

Annual Report 2008 - 09



ABHIVRUDDI *(Society for Social Development)*



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Background of the Organisation

ABHIVRUDDI is a non-governmental organization established in 1992 under Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960. It is also registered under foreign contribution act and income tax act for tax exemption under section 12A & 80G of income tax act 1961. With its successful footmarks, we are happy to present this 16^h annual progress report for period from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

The projects such as rehabilitation of child labour in mines, poverty eradication, implementation of Sujala Watershed project, community based Tank management project, Kadugollas health project, child trafficking issues of CACL-K etc., are being implemented by the organization adopting participatory approaches. The grassroots communities' empowerment strategy was key strategy used for development understanding, identifying issues, planning and implementing intervention measures to combat the local problems and issues. Raising the level of community capacity and mobilizing their collective strength to work on the issues is a part of the strategy of empowering the community. This report covers the details of the work done and the progress made during 2008-09.

Area of Operation

Our organization has started implementation of its rural development programmes in Tumkur District. Our experiences enable our capacities to extend our services to the districts such as Bellary, Bagalkot, Hassan, Bangalore and Dakshina Kannada districts.

Projects and their Progress

1. Natural Resource Management (NRM) related projects

a) Sujala Watershed Development Project



Watershed development and management has emerged as one important approach to combat soil erosion and conserve water that could improve the agriculture productivity, which ensures livelihood to the rural families. This project is being implemented by the Watershed Development Department, GOK and financially assisted by the World Bank. Under this project, our organization has selected as Field NGO to implement interventions of watershed development at sub watersheds (Nos. 2) of Gubbi Taluk in Tumkur District. The project is being implemented in participation with different stake holders like farmers, technocrats, agriculture universities, etc.,

The FNGO has placed to play a vital role in implementation of various activities like soil and water conservation, forestry, horticulture, livestock, contribution mobilization, imparting training, organizing exposure, community organization, institution building, etc.,

Progress

1. PRA in all project villages were conducted to identify the issues and solutions related to watershed development.
2. Formation of 116 SHGs and IGA programs for the suitable beneficiaries.
3. Formation of 78 Area Groups of Farmers at Mini Micro Catchment covering 100-200 Hectares to implement the plan effectively and quickly.

4. Formation of 13 Sujala Watershed Sangha at Micro Watershed level to plan and implement and maintain the progressed work in future and for the direct fund released by the Govt. for the works to implement.
5. Mobilisation of contributions (min 10%) at community level
6. Trainings were conducted for SHGs, AGs and SWS / ECs at different stages of implementation.
7. Ensured women participation (50%) in all aspects of watershed development
8. Estimations for various land treatment works were prepared
9. Development of horticulture and forestry activities were implemented

In the Kalinganahallihalla subwatershed, 18 villages were covered to develop 10 micro-watersheds in the period of three and half years with the total outlay of Rs. 326 lakhs. In the Nittoorhalla subwatershed, 26 villages were covered to develop 15 micro-watersheds in the period of four and half years with a cost of Rs.633 lakhs.

(b) Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project

The Government of Karnataka with the assistance of World Bank designed a project entitled



“Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project” and it is being implemented in 11 districts. The NGO services are taken mainly for capacity building of tank management institutions and facilitation of implementation purposes. The project not only develop the physical structure of tank systems but also envisages community based management systems for sustainable maintenance of Tanks and its use. In this context, NGOs services are taken and we have taken the project to implement in Koratagere taluk covering 26 villages and 30 Tanks (two Tanks dropped and therefore 28 Tanks

were treated) with 26 Tank Management Institutions.

The sense of ownership among Tank user communities for sustainable maintenance and feeling of tank belonging to the community ownership has created and established in many Tank villages through proper withdrawal and handing over process. One can see in some Tank villages the Tank User Group collecting water tariff and involved in maintenance of Tanks after project withdrawal.

(c) Promotion of village forest committees (VFC)

Village forest committees are formed in two villages, namely, Pillahalli in Cholur Hobli and Muchaveeranahalli in Hagalvadi Hobli, Gubbi Taluk. In order to enable community participation in forest management, initially PRA was conducted to assess the village forest situation. After that village communities are organized as Village Forest Committees. Two members from each family represent the VFC. Villagers are trained on protection, plantation and sustainable management of forests including NTFP management. 3 SHGs are promoted under the scheme and SHG members are provided training for Income Generation Program.

