Eravallan 4. Irular 5. Kadar 6. Kammara (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 7. Kanikaran, Kanikkar (in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 8. Kaniyan, Kanyan 9. Kattunayakan 10. Kochu Velan 11. Konda Kapus 12. Kondareddis 13. Koraga 14. Kota (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district) 15. Kudiya, Melakudi 16. Kurichchan 17. Kurumbas (in the Nilgiri district) 18. Kurumans 19. Maha Malasar 20. Malai Arayan 21. Malai Pandaram 22. Malai Vedan 23. Malakkuravan 24. Malasar 25. Malayali (in Dharmapuri, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Pudukkottai, Salem, Namakkal, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Karur and Perambalur districts) 26. Malayekandi 27. Mannan 28. Mudugar, Muduvan 29. Muthuvan 30. Palleyan 31. Palliyar 32. Palliyar 33. Paniyan 34. Sholaga 35. Toda (excluding Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of Tirunelveli district)

36. Uraly

## **23. Tripura**

1. Bhil 2. Bhutia 3. Chaimal 4. Chakma 5. Garoo 6. Halam 7. Jamatia 8. Khasia 9. Kuki, including the following sub-tribes: (1. Balte 2. Belalhu 3. Chhalya 4. Fun 5. Hajango 6. Jangtei 7. Khareng 8. Khephong 9. Kuntei 10. Laifang 11. Lentei 12. Mizel 13. Namte 14. Paitu, Paite 15. Rangchan 16. Rangkhole 17. Thangluya) 10. Lepcha 11. Lushai 12. Mag 13. Munda, Kaur 14. Noatia 15. Orang 16. Riang 17. Santal 18. Tripura, Tripuri, Tippera 19. Uchai

## **24. Uttarakhand**

1. Bhotia 2. Buksa 3. Jannasari 4. Raji 5. Tharu

## **25. Uttar Pradesh**

1. Bhotia 2. Buksa 3. Jaunsari 4. Raji 5. Tharu 6. Gond

## **26. West Bengal**

1. Asur 2. Baiga 3. Bedia, Bediya 4. Bhumij 5. Bhutia, Sherpa, Toto, Dukpa, Kagatay, Tibetan, Yolmo 6. Birhor 7. Birjia 8. Chakma 9. Chero 10. Chik Baraik 11. Garo 12. Gond 13. Gorait 14. Hajang 15. Ho 16. Karmali 17. Kharwar 18. Khond 19. Kisan 20. Kora 21. Korwa 22. Lepcha 23. Lodha, Kheria, Kharia 24. Lohara, Lohra 25. Magh 26. Mahali 27. Mahli 28. Mal Pahariya 29. Mech 30. Mru 31. Munda 32. Nagesia 33. Oraon 34. Parhaiya 35. Rabha 36. Santal 37. Sauria Paharia 38. Savar

## **1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)**

1. Andamanese, Chariar, Chari, Kora, Tabo, Bo, Yere, Kede, Bea, Balawa, Bojigiyab, Juwai, Kol 2. Jarawas 3. Nicobarese 4. Onges 5. Sentinelese 6. Shom Pens

## **2. Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)**

1. Dhodia 2. Dubla including Halpati 3. Kathodi 4. Kokna 5. Koli Dhor including Kolgha 6. Naikda or Nayaka 7. Varli



### 3. Daman and Diu (UT)

1. Dhodia 2. Dubla (Halpati) 3. Naikda (Talavia) 4. Siddi (Nayaka) 5. Varli

### III. Major Nomadic Communities (ND):

Nomadic Communities are mainly two types such as livestock-raising people and other people who do various types of small works for survival including begging, dancing, singing, hunting, storey-telling, snake-charming etc.

**A: Pastoral nomads:** These category of people raise different kinds of livestock such as buffaloes, sheep, goats, camels, cattle, donkeys and yaks. These people raise livestock in a mobile pastoral system.

#### 1. Ahir (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya

Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) raise cattle **2. Bakarwal** (Jammu and Kashmir) mainly raise goats **3. Bharwad** (Gujarat) sheep and goat **4. Bhotia** (Uttarakhand, upper regions of Garhwal and Kumaon) sheep, goats and cattle **5. Bhutia** (North district of Sikkim Buddhist) sheep, goats and cattle **6. Changpa** (Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in Zaskar) Yak **7. Charan** (Gir forest region of Gujarat) cattle **8. Dhangar** (Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh) sheep **9. Gaddi** (Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir) sheep and goats **10. Gaddi Muslim** (Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) cattle, they are mainly urban dairymen **11. Gaderia** (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana) goats **12. Gavli** (Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra) cattle **13. Gayri** (Southern Rajasthan (Mewar) sheep **14. Ghosi** (Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) cattle Golla also **15. Nandiwala** (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra) cattle **16. Gujjar** (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan) mainly buffalo, but also cattle **17. Jath** (Kutch region of Gujarat) cattle and occasionally camels **18. Kinnaura** (Kinnaur District of Himachal Pradesh) sheep and goats **19. Kuruba** (Karnataka) sheep **20. Kuruma** (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) sheep **21. Mer** (Saurashtra region of Gujarat) camels, also some cattle **22. Monpa** (Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh) Yak and cattle **23. Rath** (western Rajasthan (Ganganagar and Bikaner districts) cattle, mainly of the rathi breed **24. Rebari or Raika** (Rajasthan and Gujarat) camel, cattle and goats **25. Sindhi Sipahi or Sindhi Musalman** (Marwar and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan) mainly camels, also cattle and sheep **26. Toda** (Nilgiri region of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka) cattle **27. Van Gujar** (Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) buffalo

**B: Peripatetic nomads:** Throughout South Asia, there are groups of nomads who are peddlers, itinerant minstrels, dancers and dramatists.

**1. Abdal** (North India, mostly in Gujarat) traditionally associated with begging at shrines **2. Aheria** (North India) hunting and trapping. Many were also involved with acting as guides on royal hunts. **3. Bakho** (Mainly in the districts of Begusarai, Patna, Chamoaran in Bihar and Nalanda in Telangana) Traditionally associated with singing folk songs. **4. Bangali** (Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh) snake charming is their main occupation. **5. Bansphor or Banbansi** (Uttar Pradesh) traditionally involved in the manufacture of bamboo items for household usage. **6. Basor** a sub-division within the Dom community (In Uttar Pradesh, mainly in the Bundelkhand region), traditionally involved in the manufacture of bamboo furniture. **7. Bazigar** (Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh) jugglers, dancers, basket-weavers and fortune-tellers. **8. Bedia** (North India) train their girls to sing and dance. **9. Boria** (North India - Awadh region) often employed as village watchmen. Entirely Hindu. **10. Deha** (Haryana and Punjab) traditional occupation was begging and agricultural labour. **11. Dharhi** (Awadh region of Uttar Pradesh) singing and playing the tabla for their patron communities. **12. Dharkar** (Awadh region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh) rope-making and the manufacture of baskets and mats, also supplement their income by begging. **13. Dom** (South India and Pakistan) traditionally employed during the cremation rituals. **14. Banjaras and Lambanis** (South India and Pakistan) occupation includes scavenging, weaving of ropes and baskets. **15. Gadia Lohar** (Madhya Pradesh and move on from one place to another place on bullock carts. Their camps are often found at the edge of villages, **16. Gandhil and Gandola** (Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh) donkey-rearing and secondary occupations include the manufacture of brooms. They are an itinerant community, traditionally involved in peddling. **17. Habura** (Doab region of Uttar Pradesh) often also engaging in vagrancy. **18. Heri** (Haryana and Punjab) a herd of cattle. **19. Hurkiya** (Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) men used to play the hurka drums and the women used to dance but now working as daily wage labourers. **20. Kalabaz** (Uttar Pradesh) Those Nats who became acrobats over-time evolved into a distinct community. **21. Khalifa** (West Bengal and Bangladesh) involved in the repairing of umbrellas. In addition to that, the community is also involved in the manufacture of fishhooks. **22. Kanjar:** (Northern India and Pakistan) They are divided into four clans, the Callad, Superala, Diyal and Rachhband. A fifth group, the Patharkat are now a distinct. This community is historically associated with prostitution. **23. Karwal:** They are further subdivided into a number of clans, the main ones being the Purabia, Hazari, Uttariya, Koiereriya and Turkiya. (Uttar Pradesh) traditionally beggars and hunters. **24. Kharia Muslim** (West Bengal) catching of snakes, toads and birds. **24. Mirasi or Pakhwaji, Kalawartand Qawwal** (North India and Pakistan) **25. Mirshikar** (Bihar) hunters and trekkers. **26. Narikurava**

(Tamil Nadu) The main occupation is hunting. But as they were prohibited entry into the forests to pursue this livelihood, they were forced to take up other alternatives such as selling beaded ornaments to survive. **27. Nat:** They are fourteen subgroups, the main ones being the Nituria, Rarhi, Chhabhayia, Tikulhara, Tirkuta, Pushtia, Rathore, Kazarhatia, Kathbangi, Banwaria, Kougarh, Lodhra, Korohia, and Gulgulia. (North India) traditionally entertainers and jugglers. **28. Pamarria** (Bihar) Their occupation remains singing and dancing. **29. Patharkat or Sangtarash** (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) stone cutters **30. Perna** (Haryana and Punjab) dependent on begging. **31. Qalandar** (North India and Pakistan Punjab) leading bears, monkeys and other performing animals with which they wander, announcing the presence with an hourglass-shaped drum called a *damru*. **32. Sansi** (Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab) sell and barter cattle, some are also involved in jugglery and acrobatics. **33. Sapera** (Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh) **34. Sapera Muslims or Mastan or Ustad** (found in the districts of Saharsa, Champaran, Sitamarhi and Purnea in Bihar) traditional occupation is snake-charming. **35. Sapuria** traditionally associated with snake-charming.

Conclusion: Overall, in SCs/ STs/ NTs there are many sub-groups which are more marginalized and backward and are unable to access the fruits of development. Governments have been designing and implementing a number of schemes and intervention programs for the welfare of these marginalized communities. Governments are even allocating special budgets for the development of marginalized communities. The critical thing is the implementation of the programs with true spirit to enhance the livelihoods and protect the rights of the marginalized communities.

**\* livelihoods September-2014**

## 52. Dalit Livelihoods

***Dalits account for more than 16 per cent of India's population. Majority of them belong to the poorest sections of the society and are predominantly based in rural India. While their percentages are small and marginal farmers, many of them are engaged as agricultural wage labourers. Where dalits got opportunities and access to resources, they proved to be at par with rest of population in delivering products and services. They have excelled in what they do. There is a huge untapped potential amongst the dalits. Multiple opportunities should be created by various stakeholders at all levels to unfold this potential.***

Dalit is a Sanskrit word from the root 'dal' which means 'broken' or 'crushed'. It means oppressed. Oppression in various forms continues to exist in the world. According to UN globally more than 250,000,000 people suffer discrimination based on descent or work and occupation. Of these an alarming number of people about 160,000,000 to 180,000,000 are in India itself.

The caste system practiced in India perpetuated and still continues to perpetuate oppression of certain sections of the society. The term 'Dalit' is used to represent these oppressed sections and communities. In Constitution of India these communities are referred to as SCs. The practice of untouchability removed from dalits, the opportunity to grow economically and socially at par with rest of the population. They were either completely denied or unfairly restricted access to the capitals - natural, physical, human, social, financial and spiritual. They were denied any hold and say in managing the contexts - whether techno-economic, ecological, income, expenditure and distribution. This discrimination jeopardized every aspect of their life - health, housing, education, livelihoods, social interaction etc.



The dalits account for more than 16 per cent of the country's population. This is over 160 million people, about one sixth of the country's population. Their contribution in terms of labour, art and culture is enormous but their share in the country's resources is negligible. The poorest people in the world survive on an income less than \$1 a day. About half of the dalit population lives at or below this level of income. This number is simply alarming.

About 77 per cent of the dalits, SCs are landless without any productive assets and sustainable employment opportunities. Majority of them are landless agricultural labourers and wherever they own land its only marginal

and of low quality. Irrigation in India has a caste geography to it. While upper castes cultivate at the head level, the intermediate castes at the middle stream the lower castes cultivate at the tail ends. Some per cent of dalits are engaged as rural artisans and the rest in non-farm agricultural sectors. Where dalits got an opportunity to pursue education - formal and/or skill-based they found ways into various sectors - government jobs, engineering, medicine, IT, fashion designing, development, entrepreneurs just to name a few. On all these fields they are delivering at par with rest of the population and in some cases excelling too.

