

DISHA TRUST

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM JAN 2000 – MAR 2001

INTRODUCTION

DISHA was established in 1998 as Shubadha was planning to close down its Rural Development Project. Several members of the staff who had worked over a long period in the Shubadha Rural Development Project decided to follow up on this work by registering a trust in order to give continuity to the work especially with women, environment and the Koragas. DISHA has also continued to support and keep contact with people's groups that had been promoted by the Shubadha Project in 26 villages of one revenue block of Mangalore Taluk.

DISHA got registered in 2000 as public charitable trust. DISHA envisions in developing a sustainable society based on equality, equity, justice and self-reliance.

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD

Basically this an initiatory phase for DISHA and due to lack of financial resources we have not taken up many programmes. This phase included the following programmes:

1. Feasibility study of project villages
2. Initiation and organization of programmes
3. Medical check up and treatment
4. Collaboration with peoples groups, community based organizations (CBOs), Institutions and NGOs
5. Human resource development programme
6. Help to individuals and families

1. Feasibility study of project villages:

The purpose of this phase was to locate villages for our proposed development interventions, build linkages with local groups/organizations/ institutions and to identify major thrust areas.

DISHA undertook following activities as part of feasibility study:

- ★ Study of village conditions- Social, economic, political, cultural situations, main problems and issues, driving and restraining forces.
- ★ Identification of Koraga Tribal clusters in Mangalore Taluk to study their problems, needs and explore possibilities of working with them.
- ★ Study of women's situation with particular reference to gender, mobility, education, human rights, socio-political participation, major issues and expectations.

Feasibility study was conducted in the selected villages of Mangalore Taluk. Data has been collected but analysis and preparation of report is yet to be completed.

2. Initiation and organization of programmes:

The objective of this phase was to initiate development interventions in the area of Women and Koraga Development.

DISHA identified 20 clusters in Gurpur Firka to initiate women empowerment education programme.

DISHA has followed the following process during the initiation of women programme:

- House visits to families to build rapport with women and motivate them to attend awareness raising programmes for their empowerment.
- Initial contact meetings with women to inform them about DISHA and its programmes, learn their expectations and enlist their cooperation.
- Regular meetings aimed at providing awareness on themes/topics like women's situation, gender, human rights, women and law, need for organization and collective action, self help groups, government facilities and programmes.
- Training sessions for office bearers of the group on the role and responsibilities, group management skills, writing reports and maintaining records, human relation aspects, leadership skills. By this time, the group will be in a position to articulate their own needs. In order to help the group to sustain their interest and activities, the self help group concept will be introduced. In a majority of cases women groups express their willingness to form self help groups (SHGs)
- Once SHGs are formed, our volunteers/staff will provide guidance and support in managing SHGs. Activities include trainings, information sessions and exposure programme.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AT A GLANCE

Place	Programme	Purpose of Programme	No. of women attended	Resource Person
Nonai, Kuppepadavu Panchayath	Awareness Programme on women organization	To inform about the benefits of women organization and motivate women to form groups of their own.	45	Irene Veigas
Nelalachil, Kuppepadavu Panchyath	Awareness programme on women programme	To inform about the benefits of women organization and motivate women to form groups of their own	47	Irene Veigas
Mundabettu, Muduperar Panchayath	Contact meeting with women	To motivate women to form groups of their own and to explore possibility of working with them	32	Irene Veigas
Arjunakodi, Muchur Panchyath	Contact meeting with women	To motivate women to form groups of their own and to explore possibility of working with them	30	Irene Veigas
Matti, Ganjimutt Panchyath	Contact meeting with women	To motivate women to form groups of their own and to explore possibility of working with them	16	Irene Veigas
Nooyi, Addoor Gurpur Panchyath	Savings group meeting and information camp	Training in group management skills	23	Irene Veigas
Arjunakodi, Muchur Grama Panchyath	Gender awareness programme	To sensitize women on gender needs.	22	Irene Veigas
Mundabettu,	Gender	To sensitize women on	40	Irene Veigas

Muduperar Grama Panchyath	awareness programme	gender needs.		
Nelalachil, Kuppepadavu Grama Panchyath	Information camp on 'AIDS'	To create awareness on danger of AIDS and its prevention	30	Harini and Mohini
Nelalachil, Kuppepadavu Grama Panchyath	Gender Awareness	To sensitize women on gender needs	45	Irene Veigas
Nelalachil, Kuppepadavu Grama Panchyath	Information camp on 'AIDS'	To increase awareness n AIDS	35	Mohini and Irene Veigas
Nonal, Kuppepadavu Grama Panchyath	Information camp on women and Health	To sensitize women on their health needs	30	Harini
Bondanthila, Neermarga Grama Panchyath	Information camp on self help group	To inform women about the need and benefits of self help groups	22	Irene Veigas
Kuppepadavu	Women's organization	To inform on the need and benefits of women's organization	20	Mohini & Umavathi
Nelalachil Kuppepadavu Grama Panchyath	Women and law	To create awareness on legal aid with particular reference to women.	25	Merilyn Martis

