

9th Annual Report

Who Pockets the profit out of paddy cultivation?



2005-06

JANAKALYAN

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Annual Report

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Article 1
No more SHGs but make SSHGs
A case of Bangla Rehabilitation Project¹
(Apna Bazaar Model)

Origin: The word SHG recalls the name of Md. Yunus of Bangladesh Grameen Bank, who is considered to be Father of SHG Movement. The SHG movement originated in Bangladesh; NABARD took initiative in 80s to pilot it in India with the help of MYRADA. Janakalyan initiated its promotion in 1997 in *mini Bangladesh* (outside Bangla border) in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project of Raichur district.

SHG Promotion Phase: About 2250 Bengali families are residing in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project since 1968 without basic amenities. Janakalyan took birth to stand beside these communities and initiated promotion of Self Help Groups among these Bengali women. Within a couple of year, the SHG movement became very strong in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project and neighboring NGOs like Prerana, HRDS, Sadhana started learning from these SHGs via exposure trip and capacity building training. People felt that the organizing ability is inherited among Bengali women as in the case of Bangladesh Grameen Model. Almost 65% families were covered under the SHG umbrella. To bring oneness among the SHGs, village level steering committees called Sangha Darshini Samitee were formed represented by 2 members from each SHGs. Cluster level federation called Milan Teertha SHG Federation was promoted to address the issues concerning the women.

Reaching the Peak: Quality of SHG, as graded by Bankers & NABARD, was excellent in terms of record keeping, conducting meeting, regularity in savings, loan & recovery management, participating in social action, managing Income Generation Activities, etc.. Almost 80% SHGs promoted by Janakalyan were credit linked without any hassle. The internal lending as well as utilization of external credit and its repayment was 100% prompt. The women started participating in every socio-political forum as their capacity was built through various training and exposure trips. There are several examples when these women came forward to help poor mother to get her daughter married by providing financial help. Cases could be cited where the women helped many children to pursue their education. In the subsequent Gram Panchayat election many of them got elected.

Movement Collapsed: This was the peak and like any other movement it also got polluted and started declining. Every efforts of Janakalyan failed to put a brake to the retarding force till it reached the equilibrium as it was fully polluted with politics. The major reasons remained-

- ✍ Election was a threat²
- ✍ Intervention of government disintegrated the existing SHGs
- ✍ Local politician considered the movement as a threat to their vote bank
- ✍ Intervention of men in the later stage
- ✍ Huge loan by banks management became difficult

The entire movement collapsed in 2-3 months and most of the SHGs became defunct.

The SSHG Promotion Phase: Study reveals that the SHG movement across the world keeps the momentum for few years after which it comes to equilibrium unless sustainability is inbuilt from the day one. Learning from the experience, Janakalyan evolved the concept of Sustainable Self Help Group (SSHG) and started the SSHG movement more systematically.

Revitalizing the SHGs: To revitalize the defunct SHGs, Janakalyan put lot of efforts but failed consecutively in several attempts. Finally, changed the strategy to adapt few selected SHGs and work with them to demonstrate the benefits.

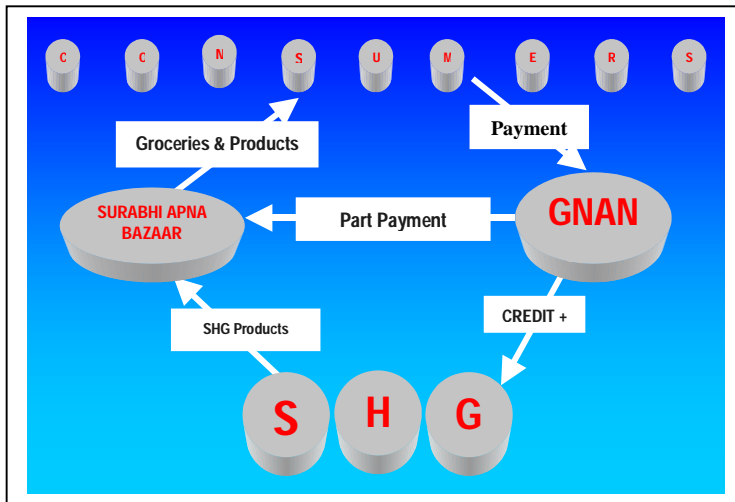
The old wine in a new bottle: It is learnt from experience that the bank provides credit but does not teach the women how to utilize the same. Bad management of such credit makes the women defaulters and this causes the SHGs to become defunct. The women need credit+ i.e. the knowledge (GNAN) of using the credit for productive purposes and earning their livelihood out of it. To bring oneness among these SHGs/ communities and to provide GNAN (knowledge) a multipurpose women cooperative society called 'GNAN'(Garibi Nirmoolan Avartan Needhi = Poverty Alleviation Revolving Fund) of these SHGs is promoted. About 700 women became shareholders from various (defunct / active) SHGs.

¹ Bangla Rehabilitation Project is established in 1968 by Gol to rehabilitate refugees from Bangladesh

² Gram Panchayat election was declared

Why are these SSHGs? An element of sustainability is inbuilt in these SHGs. Why does a farmer everyday go to his farm? Why does an officer go to office everyday even after knowing it is not his own office? The farmer or the officer knows that for his survival this is one of the options he has. For his sustainability on this earth, he has to make the farm / office sustainable. Similar feeling if created (or demonstrated) among the women about the SHG and only then it will become SSHG. Women must feel that the SHG will constantly give some return everyday. This '**concept of regular return**' is the required element to make Sustainable SHGs and sustain the efforts.

Apna³ Bazaar Model: In this model the same amount of 'concept of regular return' is inbuilt from the day one as represented pictographically in the figure below. The GNAN provides not only credit but also the knowledge to utilize



the credit along with –

- ✍ Skills to identify viable income generation activities and manage it effectively
- ✍ Marketing support for their products through Apna Bazaar
- ✍ Follow up support till the venture is self sustainable

Completion of Chain: The GNAN provides necessary training to the identified member and up grades the skills to manage an enterprise. The necessary equipments and technologies are arranged through credit from GNAN to see to it that the enterprise gets started. The products are procured at Apna Bazaar and then

sold to the consumers. The payment from the consumers are collected and deposited in SB account of the respective entrepreneur in GNAN. GNAN makes part payment to the entrepreneur after deducting the monthly installment of the credit. SSHG members also get required products from the Apna Bazaar throughout the month through their Family Credit Card (FCC).

With this model SSHGs are functioning well and showing equal amount of interest without trough and crest over a period. Hence the model is sustainable, we strongly believe.

³ Apna means Ours & Bazaar means Market

Article 2
Rural Dairying
Can it be profit-making by women?
 A case of Pousthik Milk

Background: Although, the families with whom JANAKALYAN is working are having 4-5 acres of land to cultivate, the income from the same at the present condition is not adequate to fulfill the family needs. The families are solely dependent on this piece of land while the per capita land availability has reduced as the families have grown 3-4 times since Government of India provided the land to these refugees as rehabilitation package in 70s and at the same time the productivity of land has also declined to any extent. Thus the economic base of these farmers is very narrow and solely dependent on the so called volatile agriculture sector alone, which collapses almost every alternate year.

To broaden the economic base of these farmers, JANAKALYAN in consultation with the communities decided to add 'animal husbandry' as one of the portfolio to earn subsidiary income parallel to agriculture. It is to be noted at this point that animal husbandry is a complementary activity to agriculture and thus for farming communities like these become easier to rear animals.

It is learnt from the process of milk production-marketing cycle that –

1. the farm women go through a tedious process to earn Rs.8.40 from a liter of milk while
2. the KMF (Karnataka Milk Federation) earns Rs.8.60 from the same liter of milk by selling it @ Rs.17.00 per liter and
3. if only 100 liters of milk is being produced by these farm women in a day, then total margin of KMF is Rs.860 per day, Rs.25,800 per month and Rs.3,13,900 per annum
4. while the actual production of milk per day is more than 250 liters from 1 colony and it reaches 1500 liters from the 5 rehabilitation colonies (i.e. Rs.47,08,500 is being taken away from the Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project by KMF without putting any effort to produce it)
5. even if 60% is considered as cost to run the show, then the net margin is Rs.18,83,400/-
6. if only 100 liters of milk is procured and sold directly to the market, the net margin is Rs.1,25,560/-