The dalits come with a distinct advantage in the sphere of livelihoods. Traditionally, many were engaged in providing services/helping hand directly or indirectly to almost all the economic activities thriving in the villages. Most of them were not fixed to any particular livelihood/skill. This gave dalits the innate flexibility to take up any livelihood with ease. Some of the livelihoods that were practiced by dalits traditionally include -

1. Farming
2. Agricultural labour
3. Removers of animal carcasses
4. Flayers and cleaners of dead animals

According to UN globally more than 250,000,000 people suffer discrimination based on descent or work and occupation. Of these, about 160,000,000 to 180,000,000

5. Cobblers
6. Drummers in fairs
7. Village helpers (collecting and paying village revenues )
8. Taking care of others cattle
9. Event broadcaster in the villages
10. Village messengers Deliverers of messages of death
11. Wood cutters for fuel
12. Manual scavengers
13. Sweepers and drainage cleaners
14. Keepers at the graveyard
15. Village Jogini/Devadasi/Matangi
16. Begari (grave diggers )
17. Rural weaver
18. Watchman for others crops
19. Watchman for irrigation tanks
20. Talari (village watchman)
21. Performers of animal sacrifices etc.

Many of these livelihoods practiced by dalits were poorly paid. Due to lack of access to resources, capital and social stigma attached to their economic activities, majority were left behind in the development process. Dalits were excluded from a wide range of work opportunities in the area of production, processing and sales. Limited access to education, training and resources such as land and credit has impaired their opportunities.

Constitution of India recognizes all communities that faced extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability as Scheduled Castes. Several provisions are made in the Constitution to redress the discrimination and exploitation meted out against the dalits. Article 17 makes untouchability a punishable crime. Articles 15, 16, 330 and 335 talk about provisions for reservations to SCs in educational institutions, Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, appointments or posts and promotions.

Many States have implemented reservation system in government schools, colleges and jobs. At the national level 22.5 per cent of the national government jobs, state legislature seats, seats in the lower house of the parliament and higher education are reserved for members of SCs and STs. However SCs comprise majority of the poor in India. This results in poor enrollment and high drop out rates of SC children in schools. Added to this the highly dysfunctional government schools in villages have contributed to the illiteracy among SCs. Poor health

#### **2001 Census**

SCs constitute 16.2% of the total population in India. The state of Punjab has the highest proportion of SCs at 28.9% while Mizoram has the lowest at 0.03%.

also becomes a major impediment. There are instances where the reserved seats in colleges and government jobs did not fill up. Dalit representation in university teaching posts is less than 1 per cent. Further there is internal strife among different communities in SCs to find space in those reservation categories that derive maximum benefits. This competition within may dilute the

strength of dalit solidarity movements.

The impact of privatization and globalization has not left the dalits untouched. The few educated and skilled among them could catch up and reach higher echelons, but many have remained poor and worse even becoming poor. Statistics show about 80 per cent of the dalits live in rural India. Under globalization, agriculture has become very expensive and unviable. The backbone of village economy is suffering so are agricultural labourers, majority of whom are dalits. Many of them are earning as little a wage as Rs12 to Rs.30 per day. With real estate boom agricultural lands are getting converted for non-agricultural purposes. Special Economic Zone (SEZ) are taking away major chunk of land.

Several traditionally practiced livelihoods of dalits have either disappeared or banned or encroached upon by other players. More than 2/3rd dalits are engaged in less remunerative activities for eking out a living. In rural areas except for NREGA they have nothing to look forward to. The State is steadily withdrawing from its obligations and duties towards the poorest and weakest sections.

All the stakeholders - the CSO, Community Based Organizations (CBO), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), professionals, individuals, institutions etc should work towards providing for alternative livelihood opportunities for dalits. Livelihoods banned by the government because of their menial status can be either decentralized or mechanized and made highly remunerative like in the West. Majority of the dalits are landless or marginal farmers. Implementation of land reforms will help dalits gain access to natural capital.

**Under Article 341 of the Constitution of India, the President in consultation with Governors and Rajpramukhs of the concerned States has formulated The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950. This Order lists the Castes recognized as Scheduled Castes in each State. The Order has since been modified to accommodate changes to the list.**

**Andhra Pradesh** - Adi Andhra, AdiDravida, Anamuk, Aray Mala, Arundhatiya, Arwa Mala, Bariki, Bavuri, Beda, Jangam, Budgajangam, Bindla, Byagara, Chachati, Chalavadi, Chamar, Mochi, Muchi, Chambhar, Chandala, Dakkal, Dokkalwar, Dandasi, Dhor, Dom, Dombara, Paidi, Pano, Ellamalawar, Yellammalawandlu, Ghasi, Haddi, Relli, Chanchandi, Godagali, Godari, Gosangi, Holey, HoleyDasari, Jaggali, Jambuvulu, Kolupulvandlu, MadasiKuruva, MadariKuruva, Madiga, MadigaDasu, Mashteen, Mahar, Mala, Mala Dasari, Mala Dasu, Mala Hannai, Malajangam, Mala Masti, Mala Sale, Nethani, Mala Sanyasi, Mang, MangGarodi, , Manne, Mashti, Matangi, Mehtar, MithaAyyalvar, Mundala, Paky, Moti, Thoti, Pambada, Pambanda, Pamidi, Panchama, Pariah, Relli, Samagara, Samban, Sapru, Sindhollu, Chindollu

**Assam** - Bansphor, Bhuinmali, Mali, BrittrialBania, Bania, Bhupi, Dhobi, Dugla, Dholi, Hira, Jalkeot, JhaloMalo, JhaloMalo, Kaibartta, Jaliya, Lalbegi, Mahara, Mehtar, Bhangi, Muchi, Rishi, Namasudra, Patni, Sutradhar

**Bihar** - Bantar, Bauri, Bhogta, Bhuiya, Bhumij, Chamar, Mochi, Chaupal, Dabgar, Dhobi, Dom, Dhangad, Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi, Ghasi, Halalkhor, Hari, Mehtar, Bhangi, Kanjar, Kurariar, Lalbegi, Mushar, Nat, Pan, Sawasi, Pasi, Rajwar, Turi

**Gujarat** - Ager, , Bant, -Debh, Debh-Sadhu, , Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, Nalia, TeleguMochi, KamatiMochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit, Samgar, Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar, Zadmalli, Chalvadi, Channayya, ChennaDasar, HolayaDasar, Dangashia, Dhor, Kakkayya, Kankayya, Garmatang, Garoda, Garo, Halleer, Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar, Halasvar, Holar, Valhar, Holaya, Holer, Lingader, Mahar, Taral, DheguMegu, Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Dhedh, Vankar, MaruVankar, Antyaj, Mang, Matang, Minimadig, Mang-Garudi, Meghwal, Meghwal, Menghvar, Mukri, Nadia, Hadi, Pasi, Senva, Shenva, Chenva, Sedma, Rawat, Shemalia, Thori, Tirgar, Tirbanda, Turi, TuriBarot, DedhBarot

**Haryana** - Ad Dharmi, Balmiki, Chura, Bhangi, Bangali, Barar, Burar, Berar, Batwal, Bauria, Bawaria, Bazigar, Bhanjra, Chamar, JatiaChamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Chanal, Dagi, Darain, Deha, Dhaya, Dhea, Dhanak, Dhogri, Dhangri, Sigg, Dumna, Mahasha, Doom, Gagra, Gandhila, Gandil Gondola, Kabirpanthi, Julaha, Khatik, Kori, Koli, Marija, Marecha, Mazhabi, Megh, Nat, Od, Pasi, Perna, Pherera, Sanhai, Sanhal, Sansi, Bhedkut, Manesh, Sansoi, Sapela, Sarera, Sikligar, Sirkiband

**Himachal Pradesh** - Ad Dharmi, Badhi, Nagalu, Balmiki, Bhangi, Chuhra, Chura, Chuhre, Bandhela, Bangali, Banjara, Bansi, Barad, Barar, Burar, Berar, Batwal, Bauria, Bawaria, Bazigar, Bhanjra, Bhanjre, Chamar, JatiaChamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, amdasia, Mochi, Chanal, Chhimbe Dhobi, Dagi, Darain, Darai, Daryai, Daule, Deole, Dhaki, Toori, Dhanak, Dhaogri, Dhuai, Dhogri, Dhangri, Sigg, Doom, Doomna, Dumna, Dumne, Mahasha, Gagra, Gandhila, , andil, Gondola, Hali, Hesi, Jogi, Julaha, Julahe, Kabirpanthi, Keer, Kamoh, Dagoli, Karoack, Khatik, Kori, Koli, Lohar, Marija, Marecha, Mazhabi, Megh, Nat, Od, Pasi, Perna, Phrera, Pherera, Rehar, Rehara, Sanhai, Sanhal, Sansi, Bhedkut, Manesh, Sansoi, Sapela, Sarde, Sarera, , arare, Siryare, Sarehde, Sikligar, Sipi, Sirkiband, Teli, Thathiar, Thathera

**Jharkhand** - Bantar, Bauri, Bhogta, Bhuiya, Chamar, Mochi, Choupal, Dabajar, Dhobi, Dom, Dhangad, Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi, Ghasi, Halalkhor, Hair, Mehtar, Bhangi, Kanjar, Kurariar, Lalbegi, Musahar, Nat, Pan, Sawasi, Pasi, Rajwar, Turi

**Karnataka** - Adi Andhra, AdiDravida, Adi Karnataka, Adiya, Ager, Ajila, Anamuk, Aray, Mala, Arunthathiyar, Arwa Mala, Baira, Bakad, Vant, Bakuda, Balagai, Bandi, Banjara, Lambani, Bathada, Beda Jangam, BudgaJangam, Bellara, Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar, Zadmalli, Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, Muchi, TeleguMochi, KamatiMochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Rohit, Samgar, Bhovi, Bindla, Byagara, Chakkiliyan, Chalavadi, Chalvadi, Channayya, Chandala, Chenna, Dasar, HolayaDasar, Dakkal, Dokkalwar, Dakkaliga, Dhor, Kakkayya, Kankayya, Dom, , Dombara, Paidi, Pano, Ellamalwar, Yellammalawandlu, Ganti Chores, Garoda, Garo, Godda, Gosangi, Halleer, Halsar, Haslar, Hulasvar, Halasvar, HandiJogis, Hasla, Holar, Valhar, Holaya, Holer, Holey, HoleyDasari, Jaggali, Jambuvulu, Kadaiyan, Kalladi, Kepmaris, Kolupulvandlu, Kooosa, Koracha, Korama, Kotegar, Metri, Kudumban, Kuravan, Lingader, Machala, Madari, Madiga, Mahar, Taral, DheguMegu, Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar, Maru-maru-vonkar, Maila, Mala, Mala Dasari, Mala Hannai, Mala Jangam, Mala Masti, Mala Sale, Netkani, Mala Sanyasi, Mang, Matang, Minimadig, MangGarudi, MangGarodi, Manne, Masthi, Mavilan, Meghwal, Menghvar, Moge, Mukri, Mundala, Nadia, Hadi, Nalkadaya, Nalakeyava, Nayadi, Pale, Pallan, Pambada, Panchama, Panniandi, Paraiyan, Paraya, Paravan, Raneyar, Samagara, Samban, Sapari, Sillekyathas, Sindhollu, Chindollu, Sudugadu, Siddha, Thoti, Tirgar, Tirbanda, Valluvan

Dalit movements, a highly organized force fighting for Dalit Rights is happening across. LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) forces are shrinking the role of the government in various sectors. This means less and less government positions, posts going forward. There is a demand from dalit movements for extending reservations to private sector as well. If this demand is not considered, the dalits will remain excluded from 'inclusive growth'. The momentum and energy of dalit movements should be tapped to strategically fight for economics, for pushing forward the livelihoods agenda.

Collectivization of dalits and other oppressed for solidarity and economics is emerging and can be further strengthened. They can form collectives of service providers and cater to the emerging demands in the service sector. They need access to quality education, skills and trainings. Wherever, dalits got opportunities they excelled. Their inherent flexibility in taking up different livelihoods should be leveraged and they can be introduced to a plethora of skills. Moreover, dalits have proved their ability to lead in Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Federations of SHGs especially the women. They need opportunities to fine tune their leadership skills, their

entrepreneurial skills. They need meta-skilling avenues. They need multiple doses of support to catch up with the rest of the population in grabbing growth opportunities. Dalits need to ride on the growth bus now, else they will miss it one more time. There is definite need to build literature and have new voices heard to take dalit livelihoods agenda forward.

