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# Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

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

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2010-11



## Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

(Mahila Samakhya Project of Gol)

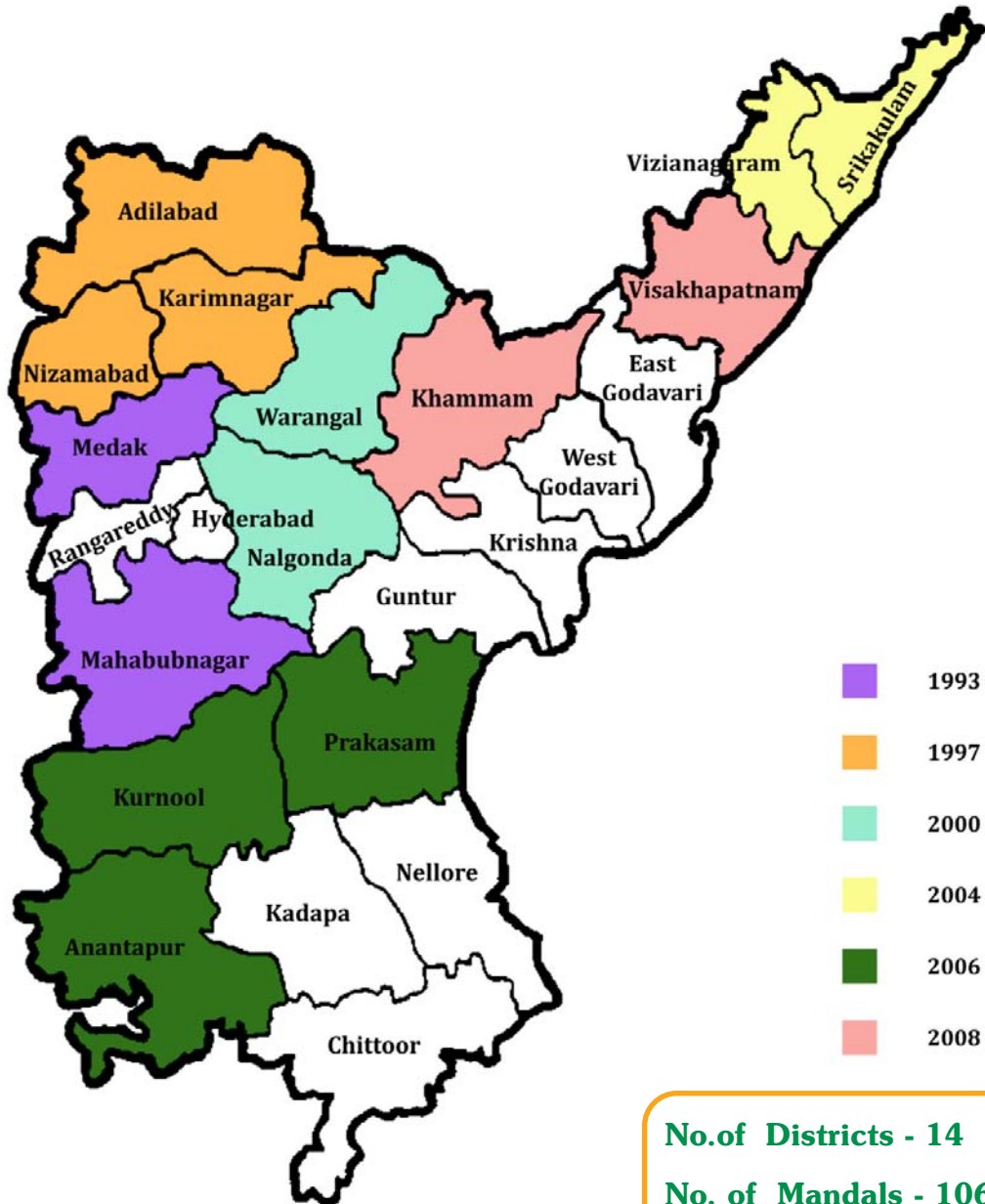
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# APMSS Reach



**No. of Districts - 14**  
**No. of Mandals - 106**  
**No. of Villages - 4394**

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# Programme Information 2010-11

SI No	Particulars	MDK	MNR	KNR	NZB	ADB	WRL	NLG	VZM	SKLM	PKSM	ATP	KNL	VSP	KMM	Total
1	No. of Mandals covered	7	8	3	7	3	6	5	5	4	6	8	8	4	4	78
	No. of autonomous mandals	7	7	7	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
	<b>Total Mandals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>106</b>
2	Coverage of Villages	255	335	109	257	131	301	295	272	250	275	250	251	160	150	3,291
	Villages in autonomous mandals	199	259	279	132	234	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,103
	<b>Total Villages</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>4,394</b>
3	No. of Sanghams	316	232	175	743	199	340	454	343	413	238	251	202	113	60	4,079
	Sanghams in autonomous mandals	199	259	279	132	223	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,092
	<b>Total sanghams</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5,171</b>
4	a) Sangham Membership in existing project mandals	10,947	7,585	4,411	10,077	4681	22,431	25,485	14,039	14,527	5,190	7,053	6,589	2807	1,258	1,37,080
	b) Membership in autonomous mandals	5,085	10,690	11,635	8,969	6,309	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,688
	<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>16,032</b>	<b>18,275</b>	<b>16,046</b>	<b>19,046</b>	<b>10,990</b>	<b>22,431</b>	<b>25,485</b>	<b>14,039</b>	<b>14,527</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>7,053</b>	<b>6,589</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>1,79,768</b>
5	No. of Core Groups	60	26	-	67	39	170	178	124	85	9	-	9	-	-	767
	Membership in Core Groups	2,701	1,097	-	3,350	971	9,039	5,088	2,886	2,132	139	-	230	-	-	27,633
6	Total no. of literate Sangham women	767	210	1,276	101	1,111	8,899	2,141	1,385	1,483	246	1,022	287	-	156	19,084
	No. of women trained (Sangham and Federation)	1,011	761	192	402	3,651	2,823	1,541	126	1,394	762	689	509	209	-	14,070
	*Health	250	761	36	46	3,212	798	1,175	126	780	762	655	509	-	-	9,110
	*Legal Literacy	120	-	22	42	75	88	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	381
	*Gender	90	-	42	-	144	586	-	-	158	-	34	-	-	-	1,054
	*PR	95	-	-	95	-	434	188	-	149	-	-	-	-	-	961
	*Economic	0	-	-	65	56	334	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	467
	*Education	250	-	5	52	-	287	-	-	55	-	-	-	209	-	858
	*Leadership qualities	56	-	24	35	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226
	*NR	150	-	40	67	53	296	132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	738
	*others	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	252	-	-	-	-	-	275
8	No. of MSKS	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	14
	No. of learners at present	68	37	72	62	54	44	33	38	20	34	50	29	-	-	541

	No. of girls mainstreamed into Schools / Hostels / KGBVs	37	28	28	28	39	34	40	49	10	14	14	16	40	-	-	349
9	No. of Adult Learning Centres	34	84	134	44	43	70	31	31	-	24	32	-	15	-	-	511
	No. of Learners	1,064	2,542	4,058	1,978	1,056	1,749	682	682	-	385	798	-	450	-	-	14,762
10	No. of Bala Sanghams	101	105	56	70	89	220	204	204	205	148	114	166	139	32	21	1,670
	Girls	1,650	1,477	927	946	1,381	5,732	3,864	2,481	1,797	1,365	2,462	2,406	576	232	21	27,296
	Boys	849	1,000	618	553	789	4,822	3,396	2,145	1,425	911	1,712	2,496	234	223	21	21,173
	<b>Total children</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>10,554</b>	<b>7,260</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>48,332</b>
11	No. of Bala Sanghams in autonomous mandals	51	131	192	40	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	481
	No. of Girls	610	2,210	2,971	409	1,039	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,239
	No. of Boys	386	1,472	1,866	271	481	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,476
	<b>Total children</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>4,837</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>1,520</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,715
12	No. of children enrolled*																
	Boys	1,300	1,405	80	114	407	244	-	149	1,098	7	486	1,286	17	10	6,603	
	Girls	1,744	2,625	62	72	353	184	58	212	1,214	47	498	1,321	66	7	8,463	
	<b>Total children</b>	<b>3,044</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>2,607</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15,066</b>	
13	No. of Sanghams received Sangham fund	-	-	5	39	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62
14	MPEGEL clusters	336	232	384	272	148	352	360	216	64	272	224	132	58	-	-	3,050
15	<b>Total No. of Women elected to PRIs</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>436</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,874</b>
	ZPTC	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	MPTC/MPP	2	2	5	2	7	34	25	14	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	121
	Sarpanch	4	13	7	-	12	43	35	32	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	192
	Ward members	70	72	98	55	77	307	345	173	354	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,551
15 (a)	Total No. of EWRS joined in Sanghams	38	119	75	111	15	15	28	190	-	-	48	56	-	-	-	695
16	No. of Nari Adalats/ Myaya Committees at Mandal / federation level	1	7	7	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
16(a)	No. of cases received	10	30	73	18	2	158	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	367
17	No. of cases resolved at Sangham level	-	-	-	-	2	-	30	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	38
18	No. of Early marriages postponed	11	11	-	5	1	6	4	40	-	5	7	8	-	2	100	
19	<b>Team Trainings</b>																
	(a) No. of trainings held for team	9	14	11	9	-	8	12	5	12	6	-	10	-	4	100	
	(b) No. of Participants	44	25	157	34	21	97	105	45	52	24	37	44	17	44	746	

\* Through various interventions during the year (excluding MSK)

## Abbreviations

ALC	Adult Learning Centre	MIS	Management Information System
AMC	Academic Monitoring Committee	MRG	Mandal Resource Group
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse & Midwife	MS	Mahila Samatha
APD	Assistant Programme Director	MSK	Mahila Sikshana Kendram
APMSS	Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society	NABARD	National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development
APNA	Andhra Pradesh NGOs Alliance	NGO	Non Government Organization
APO	Assistant Project Officer	NH Day	Nutritional Health Day
APOSS	Andhra Pradesh Open School Society	NIOS	National Institute for Open Schooling
AWC	Angan Wadi Centre	NLMA	National Literacy Mission Authority
CESS	Centre for Economic & Social Sciences	NPEGEL	National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level
DEO	District Education Officer	NPO	National Project Office
DFID	Department for International Development	NRG	National Resource Group
DIU	District Implementation Unit	PE	Primary Education
DPC	District Programme Coordinator	PHC	Primary Health Centre
DRG	District Resource Group	PLHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
DRP	District Resource Person	PRI	Panchayat Raj Institution
EC	Executive Committee	PWDV	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence
EWR	Elected Women Representative	RC	Resource Centre
FGD	Focused Group Discussion	RP	Resource Person
GB	Governing Body	RTE	Right To Education
GCDO	Girl Child Development Officer	RTI	Right To Information
GP	Gram Panchayat	RVM(SSA)	Rajiv Vidya Mission (Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan)
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome	SC & ST	Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe
HLERC	Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre for Women & Girls	SGRC	Samatha Gender Resource Centre
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme	SHG	Self Help Group
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme	SLMA	State Literacy Mission Authority
IEC	Information, Education & Campaign	SPD	State Programme Director
ITDA	Integrated Tribal Development Agency	SRC	State Resource Centre
JRM	Joint Review Mission	SSS	Shrama Sakthi Sangham
JRP	Junior Resource Person	TLM	Teaching Learning Material
KFAW	Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women	ToT	Training of Trainer
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya	UNCRC	United Nations Child Rights Convention
MCS	Model Cluster School	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Educational Fund
MDM	Mid Day Meal	VRO	Village Revenue Officer
MDO	Mandal Development Officer	WASSAN	Watershed Support Services & Activities Network
MEO	Mandal Education Officer	WHO	World Health Organization
MG -	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural	ZPHS	Zilla Parishad High School
NREGS	Employment Guarantee Scheme		

## Reflections

It is always a good feeling to put all the experiences together in the form of annual report to share it with a wider audience. This is an opportunity to reflect up on and to compile all the achievements, learning experiences and challenges faced during the year gone by in facilitating empowerment processes. It gives us a scope for critical reflection and provides new insights for further strategic planning.