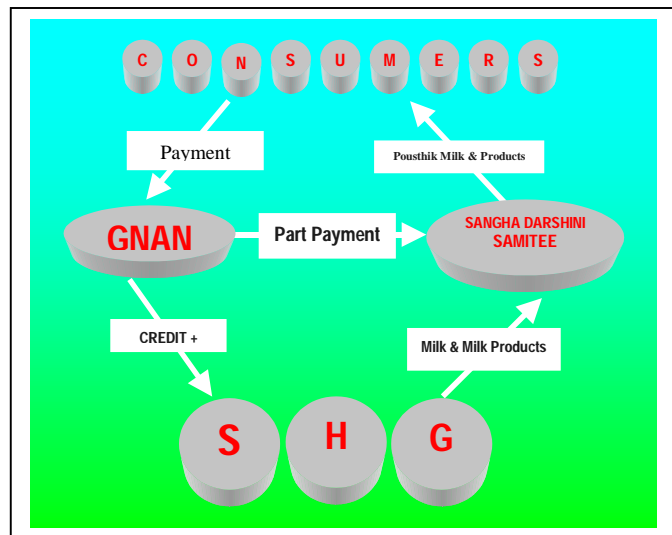
Therefore, the Sangha Darshini Samitee (Village SHG Steering Committee), as an experiment, started procuring the milk @ Rs.11 per liter from the producers and sales @ Rs.15 per liter to the consumers directly in sachets of ½ & 1 liter with "Pousthik" brand. By this the

producers are getting an extra amount of Rs.2.40 per liter while the consumers are getting pure and fresh milk at Rs.2.00 lesser value. **With the margin of Rs.4.00 per liter, SDS is managing its show and has achieved the break even in 4 months at 100 liters per day.** The present set up to procure and sale 100 liters of milk –

1. one person to collect, document and pouch the milk in the morning & evening
2. one person to carry the pouches on a two-wheeler to nearby town and deliver at the door of fixed customers (different set for morning & evening)

The major issues faced during the initial 5 months are –

1. souring of milk in transportation if delayed by 4 hours of collecting the milk from udder
2. timely delivery of the milk in the early morning is an issue as the milk has to be transported from 15 km distance
3. since the collection center is in a village, the pouching become difficult in alternate week when the power cut is from 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 a.m. on all weekdays



4. storing the excess milk collected in the evening, if any
5. transportation of milk during rainy days
6. if the payment by the customers delays, the payment to the producers also delays, which affects the confidence level of the communities

The strategies worked out to overcome these issues –

1. starting a sales point in Sindhanur (nearest town) and putting a full time person for expanding market and regular touch with the consumers to follow up the collection
2. collecting the milk from the colonies and storing in this center for 24 hours for sales and also timely door delivery in the morning
3. developing adequate infrastructures in this center for storage & processing of milk
4. increasing the volume of procurement to reduce the cost of transportation and storage

The amount is collected on monthly basis from the market and paid to the producers on a fixed date. Kindly note that the 'women' are considered as producers and the payment is made to their account in GNAN Mahila Bank. The amount does not reach the hands of men.

Article 3

Renewable Sources of Energies

How to harness it for household & agriculture operations?

An effort by farm women

Preamble: The heart bit of a human being stops if at least one forms of energy does not support him/her. Electricity, petrol, diesel, kerosene, LPG, CNG and so on.... Till recently, the disease was restricted to cities and towns but in the name of development it has now spread to the rural areas also. Starting from bathing, cooking, lighting, movement (vehicle), sleeping (fan, cooler), Office (computer, machineries), recreation (TV),..... in every field energy is required. The agricultural operations starting from plowing, sowing, spraying, harrowing, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, drying, storage, processing, packaging, transportation,..... again energy is required. We all have become so much dependent even after knowing the fact that these forms of energies are going to be exhausted in near future.

In rural areas, the energy is mainly required for kitchen and farm operations, which is considered to be the women's domain by the patriarchal society. Since the cropping pattern has changed from cotton to paddy and more and more land is coming under irrigation, fuel wood has become a serious issue for the rural women.

Poor woman's LPG: In the above background, having worked with women for one decade, Janakalyan decided to intervene in the energy sector and introduced biogas plants to convert biomass into energy. It is found very effective for small families having 3-4 animals. The rural women considered it as 'poor woman's LPG' as it performs similar functions. Although, for big families it is not suitable, but for small families it can be an effective mechanism to address the energy needs in the kitchen.

Improved Chullah: We talk about women empowerment by involving women in various developmental activities in the name of '**participation**'. By this, we are giving more responsibilities to the women while they are already over burdened by the patriarchal discriminating society. Almost all of our programs / projects / schemes designed by either government or by the developmental organizations are to give the women additional works.

Fuel wood is an issue nowadays in rural areas whereas lot of agricultural wastes is not being used effectively. Transformation of cropping pattern from cotton to paddy has made this issue more serious. The wastes from paddy crops, sorghum, etc. are simply dumped which creates environment pollution. To use these wastes productively and to address the fuel wood issues of women, an improved chullah was designed in consultation with Agriculture Engineering College, Raichur. About 100 such chullah have been distributed this year with a minimal contribution of Rs.50 per women while the actual cost is Rs.250. The women expressed happiness about its performance and are willing to have more.

Solar cooker: Raichur has abundant solar energy which could be used effectively for productive purposes. To harness the solar energy, we have designed 2-pots solar cooker for small families. Dr. Y.M. Mayande, Principal Scientist, CRIDA, Hyderabad was invited to deliver the address and distribute these especially designed products to rural women.

Dryer: Like kitchen energy, farm operations also needs energy for various purposes. Drying of the agricultural produces is one such operation which improves shelf-life, if done properly. This is again considered to be the work of women. To dry the agricultural produces without damaging the color, we have designed a Dryer especially for chilly.

Article 4

Bal Vidya Peeth

A sustainable (entrepreneurship) model of pre primary education

A case of Surabhi Sangha Darshini Samitee

Education is the backbone of the society, Janakalyan believes. Given proper education, especially at the foundation level, development of the society will be a natural process. Although, government has designed many best programs / schemes to provide basic education by attracting with incentives to the children & parents, we still find the literacy rate at 65.38%. Therefore, can we conclude that 'incentives' is not the means to attract the children in schools but something else?

On the other hand, we have many educated unemployed youths in the villages having the concern for communities but due to lack of opportunities they can't contribute even to their extent possible. Without proper guidance this youth potential is being used unproductively and also sometimes anti-socially. Is there a way to give a direction to this youth force?

Surabhi Sangha Darshini Samitee⁴ illustrates the answers

Activities	Annual Target	Achievement	
		Center	Beneficiaries
Bal Vidyapeeth	25	20	320
Accelerated Reading Program	10	5	109
Village Library	25	8	75
Shramik Vidyapeeth	25	20	250
Mahila Vidyapeeth	25	19	275

to the above 2 puzzles. With the support of Akshara Foundation, Janakalyan trained about 30 educated adolescents

Target Group	Theme
0-3 years	Health & immunization
3-6 years	Foundation Education
6-14 years	Quality Education & Out of school child
14-18 years	Adolescent girls
18-35 years	Women Literacy

teaching the children of 3-5 years age through activities i.e. activity-based learning. About 25 centers were started by trained entrepreneurs and various strategies were adopted to run the centers successfully. Based on the experience from field, we have concluded that the model can be termed as sustainable and entrepreneurial.

Along with the Bal Vidya Peeth, we had introduced many other value added products to make these centers effective and attractive like Accelerated Reading Program (ARP), Village Library, Mahila

Vidya Peeth, Shramik Vidya Peeth, etc. It is seen that all these activities were very successful and the target groups have taken the maximum benefits out of these. These activities were designed for different target groups as illustrated

Successful SHG owned Model

Surabhi Sangha Darshini Samitee has started once such center in Vivekanagar (R.H.Colony No.4) of Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project. Ms. Deepu was the social entrepreneur trained in activity-based teaching methodologies. Deepu was hesitant to start the center assuming none of the parents will be interested to send their children to her since there government & private schools in the village and also an Anganawadi Center.

The Surabhi members decided to send their own children and start the center in June 2005. About 9 children attended for 10-15 days and started exhibiting before their parents whatever they learnt in the center. Parents feel happy to express the talents of their children to the visitors / relatives who visit their house on different occasion. The relatives get impressed and express their willingness to send their child to the center. By the end of June 2005, there were about 43 children in the center.

In the first week of July, Surabhi convened a meeting for the mothers in the center and put few conditions for admission to the center like 1) admission to 30 children on first come first serve basis, 2) Uniform within 10 days, 3) Monthly fees of Rs.50 before 5th of subsequent month, 4) children to escorted twice every day by parents, etc. There was a huge response and 30 children got admission very next day.

The private school in the village used to collect Rs.15 per month from the child who was due for months together while in this center parents are seen to pay Rs.50 regularly on schedule date. The children were regular to the school because of child-friendly style of teaching.

Does it prove that the incentive does not attract the children / parents in the school but the quality of education? Similarly, can't we channelize the youth force for productive purposes as done in this case?

) from 30 Gram Panchayath of Sindhanur taluk at Murakhwada of Dharwad district. The training was about the methodologies of

Strategies	Worked?	Didn't?
One center at every Gram Panchayath (spread effect)	Yes	X
GPO as Volunteer (initial salary problem)	Partial	Partial
Parents Meeting to retain volunteers	Partial	Partial
Mothers Meeting for Bal Vidyapeeth	Yes	X
SHG Linked Bal Vidyapeeth	Yes	X
Education Institution linked Bal Vidyapeeth	Yes	X
Bal Vidyapeeth without training	Partial	Partial

⁴ it is informal federation of SSHGs, which has taken up a pilot to demonstrate social-entrepreneurship model

in the table below. Thus, almost all the age-groups are targeted by one or the other activities. The volunteers were found inclined towards the Village Library as it fetches regular income to them. However, few major issues we had also to fetch during the implementation, which are furnished below.

ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTATION	SOLUTIONS
Starting trouble - setting the mind of volunteers & their parents	Start with few & parents meeting
Place for running the center	Start at home & find through villagers
Trouble by Anganawadi Workers	Orientation Programs
Incentives by Anganawadies	Quality Education
Collection of fees from children	No fees to start with
Every village has a Anganawadi	Show them the difference
Keeping the tempo on for volunteers	Frequent meeting

Article 5

Accelerated Reading Program

A proven tool to improve reading ability of slow-learners in Government Schools

Results of 5 schools in Sindhanur taluk

It is very sad to know that more than 60% regular students in government schools cannot read sentences while more than that cannot do simple arithmetic. It is in this context Janakalyan has initiated a program called "Accelerated Reading Program" in collaboration with Akshara Foundation to enhance the reading skills of such students. During the year, it was initiated in 5 schools of Sindhanur taluk and found as an extremely effective tool to improve the reading ability of the slow-learners.

Methodology: About 5 schools in Sindhanur taluk were selected for pilot test of the tool and the teachers were trained by the expert from Akshara Foundation. The training was for 2 days on conducting the baseline test to identify the students in different categories like 0, L, W, S & P and then how to use the cards to improve the learning level.

The baseline test was completed in 2 days using pre-designed tools and then the cards are used every day between 3.30-4.30 p.m. with simple to complex principle. It being a 45 cards exercise, completes in 60 days. After every 15 cards, an evaluation is conducted by the teacher, Head Master as well as Cluster Resource Person using different types of 'READERS'.

The results of the pilot are furnished in the table below. The students are evaluated at various periods of the pilot to understand the progress. Baseline test was conducted for 346 students out of 109 enrolled in these 5 schools. It is seen from the table below that the shift from zero to letter to word to sentence to paragraph is quite interesting.

Tests	Present in test	Zero	Letter	Word	Sentence	Paragraph
Baseline	109	33	38	38	0	0
%		30%	35%	35%	0%	0%
15 cards	109	21	30	28	23	7
%		19%	28%	26%	21%	6%
30 cards	109	21	27	27	16	18
%		19%	25%	25%	15%	17%
45 cards	109	18	25	25	17	32
%		17%	23%	23%	16%	29%

This proves that the ARP is a proven tool for accelerating the reading ability of the children in school.

Article 6

Balvikash Manaparivartana Kendra

An effort to eradicate child labor from rural India through motivational approach
National Child Labor Policy

Child labor issue is a disease to the society whereby millions of lives are being kept in dark by their parents to satisfy their temporary needs. The parents have forgotten that the child who is fetching Rs.15 today can earn Rs.500 tomorrow, if given proper education. Education can otherwise be called as value addition to the life.

The children in the age group of 6-14 can be seen engaged in various types of hazardous works, which retards their both mental and physical growth. The children are engaged in **earning** in the age of **learning**. Besides having extremely powerful legislations and Acts in this country child labor has remained as an issue for ages. To eradicate it, National Child Labor Policy (NCLP) was brought in by Government of India.

Janakalyan targets 100 such children every year through 2 special schools since 1997-98. Each school is meant for 50 child labors which has many special features like –

- ✍ Nutritious lunch
- ✍ Monthly stipend of Rs.100
- ✍ Vocational skills up gradation facilities

Although we are convinced that these incentives are not the real attraction to bring the children in the special schools, we transferred these benefits to the children and their parents as it is while our effort through these schools was to motivate the parents to send their children in schools. Various tools and techniques were adopted to retain the children in the schools throughout the day. The responsibility of our teachers does not end there but goes beyond to enroll them to the government schools after 1 year.

Article 7

Production-Consumption Chain

Why not farmers fix the price of their produces through value addition?

Completion of chain for selected commodities

In India, we have freedom since 1947 but for what per cent age of the citizens is a question to be asked to ourselves. Any product produced by a manufacturer fix the price taking into consideration of all direct & indirect costs and the profit margin. This section of the society comprise of industrialists and business professionals which is hardly 5-10% of the population having the freedom to fix the MRP. About 76% are peasant communities produce all the necessary commodities for the entire society but have not right to fix the price of their produces. The prices of these (agricultural) produces are being fixed by the rest (10-14%) of the communities. Ultimately, 24% of the Indian population has the freedom to fix the price of their commodities while 76% (peasant communities) do not have this freedom. Why this disparity?

With all efforts, the farmers produce food grains / vegetables investing costly (credit) inputs with all uncertainties (because agriculture is fully dependent on nature) considering it as their livelihood. Most of the time the production is not optimum because of various reasons while in a particular year, if the farmers get good yield the price falls down to any extent so that the farmers throws these produces on the road. Lack of processing and/or storage infrastructures at the farmer level is one of the reasons. However, ultimately the producers are at loss without even getting the investment back.

Paddy Chain Completion Pilot: Keeping the above issue in mind, Janakalyan initiated an effort to complete the paddy chain as a pilot with the support of HIVOS. The major reasons for selecting paddy crop in the pilot are-

- ✍ Paddy is a subsistence crop and by & large grown by every farmer of Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project.
- ✍ However, pesticide-rich paddy from Sindhanur area is rejected in the international market.
- ✍ Farmers are addicted to paddy growing whereas the water available is not adequate for paddy growing.
- ✍ Price fluctuates in direct proportion to the production
- ✍ Grown with costly credit and soon after harvesting the money-lenders forces them to sell and make payment to them.
- ✍ Farmers do not have bargaining power as they sell individually.

To address above issues of paddy growing, Janakalyan initiated paddy chain completing pilot in order to fetch a good price for the farmers. The pilot starts from production of paddy (preferably organically) to processing to packaging to marketing.

SRI Method of Paddy Cultivation: System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is water-efficient method of paddy cultivation. Adopting SRI if paddy is grown without applying chemicals and marketing is done by the farmers collectively it addresses all the issues listed above. Although, the agricultural practices vary in accordance with the climate and geographical conditions SRI method of paddy cultivation also respects this principle. But the basic 7 principles of the SRI method shall be applied strictly to achieve the desired result.

About 10 acres of land was cultivated by 9 farmers during this year adopting SRI method under the close monitoring of Sri L Narayan Reddy, internationally known SRI expert. Least chemical was used by few farmers while others restricted to organic inputs only. All the farmers are happy with the cost vis-à-vis yield from unit land under traditional and SRI methods.

Marketing of Rice: About 269 bags (201 quintals) of paddy have been produced by 9 farmers from 10 acres of land. To market (chemical-free) rice, we have adopted the following strategies –

- ✍ **Organic Bazaar at Sindhanur:** Started an outlet at Sindhanur in a prominent place. Milk is being sold directly to the consumers without any middleman.
- ✍ **Campus Identification:** The professors of the University of Agricultural Sciences' Raichur campus were oriented about the availability of chemical-free rice. Subsequently they placed order for chemical-free rice.

The farmers understood the importance of chemical-free rice (any consumables) through training and exposures. Finally, they decided not to sale any quantity of rice they produced this year but to use for their own consumption. Next year onward they will go for selling once they have surplus.

Article 8

Water efficient farming in tail end of TBP

Can SRI (System of Rice Intensification) be an alternative to cultivate paddy?

A trial with 10 farmers in tail end

Paddy – the subsistence crop: Paddy is a subsistence crop, especially for Bengalis. This rice consuming Bengalis are from a land that has highest wetland to the total land ratio in the world. Now, they have been rehabilitated here in Karnataka, at the tail end of Tungabhadra Irrigation Project, where the water is inadequate to cultivate paddy, their only major food crop. Survival is a serious question for them without paddy cultivation. It is commonly seen to grow ½-1 acre paddy with the available water keeping remaining 4-4½ acres of land fallow. This is the kind of attachment the Bengali refugees of Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project have with the paddy cultivation.

Fate of Tail End Farmers: Raichur district is blessed by 2 major rivers, Krishna & Tungabhadra. Although, Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (TLBC) and Narayanpur Right Bank Canal (NRBC) have made the district green but at the same time fate of tail end farmers is equally bad. Among the many reasons for it, the major being –

- Silting up of the reservoir
- Relatively less rainfall in the district and also in the watershed areas of the reservoirs
- Large quantum of land being brought under the command illegally than the designed command
- Introduction of heavy irrigation crops violating the norms of irrigation project
- Conveyance losses due to bad maintenance of canal
- Head end farmers grow only paddy at the cost of tail end farmers

On one hand, the tail end farmers have inadequate water to grow paddy while on the other hand the land fertility has gone down to any extent by the use of chemicals and fertilizers as a result of green revolution. Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project is a part of TLBC tail end and hence these farmers have a specific issue other than those described above.