(d) Vermi-composting Program

As the second stage of this program organization trained the selected 50 beneficiaries on Vermin compost. The beneficiaries are provided with Compost pit, Earthworms and other needs to maintain the compost in all level. The program is still on progress and is in the final stage of completion. In the some villages adjoining to the implementing villages, some farmers have already made their own compost pit and other needs impressed by the program.

2. Women Empowerment Programmes

Empowerment of women given priority in our approach to rural development. We believe that with a process of organizing and empowering women we can bring a gender sensitive social

order along with reducing the social evils like practice of dowry, sexual harassment, child labour, alcoholism and poverty related oppressive conditions of the marginalized vulnerable poor people could be addressed by themselves.

(a) Self Help Groups of Women (SHGs):

The formation and strengthening of SHGs is a novel strategic intervention measures planned and implemented over the time. Most of the activities undertaken in the field were addressed with the help and support of SHGs. ABHIVRUDDI took the responsibilities of facilitating a process of development whereas the SHGs were the active partners in local level planning and implementation of intervention measures. Thus the formation and strengthening of SHGs have multiple objectives such as strengthen the economic base, providing opportunities for women to take up income generation activities, sharing the mutual strength and support to women in distress, support the children of women in SHGs, coordinating with campaign against Child labour and Child Rights, identifying local problems, establishing linkages for services etc., So far 342 SHGs have been formed under different projects in Tumkur District. About 216 SHGs are achieved the higher level of savings to the tune of Rs.1,20,000/- to Rs.1,50,000/- and the newly formed SHGs have smaller amounts of savings which varies from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.25,000/-. Some SHGs are in the middle range which have savings of Rs.50,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/-. Total savings from all the SHGs is estimated as Rs.62,12,791/-. In addition to their own savings a matching grant loan Rs. 14,56,057/- was mobilized from the Banks alone.



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(b) Income Generation Program of SHGs

The Income Generation opportunities were created to SHG members with the finance support through the SHGs. The activities undertaken include Dairy, (Buffaloes and Cows) Animal Husbandry (Sheep and Goat rearing), Leaf Plate making, Petty and Small business, Tamarind business, Mango business, Groundnut marketing, Small Hotels, Bamboo basket making, Growing vegetables and vending, Tea shop, small scale sheep and Goat trade, broom stick making, mat making, pappad and pickles making. Through these activities the family income is increased by 25% to 30%. Quite apart from this, the members feel that they are the owners of their own struggle and could keep their male members away from interfering with their personal assets more in the light of it being put back to the overall family welfare and for the development of their own children through providing support for their education and overall development.

Income Generation Activities (IGA) like Dairying (360 Nos.), sheep and goat rearing (120 Nos.), preparing and selling of leaf plates (60 members), business and petty shops (10 units), production and selling of bamboo products (10 units), preparing of tamarind based products (20 Nos.) etc., have been taken up in the project areas.

(c) Training and Capacity Building

To build the capacities of self help groups formed in the project areas recently and since inception of projects, the various training programmes were conducted. The training programmes including financial management, Leadership and decision-making, Improving the socio-economic conditions, conflict resolutions, Book keeping, personality development were conducted for the members of the SHGs. 250 man-days of training programmes were organized for SHGs at various locations during this year. In addition, the capacity building for the staff of the organisation has been carried out by involving external experts namely Shri. Neerchal Balakrishnaraj, Shri. Vishwasagar, Shri. Susairaj, Shri. Mukkanna, Dr.Shirdi Prasad and many others.

(d) SHG Federation

The present federation “Bharathambe” of Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk and “Bhoomithayee” of Gubbi Taluk are functioning well and they have identified at the Taluk level. They have good relationship with all the departments. Many officers from various departments had couple of visits to the federations and the Bhoomithayee federation is registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. In this financial year a new federation namely, Mathangi Mahila Swasahaya Sangagala Okkoota was formed at Hospet taluk covering 30 SHGs. Various meetings and capacity building programmes were organized for the federations for capacity building.

3. Programmes of Eradication of child labour

Pre-Primary Center, Non-Formal Education, Bridge School for child labourers, Vocational Training, Public Lobby, Sensitization for combating child trafficking, etc., were activities carried out for child development. Coordinated the activities of campaign against child labour (CACL-K)

(a) Pre-Primary Centers

Two pre-primary centers were run for the children age group between 03-06 under KKS, Germany funded CLRCEP, one was run at Sanklapura Thanda village with 29 children and another was managed at Basaveshwara Colony with 47 children. Children of poor families who are working in mines come to these centers. They learn through playing games, alphabets, numbers, songs, etc. and prepare gradually for mainstream school.

