

Annual Report
2011-12

Reaching Beyond...



Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society
(Mahila Samakhya Project of Gol)

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(A MAHILA SAMAKHYA PROJECT OF G.O.I., REGD. NO. 3485/1992)

ANNUAL REPORT

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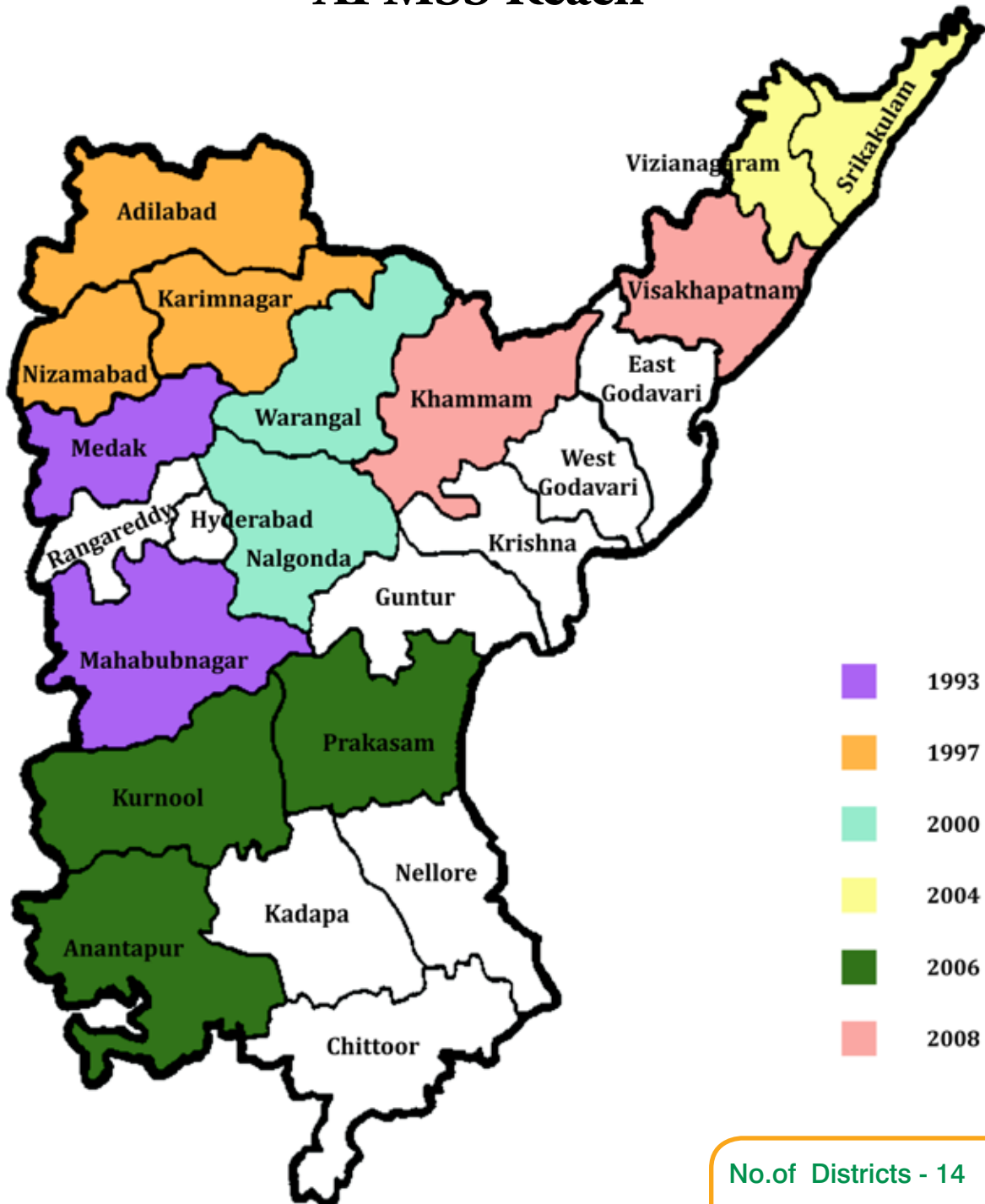
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APMSS Reach



No. of Districts - 14
 No. of Mandals - 117
 No. of Villages - 4824

About MS

The Programme

The Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society is a part of the Mahila Samakhya Project which was launched in the State in January, 1993.

Objectives

The Mahila Samakhya Prouject presupposes that education can be a decisive intervention toward women's equality. In this regard, its objectives are:

- To Create an Environment where women demand knowledge and information
- Enhance the self-image and self-confidence of women
- To enable women to determine their own lives and influence their environment, thus empowering them to play a positive role in their own development and the development of society.

Key Principles

In endeavouring to generate this demand, the programme seeks guidance not for targets, but from certain inviolable principles, which have been kept in mind at all stages of implementation.

- The programme is not hurried and does not have "targets", but is a self-paced process, built on existing knowledge and women's own priorities of learning.
- Women participants determine the form, nature, content and timing of all activities in their village.
- Planning, decision-making and evaluative processes are accountable to the collective of village women.
- Project functionaries and officials are facilitative and not directive.



Sl. No	Particulars	MDK	MNR	KNR	NZB	ADB	WRL	NLG	VZM	SKLM	PSM	ATP	KNL	VSP	KMM	Total
1	No. of Mandals covered	7	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	6	8	8	6	6	89
	No. of autonomous mandals	7	7	7	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
	Total Mandals	14	15	14	10	10	6	5	5	4	6	8	8	6	6	117
2	Coverage of Villages	255	335	270	257	281	304	295	272	268	276	250	255	260	250	3828
	Villages in autonomous mandals	199	259	279	132	234	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1103
	Re organized Villages	0	0	0	0	0	0	-13	0	-7	-53	-7	0	-27	0	-107
	Total Villages	454	594	549	389	515	304	282	272	261	223	243	255	233	250	4824
3	No. of sanghams	409	345	175	743	212	343	460	398	432	306	298	274	198	173	4766
	Sanghams in autonomous mandals	199	259	279	132	223	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1092
	Re organized sanghams	0	0	0	0	0	0	-58	0	-9	-35	0	0	-39	0	-141
	Total sanghams	608	604	454	875	435	343	402	398	423	271	298	274	159	173	5717
4	a) Sangham Membership in existing project mandals	14,738	11090	6,111	15,665	5024	22,556	26,177	16,375	15,694	6,609	9,426	9,221	4868	4150	167704
	b) Membership in autonomous mandals	5,085	10690	11,635	8,969	6,309	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42688
	Re organized membership	-111	0	0	0	0	0	-6,123	0	-169	-874	0	0	-1,135	0	-8412
	Total Membership	19,712	21,780	17,746	24,634	11,333	22,556	20,054	16,375	15,525	5,735	9,426	9,221	3,733	4,150	201,980
5	No. of core groups	81	98	4	76	42	176	208	142	122	39	0	41	0	0	1029
	Membership in core groups	2467	2045	174	4244	1059	9039	5597	4975	3114	935	0	992	0	0	34641
6	Total no. of literate sangham women	361	735	6408	63	1148	3,170	2532	839	2275	1425	611	330	500	488	20885
7 (a)	No. of women trained - Sangham women	1,023	122	274	580	1,859	638	2,591	2,094	4,529	432	703	888	265	0	15948
(b)	No. of women trained - Federation members	141	0	96	163	42	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	502
8	No. of MSKs	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16
	No. of learners at present	56	30	50	45	27	35	30	18	21	22	24	26	5	12	401
	No. of girls mainstreamed into Schools / Hostels / KGBVs	51	34	29	35	38	43	49	9	14	20	18	46	0	0	386

9	No. of Adult Learning Centres	800	516	481	450	440	447	260	355	291	267	358	309	208	149	5331
	No. of Learners	12,000	7,728	8,646	9,000	6,340	7,000	4539	5095	5004	4169	5213	4860	4094	2274	85962
10	No. of Bala Sanghas	146	161	68	106	93	250	226	225	156	205	193	181	63	84	2157
	Girls	1,845	2317	1404	1464	1449	6,032	4254	2672	2035	2307	3074	3216	1031	1050	34150
	Boys	1,531	1706	991	599	865	5,928	3701	2524	1565	1639	2303	3201	529	780	27862
	Total children	3,376	4,023	2,395	2,063	2,314	11,960	7,955	5,196	3,600	3,946	5,377	6,417	1,560	1,830	62,012
11	No. of Balasanghams in autonomous mandals	51	131	192	40	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	481
	No. of Girls	610	2210	2971	409	1039	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7239
	No. of Boys	386	1472	1866	271	481	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4476
	Total children	996	3682	4837	680	1520	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11715
12	No. of children enrolled*															
	Boys	42	2411	186	0	608	181	467	82	153	108	618	941	19	13	5829
	Girls	175	2666	186	0	640	353	568	296	210	256	546	924	23	40	6883
	Total children	217	5,077	372	0	1,248	534	1,035	378	363	364	1,164	1,865	42	53	12712
13	No. of sanghams received Sangham fund	20	35	261	150	46	40	25	0	25	0	62	15	0	0	679
14	NPEGEL clusters	336	232	384	272	193	352	360	216	114	272	224	268	120	45	3388
	No. of schools covered	2727	1545	3072	2281	2048	2963	2419	2099	1345	2758	1475	1576	1376	354	28038
15	Total No. of Women elected to PRIs	77	88	110	57	96	384	407	219	436	0	0	0	0	0	1874
	ZPTC	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	8
	MPTC/MPP	2	2	5	2	7	34	25	14	32	0	0	0	0	0	123
	Sarpanch	4	13	7	0	12	43	35	32	46	0	0	0	0	0	192
	Ward members	70	72	98	55	77	307	345	173	354	0	0	0	0	0	1551
15(a)	Total No. of EWRs joined in Sanghams	39	119	75	111	15	30	28	190	0	0	48	56	0	0	711
16	No. of Nari Adalats/ Nyaya Committees at Mandal/ federation level	5	7	7	1	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
	No. of cases received	240	51	23	13	8	22	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	375
17	No. of cases resolved at Sangham level	112	36	5	7	7	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	192
18	No. of Early marriages postponed	22	14	0	5	0	6	14	121	68	26	9	30	19	0	334
19	Team Trainings:															
	(a) No. of trainings held for team	9	1	10	9	7	10	11	19	10	1	9	11	14	1	122
	(b) No. of Participants	101	68	107	125	106	144	100	197	134	43	44	73	39	95	1376

Abbreviations

APOSS	: Andhra Pradesh Open School Society	MPTC	: Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency
APO	: Assistant Project Officer	MRG	: Mandal Resource Group.
AWW	: Angan wadi worker	MSK	: Mahila Sikshana Kendram
ALC	: Adult Learning Center	NIOS	: National Institute of Open Schooling
APNA	: Andhra Pradesh NGO's Alliance	NPEGEL	: National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level
CRC	: Child Rights Convention	NPO	: National Project Office
CRPC	: Child Rights Protection Committee	NGO	: Non Government Organisation
DIU	: District Implementation Unit	MG-NREGA	: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
DAE	: Department of Adult Education	NRG	: National Resource Group
DRG	: District Resource Group	PO	: Programme Officer
DPC	: District Project Coordinator	PEVAC	: Pre Election Voter Awareness Campaign
DLSA	: District Legal Services Authority	PLA	: Participatory Learning and Action
D.R.P	: District Resource Person	PWDVA	: Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
DWMA	: District Water & Management Agency	RDI	: Rural Development Institute
DWCD	: Dept. of Women & Child Development	RVM	: Rajiv Vidya Mission
EC	: Executive Committee	RRF	: Revised Results Frame Work
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion	RTI	: Right to Information Act
GB	: Governing Body	RBC	: Residential Bridge Centres
GO	: Government Organisation	GCDO	: Girl Child Development Officer
GP	: Grama Panchayathi	SGRC	: Samatha Gender Resource Centre
HLERC	: Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre For Women & Girls	SPD	: State Programme Director
JRM	: Joint Review Mission	SMC	: School Management Committee
JRP	: Junior Resource Person	SRC	: State Resource Center
KGBV	: Kasturiba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya	SSA	: Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
MCS	: Model Cluster School	TLM	: Teaching and Learning Material
MDM	: Mid Day Meals	TOT	: Training of Trainers
MEO	: Mandal Education Officer		
MPDO	: Mandal Parishad Development Officer		

Reflections



The year gone by is full of vigor and richness of experiences from all sides. There have been both achievements and challenges. More exciting is the greater visibility gained by the programme. It gave scope for initiating many new and innovative interventions, take up increased advocacy role both at system and at community levels. However challenging it was, we went ahead, spent our energies and time to influence the desired change.

Looking back now, we are overwhelmed to report the positive outcomes that prove the worth and reflect on the constraints and limitations for future planning.

"Earlier I was Buddamma... now I am addressed as 'Bhuvanewari' ..."
- Sangham Woman, Kanakaveedu, Kurnool

Every year, compiling information and writing annual report is an exciting process, not just a statutory requirement of documentation. The whole exercise gives scope for self reflection and retrospection of the past year's achievements, challenges faced and indicates the way ahead. It is a critical document that shows where we put more focus, where we still lagged behind both in the field level programme as well the capacities of the team in facilitating women's empowerment.

The whole of last year was eventful and result oriented. On the one hand, there has been physical expansion of the programme and on the other the ideological outreach is also reflected. More mandals are added taking the total coverage to 117, including the autonomous federations. The pace of activities in the existing mandals has also increased as indicated by the strengthening of the Sanghams and clusters. Four more mandals have reached consolidation and are preparing for the registration. **This is a major milestone reached and APMSS became the first Mahila Samakhya (MS) programme to have 28 autonomous federations and three more in line.**

Same time increased participation in various government educational interventions for women and girls gave the programme ample opportunity to mainstream MS philosophy and experiences. **APMSS has become a working group member and active partner in the gender cell of Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM-SSA) initiated by the State government for promoting girls' education.** Inclusion of MS team member / Sangham as a representative in School Management Committee (SMC) is another instance to quote. These have actually given strength to our attempts towards advocacy for rights based education for women and girls.

Last year was remarkable also for the targeted interventions towards adult literacy. APMSS was nominated to be part of the Executive Committee

(EC) of Saakshara Bharat Trust which gave opportunity for further advocacy, keeping in line with the Saakshara Bharat programme goals. The existing Adult Learning Centres (ALC) were reorganized to literacy centres with 15-20 learners per centre and having more than one centre per village. The objective was to increase the momentum and to reach more number of non literate women. We set a target of 1,00,000 learners to be enrolled into literacy centres across the project districts. **Focused efforts by the team members have helped in reaching to 85,962 learners by the end of March 2012.** Providing 1 lakh sets of teaching learning material by the Department of Adult Education (DAE) and joint action to train the literacy centre volunteers gave boost to these efforts.



As always, the Sanghams and federations are continuing to play emphatic role in children's education. Proactive participation in enrollment drives, ensuring retention of children and their access to quality education have become their agenda. The outcomes are reflected in the numbers as given in the foregoing sections. **We are also proud to claim that recognizing the contribution of federations to children's education, RVM (SSA) allotted 18 Residential Special Training Centres (RSTC) under the RTE Act 2009 to the autonomous federations across seven project districts.** Appointing *Sumitras* (counselors) in Kasturiba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

(KGBV) is another remarkable innovation during the past year which was supported by SSA. **A total of 64 trained Sangham women were appointed as Sumitras in KGBVs and are already making their presence felt.**

Implementation of National Programme for Education Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) on a large scale, both within and outside MS project area has been a tough but significant development of the past year. The challenge is to work closely with the system and trying to influence change. Through this programme the strategies of Bala Sanghams and peer educators were taken to the schools apart from life skill sessions to the girls. Separate team has been appointed in the districts to manage the additional responsibilities of administration and accounts.

Team turnover, joining of new team members at different levels informed the continued thrust areas for building capacities - both perspective and issue based. We are keeping up the momentum in the programme by periodical reflection meetings, capacity building sessions, inter district teams from multi levels conducting internal evaluations and giving feed back to the core team. Similarly efforts are on to standardize the existing data base and keep regular track of the reach and progress in accordance with the Revised Results Framework (RRF) and the Joint Review Mission (JRM) recommendations.

In the past year, Samatha Gender Resource Centre (SGRC) entered into strategic partnerships to expand its scope further. **Two important areas in this direction were: Awareness campaigns on RTE Act using theatre as medium and Campaign on violence against girl child in urban areas covering Upper Primary Schools of Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts.** Education department, different NGOs and network agencies working

on women and children's rights joined hands with SGRC in both these initiatives. It has been a great experience working on these lines and the overall response has been very positive. The experiences from these activities and the study conducted in the State on *Inclusion and Exclusion in Schools and Classrooms* in partnership with EdCIL indicate the role to be played by SGRC to advocate for quality education, particularly for girls. On the same lines, the internal study on violence against women and the state level seminar held to mark International Women's Day also indicate such direction for SGRC in the coming years.



In the previous year, we reported that Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre for Women and Girls (HLERC) was initiated in Varni mandal of Nizamabad district. **During the past year, another innovation was made to run a commune in the name 'Samatha Nilayam' for children with single or no parents in the same campus from August 2011.** Provision of home based care and support for these children, who were enrolled in the nearby government schools is another experience filled with many challenges.

Given all the above, the following chapters give a detailed account of the programme processes and outcomes reported in the past year...



Institutional Processes



Constant internal retrospection on the programme's reach to women from the most marginalized sections and the recommendations of JRM lead to critical reflection on the constitution of the Sanghams. In the process we realized that the strategy of reaching to all women in the village has been a point for deviation from the focus on most marginalized women. Immediately we, at all levels of the organization went back to the field/Sanghams and had analytical discussions on the need for reaching out to the unreached women from most marginalized communities, i.e., SC, ST, Muslim and few communities from BC viz., fisher-folk.

As a result we had to withdraw from about 107 habitations and 141 Waada Sanghams which are completely BC or OC populated, from direct and regular intervention. However, in these areas we planned to bring the women into the fold of MS through larger forums like Mahila/Grama Sadassulu and cluster level activities without compromising on leadership from marginalized communities.

This has been a big learning for all of us at APMSS and correction was possible only through the periodical intensive reflection processes at different levels. It took us some time but we are happy to report that we are on track again with sustained focus on the women from marginalized communities as envisaged in the goal of MS. With this presently our reach is to 2,01,980 women in the Sanghams across 14 districts of the State. Among these, 45% constitute SC, 16% ST and 1.49% Muslim communities.

Same time, not losing focus on facilitating federations' autonomy, we could build strong systems at field level towards federations attaining autonomy and sustain as independent agencies. At present there are 32 mandal level federations, of which 28 are autonomously functioning and four more marching towards autonomy. They could carve a niche for themselves and entered into partnership programmes with State Government (eg. running RSTCs, Legal Aid Clinics and Prajavani programme) and advocating for women and girls' rights.

Now the bigger challenge for us is to strengthen second line leadership among Sanghams and federations while facilitating the multifold programme without compromising on the processes.

**"... now I understood that a woman is not an enemy to another woman...
I brought back my daughter in law!"**

- Avula Mariamma, Sangham Woman, Marriguda, Nalgonda

The institutional processes facilitated by MS towards empowerment of women are always dynamic and in tune to the changing socio-political contexts. Keeping in view the wide presence of SHGs covering all women in the villages, the strategy of having only one village level Sangham has been transformed to multiple Sanghams with a focus to reach all disadvantaged women, accommodating women from all SHGs and those who are left out. Thus *Waada Sanghams* emerged as women's collectives colony/*Waada* wise which in turn formed issue committees among them for focused inputs and action on women and girls' concerns at *Waada* level. A Core Group is then facilitated at village level with representation from the issue committees of each *Waada Sangham* and to act as village level forum for all women. Focused capacities on various issues and leadership skills are built to the Core Group members continuously so that they can transfer the knowledge down to the *Waada Sanghams*. With this changed strategy, the number of women reached by the programme has increased in the last four to five years.