All the efforts to achieve MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) in India need to have dalit-specific focus and targeted policy frameworks. MDG campaigns can focus on dalits right to - land, common property resources, universal primary education, food, social security, water, sanitation and all basic needs, basic health, adequate and remunerative jobs.

India cannot go forward leaving behind a great section of its population. It's time to re-tap the potential of the oppressed including the dalits. There is a need to create wider opportunities for them to realize their potential. All the stakeholders of inclusive growth, the oppressed (dalits, non-dalits), non-oppressed, governments, CBOs, NGOs, CSOs, corporate houses etc should work towards this.

**\*Livelihoods April 2008**

## 53. Dis'ABLED' and Livelihoods

*There are 70 million disabled in the country. Studies indicate that out of this number only about 5 per cent are gainfully employed. The livelihoods of the disabled are in distress. Instead of creating support systems, to enable the disabled to undertake any livelihoods activity, focus is on figuring out special livelihoods for them. This means their choice in livelihoods is shrinking. Creating supportive environment, like disabled-friendly infrastructure and disabled-friendly policies and bringing about a change in the way disabled and their abilities are perceived is needed.*

The first sketch in our minds, when we refer to disabled is limbless, blind, hapless and hopeless faces. We either show sympathy or apathy towards disabled and at times even worse behavior like cursing and harassment are not unheard off. The prevailing stereotyped impression in our society is that the disabled are a dependent lot, cannot live on their own, and are incapable of doing anything productive. The impression that a disabled person cannot handle any of the activities and non-disabled can is so strong, that it gets amply reflected in the policies, development programs and projects formulated/designed for disabled. The truth however speaks the contrary. Disabled are able to access and harness the available resources, like the rest and perform like the rest. However, often and conveniently forgotten fact is that there is a dearth of resources, more so for the disabled. Imagination rather than reality, lies rather than truth musters more momentum and travels farther. People are caught in this prism of imagination, lies and half-baked truth with regard to disabled. Unless, this prism is diffused and dismantled any efforts, interventions to make a difference for the disabled will remain meaningless. The Persons with Disabilities Act (PDA) of 1995, considers a person as 'Disabled' if she/he 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**
- **Mental illness**

Recently **Dwarfism** has also been recognized as disability.

The estimates on the number of disabled in the country vary. 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 Center 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 per cent disabled in India, which means 60 to 70 million population in the country, fall under this category. According to National Sample Survey (NSS) 2004 estimates, disability in rural areas stands higher at 1.85% compared to urban areas at 1.5%. Further, 55% of the disabled are illiterate. Only about 9% have completed higher secondary education. Between the ages of 5 and 18, only 11% disabled in urban areas have availed special schools and this figure is very dismal in rural areas at less than 1%. The Constitution of India, guarantees equal opportunities for all under Articles – 14, 16 and 21 and under Directive Principles of State Policy – 41, 46 and 47. Between 1948 and 1999 many Acts, have been passed for the welfare and benefit of the disabled.

**1. Employee State Insurance Act, 1948 (ESI)**

**2. The Mental Health Act, 1987** – This Act relates to the treatment and care of mentally ill persons and to make better provision with respect to their property and affairs.

**3. The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992** – The Act was formulated to provide for the constitution of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) for regulating training of the Rehabilitation Professionals, for maintaining a Central Rehabilitation Register and for other matters related to these issues.

**4. 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 this Act has been to introduce an instrument for promoting equality and participation of persons with disability on the one hand, and eliminating discriminations 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 of age and are poor receives lifelong pension from the government.

### **5. The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999**

### **6. Exemptions on Income Tax Act**

### **7. The All India Service (Special Disability Leave) Regulations, 1957**

The Disability Act (DA) comprises of several provisions, for promoting education among disabled children. Education and/or Training gives required skills to the disabled to undertake any activity. One of the recommendations, is to make regular schools disabled-friendly, so both disabled and non-disabled children can study together. Where special education is needed, the government and private sector should set up special schools in areas, to which disabled children have decent access. However, as per NCPEDP estimates, as of today 98% of the disabled children have no access to education. Only 0.1% of disabled are at the university level and 0.51% at school level. Under District Primary Education Program (DPEP) and Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) efforts are underway to identify disabled kids and give them supporting tools. However, these efforts are not adequate. Teachers are not appropriately trained to adopt inclusive methods of teaching and therefore disabled children still face different kinds of discrimination. Special schools for disabled too are, plagued with problems like lack of trained teachers, shortage of class rooms, shortage of funds and etc.



**People's needs are people's rights. How can we then forget that the rights of isabled are exist-ing too. The livelihoods of the dis-abled are in crisis. Its sad that the government claims its failures as achievements. The benefits in-tended for disabled are not reach-ing them. They are drifting to other hands. Intellectu-ally disabled kids are being used in illegal works. Government funds allocation for the disabled should increase.**

**M.Srinivas, Vaarthateja magazine coordinator**

Appropriate livelihood(s) is the key for empowerment of the disabled. The common belief is that the disabled are incapable of undertaking several activities that non-disabled can and therefore there is a need to come up with livelihoods of different kinds for them. However, this is not true. A careful observation reveals that disabled people engage in all kinds of work and this is an interesting fact. The disabled customize work and environment to make up for their disability. Thus, critical factor is not working for creating special livelihoods, but providing training, skills and supporting environment for the disabled, to undertake any livelihood activity. Today, several disabled in the country are struggling to find a decent livelihood. This is not because of

their disability, but constraints like lack of education, skills, training, and employer's apathy towards disabled, lack of supporting infrastructure/environment are playing a critical role, in hampering their progress. The 3% employment reservation provided by the government is not implemented adequately. The disabled consequently lurk in poverty today. They are denied opportunity, to participate in the progress of society in general and in family particular.

Efforts should be made to make infrastructure disabled friendly. Public places and buildings, should be in such a way that the disabled can navigate with ease. Adequate lighting, appropriate markers, wide doorways, wheelchair-friendly sidewalks, driveways, entrances etc. will help. If these models are incorporated in designing stage itself, there will be no additional expenditure. For already existing structures, these changes will only mean a small overhead. These modifications will also help pregnant women and children. Some efforts have been made in the past, to mainstream the disabled. An organization called Navaperana, in Noida, Gaziabad works towards finding employment for the disabled. The organization has established tie-ups with 50 industrial units in the area. Navaperana builds skills of the disabled on the basis of the employment needs in the region. Two-wheeler manufacturer, Kinetic in coordination with District Leprosy Center (DLC) of Pune, set up an ancillary unit in Ahmednagar. All the machines in this unit are operated by disabled. These efforts are commendable. However this is still only a drop in the ocean. Several such interventions should happen. Recently, Government of India Gol announced disability pension of Rs.400

The critical factor is not working towards creating special livelihoods for the disabled rather the focus should be on providing training, skills, supporting environment for the disabled to undertake any livelihood activity.



**Many more organizations should work for the welfare and livelihoods of the disabled. The livelihood activities pro-moted through SHGs are very small. There is not shared understanding on these issues. To work for disabled should mean working for their liveli-hoods.**

**Krishnamurthy from Commitments**

per person. This is a welcome move, but not adequate. Efforts should be made simultaneously to provide trainings, skill-building and livelihoods to the disabled. According to Comptroller and Comprote Auditor General's (CAG) observation made in 2004, only 1% of the disabled registered in special employment exchanges got employment. The World Bank (WB) states that the employment rate of disabled in India, dropped from 42.7% in 1991 to 37.6% by 2002. These facts are not encouraging.

There is a need to shift from charity mode, as far as the disabled are concerned. The policies and



programs of the government, interventions by NGOs, CSO, donor organizations for disabled, so far speak the tone of charity. Welfare of disabled reigns high in their agenda; instead focus should be on protecting the rights of the disabled. Awareness should be created, among the disabled about all the laws, acts, provisions, schemes, programs that they can avail to improve their quality of life. Disabled should be made part, in the process of framing policies and programs for them. Efforts should be made to dispel the misconceptions about the disabled in the public. Sports competition for disabled is a nice step that has been taken up. Awareness programs to sensitize private organizations about disabled will help. There is also a need for the disabled to come together and form networks and solidarity groups. Together their voices will be heard. They should create platforms for sharing information, fighting for their rights, influencing policies etc. Disabled meet happened in AP, very recently. The outcomes of this meet includes –

- Scholarships to disabled on the same lines as SC scholarships
- Increase in personal subsidy from Rs.3000 to Rs.10000
- Reimbursement of professional fee

According to International Labour Organization (ILO), one realization that is happening gradually off late in the world is that by generating more employment opportunities for disabled in all sectors, the actual expenditure incurred on providing disability benefits can come down. Financial independence creates an environment for empowerment. Empathy in place of sympathy, development in place of welfare, support systems in place of dependent systems, inclusion in place of exclusion is what the disabled need. This approach will enhance their spiritual capital - self-confidence, determination and the like. Before, aspiring for bringing about changes in the lives of disabled, we should work towards changing our own perception of disabled. All else will then fall in place. We need to believe in the ability of the disabled. Einstein could never remember his way back home. Stephen Hawking, the greatest scientist the world has produced, after Einstein is completely crippled. 'Jaipur Foot' creator, Dr. Sethi passed away. About 15000 people in a year go for Jaipur foot. Dr. Sethi continues to live even after death. Disabled among the poor are worse-off. They need education, skills, training and supporting environment to compete. They need livelihoods that will help them become financially independent. For people with severe disabilities, the family as a unit should be given livelihoods support. Like others they need life with dignity not dependence. (Thanks to Pavan from Swaadhikaar, Srinivas from Network of Persons with Disability and Krishnamurthy and Jayamma from Commitments for sharing their views on disability and giving us insights into the issues of disabled).

**\*Livelihoods January-2008**

## 54. The 'tidal' Livelihoods

***About 250 million people are engaged along the 8,000 km coastline of India. Coastal livelihoods for major part are akin to the livelihoods practiced in hinterland, both urban and rural areas, except for a few like fishing, salt farming, coastal plantations, coconut cultivation, cashew cultivation, shell crafts etc., that are predominantly found in coastal areas. Of 250 million, about 80 per cent are engaged in livelihoods that are urban-based, port-based, tourist-based, service-based, land based (fertile delta), large scale commercial fishing or dairy etc. The 80 per cent are not discussed here. The remaining 20 per cent are poor living along the coast depending on resources, between the cities and deltas and one of the most marginalized sections of the country. They face all kinds of problems like their counterparts in the hinterland. In addition, being right on the coast itself, they place themselves at the mercy of nature. Their livelihoods carry a huge risk.***

India has a coastline of about 8000 km, including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep archipelago. The coastline comprises of headlands, promontories, rocky shores, sandy spits, barrier beaches, open beaches, embayment, estuaries, inlets, bays, marshy land and offshore islands. The Eastern Coastal Plain (ECP), is a wide stretch of land lying between the Eastern Ghats and Bay of Bengal. It stretches from Tamil Nadu in south to West Bengal in north. The width of plains varies between 100 to 130 km. Deltas of many of India's rivers form a major portion of these plains. The Mahanadi, Godavari, Kaveri and Krishna rivers drain these plains. The plains are divided into six regions: The Mahanadi delta; the southern Andhra Pradesh plain; the Krishna Godavari deltas; the Kanyakumari coast; Coromandel Coast and sandy coastal. The region receives both Northeast and Southwest monsoon rains, with its annual rainfall averaging between 1,000 mm (40 in) and 3,000 mm (120 in). The east coast is also endowed with extensive mangrove wetlands, that are high in diversity and the water bodies associated with the mangroves are characterized by the presence of larger brackish water bodies and complex networks of tidal creeks and canals. The Sunder bans and Mahanadi mangroves are tide-dominated, while the rest are river-dominated.