Loss of Crops due to Heavy and No Rain: In the Rehabilitation Colonies, every farmer is having 4-5 acres of irrigated land. It receives surplus of water in the rainy season, which inundates the land days together. Thus, causing loss to the standing crops. But, in the peak season it receives hardly any water for irrigation, thus causing drying up of the crops. In either case, the loss of crop is due to water. This has drawn the attention of Janakalyan and made to think what could be the possible solution to it?

What is the Alternative?

It is clear from the above discussion that there are 2 major issues concerning the peasant communities of Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project.

- i) Paddy, the subsistence crop – how to cultivate it in the present context of tail end where irrigation water is inadequate for cultivation from TLBC? and
- ii) Two extremes of water availability causing damage to the standing crops.

SRI with Pukur - an alternative: Since paddy cultivation is a must for these farmers with limited water availability, SRI (System of Rice Intensification) can be introduced to take care of the first issue. Similarly a Farm pond (*Pukur* in Bengali) can be constructed to store the surplus water, which inundates the land in the rainy season, which otherwise a waste, may be applied as Life Saving Irrigation in the peak period. Thus, avoiding both the losses stated earlier to take care of the second issue.

Sri L. Narayana Reddy support: The internationally known SRI expert Sri L. Narayana Reddy was requested to train our farmers about SRI concept and support in the field demonstration of SRI Paddy cultivation. He accepted our proposal to support for 2 days in every fortnight. With his advice we took an initiative to introduce SRI in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project to address their major livelihood concern.

An attempt: Under HIVOS supported “Livelihood Improvement of Refugees through IIFS” program, we had excavated 10 pukur to address the livelihood issues. An attempt was initiated to cultivate paddy with SRI method.

The methodology: There is no much difference in cultivation of paddy in traditional and SRI method. But utmost care shall be taken to implement all the 7 steps of SRI paddy cultivation. These steps are described in brief.

Step-1: Nursery Preparation

- ☞ Leveled raised bed nursery plot shall be cleaned and then puddle well. Make drainage canal all around to drain the water. Take caution to stop soil erosion from the raised bed.
- ☞ The width of the nursery plot shall not exceed 1 meter while the length could be as per the convenient of the farmer.
- ☞ Nursery plot shall be as close to the paddy plot as possible.
- ☞ Soak about 2 Kg of paddy seeds (for 1 acre) in water for 12 hours and then drain the water for 24 hours in a jute bag.
- ☞ Add compost / wormicompost to the nursery plot and broadcast the seeds on 40 Sq. mt. Put one layer of compost / Vermicompost on the seeds and cover the plot with paddy straws to avoid direct sunrays.
- ☞ Use rose can to water the nursery every day morning and evening.
- ☞ Do not use any chemicals for the nursery.

Alternative for tail end farmers:

- ☞ Even if the canal water is released in time, it reaches the tail end after 20-25 days.
- ☞ If then the nursery is raised and transplanted, there is every chance that the yield gets affected by winter.
- ☞ Direct sowing of paddy seeds at 25cm x 25cm spacing is advised as an alternative for the tail end farmers. Sri L. Narayan Reddy has also supported this method of SRI paddy.

Accordingly, we took up the experiment with 5 farmers adopting both the practices i.e. direct sowing as well as nursery transplantation.

Step-2: Land Preparation

- ☞ Puddle the land with bullock or tractor and make 30 cm broad drains at 2 Mt. distance using timber plank.
- ☞ Add 10 tons of compost / Vermicompost per hectare of land. This activates the microorganisms to improve the nutrient availability to the plants.
- ☞ Level the land to avoid stagnation of water.

Step-3: Transplantation

- ☞ Transplant 8-12 days seedlings at 25cm x25cm spacing using perpendicular threads after complete draining up of the water from the plot.
- ☞ Seedlings shall be transplanted within half-an-hour of removing it from the nursery plot.
- ☞ Take care that the roots of the seedlings are horizontal to the land. In no condition the root shall be vertical.

In 5 plots, the farmers have gone for transplanting while remaining 4 have gone for direct sowing in leveled moist land.

Step-4: Weed management

- ☞ Weed growth is more in SRI method of paddy cultivation as the water stagnation is rare.
- ☞ The Rotary Weeder is recommended for 2-4 times to incorporate the weed into the soil.
- ☞ The water shall be stagnated for a night and drained out in the morning on the day of using the rotary weeder.
- ☞ First weeding shall be 10 days after transplantation and the subsequent weeding shall be after every days.
- ☞ The advantage of using rotary weeder for weeding are –
 - It stimulates the root growth
 - Competition among weeds reduces

- The nitrogen and air availability to soil increases
- ☞ Incorporation of weeds into soil by rotary weeder provides about 1 ton of green manure to the soil thereby increasing the population of microorganisms.
- ☞ Do not use any weedicides.

Step-5: Irrigation Management

Normally in traditional method of paddy cultivation

- ☞ Paddy grows in the wet land by stagnating water throughout the cropping period.
- ☞ Water stagnation in paddy field is to control the weeds. Farmers do not understand that it separates the roots and air contact.
- ☞ The roots shall provide nutrients to the plant via media water for which it needs air. Since the root is stagnated in water in traditional method of paddy cultivation, root pores can not suck air. Therefore the plants take the necessary air through the pores on the shoot and supplies to the root. Thus, the energy to be used for the growth of paddy plant gets diverted for root actions.
- ☞ About 75% roots destroy by the time it starts grain filling.

The facts in paddy cultivation

- ☞ The paddy plants grow fast for first 60 days.
- ☞ Every tiller doubles 13 times in the growth phase of paddy plants. Each seedling can multiply upto 100 tillers.

In SRI method of paddy cultivation

- ☞ Never stagnate water. Maintain the moisture content of the soil throughout the growing period.
- ☞ Alternate wetting and drying up of the land activates the microorganisms to provide more nutrients to the plant.
- ☞ Root damage stops by less irrigation.
- ☞ Restricting irrigation in the growth period and stagnating water for few days in the grain filling stage increases the yield of paddy.

Step-6: Plant Protection

- ☞ The incident of pests and diseases was almost nil in the SRI method of paddy cultivation because of enough light and air between the plants to distant spacing.
- ☞ The healthy plants have more resistant to pests and diseases as the roots are strong enough to support the plant growth.
- ☞ Never found the necessity of using pesticides.

Step-7: Harvesting

- ☞ The harvesting is done as in the case of traditional method of paddy cultivation.

7 Principles of SRI Method of Paddy Cultivation

Principle-1: About 1-2 seedling of 8-12 days old must be transplanted in each spot. The nursery must be raised in raised-bed. Direct seed (@ 2-3 seeds per spot) sowing is advised only when the water is not available in time.

Principle-2: The transplantation of seedlings shall within half-an-hour after removing it from the nursery. Utmost care shall be taken to see to it that the roots are horizontal to the land while transplanting.

Principle-3: The transplanting shall be in the drained & puddled field @ 1-2 seedlings per spot at 25cm x 25cm spacing.

Principle-4: Put 2 ropes perpendicular to each other on the field with marking on every 25cm distance. Put white powder or bricks powder on it to make squares on the field. Transplant 1-2 seedlings in each point where two lines meet.

Principle-5: For initial 3 months, maintain the moisture in the field. Irrigate when hair-cracks are found in the field and drain the water.

Principle-6: First weeding with rotary weeder shall be 10-12 days after transplanting. Then, weeding shall be after every 10 days. The yield increases in proportion to the use of rotary weeder.

Principle-7: The microorganisms' activities increase with more and more application of compost, Vermicompost, neem-cake, etc.

The Seven Principles followed in SRI Method:

The agricultural practices change in accordance with the climate and geographical conditions. The SRI method of paddy cultivation also respects this principle. But the basic 7 principles of the SRI method shall be applied strictly to achieve the desired result.

Advantages of SRI method of paddy cultivation:

The benefits from SRI method of paddy cultivation as experienced by the farmers during the year are –

- Half the water required compared to traditional paddy cultivation
- Double the yield in SRI method of paddy cultivation

- Less crop period
- No use of chemical inputs
- No or least unfilled grain
- Increased weight of grains
- Soil health improvement
- Increase in microorganisms population
- Winter resistant power in plant

Is SRI method profitable?