(b) Non Formal Education

Large numbers of children are working as support labourers in family agriculture and agro based manual labour and cattle rearing sectors. There are also children from the mines, brick industries domestic services, and bonded released labourers. Under TDH child labour project one NFE school in each village was run on daily basis for slow learners. Twenty NFE schools are running, 10 in Sandoor and another 10 in Hospet Taluk. At present there are a total of 546 children in all 20 NFE Schools. Among them 334 are male and 212 are female. Under Shikshnavahini project at Jamkhandi taluk 49 NFE centers were run for 1046 children. The timing is between 6-8 P.M. Now



most of the children are voluntarily reaching in time to NFE school. The education imparted to the children in NFEs was based on the age, level at which they had dropped out of schools, the present knowledge of literacy. The children were prepared to acquire minimum level of learning appropriate to their age and the class to which they were eligible for re-admission to schools. Regular attention given to children for personnel hygiene and sanitation. This approach brought drastic change in children, especially on their health and attitude. The cultural program helped a lot to

increase their confidence level and interest towards their education. Most of the children developed a sense of self- discipline in their lifestyle.

(c) Residential Bridge School

The children who have long gap from their schooling and who forced to work for their survival were identified and enrolled in the residential bridge school and provided with intense education program. Under KKS-CLRCEP 52 child labourers were rehabilitated in Spoorthy bridge school and under TDH project 40 child labourers were rehabilitated in Chethana bridge school. They were given full educational course along with extra-curricular activities like games, songs, play, yoga and physical exercises along with drawing classes. After preparing them for one year, they were facilitated to take up examination in the mainstream school that is appropriate to their age and level of learning. Those who have passed out of the examination were readmitted to mainstream schools.

REACH INDIA SHIKSHANA VAHINI JAMAKHANDI.

The project is a joint venture of Reach India Shikshana Vahini and the Swami Vivekananda youth Movement, been initiated in Jamkhamdi Taluk of Bagalkot District. Jamkhandi. Taluk is an agriculture-irrigated land. More number of farmers are growing Sugarcane. Thousand of children are engaged in coolie, mainly in land based activities. Children are working in Bricks Industries. Jamkhandi has very low literacy rate. In case of women literacy in rural area, it is a low as 15%. It is also identified as one of the Devadasi belt and even today hundreds of children are subjected to child marriage. The above project aims to ensure qualitative education in rural primary schools, prevent more dropout from the school, educate and ensure effective participation of SDMC, SHG's ,CBO's and PRIs in the development of the school and to ensure child rights.

The process adopted to run the Bridge School effectively is as Identification of Children through door-to-door survey, Motivation of parents by Staff and SHG members, Convincing of employers on the evils of the practice of child labour, Educational input in Bridge school was designed to suit the individual and aptitude of children, Teaching methods like Creativity, Learn-while-play, games, story telling, songs, Drawing, Nature study, Daily physical exercise, Yoga and focused meditation, Take up exam in mainstream school and enroll them in appropriate class after passing the examination.

(d) Tent School Program

Four-tent schools are running in Sandoor and Hospet Taluk. We are having more than 35 children in each school, reading and writing materials like Note Books, Slates are distributed to the children. Tents are covered with Tarpaulin and Plastics on the roof and thick Tarpaulin on the floor. The nutritional foods are prepared near the Tent School by the SHG members. Each school is having two teachers. All the tent schools are located very near to the residential places.

The number of children is reduced due to natural calamity heavy rain and now ongoing Mining issue in the politics at the Govt. level. The program resulted in reaching more than 250 children directly. The awareness on health the sanitation to the children and parents resulted in the physical appearance of the children, now children are looking very clean.

The intervention will help in improving the educational statues of the children. The challenge will be to re-enrollment of the children into formal schools, since most of them are the migrant population the concrete follow up is very essential. Most of them are the migrated from the different districts and neighboring states, the uncertainty is that the duration of stay in the particular area. We are planning for a follow up strategy to come out from this challenge.

(e) Sensitization Program on Combating Child Trafficking

A month long program was been organized on combating child trafficking in three districts in collaboration with CACL-K, UNICEF, Women and Child Welfare Department. Tumkur District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Education Department, NGO network of Tumkur, CACT is the part of the program. Through this we are conducted several public programs like district level Workshop for District level officers, NGO head etc, A district level committee has been formed, this community headed by District Commissioner and Superintend of Police all the district level officers are the members of this community. The planning and the monitoring was done though the community. Along with the district level programs awareness program such as Jatha, Street Play, Public meetings and awareness program to students are organized all over the district. Concluding programs conducted at Gubbi, more than 4000 women were participated in the concluding program.