**According to a report, Outlook for Fish to 2020: meeting global demand, released by the World Fish Center and International Food Policy Research Institute, developing countries in 20 years will be responsible for 77% of fish consumption globally and 79% of world production. India's fish production will grow to nearly 8 million tonnes.**



The Western Coastal Plain (WCP), is a narrow strip of land sandwiched between Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The strip begins in Gujarat in north and extends across the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. The plains are narrow, and range from 50 to 100 km in width. Small rivers and numerous backwaters inundate the region. The rivers, which originate in Western Ghats, are fast flowing and are mostly perennial. The fast flowing nature of rivers results in formation of estuaries, rather than deltas. Major rivers flowing into the sea are Tapi, Narmada, Mandovi and Zuari. The coast is divided into three regions. The northern region of Maharashtra and Goa is known as the Konkan Coast, the central region of Karnataka is known as the Kanra Coast and the southern coastline of Kerala is

known as the Malabar Coast. Vegetation in this region is mostly deciduous. The Malabar Coast has its own unique eco-region, known as the Malabar Coast moist forests. Rainfall in west coast is almost double that of the east. The west coast being narrow and steep in slope has mangroves, which are smaller in size and less in diversity. While the east coast boasts of 56.7 per cent of the mangrove wetlands in India, west coast has only about 23.5 per cent. The geographical differences between west coast and east coast significantly, influence livelihoods in two regions. The deep waters of Bay of Bengal provide scope of large variety of fish and in large numbers, when compared to Arabian Sea, which is shallow. Similarly, the deltas of east coast are suitable for paddy cultivation, whereas, the west coast provides more room for spices, rubber and coconut plantations,

cashew etc. Salt farming is more predominant in areas where the width of the plains is large. The states of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh top list in salt production. In the context of risk, Bay of Bengal is more prone to cyclonic storms than Arabian Sea. Higher number of people dwell on the coastline in the east coast, compared to west coast and hence suffer more losses in times of natural calamities. It is sad to note, that a cheaper coastal water transport system from Kolkata to Chennai, through Buckingham canal has disappeared with time.

Studies indicate that 20 per cent of Indian coast comprises of marginalized people practicing livelihoods common with hinterland like wage labour, services, growing vegetables and flowers, dairying, paddy cultivation and coast specific livelihoods like fishing, salt farming, coconut cultivation, coir making, casuarinas cultivation etc. The land being mostly saline, productivity of vegetables, paddy, fodder and the likes, is less compared to that in hinterland. Also, taken up on the coast are sea weed cultivation and sea shell handicraft. 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. India has an estimated marine resource potential of about 3.9 million tons per year. Among the poor, men are engaged mostly in fishing, while women are engaged in selling small

### Craft-based Livelihoods of India on the Coast

The vast coastline of India is studded with varied crafts and dedicated craftsmen many of them similar to those practiced in hinterland, creating livelihoods for many. While some of the crafts use sea products like shells as inputs many use inputs that are not directly related to the sea. Some of the crafts are of recent origin while many are quite ancient.

In **West Bengal**, in Kolkata and Midnapore, sankharis or conch shell workers practice the age old craft of slicing conch shells with simple hand tools and making bangles, bracelets and range of ornaments. Also produced here is mother-of-pearl cutlery and jewellery. Kolkata coast is also famous for leather goods. The tooled leather patterns and batik work in leather makes the products strikingly different. At Howrah craftsmen use raw material obtained from the stems and roots of aquatic plant (sholapith) and make garlands, dolls, images of gods and goddesses. The raw material looks like ivory in color and texture. Hoogley specializes in folk toys, chikan embroidery, cane and bamboo furniture and jute articles. One of the oldest craft, Dhokra metal casting is practiced in Midnapore.

In the coastal state of **Orissa**, there are stone carvers working on sandstone and soapstone with classical techniques. Puri is known for brass icons, wood masks and detachable toys. There are chitrakars specialized in patachitras, the renowned cloth folk paintings.

Down South of Orissa, **Andhra Pradesh** is known for its refined tradition of coastal crafts. The craft of Kalamkari (print on cloth with local vegetable dyes) in Machilipatnam is recorded even before Christian era. The place is also famous for gold covering.

Further south, in the state of **Tamil Nadu**, Pondicherry is known for Puducheri Bommai - dolls and toys made from terracotta and plaster of paris. This coastal union territory is also known for five metal puja lamps - kamatchivillakku, handloom cloth, hand-woven carpets, hand printed textiles, cane furniture, handmade paper and incense sticks etc. Chennai is a multi-craft city with crafts ranging from cane works, weaving, horn work, musical instruments, sea shell products etc. Mahabalipuram is known for stone-carving. The craftsmen at Tambaram and Nachiarkol excel in moulding metalware. At Kanyakumari women make items with dyed palm leaves and aluminum foil. In **Kerala**, Cochin, Ernakulam, Tirchur and Thiruvananthapuram are reputed for wooden carvings made out of sandal wood, cedar wood and rosewood.

Up north of Kerala, in **Karnataka** wood carving continues as a predominant craft. Mangalore is known for its jewellery while Mangalore and Udipi together produce item of brass and copper. The women of Coorg produce hand embroidered textiles.

In **Maharashtra**, crafts are concentrated in Mumbai. Dharavi acquired popularity for painted black pottery and hand painted glazed tiles. Several items are made of sisal and also cane and bamboo. Miraj is known for its musical string instruments.

**Dadra and Nagar Haveli** is known for leather slippers, bamboo products and articles made of greenish gold torpe grass. **Daman and Diu** are known for mat weaving and tortoise shell and ivory carving.

**Gujarat**, the northern most state on the west coast of India is known for its coastal crafts like mirror and embroidery works, silver works, tie and dye printing. Pataras, large decorative chests are made at Bhavnagar and Mahuva. Porbander is known for its Patola weaves. Surat is the most important zari manufacturing center in India. Other specialties of Surat include, wood carving, marquetry work and silver work.

The **Gulf of Cambay** earned fame for its hand crafts articles and ornaments of agate.

quantities of fresh fish and dry fish. While 70 per cent of the catch is marketed fresh, only about 14 per cent is dried. Women are also engaged as wage labourers, in processing activities. The boats used are either motorized, non-motorized, mechanized. The pattern of sharing differs between motorized/non-motorized to mechanized fishing. In small scale boats, the crew generally receives a share of the catch, while in the mechanized sector, crew receives a wage. A kind of 'Patron-Client' relationship is developed between the poor fisherman and

business community. Many a time's fishermen take high interest loans from local middlemen for buying nets or for consumption purposes and are forced to sell their catch at the source to middlemen only. There are instances, where fisherman cannot retain even a portion of his catch for consumption. He/ she instead buy cheap fish from elsewhere. The fish market is unregulated, with no minimum prices fixed for species, no product differentiation, no control on quality standards etc. Few players dictate the terms and conditions of the trade, between producer (fisherman) and the end market. The price of fish many a times sees a quantum jump and at times this jump is as high as 500 per cent. The key players i.e., middle man, auction agent and commission agent are dominant, and they being non value added players, mainly due to their forward linkages and credit leverage and capture the trade. Infrastructure facilities at the fisherman level are poor. Key basic amenities like weighing machines, landing platform, icing facilities are absent except for few landing centers. In centres, where the facilities exist, the control is mostly with the big players. Much of the infrastructure development has happened to cater to export market and not for livelihoods of the fisherman. The advent of trawlers is not only messing up the marine environment, but also considerably reducing the catch of traditional fisherman.

It is increasingly converting the poor from being fishermen to wage labour in fishing. Natural calamities such as tsunami, cyclones cause huge dent in livelihoods of the fishing communities. Loss of property and loss of days of fishing make things worse. The older people and single women are vulnerable groups among the poor fishing

### **Case Study of a Coastal Village**

The village Puvanithopu is located in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. All the families here belong to SC community. The nearest market is Vedaranyam. The institutional infrastructure in the village includes one VDC (Village Development Council) and 11 SHGs. About 95 per cent of the people here work as daily labour in the saltpans which provide work for 7 months in a year. The remaining months they are engaged as agricultural labour which provides employment for about 70 to 90 days. 7 families are engaged in fishing for their livelihood. Other livelihoods in the village include running petty shops, making bamboo baskets etc.

The salt workers take loans from salt farmers to meet their needs during off-season and this puts the salt workers in a state of perpetual debt. Also during off-season the salt workers buy salt from the farmer at Rs.350 per tonne. In this they mix 1 kilo of iodine, provided for free by UNICEF to 100 tonnes of salt and make 10000 bags. A lorry is used to transport the bags to the market and a rent of Rs.2500 is paid for this. Currently the salt workers use very primitive methods of storing salt like toddy leaves. This results in wastage.

The village indicated high expenditure on vegetables, high costs for servicing loans and high expenditure on liquor.

communities. They have to depend on others catch to sell in small quantities and lose out from getting decent bargains. In addition to above problems, new claims of modernization and globalization like tourism, industrial and port development, oil exploration, environment conservation are working against the traditional rights of fishing communities. Another livelihood, vividly seen on the coast is salt production. India is the 3rd largest salt making country in the world producing about 18 metric tonne a year. There are more than 1, 50,000 salt workers in India and they broadly fall into three categories - those hired by a land leaseholder, who owns the salt pan, or hired by contractor or those that take sub-lease themselves with a buy back system. The salt workers, if anything are the unsung beasts of burden. The salt pans lie in the desert and coastal areas and salt workers work in the scorching sun. Salt pans provide work for about eight months in a year. Most of them operate on, no-work-no-pay basis. Lack of year round employment force them to take money from local moneylenders at high interest rates.

The salt workers face the risk of blindness, blood pressure, skin lesions, knee injury, back pain etc. The wages they get are low and no where commensurate with the risk in their livelihood. The salt owners sell at Rs.300 to 350 per metric tonne while the workers get as low as Rs.5 per metric tonne. Salt workers in small salt pans are worse off than the organized salt workers. They are paid less in the name of quality; also do not have access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, rest sheds and protective gear, mobile clinics and schools for children are a distant cry. There is no specific act to govern the conditions of salt workers. The Salt Cess Act (SCA) is silent on this aspect. India accounts for about 22 per cent of world's coconut production. Coconut farming and associated activities provide food and livelihood security to more than 10 million people in India. Coconut is a permanent source of raw material for many oil mills, coir industries, Desiccated Coconut industries and other industries like Activated Carbon manufacturing industries, shell powder manufacturing units, solvent extraction units etc., which provide continuous employment to nearly 6.5 lakh workers, of which 80 per cent are women folk. The ever increasing fragmentation of coconut holdings make them unviable to adopt scientific management practices resulting in lower levels of returns per unit holdings. Majority of the coconut holding in the country are rain-fed and hence, vulnerable to vagaries of monsoon.

The government has support price for dry coconut, but not green coconut and therefore, the support price do not benefit the farmer. Further, the farmer gets only 30 per cent of the consumer price of coconut, because he/she is ill-equipped to undertake any value addition activities. In coconut producing areas, local populations are engaged in making coir and coir products. Coconut husk is the basic raw material for coir. Men are mostly engaged in procurement of raw material, and women are involved in process of threshing. Working in backwaters for longer periods of time to process coconuts result in breathing related health problems. The requirement of soaking coconut husk in water for 6 months increases working capital requirements and this increases coir workers dependence on informal money market. Further, the coir worker is not skilled in making any value addition and is

### **CRZ (Coastal Zone Regulation)**

The Government declares the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters which are influenced by tidal action in the landward side up to 500m from the High Tide Line and the land between the Low Tide Line and High Tide Line as Coastal Regulation Zone. Activities like setting up of new industries or expansion of existing ones, handling hazardous substances, setting up/expansion of fish processing units, disposal of waste and effluents, discharge of untreated waste etc are prohibited in the CRZ.

The coastal stretches within 500 m of High Tide Line on the landward side are classified into four categories-

CRZ I - 1. Areas that are ecologically sensitive and important, such as national parks/marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats, mangroves, corals/coral reefs, areas close to breeding and spawning grounds of fish and other marine life, areas of outstanding natural beauty/historically/heritage areas, areas rich in genetic diversity, areas likely to be inundated due to rise in sea level consequent upon global warming and such other areas as may be declared by the Central Government or the concerned authorities at the State/Union Territory level from time to time. 2. Area between the Low Tide Line and the High Tide Line.

CRZ II - The areas that have already been developed upto or close to the shore-line.

CRZ III - Areas that are relatively undisturbed and those which do not belong to either Category-I or II.

CRZ IV - Coastal stretches in the Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and small islands, except those designated as CRZ-I, CRZ-II or CRZ-III.

The CRZ received applause from environmentalists, traditional fisher folks, wildlife activists. However the implementation of the regulation was marred with violations. Further the government repeatedly amended the CRZ to suit various players, thus diluting the original intent of the notification. States have been tardy in finalizing Coastal Zone Management Plans.

### **Swaminathan Committee Report**

In 2004 Swaminathan Committee was constituted to enable the Ministry of Environment and Forests to back its coastal regulations with scientific principles and to devise regulations to meet the needs of coastal conservation and development and livelihood needs.

