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ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Introduction

Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh (SAS) is registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. Fr. Joseph Chenakala is the Secretary cum Chief executive of the institution. SAS has various initiatives for integrat rural development across in 12 districts of Karnataka and part of Kolhapur district of Maharashtra State. SAS's general body meets once a year to scrutinize and monitor various activities, budgets, accounts and to take policy decisions. The governing body of SAS meets 4 times a year, interacts with the secretary and important staff members, reviews the ongoing programs of the society, and plans new initiatives.

The implementation of all the initiatives rests with the chief executive who implements them with the help of various project coordinators. Every stage of the program is monitored with the staff and project coordinators on a monthly basis and course corrections are done taking all the stakeholders into confidence. Dr. Z.Baig is the Project Coordinator for the Project Organization Building of Nomadic Shepherds' Community in North Karnataka. He assists and accompanies his staff to the project area. He utilizes at least two days in a month for review and evaluation, documentation of the field data and planning for the next month in consultation with the chief executive. Fr. Thomas Chenakala, Mr. Parashuram Rangi, Mr. Anthony Jacob, Mr.Yeshwant Bandhurge, along with the supervisors, coordinate all programs under women empowerment and related activities. Mr. David D'Costa, along with with his staff, coordinates the Biogas and Rural Sanitation Program. Ms. Agatha D'Souza functions as the office administrator and, Mr. Geroge Menezes and Alex Fernandes assist her in her work. Fr. J Chenakala, along with his other works, finds the time for field visits and has direct interaction with the stakeholders of all initiatives of SAS. The funding partners, NGOs and government officials and SAS managing committee members also visit the stakeholders.

The overall objective of SAS is to help build strong local communities that are capable of playing an active role in the planning and the implementation of programs for creating socioeconomic, political and cultural conditions that enable people to have access to

basic necessities of life in a clean and healthy environment by using local resources in an eco-friendly manner.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

1 - Women Empowerment Through Shg Movement

During the year SAS animated and guided 902 SHGs with 14668 members. Their savings as on 31/12/2016 was the sum of Rs. 162,599,134/-. The SHG members witnessed the constant accompaniment SAS staff.

The SHG members made effective use of their savings and met their day to day needs and also engaged in Income Generation Activities. Thus, there is constant change of money from one family to another. The smooth movement of money demonstrated the confidence, mutual trust and dependence and the warm and friendly relationship between SHG members. Such warmth and friendship, mutual concern and sharing of resources spread to the wider community consisting of the families of SHG members and resulted in strong local communities that played an active role in the planning and the implementation of programs which enabled people to have better access to basic necessities of life and a clean and healthy environment.

Thrift and credit situation of SHGs as on 31-12-16			
Items	Receipts	Items	Payments
Members savings	162599134	Interest on loan	2274311
Reserve fund	6683787	Loan to members	195403446
Asst from SAS	11131359	Group expenses	568490
Loan from bank	7506712	FD with banks	2439000
Government subsidy	5092120	Bank balances	14799626
Government revolving fund & Seed Money from SAS	3048609	Cash balance	2208896
Bank interest	315615		
Interest of loan to members	21316433		
Total	217693769		217693769

The SHGs have made a lasting impact on the lives of the women. Their improved quality of life can be summarized as below:

- ✚ They have developed their skills and abilities in various Income Generating and productive activities.

- ✚ There is an increase in their income, savings and use of money for investments.
- ✚ Increased self-reliance and self confidence; improved the ability of women to mobilize various public services and funds for their benefit.
- ✚ They have become bold and can address a crowd and express themselves without fear.
- ✚ They try and get their rights; they go to banks and government offices and get their work done without any fear.
- ✚ The social horizons of the members have also widened. They have made many friends and feel that now they are more socially active.
- ✚ The illiterate and semi-literate women have got a sense of achievement and progress. They have become productive and have greater say in the family matters.
- ✚ The improvement in women's economic opportunities and their ability to take collective action has made a lasting impact in the family life. There has been a significant decline in gender based problems such as domestic violence, dowry, etc. Interestingly, they motivate other women to form SHGs so that they also can reap similar benefits. The SHGs have succeeded in bringing women to the mainstream of decision making.

Activities:

Formation and animation of new SHGs: The SAS staff regularly accompanied all the old SHGs and they formed 42 new SHGs with 644 members.

Training in Book Keeping and Financial Management: SAS successfully conducted 3 days training session for 82 members of 30 SHGs spread in 23 villages. The new SHGs were accompanied like a mother caring for her child. The group leaders and representatives were called for separate training program where they were guided in group dynamics and on how to solve the group problems.

Training in Personality Development for the New SHGs: After forming the SHGs, SAS staff took keen interest in directing the potentials of the members in the right direction. SAS trained 400 members of 39 SHGs in personality development and group dynamics.

Capacity building exercises: SAS organized during the year, 28 days of Capacity Building activity for 4356 member of 430 SHGs from 68 villages.

2- Women Empowerment Through Organic Farming

SAS initiated the process of Organic Farming first by changing the mind set of SHG women. They had a lot of prejudice and fear about organic farming since they were used

to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. SAS conducted various training programs where the input sessions included multiple benefits of Organic Farming on soil conditions and human health. They were given tips to increase the soil fertility. Best practices include the perseveration of best seeds, multy/mixed crops. SAS conducted 14 days training for 725 members of 108 SHGs of 44 villages.

SAS further initiated the some members by taking them neighboring farms where the organic farming has seen successful. This kind of visit created a deep impression on them and convinced them of profitable organic farming. The SHG members who were into organic farming had many good experiences to share especially about the better taste of organically grown vegetables. The demand for organically grown vegetable is growing day by day. SAS visited an Organic Farm for a day with 37 members of 10 SHGs from 5 villages. SAS gave financial assistance to 200 SHG women for initiating organic farming/kitchen garden.

3- Women Empowerment Through Mgnrega Works

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which was later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" a labor law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. Apart from providing employment MGNREGA can help in protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity, among others. The law provides many safeguards to promote its effective management and implementation. The act explicitly mentions the principles and agencies for implementation, list of allowed works, financing pattern, monitoring and evaluation, and most importantly the detailed measures to ensure transparency and accountability.

SAS staff motivated SHG members and many other village members to work under. Outcome was praiseworthy - 10117 members applied for work and 8630 members managed to get work. They worked for 705,500 man days and earned Rs.165,087,000/- as wages. During the year SAS motivated and helped another 4059 members to get job cards under MGNREGA .

4- Women Empowerment Through Shg Federations

A federation is an association of number of SHGs at different levels of society. The aim of SHG Federation is to build Self-Help communities of love, concern and solidarity among the poor woman irrespective of cast, creed or color and to empower them economically and socially inorder to live with dignity. SAS formed and animated SHG

federations at different levels of the society and periodically met to assess their development and to help them in their next step.

- ✚ SAS conducted 10 days Village level Federation meeting for 661 participants of 55 SHGs from 13 villages.
- ✚ SAS organized 12 days Panchayat level Federation meeting for 1543 members of 207 SHGs from 26 villages.
- ✚ SAS organized 12 days Taluka Level Federation meeting for 301 SHG representatives.
- ✚ SAS organized 2 days District level Federation workshop for 56 SHG representatives.

5- Women Empowerment Through International Women's Day Celebration

SAS has been actively involved in transforming many lives and in reaching out to thousands of beneficiaries especially women. March 8 being the International Women day, SAS decided to organize public functions of SHG members during the month of March. These were planned and organized by the SHG members. They exhibited their skills, their leanings and the level of Self confidence. During such functions, SAS staff was able to assess the success of their efforts and the outcome of their struggle to form and guide SHGs. The SHG members also realized their strength and weakness and set goals for their further development. In March 2016 SAS organized 5 celenbrations of International Women's day. 2846 women from 263 SHGs spread across 78 villages participated in these celebrations.

6- Women Empowerment Through Men And Women Meet

Over the years SAS has worked towards women empowerment through various initiatives. SAS concentrated on women. The SHG activity has helped all the family members but it lacked direct contact with the men folk of SHG women. During 2016 effort was made to involve all the family members in women empowerment program. The men folk were given awareness on functions of SHGs, aims and objectives of SHGs, the rational of monthly meeting, government schemes, MGNREGA and irradiation of evils like alcohol consumption, use of tobacco. SAS conducted 6 men - women Meeting for 8016 members of 275 SHGs from 44 villages. SAS was very happy with the outcome of such meetings.