The past year was full of dynamic activity both at organization and field levels. Expansion to new mandals, implementation of National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and participation of team members in a variety of events taken up by different departments and organizations has widened the reach of the programme. Mutual exchange of time and resources by the federations and the team members for supporting each others causes and emergence of autonomous federations as competent grassroots organizations instilled confidence on their sustainability. Becoming members of different networks on issues like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MG-NREGA), Right to Information Act (RTI), Right to free and compulsory Education Act (RTE) at district and state levels created an opportunity for exchange of experiences and bringing in new learnings.

The visit of Joint Review Mission (JRM) reiterated the need for addressing discrimination through inclusive activities and evolving more nuanced strategies to

promote empowerment of the most marginalized women. It is interesting that the observations were almost similar to the points that were being discussed in the internal reflection meetings and this reinforced our efforts towards evolving concrete strategies.



The annual exercise of internal assessment of the programme and performance appraisal of team members for this year which happened subsequent to JRM visit contributed in revisiting the existing strategies and focus of the programme. It also helped in realizing the need for articulating explicitly on the issues of exclusion and evolving more workable strategies for inclusion. This has been well taken in preparing the annual work plan for the coming year.

The two major events, '*Samanvitham*' – State level workshop of federations and '*Samatha Manddaralu*' – Alumni forum of Mahila Sikshana Kendram (MSK) graduates, organized during this year gave us immense satisfaction. The workshop

with federations was the second in series in revisiting their vision. Strategic planning was done by the federations after reflecting on the achievements, shortcomings and challenges. Necessary support systems were identified and action plan was developed by each federation for next two years. The elaborate discussions on autonomous functioning, convergence and networking helped the younger federations to understand the critical factors involved and to design suitable action plans. Encouraging interactions with the Minister for Primary Education, Principal Secretary (PE); and higher officials from different departments made the federation to recommit themselves to their mission.



Holding alumni forums of MSK graduates is an annual affair at District Implementation Unit (DIU) level. But it was organized for the second time at State level after the gap of a decade. Therefore, it was an exciting event to all of us and the participants, as the girls came back with loads of experiences to share and questions to pose. This event provided a platform to these young women to reflect on their lived realities in the context of their learnings at MSK. Same time it was a learning experience for the

girls who graduated recently from MSKs to understand the possible societal pressures and the need for building ones capabilities to negotiate for their own space.

We are thankful to our Chairperson who has been instrumental in revival of implementation of NPEGEL by Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society (APMSS). We could implement it successfully in 3,050 Model Cluster Schools (MCS) in convergence with Rajiv Vidya Mission (RVM-SSA), covering both project mandals and non-project mandals with in 13 project districts. This has been a learning experience where we tried to integrate the Mahila Samakhya (MS) approaches into formal school education, with a focus on life skill education to girls. We are looking forward with renewed energy to implement it in all the 14 project districts in the coming year.

Improving educational levels among *Sangham* women, issue resource persons, federation office bearers and also the team members has been another focal area during the past year. Various educational activities were taken up for different age groups at field level like short term MSKs, long duration residential camps, organizing assessment tests, etc., which created a momentum in the villages. Massive attendance of 53,000 neo-literates to the basic literacy test conducted in collaboration with State Resorce Centre (SRC), to assess the literacy levels of the learners as part of creating a positive environment for Saakshara Bharat programme by National Literacy Mission



Authority (NLMA) and National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS) within the project area is an example. 1,899 women enrolling themselves to different classes under Andhra Pradesh Open School Society (APOSS) is another example for their interest towards formalizing their learnings and getting equivalency certificate. It is very much inspiring to note that 968 sangham women / Bala Sangham girls appeared for class X exams and 111 taken admission into the newly introduced intermediate education under Open Schooling stream.



As many as 139 educated *sangham* women getting jobs as village coordinators under Saakshara Bharat programme gave impetus to the literacy agenda of *Sanghams* and federations. This momentum is also reflected in team members' attempts to upgrade their educational qualifications. It gives us happiness in reporting that many of our grassroots functionaries, core team members, MSK teachers and also the support team members continuing their education through open-university mode.

Facilitating federations attain autonomy has been a successful experience while it is challenging to facilitate similar process towards formation of mandal level struc-

tures for autonomous functioning in the consolidation mandals of Warangal and Nalgonda. This is because the strategy was different from that of federation where the Mandal Resource Groups are the base for evolving the constitutional body for structural functioning. However, we are confident that with the support from autonomous federations and the experienced team in Warangal and Nalgonda districts, we would be able to facilitate this process successfully in the coming year.

Along with the *Sanghams* at mandal level the role of the organization is also changing from implementation to advocacy; from resource group to resource agency; and from low profile to greater visibility. It is bigger challenge to the State level team to strike a balance between the existing programme and the changing roles. On the other hand, the vertical movement of many team members created some gap in the processes, but in a short time it could be addressed with close interactions and capacity building sessions in getting role clarity.

Role change of old team members and joining of many new team members in the programme created a greater demand for intensive capacity building at various levels. Meeting this demand within the available time to reach the set goals for the year has been a challenge in the context of the present stage and pace of the programme. However, we are happy to report that we could meet this demand by creating an internal resource pool with experienced team members and *Sangham* women. In addition, we could also gather support from prominent gender and development practitioners and former MS colleagues in building conceptual understanding and

broadening perspective on the changing contexts and new trends in development sector.

Our national consultants contributed their part in demystifying the results framework and working out necessary formats for compiling the data collected through the existing information channels. This exercise helped the team members in developing an insight into how to visualize the programme and the activities within the results framework and present both the qualitative and quantitative outcomes in a reporting format.

We are excited to report another important happening this year. Entering into a long term agreement with Samskar – an organization working on child rights and women’s equality for setting up of resource centre using its 11 acres campus in Varni, Nizamabad district is a historical movement for us. It is named as Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre for Women and Girls (HLERC) after the veteran social worker late Hemalatha Lavanam who was



instrumental in successfully rehabilitating the *Joginis* and their daughters in Nizamabad district. It is planned to utilize this space to create a comprehensive model of resource centre for women and girls in the coming year.

All the above developments together with the observations of the JRM members informed the next year’s annual work plan. Major focus would be on strengthening the institutional processes and accelerating the process of consolidation in the mandals where the programme has completed more than five years of implementation. Another area of focus would be on evolving suitable strategies and functional action plans for the autonomy of Mandal Resource Groups (MRG). At the same time we also feel the need for creating forums for adolescents to address the increasingly coming up issues of violence against girls. In this context, it is envisioned that the programme would evolve as a strong advocacy body for influencing desired change towards achieving women’s empowerment. This indicates the need for intensive and continued capacity building of adolescents, federations, resource groups and the team members. In this process, efforts towards women’s literacy and girls’ education become common thread running through all the initiatives and interventions.

The subsequent chapters present detailed account of the progress, successes, challenges as well as learnings during the past year...



## Institutional Processes

The changing trends in the socio-economic and political scenario of the state over the period of last 18 years since MS programme began have been influencing the direction and processes of facilitating grassroots women's agencies – *Sangham*, federation, MRG, etc. Once we look back – in 1993, mobilizing and organizing most marginalized women into village level sanghams was the principal strategy. By the year 2000, strategic shifts were brought in to working with existing women's groups considering the already wide spread Self Help Groups (SHG) movement across the State. Enough care was taken to ensure that most marginalized women who are out side SHG are brought under the *Sangham* fold.

We tried to facilitate a village level *Sangham*/Core Group with representation from each SHG and those outside SHG, but the major challenge was huge membership in the *Sangham* ranging from 80-150. By 2007, when the programme expanded to more districts, the strategy has been revisited again and the idea of more than one *Sangham* (*Waada Sangham*) in the village seemed more practical to address the above challenge and to reach all women in the village irrespective of being in SHG or not. Thereafter, village level Core Group with representation from issue committee members within each *Waada Sangham* has been facilitated for critical inputs to issue committee members and evolution of a pressure group at village level.

While these developments are happening at village level, simultaneous change in institutional processes at cluster level has also been reflected in accordance to the village level strategic changes. In 28 mandals where the programme was launched in the first five years (1993-98), mandal level federations have become autonomous and are functioning autonomously. Retaining organic linkage MS and federations are working together exchanging expertise to meet each others needs. In the remaining mandals, the idea of evolving cluster level resource pool and mandal level resource group emerged, as issue committees were already formed in the *sanghams* and received focused inputs. Further brainstorming was held both at team and field levels, contemplating on the evolution of a constitutional body and nature of consolidation processes. It was envisaged that this mandal level registered body would give identity to the MRG and work independently on women's issues and concerns. This is an alternate model evolved from the field level discussions and almost similar to the federation model.

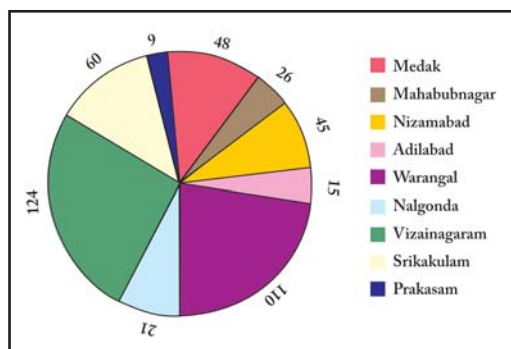
The last three years have been a period of intense discussions, debates, reflections on these various institutional strategies to be facilitated at various levels. We were grappling with concerns raised by *Sangham* women and team members; and trying to come up with a suitable institutional structure. The whole exercise has been both inspiring and self reflective, keeping in mind the non-

negotiable principles of the programme and the set goals towards women's empowerment. Given this context, the subsequent pages reflect upon the institutional processes facilitated and the activities held in the past year in taking forward the three-fold programme – formation of village level *Core Groups*, consolidation of the MRG and autonomous federations.