Principally, the Swaminathan Report recommends -

1. A rationalization of management boundaries based on coastal vulnerability,
2. Moving away from mere 'regulation' to the larger concept of 'integrated management' and replacing the categories of 'Coastal Regulation Zones' with 'Coastal Management Zones', based on ecological importance, coastal vulnerability, and other socio-cultural concerns.
3. Creating a new institutional structure specifically geared for coastal management, including the establishment of a National Institute for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management.

losing out on that front. Large players dominate the coir product markets. Casuarinas plantation, is another important source of livelihood for the marginal farmer on the coast. It's a short rotation cash crop that demands little investment. It's a good source of fuel and is also used as building material. Casuarinas are promoted by the government as vegetation for shelterbelts to protect the coasts from the natural calamities. The paper mills also use casuarinas as raw material and there is great scope for the casuarinas farmers to realize higher prices for their crop. But currently access for farmer to the paper mill market is absent. The middlemen have captured the slot.

Seaweeds are collected manually from their natural habitats. This harvesting is one of the important sources of livelihood to the coastal fisher-folk community. Seaweed collections are mainly centered along the southeastern coast of India from Rameswaram to Kanyakumarai. In India, seaweeds are utilized by the industries, mainly for commercial production of agar and alginate. Seaweed cultivation is still in the evolving stages in India. Taken up as an economic activity, it can provide good source of supplemental income for the poor on the coast. Sea shell handicraft can be good source of income for the aged, women and infirm on the coast. Tourist places provide good market for this handicraft. Many a time the shells are collected by the old who stay in the backwaters for long time. At the market level, there is no direct link between the craftsmen and the customers and therefore the craftsmen remain cut-off from direct customer feedback. Further, the craftsmen depend on shops for selling his craft. The shopkeeper makes payments only after the articles are sold. This means a long wait for the craftsmen to see the actual money. There is lot of scope to make interventions in coastal livelihoods, so that the poor and

the marginalized are at the losing end of value chain can swim the tide, with less drudgery, more support and better information. For now, livelihoods on the coast practiced by the poor remain severely cut off from the market. This can change. Youth, who are not willing to continue in traditional livelihoods, need alternative opportunities. Can we all, as responsible stakeholders in the development arena, do something to change the marginalized coastal lives for better?

**\*Livelihoods May-2008**

## 55. Nomadic 'livelihoods'

***Comprising about 7 per cent of the population, the lives and livelihoods of nomadic communities in India are in dire straits. Changing villages and consequent loss of patronage to their products and services, changing laws encroaching upon their traditional rights to resources, lack of permanent residence, lack of any asset base, extreme poverty and subhuman conditions, high illiteracy, lack of exposure to new skills and faint or no knowledge of changing livelihoods, characterize the lives of the nomadic communities in the country today. They occupy the lowest rungs of social and economic ladder and are the most vulnerable. Many are not registered voters and face neglect. Worse, some nomadic communities continue to languish under the perils of Habitual Offenders Act of 1959.***



Villages across the country were often frequented by members of the nomadic communities. Indian villagers woke up to the melody, of the conch shells of the wandering drummers and ballad singers. Women of villages longed to hear the tinkling sounds of the bangles brought in by the wandering gypsies. People thronged around those selling beads, threads, ribbons, pins, perfumes and artificial hair. The lohars or the blacksmiths arrived at the beginning of the agricultural season to repair and sell agricultural tools and implements, while pastoral groups, like the Rabaris, were allowed to build temporary shelters on agricultural lands, as dung from their livestock nourished the fields. The Ghatiya Jogis or makers of grinding stones for household use, the Nandiwallahs, who were welcomed by farmers for manuring their field by

cattle, and also the Hakkipikkis of southern India, who made a living from hunting and selling wild animals or the Vaidus or traditional healers who prepared medicines from forest plants. In remote, inaccessible areas, banjaras became the mobile meat transporters. Few nomadic tribes like Piccukaguntlu, Gollasuddulu, Davaluru, Jangamulu in South India were favoured by particular castes, for maintaining their family records and singing their past glory. The villagers were entertained by acrobatic feats and monkey shows done by Dommari community and by snake charmers community. Puppet shows were incredible. The Gondhalis roamed around the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and MP, singing songs for food. The list goes on and on!

We have people and organizations shouting on behalf of many underprivileged like farmers, dalits, women, adivasis....But very few are rallying around the issues and travails of nomadic communities.

The sheer diversity of the livelihoods of each of these nomadic communities made the villages they visited vibrant. Each community occupied a particular socio-economic niche, fulfilling a specific need of village or sedentary communities. The nomadic communities established a symbiotic relationship with the villages they visited. By being on the move, the nomads were able to tap into wider markets for the products and services they provide. There are more than 500 nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in India, comprising more than 10 per cent of the country's population including some left out of any official estimates. Among these communities, while about 470 are placed in SC, ST and OBC categories, the rest have no benefits at all. The villages of India are undergoing rapid transformations, for past couple of decades. The forces of change have not left anything untouched. Agriculture transitioned from subsistence cultivation, depending on local economy to being impacted by global markets. The needs, tastes and fashions of the villagers are rapidly getting urbanized. The retail chains are now eyeing rural areas, for expanding their customer base. Science and technology found deep inroads into the rural areas. Cell phones are everywhere. Villages are no longer living in isolation. All these changes have greatly diminished the patronage and demand for products and services of the nomadic communities. These changes swept away the traditional mutually beneficial relationship that prevailed between the nomadic and sedentary communities of the Indian villages. The nomadic village visitors, who were once looked forward to, are now looked down upon. They occupy the bottom rungs of the economic ladder. Without any ostensible means of livelihoods, they live in subhuman conditions.

Many nomadic communities do not own ration cards. They do not feature on voters' lists. They do not get subsidized homes or other such sops from government that regularly hands these out to the underprivileged. When people across are coming together on caste or tribe or regional basis and demanding economic and political rights, the nomadic communities being highly unorganized are not in any kind of reckoning. They face severe identity crisis. Today in India, we have people and organizations shouting on behalf of farmers, some are shouting about Dalit rights and women issues have come to some limelight. Even issues associated with settled adivasis are finding room in variety of platforms, discussions, forums and panels. The only ones that remain orphaned are nomadic communities. There are very few rallying for their rights, for their livelihoods. In addition they are not even organized.

There are about 120 million people in India belonging to Denotified Tribes (DNTs). They are the worst victims of neglect and oppression. Denotified Tribes include various tribes, which were unjustly notified as 'criminal tribes' under the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) 1871 (or its amendments) during the years of British rule. Members of these communities were seen to be "addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences". The Act required that these members be registered, their mobility was restricted and in the name of 'reform' they were confined to special camps, where low-paid work could be extracted from them. Following independence, this Act got repealed in 1952, but these tribes continue to face discrimination in society and at the hands of police. Some of them are not even recognized as STs and their status differs from state to state. In 1959, Habitual Offenders Act (HOA, 1959) was introduced in various states that retained many of the provisions of the CTA. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and most recently the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) recommended, that Habitual Offenders Act (HOA, 1959) be repealed, but the Act continues to remain in force. The forest laws formulated in pre and post-independent India deprived numerous pastoral nomadic communities of grazing land and most foragers lost free access to forests. Acts like Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), the Act for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Act for Prevention of Magic and Drugs have disrupted traditional livelihoods, which supported many nomadic communities. Not much thought went into providing any alternative means of livelihood for them. They are left in a state of limbo.

### **National Commission for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes**

A National Commission was constituted in 2006 to look into the development issues and development possibilities associated with Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes. Some of the findings and recommendations of the Commission include -

- Many nomadic communities are not receiving any benefits of freedom and social justice even though they are classified as ST, ST or OBC
- Several nomadic communities continue to dwell in temporary shelters. They have no permanent address and thereby missed out on land allocations for housing, ration cards, voter list, BPL list etc
- Some do not have caste certificates issued to them and therefore cannot avail government welfare and development schemes
- Low or no participation in Gram Panchayats (GP)
- No property laws or laws relating to dignity of women have no relevance in these communities and therefore women are abused
- Even though communities are denotified they continue to suffer harassment in the hands of society and state machinery
- Many have taken to begging and subjected to harassment under laws like Prevention of Beggary Act
- Those willing to earn livelihood by selling vegetables, fruits, dates, second hand clothes etc have difficulties getting licenses from local bodies
- Essential facilities for the settlements of DNTs and land to landless can be given
- Listing of the denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes by States/UTs is important
- Special campaign by Election Commission (EC) to include them in the voters list can be made
- A National Commission by an Act of Parliament on the lines of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can be created to assist the Union and State governments to review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, Semi-nomadic Tribes

Nomadic communities to a large extent are becoming 'erstwhile' in terms of mobility. They have adapted or are in the process of adapting settled livelihoods. Some like Bhatt tribe that specializes in puppet shows, have adapted to playing drums at marriages to suit urban tastes. Some communities are migrating to cities and taking up urban livelihoods like driving auto rickshaws. are migrating temporarily to sell seasonal fruits. However, many nomadic communities are becoming cheap unskilled labour in both urban and rural areas. The discrimination meted out against them continues to hamper their employment opportunities. For communities, are not used to sedentary lives and livelihoods, as their needs are different? Their contexts are different; some of their problems are unique. Any plans for development of these nomadic communities, should be understood in this reality and incorporate appropriate measures/interventions. By being on the move, nomadic communities have taken into their fold, different experiences and expertise. This is their great asset and can be leveraged. They can be given new and marketable skills. For instance, those having traditional skill set of brazing bronze vessels can be trained in



welding skills. Similarly, those with acrobat skills can be given required resources to take up jobs as physical education trainers.

Permanent housing for the nomadic communities are needed. There are arguments for and against permanent houses for mobile communities. Those, that oppose argue that any permanent establishments will disturb the very basic mobile nature of these communities. But one has to look at the reality and understand that many of these communities are gradually moving towards settled life and livelihoods. They need houses to live; they need permanent address to be enlisted in PDS, as voters, as target group for any government schemes; they need opportunities to build their asset base, their children need access to education, they need capital to set up small shops. In some states, efforts were made to provide permanent houses to the nomadic communities. But without associated interventions in the area of livelihoods, these efforts will meet with failure. Any inclusive growth excluding nomadic population will be inconclusive. Various stakeholders at different levels can work with the nomadic communities to restore the dignity of life and livelihoods of the later. Establishment of the National Commission for Denotified (NCD). Nomadic and Semi-nomadic communities is a good beginning. Much more needs to be done to bring them into development path.

**\*Livelihoods August-2008**

## 56. Ageing Young India

***India is witnessing a significant demographic change. We will no longer be a young nation. 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 60 years and above of age. Is the country ready to embrace this transition? Do we have adequate and appropriate aged care systems in place in the context of changing socio-economic conditions? What is the plight of elderly among the poor? Are there options to set the poor on the trajectory of graceful ageing?***



proportion of elderly population is expected to increase from 7 per cent at present to 13 per cent by 2025. This in absolute number means from 72 to 175 million. Currently, the state of UP leads with 11 million elderly followed by Maharashtra, AP, West Bengal, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. The state of Kerala ranks number one with the highest proportion of elderly in the country. Old age is commonly associated with retirement, illness and dependency. Most government jobs have set the retirement age at 60. This has tuned many urban minds to think that working life beyond 60 is incidental. However, the truth speaks the contrary. About 70 per cent of the elderly in India work. They work like rest of the adults. The number of elderly working in rural areas is more than their counterparts in urban areas. Even at the age of 80 and above there are about 35 per cent elderly working. Most of the elderly workforce is engaged as cultivators and agricultural laborers. Elders are also engaged in trade and commerce, non-household industry, household industry, livestock and fisheries and other services. However, the elderly are not able to find sufficient work and the works they are engaged in are not remunerative enough. This makes elderly economically insecure. As age progresses the expenditure on health increases. Elderly suffer from isolation and boredom. Dependency creates a sense of lowered self-esteem and loss of control. Living with children determines the physical and psychological well-being of the elderly to some extent. But complete dependence takes away the degree of autonomy in the economic and social decision making. Therefore, the elderly want to work for as long as they can. Experiential studies indicate that health is closely connected to active life. Activity drives away isolation and boredom to a large extent. Among the poor, gainful employment of the elderly brings in economic security. Currently in India the opportunities for the old to work are less compared to their willingness and ability to work.