7- Shg Women's Children's Holiday Camp

The modern life has adverse effects on the young minds. The communication channels television, internet and mobile have succeeded in exposing them to many vices. The bad habits of bunking classes, disrespectful behavior and arrogance are quite common at

home and outside. SAS staff experimented by conducting a holiday camp for 100 children from 5 villages. The day was filled with play, fun and learning. Later the parents shared the change of behavior in those children - they showed more respect for elders, showed greater concern and care for others and helped in the household chores.

9- Women Empowerment Through Shg Outing

“All work and no play make Jack a dull boy”. Fifty one women from 7 SHGs took a two day break and toured neighboring picnic spots - temples, churches, bathed in the river and sea water. They returned home refreshed and rejuvenated.

10- Women Empowerment Through Sas Staff

Training provided by the SAS staff to the SHGs brought about positive changes in the group management and operations. They became aware of the productive loan and the various options available to them. The group strategies provided the required basis for solidarity, strength and collective action. SAS Self Help Group Area Coordinators along with supervisors supported all the SHGs on monthly basis and organized various capacity building, trainings/exercises for them. During 2016, SAS staff conducted 9486 meetings with the participation of 119,883 women from 868 SHGs.

The staff guided the group with many personality development exercises, monitored their thrift and credit activities; assisted them in the process of group building and sustenance; initiated them into kitchen garden/organic farming; created awareness on issues affecting women and children and their village; created linkages with bank and mobilized finances/subsidies from the government; initiated income generation activities; formed federations of SHGs at the Village, Panchayat, Taluka and District levels. They also motivated and helped members of all SHGs to participate actively in the federation process at Village, Panchayat, Taluka and District levels.

FUNCTIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Target group – Rural girls, who are school dropouts, mostly in the age group of 15 to 25 from low socio-economic strata of society.

Direct beneficiaries: 629 girl students and 58 rural women who were assisted to train the girl students with functional vocational skills.

Indirect beneficiaries: The families of the 58 teachers and the families of 629 girls and the village community as a whole.

The main objective of Functional Vocational Training is to enhance the quality of the life of teenage girls through enhancement of their skills and knowledge. Due to poverty, teenage girls drop out of school and get married at a very young age and work as farm hands and at household chore. They need to learn newer vocational skills e.g, tailoring which help them to earn more income and become economically self-sufficient and independent. This will alleviate poverty, help them support their family needs, without being dependent on husband and parents.

In these FVT centers the students get garment making and life coping skills. Students are guided by qualified and socially committed women from the community. SAS gives them training to upgrade their skills. After completing of 10 months training, some women/girls start their own tailoring shops and some others sub-contract work from large tailoring shops.

During the ten months' training, the students discover themselves as persons with dignity and talents. They get training to cope up with their limitation and live a happy life. They experience growth in personal dignity, self-confidence and self-worth. The program keep the girls meaningfully engaged for yet another year, delay their marriage, and give them an excellent opportunity to be better prepared for their marriage and the future.

A majority of the girls who completed the training are now gainfully employed. One young girl testified, "I got an opportunity to join SAS's FVT Center when I was extremely poor and dejected. Now, I can live with a smile. I am happy that I support my family substantially." The girls' ability to support themselves and to contribute to their families gave them a sense of self-worth. Furthermore, the integration of practical skills training with health education, personal counseling and guidance improved the girls' self-esteem and confidence.

CASE STUDIES

Chennava Chandrappa Kadakol, MK Hubli, Bailhongal Tq, Belagavi

I am Chennava Chandrappa Kadakol from MK Hubli. I joined Shri Devi Self Help Group initiated by the Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh in 11th October 2010. I attended the various personality development seminars and capacity building activities conducted by

Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh and gained self confidence. Over the years I changed my notions about myself and there was strong felt desire to do something in life.

It gave me various opportunities to serve the society in a different way. I stood for MK Hubli town panchayat election as an independent member. I did not join any other political parties though there was pressure to join and also threat from them. I stood my ground with the full support of my joint family. I chose the coconut as my symbol. I won the town panchayat election with 225 votes. While forming the governing team, I demanded for president's post. Since I was alone I could not put further pressure and settled for vice president's post.

I serve the society in various capacities but like other members I do not take any bribe and I do not support corruption. My people have good opinion about me and I have won their trust. They come to me to solve their problems and seek my advice. I am grateful to Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh and supervisor Santosh Siddannavar for supporting me and molding my character and self-confidence. I owe all my success to SAS.

Shakuntala Mahadev Kelgeri



I am Shakuntala. My age is 48. My caste is SC. My village is Vannur, Bailhongal. I got only four years of schooling. I have two children. I am a member of Indira SHG Vannur. I improved my economic condition after joining the group. I had a desire to begin self-employment. I wanted money to invest in it. I took eighty thousand rupees as loan from the group to start candle making. I paid seven thousand rupees for the machine. I have to pay Rs. 3000 per month to buy the raw material. After preparing the candle from raw wax I sell them for six thousand rupees. I use my leisure time to prepare the candles. I market it in the shops in my village and I get some order from other places too. My husband helps me in marketing. Along with this I helped my son to put up a restaurant in Bhudihal village. From the restaurant we get a profit of Rs.4000 per month. The self-employment project helped me economically and kept my family engaged. I could motivate my son and do all these because of the guidance and trainings I received from SAS.

Ms. Priya Pundalik Lad, Saraswati SHG, Jalage, Khanapur, Belagavi.

Jalage is a village comprising 1000 population. It is 7 kms from Khanapur city and is situated in the forest area. SAS sowed here seeds of development through Self Help Group and FVT program during 1999.

We formed 4 SHGs - Saraswati, Kalavati, Laxmi and Keerti. We meet every first Monday of the month in Government Marathi School, Jalage. The village and especially the SHG members bubble with joy when Mr. L D Patil and Mr. Anthony Jacob the volunteers of SAS visit us to enlighten us about various aspects of life and development. We learn something new always. I am the leader of my SHG. I realized that money transactions alone would not make a good SHG, rather concern for the development of the village, working against injustice social evils was needed.

It was one of the happiest moments for us when we watched our SHG members in the



Door Darshan TV. It made us aware of the impact SAS is creating in our lives. We attended many training programs conducted by SAS who made us self-reliant and courageous in life. The SHG members played a vital role in panchayat development. Neeta Namdev Gurav was elected the GP member without any opposition. Renuka Sahdev Neelajkar was also elected as member of the Gram Panchayat. Similarly, I was elected as a GP member even though the men tried their political tricks to defeat me. The values which SAS passed on to me held me up. I cultivated them over the years

by attending the monthly meetings and the training sessions of SAS. I have the courage now to stand before the public and express my views boldly.

Biogas plant cum toilet units built by SAS in our village made the village clean and hygienic. Along with other SHG members, I too am involved in MGNREGA work to better my family's economic condition and to develop my village. The SHG Federation animated by SAS helped me to realize my inner self. I am ready to face anyone and any challenge for the betterment of my people.

Surekha Shrishail Pujari, Honniyal, Belagavi.

I am Surekha Shrishail Pujari, a resident of Honniyal village of Belagavi Taluk. I am happy to be one of the active members of Keerti SHG. I have a son and a daughter who



go to school. My husband is a farmer and I too work in the field and live together in a joint family of 16 members.

When I joined Keerti SHG guided by Shramik Abhivudhi Sangh, I attended training programs conducted by SAS. The information I gained about various issues is enormous. I learnt to save money, to take loan and improve my economic

condition. This year Ms. Sunanda Anandache - SAS staff selected me to initiate organic kitchen garden and organic farming. I grew vegetables such as Ladies' Fingers, Beans, Palak, Fenugreek Leaves and Pumpkin. My family relished the delicious dishes with these vegetables. My family and I know that organic produce definitely keeps us healthy in the long run. I sold organic vegetables and had a profit of Rs. 5000. I am happy and I will continue organic way of living in my life and spread the awareness to others.

Manjula Basavaraj Bhavi

I am 40 years old. My education is SSLC. I live in Deshnur village. My husband was a drunkard who harassed me physically and mentally. He died 12 years ago. After his death all the responsibilities fell on my shoulders. I have two children; Manjunath (19 years old) and Sanju (15 years old). Manjunath completed his pre degree course and Sanju is a school dropout. I live in my parents' house.



I joined Shanti SHG guided by SAS. After joining the group I got a lot of courage and self-confidence to face life and its challenges. I started to save whatever money I could in my group. I was elected as the leader of my group. As a leader I had to often visit banks, village panchayat and taluka panchayat. I applied for a job as health worker (Asha worker) from the government department and I got it. It has helped me to serve my people in their health needs and to earn some regular income. SAS initiated biogas and rural sanitation program in my village three years ago. I took that opportunity to build a biogas plant cum toilet unit. Now I get sufficient gas for cooking and the toilet is a great blessing for all our family members.