### ***Waada Sanghams/Core groups***

In the older districts, the *Waada Sanghams* and *Core Groups* are heading towards emerging as cluster level resource pool by strengthening their processes. The indicators and the stages are detailed below:

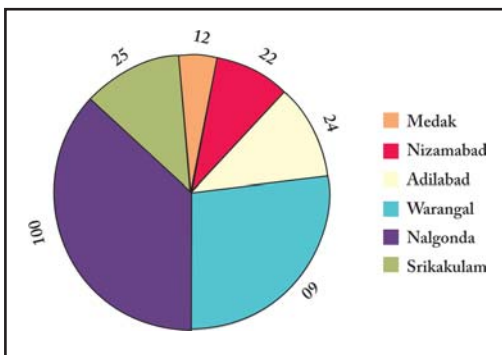
#### ***Stage I***



- Increasing number of *Waada Sanghams*
- Holding meetings and maintaining registers with the support of Karyakarthis
- *Waada Sanghams* making efforts to access entitlements and infrastructure facilities in the villages – Ration cards, Housing, Drinking water, Sanitation, ANM, Angan Wadi Centre (AWC), School, etc.

- Formation of issue committees within the *Waada Sanghams*
- Formation and strengthening of Core Groups

#### ***Stage II***



- Fixed dates for *Waada Sangham* and *Core Group* meetings
- Regularity in maintaining registers, records
- Cluster level meetings, trainings to issue committee members
- Taking up programmes at village / cluster level on identified mandal focus issues
- Identification of clusters, efforts towards formation of issue based cluster resource pool
- Identification of capacity building needs and demand for inputs
- *Waada Sanghams/Core Groups* enthusiastic in taking up convergent activities along with village level institutions
- Critical reflection on the need and importance of evolving into MRG,



discussions on its objectives, structure and functioning

In tune with this, capacity building programmes are conducted to issue committees, *Waada Sanghams* and *Core Groups* as a regular activity. In this process, we realized that in the very old districts such as Medak, Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar, where the team earlier facilitated federation structure and now had to facilitate this changed strategy required further clarity on the processes.



Accordingly in all these districts orientation sessions were held to make the team members understand the structure and objectives of *Waada Sanghams*, *Core Groups*, formation of resource pool and resource group and the nature of activities at each level. As a result, the pace of activities taken up by *Waada Sanghams* and *Core Groups* increased in all the project districts, compared to previous year. It also reflected in regularity in maintenance of registers and records in all 3,974 *Sanghams*. It is noteworthy to report here that the *Sangham* members themselves have started writing their registers in many *Sanghams* after gaining literacy skills. In *Nalgonda*

*district alone, in 102 Sanghams, Sangham women are writing their registers and in another 21 Sanghams, they are taking support of their children or Bala Sanghams members or other villagers.* Similarly, the issue committee members are taking responsibility of disseminating the information and knowledge gained through different forums to all the *Sangham* members.

During the past year another critical discussion was on initiating a kitty at *Sangham* level with contributions from all the members in line with facilitating the institutional processes. This has become critical because in the areas where the *Core Group* strategy is implemented there are more than one sangham in a village and a *Core Group*. The question of saving the amount at *Waada Sangham* or *Core Group* was brainstormed and decided to have accounts at *Waada Sangham* level in view of the practicality in utilizing the amount. In line with this 318 *Waada Sanghams* started their own savings and 111 accounts were opened.

In the two new districts of Visakhapatnam and Khammam, the processes have gained momentum with the intense interventions at field and team levels. In all, 172 *Waada Sanghams* were formed and are raising issues of their concern. Some of the major concerns raised are:

### **Visakhapatnam**

- Vulnerability of adolescent girls working in cashew industry
- Child labour

## No. of Villages where Schemes and Services Accessed by the Sanghams

District	ANM	Pension	AWC	ISL	Street Lights	Roads/Bus	108 & 104	Ration cards	Water facility	Indiramma houses	Jobcards	Arogyasri	Balika Samrakshana & Janani Suraksha
Medak	850	260	25	350	450	12	311	620	-	360	700	-	-
Mahabubnagar	236	279	244	87	206	140	309	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dharoor	42	55	44	30	53	21	83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karimnagar	23	25	51	35	128	17	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nizamabad	5	113	15	42	23	7	12	110	-	89	157	-	-
Adilabad	50	23	73	16	69	10	80	-	-	-	-	-	19
Warangal	304	304	304	196	304	165	172	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nalgonda	101	66	63	10	26	22	-	-	3	18	212	-	-
Srikakulam	184	190	231	90	145	156	147	245	-	132	232	147	153
Vizianagaram	-	-	102	252	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prakasam	274	277	277	277	256	277	277	277	277	-	277	277	-
Anantapur	39	50	4	135	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kurnool	60	105	61	85	56	15	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Visakhapatnam	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Khammam	-	2	10	2	8	4	1	2	-	2	2	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>1,749</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>172</b>

- Reproductive health
- Migration
- TB, safe drinking water, sanitation

### Khammam

- Superstitious beliefs
- Early Hysterectomies
- No or limited access to government schemes and services
- Microfinance related issues

### Moving towards MRG

As reported in the previous year, first four

mandals of Warangal and Nalgonda districts – Chityala, Mogullapally, Kanagal and Nampally are progressing towards consolidation and attaining autonomy. The clarity attained at team level and field level about the process of institutionalization of MRG as a registered body like Federations (registered under Societies' Registration Act 1860) of the older mandals contributed to the momentum. The next level discussions were towards formation of Executive Committee (EC) and Governing Body (GB) with representation from different levels – village, cluster, resource group.



*Core Group* cluster meetings, all *Sangham* cluster meetings, mandal level issue wise resource group meetings served as different forums for such consultations besides the regular *Sangham* and *Core Group* meetings. At the same time, intensive discussions held in the internal thematic reflection meetings informed the need for further deliberations to gain clarity and common understanding on MRG, its structure, objectives and processes. Accordingly, a workshop was organized with the team members for two days (details are reported in the chapter on building capacities). The clarity gained was on:

- Objective, structure, roles and responsibilities of MRG and statutory requirements to get institutional identity – developing Bye laws, formation of EC, Registration, etc.
  - Capacity building of Issue committees for emergence of resource pool and thereafter resource group
  - MRG as a pressure group to ensure access of rights by women and address the concerns of women and issues of violence and marginalization
  - Establishing forward and backward linkages, and convergent relations with line departments
  - Evolving support systems for autonomy and sustainability
  - Regular maintenance of records, registers, and documentation
  - Analytical discussions on building corpus for MRG
  - Identification and recruitment of cluster organizers from *Sanghams* and build their capacities to facilitate consolidation processes
- This understanding helped in facilitating the processes with greater confidence and lead to accelerating the pace of consolidation process.
- In Warangal, 27 villages of both Chityala and Mogullapally mandals began contributing to build corpus for MRG. They also discussed about the importance of documentation and started maintaining registers at mandal level. Resource group members are being involved in trainings to *Sangham* women for hands on experience. Cluster organizers are placed for maintaining the pace of consolidation process.
  - Kanagal mandal in Nalgonda district is also moving in the same direction. The MRG members focused on strengthening of *Waada Sanghams* and *Core Groups* and are actively supporting Cluster Organizers in facilitating *Sangham* meetings. In the process, a

conscious effort is made to identify strong and weak clusters and extend maximum support to the weak clusters to accelerate consolidation process.

- However, the progress is still slow in Nampally. Therefore, the thrust was on regularizing *Sangham*, *Core Group* and cluster meetings; identification of resource pool and resource group members, and building their capacities. With the result, 8 out of 12 clusters became strong and the institutional process picked up momentum.

The exposure visits to older autonomous federation mandals further helped in refining their understanding on the need for a mandal level constitutional body, nature of activities to be taken up and identification of areas for further capacity building and support.

26 MRG members from Nalgonda went to Mahabubnagar, participated in Mahasangham (district level network of federations) meeting and visited Dharur mandal where Makthal federation has been implementing MS programme for the past three years.

Similarly, 22 MRG members from Warangal visited Gangadhara and Ellanthakunta mandals of Karimnagar, learnt about roles and responsibilities of the governing body and EC, need for systemic documentation and functioning of mandal level *Nyaya* committee.

After returning to their respective mandals, these women eagerly shared the new

learnings to all the other *Sangham* members. With renewed enthusiasm they are now planning their way ahead towards autonomy.

Given the above, we are also enthused, a little curious as well, to watch the progress of these developments in the coming year.

### Federations

It is always heartening to report the achievements of federations in the process of autonomy and in sustainable functioning. In this process 7 more federations joined the contingent of autonomous federations making the number to 28. Just before withdrawal of the functionaries, general body meetings were organized in all seven mandals where the members expressed confidence in continuing the efforts towards reaching the goal of empowerment of women.



We are proud that APMS is the first MS state that withdrew from direct implementation in 28 mandals creating space for the federations to be autonomous. While this is a delightful experience it also prompts us to carefully design the role change. There



have been many challenges in the process of sustainability of the federations - ensuring information flow from *Sangham* to Federation and vice versa, change of committee members as per the bye laws, developing second line leadership, sustaining the interest of the members, financial support for taking up activities, continuation of the existing interventions like Adult Learning Centres (ALC) in the absence of any financial support to the federations, etc.

Keeping these in view, in the past year, several measures have been taken towards sustainability of the federations while continuing the previous year's initiatives for building capacities. Extending handholding support in terms of internal audit, facilitating preparation of their annual work plan, creating forums for periodical reflections and facilitating convergent relations with Government and Non Government Organizations (NGO) were to quote some. In addition, release of one time grant to the strong federations meeting the set parameters is another step.

Facilitating and supporting the federations in building their office at mandal headquarters has picked up momentum in the past year with the constitution of internal district level construction committees with the principal objective of speeding up the construction process. This has turned out to be a successful strategy as many unfinished and half finished *Sangham* and cluster huts have been completed with the timely and periodical intervention of team members in sorting out the issues.

### Sangham Huts

District	Sanc-tioned	Comp-leted	Under Const-ruction
Medak	91	83	8
Mahabubnagar	54	50	4
Karimnagar	22	14	8
Adilabad	35	29	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>26</b>

### Cluster Huts

District	Total Sanc-tioned	Comp-leted	Under Const-ruction
Medak	7	5	2
Mahabubnagar	9	6	3
Karimnagar	30	15	15
Nizamabad	7	6	1
Adilabad	4	4	0
Warangal	7	5	2
Nalgonda	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>

Efforts towards building linkages and strengthening network of the federations have been another thrust area in the past year. In the mandals where federations are autonomous all the activities are planned along with federations and are being implemented by them independently viz., mobilizing people for basic literacy test, campaign on RTE, sensitization programmes on health, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, trainings to *Sanghams* on MG-NREGS provisions, etc. MS is extending need based technical support. In doing so, they are able to access necessary support from the concerned mandal officials.