Decline in fertility rate, decline in mortality rate, improvement in child survival and increased life expectancy signify development. These are the trends towards which the world is progressing today. These are desired transitions. But these transitions are not devoid of challenges. One significant challenge is the change in demographic composition. The number of aged in the world is set to increase significantly and rapidly. According to ILO estimates the number of elderly (60 years and over) population in the world will be 1.2 billion by 2025. Fourteen per cent of the total world population will be elderly. Until now population ageing has been mostly associated with the developed regions of the world. However, this will no longer be true. About 72 per cent of 1.2 billion old people will be living in developing countries by 2025. In India the

### **Ageing & Poverty in Indian Context**

Old age poverty in India is high. There is no adequate research done to understand the extent, nature and magnitude of old age poverty. But estimates indicate that about 8 to 10 percent of the poor in India are old.

Economic transformation, migration, social changes, HIV etc are major challenges before the elderly today. Increased pressure on land made farming expensive and less fetching. Agriculture today is reeling under the pressures of increased cost of inputs, depleting natural resources, liberalization and globalization. Agriculture being the mainstay of village economy, decline in this sector triggered decline in other associated livelihoods in the villages like black smithy, pottery, and service sectors. In addition to this the development of village infrastructure did not keep pace with its counterpart in urban areas. As a consequence people are migrating in large numbers to urban centers.

Migration disrupts traditional joint family system. Urban centers are expensive especially in terms of housing giving way to nuclear families. Old parents are left behind in the villages to take care of leftover land and/or fend for themselves.

The gender dimension of old age poverty has left the old women vulnerable. With longer lifespan than men and with the social custom to marry men older than themselves, many women are left widowed in old age. Nearly 70% of aged women are widows.

HIV/AIDS is increasing the burden of the grandparents. When children succumb to the virus the responsibility of taking care of the grandchildren is on the elderly.

Old people in India work. The numbers are more in rural areas. The work opportunities currently available are falling short of the willingness and ability of the elderly to work.

This has to change. They should get opportunities to work as long as they wish in productive jobs without being forced into retirement. Their work should be based on their current abilities. Fortunately, many of these abilities are in demand. When designing poverty reduction/livelihoods programs, it is very important to make elderly part of the designing and planning process. Schemes like NREGA can provide drudgery reduction implements.

Elders constitute about 7% of the current population. 70% of the elderly in India work. About 35% in the age group 80 and above are working.

Elderly groups like Elder SHGs are being formed. These groups take up thrift and savings activity. Access to credit and microcredit is often denied to older person, this call for change. The development and poverty reduction programs should actively engage elder groups like other adult groups. Training and skill building exercises can be undertaken for the elderly on par with other adults. This will help them keep pace with upcoming technological changes and make them remain active in the work

force. Elderly population has been broadly grouped as Active-Old, Assisted-Old and Dependent-Old. This kind of grouping involves lots of overlapping and arriving at the right grouping criteria can be challenging. However, such divisions give some scope for understanding the issues and needs of elderly at a broader level. The active-old

**Percentage Distribution of Main Workers Aged 60 + by Industrial Category, Sex and Residence**

Category	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Cultivators	55.9	58.6	40.3	63.4	66.9	44.0	12.9	13.3	9.7
Agricultural Labourers	22.4	18.6	44.1	24.6	20.5	46.7	9.8	8.3	22.4
Trade & Commerce	6.6	7.1	3.5	2.8	3.0	1.9	28.2	29.6	16.7
Non-household industry	3.9	4.2	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.2	15.8	16.4	10.2
Livestock, fisheries etc	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.6
Other services	5.0	5.1	4.8	2.8	2.9	2.1	18.1	16.9	27.4

Source: Census of India, 1991

can be prepared for graceful ageing to make the transition as smooth as possible. Attention can be paid towards improving the livelihoods and income levels of these groups so they have decent reserves to take care of themselves in times of need. Multiple avenues should be provided to promote savings and investment that involve less risk and decent returns. Insurance schemes can be designed to cater to the needs of the poor households. Efforts can be made to deliver affordable health care services to the elderly. These active-old can be sensitized about the needs and issues of dependent-old. In communities and villages people often dole out something for the poor dependent elderly. Therefore, this system is highly informal and uncertain. The systems can be streamlined and strengthened with the help of elderly groups. Community care programs can be designed and executed by the elderly themselves with support from local Panchayats, NGOs, social workers, volunteers etc. Community approach helps identify the needy and also keeps the transaction costs minimum. Mainstreaming age care issues is critical. They can no longer be addressed in isolation. Advocacy assumes great significance. The strength of advocacy greatly depends on the depth of information available on aged and their issues.

#### Old Age Issues

- Economic insecurity
- Failing health - cardiovascular diseases, hypertension,
- Diabetes, stroke, cancer, chronic obstructive
- pulmonary diseases, arthritis and osteoporosis,
- Dementia, depression and blindness
- Physical insecurity
- Isolation
- Abuse and neglect
- Boredom
- Lower self-esteem
- Lack of preparedness
- Loss of control
- Equity issues

Advocacy assumes great significance. The strength of advocacy greatly depends on the depth of information available on aged and their issues. Elderly communities themselves should actively participate in advocacy. The old should be empowered to fight for themselves with support from other stakeholders. The media should be sensitized to forge a new and positive image of ageing. The universal pension for all the elderly below poverty line will help supplement the incomes of the earning elderly and non-earning dependent elderly. In households with dependent elderly, family as a unit can be taken for livelihoods interventions. India, with its rapidly ageing population the need for professional caregivers is on the rise. The caregivers should be sensitive to the issues

and concerns of the old. They need to recognize the strengths of the old and empower them rather than adopt a

#### **World's reaction to ageing**

As early as 1980 ILO endorsed **Older Workers Recommendation**. According to the Recommendation older workers are to enjoy without discrimination equal opportunity and treatment with other workers in the public and private sectors.

In 1982 at the **First World Assembly on Ageing**, the UN endorsed an International Plan of Action on Ageing. The Plan brought to discussion the issues relating to the independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity of older persons.

Ageing received greater impetus in 1999 which was observed as the **International Year of Older Persons**. The year recognized the coming up of demographic change and the promise it holds for maturing attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, cultural and spiritual undertakings.

In the late 90s WHO adopted '**Active Ageing**' approach with a focus shift from needs-based to rights-based approach that recognizes the rights of people to equality of opportunity and treatment in all aspects of life as they grow older.

In 2002 **Second World Assembly on Ageing** took place in Madrid. The focus was on intergenerational approach. Three directions - development, health and well-being and supportive environments for older persons - were set under Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Inclusion of older persons themselves in policy making and need for mainstreaming the needs and concerns of older persons into development policies and programs were emphasized. 159 countries are signatories to MIPAA including India.

paternalistic attitude that can have a devastating impact on the self-esteem of the senior citizens. Family still continues to be a strong institution in India. Given a chance our elderly prefer to live with their children rather than in any formal care institutions like old-age home. Older people's unpaid contributions at home allow younger family members to engage in paid labor. Efforts should be made to promote inter-generational bonding. This can start at the community and school level itself. Above all, it's very critical to capture and capitalize the wisdom of the old. Best practitioners can be identified among the elderly. They can be mentors and disseminate knowledge that the community would otherwise stand to lose. It's time to appreciate and absorb the new paradigm where the old people are viewed as active participants in an age-integrated society and as active contributors as well as beneficiaries of development. This paradigm shift will help our transitioning into old age as well. ('Livelihoods' team thanks HelpAge India for providing significant insights into the needs and issues of aged and aged care).

**\*Livelihoods March-2008**

## 57. Minority' Livelihoods!?!

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

India, as a nation inherited the ethos of pluralism and diversity. Post-Independent India realized the importance of safeguarding the rights of some groups that suffer numerical weakness and social disadvantage due to various reasons. Accordingly, India recognizes three types of minorities: religious, caste based and linguistic. According to National Minorities Commission (NMC), the designated minority religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Zoroastrianism. The Constitution of India does not explicitly define minorities. However, apart from the rights that are applicable to all citizens of India, the Constitution has made certain exclusive provisions for protecting minority rights. For instance, under Article 29, any section of citizens have right to conserve their distinct language, script and culture. Similarly, under Article 30 all religious and linguistic minorities, have right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice and these minority-managed institutions, cannot be discriminated by the state in matters of receiving aid.



The authors of the Constitution of India envisaged that minority determination shall be done at the national level. However, the 103 Amendment to the Constitution proposes a change in the way minorities are specified. According to the Amendment, a minority will be specified as such, in relation to a particular state or union territory by a presidential notification issued after consultation with the state government. This state-specific conception, of minorities has invited critical debates across. Minorities in India are engaged in every kind of livelihood as rest of the population. While, majority of the minorities live in urban areas, those living in rural areas range from owners of land and livestock, agricultural laborers, weavers etc. In urban centers, minorities are engaged in manufacturing, trading and predominantly in service sector like restaurants, travel agencies, hospitals and educational institutions. However, some livelihoods are exclusive to certain groups for religious reasons. For instance, halal (permissible animal slaughter in a ritual way called "Zibah" in Islam, can be taken up by only those practicing Islam faith. Similarly, exchange of services between religions, traditionally have provided for some livelihoods. In parts of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the Marwadi community traditionally procure new books of accounts from the Muslim community on Diwali day. Further, in some areas we still see Pir Sahib (Muslim babas) being approached by people from all faiths for "taveez" (amulet) to cure a sick person.

Religious conversions have made very little impact on traditional livelihoods practiced by minorities. For instance, people practicing cotton: continue their occupation in spite of taking up the faith of Islam. Similarly, many dalits who converted to Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are continuing with their age-old occupations. In fact, the National Commission for Minorities(NCM) states that except for their cultural

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

(Source - Ministry of Minority Affairs)



Distribution of Workers in each Socio-Religious Category by Industry Groups in Rural and Urban Areas 2004-05  
(all workers aged 15-64)

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

Source - Sachar Committee Report

practices, conversion has not brought much change in socio-economic status of dalits. According to NCM report, 39.6 per cent of dalit muslims and 30.1 Christians in rural India continue to live Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, with a monthly per capita expenditure less than Rs.356.30 and in urban areas, 46.8 per cent dalit muslims and 32.3 dalit christians live below BPL with a monthly per capita expenditure of less than Rs.538.60.

Religion-based educational institutions have made an interesting impact in the sphere of livelihoods. Students from Christian educational institutions/Missionaries have proved to be doing well in service and soft skills domain. Many of them have taken up interactive professions like primary school teachers, nurses etc. Some minorities on the contrary could not for various reasons, latch on to the educational opportunities and their representation in the job sector remains dismal. According to Sachar Committee, representation of Muslims in government jobs is only 4.9%.

On the basis of 2001 census, the Ministry of Minority Affairs (MMA) prepared a list of 90 Minority

Concentration Districts (MCDs). As part of PM's 15 Point Program which aims at educational, economic and employment improvement for minorities, Rs.3780 crore multi-sectoral development program is envisaged for MCDs. Nationalized banks are stepping up efforts, to increase lending to minorities and also increasing the number of branches in MCDs.

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

**\*Livelihoods December-2008**

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

(Source - Ministry of Minority Affairs)

## 58. 'Dropouts' Livelihoods

**India is rapidly growing and is today competing with developed countries in many respects. Despite its impressive growth, there are still some snags that it needs to address urgently. Illiteracy which is at 26% (as per the 2001 census), is a pressing concern that is preventing India from realizing its potential. There are nearly 1.29 million schools, running in the country. The current enrollment rate at the primary education level in the country is about 85%. Only 34.2% girls and 53.3% boys eventually finish primary education. 15% of the students finish high school and just 7% become graduates.**



Dropouts are a universal phenomenon and are to be found in all sections of society. Nevertheless, the dropout rate is higher in backward regions, SCs and STs. In comparison with boys, the incidence of drop out among girls is higher and the parity is even more obvious in SC and ST communities. On an average, 71 out of 100 girls among the ST community discontinue schooling, without even completing their primary education. The reasons that compel a student to drop out of school are many. Lack of quality education in government schools, scarcity of qualified teachers, teacher absenteeism, lack of infrastructure and facilities in schools, irrelevant curriculum, discouraging environment are leading

causes. Besides, students who do not fare well at school do not have access to adequate additional support, such as tutorials or remedial classes. Even though remote villages have primary schools, high schools are not so easily accessible. Students have to travel miles to attend secondary school and it is not a viable option for all. This causes many to discontinue education and results in irregular attendance for those, who do continue in

Year	Primary (I-V)			Middle (I-VIII)			Secondary (I-X)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1960-61	61.7	70.9	64.9	75.0	85.0	78.3	N.A	N.A	N.A
1970-71	64.5	70.9	67.0	74.6	83.4	77.9	N.A	N.A	N.A
1980-81	56.2	62.5	58.7	68.0	79.4	72.7	79.8	86.6	82.5
1990-91	40.1	46.0	42.6	59.1	65.1	60.9	67.5	76.9	71.3
1992-93	43.8	46.7	45.0	58.2	65.2	61.1	70.0	77.3	72.9
1999-00*	38.7	42.3	40.3	52.0	58.0	54.5	66.6	70.6	68.3
2000-01*	39.7	41.9	40.7	50.3	57.7	53.7	66.4	71.5	68.58
2001-02*	38.4	39.9	39.0	52.9	56.9	54.6	64.2	68.6	66.0
2002-03*	35.8	33.7	34.89	52.28	53.45	52.89	60.72	64.97	62.58
2003-04*	33.7	28.5	31.47	51.85	52.92	52.32	60.98	64.92	62.69

schools. Many a times, financial constraints of the family force, parents to withdraw their children from school. This is rooted in the belief, that children can spend time earning and thus contributing to the family income, rather than going to school, which incurs expenses in the form of fee, books, stationery, travel, uniform, etc. without providing any immediate results in the form of augmenting, financial position of the family.