I joined hands with SAS to start a kitchen garden (organic) in the backyard of my house. I planted tomatoes, brinjal, chilies and other leafy vegetables in my garden. I got plenty of vegetables for my home needs without putting chemicals and pesticides. I used only organic manure for my garden.

Last month I took Rs.16000 from my group to repair my house. I put tiles for the floor. Members from my group take loan to meet all their economic needs - weddings, agriculture, education, house construction/renovation, and to buy cattle. Our total saving in the group is Rs. 166,628. Regular monthly meetings and training programs made us courage and self-confident. I even got the courage to stand for the recent Gram Panchayat Election. To my surprise I got elected with good majority of votes. As an elected member of the gram panchayat I am able to reach out to more people. Thanks to SAS for all their support and guidance.

Manjula Basayya Yadwadmath : FVT Teacher of Hirebagewadi Center, Belagavi. Hirebagewadi is a village in Belagavi taluk. It's well connected by roads especially the NH 47. In this beautiful developing village, SAS has catered to 110 FVT students and their families since 2010-11. Mrs. Manjula Basayya Yadwadmath, age -37, with her formal education up to SSLC and life experience, has been an enthusiastic guide to those young growing girls. She attended all the training programs conducted by SAS. She accompanied her students for training programs. She has gained a lot of courage and confidence in life.

Her daughter Preeti who was studying PUC 2nd year once attended a program in which her mother participated. She was wonder struck by her mother's self-confidence and her talent for public speech and her social skills. Mrs. Manjula says, "I have realized that women can achieve their planned goals and aim with hard work alone. I was in utter poverty since I couldn't get much as a daily wagger and my husband had a job as a driver with meager wages that did not suffice for our daily needs."

Then she got an idea which was triggered by the aspirations shared by her students and the training programs of SAS that she attended. She worked out a plan to make her husband Mr. Basayya age 48 a self-employed driver. It was not possible to buy a new Lorry which costed Rs. 15-18 lakhs. Therefore, they put their heads together and decided to buy a second had truck for Rs. 8 lakhs. They put in all the money they had and took a loan of Rs. 5 lakhs to buy the lorry. Their son Chandrashekar who studies in the NTTF institute was very happy and says, "My dad drives to Gujarat, Bangalore and other big cities and brings home Rs. 50-70 thousand of which he pays Rs.35000 as repayment of the loan. I have no difficulties now in paying my college fees."

Renuka S Neelgund, Yaragoppa, Bialhongal Tq, Tailoring center: Sampagov 2014-15 batch.

I am Renuka Neelagund; I belong to 2014-2015 batch of FVT program of Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh. I learnt the tailoring skills in Sampgaon center of Bailhongal taluka. I come from Yaragoppa village and after the completion of the course I have opened my own shop in my village and also trained three more students in tailoring.

People respect me and they like my stitching. At times I have done small mending of old cloths without charges. I also have learnt the art of interacting with people with love. People in my surrounding know me as a tailor cum tailoring teacher. I feel good about these new titles. In one year I reaped multiple benefits from my tailoring skills. It has changed my life and uplifted me economically. Over the year, every day I earn Rs. 100 - 150 which totals up to Rs 4000 - 4500 per month. My mother had taken Rs. 50000/- loan

from Self Help Group to repair the house. In a year I helped my mom repay the loan up to Rs. 40000/-. I am confident that within two months we will be able to clear the entire SHG loan.

I am ever grateful to SAS for giving me an opportunity to master the tailoring skills and for guiding me to establish my own small tailoring shop. SAS intervention increased my courage and self-confidence and zest for life.

Savita Virupaksh Navalgi, MK Hubli, Bailhongal Tq, Tailoring center: MK Hubli, Teacher, Saraawati Nagappa Sanadi, 2016-2017 batch

I am Savita and completed my 12th standard studies. I come from a poor economic background. My parents are daily wage labors and we do not have any land. My mother is a member of Rukmini Self-Help-Group guided by Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh.

I had the desire of continuing my college studies but due to poverty I was forced to stay at home. M.K. Hubli tailoring center teacher Sarasvati Sanadi encouraged my mother to enroll me for the tailoring classes. Initially I was not enthusiastic about the classes. As the days passed, I started liking the course. Slowly I got engrossed in thoughts that came to me during the various personality development sessions conducted by SAS. The thought 'a girl can be economically independent' gripped my being and helped me set goals for my life. Earlier, I lived with my limited experience and belief that women completely depended on men for their economic and other needs.

These days I have a sense of satisfaction and a feeling of selfworth that I did the tailoring course and leant the skill to manage my life and to serve society. I plan to set a small tailoring shop in my house and add to the family income. I am ever grateful to Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh's initiative of tailoring class which gave me an opportunity to dream of a better future with a dignified life.

Staff Development Workshop

SAS organized a staff development workshop from 4-6 July 2016. It gave the staff an opportunity to get deeper into themselves and to work for their further self-actualization as individuals and as a group. The resource person had excellent matter to offer and the style of communication was very good. His personality and his communication skills – ability to expound profound matters in jovial and humorous ways through participatory approach with group activities, singing, dancing, storytelling, experience sharing and use of audio visuals - was graded as superb.

The days spent together helped staff to grade themselves through self-examination and evaluation. They tried to understand where they stood and dreamed of where they wanted to reach. The resource person made them aware of the importance of what they did as social activists. He also threw some light on how to face depression, low enthusiasm and low motivation. He stressed on topics such as motivation, inspiration, self-esteem, qualities of social activist.

The learning: Life is necessarily filled with challenges. And thank God! How boring it would be otherwise. But while we can't control the cards that are dealt us, what we CAN control is how we react to those events. Will they be events that give us strength? Will they give us wisdom? Will they teach us patience? perseverance? Will they give us empathy for others? Much good can come from things that seem so bad. Life's greatest opportunities are often hidden in adversity.

But transforming life's challenges into positive self-propellants takes self-mastery. Regardless of what life gives us we must remember "I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul" as in William Earnest Henley's poem *Invictus*.

ORGANIZATION BUILDING OF NOMADIC SHEPHERDS COMMUNITY

Report for the period 1st August 2016 to 31st January 2017

Location of the Project/Area of operation: 12 Districts of North Karnataka divided into 3 zones. These are covered by Workers; Self Help Groups of the zonal federations of men and women based at Belgaum. This of GPs, Leaders of Shepherds' their federation Belagavi and Cooperative Societies and Directors of various District Central Cooperative Banks.



different Village Level the districts constitute women and the three Federation of men and also includes the leaders Cooperative Socs and Directors of Shepherds'

Brief Description measures of implemented

Capacity Building/training of Men federation member at Zonal Level : We conducted a total of 5 trainings for 118 leaders with the help of 15 Resource persons at 4 different places, viz. Vanivilaspur, Savnoor, Koppal & Yaragatti.

Impact:

- ✓ All the issues raised in the zonal federation meetings have been affectively tackled through direct negotiations, by net working and in some areas through protest by the members of the community.
- ✓ The fed leaders have immense support from the community and also from the Govt officials. There is high level of awareness and commitment among the leaders which resulted in successful redressal of the issues.

Capacity Building / Training of North Karnataka Men Federation Leaders: We successfully conducted one training program at Rural Out Reach Centre, Belgaum for 25 leaders with the help of 2 Resource Persons.

Impact:

- ✓ Improved the functioning of zonal federations, sharpened the skills of the leaders, this can be seen effectively in the negotiations and net working results in the villages and towns, there is great awareness about success of our shg's, zonal and NK Federation Activities. The officials very quickly respond to the issues raised by the leaders. All over the region there is a wave of synergy in leadership, and in the various activities of self help groups, as a result our vlws find it very convenient in organizing community programs, training sessions and in the formation of new shgs and shepherd's cooperative societies.
- ✓ As can be seen during the training and net working the shepherds are in the forefront asking questions and getting satisfactory replies. Often Govt and the officials are taken to task whenever dificient services are provided.

Training for Registered shepherds' co operative society's office bearers @ Central Level Though this training was not budgeted during these six months yet on demand from the leaders of shepherd's cooperatives and with their own finances one training was conducted at the District veterinarian's conference hall at Belagavi for 70 leaders with the help of 5 Resource Persons.

Training of Regional Level shepherds' co operative society leaders : : The regional trainings for the leaders of shepherd cooperatives was not budgeted, due to demand from the regional leaders we have successfully conducted 13 training programs for 738 leaders with their own finances and with the support of 57 Resource Persons.