Not only the SRI method of paddy cultivation is profit-making but also the cost of cultivation is less and improves the soil fertility. The averages of 9 farmers are furnished in the table below.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Traditional Method		SRI method	
		Quantity	Amount	Quantity	Amount
1	Seeds (Kg/ha)	50-62	250	5	25
2	Transplantation period (in days)	25-30	-	8-12	-
3	Damage of seedling during transplantation	More	-	No	-
4	Transplanting method	Random	-	Square	-
5	Seedling population per Sq. Mt.	33	-	16	-
6	Seedling per point	3-5	-	1-2	-
7	Compost / Vermicompost (ton)	Chemicals	4500	10	1050
8	Irrigation management	10 cm	-	Moist	-
9	Tillers per seedlings	7	-	55	-
10	Root capacity (Kg)	25-30	-	50-53	-
11	Grains per tiller	114	-	181	-
12	Grains per point (seedling)	800	-	5800	-
13	Nursery preparation	More	650	Less	200
14	Land preparation	Same	950	Same	950
15	Transplantation	Less	850	More	1150
16	Weed Management	Less	850	More	1250
17	Plant protection	More	3500	Less	950
18	Water management	More	350	Half	1150
Average expenditure per acre			8356		6350
Average Yield per acre			32		27
Average Return per acre			13280		11164
Net profit per acre			4924		4814

Result Analysis for SRI experiment:

- The labor requirement is 50-100% more in SRI method than traditional method of paddy cultivation in the beginning.
- But the yield is almost same in SRI & traditional method.
- One can get more than 50 tillers per seedling in SRI method.
- The weight of grains is more in SRI method.
- The state average yield is 3.87 ton per hectare while the SRI experiment average is 8.25 tons and that of traditional method is 5.30 tons.

Sl. No	Farmers' Name	SRI Method					Conventional Method				
		Area	Expenditure	Yield	Return	Profit	Area	Expenditure	Yield	Return	Profit
1	Pradeep	1.0	5800	28	11620	5820	1.0	7600	35	14525	6925
2	Amar	1.0	6200	26	10790	4590	0	0	0	0	0
3	Subodh	1.0	6500	28	11620	5120	1.0	8500	35	14525	6025
4	Debu	1.0	6100	25	10375	4275	0.5	4200	18	7470	3270
5	Abinash	1.0	6700	29	12035	5335	0.5	4600	19	7885	3285
6	Jaydeb	1.5	10800	40	16600	5800	1.0	8200	18	7470	-730
7	Sunil	1.5	8500	36	14940	6440	0	0	0	0	0
8	Shailen	1.0	6800	30	12450	5650	0.5	4500	19	7885	3385
9	Kanto	1.0	6100	27	11205	5105	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	10.0	63500	269	111635	48135	4.5	37600	144	59760	22160
	Average	1.0	6350	27	11164	4814	1.0	8356	32	13280	4924

Trials and Results during the experiment:

Other than the experiment, we have also taken up few trails with different farmers to check one or the other principles of SRI method. The agenda for the year was just to introduce the method and not to do the complete experiment. The various experiences of the year are –

1. **Experiment in the existing paddy field:** When Mr. Narayan Reddy was taken to Mr. Narayan Das's paddy field, he picked up few seedlings and made the population thinner in 25 sq. ft. from a plot. The paddy was cultivated with traditional method. At the end, we found 57 tillers per seedlings in this 25 sq. ft. While in the remaining plot the average was 14. He also noted that the plants were more healthy here than in any other place of the plot. This shows that even with traditional practice we can get more yields with thinner transplanting.
2. **Experiment by compulsion:** Mr. Subodh Sarkar had 2 acres of paddy in the rabi season with traditional practice. While transplanting there was a shortage of nursery for $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and thus he asked the labor to go for 2-3 seedlings per point. It was found that the yield was more there with healthy plants and more tillers with more grains. Similar is the experience of Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

Learning from Experiences:

The major learning from the experience of these trials is –

1. While direct sowing of seeds, care must be taken to see that the paddy field is irrigated and allowed to germinate all the seeds of previous season, if paddy was the crop in the previous season. Otherwise, sown seeds germinate along with the fallen seeds of previous crop and thus it become difficult to maintain the space and control the population.
2. This is a suitable method for Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project as their land is at tail end but need to grow paddy for their subsistence.
3. Farm pond is essential to go for SRI paddy in tail end, as it needs to be irrigated every 5-7th day throughout the cropping period.
4. Direct seed sowing is more beneficial for these farmers as the canal water is received only after satisfying the demands of the head-end farmers.

The General Opinion of the Farmers:

- The general opinion of the farmers who have participated in the experiment during the year is that all the farmers must grow paddy with SRI technique.
- Even the non-participating farmers were taken to visit these plots and are of the opinion that the paddy, if grown, must be with SRI techniques.
- The SRI method not only gives more yields but also reduces cost of cultivation and saves half of the water as compared to traditional method of paddy cultivation. This water can be used to cultivate rest of the land with some dry crops.

Article 9

Self Sufficient Livelihood Model

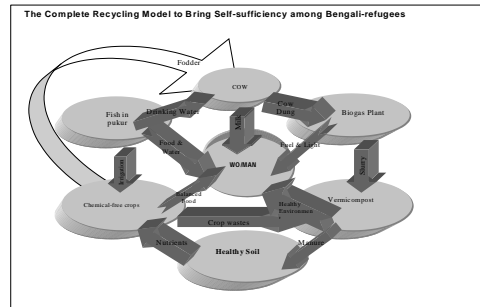
Ensuring 10 securities to small & marginal farmers of TBP Intensified Integrated Farming System

Prior to commercialization of agricultural sector, cultivation was done basically to fulfill the family requirements. Any excess production after the family consumption used to be exchanged through barter system with other communities to get non-agricultural products. Commercialization of agriculture sector has drawn the attention of big industrialists and they started investing in agriculture keeping money earning in mind. Parallel to this, green revolution was introduced in 70s. It has also polluted the mind of small and marginal farmers. This susceptible group like small and marginal farmers became the victim by losing their land-fertility and falling into the vicious cycle of moneylender.

It is the time now to put the reverse gear on the process of green revolution in order to save the land, the most important resource for all living being on the globe. Water, which was made available to accelerate the productivity, has become inadequate to wet all the land that is brought under cultivation by so called "agricultural industrialists". The small and marginal farmers, especially from the tail end of any irrigation project, are the victims of this whole process in 2 ways-

1. Being in the tail end, they receive hardly any water for irrigation except in the rainy season when the runoff generated in the upper reach inundates the standing crops of the tail end farmers.
2. Officially, their land is in the command area of particular irrigation project. Therefore, they are not entitled to and thus deprived of their right to get any drought benefit from the Government.

The small & marginal farmers from the tail end are facing numerous issues related to soil, water and crop production as a consequence of green revolution and commercialization of agricultural sector. Bengali refugees resettled in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project, who have been allotted about 4-5 acres of land at the tail end of Tungabhadra Irrigation Project, are also in the similar trap. In fact they have more complex issues than others on the account that they are from a land which is called as "country of river" to this dry land.



Almost 4 decades back this rehabilitation project was set by Government of India and had provided 4-5

TO ENSURE 10 SECURITIES TO THE TAILEND FARMERS

The objective of the PAPR is to ensure 10 Securities for the peasant communities from the piece of land they have at their disposal. The 10 Securities are –

Food: The land must satisfy the food requirement for the family.

Fodder: The fodder required for rearing few milch & draft animals must also be supplied from the same piece of land.

Fuel: The fuel for cooking the food for the family must be generated in the land

Fertility: The fertilizers in the form of green manure, vermicompost, compost, etc. must be produced enough to keep the soil fertile forever.

Finance: It is the credit, which matters much in agriculture. The farmer must so plan that the money required for one crop must be supplied by the sale of other crops.

Employment: The land must also provide employment for all the family members throughout the year. Labor migration must totally be checked.

Health: To keep the health of the family members in good condition, the land must produce balanced food and also the medicinal plants, if required.

Inputs: For any kind of inputs, including seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, the farmers must not depend on others. Everything must be produced in the farm only.

Water: For water also the farmers need to depend on the Government. But the soil condition must be so improved that and the planning must be done in such a way that the land must have the required water for cropping all the time.

Social: The social security is also equally must. Gender disparity, caste disparity, etc. must also be addressed through this program

acres of land to each of these 932 families. Today, the family size has grown into 3-4 folds and thus the per capita land availability has reduced to such an extent that the survival has become an issue. It is wise to note here that the rehabilitated

families have no other source of income than this piece of land.

To address their issues, the "Self Sufficient Livelihood Model" was designed and tested on pilot basis 15 farmers during the year. The objective of the experiment is to make the families self-reliant on this piece of land as shown in the above figure. It is further qualified that the specific objectives of the experiment are to provide 10 securities to these peasant communities stated in the box above.