While they are confident in approaching the officials for any kind of support, MS is facilitating platforms for them to interact with district level officials and negotiate for collaborative interventions. This resulted in greater visibility to the federations and increased scope for collaborative initiatives with Government and NGOs approaching them for implementation of specific projects. Besides, the district level federations' network meetings held regularly contributed to networking among the federations themselves for exchange of resources, human and material. Regular representation of autonomous federations in the district review of MS also contributed to further strengthening all the above initiatives and for constant exchange of information, knowledge and support.

### Projects Handled by Federations

- In Medak district, Project Officer, RVM (SSA) approached APMSS, for mobilization of girls from 12 identified mandals to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV). We negotiated to sanction this as a project to the autonomous federations since they are already working on the agenda of girls' education and ensured that MS would provide technical support to the federations. Agreeing to the proposal RVM (SSA) sanctioned the project to Swatantra Chaitanya Mahila Federation, Pulkal mandal which coordinated the project and implemented it in partnership with remaining six federations. Apart from mobilizing girls as part of the project, the federations

motivated 15 plus age group girls to continue education through MSK and mainstreamed younger girls into village schools. This has been the value addition by the federations in this project and appreciated by the authorities. A total of 460 girls were enrolled through this initiative.

- Sawatantra Bharata Mahila Federation, Pulkal mandal was assigned a project by RVM (SSA) for conducting camps in schools to educate adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene taken up in 200 schools across 11 mandals of Medak district. This was also implemented with the support of resource group members from other federations.
- Sri Chaitanya Mahila Federation, Koheda mandal, Karimnagar district, initiated a Resource Centre in the cluster hut (the federation office) making available all the information regarding agriculture, natural resources, MG-NREGA, health and nutrition.



This centre will be open two days a week and the information is given to whoever approaches. However, this

needs further publicity and strengthening to make it as a full-fledged resource centre.

### Capacity Building to Federations

Building capacities of the federations in various stages of autonomy has been a continuous process. In their annual planning exercise, federations identify their training needs and support areas for taking forward their agenda and plan their activities. Taking lead from their plans, suitable trainings are included in our annual work plan. These trainings are planned for MRG members who in turn would disseminate it to the members of resource pool and issue committees. Similarly capacity building on documentation, accountancy, managerial skills and leadership qualities are planned for federation GB and EC members periodically, given the fact that these bodies keep changing in a stipulated time.

A total of 517 representatives from different federations across five project districts participated and built their capacities. Details are as following:

District	Theme /Issue	Partici-pants
Medak	Short term MSK	33
	Health	85
	PR	57
Mahabubnagar	Legal literacy	22
Karimnagar	Legal literacy	25
	Documentation & Accounts	28
	Health (ToT)	19
	PR (ToT)	16

	Social Issues	23
	Catering committee	35
	Short term MSK	23
Nizamabad	Project Proposal writing	30
	Legal Literacy	32
Adilabad	Accounts	13
	Nyaya committee	70
	Legal Literacy (Rai centers )	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>517</b>

### Samanvitham – State level Workshop on Federations

The process of formalization of federations into registered bodies began in the year 2000. In 2001, the indicators for ideal federation were evolved while drawing the vision and mission of the federations for autonomous functioning. The march continued further and MS also focused on building their institutional capacities towards independent functioning.



Building linkages with various agencies, facilitating them to take up different programmes and gain hands on experience were the next steps to strengthen their initiatives. Subsequently, as the federations

reached consolidation stage, the vision was revisited in 2005 in the context of federations attaining autonomy. Areas for strengthening institutional functioning were identified while the vision remained the same. Change of committees, auditing of accounts, developing annual reports and fulfilling statutory requirements are some of these. Subsequently, the indicators developed are further sharpened over the time in tune with the changing field realities and mandal specific issues.



Starting with four federations attaining autonomy in the year 2007, two each in Medak and Mahabubnagar districts, the march continued reaching the number to 28 by March 2011. Keeping in view the number of federations functioning autonomously it was felt that the vision-mission needs to be revisited in this context of sustainability. Towards this, a two-day state-level workshop was held in December 2010 with representation from all the 28 federations. The major objectives of this workshop were:

- Reflection on the present status in the context of autonomy, sustainability, realization of the vision

- Revisiting the vision of federations drafted in 2001, reflected during 2005 and keeping in mind the present status of the federations
- Evolving a plan of action for future course of action keeping in view the identified agenda

*The workshop served as a forum for cross learning and sharing of the experiences of federations, their achievements and challenges in autonomous functioning and for identifying areas for future action in light of the present developmental trends. This was done in interactive and participatory mode in district-wise groups. The participation of officials from Department of Education - Principle Secretary, Primary Education, State Project Director, RVM (SSA), Director, Adult Education and Director, APOSS helped in detailing the activities taken up by federations in respect of education of themselves, children and girls in particular.*

*In addition, the concerns faced by them in the process could also be shared in the forum. The interaction with the Minister, Primary Education also contributed to further discussions on concretizing their processes towards sustainability. Participants from other MS states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and MS National Resource Group (NRG) member Prof. Anjali Dave added to the momentum with the exchange of experiences, achievements and concerns. It also helped in critically analyzing the efforts of the federations in marching towards empowerment of women and girls.*

Though the federations are in different stages of autonomy it is evident that all of

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them have a clear vision and direction of their own. This workshop clearly reflected that these federations have set an example in the direction of autonomy and sustainable functioning towards empowerment. We proudly claim that these federations have become role models in this direction.

### **Future Steps**

While reflecting on the year long progress and the pace of institutional processes, we foresee the following areas for future focus and action.

- Formation of *Waada Sanghams* and core-groups in all the project villages
- Increase in membership of the *Sanghams*
- Facilitating formation and strengthening of resource pool and resource group
- Evolution of MRGs as autonomous institutions in Warangal and Nalgonda districts
- Lobbying for federations as monitoring agencies for girls education and women's rights
- Advocating for recognizing federations as grass roots agencies working for social empowerment and for taking these experiences in to policy level discussions
- Continued focus on capacity building of team members, resource groups and federations on changing contexts of gender and development
- Documenting the processes of autonomy





## Second Generation towards Equality

During 1995, while facilitating the empowerment processes in the *Sanghams*, the idea of having separate forums for adolescent girls has come up. This led to the formation of *Cheli Sanghams* (village level girls' collectives) which were considered as strategic forums to address the special needs of adolescent girls and facilitating empowerment processes. Subsequently, realizing the need to sensitise boys and girls together to address the influences of patriarchal values built through socialization processes, *Cheli Sanghams* transformed into *Bala Sanghams* – collectives of boys and girls (Girls between 12 – 18 years and boys between 12 – 16 years). The principal objective is to promote gender equality and to build a cadre of second generation change agents.

Started in the year 2000, these *Bala Sanghams* are evolving as forums in addressing strategic gender interests of adolescents. These *Sanghams* are working on a wide range of issues relating to child rights and gender discrimination. In this process, we envision evolution of a strong resource base at the grassroots to spread the learnings wide and influence positive change in the society. At this juncture, we report with confidence that the intense capacity building to *Bala Sangham* members resulted in emergence of 917 peer educators, besides increased number of *Bala Sanghams* and membership in the existing *Sanghams*. At present there are 2,151 *Bala*

*Sanghams* with an overall membership of 60,047 across the project districts.

Another interesting trend in the recent past has been passing out of older children leaving space for the younger children. These members have either joined existing village level youth associations or formed new groups to continue their initiatives. This has widened the scope for influencing change and spreading messages of gender equality.

Implementation of NPEGEL programme in non MS project area in the past year paved way for facilitating *Bala Sanghams* within the schools. This created an opportunity for the older *Bala Sangham* members to share the success stories, experiences and learnings in accessing their rights to a new audience.

However, one has also to note that the age of adolescence itself is a critical area for intervention. The increasing globalization and technological advancements including electronic media have brought many changes in the socio-cultural scenario of the society in the recent times. It has its impact on adolescents too, both positive and negative, which raised fresh challenges. In this context, empowering the adolescents with life skills and knowledge on their rights is the need of the hour. We at MS are focusing on this issue and trying to make this a regular agenda of the *Mahila Sanghams* as well as *Bala Sanghams* for

discussion and action. Thus, the *Sanghams* began integrating issues relating to child rights in their plans of actions and actively supporting the initiatives taken up by the *Bala Sanghams*. In addition, efforts were taken up to further equip the *Bala Sanghams* with the new information and knowledge in order to facilitate evolution of peer educators advocating for social change. In line with this and in continuation to the previous year's initiatives, major thrust during this year was on capacity building of peer educators, formation and strengthening of Child Rights Protection Committees and Balapanchayats.

The following pages give an overview of the activities taken up on these lines and the major outcomes.

### **Institution Building**

Taking into account the increased number of *Bala Sanghams*, focus was given to strengthen the institutional processes, viz., regularity in meetings at village, cluster and mandal levels, proper maintenance of registers and records, leadership building among the members and creating support systems. At the same time the *Bala Sangham* profiles are regularized to keep track of the progress.

In the long run, we envisage these village level institutions culminate into stronger Balapanchayats at cluster level to work towards accessing and ensuring child rights with the active support of *Sangham*, GP, School, AWC, youth *Sangham*, etc. The *Bala Sanghams* have already gained identity

by virtue of their involvement, rising of issues and the confidence with which they negotiate for change. We are hopeful that these would soon transform into stronger institutions campaigning for protection of child rights.

### *Details of Bala Sanghams*

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of Bala Sanghams</b>	<b>No. of Members</b>
Medak	152	3,495
Mahabubnagar	236	6,159
Karimnagar	248	6,382
Nizamabad	110	2,179
Adilabad	156	3,690
Warangal	220	10,554
Nalgonda	204	7,260
Vizianagaram	205	4,626
Srikakulam	148	3,222
Prakasam	114	2,139
Anantapur	166	4,174
Kurnool	139	4,902
Visakhapatnam	32	810
Khammam	21	455
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>60,047</b>

### **Capacity Building**

In view of the changing needs and priorities of *Bala Sanghams*, different capacity building programmes were organized at various levels. Adolescent health, reproductive health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, gender discrimination, life skills, child rights, violence and abuse against girls, vulnerability issues were some of the important areas identified for capacity

building to *Bala Sangham* members. While transacting these, enough care is taken to give age appropriate information and knowledge through participatory trainings, cluster, mandal level workshops and ToT programmes. The impact is reflected almost immediately indicating the readiness of the children to bring positive change in themselves as well as in their families and neighbourhood.