Impact:

- ✓ The trainings has opened up vast areas for discussion and review of the shepherding profession and the various issues affecting the livelihoods. The review on implementation of various projects by the Govt that have not shown satisfactory results was put for debate and the failures were evaluated, and the course correction

was documented and sent to the KSWDC. New issues are emerging as the shepherd leadership is progressively participating in evaluating the govt programs.

Networking with NGO/Govt @ zonal level 20 members (men and women) 3 zones :
We have conducted a total of 6 zonal level net working sessions with the help of 119 men leaders at 6 different places.

Impact:

- ✓ The shepherd leaders of zonal networking have achieved a high degree of self confidence and are motivated to know that they can handle various issues all by themselves through proper training, documentation and representation. The community leadership also has provided strong support to the net working team and respects the efforts put forth by JJ staff.

Capacity Building of Zonal Leaders (Women) at Zonal Level (20 Members) :

Impact:

- ✓ The case studies of various developments, the IGAs investments and other projects taken up by shgs is motivating other members and prompting the other shgs to explore various other avenues of income generations in their villages.
- ✓ The unity and innovation can be seen as the shgs are maturing and are creating impact in their villages pertaining to IGAs, securing livelihoods and utilization of local resources and Govt projects.
- ✓ The shg women have become strong leaders in their villages and the community respects them immensely. The IGAs have improved the livelihoods and the educational status of the shepherding children and the overall health of the families.
- ✓ There has been a positive impact on the women attending the GP meetings this is reflected in the form of excellent net working sessions leading to improved infrastructure of the villages.

Capacity Building and Training of North Karnataka Women Federation : We conducted one training program for NK women federation leaders as planned for 38 leaders with 3 Resource Persons at ROC Belagavi.

Impact:

- The memorandum prepared by NK women to the Central Net Working team regarding the low wages to wool value addition affecting the livelihoods has brought good results as the KSWDC has announced setting aside Rs.400 Mio for the wool value addition in the State.

- A similar representation by the NK women to the Central Net Working team for an improved income through seed ram production has led to the announcement of the scheme by KSWDC to provide Rs.2500 for every seed ram produced as subsidy.
- The NK Federation of women training is providing useful inputs to the Central Net Working teams this has ultimately helped all the shgs and the shepherd populations.
- The self esteem among the leaders has increased and the leadership has been constantly improving and maturing. New leaders have emerged due to constant upgrading in the rank and file of shgs.

Trainings in Production of Ethno-Veterinary Medicines at shg Cluster and Cooperative society level : We conducted a total of 59 trainings at 52 different villages for 366 men and 1432 women a total of 1798 trainees producing as many as 10 different medicines.

Impact:

- Preservation of traditional knowledge, reduction in the cost of treatments without side effects, economizing the cost of treatment, Entry in to organic market.

Formation of new shepherds' cooperative societies of women, men and mixed cooperative societies:

We have formed 11 new shepherds cooperative societies 10 of them are mixed of men and women and one exclusively a women cooperative society with a total membership of 1997 and a share capital of Rs.1.25 Mio.

Impact:

- The shepherding community is gradually understanding the importance of cooperative movement, the existing cooperatives are happy that their strength has increased and new leaders have strengthened the shepherd cooperative federation.
- The formation of shepherd cooperatives has enabled the new members to demand for the supply of de wormers, vaccines, fodder seeds, subsidies, Seed Rams, 10+1 & 100+4 unit schemes and streamline the death compensation in their villages.
- KSWDC staff visited the new members and invited them to attend the training programs organized by KSWDC at Bengaluru.
- There is lot of enthusiasm among the shepherds to get organized into cooperatives this has motivated JJ staff and the community leadership; more and more people are getting organized; this is necessary for the development of the community. The local political bodies are also gearing up to take advantage of this organization building and extending their support.
- The KSWDC and the shepherd federations are also happy that more shepherds are coming into the fold of cooperative net work. They appreciate the efforts put forth by JJ in organizing the grassroots of the community.

Value Addition to Wool: Motivated the existing spinners from the existing shgs and the shepherd cooperatives and weavers for wool value addition.

Impact:

- The cooperative societies have started renovating wool go downs and have received subsidized carding machines, shearing machines, training centers and other inputs that are necessary for the wool value addition. The shgs and the cooperatives together have utilized 71038 kgs of wool and produced 18398 blankets valued at Rs.22.1 Mio. During this period the wages for the spinners and weavers stood around Rs.215- Rs.250 per day. And we expect this wages to increase as the Govt is planning to provide additional incentives to the spinners and weavers. This is also helping SHG spinners and weavers indirectly.

Value Addition to wool by Registered Shepherds' cooperative Societies: We worked with the 17 cooperatives for the wool value addition motivating 658 spinners and 521weavers from 14 villages. The spinners and weavers of the cooperatives in the 14 villages were constantly encouraged, motivated to segregate quality wool and produced quality blankets. We provided them with the market information on the prices of wool in different markets and the cost of various quality blankets that are in demand.

Impact:

- The cooperative societies have been provided subsidies for purchase of wool, equipments, construction of go downs, training centers, they have utilized 61038 kgs of wool and produced 14898 blankets.

IGA Seed Ram Production by the Self Help Groups for the preservation of Deccani Breed: 174 shgs from 103 villages with a shg membership of 446 produced 473 seed rams valued at Rs.5.67 million.

Impact:

- Through this program large areas in the project have very good number of quality seed material of Deccani Breed. The shepherds have realized the importance of sustaining and improving the breed qualities, and year after year, the cost of seed rams is increasing, presently the cost of each seed ram in the age group of 7-8 months is between Rs.30-60 thousand. The KSWDC has also realized the importance of preserving and promotion of Deccani breed and have provided a subsidy of Rs.2500 on each ram produce.

Fattening of Weaned Lambs by the shgs for the protection of livelihoods : During the 6 months 456 shgs from 214 villages with the membership of 1699 produced 1727 lambs valued at Rs.8.63 milloons.

Impact:

- Large number of shg members are involved in lamb fattening production system all over the project area. On their own they are capable of procuring the young lambs from the selected flocks and purchase good quality and procure quality grass (fodder) for these young lambs. The shg women have skillfully attained higher weight gains in their fattened animal compared to National breed average. This has been appreciated by the veterinarians of the KSWDC. In the market a lamb is priced around Rs.5000-Rs.5500 whereas a fattened lamb of 25 kgs raised by shg women fetches close to Rs.7500. This trend has resulted large expansions of investments in this sector.

Improvement of livelihoods through Goat Breeding : 472 shgs from 234 villages with the membership of 1534 bred 1882 goats valued at Rs. 14.11 Million.

Impact:

- ✓ Goat breeding has become a self sustaining income generation activity. The trainings provided by JJ have improved the nutritional status of the animals. The medications and de wormers and vaccinations provided free of cost by the Dept of AHVS has brought down the mortality, the fodder seeds have produced quality fodder improving the nutrition and productivity in the animals. There is great demand for quality goats in the market. And due to this the SHGs are planning higher investments in this sector.

Scaling up of the IG and enlarging the investments of shg members through Dairy farming and Buffalo Breeding : 206 villages with shgs are active in breeding the buffalos. Their membership is 1218 and breeding 1332 buffalos valued at Rs.33.30 million.

Impact:

- The livelihoods of the shg women are well protected by a sustained mix of lamb fattening, goat breeding and dairy farming. The commercial banks are providing the financial assistance to the shg women with a high confidence of repayment. The overall improvement in the financial scenario is helping the shg women for investing huge sums of money into IGAs, education of the children, improvement of soil, and water resources and investing in fodder production.

Promotion of Fodder Production for improvement of nutrition among the livestock : Gave 122 beneficiaries from 61 villages 293 kgs of maize, shede, chogachi and fodder samplings to overcome the fodder crises in the villages.

Impact:

- ✓ The shg members which exclusively dependent on livestock such as lamb fattening, goat breeding, and dairy farming have developed a sustainable chain of fodder supply so as not to disturb productivity of the animals; this awareness is spreading among other members and new comers into this IGA. The Govt of Karnataka has also realized the potential for fodder production and is constantly providing quality fodder seeds to the shg women and the farmers round the year.

Promotion of nontraditional income generation activities for the protection of livelihoods of shg women : During the reporting period 108 shgs from 71 villages with the membership of 404 were involved in various Non Traditional IGAs valued at Rs.10.57 million.

