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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL2002-MARCH2003



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DISHA has successfully completed its three years of existence. During these period, DISHA was mainly involved in: defining its target population, identifying the area to be covered for development interventions, building and developing linkages with NGOs, CBOs and other like minded institutions for mutual support and solidarity.

Our work was mainly focussed on improving the working conditions and employment opportunities for beedi women workers with financial support from ILO New Delhi. Besides this, some development inputs were also provided in the area of Koraga empowerment DISHA wherever possible collaborated with other NGOs/institutions to create awareness on topics/themes of development interest.

During the year under report, DISHA conducted the following activities:

1. Women empowerment programme
2. Koraga empowerment programme
3. ILO action plan for beedi women workers – II phase
4. AIDS awareness and medical help
5. Rendering help to individuals and families who are in distress.
6. Networking and collaboration

1. Women empowerment programme:

1.1. Women education and organization:

During the period DISHA extended this programme to five more clusters and now our project coverage is in 25 clusters of 11 villages. Awareness raising activities conducted for women on self help groups (SHGs), situation of women, women and health, beedi welfare facilities, grama panchayath, self employment, women and education and entrepreneurship development programme.

1.2 Self help groups:

In order to encourage women to undertake activities on collective basis, efforts were made to form self help groups (SHGs) in the selected clusters. During the period five more SHGs for women were formed. Training sessions were conducted on Leadership and group management skills, Office bearers roles and responsibilities, Gender sensitization, Accounts and book keeping, and Entrepreneurship development programme (EDP)

1.3 Savings and Credit:

In 15 SHGs savings and credit activity was started. Women started saving money for their needs. Internal lending was also begun and women take loans on education of their children, buying essential items for daily use, acquiring asset and paying off debts. This activity gave much support to women at times of emergency needs and women plan to stabilize this activity further.

2. Koraga empowerment programme:

Under this programme the following activities were conducted:

- 2.1. Education of children.
- 2.2. Formation of SHGs and committees
- 2.3. Issue based support and collaboration



2.1. Education of children:

- A total of nine children were helped to get admission to schools. Of the nine, five were admitted to Ashrama School Mangalore and four to the local primary schools.
- Eight students were helped to avail of the benefits like scholarship and uniforms from the Social Welfare Department.
- Holiday camp for 35 Koraga children was conducted in collaboration with DEEDS Mangalore and Gurpur Firka Koraga Abhivridi Sangha at UNESCO Centre, Kinnikambla. Resource persons provided inputs on creative learning, personality development, story telling and inter personal relationships. This camp was much appreciated by Koraga children and parents.

2.2. Formation of SHGs and committees

- During the year five SHGs for Koragas were formed in five clusters. Members started savings and credit activity in this group. Regular meetings are held. Information sessions were conducted on 'SHG concept', 'Role of office bearers', 'Accounts and book keeping' and 'Group management skills'. The members are being encouraged to participate in the programmes conducted by DISHA for women.
- Efforts were made to form Koraga colony committees in the eight clusters of Gurpur Firka. As the Koraga families face uncertainty of their livelihood, the expected progress was not forthcoming.

2.3. Issue based support and collaboration :

DISHA has kept regular contact with Gurpur Firka Koraga Abhivridi Sangha and District Koraga Okkoota. Our animator participated in the meetings/ programmes organized by these organizations. 52 Koragas from our working area participated in the 'Bhoomi Sammelana' (conference for land) organized by District Koraga Committee in Bantwal.

3. ILO Action plan for beedi women workers:

ILO New Delhi, after the evaluation of the phase-1 of the pilot action plan for beedi women workers, decided to support the activities to be carried out during the phase – II of the project. The phase –II of the project included:

3.1.Capacity building and stabilization of functioning of SHGs

3.2.Education, exposure and skill training under EDP

3.3.Enabling women to start income generation activities

3.1.Capacity building and stabilization of functioning of SHGs:

Under this programme the following activities were conducted on regular basis:

- ⇒ Ensure SHGs conduct monthly meetings on regular basis.
- ⇒ Information and awareness raising sessions on 'gender', 'self employment' , 'grama panchyath', 'health', 'women and political empowerment' , 'women and human rights', and ' women and law'.
- ⇒ Training programmes were conducted for the SHG members to enhance and build their capacities. Training sessions were held mainly on 'group management and leadership skills', 'book and accounts keeping', 'women and legal aid', 'communication and human relations'.
- ⇒ A day women conference was organized as part of the capacity building programme. President and vice presidents of the Kandavara Grama Panchayath, and National Programme Coordinator of ILO New Delhi were the chief guests. The officials from the department of Women and Child Development, and the manager of Netravathi Grameena Bank Kaikamba participated as resource persons and provided inputs on facilities available from their respective departments. The member of five SHGs of Daribagilu, Permanki, Neeralike, Hunesedady and Nelachil attended.

3.2. Education, Exposure and skill training under EDP:

Under this, DISHA conducted the following activities:

- Exposure activity for the members who have already started income generation activity in Neeralike.
- Invited Anganawady workers and Supervisors to the SHGs to share their experiences under Stree Shakti programme.
- Exposure visit for the SHG members and staff was conducted to Belthangady 'SIRI' Center to study income generation activities undertaken by women.
- Training sessions were conducted for the SHG members on 'women entrepreneur and women and self employment'.
- Training on Paper Bag making skills was conducted for women of five SHGs.
- Skills training on preparation of daily use items such as soap, detergents, phenyl, juice and squash and bakery items were organized for women. Women were found interested to learn these methods.
- A three months Beautician course was conducted in collaboration with Karnataka Community Poly Technic Mangalore. 28 women participated.