At the same time keeping in line with the JRM observations enough care is taken to ensure that women from the most marginalized communities are not left out in this process. Similar reflection and retrospection has been done on the existing membership of women in the *Waada* Sanghams and on reaching women from the relatively higher strata of the society (OC and BC communities). It was decided that the thrust of the Sangham membership should be on the women from most marginalized sections and support will be extended to all other women through the larger village level forums. Accordingly, the number and membership of the *Waada* Sanghams was reorganized in the past year.

The processes of decentralization and mandal level institutionalization of the Core Groups also

underwent similar changes in tune to the above developments. In the mandals expanded post 2000, the Mandal Resource Group (MRG) strategy has been adopted where the issue committees of the Sanghams formed into resource pools at cluster level and resource groups at mandal level. Each MRG thus formed has about 200 to 300 trained women in the corresponding issue. This huge number of women in MRG (200x6 issues) necessitated further brainstorming on the next level at mandal, i.e. the federation. The older federations have village level Sangham representation to the governing body (GB) and cluster level representation to the Executive Committee (EC). But in the newer federations the women opted for a federation structure with representation from the MRG. The first four mandals of Warangal and Nalgonda districts have become field for experimentation being the first mandals to follow MRG strategy and are in consolidation phase.

On the other hand, all the 28 oldest mandals, where the federations have become autonomous are now retaining only organic linkage with the programme. Presence of these federations varying from five to one year of autonomy is a historical milestone for the programme. They are very active in taking up programmes on their own and with little support from APMSS.

Given this multifold programme in the project districts, challenge for the team members is to facilitate with the same pace, to ensure formation of second line leadership for sustained and healthy functioning and to extend need based support for the autonomous federations.

Nevertheless, the achievements of Sanghams and federations are remarkable in addressing larger social issues at grassroots level, contributing towards

effective access to rights and entitlements and in establishing a sensitized women’s agency. Keeping these in view, in the past year efforts were made to further strengthen the activities of Sanghams, MRGs and autonomous federations.

Going into details...

Waada Sanghams and Core Groups

Of the total 117 mandals in the project area, the strategy of *Waada Sangham* and Core Group is being implemented in 89 mandals. In the past year, we could critically look at the membership of the Sanghams according to social category and reorganize the Sanghams to ensure that the most marginalized women are not left out. In the process, we realized that there are few Sanghams with only OC women members, in the districts of Nalgonda, Prakasam and Visakhapatnam. We decided not to consider these Sanghams for focused interventions but to include them in the larger village level forums for awareness and education. Accordingly, we reduced the number of such villages/Sanghams. However, single women from these areas will be considered as members of the Sanghams. Simultaneously efforts were made to increase Sangham membership and to ensure that all marginalized women are in Sangham fold. With the result, by the end of the reporting year, the following is the reach in numbers.

Fig.1.1 Sangham Membership 2010-11 & 2011-12

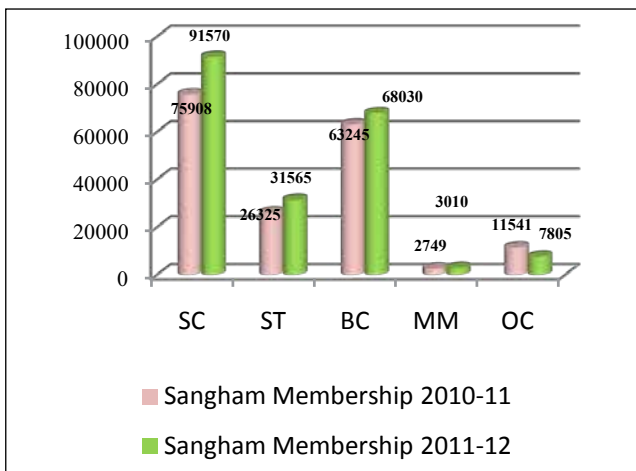
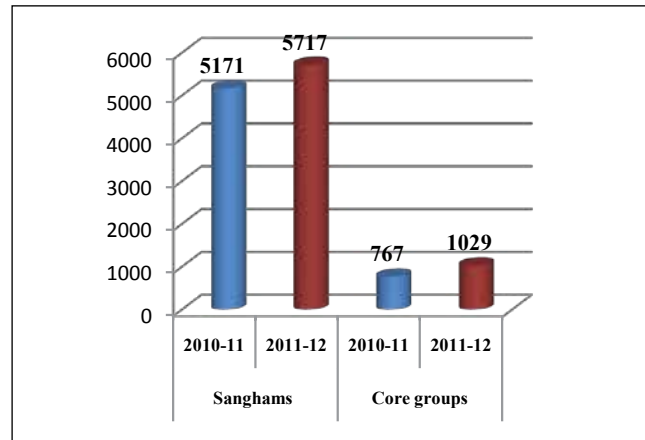


Fig.1.2 Sanghams & Core Groups 2010-11 & 2011-1



Continued efforts by the Sanghams to identify and access infrastructure and other basic facilities in the village are proving to be fruitful, time and again. A few excerpts of these successful efforts reported from the project districts include:

- Saraswathi Mahila Sangham, Rajkhanpet hamlet, Machareddy mandal, Nizamabad district identified that the village has very poor sanitation facilities. They gave a written representation to the Sarpanch and continuously followed it up. With the result that the village has presently got street lights and clean drains. An amount of Rs.1,50,000 was sanctioned for construction of drains in the SC *Waada*.
- Mother Teresa Mahila Sangham, Jeellacheruvu village, Kusumanchi mandal, Khammam district which is just one and half year old, could successfully negotiate with the local leaders and the department and got the drains and street lights.
- The Sangham in Atthipalem village, Nellimarla mandal, Vizianagaram district raised the issue of lack of building for Anganwadi Centre with the concerned authorities and got it sanctioned. They then applied to the Assistant Project Officer (APO) of District Water Management agency (DWMA) to allot construction work to them under MG-NREGS. Upon receiving positive

reply they have taken up construction work and completed it without compromising on the quality. This effort made the Sangham gain visibility and recognition in the village.

- The health issue committee members of the Sanghams in Anantapur district focused on ambulance services – 104, 108 reach villages on fixed dates and ensure their access to everyone.
- Fixed dates for Sangham meetings, maintenance of registers and records was another focal area in the past year. With the result, about 3,566 Sanghams across 14 districts are maintaining registers regularly. In another 23 Sanghams, the community is supporting Sanghams to write registers.
- Sangham members began contributing Rs. 5/- to 10/- per month per person to meet travel charges for attending mandal level meetings and other incidental expenses. Presently in about 968 Sanghams regular contributions are being made. Some of them have already opened Bank Accounts while others are in the process. Sangham fund is given to all such Sanghams which are in third stage. Thus in the past year, about 353 Sanghams received Sangham fund. The understanding is that women can start economic development activities and slowly gain skills that gives them confidence to handle finance and management related issues.

These initial successes are contributing to strengthening of issue committees and Core Groups and march towards clusters to act upon common issues and to gain solidarity. Each cluster being a group of four to five nearby villages, becomes a forum for the Sanghams to represent their issues through the issue committees and take action to resolve them. Cluster meetings are organized issue wise and Core Group wise as per need. Core Group cluster meetings are facilitated when Sanghams are in second and third stages to identify and form issue

resource pool. Thus during the reporting year, 237 issue cluster and 128 Core Group cluster meetings were held across the project districts.



The relatively new districts of Visakhapatnam and Khammam where the programme is 2 year old, the Sanghams are in the formation stage and the team too needed inputs on Core Group facilitation. Accordingly, Visakhapatnam district team members went to Nalgonda for an exposure visit to understand the processes involved in Core Group formation. Back home, they did an exercise to assess the Sangham stages and are confident that they can facilitate Core Groups.

Moving towards MRG

As already stated above, facilitating federation with representation from MRG is the major strategy in all the programme mandals. Thus the focus of institutional processes was on strengthening clusters and building capacities of issue committees to form resource pools in all those mandals, where the programme is more than three year old.

The past year was also a stage where we spent a lot of time in relooking at the pace of the programme in the districts of Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Prakasam, Anantapur and Kurnool districts. Intensive discussions were held in the internal team reflection meetings and district reviews on the consolidation processes, cluster identification and strengthening.

The federation thematic group meetings held bi-annually also contributed to assess progress in this regard and to resolve issues cropping up at field level.



Early last year, two day workshop on MRG was organized to the team members of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. While reviewing the progress of cluster formation, the workshop was meant to gain a clear and common understanding on the idea of MRG, the proposed structure and facilitative steps. Alongside, the number of villages in each cluster, assessment of stages of Sanghams in the clusters and developing plan for the next course of facilitation were also points for discussions in the workshop. Consequently, both the districts realized that their clusters are to be reorganized to have a minimum of five to six villages and evolved a concrete plan to strengthen cluster Sanghams by organizing cluster meetings frequently.

Subsequent to this workshop, 53 clusters are formed in Srikakulam and 58 in Vizianagaram district. The focus is now on strengthening of these clusters and ensure meetings on fixed dates.

Consolidation Phase

Chityala and Mogullapalli mandals of Warangal district; and Nampally and Kanagal mandals of Nalgonda district become the first four MRG mandals that reached consolidation stage. Hence,

our thrust was on facilitative processes towards forming MRG, evolve federation structure and proceed for registration of the federation as a society.

In this regard, MRG members and team members visited autonomous federations of Medak, Mahabubnagar and Karimnagar and interacted with the federation members. The visit helped them to understand the processes involved in consolidation stage - systems and procedures activities that can be taken up after attaining autonomy, capacities required and support systems to be set up, etc. It can be stated that this visit cleared their many apprehensions about registration, developing bye-laws and systems for independent functioning. Confident as they were, they accelerated the process of consolidation soon after.

In this direction, a two day workshop was organized at Warangal on the development of bye-laws and evolving functional systems. Team members from both the districts and representatives of all four MRG mandals participated in this. The major content for discussion was finalizing the MRG structure, development of bye-laws, framing roles and responsibilities of the office bearers and the steps towards registration. This understanding was later translated to all the other members through mandal level MRG meetings in all the four mandals. The MRG members played key role in these meetings. This is followed by election of EC and GB.



In Warangal...

Chityala mandal has 64 villages divided into 13 clusters. Thus 39 GB members were identified at the rate of three per cluster. From these, one member per cluster was nominated to the EC.

Mogullapalli mandal has 35 villages and 8 clusters. Here the GB members are identified and elected at the rate of one per village and one member per cluster for EC.

In both these mandals the newly formed bodies have taken up the responsibility of strengthening the *Waada* Sanaghams and ensuring regularity of Core Group and Cluster meetings in their respective mandals.

In Nalgonda

Kanagal has 55 villages and 12 clusters. The GB members are elected at one per village and EC at one per cluster. They are playing active role in strengthening *Waada* Sanghams, conducting MRG meetings on fixed dates and also focusing on regular maintenance of records.

However, Nampally mandal lagged behind because of the long absence of team members in the mandal and strong Sanghams reverting back due to lack of regular follow up. In this context, the DIU team members took lead role and evolved action plan to address these issues. By the end of the year, (March 2012), 18 villages elected their GB members as against 54 villages and EC members are elected from 3 out of 11 clusters.

Besides building their capacities on accounting, book keeping, documentation and leadership qualities, focus was also on involving them in facilitation of meetings, undertaking projects on a small scale for hands on experience.

In addition, all the four MRGs took up a month long awareness project on anaemia and nutrition



in their respective mandals with financial support from APMSS.

Thus three out of four mandals have made all preparations and were ready for autonomous functioning, though registration takes some more time. *At the time of writing this report, we are happy to claim that these three mandals added themselves to the contingent of autonomous federations, thereby taking the total to 31.* We need to further focus on close monitoring and extending handholding support for the next one year in order to help them establish their systems and streamline the processes to attain sustainability.

Autonomous Federations

The autonomous federations of the first five districts are a hub of activity in the past year. They were involved in variety of activities both within and outside. It was a welcoming development and they proved that the federations evolved with social agenda can sustain and contribute to desired social change. It is this feature of the autonomous federations that made them stand out significantly and as a model for all others for learning and replication.

We also take pride in stating that all the 28 federations are active and are closely involved in identifying issues of women's concern, drawing action plans and taking up activities. In the process we focused on building their capacities further on managerial skills, financial management, counseling, legal literacy, documentation, leadership, networking, etc. as per the need.



During the past year, the federations involved themselves in various activities as detailed below:

- Regular participation in the district reviews
- Extending support in planning and capacity building of Sanghams/issue committees
- Facilitation of Sangham formation in the newly expanded mandals
- Monitoring ALCs
- Participating in APNA network meetings and raising concerns and issues of their mandals
- One month awareness project on Anaemia and nutrition with the financial support from APMSS
- Identification of women to be appointed as Counsellors in KGBVs

- Running Legal Aid Clinics in 5 mandals of Medak district with the support from District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)
- Nominated as members of *Prajavani* (government initiative for grievance redressal) in Medak (14 women) and Karimnagar (16 women) districts and regularly attending sessions held every Monday to resolve the cases
- Campaign against child marriages by eight autonomous federations of Mahabubnagar and Nizamabad districts
- Forming nyaya committees (counseling centres) to deal with cases of violence against women and girls

Federations taking part in RTE Act

The RTE Act 2009 provides for Residential Special Training Centres to all such children who are enrolled in schools but frequently drop out in order not to miss any child in the age group 6-14 from schools. These children will be identified by the respective school and recommend for special training in residential non-formal mode for a specific period after which they are enrolled back in the respective schools. The Act further states that Government may seek support or partnership from NGOs for running these centres.

In this context, the JRM members who visited the State during the same time recommended for giving this responsibility to the autonomous federations facilitated by MS which are competent enough to run RSTCs in their respective areas. The experience of federations in running Mahila Sikshana Kendrum (MSK), Residential Bridge Courses (RBC) and proactive role played in access to quality education for girls are stated by the mission members as the competencies of the MS federations. Taking this forward, 18 out of 28 federations sent proposals to the department and received sanction.



However, it was not a smooth process. They had to face many challenges from the district level officials in terms of lack of timely support and fund releases. State level intervention was necessary to streamline the same. In this regard, the support extended by the Chairperson of APMSS is worth mentioning here. Thus **18 RSTCs were started with a total of 813 children in the month of August 2011.**

Renuka, a 10 year old girl is class 1 drop out. She belongs to Dakur village, Andole mandal of Medak district. Her mother died and father married another woman. Hence Renuka's grandmother took her to Hyderabad and kept her near a temple for begging. When Andole federation was sanctioned RSTC and was given a list of children to be enrolled, the federation members went to Renuka's house as her name was also included in the list. They were told that Renuka is in Hyderabad and is begging to earn her livelihood. Immediately Prameela, President of the federation forced Renuka's father to go to Hyderabad and bring the child. She also accompanied him and thus Renuka came to RSTC. Since then there has been a lot of change in her behavior and speech. She is now ready to continue her education, does not want to go back to earlier status.

Considering the successful running of these RSTCs, more federations came forward for running them.

Mahasangham

All the autonomous federations have been negotiating for district and State level networks for the past few years. In this direction, the seven autonomous federations of Mahabubnagar initiated the concept of Mahasangham at district level and are regularly meeting once in a month. For this they requested MS to provide meeting place which is honoured.

The federations of Karimnagar and Medak took this learning almost immediately and set up networks in their districts. Autonomous federations from Nizamabad and Adilabad also attended the Mahasangham meetings of Mahabubnagar for first hand information and subsequently making efforts to adapt the same.

The very purpose of Mahasangham is to create forum for the autonomous federations to come together periodically, share their learnings, experiences and extend mutual support for sustainable functioning. Further facilitation is towards making it a common platform for all the autonomous federations to build their network and strengthen convergent action with Government (GO) and Non government organizations (NGO).

State level Federation Network

In the past year, an attempt has been made to scale up these district level federation networks to state level in accordance with the demand by the autonomous federations during the State level workshop – *Samanvitham* held in December 2010 for revisiting the vision of the federations. In this direction a two day state level workshop was organized to work out the details – purpose, objective, structure, functioning and other modalities. Representatives from all 28 federations and women from the four MRG mandals of Warangal and Nalgonda attended this workshop. Interesting discussions came through this workshop as detailed below:

- The objective as articulated by the federations is to evolve as a pressure group at state level to raise

women's issues and concerns and to spread MS philosophy to new areas

- Advocate for gender sensitive and women friendly programmes and policies
- Negotiate for appropriate role to rural women in planning and implementation of the programmes concerning women and girls

- Setting up convergent relations with the government departments
- Sharing of experiences, learnings and extending mutual support
- Gain visibility as gender resource agency at State level through SGRC

It was further discussed that such network meetings should happen in Hyderabad once in 3 months and MS State Office should extend support by providing meeting place.

We feel that a beginning has been made towards this direction and one need to wait and watch the course it takes.



Future Steps

- Strengthening of clusters and building capacities of Resource pools and Resource Groups
- Setting up support systems to the newly formed federations
- Building District Resource Groups (DRG) with federations as member along with other agencies
- Setting up State level network of federations
- Identifying and appointing district level consultants for strengthening the autonomous processes and for extending support to the federations for their sustainable functioning.



Second Generation... Towards Equality



Bala Sanghams by now have become forums for campaigning on legal age at marriage, children's right to health, to nutritious food, to free and compulsory education and to violence free life. The activities of Nutrition Centres, Akshaya Patra, growing vegetable gardens in schools and homes, campaigning for education and protesting child marriages constitute major agenda for their action.

We are happy to report that most of the boys are sharing work at home along with their sisters and mothers indicating their sensitivity to gender issues. Besides, peer educators evolved from Bala Sanghams and are taking up the role of spreading information and awareness among their peers. This has been a significant achievement during the reporting year. Also 23% increase in the number of Bala Sanghams compared to the previous year and reaching out to adolescents in non project area through NPEGEL are other achievements recorded. The focus is now on institutionalizing Bala Sanghams into Bala Panchayats and to strengthen them by evolving support systems.

**"Education is not something that comes from somewhere...
it is within our own experiences!"**

- Nishita, MSK Girl, Srikakulam

The need for creating a forum for second generation evolved from the discussions and analyses in the Sanghams on issues of equity and equality. The idea is to develop conceptual understanding on these issues and facilitate empowerment processes from young age itself. This resulted in evolution of *Cheli Sanghams* – adolescent girls’ collectives, which later transformed into *Bala Sanghams* – collectives of girls and boys. Strategically the age for membership of boys is limited to 11-16 years whereas it is 11-18 years for girls. Another strategy is to have mixed membership of both school going and non-school going adolescents to create a common platform for sharing experiences and learnings. Issues related to child rights, socialization process, life skills and gender equality are the major areas brought up for in-depth discussion and analyses through various forums like Bala Sangham meetings, cluster meetings, capacity building sessions and workshops. Simultaneously, issues of strategic gender concerns like girls’ education, age at marriage, vulnerability and sexual violence are also articulated with a view to build sensitized second generation leadership. In the process, focused training sessions are held to enable them to participate proactively in the issues of governance at school and village level. This is also helping them to disseminate information widely,



particularly on issues of child labour, malnutrition, adolescent health, legal age of marriage, opportunities available for education and career, etc.

As the programme reach is expanding, the scope of Bala Sanghams is also expanding. Their interventions brought visibility and recognition to the Bala Sanghams which helped them slowly move from village to cluster and to mandal. Evolution of Bala Panchayats and Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPC) are the indication to their sustainable efforts. These forums are moving ahead leaving their mark as pressure groups to influence positive change towards realizing child rights. This led to a steady increase in the number of Bala Sanghams, Bala Panchayats and CRPCs last year.