Impact:

- The shg women have become self sufficient economically and socially. They are well united sharing their success stories among themselves. This profession is highly sustainable with the high growth potential, the profits are substantial and the prosperity among these members is reflected in the form of high esteem, promotion of education among children and in a overall improvement in the leadership and personality.

Capacity building of field Staff: We completed 6 staff training sessions for 12 days for 84 participants with the help of 14 Resource Persons.

We have been successful in training our vlws in various aspects of organization building taking into consideration the present scenario of highly developed leadership among the shgs, federations and shepherd cooperatives. Managing the training programs of these leaders needs higher skills and motivation; with the help of suitable resource persons we have brought in higher discipline and accountability among our cadres. For the achievement of high success rate in the various zonal level and central net working sessions we have equipped our vlws with the latest skills of negotiations, documentations, and dialogue. The performance of various objectives in the project area speaks for itself of the leadership and confidence in our vlws. Going beyond the target in the number of zonal trainings, shgs, net working and formation of new shgs and shepherd cooperatives shows a progressive approach in the OB process.

Impact:

- JJ Vlws have helped in evolving new leadership among all the cadres of shg, zonal feds, NK feds, and the shepherd cooperatives. They were instrumental in the formation of NK and Karnataka shepherd cooperative federation based at Belagavi and Bengaluru. Through the progressive approach and motivation all the traditional

and nontraditional IGAs have improved ; they have organized 90 training programs and helped in the formation of 11 new shepherd cooperatives. We have been successful in mobilizing hundreds of shepherds for various campaigns.

Strengthening And Consolidation Of OB Process

To encourage the growth and expansion and consolidation of the self help groups for the overall socio economic, cultural and political development of the shepherding community:

SHG Status Half year Report-Chart							
Status of SHG As on 31st January 2017							
Sl. No.	V.L.W.	No. Women SHGs	No. Members	No. Men SHGs	No. Members	Total SHGs	Total Members
1	Ajit Hulolli	99	1265	26	343	125	1608
2	Basangoud	76	1170	54	845	130	2015
3	Krishnmurthy	75	936	20	253	95	1189
4	Mudakapp	152	2006	54	845	206	2851
5	Nagamma	69	1036	39	637	108	1673
6	Padeppa	99	1365	32	449	131	1814
7	Prakash	76	1031	44	606	120	1637
8	Ramesh	77	1018	38	495	115	1513
9	Ranganath	102	1332	34	494	136	1826
10	Yallappa	156	2042	27	393	183	2435
	Total	981	13201	368	5360	1349	18561
	As on July 16	928	12539	357	5219	1285	17758
	Additions	53	662	11	141	64	803

For the reporting period we added 53 new women shgs with the membership of 662 and 11 men shgs with the membership of 141.

We are in the phase of consolidation of our shgs with very good results of self sustenance and confidence among the shg cadres there is still a good demands for formation of new shgs, our vlws have accommodated such shgs and incorporated them in the zonal trainings, NK training and the net working sessions that are organized regularly. We have also involved in the formation of new shepherd cooperatives through stringent participatory dialogues and identification of leadership suitable to carry forward the cooperative movement.

Impact:

- The evolution of the strong leadership in shgs, the zonal federations, the NK federations and the cooperative societies is the direct result of high importance given to building their capacities and leadership. The effect of organization building has expanded the scope for higher commitment towards income generation, education of the children, health and hygiene of the stakeholders in the villages. The success stories all over the project area are an indicator that the OB process is on the track and expanding, thereby transforming the shepherd community as a whole.

Contribution to any other development activities in the target area during the reporting period:

- We have with the help of our team of leaders assisted in organizing and forming the State Level KARNATAKA COOPERATIVE SHEEP & GOAT REARERS FEDERATION, BENGALURU.
- Through net working issues such as compensation for death of ruminants were facilitated.
- Distribution of Fodder Seeds is taken up through vet hospitals. Many other live stock owners are also receiving the fodder seeds thereby enlarging the scope of fodder production.
- The non utilization of Grants of Rs. 145 Million by APMC for starting live weight sheep marketing was taken up with the KSWDC and the Govt of Karnataka.
- The release of one time grant of Rs.5 lakhs to 70 shepherd cooperative societies was taken up, and the process of distribution has started.
- The popularity of shepherd's cooperatives has increased; many more of our shg members are also joining the cooperative net work.
- Initiated the commercial production of new vaccines for mycoplasma and Blue Tongue.
- Opening of new diagnostic labs was accepted by the Govt of Karnataka four new labs have become operational in the State.
- 18 New Mobile Clinics exclusively for shepherds have been introduced to help the nomadic shepherds.
- The awareness program on education has improved enrolment in the schools for the shepherd children.
- JJ staff and leaders of various federations and cooperative societies act as a team; they have been successful in mobilizing the shepherds in hundreds and thousands to various programs organized by Govt of Karnataka and shepherd federation.
- There is reduction in the atrocities on the women and reduction in the incidence of child marriages.
- There is over all awareness on securing the flocks from thieves thereby reducing the number of sheep thefts in the project area.

- The Ethno Vet training has increased the expansion; many more non shg livestock owners got training and produce & use Ethno Vet drugs successfully.
- The response and the effectiveness of support and rehabilitation for those affected through natural calamities and during accidents are very quick by the community members.
- The shepherd leaders and the community members whole heartedly participate in the net working sessions as a body and with common concern; such unity has grown all over the project area.

Problems/Risks and ways/means of tackling the same:

- ❖ Problem in getting timely death compensation; this was resolved through pressurizing through net working with the local veterinarian, Tahasildar, Deputy Director, Commissioner, Director, Minister of Animal Husbandry and a Chairman of KSWDC.
- ❖ Creating awareness among the beneficiaries of death compensation; the various documentation need to be carried out while submitting for claim.
- ❖ Not sanctioning of one time grant of Rs.5 lakhs to 70 remaining cooperative societies has been solved by making representation to Chief Minister of Karnataka, the Minister of Animal Husbandry and the President and MD of KSWDC and by facilitating the cooperative societies to produce Audit Report, AGM Report, and other necessary documents.
- ❖ Problem of not starting live weight marketing by APMCs even after the receipt of Rs.50 lakhs grants to APMC. Representation was made to the APMCs the Minister of Animal Husbandry and MD KSWDC this has enabled starting of civil works in many markets.
- ❖ There is out break of Mycoplasma all over the project area resulting in heavy mortality. Representation was made to KSWDC, Director IAHVB, and field samples were provided by shepherd and JJ staff. The test vaccine is under production.
- ❖ Acute shortage of fodder and water during the drought months. Representation is made to all the Districts and State officials through net working. The Govt has promised quick action.

Case studies/stories of change:

Name of the Person: **Mrs Ningavva Gadigeppa Karigar, Age 36**, Name of the SHG: Surymadevi, Village: Yarikittur, Taluka : Ramdurg, District: Belagavi, Family: One son - Irranna aged 18 studying for BA, Daughters: Seema, aged 15 studying SSLC, and Yallamma aged 13 in 7th Class

During the meeting of Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna Men shg at Yarikittur of Ramdurg Taluka, JJ activist Mr. Sanjay Upari and Mr. Prakash Basaligundi told the members about the benefits of shg

and Income Generation Activities and usage of Government schemes. Mrs. Ningavva Gadigeppa Karigar was present for that meeting.

When she knew how the shg has benefitted shepherds, she expressed her desire to join a shg. JJ staff suggested that she formed a new shg and she agreed. Later, a new shg named SHRI SURYAMADEVVI was born. She was elected as one of the leaders of that shg.

After some months, by attending regular meetings, she and other members understood the procedure of Income Generation Activities. And she came forward to start Seed Ram Production. She borrowed Rs. 10000 from shg and brought 2 male lambs. JJ VLW Mr. Prakash Basaligundi guided her in the selection of the lambs.

After rearing those 2 seed rams with good feed concentrate and fodder, within six months she sold those lambs for Rs.36000 (Rs. 18000 each).

She invested part of the income for her childrens' education. She invested Rs.10000 for her son Iranna's BA studies and Rs. 6000 for her daughter Seema's SSLC study. With the remaining amount she bought 2 goats for Rs.12000 and used Rs.8000 to repay part of her shg loan.

As the leader of shg, she wanted other women to benefit. She shared her story and her achievement. The women appreciated her effort and showed interest in joining shg movement. Due to her efforts four more shgs were formed, viz Mahalaxmi shg, Laxmidevi shg, Durgadevi shg and Banashankaridevi shg.



Ningavva is a shepherd woman who works along with her husband Mr. Gadigeppa. Now she is the owner of six goats. Her husband supports her to rare the goats. Later she got "Basav Vasat Yojane" housing scheme form the Gram Panchayat.