3. Medical check up and treatment programme:

DISHA through volunteers and staff identified persons with complaints of poor vision, back pain, uterus prolapse, deafness, hernia and referred them to Yenepoya Medical College Hospital for free investigation and treatment. A total of 148 patients were helped under this programme.

4. Collaboration with people's groups community based organizations (CBOs), Institutions and NGO:

DISHA with a view to maximize output, reduce programme cost and to express solidarity collaborated with likeminded organization/groups/ institutions in organizing and conducting programmes of specific interest. The following were the activities conducted during the year:

- Support to Grupur Firka Koraga Sangha and District Koraga Federation in their campaign for agricultural land to each Koraga family.
- Organized and conducted a six months long programme for empowerment education of women in collaboration with DEEDS Mangalore
- Collaborated with Gurpur Firka Mahila Vedike, Krishikara Vedike, Koraga Abhivridi Sangha in conducting monthly meetings/ programmes.
- DISHA supported an information programme on 'Information on matters related to Revenue Department' organized by Gurpur Firka Kirshikara Vedike and Gurpur Vyavasaya Seva Sahakari Bank, held at Grupur.
- Actively collaborated with Koraga Sanghagala Okkoota and Samagra Grameena Ashrama, Kaup in developing a project proposal for funding from ACTION AID India, Bangalore Office.

5. Human Resource Development Programme:

The Trustees and staff of DISHA participated as resource persons/trainers in conducting trainings on different themes/topics organized by various NGOs and institutions. Details at a glance are given below:

Programme	Place	Conducted by	Resource Person
Social problems and social awareness programme for high school students at Bela, Kasaragod.	Bela, Kasaragod	Bela Parish, Kasargod	Irene Veigas
Perspective planning for DCCW	CODP Mangalore	DCCW Mangalore	Irene Veigas
Gender training	DEEDS office Mangalore	KMF milk federation	Irene Veigas
Perspective planning for CAPART REGIONAL OFFICE Dharwad	Sahodaya Balmatta Mangalore	CAPART Regional Committee Dharwad	Mohammad Guthigar



Training of trainers for Gender training	DEEDS office Mangalore	DEEDS Mangalore	☐ Irene Veigas ☐ Mohammad Guthigar
Gender awareness programme for community representatives both men and women	Sullia	Valored Mangalore	Irene Veigas
Child Rights workshop	Mangalore	Chowki Mangalore	Irene Veigas
Gender awareness programme for Catholic women	Tallur Karkal	DCCW Mangalore	Irene Veigas
Truckers Community Development Project-Evaluation	Mangalore	Trainers Collective Mangalore	Irene Veigas
Gender planning for Federation of self help groups	Belvai Mudbidre	Adarsh Belvai	Irene Veigas
Resource Center planning Consultation	Mangalore	DEEDS Mangalore	Irene Veigas

6. Rendering help to individuals and families:

DISHA reached out to individuals and families requiring help on specific needs. The details are given below:

- A woman from Gurpur was helped in getting police assistance with regard to domestic violence
- A woman from Gurpur was helped to get 3 cents of housing site from the grama panchayath. She was also helped to get roofing materials and financial aid for house construction
- 7 girls were helped to continue education by providing them with books
- A woman suspected of suffering from AIDS was referred to K.M.C Hospital Mangalore for free blood investigation

FUTURE PLAN

We wish to undertake the following activities during the coming year:

- Complete the report of feasibility study and propose interventions.
- Continue interventions in the area of empowerment of women and Koraga tribals.

- Explore the possibility of undertaking alternative economic development programmes for women to improve their economic status.
- Promote programme on child rights and gender education.

CONCLUSION

DISHA was established with a philosophy of helping people to help themselves. It is our sincere hope that in every effort we do for the empowerment of the powerless in our society should be directed towards actualizing the vision of developing a sustainable society based on equality, equity, justice and self reliance. DISHA has made a beginning in a small but meaningful way. This would not have been possible without the encouragement and support that we received from our friends and wellwishers. We place on record our sincere thanks to the management of Shubhada Society Suralpady and Merlyln Martis of DEEDS Mangalore for their support and guidance.

Irene Veigas
Managing Trustee