A significant feature during the reporting year has been that of the joint action of Bala Sanghams, Mahila Sanghams and School Management Committees (SMC) towards addressing children’s concerns and increased access to their entitlements. In this direction, the initiatives of *Akshaya Paatra*, Nutrition Centres, campaign against child marriages and ensuring provisions of Right to Education Act are noteworthy.

The implementation of NPEGEL by APMSS in collaboration with RVM (SSA) on a large scale provided an opportunity to facilitate formation of Bala Sanghams within the Government schools. 441 Bala Sanghams were formed with 25,412 students as members. With this, large number of girls could come into leadership roles and evolve as peer educators.

These members in turn influenced their parents and tried to sensitize them towards children’s issues in general and girls’ concerns in particular, in



addition to taking up proactive role in school management.

The following pages give a detailed note of the progress and processes of Bala Sanghams during the past year.

BALA SANGHAMS

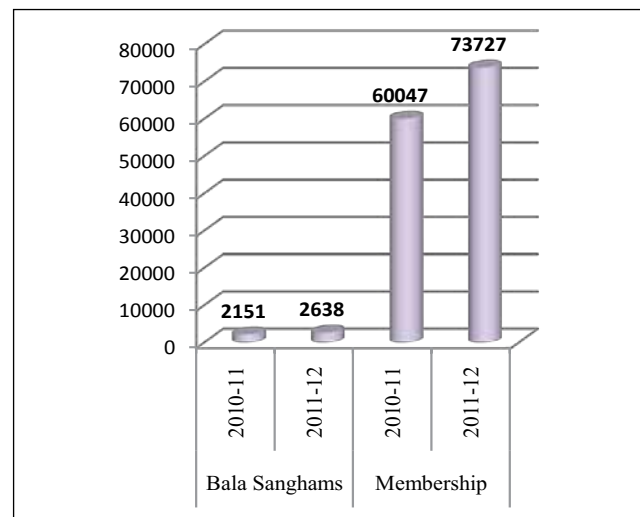
Over the past few years Bala Sanghams at village level have become platforms for adolescent children to raise their concerns, evolve plan of action and address their issues. In the process they take support from Mahila Sanghams, village youth, school teachers and village level institutions. Facilitating critical analyses and developing concrete plan of action for sustainable change is the thrust of APMSS. This concerted effort is resulting in Bala Sanghams successfully addressing issues and creating a niche for themselves in the village.

Vision of Bala Sanghams

“Advocating for Gender Equity and Equality through a cadre of informed and empowered second generation change agents”

Taking a cue from the successes of Bala Sanghams in the process of empowerment, during the past year the focus was on facilitating formation of Bala Sanghams across the project villages. As a result there has been an increase in the number of Bala Sanghams and the membership.

Fig.2.1 Bala Sanghams & Membership 2010-11 & 2011-12



Building Capacities

In the process of strengthening the Bala Sanghams to take up sensitive issues of gender discrimination, social equity and vulnerability, building capacities of the members becomes crucial. In this direction, need based trainings and input sessions are held at various levels in continuum to the previous years’ efforts.

In addition, adolescent health, life skills, conservation of natural resources, environment protection and career guidance were the other areas of capacity building, keeping in view the diverse issues addressed by the Bala Sanghams. Same time, emphasis was also on facilitating them towards developing convergent relations and building support systems. Special focus has been given to the older girls in building their vocational skills like Mehendi design, preparation of cloth bags and bamboo products in the districts of Adilabad, Anantapur and Kurnool.

Table 2.1 Trainings to Bala Sanghams

Issue	No of trainings	No of children
Health	53	1424
Peer education	15	475
Life skills	49	1735
Gender	18	641
NR & AB	11	336
Total	146	4611

Village level meetings, cluster meetings and Mandal level workshops also served as forums for building perspective and conceptual understanding among the members. Besides, these forums also contributed in strengthening institutional processes, evolve mechanisms for building support systems and identify peer educators for creating a resource base.



These also helped in fixing dates for their meeting, regular maintenance of registers and records, and planning towards formation of Bala Panchayats and CRPCs. **Registers are regularly maintained in 1,201 Bala Sanghams (56%) across the project districts.** Regularizing this in the remaining Sanghams is one area of attention for coming year. Profiles are also being regularly updated in the Bala Sanghams to track the progress, processes and achievements.

Bhagat Singh Bala Sangham of D. Belagal village, Kosigi mandal, Kurnool district is formed in 2009 with 35 members. The members are holding their meetings regularly and discussing on their needs and concerns. In the process, in the first year itself, they set up a library by collecting books from individuals and negotiating place within the GP.

The school in this village is only up to class VII. Children have to travel to the mandal headquarters which is 6 km away from the village to attend the high school. There is only one bus to the village which does not come in time. Therefore, the children are forced to walk all the way to attend school. This is prompting the parents to dropout their girl children from school after completion of class VII and sending them to work or making them to stay home. This is further prompting the parents to make trails for marriage alliances to the girls staying home, even at that young age.

Bhagat Singh Bala Sangham has taken up these issues for discussion. They wanted to address the main cause of transportation facility that is leading to the situation. They chalked out a plan of action to approach the mandal officials to negotiate on timings and more trips of the bus to the village. They met the Mandal Education Officer (MEO), Mandal Parishat Development Officer (MPDO) and the RTC Depot manager and submitted applications. They explained the seriousness of the issue and appealed them to help them in continuing their education. They even took out a rally to attract the attention of the officials.

Responding positively on the appeal the officials ensured two trips to the village, one in the morning at 8 am and second in the evening at 5pm. Now the bus is coming two times to the village in time. With this successful intervention, the number of children continuing education increased. Bala Sangham members received applause of the entire village.

It is evident that the Bala Sangham members are able to put their learnings in to practice for accessing their rights and entitlements. This is enabling them to grow as knowledgeable and sensitized citizens. In this process the children who are proactive and responsive are identified as peer educators and are sharing their learnings and knowledge to other members. These peer educators are further trained as trainers. We envisage that these children would play a key role in training other Bala Sangham children and become second generation leaders.

Action for Food Security

Nutritional health and anaemia among adolescents, particularly among girls is one of the main topics for discussions and trainings to Bala Sangham members. Analytical discussions are facilitated on importance of nutritional food; quality of mid-day-meals served in schools and need for consuming balanced diet. Same time the issues of responsibility of school management and the community are also brought up for discussion. In this process, the elapsed/forgotten *Akshaya Paatra* (Unlimited food bowl) concept was recalled and discussed. Bala Sanghams and MS team members resolved to revive the practice.

Decided to involve various institutions and the entire village community the Bala Sangham members and MS team members approached Women's Sangham, school teachers, AWC *Aaya* and village elders who responded positively. Children convinced their parents and started dropping fresh vegetables, fruits and other eatables in *Akshaya Paatra* kept in the school, every day. These items are taken out before lunch and are used to serve to all the children. In this process, the parents and villagers coming to school have started participating in the school management issues and taking action to resolve school level problems. The Bala Sanghams have taken up major role in regularizing this practice and sustaining it. This has become popular in Nalgonda district and was started in 95 schools. This practice has been

initiated in 6 schools of Karimnagar district and 2 schools of Anantapur district in this year.

It is noteworthy to specifically mention here the intervention of *Akshaya Paatra* in the Primary School of T.P. Gouraram village in Nampalli mandal, Nalgonda district that got selected for Naveena Mahila Award 2012 of TV9. The Bala Sangham in this school has received ₹10,000/- cash prize and certificate of appreciation.

Coming to know the achievement of the Bala Sangham the District Collector also visited the school and appreciated the children and the school authorities for their efforts.

He also suggested the officials to support the Bala Sangham in taking it forward in future too.

In Nizamabad district the intervention of nutritional centres is taking place in 6 schools.

Exposures for Wisdom



Conducting educational tours and exposure visits to the Bala Sangham members is a regular intervention towards building life skills among the children. During these visits the children generally visit historical, prominent and popular places within the district and neighbouring districts. The members are able to relate their academics to the

places they visit. These are helping in inculcating a sense of pride and respect towards the history and the older generations, in addition to developing inquisitiveness and sensitivity.

Some Achievements of Bala Sanghams

- Understanding the importance of nutrition, Bala Sangham members of 234 villages across 14 districts are growing kitchen/backyard gardens and consuming the leafy vegetables and fresh vegetables. They are also keeping the surroundings hygienic. In 29 villages they even dug pits and making compost using degradable waste.
- In Chinnamuppam village of Nellikuduru mandal, Warangal district the Bala Sangham resolved to charge fine for open defecation.
- The Bala Sangham girls of Mallur, Gordhal, Acchampet villages of Nizamsagar mandals in Nizamabad district did a survey of families who are utilizing ISLs and those who are not. Further, they helped the families apply for ISLs.
- In Adilabad district 5 Bala Sangham girls who have undergone training in *Mehendi* designing are getting income by taking it up as an economic activity. In addition, they are also selected as vocational instructors to provide training to school girls under NPEGEL.
- In Kurnool district the Bala Sanghams took proactive role in making the children of 150 schools wear chappals while going to school, by creating awareness on the need.
- 32 school dropout adolescent girls of 14 villages were inspired by the visit to Nagarjuna Sagar dam, Archeological Museum and Hydro Powerhouse and by the subsequent sharing and discussions in the Bala Sangham joined literacy centres to continue their education.

There are 38 members in the Saraswathi Bala Sangham of N. Thimmapuram village of Vidapanakal mandal, Anantapur district. They belong to SC and BC. All the members were strategically taken out for *Vana Bhojanalu* (picnic in the fields). Each member brought one dish prepared at home. They shared the items among all the members and ate together, serving the items to each other with great enthusiasm and affection.

They played many games, discussed on issues related to environment, importance of seasons, food and care to be taken in the respective seasons, practices and habits related to food among different caste groups, equality among castes and religions, etc.

All this created a sense of togetherness and bonding among the members. It also helped in broadening the perspective, understanding and critical thinking on various issues and generated a new energy among the children.

- Children of Jasmine Bala Sangham from Rayavaram village of Markapuram mandal, Prakasam district visited Bala Panchayats in Warangal district. Inspired by the achievements of the Bala Panchayats 30 Bala Sangham members took initiation to fight against cheap liquor and tobacco products. They have organized village level demonstration and did role-plays to create awareness among the villagers.
- Realizing the importance of first aid, 48 Bala Sanghams in Nalgonda and Vizianagaram districts are maintaining first aid kits on their own after taking a thorough training on first aid.
- Recognizing the adverse effects of child marriages on girls' health the Bala Sanghams could fight against child marriages and stop or postpone 334 such marriages across the project districts.

Bala Panchayats & Child Rights Protection Committees

Bala Sanghams at village level are able to effectively address issues like adolescent health, enrolment and retention in schools, gender discrimination within the family, etc. With a view to build strong network among Bala Sanghams to address issues related to child rights violation, formation of Bala Panchayats at cluster level (cluster of 4-6 villages) are facilitated. Members of Bala Sanghams of cluster villages automatically become members of Bala Panchayat of the cluster. Common issues of that cluster are taken up for discussion and action by the Bala Panchayat.

Vision of Bala Panchayat

“Bringing common concerns of Children and Adolescents to forefront, setting up support structures and demanding accountability of the institutions and systems towards realizing their rights”

Addressing issues like child marriage, child labour, abuse, violence against girl children and vulnerability requires strong support form different spheres. In this context, CRPCs are evolved with the membership of representatives from parents, Grama Panchayat, School Management Committees, Teachers, Mahila Sanghams, Youth groups and Bala Sanghams. This is purely a support structure to the Bala Panchayat in addressing issues of their concern and influence social change.

During the reporting year different forums were organized to ensure common understanding and clarity on Bala Panchayats and CRPCs among all the APMSS team members. This was further disseminated to the Bala Sanghams. In addition, visits to the existing Bala Panchayats were also planned for clearer understanding of the processes. For this, Bala Panchayats of Warangal district formed the learning forums which were visited by 126 Bala Sangham members from Adilabad, Kurnool, Prakasam, Anantapur and Medak districts. Inspired

by what they witnessed, Bala Sangham members initiated the process of formation of Bala Panchayats back at home.

They started holding regular meetings and discussing on the process of formation of Bala Panchayat and CRPC, the structure, support systems required and the potential members to be nominated to the Bala Panchayat and CRPC. As a result 40 Bala Panchayats and CRPCs were formed across 7 project districts.

Fig.2.2 Bala Panchayats

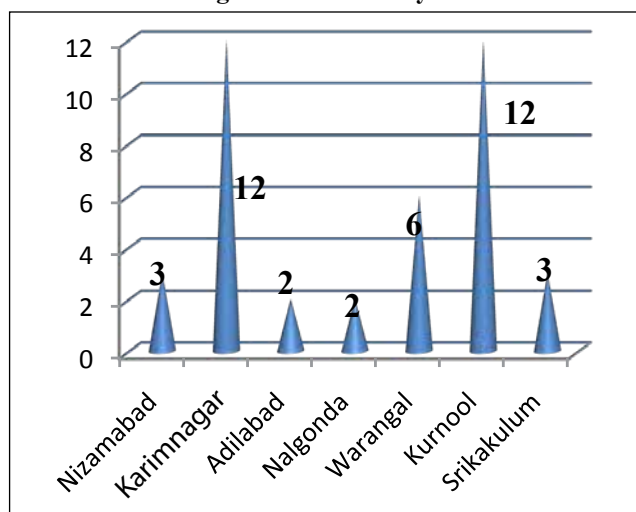


Table 2.2 Child Rights Protection Committees

District	No. of CRPCs
Karimnagar	4
Nalgonda	26
Warangal	8
Vizianagaram	18
Srikakulam	1

Issues of Adolescence

For past few years the issues of adolescence are repeatedly coming up in the Sanghams and Bala Sanghams. Legal age at marriage, infatuation, patterns of behaviour, changing trends, influence of media, etc. are the major issues raised by the Sanghams. While discussing these issues, attention was also brought to the issues of physical and emotional changes among adolescents.

Keeping these and the prevailing social norms in view, exclusive meetings and workshops were organized for parents, adolescent girls and Sangham women at cluster and mandal levels. These were done with more focus in Vizianagaram, Prakasam and Khammam districts where adolescent issues are coming up very frequently and Bala Sanghams are not strong enough in addressing these issues. All together 1,596 members attended 52 such meetings and workshops in these three districts.



Consequently, in Vizianagaram 14 school dropout girls took admission into class X through A.P. Open School Society to continue their education. Similarly, 63 adolescent girls stopped working in cotton fields realizing the adverse effects of chemical fertilizers used in cotton fields on their health. In Prakasam district 55 adolescent girls from 18 villages decided and resolved to get married only after attaining legal age of marriage.

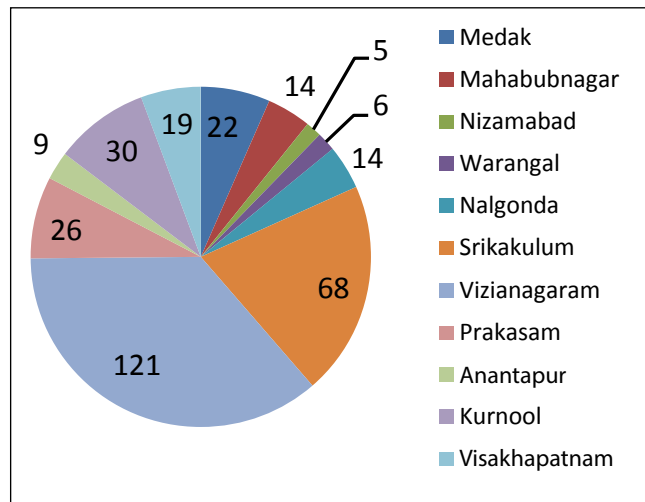
Challenging Child Marriages

From the beginning Bala Sanghams have been taking up the issue of child marriage seriously and addressing it through various means and forums. Strongly believing that child marriage is a hurdle for girls' development and a clear violation of child rights, from the beginning it has been a focal issue for action by Bala Sanghams. They have been successful in stopping or negotiating for postponement of maximum of the child marriages that come to their notice. They are not stepping back in any case and are exploring all possible ways to address the issue

successfully. They are standing firm even if they had to face humiliation from their parents and elders and taking up sustainable action with the support of Mahila Sangham, Bala Panchayat, CRPC, youth members, school teachers and government officials.

Bala Sangham members taking oath on not to get married till they attain legal age of marriage, sharing among the members if they face any difficulty in convincing their parents, proactive participation in taking action against instances of child marriage even in their neighbouring villages are the indication to the commitment of the Bala Sangham members towards the issue. It is further evident by the number of child marriages that they challenged during the past year. *In total, 334 child marriages were stopped with the proactive participation of Bala Sangham members across 11 districts.*

Fig.2.3 No of child marriages stopped/ postponed



Here it is worth noting the intervention of Bala Sangham from Nalgonda district.

Thurpu Pula Gudem is a small hamlet in Pedavura mandal of Nalgonda district. 10 girls and 8 boys have come together and formed Gulabi Bala Sangham in 2009. They all meet every fortnight and discuss about issues related to child rights,

age at marriage, gender discrimination and the problems that they face. During one such meeting it came to their notice that parents of two girls of 15 years age are planning to marry off their daughters.

Decided to address this they immediately gathered more information about it and approached the girls' families. They tried to convince the families not to perform marriage now but in vain. Subsequently, Bala Sangham members brought it to the notice of the Mahila Sangham and requested their support. However, the efforts did not yield any success.

Not loosing heart they met the Sarpanch and village elders, requested them to extend support in their effort. Finally all of them went to the girls' houses and tried to convince them saying that performing marriages at early age is a crime and it invites legal action. Finally, they got convinced and postponed the marriages and also agreed to allow them to continue their education.

Celebrating Child Rights Week

By now celebrating child rights week has become customary in the project districts. Every year various programmes are organized during November 14th to 21st to observe the child rights week. Rallies, Melas, workshops, meetings formed the forums for the children particularly from Bala Sanghams to share their experiences, and to plan further in accessing their rights. In the past year too such events were held across the project districts. District level melas were held in 6 districts – Karimnagar, Adilabad, Anantapur, Kurnool, Khammam and Visakhapatnam.

Group discussions, demonstrations, role plays, games were held on the occasion taking child rights as the main theme. Officials and representatives from NGOs also attended these melas and assured positive support in addressing the issues raised by children. They also discussed with children on



the career and higher education opportunities. *In Adilabad, the speech on global warming by Rakesh, member of Vidya Bala Sangham, Jankapur village, Bhimini mandal who is studying class 8 attracted the attention of all the guests participating in the mela. He was praised by them for his knowledge gained through trainings and meetings of Bala Sangham.*

For the first time, district level melas conducted in Khammam and Visakhapatnam districts. The participant children were very enthusiastic and took immediate decisions on the issues of environment conservation, bonded labour, education to children.

For instance, in Visakhapatnam, the Bala Sangham children of Cheedikada mandal have decided to start small savings and contribute to the educational expense of children from poor families. Similarly the Bala Sangham of Chinni Kodada village stopped using plastic bags. About 60 children from 22 villages opted to be the peer educators to disseminate information on the negative impact of media and technology on girls.

Similarly in Khammam district, 10 Bala Sangham members immediately started growing vegetables in their homes and campaigning on the importance of nutrition to adolescents. Another immediate outcome of the mela has been the reporting of instances of child marriages.

In all, 211 events were conducted across 6 districts and 16,095 children participated in the melas.

Girl Child Day

For the past three years, the department of DWCD has been organizing girl child day on January 24 in memory of the oath taking of Ms. Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of the country. Consequently in the project districts also various events were held to observe the day and the issues of gender discrimination, vulnerability of girls and lack of opportunities are discussed with the girls. District and mandal level workshops and awareness meetings were held on the occasion at Warangal, Adilabad, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.