For instance, the ease with which girls and boys sharing work at home and outside, discussing and advocating for right age at marriage, speaking out experiences of abuse, etc. is a direct reflection. Same time ensuring intake of nutritional diet, usage of sanitary napkins by girls, negotiating for continuation of their education, demanding for sanitation measures in their schools and in the villages, and banning of chewing gutka also speak of the improved confidence and leadership qualities with which the *Bala Sanghams* members taking up issues of their concern.

G. Santhosh is from Jhansi Bala Sangham, Nainala village, Nellikuduru Mandal, Warangal district studying 8<sup>th</sup>

standard. He observed that in the village many men and women are chewing gutka including his parents. He also observed that some of them are suffering from throat and tongue cancer. He raised the issue in the *Bala Sangham* meeting and the members critically analysed the situation. Upon noticing the same situation in the neighboring thanda also, they organized a massive campaign in both the villages. As part of it, they went around all the shops where gutka is sold, explained about the bad effects of chewing gutka and appealed not to sell. Then, they convened a village meeting along with the GP members and village elders and convincingly explained the ill effects of chewing gutka showing the evidences of persons suffering from throat cancer. The impressed villagers made a resolution to ban gutka in their villages. The Sarpanch was requested to ensure that similar resolution be taken in all the villages under the Panchayat.

While organizing the capacity building sessions, specific issues raised by the *Bala Sanghams* in that district form the core content within which all the above issues are integrated to build rights based perspective among the members. For example, in Srikakulam district, trainings and workshops were organized at village and cluster level on adolescent issues. In Adilabad and Visakhapatnam districts, input sessions were held on life skills. Gender and health trainings were held in Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Warangal districts. In all, 121 trainings were



organized across 11 project districts and 4,395 members participated. In addition, career guidance workshops were also organized to disseminate the information on opportunities available for higher education and vocational courses. These are basically aimed at facilitating the young people towards goal setting and planning their future course of action with informed choices.

### Learning by Seeing

While building information levels among members of *Bala Sanghams*, exposure visits and institutional visits were organized for practical learning and hands on experience at inter and intra district levels. The Balapanchayats in Warangal and Karimnagar districts; and Nutrition centres and Kitchen gardens by *Bala Sanghams* in Nizamabad district attracted the attention of *Bala Sangham* members from other project districts. Besides mutual exchange of each other's experiences in addressing issues, challenges faced by them in the process and the support received, the visits also contributed to new ideas towards further strengthening the *Bala Sanghams*.



### Other Achievements of *Bala Sanghams*

- In four villages – Lambadi thanda, Ramachandrapur, Vencharaami and Lakshmipur thanda of Chityala Mandal, Warangal district *Bala Sangham* members noticed many children playing and roaming around the village with out attending school. Upon inquiry it was known that absenteeism of teachers is causing this situation. They then decided to resolve this issue and initiated a dialogue with the teachers besides submitting a representation to the MEO along with the *Sangham* women. MEO responded positively and sent necessary instructions to all these schools. Consequently, there has been improvement in the situation both in terms of teachers' regularity and children's attendance.
- *Bala Sanghams* successfully convinced the GPs and community in 11 villages of Nalgonda district to take a resolution on preventing child marriages in their villages.
- *Bala Sangham* members of 38 villages in Vizianagaram district have taken responsibility to ensure that all children in the age group of 3-5 years are sent to AWCs so that girls are not dropped out for sibling care. In another 5 villages, 24 dropouts were mainstreamed into formal schools.
- Nutrition centers were set up by *Bala Sangham* children in 5 villages of Pitlam and in 3 villages of Machareddy mandals of Nizamabad district. Of

these, one centre in Pitlam mandal is run in the school

- 130 girls could convince their parents to postpone their marriage attempts after successful negotiation with the help of *Bala Sangham* colleagues in Srikakulam district.
- Ten *Bala Sanghams* of Mahabubnagar district have started recording the physical growth of the members in their *Bala Sangham*. They are monitoring and analyzing their growth levels every month in accordance with the standard requirements and taking measures to improve their health and nutrition status. They took support from the AWW of their village in getting necessary technical information regarding monitoring of growth through charts, information on foods rich in nutritive values and access to Iron Folic Acid (IFA) etc.
- In 5 villages of Medak district *Bala Sanghams* organized campaigns on village sanitation and safe drinking water while spreading awareness among the community. Simultaneously they are taking support of *Sangham* for ensuring effective and regular action by the GP.
- *Bala Sangham of Bhoompalli village, Sadashivnagar mandal, Nizamabad district has secured lot of information and knowledge in trainings and meetings. As part of environment protection they started cultivation of vegetables near water tank in their school campus. They formed into*

*committees and are regularly watering the plants. The yield is in turn sold to the SHG group preparing MDM. Thus they are able to include a variety of vegetables in their diet. School teachers and village elders appreciated their efforts and are encouraging them. At the same time, the amount received thus was utilized towards Bala Sangham activities.*

### **Protesting Child Labour & Early Marriages**

We can confidently say that after these long years of field level facilitation there has been marked change in the attitude of parents and children themselves with regard increasing age at marriage, particularly of girls. However, the challenges were also many... false age proof certificates, vested interests, marriages happening outside the villages, etc. Nevertheless, the *Bala Sanghams* are able to stop or postpone the attempts of early marriages whenever and wherever they come across. In these activities they are getting support and cooperation from *Sangham* women, Child Rights Protection Committees and school teachers. At times they are also not hesitating to approach the GP and the Police in addressing the issue.

As a result of all these efforts, in the past year, 100 instances of early marriages were either stopped or postponed in the project area.

Barasura Rajitha is a 12 year girl from Degaon village of Bheemini Mandal, Adilabad district studying 7<sup>th</sup> class. She

is a member of Veeranjaneya *Bala Sangham*. Her parents decided to get her married and made all arrangements. Rajitha does not want to get married now but wants to study. She shared this with fellow members of the *Bala Sangham*. All the 36 members of *Bala Sangham* went to Rajitha's house to negotiate and convince her parents to stop the attempts. But, the parents did not listen; rather they started abusing the children for their interference, citing it as a matter of adults and a family issue. Not losing their spirit, the *Bala Sangham* members approached *Sangham* and the Sarpanch for their intervention. Subsequently, with the joint persuasion, Rajitha's parents agreed for postponement of the marriage.

Now, Rajitha is continuing her studies and participating in *Bala Sangham* activities with renewed confidence.

Similarly *Bala Sangham* members are persistently trying to address the issue of child labour, particularly of girls, and enrolling them into formal schools. It is not an easy task as there are several intricate dimensions including social, economic and cultural factors. However, taking leverage of the provisions under RTE Act, the *Bala Sangham* members are negotiating with all stake holders for access to quality education to all those in the school age. They started it with their own *Sanghams* on a priority basis. In all these efforts the team members are extending necessary support in addressing their agenda. The details are reported in the respective chapters.

In Kurnool district, mandal level workshops were organized in view of CRC week in all six project mandals to create a platform for interface between the teachers, parents, PRI members, mandal level officials and *Bala Sangham* members on child friendly environment in schools and RTE. 328 children from 67 villages participated in these and presented their concerns articulating the reasons for absenteeism of the children. Major issues that came up in their presentations were:

- Eggs and fruits are not given as per provision in mid-day-meal. Moreover, it is cooked in unhygienic conditions as separate kitchen is not provided in many schools
- Non availability of Hindi teachers in 3 schools
- High schools have computer labs but are not in use as there is no power supply
- Children want to read books but Library is not accessible to children in 11 schools
- Transformer placed within the school premises in Noulekal village, Peddakaduburu mandal, is posing threat to children. As such parent are not sending young children to school
- The open well present in the school campus in Ganigattu village, filled with decomposed waste material causing foul smell is the reason for children not attending school

- Villagers collecting drinking water from schools in 3 villages creating disturbance to the classes
- Grazing of cattle and goats within the school compound in many schools has also been a factor for diversion of interest
- Stones are pelted into class rooms by miscreants through the open windows in the school at Jummaladinne causing disturbance to the children.
- No sufficient class rooms in 11 schools and the newly constructed school buildings are waiting for inauguration
- Younger siblings are brought to classrooms as the AWC is non functional in 15 villages
- In two villages School campus and class rooms are used for storage of grain and for functions like marriages resulting in lot of disturbance to the classes

The *Bala Sangham* members argued that due to these factors children are losing interest to come to school therefore losing their right to education. It was an eye opener for the officials on the status of infrastructural facilities in the schools and the use of school compound for different purposes. They took immediate measures to resolve these at many places as reflected from the field reports. For instance, orders were issued to all headmasters to ensure quality of mid-day-meal and change of the SHG preparing MDM. Proposal was made to start AWC in Duppanagurti village, removal of grain from classroom in Jilledubudakala village and taking up the issue of electrical transformer within the school premises in the General Body meeting of Mandal Parishad are some more to quote.

### Peer Educators as Agents of Social Change



Keeping in mind the effectiveness of peer influences on children's minds, for the past

few years efforts were made to identify peer educators from the *Bala Sanghams* and build their capacities. Further taking this ahead, in the past year, five day training programme was organized in January 2011 to 35 peer educators from all the project districts. Understanding life skills, transacting them through theatre as a medium formed the core of this training. External resource support was taken to impart special skills to the children. It was observed that while most of the children could learn and able to transact their understanding, few children could not keep pace with them. It was a learning experience

District	Nature of Event	Expanse	No. of Participants
Medak	Melas	3 mandals	235
Mahabubnagar	Workshops	4 mandals	151
Karimnagar	Street Theatre	9 villages	2,106
Nizamabad	Cluster meetings	25 villages	148
Adilabad	Meetings	17 villages	537
Warangal	Meetings	9 clusters	592
Nalgonda	Rallies	40 villages	-
Vizianagaram	Workshops	5 mandals	237
Srikakulam	Meetings	9 clusters	294
Anantapur	Rallies	38 villages	-
Kurnool	Workshops	5 mandals	328
Khammam	Rallies	11 villages	
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,628</b>

for us to introspect and reflect upon the processes followed in identification and capacity building of peer educators. We are hopeful that in the coming year, we would be able to facilitate this process with more ease and confidence.

### Celebration of Child Rights Week

*Bala Sanghams* strategically use various forums for raising their concerns and initiating action. Observation of child rights week is one of such forums where they get a chance to articulate their needs and concerns, share their experiences, exchange views and discuss concrete plans for action and campaign towards accessing child rights.