The Self Sufficient Livelihood Model is otherwise called as 5-acre package and is consist of various productive units viz. a farm pond with fish & duck, horticultural crops, vegetables, compost & vermicompost, animals with fodder & azolla, and many others. The results of experiment is compared with the farmers having a farm-pond excavated with their own investment and those without a farm-pond and stated below-

Name of the Farmer	Pukur Farmers			Name of the Farmer	Non-Pukur Farmers			Name of the Farmer	Own-Pukur Farmers		
	Total Investment	Total Return	Net profit / Loss		Total Investment	Total Return	Net profit / Loss		Total Investment	Total Return	Net profit / Loss
Chittaranjan R	17,550	35,600	18,050	Indrabhushan	17,750	65,770	48,020	Jagadish B	34,560	54,000	19,440
Narayan Das	8,220	25,180	16,960	Shyamalal S	19,850	66,900	47,050	Sudhanya B	44,000	91,000	47,000
Sunil Dey	78,000	93,550	15,550	Jaydeb Patra	58,800	79,670	20,870	Sunil Sarkar	31,000	48,000	17,000
Sumanta Shil	24,870	44,960	20,090	Nimai Sarkar	10,500	36,900	26,400	Madhav B	62,000	93,700	31,700
Sanatan Dhali	31,000	58,330	27,330	Sadhan Dey	18,000	31,200	13,200	Jaharlal Roy	40,000	78,500	38,500
Deepak Roy	66,000	115,450	49,450	Subodh B	21,200	49,950	28,750	Prahlad M	54,500	60,460	5,960
Amalendu	28,275	69,810	41,535	Manoranjan	22,100	50,870	28,770				
Subod Sarkar	43,080	69,720	26,640	Nitai Roy	2,500	9,900	7,400				
Nirmal M	36,000	68,880	32,880	Subhash Roy	15,000	33,600	18,600				
Abinash R	8,880	36,935	28,055	Narayan R	21,000	45,540	24,540				
Amar Badra	29,300	48,910	19,610	Shanti B	10,500	22,085	11,585				
Debu Adhikari	17,000	58,000	41,000	Ramesh Shil	15,000	36,200	21,200				
Pranab M	21,380	49,215	27,835	Madhusudan	9,000	35,000	26,000				
Pradeep Das	8,200	34,670	26,470	Amulya Dey	30,000	58,790	28,790				
Ram Mondal	49,000	101,620	52,620	Bishwanath	19,000	42,500	23,500				
Total	466,755	910,830	444,075	Total	271,200	622,375	351,175	Total	266,060	425,660	159,600
Average per farmer	31,117	60,722	29,605	Average per farmer	18,080	41,492	23,412	Average per farmer	44,343	70,943	26,600
Average per acre	6,223	12,144	5,921	Average per acre	3,616	8,298	4,682	Average per acre	8,869	14,189	5,320
Cost-Benefit Ratio	0.62	1.21	0.59	Cost-Benefit Ratio	0.36	0.83	0.47	Cost-Benefit Ratio	0.89	1.42	0.53

Although, the table is self-explanatory, it worth mentioning that if the investment with non-pukur farmers is Re.2, it is Rs.4 for own pukur farmers and the same is Rs.3 for the adopted farmers i.e. 2:4:3. Does it indicate that the pukur demands more investment? It is also evident from the table that the return is in the ratio 4:7:6 and the net profit is in the ratio 2:3:3. It means, with IIFS package, the farmer can get 3 times more net returns from the same farm.

Article 10

Judicious use of water in tail end

A model of pukur with duck-fish, pedal pump, drum-kit & vegetables
More Crop Per Drop

Irrigation projects play a very important role in reducing poverty & hunger from the nation. Tungabhadra Irrigation Project is one such project in northern part of Karnataka aimed at reducing the poverty by making thousands lakhs hectares at the command area. Whether or not the benefit goes to the real poor but to the so called agricultural industrialists is a different issue need to be examined.

Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (TLBC) blessed thousands of peasant communities by extending its one arm towards them. Fortunately, the Bengali refugees have been rehabilitated with 4-5 acres of land at the tail end of TLBC in 1971. Since most of the land in the head end of TLBC was undeveloped, these rehabilitated peasant communities enjoyed irrigation till 80s & 90s and adopted with the irrigated crops. Today, the head end fallow land has been developed and brought under irrigation to the fullest extent possible.

Thus, the tail end farmers are facing acute shortage of irrigation water on the following account and thus the farmers are not in a position to cultivate the piece of land, their only source of livelihood–

1. Head end fallow land has been developed and the land owners are extremely powerful to satisfy their water need before leaving a drop for the tail end farmers.
2. The reservoir capacity has reduced almost to half due to silting up of the storage area.
3. Transportation loss is so high that the canal dries up before it reaches the farms of tail end farmers.

However, during rainy season the head end farmers do not require water to irrigate their land and hence drain out the runoff through this canal which inundates the standing crops in tail end farms. And in the peak season, the standing crops in tail end farms dry up due to inadequate irrigation. Survival of these tail end farmers is in stake as they are completely dependent on this piece of land. How to come out of these two extremes of water availability?

Janakalyan designed a package to excavate a pukur (farm pond) in 1-acre land to store the water during rainy season which can be used for life saving irrigation during peak season. Cultivated fish in the pukur, for which these Bengali farmers are experts. Duck integration with fish is also tried in 2-3 farms to make the farming more economic and intensified where duck excreta becomes food for the fish.

Storing water during rainy season didn't solve the problem of irrigation for these tail end farmers because on one hand it was difficult for the farmers to lift the water from the pukur to irrigate the crops while on the other hand flood irrigation methods caused evaporation as well as transportation losses. To avoid such losses, Janakalyan introduced drum kit for vegetable growing with micro-drip system. To save energy and to keep the farmers engaged in work, pedal pump was also introduced to lift the water from the pukur for irrigating the tree as well as field crops.

The farmers are extremely happy about the performance of pedal pump as well as the micro-drip systems with the pukur. The farmers expressed that in the present context of acute water shortage pukur-fish-duck-pedal pump-drum kit-vegetable combination is a very good model to effectively utilize the scarce resource water.

Article 11

Creating job-creators and not job-seekers

A proven tool to induce entrepreneurship among rural (un)educated youths

Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program

Poverty & Unemployment are the twin problems of India since Independence. Several efforts of Government of India have yielded meager results in last 60 years in mitigating these 2 problems. On one hand our education system has become factory of producing job-seekers (unemployed youths) while on the other hand the formal & informal sectors have failed to absorb this force of unemployment.

Janakalyan, for last several years, has been trying a model to create job-creators for the educated unemployed youths and proved successfully that the entrepreneurship could be induced among this cadre of youths using Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program (REDP). The module is 30 days residential package for educated potential male & female entrepreneurs who are identified using FBEI (Focused Behavioral Event Interview) technique. So identified rural youths are then trained to build their capacities on various aspects of enterprise selection, establishment, management and diversification. Efforts are also put to motivate them, induce entrepreneurship competencies, help them to identify and select technologies as well as machineries, raw materials, finance and other such necessary necessities.

After successful implementation of the model with rural educated youths, we have now decided to try it with rural uneducated youths also. During the year, we have tried it with 2 batches of uneducated unemployed youths viz. masons and Bengali style kuteer nirman (thatched bamboo structures) with small modification in the existing module. Practical inputs on how to construct such structures was an added agenda in the module which made it more effective for the uneducated youths to improve their skills. We have seen that the model is also suitable for this cadre to improve their entrepreneurial skills.

Article 12

Marketing – the biggest hurdle for rural enterprises

Can exhibitions be a tool to reach out the customers?

Exhibitions & Marketing Melas for SHG Products

For more than a decade, SHG has become a mode of development, especially for empowerment of women. In recent past, the agenda of income generation activities has been added to the SHG movement by government as well as developmental agencies. Banks are considering these SHGs as the most credible financial partners and thus bulk lending to these SHGs is a common phenomenon today. However, rarely anybody is putting efforts to provide market for the products of these rural entrepreneurs and thus almost all the IGAs started by SHGs with the bank credit sustain for few months and then disappear.

The major reasons of failure of women entrepreneurs are found to be –

- Limited production (quantity)
- Lack of access to the market
- Quality of the products
- Packaging
- Lack of promotional activities

Although, all these factors contribute to make an enterprise successful, we felt lack of promotional activities is the major factor to reach out the potential customers. Therefore, for last several years Janakalyan conducts “Exhibitions cum Marketing Melas” exclusively for SHG products during International Women Day at the block head quarter to attract the attention of thousands of city dwellers. This kind of mela not only helps the women to sale their products but also develop contacts with several customers. Not less than 30-35 stalls are put by the women with minimum turn over of Rs.60,000 in each event.

This year, to attract the rural customers and also get the benefit of Dasara festival, such a mela was conducted in R.H.Colony No.4 with 25 stalls for 6 days. It was a grand success with a sales of Rs. 65,000/-. Sri Tushar Girinath^{IAS}, DC, Sri Amlan Biswa^{SIAS}, CEO, Sri P.C.Jafar^{IAS}, AC and Sri Chandrahash^{KAS}, inaugurated the exhibition.

Article 13

Improving service delivery for mother and child

Can the community be made responsible to derive the services?

SWASTHH PLUS

In collaboration with Unicef, JANAKALYAN has taken up SWASTHH PLUS as a pilot project in Sindhanur block of Raichur district. School Water And Sanitation Towards Health & Hygiene- Put Lessons in Use (SWASTHH PLUS) is initiated by JANAKALYAN from June 2005 in all the 34 Gram Panchayat (GP) of Sindhanur taluk to cover 281 villages. It envisages a strong community based program where communities become active participants in planning and managing their health, hygiene, environmental sanitation and overall well being.