Posters on good touch, bad touch, child rights, girl child discrimination were put up for discussion in these events along with information dissemination

on famous women personalities, their achievements. The children came up with interesting points and observations during these discussions. Cell phone related violence, unsafe travel in buses, child marriages, lack of toilets in schools and the resultant health problems were raised by the girls. They wanted to pursue those cases collectively taking support from the fellow Bala Sangham and their mothers' Sangham.

Future Steps

It has been consciously observed that the Bala Sangham has lot of potential and readiness for change. At this right point, we need to build their capacities so that they can take along the processes of change. In line with this our future plan for the coming year will be:

- Continued thrust on capacity building.
- Strengthening Bala Panchayats and CRPCs to formulate a concrete plan of action in realization of child rights.
- Awareness creation to the Bala Sangham members on the increased violence against young girls and building their knowledge base so that they can address such issues at their level.
- Trainings to peer educators for evolving resource group within the Bala Sanghams.



Pathways to Education



Last year the targeted interventions towards women's literacy and girls' education proved worth. In response to the demand facilitated at field level, the number and membership of the literacy centres rose rapidly compared to the earlier years. We could reach to about 86,000 adult learners through 5381 literacy centres. 20,885 sangham women attained literacy through different interventions. On the other side the programme has made sincere efforts to increase convergent action as per the recommendations of the JRM members. With the result, proactive and long term partnerships were initiated with SSA & SLMA.

Through NPEGEL we are able to reach more than 11 lakh girls across 454 mandals and making sincere efforts to impart life skill based education for them. Also new innovations like setting up a commune for children with single or no parents, long term residential centres for children of migrant families made the team members and the Sanghams stand on wheels to catch up with the momentum.

"You are giving us books and teaching alphabets... all this is reminding me of my childhood... that I lost..."

**- Rukkamma, Sangham Woman,
S.Potanpalli, Narayankhed, Medak**

It always gives us a refreshing feeling to report the achievements and learnings in realization of the programme's major objective of *Education for Women's Empowerment*. While giving space and time for women to think of themselves, identify and resolve their major concerns, we need to strategically mobilize and motivate them towards acquiring literacy skills. It is a challenging task as women's roles are gendered and interwoven with traditional societal values. Their acquiring literacy is least priority for the family. The issue of girl child education too is not a preference on the same lines. Keeping this in view, from the beginning of the programme conscious efforts are made to impart thematic education on issues identified by women in the Sangham meetings and literacy is built into the process. Thus slowly women could realize importance of education and focused on sending their younger children to schools. It took further some time for us to facilitate adolescent girls never enrolled or dropouts to continue their education and the adult women to acquire basic literacy skills. As the Sangham matured and reached the stage of autonomous federations, there are plenty of opportunities for them to spread their learning widely. However, they have realized that lack of certification to their literacy skills has become one great barrier to affirmatively claim their identity. Thus the focus moved on to certification. Similarly progressive government programmes like NPEGEL, KGBV, AP Open School Society, the Saakshara Bharat programme, RTE Act etc. gave impetus to our attempts. Thus over the years, the progress is reflected in the increasing numbers of literate women. In turn it is showing influence in their children's education, retention and continuation of their studies beyond class X.

Every year focused efforts are made towards women's literacy, education of adolescent girls and children to sustain the momentum across the project area. For the past few years, we have been trying to integrate traditional social and festive gatherings with village level literacy events towards mobilizing non-literates in large numbers and creating an enabling environment for women and girls' education at community level. Considering their successful outcomes, during the previous year we have extended the same strategy to all the districts exploring local traditional cultural practices. The *Akshara jatharas*, *Akshara utti*, *Akshara torananlu*, *Sirulu*, *Akshara tirunallu*, *Akshara bonalu*, are to quote some of these.



The response to these events has been really inspiring both to the Sanghams and to the team members to make more concerted efforts in this direction. In addition, the regular literacy interventions like the short term literacy camps, literacy centres, literacy sessions, MSK, motivational camps, etc. are continued for sustaining the momentum generated. At the same time we should also acknowledge that the department officials are also extending all out help to the initiatives towards women's literacy and education of children and girls.

To quote an example, the District Collector, Nalgonda permitted fee exemption for 210 women candidates appearing for class X examination under AP Open School Society.

With this renewed enthusiasm and the acquired literacy skills, the Sangham women are making efforts towards getting certification by appearing for class X, Intermediate or Graduation examination from open schooling system. Alongside they are also playing proactive role through the education issue committee from the Sanghams to realize the goals of total enrollment and total retention of children in schools besides actively campaigning for realization of goals of RTE Act. Another development during the year has been the start of two new MSKs, in Khammam and Visakhapatnam districts. Expansion of NPEGEL programme to more mandals in the existing districts and newly in Khammam district in the past year is also noteworthy as we could cover more girls both from the project and non MS project areas.

More details of all the above developments are given below in three sections – Children’s education, Adult education and Adolescent Girls’ education.

CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

Educational Fortnight



With the RTE Act in place, major thrust was put on enrollment drives in the past year. The regular

enrollment drives were planned for 15 days this time and each day a specific activity was planned. Joint planning was done by RVM, School Education department and select NGO representatives where APMSS has also been an important partner. Continuing this, at field level various activities were taken up like the *Vidya sadassulu*, Participatory exercises like the literacy map, short term motivational camps education rallies etc. in villages where the situation is demanding, where out of school children or drop outs are more. The Sanghams, Bala Sanghams and Federations played proactive role in identifying out of school children, mobilizing the parents and in enrolment of the children into schools. As a result of all these interventions many children are enrolled in to mainstream schools as stated below:

Table 3.1: Details of Enrollment during Education Fortnight

Name of the District	No. of children enrolled		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Medak	42	175	217
Mahabubnagar	2411	2666	5077
Karimnagar	186	186	372
Adilabad	608	640	1248
Warangal	181	353	534
Nalgonda	467	568	1035
Srikakulam	153	210	363
Vizianagaram	82	296	378
Prakasam	108	256	364
Anantapur	618	546	1164
Kurnool	941	924	1865
Visakhapatnam	19	23	42
Khammam	13	40	53
Total	5,829	6,883	12,712

While the literacy map helped in identifying out of school children and analyze the reasons with the community, parents of those children as well as the CRPCs formed through Bala Sangham, the short term motivational camps held for 15 to 30 days as per need, catered to motivate children

towards education. Planned residential or non residential, these camps are held in such a way as to sustain interest of the children by imparting literacy skills combined with life skills, vocational skills, career opportunities, health education etc. In addition, extracurricular activities like institutional visits, Karate, Yoga, etc. kept them active and enthusiastic. All these made them well acquainted with the information related to continuation of their education and career options. At the end of the camp, the children are mainstreamed into respective classes in KGBVs, hostels or in RSTCs.

During the past year 57 such motivational camps were held in 11 project districts and a total of 1,211 children participated in them. Out of these 273 school age children are mainstreamed into formal schools.

At this juncture, it is also worth reporting that the Sangham and Bala Sangham members are ensuring retention of such enrolled children in their respective villages. In addition, as in Nizamabad district, the Sanghams are also ensuring that as per the provisions of RTE Act there should be a school within 3 kms.

Yellaram is a hamlet village in Lingampalli GP of Lingampet mandal in Nizamabad district. It is situated 8 kms away from the mandal headquarters and 3 Kms from the GP. APMSS started working in this mandal from the year 2010 and Bhavani Matha Mahila Sangham was formed in the same year with about 38 members. During the discussions on children's education, the women realized that about 40 children are out of school in this hamlet and that the nearby school (PS) is 6 kms away. Thereafter, they discussed the provisions of RTE Act regarding availability of school and upon knowing that there should be a school within a radius of 3 kms, they resolved to take up the issue. They did a survey, prepared the list of out of school children and submitted a written request to the Mandal Education Officer (MEO) for setting up a school

in their hamlet. In addition, they approached the Sarpanch and the district level officials and sought their support in resolving the issue at the earliest. Resultantly, MEO visited the hamlet, ordered for a thatched house (hut) to be constructed immediately and also ensured that one teacher is appointed there. Thus 35 children could access their right to education in Yeallaram Tanda with the help of the Sangham. The remaining 5 children are joined in RSTC of Yellareddy.

All the above interventions by the Sanghams, members of issue committee, cluster resource pools and federations right from identification of out of school/drop out children, enrolling them and following them up for retention are contributing to increased number of villages as total enrollment and total retention villages across the project area. In the process the members are also identifying and raising other concerns like irregularity of teachers, poor quality of Mid Day Meal (MDM), cleanliness in the schools and on the approach roads to schools, etc. in various educational forums. Taking note of their proactive participation in advocating quality education for children, RVM (SSA) proposed and included representation from APMSS Sanghams in the SMCs wherever the project is being implemented. Guidelines are also prepared and distributed to all schools for compliance.

Another milestone reached in the past year has been the autonomous federations taking up key role in spreading awareness on RTE Act as well as claiming their stake to run RSTCs for the identified children. Their earlier/previous experiences of running Mahila Shikshana Kendram (MSK), Residential Bridge Centres (RBC) contributed greatly in streamlining the processes quickly and starting the RSTCs. It gives us a great pleasure to report that as many as 18 RSTCs are started by the autonomous federations with a total of 429 children. Details are already reported in the previous chapter.

ADULT EDUCATION

The reporting year was eventful throughout with many new, innovative mobilization and educational programmes for adult women of the Sanghams in the age group of 15-50 years. In line with the launch of Saakshara Bharat programme (Literacy in mission mode with focus on women) in the previous year and the department initiating village level literacy centres for a small group of 10-15 members, we at APMSS also reflected upon the status of the ALCs already running with 25 – 40 learners and a paid instructor.



While ensuring that there is no duplication of centres in the project villages by the department as well as MS, the thrust to take forward the literacy movement on target base compelled us to redesign the existing literacy intervention to have more than one centre in the village and each centre catering to a group of not more than 20 learners. Thus on the whole, 5381 literacy centres were set up across 14 districts with a total membership of 85,962 members. We in fact aimed to reach one lakh learners as part of partnership in implementation of Saakshara Bharat programme. The partnership of APMSS with the department of Adult Education has also positively resulted in distribution of learning material (primers, note books, stationary) to all the learners and training to the instructors of the centres run by MS, as part of their support.

Table: 3.2 Details of ALCs

Name of the District	No ALCs	No of learners		
		Male	Female	Total
Medak	800	84	11916	12000
Mahabubnagar	516	1143	6585	7728
Karimnagar	481	533	8113	8646
Nizamabad	450	0	9000	9000
Adilabad	440	1901	4439	6340
Warangal	447	1000	6000	7000
Nalgonda	260	349	4190	4539
Srikakulam	291	238	4766	5004
Vizianagaram	355	1032	4063	5095
Anantapur	358	1360	3853	5213
Prakasam	267	50	4119	4169
Kurnool	309	308	4552	4860
Visakhapatnam	208	500	3594	4094
Khammam	149	198	2076	2274
Total	5381	8696	77266	85962

The whole process of setting up these centres has been quite interesting and thought provoking as to how certain times the customary village level social and religious gatherings become the platforms for creating momentum and mobilizing community on a large scale.

Two to three day literacy camps were held in the villages where the learners are identified and the centre to be set up. Literacy material was prepared in these camps and is displayed widely. Besides, women went around each house with garlands of letters, tied them to the main entrance of the house and inviting the family to the social literacy gathering. All the women dressed up traditionally, took out rallies in the main streets of the village. They carried alphabets prepared with different material as a procession to the centre of the village, offered *Bonam* of letters. Songs on importance of literacy were sung and traditional events like *sirulu*, *sandallu*, *jatharlu* were held as per the local/regional customs. Culminating these events, a public meeting was held and the

villagers are encouraged to take responsibility for identification of place to run the ALC, instructor, learners and also for running the centre regularly. The enthusiasm generated thus contributed to the regularity of the centre and learners.

Table: 3.3 Literacy Camps

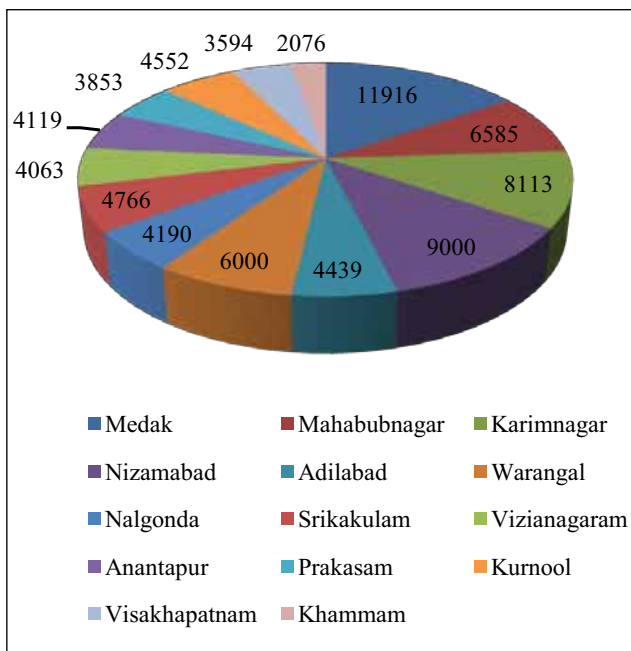
Name of the District	No. of Camps	Total No. of Participants
Medak	80	22,571
Karimnagar	10	3,695
Nizamabad	46	631
Adilabad	19	759
Warangal	20	916
Nalgonda	17	1,274
Srikakulam	17	966
Vizianagaram	35	1,033
Anantapur	44	1,379
Prakasam	18	488
Kurnool	40	48,389
Visakhapatnam	28	1,340
Khammam	41	2,012
Total	415	85,453

A noteworthy outcome of these centres has been that many women came forward to test their literacy skills by attempting Basic literacy test conducted in the past year also by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The others who are literate/ semi literate opted for appearing for open school examinations and get certification for their learning skills. The following numbers are a true reflection to this.

1,096 women accessed open schooling, 11,591 women wrote NIOS exam and 84 women took admission in Open University.

Besides, the regular literacy interventions like short term MSK for federation members, literacy camps, literacy sessions in meetings and trainings etc. are continued in the past year too. Thus each

Fig.3.1 Women in Literacy Centers



complementing the other resulted in scaling up the number of women motivated to join the literacy movement.

International Literacy Day Celebrations

Continuing the tradition of celebrating the International Literacy Day on 8th September as strategic event to sensitize community on the importance of education, in the past year too various activities were held across APMSS project districts. Meetings, rallies, melas at cluster, mandal or district level are to quote some. Same time, keeping in view the objectives and targets of Saakshara Bharat programme, the Department of Adult Education has come up with the proposal of observing the whole month of September as Literacy month. Preparation of a broad frame work of weekly activities was the next step and APMSS extended support in fine tuning it by incorporating MS experiences of mobilization programmes linking to cultural and traditional events.

The observation of the literacy month across MS project districts has literally created a festive spirit in



the villages. It was a conscious decision to involve all concerned – youth, Bala Sangham, Mahila Sangham, GP, coordinators of Saakshara Bharat at mandal and village level, NGOs, officials of DAE and other departments to take part in the events. Village level functionaries like the AWW, ANM, Asha worker also participated in the awareness creation.

Specific details of these activities include-

- Preparation of *Waada* wise literacy maps with the participation from the villagers and identification of all the non-literates in the *Waada*



- Observation of different literacy events with culture and traditions as medium – such as *Akshara Utti*, *Akshara Bonalu*, *Samuhika Aksharabhyasam*, *Akshara Vratam*, etc.

- Colorful rallies and human chains with women adorning themselves with ornaments made of letters and marching on the roads with placards and slogans relating to literacy for women, men and children attracted the attention of the entire village.
- FGDs with different groups to discuss on the importance of literacy to adult men and women, opportunities available, responsibility of the community in ensuring education for all etc.
- State level celebrations culminating the village/district level literacy events

All these activities yielded positive results in mobilizing the community on a large scale and the whole village talking about literacy on those days. Literacy centres were set up in the villages and those non-functioning for various reasons or are irregular have become functional with this renewed enthusiasm for learning literacy. Both men and women joined the centres in increased numbers.

On September 7th and 8th 2011, Department of Adult Education and APMSS jointly organized the event of International Literacy Day as a two day event at Lalitha Kala Thoranam, Hyderabad. Different activities were planned for the two days. Games were organized to Sangham women on the first day. Stalls were arranged by the department. MS took responsibility for 7 stalls in which all



the literacy material, TLM followed in MS were displayed. Rally was also organized exhibiting the methods and TLM for adult literacy. On the second day, Sri Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief Minister of the State, has inaugurated the stalls by breaking the decorated pot (*utti*) filled with model alphabets and numbers as part of the traditional *Utti* celebration (generally done for Janmashtami). He also spoke on the importance of literacy and gave certificates to the women who wrote Basic Literacy examination. Ministers from the Departments of Education, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and many other renowned personalities from Education field also graced the occasion. Diverse cultural events representing the different regions of the State, (Gussadi, Koya, Pallesuddulu etc.) were the major attraction on the day. Around 500 Sangham women and team members from across the MS project districts participated in this event.

Mahila Sikshana Kendram (MSK)

The Mahila Sikshana Kendrams continue to be the creative learning forums for girls in the age group of 11-18 years, as always. With the setting up of MSK in Visakhapatnam and Khammam districts, the number of MSKs has become 16 in the reporting year.



Keeping in view the joining of new team members at various levels, a thorough reflection on the intervention and the processes was done in the

internal meetings and workshops. As a result of these discussions, more focus was put on improving skills of the girls particularly in non-stereotypical areas.

The girls of MSK at Warangal designed and presented a radio programme in the district on the invitation of the officials from All India Radio. It was broadcasted in the month of December 2011 through FM channel and also through Warangal Radio Station. 10 girls from MSK conceptualized the programme with the support of their teachers. Besides stating the objective and processes of learning at MSK, they presented their experience of change in themselves and in their family after coming to MSK. They sang a song composed



on important provisions of RTE Act. Need for maintaining general health, personal hygiene, importance of drinking a specific quantity of water every day, including vegetables in their diet, etc. were part of the talks and discussion by them in the programme. They also planned some entertainment news reading in between to keep the listeners tuned in. It was a great experience not only for these 10 girls but also to all the others at MSK. They felt very excited to listen to their programme through radio. Their parents and villagers were more than happy to listen to their young leaders voices on radio. Appreciating the girls efforts the officials of AIR expressed willingness to allot slots to these girls periodically. They also gave a cash incentive of ₹1080/- to the girls.

The enthused girls at MSK are planning to prepare more programmes to enable every girl get the opportunity and cherish the experience.

Thus all the available opportunities were explored to give them space to come out with their talents apart from academics. Such inputs are improving their skills not only in the area but also other soft skills like communication, presentation etc.

In the process the girls are also forging ahead. For instance, Asiritalli, 12 year old girl from Vizianagaram MSK, emerged as the district level champion in Taekwando and selected for State level event. Many other girls from across different MSKs are receiving certificates, medals and applause from the organizers of such competitions held at divisional, district and regional levels. Not satisfied with this these girls are even participating in the State and Inter State level competitions.

The girls who graduated from MSK and possessed this talent are getting selected as instructors for Martial arts in the schools where NPEGEL is being implemented. Sujatha and Akhila, black belt holders from Karimnagar MSK (Karate Instructors in Jagityal and Bhimadevarapally MCS) are the two immediate examples. Similarly many girls who passed out from MSK are also part of the Kalajatha team identified for state wide RTE campaign. Thus they are keeping alive their learning besides supporting their families economically.