Various events were organized across the project area in the past year to mark the occasion such as intensive campaigns, organizing seminars, workshops and

awareness meets at village, cluster, and mandal levels. The major focus was on RTE Act and the provisions. Conscious efforts were made to involve all stake holders in these events along with *Bala Sangham* members to facilitate every stakeholder take responsibility in effective implementation of the provisions enlisted in the Act. *Sangham* members, line departments, elected representatives and school teachers were invited to address the children gatherings and spell out their specific support. The occasion also created a platform to discuss challenges and bottlenecks in accessing rights by children which were in most places presented through theatre medium. *In all, these events were held in 10 project districts with the participation of 4,400 children.*

*Considering the high number of out of school children in all the three MS working*



mandals of Karimnagar, CRC week was observed through theatre performances in identified villages. The themes of the performance are RTE Act, child labour and age at marriage. As an immediate outcome, 19 children were enrolled into formal schools and 14 joined in MSK out of a total of 144 school dropouts. 30 identified potential dropout children were motivated to be regular to school. Now the focus is on mainstreaming the remaining out of school children into formal schools.

### Girl Child Day



From the past few years, it became customary to celebrate national Girl Child Day on 24<sup>th</sup> January by Department of WDCW&DW by organizing different events. Team members and *Bala Sangham* children participated in these meetings and workshops in the respective districts. In addition, different activities were organized in the project mandals, too. In Karimnagar, Adilabad and Srikakulam districts, Balika melas were organized at district level with adolescent girls. In Warangal, district level *Bala Sangham* forum was organized. A total of 1937 girls and 261 boys took part in

these forums. Officials from various departments participated and gave inputs to the children.

In all these forums, major points for discussion were declining sex ratio, vulnerability of girls to violence and abuse and support systems for protection of girl children. Given the present context of increased instances of violence against girls, the need to equip girls with life skills and self defense were emphasized.

### Bala Panchayat, CRPC and Adolescent Forum

As reported in earlier annual reports, more time was spent to gain common understanding among the facilitating team across the districts on the concept of Bala Panchayats and formation of Child Rights Protection Committees. Similarly need was also felt to get clarity on the strategy of evolution of mandal level Adolescents' forum to raise, discuss and address issues and concerns of adolescents. Subsequently, it was brainstormed in the review and reflection meetings held at mandal, district and state levels. Conscious efforts are put in the field for translating this understanding with the same clarity to the field level. In this direction Balapanchayat meetings and mandal level workshops were held in Nalgonda, Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar districts.

One issue that came up in these discussions was the age of the *Bala Sangham* members nominated to Bala Panchayat where generally the senior members of the *Bala Sanghams* are nominated. When the senior

members cross the age limit and move out, the leadership in the *Bala Sangham* becomes a fact of concern. This requires further efforts towards building strong second line leadership.

### **Youth Sanghams**

Formation of *Youth Sanghams* with young adults, particularly boys crossing the age of 16 years and graduation from *Bala Sanghams*, has been a comparatively recent strategy. The core objective is to support the members in sustaining their learnings and continuing their efforts towards influencing change towards equality. In the older areas of Warangal, Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts, such youth groups were already formed and trying to make their presence felt by taking up various activities towards accessing rights. At this juncture, trainings and meetings were organized for these youth groups on leadership, community participation, their role in nation building and issues involved in out-migration.

Input sessions were also organized on gender, career opportunities, local governance and village development. With the increased information levels *Youth Sanghams* are actively supporting *Sanghams* and *Bala Sanghams* in their villages in addressing issues. *For instance, in Uppalvai village, Sadasivanagar mandal*

*of Nizamabad district, youth members observed that lack of timely transportation is posing problems especially to school children. Acting upon it they met the local area depot manager and successfully persuaded the issue.*

### **Future Steps**

All these experiences, learnings and outcomes informed the coming year's plan with regard to strengthening the second generation change agents. In this direction our focus would be on:

- Building capacities of the team members in effective facilitation of *Bala Sanghams* and *Youth Sanghams* towards setting their agenda, developing strategic plans and timely action.
- Identification of potential peer educators and building their capacities for bringing desired change among the adolescents by creating positive environment and campaigning for social change.
- Formation and strengthening of *Bala Panchayats*, *Child Rights Protection Committees* and *Adolescent forums* to act as pressure groups and advocate for child rights.
- Expansion of *Bala Sanghams* to non MS project areas where APMSS is implementing NPEGEL programme



## Pathways to Education

While literacy is the key for development, the broad framework of education becomes crucial in attaining women's empowerment. With this understanding, right from the beginning of the programme focus has been on facilitating women to create their own spaces and demand for their rights. However, the traditional roles within the family and the societal attitudes towards women are still barriers in realizing the goal of empowerment. The solidarity and the collective strength built through *Sanghams* enabled women and girls in breaking these barriers and march towards the access/ completion of education.

Initially, *Sanghams'* focus was on children's education, then slowly moving towards thematic and functional literacy. Over the years, successfully addressing the agenda of children's education with a focus on girls, *Sanghams* have gradually put efforts on their own literacy and certification. This positive change gave us the boost to move further with targeted interventions as the mood for attaining literacy is set now at grassroots. However, it was a very challenging task for us at MS as women's priorities for education are different basing on their needs and context.

In line with these priorities, in the past year, interventions were carefully designed and implemented for optimal result. The interventions are ranging from mass mobilization programmes to organizing literacy sessions in *Sanghams*; from village

level literacy camps to long term residential training; from conducting basic literacy test to facilitating opening of learning centres. This resulted in creation of a strong momentum across the project area. The outcomes are amazing with 35,816 women appearing for NIOS test and 2,010 women pursuing their further education through APOSS.

At the same time, the year has also been eventful for MS in the area of girls' education with the revival of implementation of NPEGEL and playing proactive role in mobilizing girls to join KGBVs. In this process, bridging the academic gaps of the dropout girls to join in the age appropriate classes was also a focal area during the year. MSKs and long term residential interventions served the purpose. The above school age girls were given short duration interventions for renewing their academics and taking admission into suitable classes under APOSS.

All these focused interventions demanded for greater convergence and effective partnership with the respective agencies – RVM (SSA), APOSS, SRC, SLMA. At the same time, the departments also turned to MS for collaboration, recognizing the unique and innovative processes adopted in facilitating women's empowerment through education, proactive role of *Sanghams* and federations in community mobilization towards education, and participatory monitoring of quality



education aspects in Schools. The introduction of RTE Act 2009 and launching of Saakshar Bharat (National Female Literacy Mission) gave an impetus to the efforts initiated. All these developments demanded a revisit of the ongoing internal interventions and making necessary modifications in the latest context.

The following pages give a detailed note of all these experiences – both MS interventions and collaborative activities.

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

### *Enrollment & Retention*

Persistent efforts by *Sanghams*, *Bala Sanghams*, Federations and the team members to identify and enroll out of school children into formal schools, hostels and KGBVs have contributed to a great extent in large number of children getting into schools - in tandem with the government's focused efforts to achieve total enrollment. However, some children still remained out of school for reasons like social customs, economic factors, etc. Frequent absence of the child leading to poor performance at school is also one of the reasons making them potential dropouts. *Bala Sangham* members are trying to help such children by pursuing them to be regular to the school. The girls who have been dropouts for a long time are motivated to join MSKs for bridging and to continue their education. Nevertheless, reaching children with special needs is another area that needs to be addressed.

Given the situation, continuous efforts are made by *Sanghams* and team members, at

various levels – at community, family and systemic levels. Some of these are: Raising issues and concerns in AMC meetings, monitoring the attendance and education committee members, counseling to the family members of children in difficult conditions, conducting mobilization activities and proactive participation in *badi bata* programme.



### *District wise Enrollment Details*

District	No. of children enrolled		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Medak	1,300	1,744	3,044
Mahabubnagar	1,405	2,625	4,030
Karimnagar	80	62	142
Nizamabad	114	72	186
Adilabad	407	353	760
Warangal	244	184	428
Nalgonda	-	58	58
Srikakulam	1,098	1,214	2,312
Vizianagaram	149	212	361
Prakasam	7	47	54
Anantapur	486	498	984
Kurnool	1,286	1,321	2,607
Visakhapatnam	17	66	83
Khammam	10	7	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,603</b>	<b>8,463</b>	<b>15,066</b>

In this process, *Vidyasadassulu* (village level educational meetings) were held in the identified villages where the number of out of school children is more. These meetings served as forums for interface between Department officials, elected representatives, teachers, parents and children. These efforts helped in enrolling identified children in to schools and different stake holders realizing their responsibilities towards ensuring retention and providing quality education. **In all, 158 such Vidyasadassulu were conducted during the year across the project area with 7,994 participants.**

An interesting instance to mention here is the case of Gudikambali and Mallanahatti villages in Kouthalam mandal of Kurnool district. In one of the *Vidyasadassulu*, the school teachers raised a concern that some parents are sending their children late to the school, sometimes only in the latter half of the day or taking them home in the middle of the classes. To bring the children back to school, teachers had to go to their houses leaving the classes to the elder children. They expressed that it has become a routine which is affecting the school schedule and disturbing the other students who are regular. Realizing the problem, parents agreed not to take their children away from school during school hours. With regard to maintaining timings in the school, a resolution was taken that the teacher goes to each *Waada* in the morning and blows the whistle once; and the children should start to school. Now the system is regularly followed and the attendance has improved.

More such instances from the field reports indicate the proactive involvement and commitment with which the team members and the *Sanghams* have taken up the responsibility. ***In Warangal district, 6 government schools closed down due to no strength were reopened with children joining back from private schools. In addition, 36 schools with 'zero' strength were revived, as many children have come back from private schools and there has also been an increase in enrollment.*** The efforts are continuing towards ensuring retention of all the children in schools.

In addition to enrollment drives, sessions on career guidance and life skills, starting of nutrition centers in schools, extra-curricular activities like storytelling, games, essay writing, and encouraging children to grow vegetables in the school premises were the other major activities taken up within the schools towards sustaining interest of children and with major focus on retention.

These positive results always inspire us and drive us to recommit ourselves towards the cause.

### **Short Term Motivational Camps**

As reported above, while the enrollment trend is encouraging, regular attendance is still a challenge. This is particularly observed during peak agricultural seasons when many children are pulled out of school for wage work or seasonal migration. Same is the case of prominent festivals where the families move out of village for a substantial period. These conditions are leading to children losing interest in academics or poor

performance resulting in potential dropouts. To address this, residential Short Term Motivational camps for 7-15 days were conducted to bridge the learning gaps, during different times of the year. This is a successful intervention in terms of building learning levels among the children to attend age appropriate class and continue their education without interruption. Above school age children are encouraged to continue their education through MSK or APOSS.

This year 45 short term motivational camps were conducted at village and cluster levels in 5 project districts. *As a result, out of 262 children attending the camps, 153 were mainstreamed in schools and KGBVs. 112 children who are above 15 years' age joined in MSKs (43), Saakshar Bharat learning centres (61), Open School (5) to continue their education further.*

### **Right To Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009**

Another important area for intervention in the past year was ensuring effective implementation of RTE Act. MS team members were part of different workshops and consultations held in this regard which helped in developing understanding on the provisions of the Act. MS has been a member of the State level Action Group on RTE and participated in development of Model Rules for implementation of the Act. These learnings are further disseminated at field level. Building awareness among *Sanghams* and the community on the provisions of the Act and their role in ensuring effective

implementation are the next steps to be taken up.