The major focuses were given for the creating public opinion on the child trafficking issue. One of the results of the program was that many cases come to the public notice. People started to think and careful towards issue.

(f) Managing the State Secretariat of CACL-K

Considering the work of ABHIVRUDDI on the issue of child labour and other child related issues, the State Core Committee decided and gave the responsibility of managing CACL-K State Secretariat to ABHIVRUDDI. from 1st April 2005. The State Secretariat started functioning from ABHIVRUDDI. The Director of ABHIVRUDDI, Mr. Narasimha Murthy selected as State Convener of the CACL-K.

The national convention was highly successful as there were 1700 people including children, NGO activists, teachers, escorts, parents, guests and others. The following matters were discussed in this workshop and state specific strategies were developed.

- Collecting information of children and elders that have participated.
- Journey days, instructions to be followed during journey.
- The different activities to be held during the conference.
- The details of the children that are participating from other states of the country.
- Practice of few required words and gestures of Oriya languages.
- Purchase and how to use of required things.
- Remaining arrangements of the conference.
- Responsibilities of assistant representatives.

CACL-K is planning to implement the decisions of national convention. NGOs are following the strategic options designed for implementation.

(g) Strengthening Education in Targeted Villages

We are identified 30 villages (20 villages in Hospet and 10 villages in Sandoor) (10 villages under KKS-CLRCEP and 20 villages under TDH project) to strengthen the education in the village. We are running the evening classes in all the villages. The aim of this intervention is to supplement the basic education. Since many mining related activities are taking place at the home children are at risk of dropping out. We are identified such children in the village and organizing the tuition class to them in village with the help of animators.

The animators are well qualified and experienced many of them are qualified with PUC and Degree level. They are trained on child rights, child labour, roles and responsibilities etc. In each of the evening tuition class we are having more than 30 children. We are covering more than 600 children through this initiative.

(h) Strengthening of SDMC

School development and monitoring bodies are crucial role to play in education. The field level organizers conducted the preliminary meetings and interactions with the SDMC members. Most of the SDMC members in the village are unaware of their roles and responsibilities. Most of the SDMC members are reluctant when they were approached, but continuous interactions made them to understand the reality. Some training programs were organized for SDMC members and refresher courses are planned to take place in near future.

(i) Cultural Team

We have organized a preliminary training program for the staffs and volunteers to form a cultural team. The training program was for two days imparted by Mr. Munichowdappa, a theatre actor came as resource person to train the participants. The cultural team is formed to take up village level educational awareness programs through jatha and street-play. The team will help for creating awareness in the village. The cultural team comprise with 8 trained members and 10 semi-trained volunteers.

(j) Social Mobilization and Involvement of PRI in education

Many of the local level leaders, government officials, PRI members, and opinion leaders were consulted on the issue. Some of the mining owners are also consulted on the issue. Some of the mining owners are asked their masteries and employers to send the children to tent school. Many of the opinion leaders are varied about the illegal mining taking place in the area. Officials are doing various actions against the illegal mining; through the SSA education department also started some tent schools in the taluk. Some of the officials giving their cooperation. After PIL was filed by CACL-K, Labour Department organized raid and rescue actions in the Taluk.

4. Community Health Programmes

- (a) **Reproductive Child Health** : During this reporting year, we are focused mainly on Child and Women Health care programs where there is lack of Health facilities and infants and pregnant deaths are prevalent. Last year, SOSVA, Bangalore supported the program and “Reproductive Child Health” Project was implemented. Another Kadugollas and Mining Workers Health Project with MISEREOR funding was implemented in Gubbi and Chikkanayakanahli taluk. The project covered 65 villages covering 55000 population. This program is very much conducive and received warm appreciation from the beneficiaries and also by the adjoining village population.
- (b) **Training Health Volunteers** : Selected Health volunteers were given regular capacity building capsules through training programs. The issues Covered during the Training programs were Role of a Social Health Volunteer, Basic knowledge on health, Identification of disease, Diagnosing the disease, Treatment, community Health Medicines, Traditional Medicines, Dynamics and political issues in the village.
- (c) **Health Awareness** : Programs were organized in the entire project implementation villages as an entry point activity. Jathas, street play, public meetings and home visits are organized during the health awareness programs. Local people actively participated in the program. Issues covered during the program are:
 - o Health problems faced by women during the natal and post natal period, impact of practice of pollution on the women during this time.
 - o Health problems faced by the mining labourers and possible preventions.
 - o Adolescent sexual health, Child Health.
 - o Sanitation.
 - o Community health measures available at the local level and traditional remedies for the minor problems.
 - o Government health facilities like accessibility of Pre Primary Health Centers, facilities at these places.
 - o Components of this project and role of community in health management.