She Met GP President Mr. Desai Gowda Patil and requested him to sanction houses to Dyamava

Hakki and Gadigeppa Karigar and she succeeded. And she got for the village concrete road and drainage facility under "Swachh Bhima Yojane" and eight toilets for members of four shgs. She motivated other shg members to involve in Goat breeding and Seed Ram Production.

She helped the poorer of the shg members to get BPL cards. From Mahalaxmi shg, Dyamavva Karigar and Siddavva Kaladgati, from Laxmidevi shg Meenaxi Havalli and Sumangala Karigar and from Durgadevi shg Shobha Kittur and Dyamavva Madar got BPL cards with the help of the GP President.

She and her shg members put pressure on Anganwadi Centre to provide quality food which came from the Women and Child Welfare Department and to maintain the quality of the mid day meals at Government Higher Primary school at Yarikittur.

She appreciates gratefully JJ's efforts to empower the shepherd community and says, "because of JJ, I have grown; I have become courageous and I learnt to reachout to others; I get a lot of appreciation form my community and the village".

Summarized appraisal and self-assessment

The partnership between the Jana Jagaran and the shepherding community is developing a strong platform of leadership through building of community based organizations such as Self Help Groups, Zonal Federation of Men and Women, the Apex Federation of Men and Women and a strong body of North Karnataka & Karnataka Shepherd Cooperative Federation allied with more than 600 shepherds' cooperatives is a successful experiment. The community has transformed itself more progressively taking advantage of various training programs for empowerment and capacity building of the leaders and members. Mobilising majority of the community which constitutes nearly 8% of the State population and many of them with nomadic life style was a challenging task for Jana Jagaran Staff.

The active participation of the community leaders, youth, men and women from SHGs, Zonal and Apex federation and cooperative societies in organizing training and net working sessions is commendable.

The Govt agencies such as the Dept of AH&VS, the KS&WDC, the IAH&VB, the G.Ps and all Taluka and District level officers responded positively and helped to access various Govt projects and facilities which helped them in consolidating their livelihood, and remove obstacles to their successful development. The community is ever grateful to the foresight and vision of Jana Jagaran and sustained effort of JJ staff to make their dreams come true.

BIOGAS PLANT CUM TOILET UNIT

(Green Energy & Improvement of Livelihoods of Rural Households)

Main objectives:

To contributes to: livelihoods of rural households; land productivity through increased organic manure soil fertility; women empowerment and gender equity; environment through the protection of forests and reduction of greenhouse gases

Measures (activities) and instruments used to achieve the objectives:

Awareness building and selection of beneficiaries:The project coordinator conducted a number of meetings with the project personnel including the local supervisors, masons and the internal monitors. In such meetings, he briefed the stakeholders regarding the selection of target villages. The details of the project such as targets, implementation, finances and own contributions were explained. All awareness building measures were conducted in an informal and friendly atmosphere. In all the villages, the cooperation of the people was remarkably good. The credit for it goes to SAS local supervisors. They made sure that the selected households had enough space for the construction of the unit and enough cow dung and water to maintain the plant. They also helped the households to overcome personal and cultural barriers regarding cooking on gas from units with toilets.

Training of local masons and local staff: The NGO has more than 60 trained masons and a number of local supervisors to construct *Deenabandhu* model biogas plants. During the training the NGO had focused on: techniques of construction and maintenance of *Deenabandhu* Biogas plant, materials needed and the specifications of quality and quantity, structural design and understanding its measurements and techniques of construction, cultural/ritual barriers and how to overcome them.

Construction of biogas plants cum toilets: During the reporting period (financial year 2016-17) 711 poor rural households got a biogas plant cum toilet unit each. The average family size was 6 persons. The plants were mostly of 2m³ capacity of gas which were able to cover the daily energy needs for cooking of the family's food.

Training of the beneficiaries: From the day of the decision to construct the unit, till its actual commissioning, SAS staff interacted intensely with the beneficiary households and instructed them on the initial charging of the unit, its maintenance and effective use of biogas and manure. The beneficiary household had to actively participate in the construction process by doing unskilled labour. Training of beneficiaries and being in touch with them before, during and after the construction of the unit is the uniqueness of SAS.

Claiming subsidy from the Government and creating a special funds: The beneficiary households authorised SAS, who is a registered Turn-Key agent with the government, to collect the subsidy for biogas plants on their behalf. All the project staff of SAS worked hard to prepare and present all the documents to the concerned authorities in order to claim the subsidy. The whole procedure for claiming subsidy was very time consuming, challenging and filled with many hurdles and bottlenecks.

Process and impact oriented project monitoring

The local supervisors who supported and monitored the construction process in the villages, reported weekly to the project supervisor about the progress of implementation. The project supervisor regularly visited the construction sites and helped the beneficiaries in the process of awareness building and hands-on-training on biogas plants cum toilet units and the effective use and maintenance of the same.

He reported every two weeks to the project coordinator, who also on and off accompanied him to the construction sites. The project coordinator organised monthly meetings with all project staff. During such meetings the project progress was monitored for each village, the further work was planned (targets, necessary resources) and the lists of beneficiaries were up-dated. The office staff and driver reported daily to the project coordinator, under whose direction they carried out their varied tasks. The project coordinator and project supervisor discussed/ monitored monthly the progress of project implementation. The concerned departments of the government and its officials at the village council, taluka, district, state and even national levels verified that the units were constructed as per specification and that the units were functional and used by the beneficiary households.

Further development activities which have their origin in this project

The project made a remarkable difference for the selected households. The project had a very positive gender dimension. Biogas Plant cum Toilet Unit was a boon to the women; and they benefited the most from it. It provided them a better living environment. Their scramble for fuel to cook their food, often a day's work; their dependance on dried cattle dung as cooking fuel with the resultant smoky kitchens with its bad effects on the health of women and children, all such issues were tackled by the introduction of the biogas plant cum toilet units. The project put an end to the smoke filled kitchens, a major cause of lung and eye diseases, and provided a large quantity of organic manure for agriculture.

Whether it is North Karnataka, South Karnataka or Central Karnataka, the situation is the same as far as toilet facility is concerned. There is a long wait until dark for defecation in the open. The situation of women waiting for darkness to relieve themselves is the sad story of our State. The households, that had a biogas plant-cum-toilet-unit, had a different story to narrate. The project gave them the luxury of a clean and safe toilet and all the other benefits it entails.

The project provided the beneficiary households a large quantity of high-class organic manure and as a result many households started organic kitchen gardens to grow their

vegetables and many of them returned to organic farming and drastically reduced use of chemical fertilizers.

The project has been a great help in the area of non-conventional energy. It achieved directly and explicitly the goals of climate protection and conservation of forests and biodiversity, sustainable development and gender mainstreaming.

Biogas Plant and climate change: Biogas Plant is a fantastic device for reducing CH₄ emissions through improved manure and night soil management. Biogas systems also produce slurry that can be applied directly to agriculture fields instead of using untreated dung. This also leads to reduced methane emissions.

Biogas Plant and the rural community: The project created awareness in the community about the necessity and usefulness of biogas plants cum toilet unit; constructed and commissioned 711 biogas-cum-toilet units for 711 households during the financial year; and trained the beneficiary households in plant maintenance and proper utilization of biogas as cooking fuel and the spent-waste as organic manure.

Biogas Plant and the cross-sector issue gender equality: Biogas is life-saving because women and small children often confined to a smoke-filled kitchen area for much of the day no longer face an almost certain future of respiratory illness. It is life-saving because women no longer have to spend days searching for sticks or hacking trees in the jungle risking dangerous snakes and wild animals and assault from men. The time that they save can be spent on anything from enjoying the company of family, learning new things and engaging in income generating activities. Children definitely can spend that time in school and learning. The spent slurry from the biogas plant is a potent and easy-to-work fertilizer that dramatically increases crop productivity and food security and works as an incentive for organic farming.

Thus the little blue flame became a symbol of hope and a powerful tool for reducing poverty and enhancing human dignity and renewable '*green energy*' in the rural landscape.

CASE STUDY

Name of the beneficiary: Sangeeta Suresh Mugli, Village: Ankle, Taluka: Hukkeri,
Year: 2016, Supervisor: Shankar, (In the Photo Sangeeta)



Sangeeta Suresh Mugali, age 37, studied up to 5th standard. Her husband Suresh, age 48, did not attend any school. He is a daily wage laborer. They have five children: Rajashree is 19 and married after SSLC, Radhika is 16 and studies in 10th standard, Laxmi is 11 and studies in 8th standard, Rupali is 9 years old and studies in 4th standard and Omkar is 5 years and goes to LKG year. Both the husband and wife work hard to provide good

education to their children.