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Keeping in view the needs articulated by the women, literacy interventions are planned using participatory and innovative learning methods to facilitate more women to join the fold of literacy. The earlier strategies and interventions like key-word approach, literacy sessions in every forum where women meet, ALCs at village level, short or long term residential or non residential literacy camps and Short term MSKs have been continued.

It was observed that the literacy sessions organized in every forum where *Sangham* women meet has been the most effective strategy. At the end of the meeting, key words are picked up from the discussions and literacy session is facilitated to practice reading and writing skills. The MS team member plays lead role in this process of learning using locally available material like pebbles, seeds, sticks, chalks, pencils, pens, etc. Over the years the strategy is proving to be successful in more and more women joining the literacy stream and continuing further through other literacy interventions.

### **Literacy Interventions for Women**



### Short Term MSK (7-15 days)

District	No. held	Members
Medak	7	191
Karimnagar	2	52
Nizamabad	5	420
Adilabad	2	53
Warangal	4	106
Srikakulam	2	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>848</b>

### Adult Learning Centres

District	No. of ALCs	No. of Learners
Medak	34	1,064
Mahabubnagar	84	2,542
Karimnagar	134	4,058
Nizamabad	44	1,978
Adilabad	43	1,056
Warangal	70	1,749
Nalgonda	31	682
Srikakulam	24	385
Prakasam	32	798
Kurnool	15	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>14,762</b>

Across the project area there have been enough evidences of women attaining literacy after joining *Sanghams* and having continued further to get certification, there by becoming a source of inspiration for others. Many of these *Sangham* women have become members of the resource pool and group, some have joined as Cluster organizers, ALC teachers, Asha workers and AWWs. Few of them have also become Karyakarthis in APMSS.

### Literacy Camps (3 days - 1 month)

District	No. of Camps	Participants
Medak	74	2,292
Mahabubnagar	35	295
Karimnagar	10	260
Nizamabad	20	362
Adilabad	59	1,458
Warangal	14	1,057
Nalgonda	31	1,423
Srikakulam	7	675
Vizianagaram	57	1,707
Prakasam	6	145
Ananthapur	22	701
Kurnool	5	152
Vishakapatnam	4	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>10,667</b>

**Different initiatives resulted in 19,084 *Sangham* women attaining functional literacy across the project districts in the past year.**

Durgamma is an active member of Krushi Samatha Mahila *Sangham* having 50 members in Chelakurthi village, Peddavoora mandal, Nalgonda district. She is chosen as education committee member by the *Sangham*. Being a non literate she felt delicate that she could not even sign her name but was chosen for education committee. She strongly intended to become literate before advocating for women's literacy and children's educational rights.

With this strong desire she used to eagerly look forward for *Sangham* meetings so that she can be part of the literacy sessions. She could acquire minimum basic literacy in just 11 sessions. She further improved her literacy levels through ALC. She proudly claims that she is now a literate and can read newspaper. She was very happy when she could fill in the application for Job card under MG-NREGS on her own. Durgamma wanted to test her literacy skills by appearing for Basic Literacy test conducted under NIOS, and is now serious to complete Class X through APOSS.

Being a member of education committee, Durgamma actively campaigns for quality education in schools. She re-joined her school dropout daughter into school. She now interacts with community as well as officials with great confidence.

**“Lack of education is equal to blindness... There is no age bar for learning literacy, we will learn to read and write and motivate others too...”**  
– *Sangham* women, Aandra and Challapeta villages, Mentada mandal, Vizianagaram district.

### International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day was celebrated with renewed vigor in the project districts. Mandal and district level melas were organized in 8 districts (Medak, Adilabad,

Nalgonda, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Anantapur, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam) and a total of 2,451 women participated. In other districts village and/or cluster level activities were held.

In these events, participatory methods were used for experiential sharing along with literacy and numeracy based activities, and cultural programmes. Intense discussions were held with the women to access opportunities to enhance their literacy skills by utilizing Saakshara Bharat centres, Open School centres, ALCs, etc. District officials from RVM (SSA), Dept. of Adult Education and NGO representatives participated in these events and responded positively to extend support to the efforts. In these forums the need for convergent action towards women's literacy and girls' education was reiterated.

This year, the National level celebration of International Literacy Day was held at Hyderabad. On this occasion, Saakshara Bharat programme was formally launched in the State. The event was organized by NLMA. APMSS and the *Sangham* women were also invited to the event.

497 *Sangham* women from 8 project districts and team members participated in the event. Through this, *Sangham* women could get an opportunity to learn about the literacy programmes in other states. They could also participate in the panel discussions and shared their experiences and achievements of being in the literacy process.



## Convergent Action for Sustaining Momentum

The momentum generated for literacy has to be sustained through timely intervention from various circles. Towards this we continue to focus on need based convergence with various educational programmes across the project area. Over the years the convergence at State, District and field level has resulted in more and more women joining literacy stream and recognition to MS as an important partner in educational planning and implementation.



A major development in the year 2009-10 has been the launch of Saakshara Bharat programme as National Women's Literacy Mission. The Dept. of Adult Education, and SRC have initiated several programmes in the State both pre and post launch phases. APMSS has been identified as an important partner in all these activities – developing strategies, preparing guidelines for implementation, designing the curriculum, preparation of primers, resource persons for trainings, identifying and mobilizing volunteers and coordinators, and mobilizing learners. The specifics are as below –

- Team members participated in State and National level workshops held for strategy development and planning
- Contributed to developing appropriate strategies by sharing the field experiences in women's literacy
- 25 Team members were identified as Key Resource Persons to conduct the trainings to the District Resource Persons
- 139 *Sangham* women are appointed as village level Coordinators and 640 *Sangham* women as Volunteers
- Participation of Team members in development of training modules and primers for Saakshar Bharat centers
- Proposed partnership for Implementation of the programme in 77 mandals
- Proposed partnership for ToTs in Vocational skills to coordinators

Tirupathamma, 25 years, is a *Sangham* member of Shaikpally village, Hanwada mandal, Mahabubnagar. She is a class II school dropout. The focused discussions on need for women's literacy generated interest in Tirupathamma to continue her education. She joined ALC and has been a regular learner. Soon she could acquire literacy and successfully appeared for class X examination. She is determined to continue her education and took admission for intermediate course under APOSS. Being an educated person in the village, Tirupathamma was

the immediate choice for ASHA worker. When her name was proposed in the identification of volunteers under Saakshara Bharat, there was no opposition by any one. She feels happy that she is able to give her learnings back to the community as a literacy volunteer.

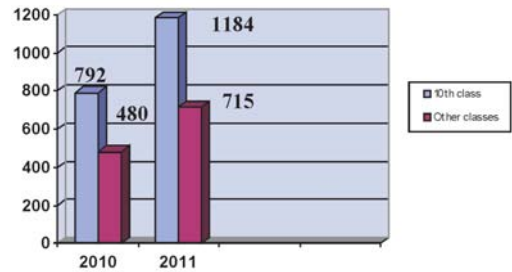
### Open Schooling System

The *Sanghams'* march towards formation of federations and autonomous functioning has accelerated the demand for literacy among the members. As reported earlier, the autonomous federations are implementing various projects in convergence with different departments. In addition, issue committee members emerging as resource persons, involving in monitoring at various levels resulted in more number of women acquiring functional literacy. The demand is now shifted from attaining literacy to certification given the various outside opportunities available to them through different GO, NGO programmes. Keeping this in view women are facilitated to access the APOSS for continuing their education and get formal certification.

It is exciting to mention that the number of women accessing APOSS has increased manifold, during the past year. More specifically the number of women appearing for class X examinations has risen to a large extent. This is evident through the increase in the number of women appearing for class X from 792 to 1,184 and taking admission into different classes from 480 to 715. In addition, 111 women

took admission for Intermediate course which has been introduced for the first time during 2010-11.

Details of Sangham women took admission under APOSS:



In Rayalapur village, Kowdipally mandal, Medak district, as a follow up to the short term MSK held in the mandal, 3 *Sangham* women took admission into class X through APOSS and appeared for examination. They could successfully clear all the papers in the first attempt itself. Enthralled by the success they wanted to appear for Intermediate examination, newly introduced through APOSS. However, they were hesitant to take admission as the fee is high and beyond their reach.

They tried to explore the possibilities with the support of the team members and approached MPP seeking his intervention and support in taking the admission. Convinced by their commitment, the MPP facilitated sponsorship from Lions Club. Thus the three women could pay their fee of ₹4,500/- and join the course. The MPP and the management of Lions Club

Certificate Issued by NIOS to the Qualified Learners in the Basic Literacy Test

क्रमांक/Serial No. 200237	अनुक्रमांक/Roll No. 010804901002		
 <b>राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान</b> <b>National Institute of Open Schooling</b>			
(मा.सं.वि.मं. भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्था) (An Autonomous Organisation Under MHRD, Govt. of India)			
AEC: 0108049	एवं/AND		
राष्ट्रीय साक्षरता मिशन प्राधिकरण			
<b>प्रौढ़ शिक्षा निदेशालय</b> स्कूल शिक्षा तथा साक्षरता विभाग, मा.सं.वि.मं., भारत सरकार National Literacy Mission Authority <b>Directorate of Adult Education,</b> Deptt. of School Education & Literacy, M.H.R.D., Govt. of India			
ग्रेड विवरण-सह-प्रमाणपत्र/Grade Sheet-cum-Certificate			
प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि <i>This is to certify that</i>	SOLMAN		
पुत्र/पुत्री/पत्नी/Son/Daughter/Wife of	S/O. DEVANNA		
अनुक्रमांक/Roll No.	010804901002		
ने बुनियादी साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के मूल्यांकन में भाग लिया			
और निम्नलिखित ग्रेड प्राप्त किए/has appeared in the Assessment of the Basic Literacy Programme in	AUGUST, 2010		
and secured the following grades:			
कोड Code	कौशल Skill	ग्रेड Grade	टिप्पणी Remarks
101	पढ़ना/Reading	A	A: अच्छा/Good
102	लिखना/Writing	B	B: संतोषजनक/Satisfactory
103	गणित/Arithmetic	A	C: सुधार की आवश्यकता/Needs Improvement
STATE: ANDHRA PRADESH			
 निदेशक (प्रौढ़ शिक्षा निदेशालय) Director (Directorate of Adult Education)	 निदेशक (मूल्यांकन), एनआईओएस Director (Evaluation), NIOS		
नोएडा/NOIDA (NCR)			
दिनांक /Dated : 25-01-2011			



assured their support in future too for continuing their education.

Simultaneously, there have also been efforts to facilitate starting of APOSS learning centres, wherever they are not available, to meet the demand generated at the field.