Health Volunteers are actively involved during the program. A team of 10 members, who are trained on community health went to all the project villages and performed street play, Rally and Public meetings. In all 65 villages health awareness programs were organized.

- (d) **Participatory Community Health Appraisal (PCHA)**: Participatory Community Health Appraisal was organized in all the 65 villages after the health volunteers training and Health Awareness programme. It was well organized in all the villages. We have informed the programme well in advance to the Grama Panchayaths, Community Leaders and Self Help Groups. People are actively involved during the process. The process had remarkable outcomes; through this we are able to understand the real health condition of the village. The major findings of PCHA are miserable conditions due to mining, victims

of indebtedness for diseases, easy access to the sexually transmitted infections (STI), reproductive tract infections (RTI), lack of health facilities, women are more prone to diseases due to pollution, lack of transport facilities, practice of child marriages and low literacy rate.

The information's collected through this process are been discussed with the health officials and local leaders and information was discussed with our Health Volunteers. This will be used through out the project and also will be shared with the Government for necessary action.

- (e) **First Aid Kits** : 65 Health volunteers trained on how to use the First Aid Kits, two days training was organized to all the health volunteers. Dr. Shiridi Prasad as resource person for the programme. In the training programme Health Volunteers oriented on use of First Aid Kits in emergency and in regular basis, component of First Aid Kits, social marketing of medicines. The community largely uses First Aid Kits. It created positive changes among the community; it was mainly because now community people are easily accessing the medicines, which they require in the emergency.
- (f) **Rural Health Committees** : Health committees were formed in all 65 villages comprising of local leaders, elected representatives, SHG representative, health workers from government sector. This committee meets once in a month and discusses health related issues and takes necessary action. Attending emergency cases like accidents, delivery, etc. are the main role of the health committee that the committee has to coordinate with the concerned PHC and us for the party accessing safer health services.
- (g) **Family Counseling Center** : Family Counseling Center at Gubbi has been functioning with the finance assistance of the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. Under this project the counseling related to the issues such as dowry, extra marital relationship, family disputes with in-laws and neighbourers, alcoholism, unemployment, child marriage, property disputes, etc., were tackled. Out of them 55 cases were closed after successful counseling. Now those families are living happily and disputes are redressed.
- (h) **PPTCT Project Activities** : The problem of HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly. It is even transferring to the new born babies, which is dangerous to a nation as its newborn child population is going to suffer continuously and die at very young age. Therefore, there is a need to prevent transfer of HIV/AIDS from parent to child. In this context this project was taken-up.

Totally 352 pregnant mothers were identified in a year, out of them 20 pregnant found HIV positive and they were given NVP tablets, 102 partners were given counseling services, 252 family members were given family counseling services, 14 infants were given NVP tablets, with 400 people our staff interacted, 110 SHG members were covered with HIV/AIDS awareness and as a follow-up activities 177 mothers were tested for HIV positive, out of them 18 were found positive and 159 report collected were found negative, 13 babies after 18 months were tested for HIV positive and 12 of them found positive and therefore, as a follow-up 15 mothers and 12 children were counseled for referral health services.

- (i) **RCH Mother NGO Program** : Due to poverty and malnutrition women who gave birth to newborn babies find difficult to recover their health to original status in rural areas. When lactating mothers are suffering with malnutrition naturally newborn babies also suffer without sufficient breastfeed or otherwise. Therefore, government has started reproductive child health project to provide support to pregnant women during and after delivery so that along with the newborn child the lactating mother also recover her health, which the project titled as reproductive child health. As Mother NGO in Hassan

district, implemented Reproductive Child Health programmes through Field NGOs, with the total outlay of Rs. 48 lakhs.

OUTCOMES

The activities undertaken during 2008-09 were resulted with fruitful changes among the lives of women, children, teen-age girls and boys their families. The asset in the form of cumulative savings and support from the banks and Govt. has taken the confidence of women to heights, the community has started re-looking at the issues of oppressive conditions of women, children, the mainstream institutions have started taking up their renewed role and commitment concerning the issues of child labour, sustainable agriculture, soil and water conservation and a strong ground is being built to create a sustainable model of an integrated development.

OUR DONORS

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Office Bearers of the Organisation "ABHIVRUDDI"

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