3.3. Enabling women to start income generation activities:

As a result of our interventions over the last few months, few women have come forward to start entrepreneurship programme. So far 17 women were supported by DISHA with active support from SANCHI REVOLVING FUND to start income generation activities of their choice. Type of income generation activity includes:

- ⇒ Dress making unit
- ⇒ Village canteen
- ⇒ Petty shop
- ⇒ Preparation of pickle and selling
- ⇒ Preparation and selling of food items.
- ⇒ Growing and selling vegetables
- ⇒ Fancy stores

- ⇒ Beauty parlour
- ⇒ Improvement of Agriculture

4. AIDS awareness programme:

Two programmes on AIDS were conducted for the S H G members and neo literate at Kaikamba and Kandavara. The resource persons provided inputs on what is AIDS, cause, and effects and control measures. Slide show, posters, group discussion and street play tools were employed to create awareness.

5. 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 Ulaibettu village was helped in getting police assistance and legal aid with regard to domestic violence.
- A woman from Yedapadavu village was given assistance to get help from the District Women's Forum and local SHG with regard to atrocity by her husband and his parents.
- Two families (Ulaibettu and Permarki) were helped to get police and legal help in the case of dispute over family property.
- Helped 22 persons from five villages to get free medical aid including investigations and surgery in YMCH Deralakatte
- 7 girls were helped to continue education by providing them with books.
- DISHA helped Nadaje Nirantahra Shikshana Kendra in the form of exercise books for use by the neo literates.
- A Koraga who lost his arm due to Kadoni explosion (a form of fireworks used during religion rituals and festivals) was helped to file complaint in the police station to get compensation and justice.
- Provided counselling services to a Koraga family to resolve family conflict due to marital problems.
- Helped seven Koraga families to submit application for housing and latrines from the Taluk Panchayath.

6. Networking and collaboration with peoples groups, community based organizations (CBOs)/ institutions and NGOs:

DISHA is constantly making efforts to build and develop linkages with the government departments and other institutions as given below for the benefit of our target groups:

- Local Grama Panchayaths to study the facilities available for women to start self-employment activities.
- Karnataka Poly Technic Institute to explore skill development training opportunities on for women.
- Participated in the workshop on financial support from NABARD for SHGs.in Mangalore and Dharwad.
- Visited KMF Dairy and held discussion with the manager to explore the possibility of initiating milk collection centers run by women. This will be explored further
- Liaison with government departments/ institutions/ NGOs/financial and technical institutions for developing linkages for EDP
- Support and guidance to SHG members to start income generation activities with support from SANCHI.
- Collaborated with St.Aloysius College of Social Work Mangalore in conducting awareness/training programmes organized through its M S W students at Kandavara Panchyath.
- Collaborated with Gurpur Firka Koraga Abhivridi Sangha and Krishikara Vedike in conducting monthly meetings/programmes
- Collaborated with Krishikara Vedike in conducting environment education programme in 5 schools.The programme included quiz and essay competitions on 'Save Our Environment'
- Extended support to Krishikara Vedike in its campaign for fair price for agricultural products and demand for uninterrupted power supply for irrigation.
- Extended support to NGOs collective to hold their discussion/meetings at DISHA office.

- Actively involved in SANCHI TRUST Mangalore in organizing / conducting meetings/ consultation as part of ILO action plan for beedi women workers.

Visitors and placement:

- Two students of Alvas College of Social Work Mudabidre were placed at DISHA for fieldwork training for one year.
- Mr. Jimmy from CARITAS India Bangalore Office visited DISHA and held discussion on developmental concerns.

Achievements:

At the end of the third year of our interventions in the area of development, we take pleasure to highlight the following achievements:

- 28 women groups/SHGs formed and are in at various stages of functioning
- Active participation of women is seen in every group meeting of SHGs and programme **undertaken for their development.**
- Women started savings for their needs and are getting benefited
- Women are seen verbalizing their needs and sharing their opinions freely in their groups.
- In each groups we can find on an average five women with leadership qualities and take responsibilities
- Women take interest and show readiness to respond to the issues of other women in particular and other in general.
- 17 beedi women workers started income generation activities and 7 more have shown interest to begin.
- Nearly 600 women were involved/participated in the awareness/training programmes conducted by us.
- Nearly 200 women were involved in the various skills training sessions like; preparation of soap, detergent, phenyl, juice, paper bags, bakery items and beautician course.
- Nearly 300 children in five schools were sensitized on the importance of our environment.

- As many as 52 persons were helped in the following manner: educational assistance, medical aid, counseling and referral services, availing of housing and latrines from the Government departments.

Conclusion:

Given the space and resources available, DISHA tried its level best to reach out to the disadvantaged population in the project villages through various activities as described in the report. DISHA has plans to scale up its programme with special focus to rain water harvesting methods and entrepreneurship development of women in the coming years.

Acknowledgement:

DISHA sincerely acknowledges the guidance and support it has received from friends and well-wishers and especially to I L O New Delhi for financial assistance to the phase-2 of the project for beedi women workers.



IRENE VEIGAS

Managing Trustee

20.5.2003