In addition to these, the regular programmes like exposure visits, short duration projects during holidays, participation in different events organized locally are the other steps to sustain the interest of children and motivate them to continue their education after passing out of MSK. Surprised at these achievements of the girls, the officials and philanthropists are coming forward to support the girls.

On this occasion, the visit of District Collector, Nalgonda, provision of Kolatam instruments and sponsoring tutor respectively by Spoorthy Rural Development Society and HELP are worth reporting.



The two NGOs are frequent visitors to the MSK and used to interact with girls on various issues. In the past year, Spoorthy Rural Development Society trained the MSK girls in folk dance forms like *Kolatam*. They also provided dance instruments and sweaters to the girls through a celebration to which the District Collector attended. Impressed by the interactions with the girls during the event, the Collector wished them and assured all support from his side.

Parents' meetings held half yearly are also contributing to sensitize them on the needs and concerns of their daughters and convince them about continuation of education and performing marriage only after the girl attaining the legal age.

Innovative Educational Activities

The past year has been eventful also for the innovative and strategic educational interventions taken up in convergence with the Education department and RVM (SSA). Appointment of federation members as counselors in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), Setting up *Samatha Nilayam* in HLERC campus, Varni, Nizamabad and *Balala Vidya*

Nilayalu (seasonal hostels for children of migrant families) in identified mandals of Kurnool district are few examples to this.

Samatha Nilayam

The setting up of an educational resource centre for women and girls in Varni mandal of Nizamabad district was reported in the previous year. Apart from running MSK, the campus was being utilized for various capacity building activities. In the past year, an effort was made to set up a commune on the model of SOS village in the campus with the financial support from RVM (SSA). The focus was to provide home based care and support to the orphan and single parent children who are vulnerable to many deprivations and threatened to drop out from schools for these reasons. Named as *Samatha Nilayam* this commune was inaugurated on 11th August by Ms. Chandana Khan, IAS, Chairperson, APMSS and the then Principal Secretary, Primary Education, Govt. of AP. with 42 children in the age group of 5 – 14 years, four foster mothers and four support staff.



The event was memorable with the children, both boys and girls grouped in to four homes, each with 8-10 children and one mother. All these are identified from the project districts of APMSS by the team members during their field visits. They were eager to arrange their homes with all the utility material given, and making plans to decorate their homes. State and District

RVM officials were present on the occasion and assured all support to the children. Teachers from local schools, local political representatives also attended the function and promised to support the commune whenever need arises. It was also envisaged that the mothers would, after initial settling in, begin to learn literacy through the literacy centre in the village.

The children were enrolled into age appropriate classes in the government schools in Varni. Besides, one full time residential teacher and one part time teacher were taken to support them after school hours.

We are proud to claim that despite initial struggles, we kept up the spirit and continue to run the home successfully. It was very difficult time for us when three mothers left the commune one after the other in different times. Though all these were single women, they had some fears about the continued support from their children who were not living with them and other extended family members, apprehension that ration, pension and other benefits will be lost if they leave their village for long duration, thus making them get back to the same situation where they were initially. Some children could not adjust to the new setting and wanted to go back to their villages. Grandparents of some children were reluctant to leave them in the home as the villagers are cursing them for treating the children as burden. Two boys had to be sent back as they were creating lot of trouble with their problematic behavior and disturbing other children too. The residential teacher left without information. However, the continued thrust on the commune, frequent visits and regular coordination with the campus in-charge helped in overcoming these challenges and streamlining the commune. But finding mothers still remained a great concern. This is one area we need to put focus considering the practical concerns of single women in their rehabilitation programmes.



By the end of the reporting year, there were 42 children and two mothers. The children were excelling in their academic and extracurricular activities and won many prizes. RVM (SSA) further extended support in undertaking repairs to the infrastructure facilities at commune and make it as a model. At the time of writing this report, the repairs are being completed. We envisage that the commune will get further strengthened in the coming year and will become a model for best learning. Taking this success the Special Chief Secretary (PE, SSA) proposed to run more such homes in the coming year.

Balala Vidya Nilayaalu

The intervention of village level residential educational centres came in during the discussion in Kurnool district on the issue of seasonal migration of families on a large scale to Mirchi fields of Guntur district. During the peak season of Mirchi crops between January and April, families who are dependent on wage labour do not hesitate to drop out their children from schools and take them to work along with them. They will be brought back during examinations to write or sometimes proxy writing of the examinations also happens. It is resulting in increased dropout during the next academic year. Girls are the worst sufferers in the process.

Taking note of this, participatory methods were used to identify drop out children in each village. In the subsequent discussions, the situation was further

analysed through FGDs with parents to understand the duration of their migration, arrangements for children and old people, whether any advance amounts are taken towards wages etc.

Literacy camps were held in such identified villages during January just at the time when the villagers have engaged lorries to go on migration. Sangham women and the team members together struggled hard to convince them. Yet they were leaving the villages during late nights. At this point the team members and the issue committee members articulated that at least the children can be left behind so that they do not lose academic year and interest in education. In response, parents demanded for an alternative residential centre where their children can be kept during their absence. Thus, the idea of starting *Balala Vidya Nilayams*, village level residential centres for all such children emerged. Giving it into a shape, 10 centres were set up in Gonegandla (3), Peddakaduburu (3), Nandavaram (1), Kosigi (2) and Devanakonda (1) Mandals. A total of 332 children are in these centres and are continuing their education without dropping out. RVM (SSA) has been approached to extend financial support to run the centres for three peak months of agriculture season.



The daily schedule in these centres has been on the lines of *Samata Nilayam* and MSK, as these children attend school and come back in the evening. We

hope to continue this effort in all places where seasonal migration is high, so that children do not migrate and lose their right to education.

Sumitra – the friend of KGBV girls

The need for a special educator cum counselor at each KGBV who can understand girls' concerns and give them moral and emotional support is recognized and incorporated in the policy document of KGBVs. But this did not happen in practice. Upon knowing that there are trained Sangham women on issues of legal literacy, counseling and gender and that they are already working as nyaya committees, the Chairperson of APMSS, who is also the Principal Secretary, Primary Education, proposed for their appointment as counselors in the KGBVs. This idea was first discussed with the autonomous federations since the nyaya committees are very well recognized in these mandals for their techniques of resolving issues/cases. Upon their consent, a list of identified persons was sent to the Chairperson. Subsequently 64 Sumitras were appointed in the KGBVs of 7 project districts. Their responsibilities were mutually discussed and agreed upon. However, we insisted that these women must know to read and write and prepare visit reports on their own.



- Visiting the KGBV a minimum of 4 to 5 times on weekly basis
- Has to maintain friendly relations with the girls and the teachers

- Should give them information and counseling on the physical and emotional changes happen during adolescence and their consequences
- Observing the girls closely and extending moral and emotional support to them when they feel agitated or raise any kind of concern
- Inputs on life skills, child rights and issues like health, gender relevant to their age/age appropriate inputs.
- Clarification of doubts expressed by girls on personal and intimate issues
- Participating in the reviews of KGBVs, parents' meetings, discuss the issues observed and to ensure follow up.
- Preparation of reports of visits, issues raised by children and the observations
- Reporting to the Special officer, GCDO, RVM (SSA) and to APMSS DIU.

Again as for every innovation, the starting troubles continued to irk and become de-motivating factors. The resistance from special officers, opposition from the residential teachers on Sumitras meeting and discussing with the girls, reluctant behavior in considering the issues raised by the Sumitras etc. are some such challenges faced. However, with the supportive environment at State level and the written proceedings from RVM (SSA) helped greatly to clear most of these. In a short time, the Sumitras won confidence of the girls and began to be referred as *Amma*, *Aunt*, *Akka* and willing to share their concerns freely whenever she comes to the KGBV. The commitment towards girls' empowerment and the belief in MS philosophy have made these Sumitras work with renewed enthusiasm. The following excerpts prove this beyond doubts.

In Warangal...

During regular visits to the KGBV, Mahabubabad, Warangal district, Jayaprada, the Sumitra identified that Sailaja (name changed), a class 6 girl was not very attentive and moody. She then spoke to her closely, made her feel comfortable and enquired about the problem. Then Sailaja informed that a boy has been writing letters to her seeking love and that she is getting disturbed by that. Jayaprada then took details from the girl, went to the village, spoke to the boy's parents and the boy. Thus he stopped writing letters and Sailaja is relieved greatly. She is no more moody and started paying attention to her studies. Jayaprada also enrolled 4 drop out girls into the KGBV.

In the KGBV of Nellikuduru mandal, Varalakshmi, the Sumitra identified that the girls are frequently complaining of skin irritation and itching. She gave them herbal medicine to clear the problem and simultaneously observed whether the water tank is cleaned properly. Upon knowing that it is not done, she took up this issue with the special officer and caused for cleaning the tank.

In Adilabad

12 girls of Jainoor KGBV are accustomed to chewing *gutkha* and it was hard to the teachers to stop them from it. This issue was taken up by the Sumitra, who regularly counseled them and explained them on the ill effects of chewing *gutkha*. With the result 8 girls stopped it and also took responsibility to make the remaining four girls to change their habit. Further they became close to the Sumitra who continued to educate them on the physical and emotional changes during adolescence, nutrition intake and the minimum age at marriage. In this regard, Lakshmi (name changed) informed that her parents want her to get married during the holidays. Subsequent to the counseling by Sumitra, Lakshmi confidently conveyed her decision of continuing education to her parents.

In Wankhidi KGBV, Sumitra understood that girls are frequently going to the houses of the teachers and doing domestic works. She took up this issue both with children and teachers and made them stay at KGBV only.

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)

As stated in the earlier paragraphs, APMSS has been implementing NPEGEL programme in 3388 Model Cluster Schools (MCS) across 455 mandals of 14 MS districts. It is an addition of 338 MCS in 43 mandals and one district (Khammam) to the previous reach of 3050 MCS, 411 mandals of 13 districts. This revised partnership with RVM (SSA) began in October, 2010 after a gap of 5 years, has brought in many experiences. The period being short, most part was spent on crucial aspects like gaining role clarity, understanding responsibilities of the partners, preparing ground for smooth implementation and streamlining the procedures, etc. However, by the end of the previous year, certain unique experiences of MS could be mainstreamed like facilitation of Bala Sanghams in schools, sessions on child rights and life skills, institutional visits, involving Sanghams and federations in Community mobilization.

Table 3.4 NPEGEL - The Reach

S.No	Particulars	Reach
1	No. of Districts	14
2	No. of Mandals	455
3	No. of MCS	3,388
4	No. of Schools	28,038
	PS	20,365
	UPS	3,648
	HS	4,025
5	No. of Girls	11,00,650

During the reporting year, concrete steps were taken to strengthen the above processes and to facilitate empowerment of girls from the beginning itself. Introducing non stereotypical vocational skills,

training on martial arts, training to teachers on girls' empowerment (Balika Chetana programme), etc. are to quote while continuing previous year's interventions. Keeping in mind the vast area of coverage, continued reporting mechanisms and the need to facilitate issues effectively at field level, District Consultant, Sector Coordinators and support team were separately taken. Besides the support extended by the department whenever approached has also increased the pace of activities in all schools. All these contributed to a significant number of girls continuing in the schools.

The specific progress recorded/reported for the past year has been:

- Awareness programmes and demonstrations held in schools on health and hygiene issues like nutrition, adolescent health, menstrual hygiene, first aid etc.
- Height and weight charts and health registers are maintained in the schools for periodical recording of the growth of girls. Besides weighing machines were also supplied to 2996 cluster schools.



- Imparting technical skills in house wiring, cycle repairing, gas stove repairing, screen printing, etc. which are non stereotypical. Also agriculture trainings and demonstrations to inculcate interest among them on environment conservation. In all about 4519 schools are growing gardens in their compounds In Nalgonda district alone, 389 schools are growing vegetable



gardens and are maintained regularly by children committees. They also began setting up compost pits in the schools with the vegetable and organic waste so that it can become manure for the plants.

- Regular classes in yoga, martial arts to girls
- Vocational skills in traditional and forgotten handicrafts, paintings like Cheriya paintings, preparation of herbal medicines etc.

Drupada, class 6 girl from ZPSS Dhanora attended the herbal medicine training in her school. She liked the preparation and use of *Jeevandhara*, a medicine that cures pains, headache. She gave it to her two neighbours who were suffering from joint pains. They also found it useful and began preparing on their own. Further, Drupada and her friends put a stall in the *Nagoba Jathara*, traditional fair held in Keslapur village. Minister Saraiah visited the stall and purchased medicine from the girls. They felt so happy about this.

- First aid kits kept available in all schools along with information booklet on first aid
- Wall writings were taken up in all villages for community sensitization
- Girls from Karimnagar, Adilabad and Warangal districts participated in state level sports and other

extracurricular events and won prizes. Their efforts were greatly appreciated by their teachers and parents. These were inspiring moments for the team. The girls could prove that given opportunity, they can excel in any field.

For the first time in Vizianagaram district, 165 girls from 46 MCS participated in the Taekwondo championship and could beat their competitors well. One girl was selected for state level competition. This programme was organized by APMSS for two days as a district level event. The District Collector, Joint Collector, PO and GCDO, RVM (SSA) district office participated in the event and gave compliments to the girls as well as the team for organizing the event effectively.



- Four day Balika Chetana training programme in partnership with Janaganam, an organization with theatre background to identified teachers. The objective was to make them understand the inherent patriarchal barriers and values still influencing girls' education, age at marriage and thereby sustaining gender inequalities. The module has specific issues like discrimination, violence, leadership, need for collectiveness to resolve concerns as each unit and is totally participatory. APMSS team played proactive role right from beginning of this programme - preparation of modules, extending resource

support in training of trainers at state and district levels and in organizing trainings at field/school level.



However, while conducting trainings, the team members had to face many challenges from the participants. Not willing to stay for longer hours, not adhering to the timings are logistical wise while unwillingness to accept the gender stereotypes and their influences on girls is another major challenge. The participatory exercises and case studies/roleplays contributed a lot to bring the focus of participants back.

- Spoken English classes for girls to make them prepare for the contemporary educational needs and to eliminate inhibition among them on the subject.
- Bala Sanghams were facilitated in all schools and are given regular inputs on gender, child rights and life skills. Peer educators are being identified from them for further capacity building to influence change/become change agents.

Events

Cluster, mandal and district Melas, meetings and rallies are the forums for the girls to exhibit their talents learnt through the programme. These were done in a very competitive way and the element of diversity from district to district was specifically reflected in planning, facilitating and conducting the event.



Convergence

On the whole, the implementing partnership with RVM (SSA) gave ample scope to work in close association with the department and to understand the nuances involved. There were many occasions where the team members faced tough time in managing things and to ensure smooth running of the planned interventions/programmes. Thanks to the continued

support at state level assured/received by the Principal Secretary, department of primary education who is also the Chairperson of APMSS and her office in resolving the issues in the budding stage itself.

With the same spirit, we plan to take along processes in the coming year too.

Future Steps

The specific plan for the next year includes

- Involving Sanghams, issue committees and federations in effective implementation of RTE Act
- Assessing literacy status of learners in the litrecay centers in the project area and taking measures to sustain the learning acquired by them
- Facilitating more number of women to access open schooling and university
- Continuing to advocate for more positive interventions

Table. 3.5 Activities under NPEGEL at a Glance

S. No	Name of the Activity	No. of Districts covered	No. of MCS covered	No. of Participants	Content
1	Fine and Folk Arts training	8	542	1239	Child rights, abuse, early marriages etc
2	Institutional visits	14	2816	1,25,758	Mandal offices, police station, post office, railway station, fire station etc
3	Agri - based Activities	7	1237	4519 schools	Kitchen gardens, compost pits, soakage pits
4	Yoga & Martial Arts	14	2699	3,26,203	Karate, Taekwando,
5	Bala Sanghams	14	5445 schools	3,866 BS with 1,34,037 children (75,313 girls, 58,724 boys)	Gender sensitization, Child rights, abuse, early marriages, leadership etc
6	Peer educators trainings	5		41,347	
7	Sessions at school level	Periodically held covering students of classes 6,7 & 8			Spoken English, life skills, career guidance, health and hygiene, good touch – bad touch, use & abuse of technology
8	Special days Celebrations	14	393 events	1,26,448 girls & 16,181 teachers	
9	PLA- Out of School Children	8	718	30,392	Identification & motivation of OSC through Literacy maps
10	Wall writings	12 districts, 2,400 MCS, 10,144 villages.			RTE act, Child rights, importance of girl child education, community accountability
	Community level activities- (Kalajathas, FGDs, Village level meetings, Screening films)	7 districts, 902 MCS, 2,807 villages, 3,47,097 participants			



Building Capacities and Strengthening Networks



The ever changing dynamics of field situation in tune to the development trends always inform us the perspective and content of the capacity building processes both at the team and field levels. Thus the issues of land rights, integrated livelihoods, sexuality and gender based violence have become focal areas for the reporting year for team and field level capacity building. Around 11,000 women and 1338 team members are trained on various issues in the past year.

Continuing this momentum built and tackling the ever challenge of team turnover remain as crucial concerns prompting us to come up with renewed strategies and set up district and state resource group with local expertise. Building capacities of the issue committees and core teams, developing good rapport with the local institutions and individuals; and identifying potential members from the resource groups of project villages and also MS team members are few to quote in this direction.

"... trainings in Mahila Samatha built my capacity on addressing issues of violence... it helped me overcome my own family dispute... now I am a trainer!"

**- Prameela, Nyaya Karyakartha,
Pidicilla, Mogullapalli, Warangal**

Building capacities of Sanghams is the continuous thrust of the programme with the view that they play the role of pressure group at grassroots level and address women and girls' concerns. It is a constant process keeping in line with the ever changing field situation and the advances/trends in development. At the same time the age of the programme, stages of Sanghams and the role change towards more of advocacy determine the nature of capacity building. Trainings, workshops, periodical review reflection meetings, exposures are the regular forums for inputs both to the team and to the Sanghams. While most times the resource persons are internally pooled, need based external support is also taken, particularly to strengthen the conceptual understanding of the participants. As stated in the previous chapters, the evolution of institutional structures at village, cluster and mandal levels for Sanghams and Bala Sanghams and their march towards sustainability also requires close monitoring and assessment of the progress along with setting up support systems for their effective functioning.

In the past year, the activities taken up in this head are largely a continuum of the previous years' processes and outcomes. Various field level and team level capacity building programmes were initiated based on the need and the issues identified at field level as well as at the team level.

A brief overview of these is given below:

Field level

As always, cluster and mandal level meetings, trainings, workshops, exposures formed the forums for building capacities to the issue committees, resource pool members and resource groups. The issues and the content are developed based on the mandal specific issue, recent development trends and concerns; and the stage of the programme. While the basic framework is retained – perspective building on the issue, linkages to women's situation,

strategic gender interests are carefully interwoven into the module.



For instance, the inclusion of land development of SC and ST communities in MG NREGS created the need for inputs on land rights. Similarly negative impact of technological advances in communications and the increased crime rate on women brought in fresh demand for concentrated inputs on violence against women and girls.

The following table represents the various capacity building programmes organized in the reporting year along with the participants.

Table: 4.1 Field level Trainings

Issue	No of Sangham women trained
Health	7199
Education	523
Gender & Social issues	1385
PR	1840
NR & AB	1751
Land rights	544
Legal literacy	198
Total	11045

The impact of these trainings is always reflected in the actions of the Sanghams. They are moving ahead towards strengthening their institutional structures

– Resource pool, resource groups and federations. Simultaneously the changes brought in their life style also points to the information and knowledge gained by them through these programmes. For instance, trainings on reproductive health held in Nalgonda district resulted in increased number of women seeking second medical opinion before deciding on whether to go for hysterectomy or not. Similarly health trainings held across the Sanghams resulted in increased practice of sanitation measures at household and at village level. Women are able to demand Sarpanches for provision of drainage canals, dust bins, sanction of ISLs etc. Simultaneously the inputs and knowledge are transferred to the remaining Sanghams.