The community participation and capacity building program of the SWASTHH PLUS envisages the following:

- A strong awareness campaign spearheaded by schools to increase awareness on pressing health, hygiene and environmental issues. The campaigns are expected to motivate members to take up innovative and collective activities to resolve issues and problems in the area.
- A strong school community linkage where communities take on active role in ensuring enrolment, attendance and completion of primary school by all children.
- A strong school community partnership which moves beyond enrolment and completion to ensure that schools and stakeholders from the community plan together to ensure school quality and the quality of teaching learning, that will ensure that all students who finish school have acquired the minimum competencies to move ahead in life.

Staff Selection: Although, it was perceived that the most important task would be selection of staff for the post of 34 Gram Panchayat Organizer (GPO) as well as 20 Village Planning Facilitators (VPF) but could identify within the stipulated time using innovative strategies. Enough efforts were then put to strengthen their capacity. The 5 days training for GPOs began on 14th August 2005 at JANAKALYAN. As a part of the training everyday morning the GPOs brought out a newsletter called SWASTHH VANI to cover the topics covered during training in the previous day. The first issue was released on 15th August after flag hoisting. To motivate the GPOs, GPO from Samuha along with a NHL, VDMC and a Taluk Representative were requested to share their experiences of last 2 years. This motivated the newly selected GPOs a lot. Sri Devarajulu, Executive Officer of Taluka Panchayat Sindhanur visited the training on third day. To provide with some of the practical inputs on micro-planning, 3-days demonstration was arranged at Hosalli (EJ) for all the 34 GPOs.

The first step in entering into a village is to conduct an orientation program for the Gram Panchayat members. On the subsequent day, the frontline functionaries are oriented about the project. The objective of the project, its concept, how it is helpful to them to reach out the beneficiaries, etc. were dealt in this orientation. Then the micro-planning exercise was conducted by the GPOs in these villages.

Learning Exposure for the GPOs: The GPOs were exposed to Mahila Samakhya, Manvi where the Community Monitoring Project was more than 2 years old. All the GPOs are placed there for 5 days from 22.10.2005 where the GPOs of Mahila Samakhya. Mutual sharing and practical visit to the VDMCs were observed. Also the GP level review was observed.

Base Line Household Survey: The Baseline Household survey format was decided in a meeting at Prerana, Raichur on 1st & 2nd December 2005. One pictorial format for NHL to use during survey while the

questionnaire is for the kishories to find the baseline on 14 indicators. The 14 indicators on 4 sectors are furnished below.

Health	Education	Sanitation	Nutrition
1. 70% of pregnant women will register by 16 weeks	5. 100% children will enter class 1 st standard at 5 years 10 months.	8. 80 / 40 % of population washes hands at critical times.	12. 95% of infants below 6 months are exclusively breast fed.
2. 85% of pregnant women will receive 3 ANC check up, 100 IFA tablets, & TT Injections	6. 90% of children enrolled in school continue attend minimum of 75% of days.	9. 20% homes with usable toilets	13. 100% children in 0-3 years receive 2 dozes of Vitamin A every year
3. All deliveries will be attended by trained birth attendant.	7. 90% of children who are in class 1, 2, 3 & 4 th in 2006 will be in next class in 2007.	10. 60% of homes with a system for handling waste water.	14. 90% of children in 0-3 years will be weighing every month
4. 75% of the children aged 12 months are fully immunized		11. 40% of villages with a system for handling solid wastes.	

Frontline functionaries' orientation: Frontline functionaries like Anganawadi Worker, Head Master & ANM have a greater role in making the program a success. They have been oriented about the program at the Gram Panchayat level.

GP members' orientation: The Gram Panchayat members are central for monitoring the progress. Therefore they have been oriented about the program.

District Level Workshop for Officers: To orient the district & taluk level officials from PRI, Health, Education and Women & Child Development Departments, a district level workshop was organized at Craft hall on 30th September in the Chairmanship of Sri Amlan Biswas IAS, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat, Raichur.

Micro planning exercises are conducted in 226 villages of Sindhanur taluk during the previous period to form street wise Neighbor Hood Groups (NHG) of 20 women, each representing a household. Such NHG (s) elected a Neighbor Hood Leader (NHL) from amongst them and a kishory (adolescent girl) from the same street to assist the NHL in documenting the efforts. About 2158 NHGs have been formed covering 40199 families from 226 villages.

NHG Meeting: From January onwards the GPOs have conducted the NHG meeting in all villages. The major agenda for these meetings were to discuss about the concept of SWASTHH PLUS, its aims & objectives, roles & responsibilities of the NHL, Kishories, VDMC, etc. The purpose of these meetings was to bring cohesiveness amongst these women from neighboring households through regular contacts. Out of 2158 NHGs about 1880 NHGs meeting have been conducted where 23931 women participated.

VDMC Meeting: Parallel to the effort of conducting the NHG meeting to reach out women at grass root, the next (VDMC) layer was also targeted to organize them to take the initiative forward. During this period maximum effort was put to build the capacity of the VDMC members at village level. In some villages weekly meeting was conducted while in other villages it was fortnightly. Gram Panchayaths having more than 7 villages have conducted fortnightly VDMC meeting while those having less than 7 villages have conducted it weekly. The frontline functionaries like ANM, School Head Master and AWW were also requested to participate in these meetings. With 226 VDMCs, 808 meeting have been conducted where 10735 women, 30 AWW, 10 ANM and 21 HM participated.

Gram Panchayath Level Meeting: After completing 1st round of VDMC meeting, gram Panchayath level meeting for the village level representatives and PRI members were organized at

Gram Panchayath Office. About 189 VDMC representatives, 13 GP President, 11 Secretary, 68 members, 4 ANM and 26 AWW participated in these meetings.

NHL training: The major activity during the period was NHL training at the village and GP levels. Initially, we thought all the GPOs will be able to conduct the training for the NHLs & kishories and thus 4 days ToT was conducted for all the 34 GPOs at Vatgal of along with GPOs of Prerana. As a strategy, it was decided

- ✍ To make pairs of GPOs and conduct the NHL training in batches. This was so because, the concerned GPO conducting training as resource person won't become effective as she is known to the trainees (NHLs).
- ✍ Further, all the NHLs / Kishories of a particular GP need to be taken to a nearby *Matha* (places of worship) and conduct the training.

Accordingly, few batches were conducted and then felt that few of the GPOs are not capable of conducting the training effectively. The strategy was revised to identify few capable GPOs as trainers, those who performed well in the previous batches of training. Two-day refreshers course was organized for these selected GPOs on NHL training and then requested to conduct the training in pairs. We found the training effective but coverage was very less. To conduct the training rapidly in all GPs, the Village Planning Facilitators (VPF)⁵ were asked to conduct the NHL training along with respective GPOs. GPO must organize the event while the VPF should deliver the inputs and facilitate the entire training program. Finally this strategy worked and we could complete the training in all the villages. During the election period, we had to stop the village planning exercise and thus we could make use of the VPFs as resource persons. About 2346 NHL & 2314 kishories participated in the training.

NHL Self Survey: The major objective of the NHL training was to –

- i. Orient the community (especially the NHLs & kishories) about the concept & scope of SWASTHH PLUS &
- ii. Capacitate the NHL / Kishories to carry out the household survey in their respective streets.

Accordingly, NHL Self Survey has been completed with printed formats.

Issues emerged during implementation: The major issues emerged during implementation of the program are-

- i. Rural women still thinks twice to get involved in any kind of intervention for their and society development.
- ii. Many of the women take a back seat while (s)electing the Neighborhood Leader.
- iii. Identifying Kishories from every NHG was not possible for the want of educated adolescent girls from respective NHGs.
- iv. Participation of frontline functionaries in VDMC and GP level meeting is not so easy task.
- v. It becomes real struggle to educate Illiterate PRI members about the project and make them involved in a project like SWASTHH PLUS where only software (human resource development) activities are taken and no infrastructure development.

⁵ Janakalyan is implementing Village Planning Process in Sindhanur taluk and has appointed 20 VPF to implement this program. Due to election, this program was stopped for a while and the same staffs were involved in training the NHLs.

- vi. The rural women are major work force for agricultural operations and thus find it extremely difficult to ensure their participation in meeting / training organized for their capacity building. The agricultural operations are season-specific and their primary source of livelihood; therefore, they give utmost priority to it.
- vii. Facing (drunkard presence in) Gram Baithak in the evening by the female GPOs has become an important issue and thus many of the female GPOs have turned out.
- viii. Mobility of the female GPOs is also an issue especially in few GPs where the number of villages is more and the villages are scattered without transportation facility from within the Gram Panchayath.
- ix. Training the newly inducted GPOs become difficult and this retard the progress of implementing the project.

Learning for future intervention: The major learning to carry with while implementing the project are -

- i. The GPOs need bimonthly get together and refreshers training regularly to keep the tempo on.
- ii. Regular touch with community is necessary. Continuity of staff as well as project is important to keep regular touch with the communities.
- iii. GPO turnover is an issue in making the intervention successful. Strategies need to be worked out to retain the trained GPOs.