Suresh and Sangeeta own one acre land in which they grow sugarcane and groundnuts. They have a cow and two buffaloes. They do not have sufficient income for their children's education and household expenses. It was very difficult to get firewood for cooking. If they did not gather firewood or harvest residues, they had to buy cart loads of firewood at Rs. 2,000 - 2,500 per load. Once they brought the wood, it had to be protected from rains and white ants. Sangeeta along with her daughters went to the nearby forest to collect firewood and saved some money. The school going girls missed their school often. They faced dangers too. Once, when Laxmi was carrying wood on her head, a bull chased her. She ran and tumbled. Some men passing by came to her rescue.

They were very happy to know about Jana Jagaran's BMZ supported project. Sangeeta exclaimed, *"That was the most welcome news for our family. We rightly thought that it would solve our problem of fetching firewood and open defecation. We readily agreed and got the biogas plant cum toilet unit constructed. That is the most valuable asset we have."*

After the installation of the biogas plant cum toilet unit, they spent more time in their farm. The children manage the cooking with ease. They attend to the household works by turns and find extra time for studies. They attend school regularly. They never imagined that the biogas intervention would benefit them in so many ways.

Student Sponsorship - 'Mahadevi Project'

Everyone has many hidden talents within. What is lacking is the '**OPPORTUNITY**' to discover and develop. 'Mahadevi Project' gave opportunity to many poor youth who wanted to do professional studies. Mahadevi Project has completed thirteen years. During that period, it helped 253 students and their families. The project reached out, with interest free financial assistance, to deserving students to meet the expenses of their professional courses.

Mahadevi Bhadarwadi, the reason for starting the Mahadevi Project, now works as a staff nurse in a government hospital at Ramdurg not very far from her village and earns a handsome salary. She repaid her educational loan. The determination, confidence and joy that one sees on her face is amazing. The girl, who otherwise would have been a daily wage worker, has become a role model for many others.

2016-17 Mahadevi Project reached out to 14 students and with the sum of Rs. 1,196,356 and enabled poor students to pursue the study of their choice and make their dream come true.

XAVIER FARM

Nestled along the outskirts of Machhe and Santibastwad villages, Xavier Farm is an ideal place to experience the marvels of nature and learn with Nature. Xavier Farm is managed and developed under the aegis of SAS for the past 19 years. Two Jesuits of the Goa Jesuit Province, Joseph Chenakala sj, and Santosh Vas sj resided there by night and oversaw the farm activities. During the day, they engaged themselves in the other Integral Rural Development Initiatives of SAS.

Covering over an area of 35 acres, Xavier Farm engages in agricultural, horticulture and dairy management. The day-to-day care of the farm is entrusted to three husband and wife pairs. SAS cultivates in the farm like Maize, Sweet Potatoes, fodder grass and a variety of vegetables. There are also mango, jackfruit, coconut, banana, papaya plantations in addition medicinal plants. It is being developed as organic farm. The fruits are naturally ripened without the use of chemicals. Farm provides people a chance to taste fruits and vegetables and milk without contamination. Farm also provides livelihoods for many persons from the neighboring villages and some income for SAS. The farm supplies fresh milk to a number of institutions in Belagavi at reasonable rates. The cow dung serves as feed for the biogas plant, which supplies biogas as cooking fuel to all the families that reside in the farm and rich biogas manure for farming activities.

SAS has taken up the care of the farm as a challenge in the spirit of '*Laudato Si'*'. It believes that the portion of the blue planet entrusted to the care of Goa Jesuits and now to SAS needs to be developed for the common good. "*On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')*" is the new appeal from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. '*Laudato Si'*' is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.

The farm has been the venue for various meetings, training programs and outings for schoolchildren and families from Belagavi. SAS used the facilities in the farm for conducting training for the participants/beneficiaries of its initiatives in the area of Women Empowerment, Community Health, Functional Vocational Training, Organization Building of Nomadic Pastoralists, Organic Farming, and Training in Herbal Medicines for human and veterinary use. The Xavier Farm also provided lodge and board facilities during their field visits to groups of students studying for Masters in Social Work, representatives of other NGOs and funding partners who came to SAS for a lived in exposure cum experience in the field of Integral Rural Development.

SAS VISITORS

Students from the universities of India and abroad and activists of NGOs, representatives of banks, women's groups and government departments and funding partners regularly visit us.

German Benefactors Visit Xavier Farm and JJ Projects

On 11 Nov morning, Frs Joe and Tom Chenakala and Santosh warmly welcomed our German guests at Xavier Farm Machhe. After they settled down, Joe gave them an input on "*Indian Caste System and its influence on development of the poor*" with the help of video clippings. Joe explained to them how caste system kept almost 20% of the Indian population away from the mainstream occupation and society. He pointed out that untouchability was the cruelest feature of the caste system. Joe took time to answer the guests' queries and to clarify their doubts.

After a short break for tea, the guests were back in the conference room and Joe shared with them the various initiatives of Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh (*Jana Jagaran*). He pointed out that *Jana Jagaran* was an experiment at the grass roots for the creation of a better world, that it tried to alleviate poverty and promote human dignity and freedom, that it worked for the rights of people to sufficient and nutritious food, good health,

education, employment and a dwelling place in a clean and healthy environment with opportunity to participate in the decision making process that affects their lives.



After lunch, Joe showed the guests the farm – the dairy, crops, solar installation, and a biogas cum toilet unit and explained to them the numerous benefits of a biogas cum toilet unit. Fr Tom Chenakala exhibited handcraft items made by the SHG women. Some guests purchased them.

On 12 Nov at 8.30 am, Joe and Santosh met the guests at their hotel and accompanied them to JJ's project villages. They visited Suthkatti village and interacted with women and men at MGNREGA work site. When one of the guests appreciated the hard manual labor of the people, one woman said, *"We prefer to work and earn our livelihoods rather than get the work done by machines"*. Later, in Shivapur, the guests in groups of three accompanied the village women, who took them to their houses and showed them their homes and their biogas plant cum toilet units. The guests interacted with the members of the family over a cup of tea and snack and gathered firsthand information on the living condition of the rural households. The guests were delighted at the hospitality of the people and the beautiful attire and smiles of the women.

In Idhalhond some thirty SHG women had gathered in front of the temple. They welcomed the guests with flowers and the traditional *arati* and sat for a common meeting in their temple. During that meeting the women shared their achievements through JJ's the SHG movement. Prior to the meeting, the women had shown the guests their watershed program, drinking water well and biogas cum toilet units. The village women and the guests spent some quality time interacting with one another and singing songs and sharing snack and tea.

Though it was past 2.00 pm the guests were not tired. They moved to the next village Guramatti. There they had the opportunity to see the results of watershed work done earlier and study the dynamics of SHG movement. Finally the guests were back at their hotel at 5.30 pm after a short visit to the cemetery where they prayed at the tomb of Rev Fr. Reinhold Kiess.

François-Xavier Dupret from our partner ASTM

François-Xavier Dupret from our partner ASTM Luxembourg, was with us from 16th to 19th Nov 2016. He visited our project villages and documented our work for our funding partner ASTM. He got an opportunity to better understand our work and to see the motivation and engagement of Indian youth and the rural people to bring about the socio economic changes in the rural area.



MSW Students from College of Social Work Nirmal Niketan Mumbai

Dr. Kalyani Talvelkar, and Mr Sibi George faculty members along with 30 MSW 1st year students were with us from 16th -21st Nov 2016 for their rural exposure camp. They were accommodated at Xavier Farm Machhe.

On 16th November they had an opportunity to acquaint themselves about our organization and our filed initiatives. They interacted with some of our staff and learnt more about the organization and its various initiatives.

On 17th November they were taken to villages in Khanapur Taluka to interact with women of SHGs and students of Functional Vocational Training Program. You also had the chance to interact with the beneficiaries of our Biogas cum Toilet Units.

On 18th November they visited and interacted with villagers who worked under MGNREGA, and with SHG women and the beneficiaries of our earlier watershed program.

On 19th Nov they did '*Shramdaan*' at Xavier Farm Machhe and put in 8 hours work and sweated it out and enjoyed for a day the care free life of a daily wage earner.