Team level

Keeping the dynamic nature of the programme in view, frequent team turnover at various levels and joining of new team members, team capacity building becomes an ongoing process. In line with this in the past year, regular phase trainings and issue based trainings, brainstorming sessions, workshops, issue refresher meetings were organized to build perspective of the team members and equip them with current trends in development scenario and the resultant areas for facilitating empowerment of women.



Not only trainings but need based workshops are also organized to build capacities to the team members to equip them with enough facilitation skills to support

the programme. For instance, the programme in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram has reached the stage of facilitation towards mandal level structure and move for consolidation. However it was realized that in these two districts, clusters are not strong and need further facilitation to form into MRGs.

Table: 4.2 Team Trainings

Issue	No of team members
Phase trainings	208
Gender trainings	125
Panchayat Raj	182
Land Rights	295
Health	30
RTE Act	55
RTI	267
Integrated Livelihoods	26
Sexuality and gender based violence training	89
PLA	16
Legal Literacy training	28
Kalajathas	17

Thus, a two day workshop was organized to the team members from these two districts in Visakhapatnam during April 2011. Details are reported in the chapter, *Institutional Processes*.

Brainstorming on Inclusion and Exclusion

During October 2011, one day brainstorming session was organized to the core team to understand the issues of exclusion and inclusion. Ms. Annie Namala



from Centre for Social Equity, also the member on JRM to AP state facilitated this workshop using an analytical framework. It helped us to understand the factors involved in perpetuating discriminatory practices and causing marginalization of certain castes/communities thereby excluding them from any participation.

Subsequently when SGRC took up the study on Inclusion & Exclusion in Schools and Classrooms the team could fine tune their observation skills with this understanding.

Team members' participation in different workshops both state and national levels has also to a great extent contributed in widening the perspective. In the reporting year, draft manual on Financial Management and Procurement for Mahila Samakhya programme was brought out by NPO. Subsequently, NPO facilitated series of regional workshops for all MS states. In this regard, southern regional workshop was held during November, 2011 at Kerala for the states of AP, Karnataka and Kerala. The draft manual was presented for dissemination, discussion and finalization through group works. Each state could reflect on its own processes and procedures followed in the light of the draft manual and suggestions and clarifications were discussed. Participation of districts' Accountants along with State Office team in this workshop has actually given them an opportunity to directly understand the procedures required to be followed as indicated in the manual. In addition, the workshop also served as a

platform to learn about different financial procedures followed in other MS states.

Training on Sexuality and Gender based Violence

The changing needs of people and lifestyle along with technological advances have brought in many changes in the mindsets and behaviours. This has been evident in the many field level issues on sexuality based violence. To further understand this and the relation between gender based violence and sexuality based violence, a ToT programme has been conducted to the core team members with resource support from Nirantar Resource Centre. We are planning to develop this training as a sequence of team and field level trainings in the coming year and develop a comprehensive module from these programmes for internal use.

Exposures

Every year exposures to other MS states and programmes outside state are organized to learn from the experiences of other programmes in facilitating empowerment of women in their respective state contexts. Widening perspective of the team members is another objective behind this strategy. In this regard, in the past year too exposure visit was organized to Gujarat MS programme. A group of 5 team members and 11 *Nyaaya Committee* members visited the districts of Rajkot and Sabarkanta to gain first hand information about Naari Adalats and information centres run by federations. Back home,



they shared these learnings with the remaining team members and are enthusiastic to add information centres to their next year plan.

Similar exposures internally between project districts also contributed in similar outcomes. Knowing about Legal Aid clinics, Bala Panchayats, Mahasangham, the district level net work of federations are some to quote as the areas where knowledge is being shared through the internal exposure visits.

Proficiency in English Course

At the instance of the Chairperson, a 60 hour course in Spoken English was organized to all the DPCs and the State Office team in order to equip them with better communication skills in English language. Centre for British Teaching (CfBT), an expert agency set up to train professionals in English speaking has designed a customized course to suit our needs and conducted it over a period of 5 months starting from October 2011. It covered important aspects of English language like vocabulary building, drafting, group discussion skills, presentation skills along with major features of English grammar.

Use of participatory methods, ample examples during class work and assignments have given good opportunity for the participants to improve their skills and helped them to come out of inhibitions to speak English. We extend our thanks to the Chairperson and RVM (SSA) for all the support.

Convergence and Networking

MS being a facilitative programme, there is much focus on developing convergence between the Sanghams and line departments in order to enable women access their rights and entitlements. Towards this mandal official meetings are held periodically. Access to schemes and services, concerns of women in realizing their entitlements are the issues for interactions. Sometimes they are resolved in the forums itself and the officials issue

orders spontaneously. Otherwise applications are taken and the matter will be pursued later. Same time, officials use these forums for information dissemination of any new programmes or services and schemes newly introduced and the Sanghams are requested to give wide publicity to them. Thus they become two way advantageous and further lead to continued convergent action. In the process linkages are developed between Sanghams and line departments.

Additionally, strategic alliances are built between GO, NGO for effective implementation of programmes or Acts like Saakshara Bharat, KGBV, MGNREGA, RTE etc. In such forums, MS plays an advocacy role to ensure that all the provisions mentioned in the Act reach beneficiaries. In this context MS has been a member of various alliances and networks formed by department or NGOs. Federations at mandal level and Sanghams at grassroots level also are involved in these partnerships. Thereby the Sangham gains greater visibility and extends its sphere of influence. In this context, the convergent actions with DAE, RVM (SSA), department of Rural development, DWCD, etc. are worth reporting. In the recent past, these are not limited to just convergence but are leading to partnerships in implementation of programmes. Thus there is scope for MS to mainstream the learnings and experiences gained in the programme. However, this is not an easy task. There are many challenges as reported below:

District Legal Services Authority

The Nyaya Committee of Andole federation in Medak district has won many appreciations for their counseling and mediation skills in resolving cases through the Mahila Court initiated by them in 2003-04. From then onwards they resolved many cases successfully and created a name for themselves as the Mahila Sangham that settles disputes. Many people even from non MS project mandals also approach them for their problems.



Keeping in view the autonomy of the federation and the need to build support systems for their sustained functioning we tried to build linkages between *mahila court* and DLSA. Subsequently Nyaya Committee members received paralegal training and recognized as para legal volunteers. From then onwards there have been sequential capacity building programmes to the Nyaya Committee members of all the seven autonomous federations to the extent that in the past year, DLSA has proposed to set up legal aid clinics in five federation mandals and gave responsibility to the federations to run them. Support in terms of provision of a lawyer, minimum furniture to run the office were assured to them. Thus five legal aid clinics were started in Medak district. The cluster huts where the federations are running their offices have also become space for these legal aid clinics. It has been a fulfilling moment to look at the achievement of the autonomous federations and this has cleared all doubts about their sustainability. Till date, these clinics have settled 121 out of 285 cases referred to them. DLSA provides necessary legal sanction to the cases settled by the Nyaya Committees. However, the assured financial support in terms of monthly honorarium has not been received. It matters more to the federation as they have to sustain their interest.

Education Department

From the beginning, APMSS has been playing an active role in promoting women and girls' education in various ways. Along with programmatic

interventions, convergent action with the departments of adult education and school education has been an important aspect. Implementation of NPEGEL, campaign on RTE Act, federation members as counselors in KGBVs, running literacy centres for women in the age group of 15-45 years are some to quote as examples. Most of these details are already reported in the previous chapter. Along with these, the partnership with DAE has gone further ahead. It is reflected in quick access to Primers developed by DAE to all the members of literacy centres across the project area, trainings to volunteers of literacy centres etc. In addition, in three districts of Mahabubnagar, Anantapur and Visakhapatnam, a pilot project has been taken up by MS to train the village and mandal coordinators on imparting literacy with vocational education.

MGNREGS

From the beginning when the Act came into force, APMSS has been involved in various ways contributing to effective implementation of the provisions of the Act. Sangham level discussions, trainings and village level campaigns, meetings with beneficiaries have been the platforms for this apart from the pilot project on effective implementation of MGNREGA in partnership with WASSAN, a network organization. All the concerns and issues raised in these forums are brought to the notice of the officials for quick resolution.

In this direction, the State government initiated a GO, NGO partnership called APNA giving space for NGOs and organizations like MS working at grassroots to contribute towards smooth implementation of the Act at all levels. For the past two years, the partnership has been quite strongly advocating for many wage seeker/beneficiary friendly orders/policies. This has actually been a successful platform for the women to raise issues and resolve them as there are fixed days for the APNA meetings right from mandal to state level. The issues which are not resolved at the mandal level are taken

to district and to state level thereby continuity is ensured in the communication. Sometimes new ideas, innovative experiments are also discussed and designed for scaling up. Along with team members, the federations are also part of this APNA.

In line with the above, the following are the major achievements reported in the past year.

- Wide spread awareness on the provisions of the Act in all the project villages
- Ensuring proper implementation of the provisions allocated for women like work site facilities, child care, maternity benefits, preference to single women in allotment of work etc.
- The issue of late payments has been frequently raised in the mandal, district and state level meetings. An analysis into these lapses made the department realize that neglect of the staff as the reason. With the result an order has been passed to impose additional amount of payment to all such late payments and that this amount will be deducted from the salaries of such officials. The department developed software with respect to this and in most cases the payments are streamlined.
- Provision of water at the worksite was another issue continuously debated and finally it was resolved through payment of cash in lieu of provision of water and that the wage seekers began carrying water for themselves. It was resolved that the amount will be deposited in the wage seeker's account.
- Low payment to the work done was one crucial concern raised at many districts. In this regard, APMSS in partnership with the department conducted a work-motion study in the districts of Anantapur, Adilabad, Mahabubnagar and the observations were shared with the department. Consequently orders were issued to increase wages.

- Land inventory was undertaken to identify the land of SC and ST communities for inclusion of land development in the shelf of works
- The wage seekers have been grouped as Srama Sakthi Sanghams (SSS). MS team and federation members were identified as trainers to these groups in project districts. This on the one hand helped in ensuring Sangham women become part of these groups and on the other gain capacities to be part of the larger resource group. In the past year 2739 such trainings were held to SSS and 171 members were resource persons to these trainings.



- A toll free helpline was constituted by the department to resolve issues quickly and this information was passed on to all the Sanghams for accessing it if needed.

Despite these many initiatives undertaken through partnership with the government there are challenges still in terms of addition of works in the shelf of works, taking applications from the wage seekers, allotment of works on priority basis to the single women, provision of work site facilities etc. Continued efforts are being made to raise these issues in different forums.

Thus on the whole the partnership with the government in implementation of MGNREGA has been a continuous and successful effort in enabling mainstreaming of women's issues and lobby for resolution of their concerns.

Watershed Programme

From the year 2007 APMSS and WASSAN a network organization are implementing watershed programme in three clusters of Adilabad district – Ringanguda, Koutaguda and Wavudam. Financial support is extended by NABARD for this programme. Completing initial stages, the project reached Full Implementation Phase (FIP) in the past year. Proposals were sent to NABARD dividing this FIP phase into 4 parts for release of funds. Three out of 4 parts are approved by the bank and funds are released. Accordingly works as planned are undertaken in these three areas like bunding, building large ponds for storage of water, stone bunding etc.



The entire project of watersheds has given us many experiences both in partnership alliances and in the implementation part. It was not easy to convince the villagers for the non visible benefits to the family and the need for long term conservation of resources. At the same time the project has deadlines and fund release is timely. It was like a struggle from

both sides. The team had to face stressful situation often. For instance, in Demmadiguda village, most of the villagers used to work in the ginning mills of Asifabad before the watershed project. They were paid less wages. Moreover, working for long hours in cotton mills resulted in many health problems. In this context, when the village was identified for the project works, team conducted meetings in the village. However, they were not willing to leave their works with the fear that there are no immediate benefits in the watershed and that the reserves will be for a community purpose not for their families. Moreover, they were not willing to do Sramadan which is not financially any beneficial for them but is a compulsion. It took us many visits, holding meetings with the village elders, organizing exposure visits to the other watershed areas resulted in a gradual change in their minds. At one stage, it was felt that it is very difficult to continue to work here as the funds release is time bound and cannot wait for long. Finally the team had to plan continuous visits to the village and work very closely with the villagers and thus brought change. It is to the extent that presently Demmadiguda has become a model watershed village and the villagers are ahead in *sramadan* compared to other areas. Such successes make us work with more vigour in facilitating villagers for long term conservation of natural resources.

At the same time, the project has a component of financial support for livelihood programmes. Proposals were sent to take up these programmes in all the three watersheds and upon sanction, livelihood activities are also taken up by the villagers. Towards this APMSS and WASSAN organized trainings and

Table: 4.3 Water shed Area

Sl.No	Name of watershed	Villages covered	Area (hectares)
1	Ringanguda	Ringanguda, Darapur, Yavakpati, Patibanda, Gudenghat, Chirrakunta Vatti vagu colony	1000
2	Koutaguda	Koutaguda, Gonduguda, Dadvapur, Linkusapur, Babapur	933.90
3	Wavudam	Wavudam, Metiguda, Belgaon, Balargondi, Demmadiguda, Kapu, Gantalaguda, Lambaditanda	1693.17

exposure visits to build capacities of the villagers on different livelihood programmes such as social forestry, animal husbandry, grass cultivation, fishery etc. Necessary implements were also supplied as part of the financial support. Additional vocational trainings were also organized like electrical works, sewing etc. and the machines and implements were also supplied. All these initiatives helped in visible resource development in the watershed villages. The water reserves were increased, animal and livestock growth was noticed besides the villagers gaining capacities in integrated livelihoods.



Thus this project has actually proved that natural resources can be conserved if there is commitment and timely support. Going by this experience, we are planning to make integrated livelihoods as a regular focal area in other project villages and incorporated this in the coming year's plan.

Participation in Committees

In the past year, MS has been part of different state level committees particularly for promoting girls' education. There have been continuous meetings and consultations where MS has made efforts to share the processes and experiences in mobilizing girls towards education.

At the field level the autonomous federations of Medak and Karimnagar are part of *Prajavani* programme initiated by the respective district legal services authority for speedy resolution of cases through

mediation. Consequently representatives of the Nyaya Committees are attending court on every Monday to participate in the meetings and are addressing the cases that come up for hearing on the day.

RTI United Forum

In continuation to the previous years' partnership of MS with RTI united forum, in the past year too efforts were made to campaign about the applications of the RTI Act and its wider usage in public interest. As part of it an extensive training has been conducted to the team members on the application of the Act to get important property issues like land, utilization of Panchayat funds, details of ISLs sanctioned etc. This understanding has been taken to the Sanghams widely.

In this regard, one example from Nalgonda district is worth reporting. Velamagudem is a village in Peddavoora mandal of Nalgonda district. Here Rudramadevi Sangham is formed with 40 members in the year 2005. From the beginning, the women are active in demanding information and inputs on women's rights. They formed into issue committees and trying to get knowledge on each issue. In the process, when trainings are conducted to the issue committees on RTI Act, the women preferred that a committee be formed at village level for effective usage of the Act. Soon, translating this into reality, 5 Sangham women, 3 youth members and 2 village elders formed into RTI usage committee in the village. As part of their next action plan, they went to the neighbouring Nagarjunapeta village and facilitated formation of a committee there too. In the process they realized that there is no health worker in either of the villages and that no action has been taken even after several applications to the concerned authorities. This prompted them to apply under RTI Act and know the status of their application. Soon they succeeded in getting a health worker posted there. Thus they are happy that a small application under RTI brought them access to health worker.

Seminar

Keeping in view the increasing crime rate against women and girls, a study was conducted in the project area to understand the patterns of violence in the rural areas.



The findings of the study are presented in a state level seminar on violence against women held on the eve of International Women's day. Different related departments and NGOs working on child rights,

violence against women participated in it. The idea that a common forum to be formed to address issues at a larger level has been discussed with the participants. This needs to be followed up further.

Future Steps

All the above initiatives both in building capacities and in establishing networks are going in the direction of greater visibility to the programme on the one hand. On the other, it brings focus on the future role to be played by the programme and the federations. In this direction our coming year's plan will be:

- Continued capacity building to team and field level structures.
- Setting up information centres and resource centres at district level as centres for learning and sharing expertise.
- Strengthening networks and building linkages for lobbying towards mainstreaming MS philosophy.



Expanding Horizons of Community Sensitivity



Working with the larger community, particularly with the grassroots institutions and sensitizing men are the two major areas where we put focus in the past year too. With the result, the Sanghams are able to play the role of monitoring agency for effective reach of services and entitlements to the most marginalized sections. To further strengthen this, we made strategic efforts to develop constant engagement of the Sangham with the Gram Panchayat and the villagers through village development committees.

The issues of women's health, nutrition, female foeticide, girls' education, RTE Act, arrack and violence against women and girls, awareness on women's rights formed content for the large scale campaigns held throughout the year. The special feature however is the reach to non project areas by entering into partnerships with government, NGOs and autonomous federations.

Participation in various forums at State as well as national level and sharing our experiences is another avenue for us to widen our reach. Similarly visits to the programme by different institutions and individuals provide another opportunity. By all this we can confidently claim that the sphere of the programme in the state has expanded.

**"I realised how I am contributing to the trauma of many women...
I convinced my husband... we stopped preparing Gudumba (Cheap Liquor)...
now I am part of anti-liquor movement... Mahila Samatha helped me find new livelihood"**

**- Jayamma, Sangham Woman,
Kurrampalli, Kanagal, Nalgonda**

From the beginning, APMSS has been playing a facilitative role in mobilizing women and collectively address identified issues and concerns. In the long journey nearing two decades, the older Sanghams gained specific identity at village level as pressure groups and emerged as a strong women's agency. Same is the case with the mandal level autonomous federations who by now have begun functioning as grassroots women's organizations and are able to take along the processes initiated by MS. In this context for the past few years, we were emphasizing on creating an enabling environment for women friendly planning at grassroots level and increasingly advocate for mainstreaming gender into existing systems and programmes for women and girls at the programme level. Simultaneous efforts are made for expanding the reach to the entire village, work with men and the community as a whole. The changed strategy of reaching all women in the village by facilitating *Waada Sanghams*, organizing *mahila sadassu* at village level, Awareness campaigns on identified mandal specific issues like sanitation, HIV/AIDS, Child marriages, MG-NREGS, etc. are some programmes reflecting the above steps. Thus the Sanghams, federations and the MS programme as a whole carved a niche in the project area as well as in the non project area.

The issue committees of the Sanghams are the forerunners in owning this responsibility and are improving their training skills in the process. Thus, issue resource base is created at village, cluster and mandal levels for access by any one. Federations functioning independently were also playing key role in generating awareness and disseminating various information to the community and also extending their resource support to MS in the neighbouring mandals/districts thus spreading to large area.

Continuing the same in the past year, another strategic attempt was also made to facilitate village development committees for collective responsibility on the village development. This would be like a core committee at village level with representation from village elders, youth, Sangham women and from all village level institutions. The objective of forming these committees is collective and focused action on identified issues like access to infrastructure facilities, identification of beneficiaries for schemes and entitlements, action towards village education, sanitation and addressing social issues.