**(Drop-out Rates at Primary, Middle & Secondary Stages: Source: India, Department of Secondary and Higher Education. Abstract of Selected Educational Statistics: 2003-04)**

Since, independence due to breakdown of agriculture, artisanship and other traditional occupations, a large chunk has been struggling to find new livelihoods, to sustain themselves. Moreover, the available jobs in the economy are out of reach of most poor, due to their lack of education. In a world that is getting increasingly competitive and where employment is becoming more and more specialized, those without fancy educational qualifications to their credit are left out of most lucrative opportunities. It is therefore important and interesting to look at livelihoods of those, who do not complete secondary or even primary education. It is not uncommon to find most dropouts disinterested in traditional occupations like agriculture and artisanship. The prevalent belief is that attending school, no matter till which class, does not warrant one to engage in labor-intensive occupations. With technical jobs in modern industrial sectors, not favoring dropouts and the dropouts not favoring traditional occupations, they are left with little options to choose from. Most start their own enterprises or work in back-end operations of the secondary and tertiary sectors (like construction, auto driving, electrician, mechanical works, motor winding, driving, plumbing, house painting, running petty shops and enterprises, as workers in industries near town, sales persons and assistants in shops and enterprises in nearby towns, resource persons for the various community based institutions, book keepers, tailoring, painting, designing works, running small shops).

In the recent past, the policy in India has taken a leaning towards reaping the demographic dividend. In this regard the government is running and promoting various placement linked skills training programmes and self employment schemes at the state and national levels.

**Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** aims at emancipation of the poor by supporting the creation of self-employment opportunities. Providing access to credit to start enterprises is an important component of the SGSY scheme. Under the special project component of SGSY, placement linked skill development program was taken up on pilot basis through Public Private Partnership (PPP). SGSY was met with, only marginal success across the country. Therefore, it is now being replaced by the NRLM;

The Andhra Pradesh state government formed **Employment Generation and Marketing Mission (EGMM)** to make rural poor unemployed youth employable and also provide them with employment opportunities in the organized sector. EGMM is driven by a private sector cell, which evolves a strategy of implementation taking into account market realities. As part of the mission, 191 training institutes have been set up in sectors ranging from services, construction to textiles, with a focus on tribal and remote areas. As of now 77,425 youth have been trained in the last two and half years and 17,500 youth are currently in the classrooms. 80% of the youth trained have been linked to entry level private sector jobs with annual salaries ranging from Rs.45, 000 upwards in metros and Rs.24, 000 upwards in semi-urban areas.

Banks, NGOs, CSR foundations also engage in skill development either in partnership with the government or independently. RUDSETIs, which are promoted solely by banks, offer more than 60 types of entrepreneurship development programs in various avenues. Usually, they provide training to any unemployed person in the age group of 18-45 years (irrespective of caste, creed, religion, gender and economic status), who has the aptitude to take up self-employment. The course modules include practical experience, research and experiment to facilitate development of necessary skills in a systematic manner in a short period of one to six weeks. RUDSETIs review their course modules regularly and also revise and update them. The Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) for first generation entrepreneurs is classified in to four categories- Agricultural EDPs, Product EDPs, Process EDPs and General EDPs.

Dr. Reddy's Foundation (DRF) is driven by the belief, that equity in education and livelihoods helps in building an inclusive society. Therefore, DRF strives to create opportunities in these two areas, particularly for economically disadvantaged youth. It conducts a 3-month free training program, for rural and urban unemployed youth. The courses it offers relate to BPO, nursing, IT Essentials (with Cisco), customer relations & sales, hospitality, IT-enabled Services (ITeS), appliance servicing and micro-irrigation sectors. Training in spoken English & basic computers is mandatory. After successful completion of the training program, placement assistance is provided.

The National Academy of Construction (NAC) is emerging as the apex body for construction including development of all types of construction resources, technologies and methodologies. NAC has also established, Construction Technicians Training Institute (CTTI) to provide training to the rural and urban poor unemployed youth in construction engineering techniques like masonry, bar bending, plumbing, electrical wiring and repairing, house painting, carpentry, welding, driving etc. After training, it provides placement to its candidates in the construction sector.

National Skills Foundation of India (NSFI) NSFI is a not-for-profit foundation registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882 and is primarily focused on the objective of skill building and development of vocational opportunities for "unskilled" workforce. Its aim is to build a knowledge base through research and development leading to policy formation and/or reforms to address employability and sustainable livelihood concerns. NSF focuses on



agriculture, food processing, warehousing, distribution & processing, rural distribution & services, rural accounting, hospitality and textiles sectors for skill building activities.

Smile Twin E- learning Programme (STeP) is an initiative of Smile Foundation that aims at creating a pool of young entrepreneurs and skilled persons, who belong to the marginalized sections of society. It is an effort towards bridging the gap, between demand and supply of skilled manpower in the fast emerging services and retail sectors of modern India. This national level program, trains the urban underprivileged adolescent youth in English, basic computer and soft skills for enhancing their prospects of employment in the rapidly growing retail, hospitality and BPO sectors.

On the whole, present skill development schemes are faring better than earlier. This can be attributed to the change in the process of implementing these programmes. In present system, market surveys have become a mandatory precursor to the training programmes. Based on the findings of the surveys, the courses are tailored to match market requirements, in other words. The selection process too, has undergone changes and is more appreciative of the inherent skills of the candidates.

Dropouts and unemployed youth are the target group and their willingness to join the private sector is taken into account. As mentioned already, spoken English, computer skills and soft skills form an integral part of most skill development training programmes in order to ensure that the candidates are not left out in the market that pays high regard to all the three components. Besides, the trainings focus particularly on motivating and moulding attitude of the candidates. The organizations conducting the trainings also invite the employer to their training institutes not only for recruiting candidates, but also to give valuable inputs regarding course content.

Candidates, who pass these courses are usually employed in the retail sector, textile industry, BPO sector and other booming sectors and some go on to become entrepreneurs. The percentage of candidates, who opt to be entrepreneurs, is relatively small at just 20% and those who prefer jobs is much higher at nearly 70%. In the post-placement tracking that is done by the training institutes, a worrying trend was observed that 70% to 80% of candidates quit their jobs within months of being placed and adds to the number of unemployed. The reasons for this are many. One would be that though skill development schemes are meant for BPL youth, most of the candidates do not belong to the POP or poor. Thus, not making the employment gained through the training, the primary option for them. Sometimes, the candidate's aptitude does not match what requirements of her/his job. Moreover, most are placed in the towns and cities which are far away from their villages, which cause problems in terms of adjusting to the alien environment, which may have adverse effects on their physical and mental health. Another, possible explanation could be the salaries, they are paid are not enough to make ends meet in large cities.

Though, skill development programs have evolved for the better over the years, still more can be done on this front. The training programs have to be organized in a "process-oriented" method instead of a "target-oriented" method. The participation of CBOs and PRIs has to be increased in the identification of the target group and other avenues of implementation. Apart from jobs, in the towns and cities, candidates should be motivated towards entrepreneurship by providing the required financial assistance through bank linkages. For those, who opt for jobs away from home, reasonable accommodation at affordable rates should be arranged for by the organization that trains them. Also, policies can be modified so as to ensure a spur in opportunities in towns and villages, village BPOs are an example.

**\*Livelihoods November-2011**

## 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
BPFPCS	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 Verities 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.

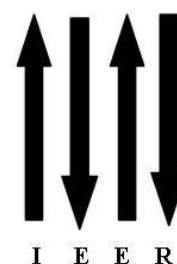
Ideas are more important than finances: In several cases, there are a lot of indigenous innovations from the best practitioners. These need to be critically examined and pointed out to others. Similarly, on several occasions, bringing in something that is happening outside can change the livelihoods 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

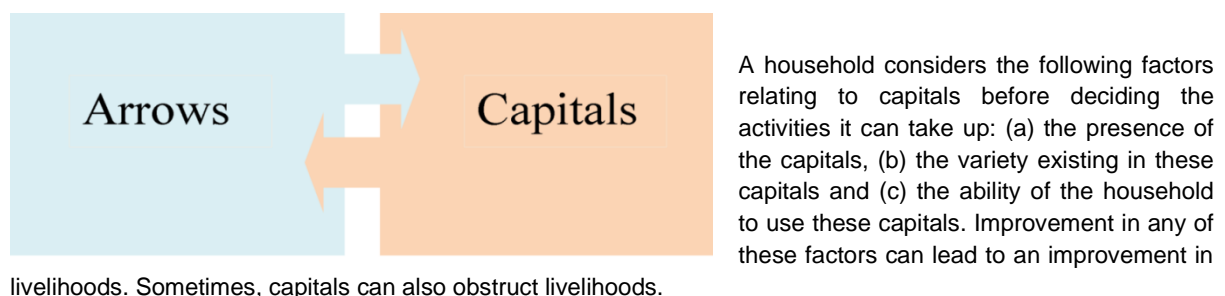
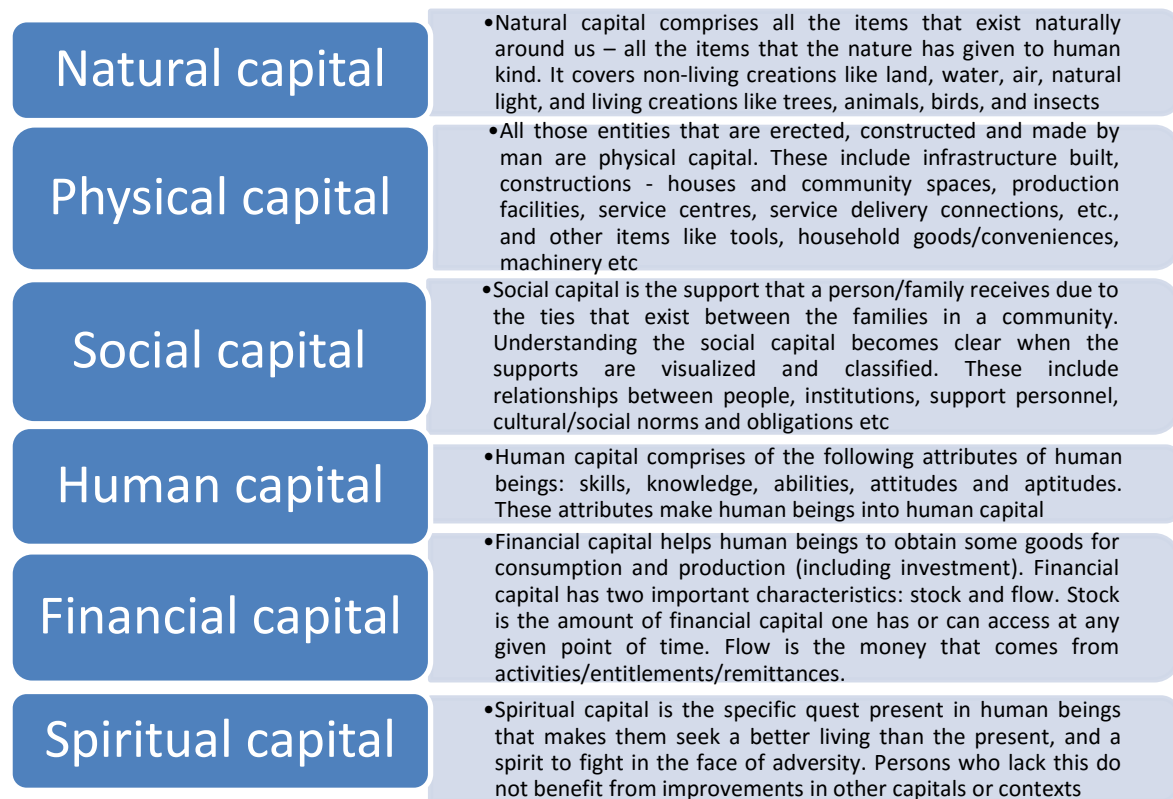


Every household wants to change these elements in the required direction.