On 20th Nov they visited the villages in Bailhongal Taluka and interacted with nomadic shepherds and experienced their life styles. They also visited SHG units and other initiates in the area. They had a camp fire in Christ Niwas Nesargi late in the evening. The hostel boys of Christ Niwas joined in the camp fire. After supper - return journey to Xavier Farm. On 21st Nov they did the evaluation of the Camp, packing and cleaning and their departure to Mumbai

MBA STUDENTS OF St.Aloysius College Mangalore 13- 17 Jan 2017



Forty nine MBA students from St. Aloysius College Mangalore were with SAS for a rural exposure program from January 13 to 17, 2017. An orientation was given to the students at Christ Niwas Nesargi to prepare them mentally to take up the challenges and difficulties with a positive attitude. They were given a good introduction to SAS and its rural programs. Students were placed in eight villages with 24 families. They shared four days the hospitality of those families and experienced rural life and its joys and sorrows. It was an enriching experience for all of them. Within four days, human hearts transcended all the differences of culture, religion and social background and reached a high level of relationship and union. It was expressed in tears on the day of departure.

Exposure program for Deepen Your Faith Group from PAI Raia, Goa



Seventeen participants of the Deepen Your Faith Group along with Frs Joe and Solon visited SAS Nesargi for a rural exposure program. They stayed at Christ Niwas for five days. One the first day they were



introduced to SAS and Christ Niwas. During the remaining four days informative and cultural programs were arranged in four different villages –Nesargi, Hanabaratti, Koladur and Madanbhavi. The team got a first hand experience of empowerment of women through SHG movement. They got an opportunity to interact with the hostel students of Christ Niwas, Nesargi and Maria Bhavan Madanbhavi. They witnessed the miracle of biogas and rural sanitation program in different villages. On the last day they visited Deshnr Math and experienced the meaning of inculturation and dialouge mission. It was an enriching and beautiful experience for all of them.

MSW Faculty and Students of Roshani Nilaya Mangalore -Field exposure visit to Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh on 23& 24 February 2017- Evelyn Benis and 7others.

The visitors were taken to a group of migratory shepherds with their flock in the open field of Kadoli village. They interacted with the shepherds and the sheep and the activists of SAS and gathered information regarding SAS's work among the nomadic shepherds of Karnataka State. And how the work among the shepherds have benefited the shepherding community all over the state of Karnataka. Later they interacted with SAS's Self Help Group Members and learnt how the Self Help Group Movement became a powerful engine of rural development and women empowerment.

The visitors also had insight into the NGO's Biogas and sanitation program. They learnt about the multiple benefits of this initiative – improving the economic situation and living conditions of the beneficiary households, reducing deforestation and green house gases, promoting biodiversity, also enhancing the dignity and privacy of women and girls. In spite of the deep ritual and cultural biases the NGO convinced thousands of rural households to have Biogas plant cum toilet units and to use the gas from those units for cooking their meals daily.

Loyola Vikas Kendra –Mundgod – 27 to 28 March 2017 – 32 persons

They got inputs on: Brief Introduction of SAS works, Empowerment of Traditional Shepherds, Dynamics of Shepherd's movement, Experience sharing, Community College & Student Sponsorship. They visited villages and gathered information on: Functional Vocational Training at Bambarga Center, Biogas plant cum toilet units in Kattanbhavi village, Group discussion at MGNREGA working site on: SHG functions and group dynamics, Panchayat Raj, FVT Centers opportunities and benefits, Watershed, MGNREGA, Biogas and Rural Sanitation

SAS STAFF

Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh (Jana Jagaran) has completed 39 years of uninterrupted service. It has left its mark on many lives in north Karnataka and in south Maharashtra, and more especially on the people of Belagavi district. Thousands of people have come in touch with the organization and have benefited from its various initiatives. Obviously, the credit goes to its dedicated staff and its funding partners. The greatest blessing that SAS has is its staff most of whom are from the communities it serves. They get joy and satisfaction in serving their brothers and sisters and neighbors; they spare no effort in reaching out to the poor and needy in their area of operation. Often they affirm: *“We are proud to work with a NGO that walks the talk”*. *“The respect we get, because we are part of the ‘Jana Jagaran’ movement from the organization, from the government*

officials, the beneficiary households and the general public, is more than what can be gained with all the money in the world.” “We are proud that the fruit of our hard work is benefitting the most deserving households, and it is no exaggeration to say that the beneficiaries are often our relatives, friends, neighbors.”

Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh and its staff, over the years, transformed themselves from service providers to organization builders. SAS movement is a story of teamwork, high motivation, dedication and commitment of its staff to the marginalized and underprivileged. SAS makes a difference because its staff honestly and sincerely tries to ‘walk the talk’.

SAS staff enjoys freedom; the luxury of doing always what they most enjoy doing. Each of them has beautiful experiences of empowering people, of building human communities based on values of peace, justice and love in harmony with nature and environment, as envisaged in the objective of the SAS. They move from village to village forming and animating SHGs, organizing Functional Vocational Training Centers, helping people to avail of various government schemes, spreading awareness on MGNREGA, and the like. Often, each staff is an organization by him/herself involved in multiple initiatives. Each one lives a purposeful life, knowing that the ultimate purpose of life is ‘*to serve and not to be served*’.

SAS personnel have the knack to work with all strata of society. They cater to school going children, school dropouts, youth, rural women and men, SC, ST and the high castes. They are versatile. They are effective communicators and organizers. Their vast knowledge and many years of grass roots experiences have made them master trainers. SAS team represents the cross section of the communities and social groups it serves – SC, ST, high caste, a spectrum of religious, social and political affiliation. The team is a model of inter religious; inter caste, and cultural harmony – unity in diversity, working together for the common good. SAS follows the cluster approach. Each of its staff can work from the homestead, reaching out to a number of villages with a variety of rural and human development initiatives. The above aspects highlight the USP or the unique selling point of SAS.

Conclusion:

SAS did the work among the shepherds in partnership with Andheri-Hilfe, Mackestrass 53, 53119 Bonn, Germany. Andheri-Hilfe assisted SAS for the last 18 years in this work. This partnership greatly enhanced SAS’s capacity to reach out to shepherds across Karnataka State. The work has made a great impact on the shepherd community. SAS is immensely grateful to Andheri-Hilfe for its generous support. The support from the government and all the other stakeholders played a very positive role. The contribution of

Dr Zafrulla Baig, the program coordinator and other project personnel was immense. It is needless to say, that there is a lot more to do. The newly emergent community based organization – “Karnataka Sheep and Goat Shepherds’ Federation Ltd.” will, hopefully take forward the work to further heights along the ‘trail-blazed’ by SAS. SAS will continue being a catalyst, the inspiration.

Since last five years, SAS constructed biogas plantcum toilet units for rural households in partnership with BMZ/Andheri-Hilfe, Mackestrasse 53, 53119 Bonn, Germany. This partnership greatly enhanced SAS’s capacity to reach out to larger numbers of poor households in the rural areas of Belagavi District. SAS is immensely grateful to BMZ/Andheri-Hilfe for their generous support. The support from the government in the form of subsidy and incentive also played a very positive role. The contribution of SAS staff has been admirable. The initiatives have made a great impact on the beneficiary households and other stakeholders. It is needless to say that there is a lot more to be done to fully actualize the tremendous potential of biogas plant cum toilet units to overcome the crisis of cooking fuel and CH⁴ emission and disposal of night soil in Belagavi and other districts of Karnataka and other parts of India. The Advisory Board on Energy, in its report “Toward a Perspective on Energy Demand and Supply in India in 2004/5”, estimated the Indian potential for family-based Biogas plants at 16-22 million. It is only through the intervention and wholehearted dedication of many more trailblazers that India can come anywhere close to its potential.

Since last many years Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM), 55, av de la Liberté, L-1931 Luxembourg, Jesuitenmission, Königstr. 64, 90402 Nürnberg, Mr Rudolf Schleicher, Salzachstr 5, 81379 München, Germany, INTERSOL, Imbergstraße 2/3. Stock, 5020 Salzburg, Austria, have been SAS’s partners of its “Integrated Rural Development Programs”.

As SAS presents its annual report for 2016-2017 SAS expresses its deep and sincere appreciation and gratitude all the above partners and Goa Jesuit Provincial and the Province, the Jesuit Community of St Paul’s Belgaum, Bishop Peter Mchado and the Catholic Diocese of Belgaum, for their generous support to SAS over the past many years. We are also grateful to the Governmet machinery and its functionaries at various levels. SAS’s sincere thanks to its Chairman and Managing Committee members for their continued assistance and encouragement! The unstinted loyalty, hard work and dedication of its office and field staff, continue to be SAS’s strength at all times. May God bless all of them, SAS’s partners, friends, benefactors, well wishers!

Joseph Kurian Chenakala
For S A Sangh

August 2017