

DISHA TRUST, KAIKAMBA

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL2001-MARCH2002



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The year gone by was significant for DISHA in the following respects:

- The activities initiated during the first year of functioning were steadily followed up especially in the areas of women and Koraga empowerment.
- The collaboration with ILO New Delhi for a project entitled 'Action plan for improving working conditions and employment opportunities for Beedi women workers' was instrumental in focussing our attention to promoting entrepreneurship development activities for women.
- DISHA was one of the partners of SANCHI TRUST, which was established by 5 NGO partners of ILO project for beedi women workers for supporting income generation and empowerment programmes for women.
- As a partner NGO, DISHA, conducted a trainers training workshop on Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) for the representatives/staff of five NGOs.
- Alvas College of social work, Mudubidre recognized DISHA as one of their field placement agency for posting MSW students for fieldwork practice.
- DISHA with the help of volunteers initiated awareness raising activities for women with a view to begin development activities in few villages.
- DISHA was able to convince some friends and well wishers on the importance of development activities in order to raise some funds for the development activities.

Activities conducted at a glance:

1. Awareness raising activities for women
2. Awareness raising and organization of Koragas
3. Medical camp and medical aid
4. ILO action plan for beedi women workers
5. Women conference
6. AIDS awareness
7. Networking and collaboration
8. Visitors

1. Awareness raising activities for women:

Awareness raising sessions were conducted for women from socio- economically backward communities in 22 clusters on the following topics/themes:

- Women and savings

Women's organization

- Role of SHGs and organization
- Women and health
- Women and law
- Women and education
- Income generation skills and self employment
- Gender awareness
- Beedi welfare facilities

As a result of these activities a total of 11 women groups/ SHGs were formed.

2. Awareness raising and organization of Koragas:

Like in the last year some noticeable efforts were made under Koraga programme.

- 13 children were encouraged to continue their education in schools and accordingly they were admitted to Ashrama School in Mangalore.
- 22 children were helped to get scholarships and other free facilities from the Social Welfare Department.
- Nearly 150 families were contacted to study their problems and motivation for organization.
- Support to Gurpur Firka Koraga Abhivridi Sangha in conducting meetings and training.
- Participation in the meetings/programmes organized by the District Koraga Federation.

3. Free medical camp and medical aid:

- A medical camp was conducted by Alvas Ayurvedic College, Mudabidre in collaboration with DISHA at Kaikamba. Doctors and house surgeons of the college participated in the camp and tested 63 patients and dispensed medicines. M S W students of Alvas College of Social Work, Mudbidre organized this camp.
- As many as 52 poor patients were helped to get free medical treatment including surgery at Yenepoya Medical College Hospital Mangalore.

4. ILO action plan for beedi women workers:

DISHA is one of the five NGOs identified to implement a pilot action plan for beedi women workers in Mangalore. The first phase of the project was for a period of six months from July to December 2002. This six months period was consisted of:

- Mobilization and organization of beedi women workers
- Formation of self help groups(SHGs)
- PRA training workshops for NGOs and women
- Capacity building of SHGs
- Participation in the regular meetings and consultation of NGO collective

Details:

- In the initial stage, contact meetings and awareness raising sessions were held in 10 clusters on topics of specific interest. In the later stage a study of 100 beedi women workers was conducted to assess their situation. Five SHGs were formed in five clusters of three villages of Gurpur firka ,each consisting of a minimum of 20 members. Awareness sessions were conducted on topics like importance of SHGs and SHG concept, women and empowerment, role of office bearers and group management skills.
- A two-day PRA training workshop was held in collaboration with ILO New Delhi for the collaborating NGOs of ILO action plan for beedi women workers. A total of 17 staff and key functionaries of five NGOs attended. This programme was followed with PRA workshops for the five SHGs in the local level to identify the locally available income generating avenues for women. These training gave them a history of their village, history of beedi industry, present situation and livelihood possibility of the village.
- An exposure visit for 25 women from the five SHGs to Alva's Pharmacy, Mudbidre was organised to get knowledge about herbal medicines and to explore the possibility of promoting herbal nurseries for income generation.
- Three women from the SHGs and two volunteers of DISHA participated in the exposure visit of the NGO partners and SHG representatives to IDS Dharwad and BAIF Dharwad to see income generation activities undertaken by women.

5. Women conference:

A firka level women conference was conducted for the members of SHGs at Pompei English Medium School, Kinnikambla, as part of women education and empowerment programme. Resource persons provided inputs on 'women and organization, 'women and law' and 'facilities available from banks and Government departments'. A total of 95 women participated in the conference.

6. AIDS awareness:

DISHA made attempts to create awareness on HIV-AIDS among women. Apart from sessions conducted on 'AIDS' in the SHGs, DISHA collaborated with Prajna Counselling Center, Mangalore in conducting an information camp on 'HIV-AIDS' at DISHA office Kaikamba. A total of 36 persons attended.

7. Networking and collaboration:

- DISHA continued its efforts to collaborate with the Gurpur Firka Koraga Abhivridi Sangha and Gurpur Firka Krishikara Vedike in their activities/programmes. Koraga Sangha and Krishikara Vedike hold their meetings at DISHA office and we provide them guidance and support when required.
- The staff of DISHA regularly participate in the study sessions and awareness activities conducted by Jilla Mahila Vedike.

- The Secretary of the Trust actively participates the activities of D.K. Parisarsaktha Okkoota® Mangalore.

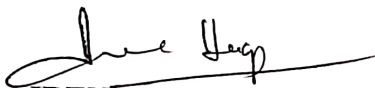
8. Visitors:

- Ms. Christa, an intern of Coady International Institute, Canada visited DISHA to get an exposure to women empowerment programmes. She participated in the meetings of SHGs and held discussions with women.

Conclusion:

The past two-year period was actually a legitimizing and initiatory period for DISHA and it is too early to make an impact assessment. However we were to make a good beginning through our micro activities and we are often reminded that we have a long way to go to bring about sustainable changes in the lives of socially and economically disadvantaged sections in the society.

We are fully aware that it would not have been possible to undertake these development interventions without the generous support given by our friends, well wishers and ILO New Delhi, to keep our work going. We sincerely acknowledge their contributions and support. We thank the volunteers, staff and the target community for their encouraging support and cooperation in the implementation of our development interventions.



IRENE VEIGAS
Managing Trustee
20.04.2002