Article 14

Inducing voluntarism among village youths

How to improve health, education, nutrition and sanitation status?

Village Planning Process

Training for VP facilitators for conducting VPP: The concept of village planning itself is new to us so is for the capacity building organization. Therefore, it took a long time to organize the training program at Samuha. Although, the selection process was completed in June 2005, the first training was organized only on 4.10.2005 to 9.10.2005. The schedule for 5 days training is enclosed as Annex I.

Village Planning Process: The first set of villages identified in Raichur district was from Sindhanur taluk. The VPF were divided into 4 teams and a supervisor from organizational level like Mr. S S Ghanti, Mr. Prasen Raptan, Mr. Amaregouda & Mr. Aravinda were assigned to lead the teams. The demonstration was done in the field about the process to be adopted to conduct village planning exercise. The schedule is enclosed as Annex II. The details about the villages are furnished in table below.

Review after completing every VPP: To internalize the learning across the team, we are practicing an exercise to share the learning amongst the team on the following day of completing the VP exercise in a village. This review sometime takes place at organization level while sometime with participation on 2-3 organizations of the district. The table below furnishes the details about the reviews conducted so far.

Demonstration of low-cost sanitary models: Several request to UNICEF to provide necessary support for demonstrating the models proposed in the 5-days schedule yielded no result and hence no step has been taken so far in this aspect.

Preparation of Village Display Board in every village: We have not succeeded in putting any Village Board so far as the necessary provision in the budget is not adequate. However, the Village Board design is over and is as under.

Innovative steps to make VP successful: Although the concept of Village Planning is noble, we had to make certain changes in the methodology to suit the local conditions and to achieve better results. Some of them are tested and found very good results. Such steps are described below-

1. **Selection of volunteers:** Volunteers could be anybody who is willing to serve his/her village without any expectation. Not necessarily the educated youths. It is also not compulsory that the number of volunteers be restricted to 6 and with 1:1 male-female ratio.
2. **Honorarium to Volunteers:** We felt that the honorarium specified in the budget shall not be paid which otherwise may raise the expectations of NHL of SWASTHH PLUS. But the same budget could be utilized to motivate the youths to participate as volunteers in the following manner –
 - a. Provide bus pass to the students for a year.
 - b. Provide sport materials to the youths to attract them in the beginning.
 - c. Provide educational kits to the school-going volunteers.
 - d. Train the volunteers at a far away place.

3. **Selection of Villages:** Although initially we had decided to identify the villages from a compact area irrespective of size of the villages but now we have come to the conclusion to select only the small and backward villages in the first phase.
4. **Involvement of Government Officials:** Is decided not to conduct VP without the presence of government officials during the 5-days exercise. Because their presence will attract the community to participate in the exercise. Further, visible outcome can be seen immediately as the government officials can deliver some of the service during the 5-days exercise itself. To involve government officials –
 - a. Personal visit to the government officials and request them to participate in the exercise.
 - b. Direction by the higher authority to participate in the exercise.
5. **Community Participation:** Without participation of the community, VP does not have any significance. One can also conduct VP with few members of the community but would remain as exercise only. No results can be expected out of such exercise. To make more number of people to participate in the 5-day exercise, one must –
 - a. Visit the village in advance and conduct meeting with opinion leaders, teachers, youths, GP members and SHGs.
 - b. Wall writing and posters in advance about the exercise.
 - c. Cultural events to attract the community prior to first gramasabha.
 - d. First grama sabha must be very effective.
6. **Assigning Cluster of Villages to Facilitators:** Facilitators are assigned the task of conducting village planning exercise on contract basis. Thus the VP exercises are limiting to the exercise only. The facilitators do not feel that they have any responsibility to find the impact of the exercise. Therefore, each volunteer is now assigned a cluster of (5-7) villages.
7. **Salary Mode:** After conducting the VP exercise in 15 villages we found the facilitators restrict their roles to conducting VP exercise and nothing else than that. To bring a sense of ownership among them, the contract mode is converted into salary mode.
8. **Follow up of the Village Action Plan (VAP):** Each facilitator visits the assigned villages every month and conducts the meeting with village volunteers and grama sabha with the villagers to review the progress of VAP.
9. **Village Volunteers Training:** To motivate the village volunteers and also to build their capacity to deliver the services to the community, we are conducting a day-long training for them in batches of 30-40 from 3-4 villages.

Article 15

Celebration of 50th year of Independence of Karnataka

A case of Yaddaloddi to make Suvarna Grama from Kugrama

Kugrama Suvarna Grama Yojana

To celebrate the 50th year of Karnataka meaningfully, government has decided to develop (Suvarna Gram) at least 1 village (Kugram) from each taluk with all basic amenities. Yaddaloddi, the remote & extremely backward village of Sindhanur taluk has been identified as the Kugrama under the Kugram Suvarna Gram Yojana, meant to make the kugram into Suvarna Gram.

Unlike other schemes, in Kugram Suvarna Gram the planning responsibility was given to the community (bottom up approach). Communities, the very dwellers of the village, know the felt needs and can better solve the issues is the assumption made in this scheme. But on the other hand, we must also understand they don't have the articulation power, though they are very good in managing their own issues.

With this preamble, government has asked Janakalyan to prepare a perspective plan for Yaddaloddi under Kugram Suvarna Gram involving communities in every step. Janakalyan was happy to assume the responsibilities to help the communities for which it is meant for.

Accordingly, a team of PRA experts (consisting male & female members) from Janakalyan visited the village to study the needs using various tools & techniques. The team stayed in the village for 5 days and visited each & every households to gather information. They have spoken to the children, women and men folk of the communities to understand their real needs. Many other information were collected using the PRA tools, which were again triangulated in the evening meeting ensuring participation from each & every part of the village.

A perspective plan was then prepared and about 33 needs are identified by the communities which were prioritized using prioritizing tools. Estimated budget was also prepared by the community using thumb rules.

Another set of information were also collected from the government officials using a pre-designed format. A meeting of all these officials in chairmanship of Sri Badarli Hampanagouda, MLA with Tahasildar, EO and other block level officers from various departments, was conducted to share the plan. The purpose of the meeting was to bring convergence among all the departments to make the program a grand success. Otherwise with a special budget of Rs.20.00 lakhs, making Yaddaloddi a Suvarna Gram is a daydream. As an outcome of the meeting, all the departments accepted to shoulder some of the responsibilities to bring in additional funds from their own departments.

Article 16

Can refugee-children undergo collegiate education?

A case of Bengali refugees of Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project

An intervention in term of hostel helped 11 girls

Almost for the last 4 decades Bengali refugees are residing here in Sindhanur Rehabilitation Project. Hardly 3-5 girls are seen to complete their graduation while 10-12 their Pre University Course out of about 150-200 who have completed their matriculation. The reason is 'accommodation facility' is the only answer given by the parents of such girls. However, security, blind belief and gender discrimination were also few other reasons for the girls not being sent to the college.

Janakalyan responded to opening a hostel in Sindhanur during the year, the nearby town, where the colleges are available for higher education. Awareness generation in all the 4 colonies was done soon after announcement of the result and meetings with parents were conducted in early August 2005. Most of the parents were not ready even when Janakalyan promised to provide the admission fees, text books as well as accommodation and facilities for cooking their food. The only expenditure the parents need to bear is the ration, which they otherwise use in their homes also.

Finally, 11 parents agreed and admitted their daughters to colleges in different courses. In the midway 4 out of them dropped out due to their personal reason. Rest of them completed their first year of Pre University Course. At the end of first year, 1 among them was married and rest of them continued their education with the small intervention of Janakalyan. Prerana, a Raichur based NGO sponsored the program during the year.

Visitors to JANAKALYAN

The very important visitors to Janakalyan during the year remained –

1. Swami Jnanananda Maharaj, Ramakrishna Ashrama, Nataram Palli, Tamil Nadu
 2. Sri Tushar Girinath IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Raichur
 3. Sri Amlan Biswas IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Raichur
 4. Sri P.C. Jafar IAS, Assistant Commissioner, Lingasugur
 5. Sri Chandragash KAS, Tahasildar, Sindhanur
 6. Sri K Veerupakshappa, Member of Parliament, Government of India
 7. Sri Badarli Hampanagouda, Member of Legislative Assembly, Government of Karnataka
 8. Sri M.V. Devarajulu, Executive Officer, Taluka Panchayath, Sindhanur
 9. Member of SGSY Central Government team visited Janakalyan to assess the SHGs promoted by Janakalyan
 10. Sri Mukkanna K, Project Director, DRDA, Raichur
 11. Sri Pampanagouda Badarli, Member, Zilla Panchayath, Sindhanur
 12. Ms. Sukanya Subramanian, Assistant Project Officer, UNICEF
 13. Ms. Piush Antony, Assistant Project Officer, UNICEF
- Ms. Anitha Abraham, Finance Manager of UNICEF