It involved a series of activities like village mapping of resources, infrastructure and literacy status to gather primary information on the village situation. As a next step, meetings and FGDs were conducted with different sections of people in the village. Followed by Grama Sabhas to discuss and finalize the issues, members and their roles and responsibilities. The committees are facilitated then based on the village specific needs. The Sangham plays major role in identifying the issues for which the committees are to be formed. There could be more than one committee in the village which again varies from district to district based on their focal areas. As a next step, orientations were conducted to strengthen

the members of Village Development Committees (VDC). In the reporting year, VDCs were formed in 163 villages across 9 project districts. There have been many instances to attest the success of this strategy. To quote one -

Thippayapally village is located 8 KM from Kodimiyala mandal of Karimnagar district. There are 372 households with a population of 3500 in this village. Mahila Sangham is existing in this village from 2009. In the initial stages Sangham could attend to issues like children enrolment and retention, ANM services and Anganwadi services at their level. But to make the entire community involve in the process and feel accountable, the Sangham mooted the idea of VDC. Prior to formation of VDC, Sangham and team performed ward wise PLAs, kalajathas to identify specific issues of the village that need collective action through VDCs. This was followed by village level meeting. In this meeting, four committees were formed to address four issues i.e. Infrastructure, village sanitation, education committee and social issues committee. Orientation on their roles and responsibilities was conducted at village level.

Subsequently sanitation committee took up the issue of open defacaton and non utilization of ISLs. In this process they could notice that 92 families those who have already completed construction of ISLs did not receive the payment. So the committee approached the concerned officials and could succeed in getting payments within a short period of 20 days.

In other project districts too, the VDCs began to plunge into action slowly. We need to put focus on this.

Campaigns

From the beginning of the programme campaign is adopted as one specific mode for wide spread

awareness generation and sensitization among the community. Every year on these lines, campaigns are taken up on area specific issues identified by the Sanghams. This has been proving to be an important mode of communication to mitigate the severity of the issue and to reach larger community. Child labour, early marriages, tobacco (gutkha) chewing, T.B, HIV/AIDS, Sanitation, Arrack, Hysterectomy, STIs/RTIs etc. are the issues addressed through campaigns for the past few years. Along with these, in the last couple of years RTE, RTI were also included in the agenda. In the reporting year, child marriages, anaemia, HIV/AIDS, PEVAC and RTE were the major themes that were taken up in a campaign mode.

While taking up the campaign, the following are the major strategies adopted

- Collaboration with line departments
- Sensitization porgrammes to Sanghams and Bala Sanghams
- Capacity building to issue committees
- Sessions in schools and colleges
- Observing special days/weeks
- Involving federations in taking up short term projects
- Participation and raising concerns in various forums (Advocacy)

The methods used include PLAs, Kalajathas, Rallies, FGDs, Role plays, Village level meetings, stalls, Workshops at mandal, district and state levels, Wall writings, Posters display, Trainings, Demonstrations etc.

Campaigns on Anaemia by federation

Federations identified Anaemia as one key issue for community awareness and sensitization across the villages in their respective mandals. Taking this further, they proposed to take up one month

campaigns in all the villages on the effects of anemia, preventive measures, importance of nutritious food and preparation of nutritious food with the locally available vegetables. 28 federations across 7 districts have put up proposals for financial assistance to take up this campaign. It was conducted in a total of 894 villages.



As part of this campaign resource persons identified by the federations sensitized community using different methods like role plays, Kalajathas, FGDs, Small group discussions, demonstrations and village level meetings. They encouraged every one, particularly pregnant women and lactating mothers to test their Hb percentage. The response has been very positive and spontaneous. For instance, in Medak district, 2,985 members have undergone Hb tests during these campaigns.

Special Days

Every year, special days are celebrated with lot of enthusiasm across the project districts. The message given out is very clear - Awareness on the issue to a large number of people and pointing out the need to work on it for securing individual and collective rights.

Various events like camps, rallies, forums, workshops, theatre performances, melas etc, were held at different levels on the occasions of Girl Child Day, International literacy day, International women's day, Global hand wash day, breast feeding week, CRC week, 16 days of activism, HIV & AIDS week etc.



Table: 5.1 – Special days

Special Day	Activities	No. of Districts	Number of participants
World Environment Day	Village level meetings, Patha pantala Jatharalu	14	3588
Breast feeding week	Village level awareness meetings, Rallies, wall writings	9	5735
International literacy day	Rallies at village and mandal level, melas at district and state level	13	4958
Global Hand wash day	Meetings at Sangham and Schools	2	598
World food day	Meetings at village level, demonstrations, stalls, jatharas	6	5126
16 days activism – Violence Against Women	Meetings, workshops at village and mandal level, rallies	14	6090
International women's Day	Melas at mandal, district level, Village level meetings, Rallies, stalls	14	5222 women

In Visakhapatnam district, district level mela was organised on the occasion of International women's day. The theme was women's literacy. 260 Sangham women participated in it. Games like kabadi, musical chairs, word building, running, rangoli were organized in which Sangham women participated very enthusiastically. Further information was given on RTI, educational opportunities available for girls and women as part of the group discussions. Women who were never involved in such events felt that this mela brought them memories from their childhood and said that they would carry the same enthusiasm to their villages. This is well reflected in regularity of Sangham meetings and initiation of literacy centres.

Some specific Outcomes

- 3480 members could know their HIV status
- Could facilitate 3601 families to grow backyard gardens
- 5992 families applied for ISLs, among them 3446 were sanctioned and 2751 were completed construction and making use of it.
- 334 women motivated to contest for next PRI elections

- 334 early marriages were postponed
- In Kurnool district total immunization in 11 villages.
- 87 children could stop chewing Gutkha in Adilabad district

As a follow up of these various activities, villages were adopted to work intensively for achieving notable change. For example in Visakhapatnam district 12 tribal villages in Cheedikada, Ravikamatham and V. Madugula mandals were identified to transform them as model villages in health.

Future Steps

- Working more intensively to achieve tangible outcomes for the mandal focus issues
- Resource groups and federations to take more initiative for field level campaigns
- Forming networks with individuals, GO and NGO for collaborative action on identified issues
- Lobbying for grassroots agencies to be part of implementation of programmes and awareness campaigns.



Samatha Gender Resource Centre



Venturing into newer areas and entering into strategic partnerships is a noteworthy development in the past year. SGRC took up campaign on RTE with theatre as medium in 1200 villages across 8 districts. Also for the first time took up a short period campaign in the urban schools and colleges. This gave scope to understand current issues and concerns of girls as against the technological advancement. In addition, external study on inclusion and exclusion issues in schools and internal study on violence against women contributed to identification of future focal areas for interventions and advocacy.

However, the major challenge for SGRC has been team building and expanding the sphere of its activities further, though a small beginning is made.

"It is amazing to see hundreds of girls coming together... participating proactively, exchanging views affectionately... it is overwhelming! Such participatory and big programmes are very much required for overall development of children."

**- G. Amareshwar, English teacher, ZPHS,
Uravakonda, Anantapur**

"Now we found our home... a new family!"

- Samatha Nilayam Children

*S*amatha Gender Resource Centre started as a unit of APMSS in 2001 with the objective of reaching out and ideologically spread MS philosophy has been moving ahead steadily since inception. There are many new associations through this Centre which helped in gaining varied experiences in addressing issues through women's perspective. Further concretizing these, in the past year too SGRC ventured into studies, taking up campaigns, organizing Seminar etc. For the first time a campaign on 'Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence behind Violence' was organized in the schools and colleges of Hyderabad and Rangareddy urban areas by involving various departments and NGOs. Besides capacity building programmes on gender perspective building to various GO, NGOs continued as a regular feature at SGRC.

Apart from these, the past year also is remembered for the expansion of the scope of activities in Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre for Women and Girls (HLERC). *Samatha Nilayam*, an innovative residential programme for orphan and semi orphan children was started in the HLERC campus from August 2011. The campus is also being utilized for running MSK, organizing short duration residential trainings to the members of Sangham, Federation, Bala Sangham and MS team.

Another focal area in the reporting year was that of forming District Resource Centers on the lines of SGRC at State level.

Further details are discussed below:

Samatha Nilayam

The concept of *Samatha Nilayam* is to create a support system for the children and women in special need. It is in line with SOS village model where women would be like adopted mothers for every a group of (8 to 10) children. Children without parents or with single parent but not under their care were identified from throughout MS project districts and



single women were also identified as mothers. The necessary infrastructure to run the Commune was already there at HLERC campus situated in Varni mandal of Nizamabad district. This was inaugurated by Principal Secretary (PE), Govt. of AP and Chairperson of APMSS in the month of August 2011. RVM (SSA) extended financial support for running this commune. Initially there were many challenges in setting up this commune. While children are in sufficient number, we could not find mothers. Also the campus needed many repairs for comfortable stay for the children and mothers. Yet, the commitment and enthusiasm to strengthen the commune helped in overcoming these problems and continue to run the Commune. RVM (SSA) is also keen to own up this initiative and took up repairs of the huts/homes.

More details are already reported in chapter 3 – Pathways to Education.

Campaigns

Campaign on Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence behind Violence

In accordance with the Chairperson's suggestion, a 5 member committee has been constituted in SGRC to strengthen the gender mainstreaming activities. The committee proposed to take up a series of campaigns in the urban areas, starting with greater Hyderabad, on increasing violence against women and girls.

The major objectives of the campaign being building solidarity, dissemination of information and sensitization of larger sections of the society, particularly men on the need to break silence and more particularly the conspiracy behind the silence with regard to increasing crime rate of violence on women and girls.

As a first attempt to address issues of violence against women and girls in urban areas SGRC initiated the campaign in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad covering identified schools and colleges during the 16 days of activism on violence against women starting from 25th November to 10th December 2011.

This campaign is planned to create awareness and sensitize school and college students, teachers, parents and the community, particularly men.



Different NGOs and network groups working on education, women and child rights like MVF, Asmita, Naandi Foundation, APCGJ, Bhumika, Ankuram etc. came forward to be part of this campaign and facilitate activities in their respective work areas. Major themes identified are – girl child abuse, violation of child rights, corporal punishment and school infrastructure.

Accordingly different school and college level activities like poster making, debate, essay writing,

skits, etc. were organized in about 75 schools and colleges covering 18 mandals of Greater Hyderabad area. Culminating these, a public meeting was organized on 14th December at Harihara Kala Bhavan in Secunderabad. The children's response to the events was overwhelming and indicated that such activities are needed to explore the inherent talents among children. They drew interesting drawings



on child abuse, good touch, bad touch, child rights which are displayed at the meeting.

Resources are pooled from various sources, including organizations like Asmita, Action Aid, and Banks besides SGRC contributing to some extent.

RTE Campaign

SGRC, in association with RVM (SSA) and DAE, initiated a State level campaign to disseminate information and spread awareness on the provisions of RTE Act and Saakshara Bharat using folk art forms. This was proposed in 282 low literacy mandals of all 23 districts in AP, covering 150 villages across 10 identified mandals (including 50 tribal villages). But in the later stage, the campaign was limited to 8 MS project districts. Three-step activity was planned in each mandal – prejatha, during jatha and post jatha activities. Vanamaali, a cultural resource organization, is partnered to provide technical support in terms of developing script and training to identified kalajatha teams.

Consequently, workshops were held for script development and production. Trainings to the identified teams of 8 MS project districts and *jatha* activities in the villages followed. Being a collaborative activity, support and cooperation was sought from RVM (SSA) and DAE periodically at all levels of the activity, right from identification of villages to post *jatha* / follow up activities.

Despite initial constraints in getting the necessary clearances, gathering and training cultural teams, the entire programme could evoke good response from the community. At certain places as in Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam (25 villages) village level responsibilities were shared and literacy centres were immediately started.

In all, 1200 villages were covered through this campaign and a total of 4,01,526 people were reached through this campaign across 8 districts.



Study on Inclusion & Exclusion in the Schools & Class rooms in Primary and Upper Primary Schools

SGRC has been identified as a partner to the TSG, EdCIL (SSA) for a national level study on understanding inclusion and exclusion patterns in schools. Four districts - Mahabubnagar, Adilabad, Kurnool and Vizianagaram were identified for the study and field level investigation has been completed. A total of 20 schools were studied across

6 mandals out of which 2 mandals were in non MS project area – Balanagar in Mahabubnagar and Pusapatirega in Vizianagaram district.



The study focused on mapping participation of the students from diverse social groups in school to identify practices/behavior in different spheres of school including classrooms (mid day meals, drinking water, use of toilets, assembly, sacred spaces if any), extracurricular activities, attitude of teachers towards pupils of different social groups and the observations of parents on the practices of inclusion and exclusion in schools.

A 20 member study team was identified from MS functionaries at different levels. We also ensured to identify the team from mixed composition, different experience and work levels so as to capture the best of information. After national orientation workshop, a two-day state level orientation was organized at Hyderabad to the field investigators followed by field level investigation. Report has been submitted to TSG, EdCIL, SSA.

This study helped us to deepen our understanding the real situation on field and the very subtle exclusion practices still being practiced. We can say that it rejuvenated our thought process. The findings are clearly guiding what should be our follow up action in the schools and villages both in the study and in non study project area.

Perspective Building on Gender

Despite the many programmes taken up by SGRC, the core area of action i.e. gender perspective building has not been disturbed. Various training programmes were organized in the past year to judiciary, Media and Group I officials and other organizations.



Future Steps

All the above activities of SGRC indicate its major role in advocating for gender mainstreaming in programmes and policies and for quality education for girls.

- Developing resource group
- Form and strengthen DRG/DRC
- Capacity building to the federation Resource Group members
- Take up research studies and document the best practices
- Develop material and modules and disseminate the same
- Greater Advocacy towards girls' and women's education



Documentation

Documentation is always a crucial element in MS programme. It is an important tool that enables constant review and reflection on the issues identified while facilitating women's empowerment, strategic programmes implemented, the processes involved and the outcomes. Same time it is also helpful in critical analysis of the programme achievements and planning for the future. Keeping this in view, for the past three years, efforts were made to strengthen the internal documentation processes in line with the Revised Results Framework (RRF).

The past years' initiatives are in continuation to these. Firstly, we tried to standardize the existing data base formats. Similarly efforts were also made to ensure regular updating and proper maintenance of all other wings of periodical documentation like the reports, profiles, case studies, photo documentation, newsletters, brochures etc. Capacity building in data management and maintenance to the thematic group members and Sangham women is another step in this direction. With the result, we can claim that the team members gained skills to present and analyze the available data during field level interventions for disseminating information and sensitizing the community.

The following is an account of these various activities:

Data base Management & Maintenance

- The regular thematic meetings serve as forums for reflection and capacity building to the team on the different processes of documentation, data management and their importance. Apart from these, a two-day workshop on data management and maintenance was also organized for the team members representing both the programme and administration wings. This is in sequence to the efforts in standardizing the data formats and to develop MIS for the programme initiated earlier. Dates for regular updation of data were planned.

However, given the wide range and diversity of data available, it is a challenging task still.

- Facilitation of Sanghams towards regularity of registers and records has started giving encouraging results – About 756 Sanghams are writing registers on their own and are recording minutes.

Material Development & Documentation

- Review of the existing issue wise training and IEC material and development of need based material.
- A set of three election posters indicating importance of voting and elections were reprinted in order to take up Pre Election Voter Awareness Campaigns (PEVAC) for the ensuing Panchayat elections.
- Considering expansion of the programme and the key role of songs in mobilizing and sensitizing the community, the earlier songs books (set of five books) are reprinted.
- As part of implementing NPEGEL programme, the girls are imparted skills in First Aid along with information dissemination on higher education and career opportunities. To support this and with the objective of keeping information readily available for use, booklets on First Aid and Career Guidance were printed and distributed to all the schools.



- As already reported, SGRC took up a campaign, “Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence” in select government schools of Hyderabad and Rangareddy during the anti violence fortnight. In this context, a set of four posters on child rights, corporal punishment, good touch and bad touch, cyber crimes were designed and printed. They were distributed to all the participating schools and organizations for continuing the momentum set.
- In various forums, particularly on women and girls’ education, the participants are very keen to know the strategies and processes facilitated by APMSS to mobilize girls and women towards literacy. Keeping this in view and to document the various literacy activities/programmes like mapping the OSC (PLAs), Aksharajathas, Vidya sadassulu, meetings of Sangham, Balasangham, short term motivation camps, interactions with parents, officials etc. a short film on “strategies for mobilization of women and girls towards literacy” is being developed. Video recordings were done in the districts of Warangal, Nalgonda, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kurnool and Anantapur.
- A brochure, *Upadhi Hami Pathakam Amalu – Prayogathmaka Adhyayanam* was developed reporting the experiences, learnings and achievements from the pilot project implemented for three years from 2007-2010 in collaboration with WASSAN and Ford Foundation.

Situational Analysis for Advocacy

- From the beginning, the issue of Child marriages is being constantly addressed across the project districts. Sensitizing and educating girls and parents is the major strategy practiced to ensure sustainable attitudinal change besides preventing/postponing the marriage attempts whenever and wherever reported. In

this context, in the past year, Kurnool district team members took up a survey in identified mandals of Yemmiganur and Kosigi and made efforts to gather data on instances of child marriages. This has been presented to ICDS officials in the mandal level workshops besides analyzing the situation in the Sangham and issue committee cluster meetings for their responsibility in addressing the issue.

- Taking cue from the different forms of violence against women and girls reported in the recent times, a study was taken up to understand the complexity of the situation closely and to develop strategic plans. This was done in 40 identified villages of 20 mandals across 7 project districts. 1000 sample of women and girls in five broad categories – Single women, working women, women in leadership role, school going adolescent girl and out of school/working adolescent girl. Field level data was compiled and analysed. A brief presentation was made in the state level seminar on violence against women & girls organized in view of International Women’s Day. The detailed report is yet to come.

Future Steps

The above programmes held throughout the reporting year inform the direction for the next year as below:

- Need to prepare issue wise information booklets and training material with the changed context of the present times
- To take up both impact and analytical studies on mandal specific issues
- To document best practices within the programme
- To create forums for collective reflection of MS empowerment processes, the experiences, learnings and achievements



Seminars & Workshops

- State Office Consultant attended the workshop on **RTI- Ikya Samachara Vedika Annual Meeting** at Vijayawada on 5th June 2011.
- SPD and Resource Centre Coordinator attended the Consultation workshop on **Regional Operational Plan** conducted by Action Aid on 22nd June 2011.
- RC Coordinator participated in the national workshop on **Strategies towards Inclusion and Exclusion under RTE Act** organized by NCPCR at New Delhi on 15th July 2011
- State Programme Director attended one day consultation on the **Issues related to Girls Education** at Delhi on 25th July 2011. It was organized by the TSG, Ed.CIL at New Delhi.
- One State Resource Person and DRP from Adilabad district attended the two day **Annual Network Meeting of WASSAN** from 28-29th July 2011 at Hyderabad. This time the theme for the annual meet was, to articulate the collective potential of partnerships between NGOs and GoAP / GoI for invigorating innovations in watershed Development Projects and rain fed agriculture.
- Assistant Programme Director and District Programme Coordinator, Medak participated in the meeting on **License Rules 2010, G.O.MS.No.30** on 04.09.11 with regard to children's homes organized at Hyderabad by MV Foundation.
- A one day consultation was held at Hyderabad on 07.09.11 by Action Group on RTE for developing a common strategy for effective implementation of RTE Act. Assistant Programme Director participated.
- State Office Consultant attended the round table conference on **Decentralization and Elections for Municipalities and Panchayats** conducted by Samachara Ikya Vedika at Hyderabad on 7th September 2011.
- One State Resource Person attended one day meeting of **Alliance for Land – AP** organized by WASSAN at Hyderabad on 09.09.11.
- Bhoomika Women's Collective conducted a two day work shop on **Gender and Media** on 19-20th September 2011 at Pragathi resorts, Hyderabad. Resource Centre Coordinator attended the workshop.
- SPD, APD, 4 DPCs and 11 Accountants from 14 districts participated in a two-day dissemination workshop on **Financial Management & Procurement** facilitated by NPO from 1-2 November at Kerala for the Southern MS states.
- SPD, DPC, federation EC member from Nizamabad and state office team participated in the celebrations of **National Education Day** on 11th November, 2011, held by RVM (SSA) at Hyderabad. Apart from putting up a stall, few art forms of the ongoing RTE campaign were also performed on the occasion.
- SRP attended the **Round Table Meeting on Land Reforms** on 11th November 2011 held by Bhoomi kosam at Hyderabad.