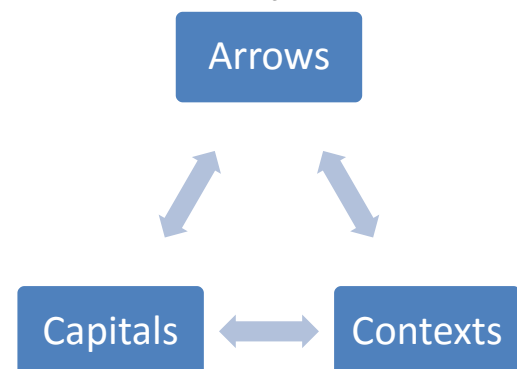
Owing to this directional nature of changes required, the livelihoods framework represents these elements as arrows, and calls them four arrows. It must be noted that decrease in expenditure does not mean going without food. Rather, it means reducing expenditure without foregoing the quality of life.

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.



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.

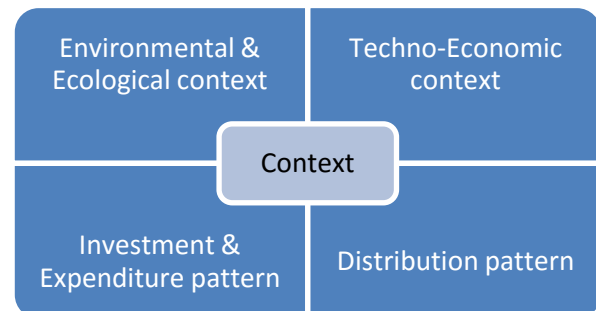
Since a context is a unified whole, the division of a context into four categories is not water tight. Hence an aspect may be classified under more than one context. Because the context is a unified whole, changes in one part do get reflected in other parts as well. In other words, the four parts of 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.

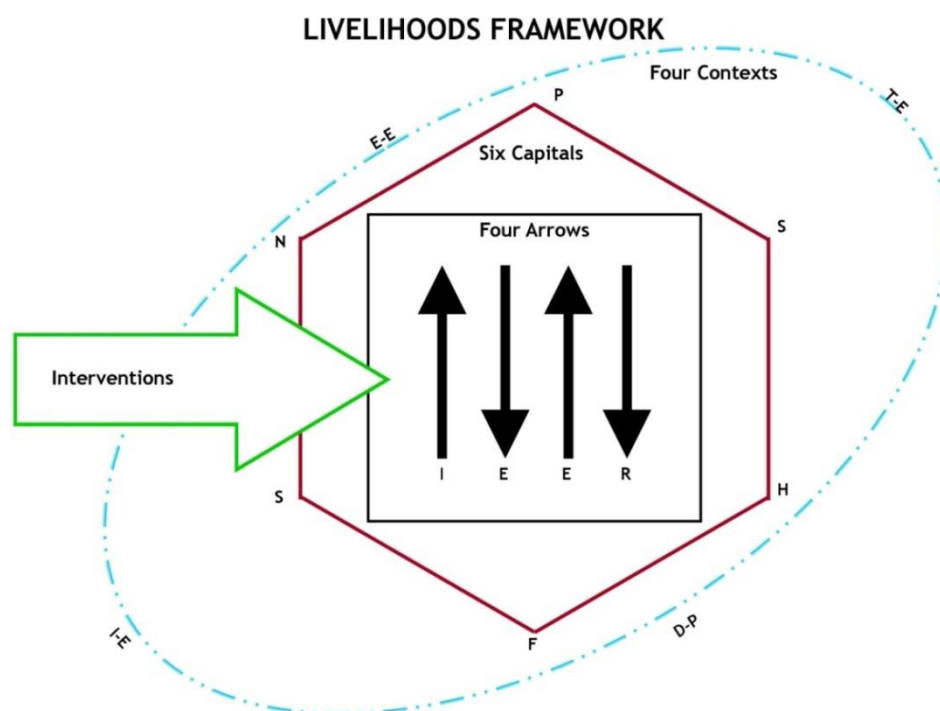
The livelihoods framework explicitly recognises the relationships that exist within the arrows, capitals and contexts. It further recognises the relationships that exist among arrows, capitals and contexts. Changes in all these result in changes in four arrows.

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.

## F. 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.

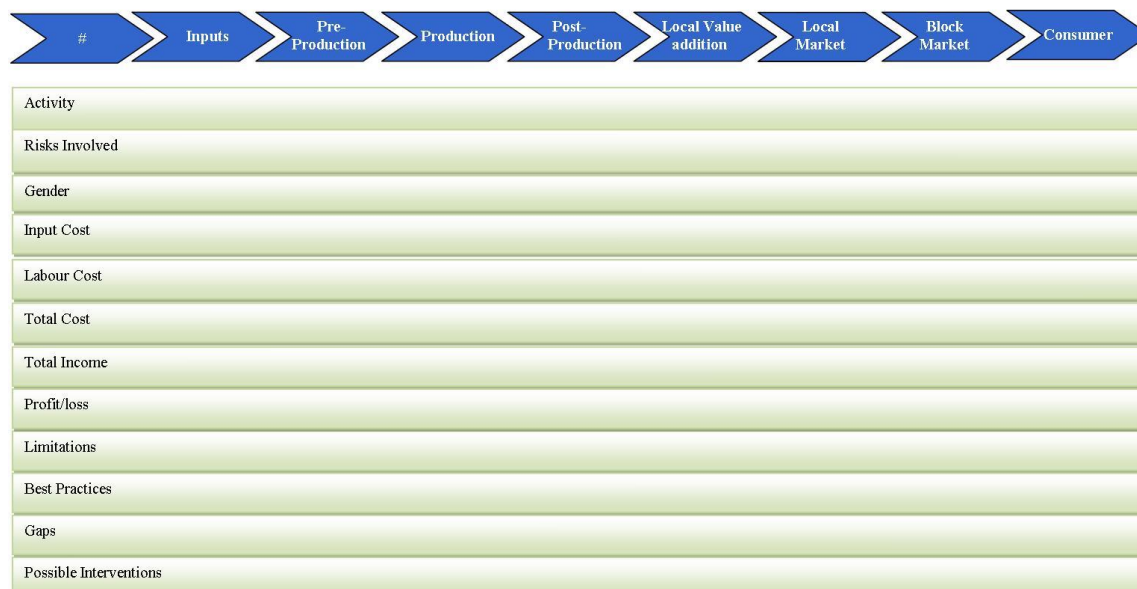
**Migration Analysis:** Migration analysis tool captures the migration situation which includes average number of families going to migration, place, name of the work, duration, terms and condition etc.,

**Market Analysis:** Market analysis captures the situation of selling and purchasing products and services, storage, processing, marketing places, payment methods etc.,

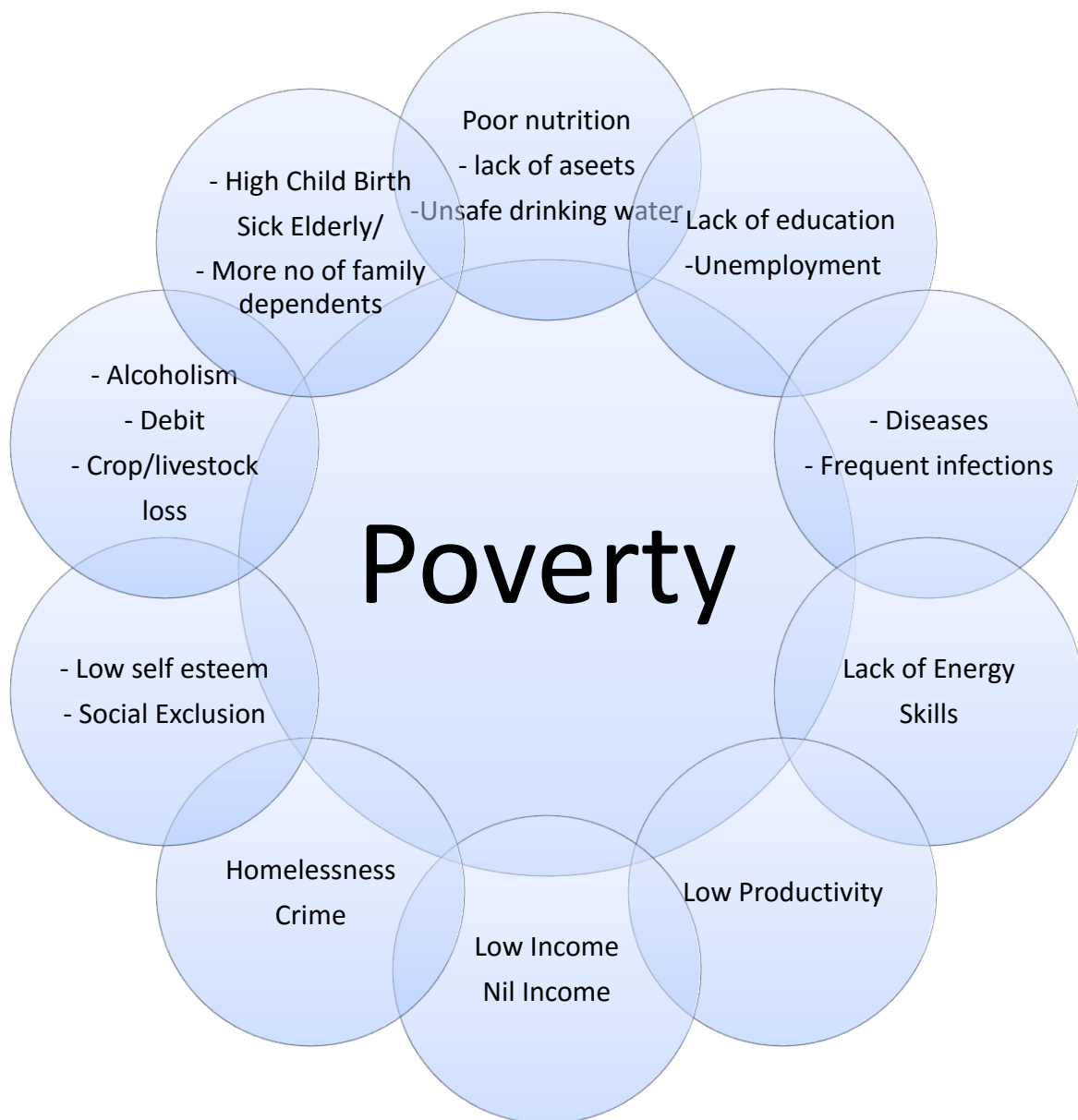
### Value Chain Analysis

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



# Poverty





## 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 7Is - 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

HIG II B 12 Flat 1, APHB Colony, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad— 500044  
09848930034, akshara@aksharakriti.org; alpl.akshara@gmail.com

f Livelihoods-People t AKSHARA LIVELIHOODS in akshara-livelihoods aksharakriti.org; livelihoods.net.in

Hope

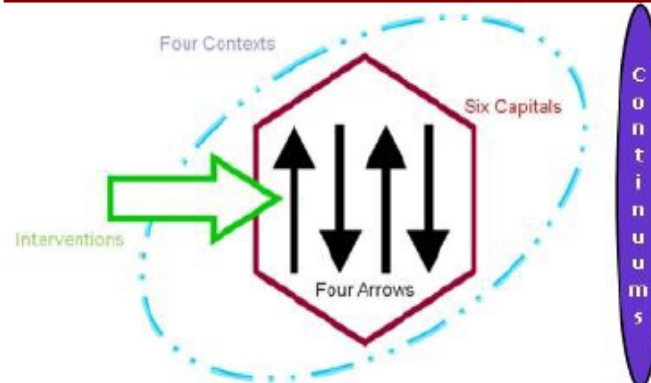
Faith

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