- SPD and RC Coordinator participated in a two day training of trainers programme on **Gender and Climate Change** on 24-25th Nov 2011 at Delhi conducted by CCAFS.



- SPD participated in the two day national convention on **Girl Child Education** held by Unicef in New Delhi on 8th & 9th December 2011.
- RC Coordinator attended national level **Discussions on Child Marriages** on 5th December 2011 at New Delhi conducted by NCPCR. Subsequently regional consultation was held at Hyderabad in which SPD and RC

Coordinator participated and shared APMS experiences.

- RC Coordinator and one Consultant participated in the **South India Consultation towards Preparation of IV and V Periodic NGO Alternative Report on CEDAW** from 12 -13th July 2011 at Council for Social Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. It was organized by Asmita on behalf of NAWO.
- SRP attended the **National Consortium on NREGA** conducted at Delhi from 13th to 19th September.
- Consultation workshop on **Menstrual Health Management** was organized by CWS on 5th & 6th Jan' 12. State Office Consultant attended it.
- SRP attended the Consultation on Campaign on **Ward committees and Area Sabhas of GHMC** conducted by COVA.
- APD attended the **Southern State consultation on XII Five year Plan** at Bangalore conducted by MGNREGS -CRD.



Visitors

Every year people from various organizations visiting APMSS programme is an opportunity for us to share our experiences and also to learn from them. In the past year team and Sangham women from other MS states visited MS programme, interacted with women to understand the functioning of autonomous federations and the strategies for sustainability. In addition to other MS states, last year, members from different XII plan working groups also came to us and interacted with team and women to understand the way the programme facilitates raising and addressing women's issues and concerns in various ways and advocate for women friendly policies.



Students from MA Social work and Home Sciences subjects are placed with MS programme to learn about the community mobilization strategies and women empowerment processes.

- One member from Nirantar Resource Centre, Delhi based organization visited Karimnagar district. She interacted with women of Sree Chaitanya Mahila Federation, Koheda on 21-22nd April 2011.
- Geetha Bharadwaj from One world organization has visited Medak and Nizamabad districts to document women in collective farming (Samatha Dharani) project on 10-11th May 2011.
- Geetha Kutty, Professor, 12th plan working group member from Kerala Agriculture University has visited Medak and Nizamabad programme on 14 – 15th June 2011 to know the strategies and programmes followed in APMSS on women in Agriculture for 12th plan recommendations.
- Dr. Jessica Burke, Assistant professor in the graduate school of public health, at Pittsburg University visited Medak district to interact with women for the purpose of pilot study on HIV/ AIDS and intimate partner violence among women in Hyderabad on 21st June 2011.
- A representative of NCPCR visited schools in MS working mandals of Medak district and also interacted with federation women on 26th July 2011.
- Finance consultant from NPO visited AP programme to understand the financial procedures followed in APMSS. As part of this, he visited Mahabubnagar DIU also. It was a three day visit from 23 to 26th August 2011.
- Two members from RDI organization visited Konaraopet mandal, Karimnagar to discuss land issues at village level on 25th August 2011.
- National task force on RTE visited Gattu mandal which is a low literacy mandal. Apart from visiting some schools, they also interacted with the team (12-13 September 2011).

-
- 12 members team from Karnataka Mahila Samakhya visited federation and RSTCs at Devarakadra mandal of Mahabubnagar district on 26th November 2011.
 - A group of 29 students from social work department of KIMS College, Karimnagar visited MS programme in Karimnagar to know about MS programme on 12th December 2011.
 - A team of 25 members from Mysore and Bidar district of Karnataka Mahila Samakhya visited Medak, Nizamabad and Karimnagar districts to learn about the functioning of federations.
 - Ms. Shalini from Nirantar Resource Centre, Delhi visited Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts to interact with Sangham women and understand the application of Literacy (17-19th Jan 2012).
 - Team from HMTV visited Konaraopet mandal of Karimnagar district on behalf of RDI to shoot the processes adopted by Sanghams to address land rights issues.
 - 6 members from Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda have done block field work in MS working mandals of Nalgonda district.



Audit Report - 2011-12

BALAJINAIDU & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

6-1-85/4, SAIFABAD
HYDERABAD – 500 004
PHONE - 23241533

AUDITOR'S REPORT

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society, Secunderabad as at 31st March, 2012 and the Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended on that date annexed thereto, and report that :

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

2. (a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- (b) Proper books of accounts have been kept by the Society, so far as it appears from our examination of the books.
- (c) The Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account referred to in this Report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- (d) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts subject to the notes, give a true and fair view :
 - i) in the case of Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the society as at 31st March, 2012 and
 - ii) in the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the society, the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

for **BALAJINAIDU & CO.,**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

G. Balaji Naidu

G/BALAJI NAIDU
PARTNER
Membership No. 022245

PLACE : HYDERABAD
DATE : 28.07.2012



ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY
HYDERABAD

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2012

LIABILITIES	SCH.	AMOUNT		ASSETS	SCH.	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.			Rs.	Ps.
CAPITAL FUND		477391.93		Fixed Assets	1	4634852.00	
Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		176044.08		Deposits & Advances	2	461800.00	
		<u>653436.01</u>		Cash & Bank balances	3	4486453.01	
Payables	5	9411738.00		Cash & Bank balances - FCRA	4	137676.00	
Advances received		5000.00		Receivables		349393.00	
TOTAL		<u>10070174.01</u>		TOTAL		<u>10070174.01</u>	

Notes on accounts and schedules annexed hereto form part of the accounts

for BALAJINAIDU & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

G. Balaji Naidu

G. BALAJI NAIDU
Partner
Membership No. 022245



Place : Hyderabad
Date : 28.07.2012

P. Prasanthi
P. PRASANTHI
State Programme Director

ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY
HYDERABAD
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR FROM 01.04.2011 TO 31.03.2012

EXPENDITURE	SCH.	AMOUNT		INCOME	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.		Rs.	Ps.
MANAGEMENT COST :						
State Office	6	5238773.50		Funds received from GOI		73614000.00
DIU - Medak	7	1397136.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	8	1237713.50		Funds received from NABARD		1704800.00
DIU - Karimnagar	9	1150948.50				
DIU - Nizamabad	10	1392161.00		Funds received from - SRC		320000.00
DIU - Adilabad	11	1322582.50				
DIU - Warangal	12	1287615.50		Funds Received from DAE		746459.00
DIU - Nalgonda	13	1396053.50				
DIU - Vizianagaram	14	1246557.50		Funds Received from KGBV		257290.00
DIU - Srikakulam	15	1141815.50				
DIU - Prakasam	16	970225.00		Interest on Savings Bank Accounts		510878.00
DIU - Anantapur	17	1151179.00				
DIU - Kurnool	18	1120176.00		Interest on SB - FCRA		4966.00
DIU - Visakhapatnam	19	897616.50				
DIU - Khammam	20	573733.00		Interest on SB - Samatha Dharani		19746.00
TOTAL - A			21524287.00			
PROGRAMME COST :						
State Office	21	9335694.50		Exchange value of assets		7520.00
DIU - Medak	22	3369675.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	23	3360232.50		Other Income		5127.00
DIU - Karimnagar	24	3545802.50				
DIU - Nizamabad	25	3599874.50				
DIU - Adilabad	26	3551505.50				
DIU - Warangal	27	3683945.00				
DIU - Nalgonda	28	3270804.50				
DIU - Vizianagaram	29	3441508.00				
DIU - Srikakulam	30	3524021.00				
DIU - Prakasam	31	3178922.00				
DIU - Anantapur	32	2872731.00				
DIU - Kurnool	33	2456263.00				
DIU - Visakhapatnam	34	2617237.50				
DIU - Khammam	35	1524347.00				
NABARD Watershed Exp.	36	674367.50				
Sakshara Bharat Trg Expenditure	37	591150.00				
SRC Expenditure	38	639871.00				
KGBV Expenditure	39	229200.00				
Samatha Dharani Expenditure	40	23246.42				
FCRA Expenditure	41	56.00				
TOTAL - B			55490454.92			
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year			176044.08			
TOTAL			77190786.00	TOTAL		77190786.00

Notes on accounts and schedules annexed hereto form part of the accounts

for BALAJINAIDU & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

G. Balajinaidu
G. BALAJI NAIDU
Partner
Membership No. 022245

Place : Hyderabad
Date : 28.07.2012



for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

P. Prasanthi
P. PRASANTHI
State Programme Director

Major Outcomes 2011-12

- By March 2012, MS reach is to 5717 Sanghams across 4824 villages in 117 mandals of 14 districts. 2,01,980 women are members of these Sanghams. Out of these, Federations are functioning independently in 28 mandals.
- 41,389 adolescent girls and 32,338 adolescent boys are members of the Bala Sanghams facilitated by APMSS.
- MS was part of different XII plan sub-groups, participated in the deliberations and gave recommendations – ‘Girls’ Education’, ‘Disadvantaged Farmers Including Women’, ‘Empowering Women for Agricultural Development’ & ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’.
- As part of targeted interventions under Saakshara Bharat Programme, 85,962 women were brought into literacy fold through ALCs to acquire functional literacy.
- Increased convergence with SSA for life skill based quality education for girls through NPEGEL programme being implemented in 3,388 MCS in collaboration with RVM (SSA). This partnership is enabling MS to reach out to non-MS project areas as well.
- Greater visibility to the programme and federations.
- Revisited and reorganized the Sanghams and membership based on JRM observations – focus on most marginalized women in the Sanghams and building their capacities for taking up leadership roles. Initiated tracking their participation in the activities.
- Autonomous Federations taking up projects – running RSTCs, campaigns on anaemia & reproductive health.
- Training sessions on Gender issues to the trainee police constables, media persons and trainee Judges.
- MS team as members in District & State level committees – Violence against women & girls, ICPS, AP Society for Empowerment of Women & Girls, Sexual harassment at work place.
- Expansion to new mandals – support by autonomous federations in introducing the programme, awareness campaigns, capacity building.
- Organic farming in 974 acres of land across 252 villages of 5 districts.
- MS team as 3 Key resource persons and 65 Master Trainers to train child friendly teachers as part of Balika Chetana programme of RVM (SSA).
- MS as a member in the State level working group on Girls Education.
- 64 trained Sangham women are placed in KGBVs as ‘Sumitras’ – counselors for emotional support to girls.
- 18 RSTCs run by autonomous federations.
- Representative of MS Sangham / federation members as special invitee for SMC meetings – notified by RVM (SSA).
- Massive campaign on RTE Act & Women’s literacy in 1200 low literacy villages of 80 mandals across 8 districts.
- Campaign on “Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence” in 75 schools and Junior Colleges of 18 mandals in Greater Hyderabad region.
- Extended training support in conducting ToTs on vocational skills in three districts organized by DAE besides organizing vocational trainings to the learners of ALCs.
- APMSS has been monitoring implementation of MG-NREGA in 68 mandals as a member in APNA (GO – NGO collaboration).
- MS as resource group to train *Shrama Shakti Sanghams* on the provisions, entitlements, etc. under MG- NREGS.
- 7 autonomous federations of Medak district running legal aid clinics of DLSA (285 cases registered, 121 resolved).
- 23 Nyaya committee members are members in mandal level grievance cells set up by the district administration in the districts of Medak & Karimnagar.
- MS as Gender Resource agency to GOs, NGOs & CBOs.
- MS as a member in Action Group on RTE.
- MS as a member in networks on violence against women, land rights, livelihoods & RTI Act.
- Convergence with RDI to address women’s land rights and access to assets by women.
- SPD, APMSS is the Chairperson of the committee on sexual harassment at work place of Navodaya Schools, Southern region.

Executive Committee Members

S.No.	Name & Designation	Membership Status
01.	Smt. Chandana Khan, IAS, Secretary to Government, Dept. of Education, Government of A.P	Chairperson
02.	Dr. Meenakshi Jolly, IAS, National Project Director, Mahila Samakhya.	Nominee of Dept. of Education, GOI, Ministry of HRD.
03.	Sri. N. Siva Shanker, IAS, Commissioner & Director, School Education, Government of A.P	Member
04.	Sri. P. Janardhan Reddy, Director Adult Education, Government of A.P	Member
05.	Smt.M. Kavita, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Government of A.P.	Member
06.	Smt. Anita Rajendra, IAS, Director, Dept. of Women Development, Disabled Welfare & Child Welfare, Government of A.P.	Member
07.	Smt. K. Uma, IAS, Special Secretary to Govt., Department of Finance, Government of A.P.	Member
08.	Sri.S.K. Ray, IAS, Financial Advisor, Department of Education, New Delhi	Member
09.	Ms. Deepa Dhanraj, 268, 5 th Cross, 3 rd main, Ist Block, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560 034	NRG Member
10.	Ms. Geetha Nambissan, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110 067	NRG Member
11.	Prof. Fatima Alikhan, 8-2-580, Road No.8, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad	GOI Nominee
12.	Sri. D. Roshan Kumar, SEEDS, D.No. 4-16-25/3, Bandlamudi Complex, Near Andhra Bank, Amaravathi Road, Guntur – 500 002	Member
13.	Dr. Sagari R. Ramdas, Anthra & Yakshi, B 228/229, Sainik puri, Secunderabad – 500 094	Member

S.No.	Name & Designation	Membership Status
14.	Smt. K. Anuradha, DPC, APMSS, DIU – Medak	Member
15.	Smt. B. Padmaja, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Mahabubnagar	Member
16.	Smt. D. Laxmi, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Karimnagar	Member
17.	Smt. G.Sarita, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Nizamabad	Member
18.	Smt.V. Suvarna, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Adilabad	Member
19.	Smt. G. Jayasree, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Warangal.	Member
20.	Smt. B. Malleshwari, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Nalgonda	Member
21.	Kum.S. Satyaveni, DPC, APMSS, DIU - Srikakulam	Member
22.	Kum. D. Ratna Jyothi, DPC, APMSS, DIU – Vizianagaram	Member
23.	Smt. D.Nagalakshmi, DRP, APMSS, DIU - Prakasam	Member
24.	Smt. B. Kullayamma, DPC, APMSS, DIU – Anantapur	Member
25.	Smt. T. Rajeshwari, DPC, APMSS, DIU – Kurnool	Member
26.	Smt. M. Nirupama, DPC, APMSS, Vishakapatnam	Member
27.	Smt. Kanaka Durga, DRP, APMSS, Khammam	Member
28.	Mahila Karyakartha, APMSS	Member
29.	Mahila Karyakartha, APMSS	Member
30.	Smt. P. Prasanthi, SPD, APMSS, State Office	Member Secretary

Dates of Executive Committee Meetings

**30th June, 2011
23rd December, 2011
21st February, 2012**

Addresses of District Implementation Units

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

H.No- 12-13-485/5, Nagarjuna Nagar, Tarnaka,
Secunderabad- 500 017
Ph.No – 0404-27150233, Telefax- 040-27150557

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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I.T.I. Opp, Sangareddy, Medak (Dt)
Ph.No. 08455 – 276916

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

Plot No. 7-2-991, Ponnam Complex,
Mankamma Thota,
Karimnagar
Ph.No. 0878 2224071

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

H.No.28-3-210/5,
Behind Ramakrishna Theater,
Caltex area, Bellampalli
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Phone:-08735-222730

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Ph:08682 222085

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

6/148E, CB Road,
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Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Visakhapatnam (Dt)
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Mahabubnagar – 509 001
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Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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Srikakulam
Ph.No. 08942 221235

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

NSP Office Opp,
Addanki Road, N.S.P. Colony,
Darsi, Prakasam (Dt)
Ph.No. 08407 254565

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

1-1153, Geetha Nagar,
Beside Somappa Memorial Hall,
Yemmiganur, Kurnool (Dt)
Ph.No. 08552 229858

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

C/o Mrs.J.Hanumanth Prashad,
H.No.2-1-364, Trunk Road,
Khammam - 507003
Ph.No. 08742- 254373

Glossary

Waada Sangham: A collective of all women in the Waada (colony) generally formed with homogeneous caste groups.

Core Group: A village level pressure group formed with representation from issue committees of the Waada Sanghams in the village. 2 to 3 women representing from each issue committee of the Waada Sanghams in the village come to Core Group.

Bala Sangham: Village level collectives of adolescent boys and girls, both school going and out of school in the age group of 11-16 for boys and 11-18 for girls

Bala Panchayat: Cluster level forum represented by 5 to 7 members from each Bala Sangham of the cluster villages, both boys and girls

Cheli Sangham: Village level collectives of adolescent girls. Over a period of time, these Sanghams have transformed into Bala Sanghams.

CRPC: Child Rights Protection Committees formed at cluster level with representation from Bala Sangham, Mahila Sangham, teachers, youth groups, AWW, ANM and GP members

Maha Sangham: District level network of autonomous federations facilitated by APMSS

Akshaya Paatra: The food bowl initiated at school with community participation. Villagers and children bring vegetables, fruits, other food items available with them and put in this bowl for children to share and eat during Lunch hour in the school /MDM

Akshara Bonalu: Bonam is a special offering made to God and is considered sacred. It is a food item prepared in an earthen pot decorated with turmeric, rangoli and flowers and is taken to the temple for offering to the village Goddess. It is an important cultural practice in Telangana observed as a regional fair before the crop season during June, July. Drawing inspiration from this traditional pots decked with letters are taken in procession along the streets for sensitizing community on importance of literacy.

Samatha Nilayam: A commune having group of homes to provide home based care and support to the orphan, semi orphan and vulnerable children and single women

Sumitra: Sensitized and trained Sangham women appointed as counselors in the KGBV to identify concerns of the girls and extend emotional care and support.

Nyaya committee: A group of women trained on gender, social issues and legal literacy formed into a committee at mandal level to act as pressure group in addressing and resolving cases with gender sensitivity.

Mahila Sadassu: A platform to discuss and plan action on women's issues and concerns of all the women in the village aimed at building solidarity among women .

Mandal Resource Group: A group of issue wise resource persons nominated/identified from the cluster resource pools to address issues, to build capacities of issue committees and to plan and implement programmes through mandal level federation

Cluster Resource Pool: A cluster level group of trained women nominated/identified from the issue committees of the Sanghams at village level.

Balala Vidya Nilayam: Short term residential facility planned as a special educational intervention for the children whose parents go on seasonal migration on large scale leaving children and elderly members in the houses. The objective is to prevent seasonal drop outs and to promote retention of children.

Vidya Sadassu: Village level forum on the issue of education held to take stock of the educational scenario of the village, identify issues and draw action plans along with the villagers. Education department, PRI members, Community and Sangham are the key participants.

Prajavani: District level redressal forum set up by the district administration for speedy redressal of cases, meets every Monday, comprises of officials from different departments and NGO representatives

Shrama Shakti Sangham: Fixed wage labour groups comprising of 20 per unit for allotment of works under MG NREGS.

APNA: A state level alliance formed by Government of AP in collaboration with NGOs for effective implementation of MG NREGA through GO, NGO partnership.

Autonomous Federation: Mandal level federation of village level Sanghams registered as a Society to work for empowerment of women. It functions independently without the physical presence of MS functionaries in that mandal. Planning and implementation of the programmes in that mandal is the responsibility of the federation and need based support is extended to such federations from the district project office (DIU). APMSS works in partnership with them and facilitates a district level network for exchanging mutual resources, thereby retaining only organic linkage.

Village Development Committees: A committee formed at village level with representation from village administration, PRI, youth and Sanghams for focussed village development activities