In Konaraopet village of Konaraopet mandal, Karimnagar district, large number of school dropouts and non literate adults is an issue identified during the field visits. Through various literacy interventions taken up in the village and the successful running of ALC, many women could acquire literacy. They were further encouraged by MS to formalize their learning, by providing information about APOSS. Women were motivated and were ready to take admission. However, there is no learning centre in the village to provide them learning support. Towards this, the team members convinced the Headmaster of the ZPHS to start a centre under Open School system and subsequently pursued the issue with the APOSS coordinator. This soon resulted in starting a centre in the village in the year 2009. 18 *Sangham* women took admission and appeared for Class X examination in the same year. 8 of them passed in the first attempt itself and the remaining 10 cleared subsequently. Inspired by this, 96 members took admission in 2010 into class X. Among these, 45 are women and girls, the remaining 51 are boys and men.

## Basic Literacy Test

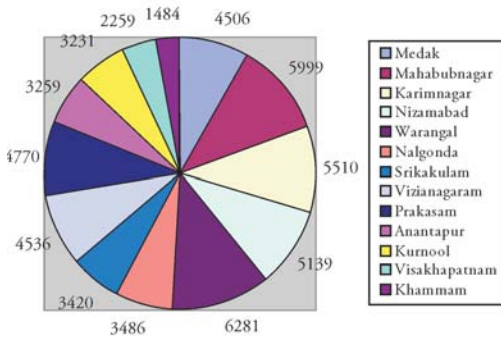
Partnership of APMSS with SRC and National Literacy Mission in organizing Basic Literacy Test for neo literates has been a great step forward for both the *Sangham* members and APMSS. The test was organized nationally by NLM in collaboration with NIOS through respective SRCs and it was part of the literacy drive for persons above the age of 15 years. Assessing literacy levels of all neo literates who were either early dropouts (class/std. 2 or 3) or who attained literacy through various interventions was the major objective of this substantial event held in the month of August 2010. Reaching to one lakh people has been the intended target for the SRC in the state.

*SRC approached APMSS for partnership to mobilize and organize the test in MS project area. Considering that it could be an opportunity for us also to assess the impact of various internal educational interventions and that in the process more women can get basic literacy certification the team members expressed willingness to take up the task. It was also felt that formal recognition to the acquired literacy skills boosts the confidence of the women and can be furthered through specific strategic interventions. Thus taking the initiative, we identified and mobilized all the eligible women and men, conducted the test and completed the evaluation of the test papers.*

*The test was conducted in 1,105 GPs of 72 mandals across 13 project districts. A total of 53,880 (35,816 women and 18,605 men) persons wrote the exam against 57,209*



registered persons. This was more than 50% of the target of 1 lakh for SRC. This mammoth task was possible because of the concerted efforts of the MS team members, Sanghams, Bala Sanghams, youth, and the GP members.



*“Till now there were no instances where both men and women together ruled the stage! But now, we feel proud to sit equally with them and write the test... little hesitant... but feeling good!” – Sangham women from Bodabanda villae, Yemmiganur, Kurnool*

### Mahila Shikshana Kendram (MSK)

Reporting MSK processes and outcomes every year gives us great delight as this work area is full of energy and activity. In the

reporting year, there were 15 Mahila Shikshana Kendrams running across 12 project districts. Participatory teaching-learning processes are followed in imparting life skills based education to the adolescent girls and this is the strength of MSK. Activities like institutional visits, exposure visits, interactions with officials, skill based trainings, project work, classes on Yoga and Martial arts are some of the important outside classroom interventions for practical learning. In addition, specific project works are given to the girls on identified social concerns during holidays. For instance, identification of out of school children in their village, finding out reasons for being out of school and mobilizing them by disseminating information with regard to educational opportunities, understanding the food habits, analyzing it in relation to the crops grown locally, availability and access to vegetables, etc. While collecting information makes them feel excited, back in the MSK the discussions facilitated by the teachers makes them further widen their perspective and critical thinking. This process enables them to analyse the issue from different dimensions with deeper understanding.

All these enriching experiences in MSK help the girls in negotiating the barriers to their education with greater confidence and continue further. For example, once they graduate from MSK and join hostels or residential schools, they generally had to negotiate for better provisions and improved living conditions. They could successfully deal with such issues

collectively by forming working committees within the hostel similar to the ones in MSK.

It is evident from the performance of the girls mainstreamed into KGBVs and hostels that they are no less than the regular students. Their outspokenness, excellence in co-curricular activities, attempts to raise concerns, and efforts in resolving the issues are remarkable. They first try to pursue any issue within their own sphere, failing which they do not hesitate to report to the higher authorities. Their leadership qualities are reflected in building collective strength and facilitating the group to voice against improper practices and irregularities. To quote an example:

In Aspari mandal, Kurnool district, 4 MSK girls were joined in KGBV into class VI. After a few days' stay in the hostel, they observed that many girls are suffering from stomach pain frequently. Upon further observation, they realized that rice served in the hostel was mix of different varieties and not of a good quality as well. They also found that the Special Officer used to sell the rice supplied to KGBV to a priest in the neighbourhood and used to buy rice from him which is of mixed varieties and different qualities at a very low price. The MSK-trained girls discussed with all the hostel residents and took a collective decision to complain to the DEO. Upon receiving the complaint, the DEO visited the KGBV to enquire into the case and the girls boldly explained the situation.

As a result the Special Officer was dismissed and a new officer was appointed. This effort received applause from all concerned.

In this way they are able to spread their learnings and move a head in the process of empowerment.

*At this juncture, we are proud to claim that while 8 MSK graduates joined the programme as Karyakarthis, one among them has become Junior Resource Person after further improving her capacities. Similarly a total of 2,170 MSK graduates are pursuing their higher education and as many as 1,232 have joined in different jobs.*

#### **Visit to Jail – a humbling experience**

Nalgonda MSK girls were little apprehensive and also excited when they were visiting the district Jail as part of institutional visit. It was a very different experience for the girls to go to such place which is avoided even during general discussions. Same time the prisoners too felt surprised to see the bubbly young girls as it is unusual for them to get such visitors.



The girls were taken around the premises and were explained about various divisions within the jail. Relaxed by now, the girls became curious to know more about the prisoners. They got the opportunity to interact with some of the prisoners. Interesting interactions took place between the girls and the inmates for nearly about 3 hours. MSK girls enquired the reasons for their imprisonment, facilities in the jail and the works they do during their stay in the jail. The inmates clarified the doubts and explained how and why they are in the jail.

Now it's the turn of the inmates to enquire about the girls and the MSK. The girls narrated their background, explained about MSK and their learnings at MSK. Later they sang songs and performed dance for the inmates. The prisoners also joined the girls in singing and appreciated their efforts to pursue their education.

It was really an amazing experience and thought provoking not only to the girls but for the team members too. This exposure helped in breaking their misconceptions about the jail and the prisoners, and in understanding the realities.

Details of some more events that took place at MSKs during the year:

- For the first time tribal girls from Adilabad MSK took part in the

Karate tournament and won the prizes besides many appreciations. This built more confidence among them. Similarly two tribal girls from Mentada mandal, Vizianagaram district participated in Taekwando Championship 2010-11 and won prizes.



- The parents of the best performing girls in Yoga were invited to present the certificates to their daughters during the parents' meeting at Warangal MSK. It was a proud moment for the parents while it is exciting for the girls to receive certificates from their parents.
- 19 MSK girls of 2009 & 2010 batches along with 8 MSK teachers and 7 team members attended six day training programme at National Institute of Fashion Technology as part of ToT programme to vocational volunteers under NPEGEL. These girls would be providing training to the other vocational volunteers besides training girls in schools.
- Teachers training programme was conducted to 33 MSK teachers on life



skill education and teaching learning methodologies with external resource support for more insights. The future plan is to translate these learnings into preparation of TLM and put it into regular transaction in all MSKs.

### ***Samatha Mandaaralu - Alumni Forum of MSK Graduates***



Organizing district level alumni forums annually and meeting MSK graduates has been another rich experience at MS. This year, after a gap of 8 years, two-day state level event was organized on 6 & 7 March 2011 at HLERC, Varni, Nizamabad. It is heartening to report that 1<sup>st</sup> batch MSK graduates were also present in the event along with their children and actively participated in the proceedings. Another appealing feature was that out of all the participants, majority of the girls were continuing their studies and very few were drop outs. In all a total of 824 girls and young women took part in the event.

After the inaugural session, the girls formed into different groups based on their present position, and shared their experiences, achievements and discussed their concerns. Each group came up with a unique method



of presentation. The major areas identified by all the groups for further support from MS are:

- learning soft skills like computer applications and spoken English
- continued support in their further education
- efforts to address early marriages and child labour
- facilitating provision of accommodation in the towns for college girls
- information on part time employment opportunities to meet their educational expenses

Finally, all the MSK girls proposed to organize State level alumni forum at least once in five years for regular sharing and planning.

### **NPEGEL – a Collaborative Action**

An important development during the year has been the revival of implementation of NPEGEL by APMSS. Earlier, it was implemented in 96 clusters by MS in 7 project districts for three years, but did not continue for various reasons. During one

of the Executive Committee meetings in the past year, while reviewing the interventions for girls' education, the Chairperson proposed APMSS to be the implementing partner with SSA for implementation of NPEGEL. The plan of action was developed through joint meetings based on the existing guidelines, and NPEGEL implementation by APMSS was revived from November 2010.

The scale of implementation has been 411 mandals across 13 MS project districts covering 3050 model cluster schools. In this new phase of NPEGEL implementation, a special feature is reaching to non-MS area. In seven of the project districts, MS is implementing NPEGEL in the entire district although its own presence is in only 5-14 mandals. In four of the remaining districts the NPEGEL implementation by MS is in almost half of the district, while in the other two it is limited to project mandals and the surrounding few mandals.

It was a big challenge to enter in the middle of the implementation year and convince the major stakeholders – the teachers - of the role of MS in the implementation. It was another challenge to initiate the activities where funds were already released to MCS' and activities were already underway. There has been initial resistance from the teachers and the officials at district and mandal levels. At some places, district team members had to face difficult situations even to organize initial meetings.

At this juncture, the facilitative role played by the State Office team, support received from the State officials of RVM (SSA) and



the Chairperson of APMSS, in easing out the situation, needs a particular mention. The following processes had further helped in streamlining the implementation:

- Common meetings to gain clarity and understanding on the mutual support areas between RVM (SSA) and APMSS
- Appointment of cluster and divisional coordinators for continued interactions with the teachers, parents, community and the children
- Divisional level orientations to introduce MS programme to the Head masters, MEOs and Sarpanches of GPs at the beginning of the programme
- Periodical review and reflection meetings at State and district levels
- Monthly review meetings with MCS head masters and MEOs
- Involving other agencies to provide skill based training to the girls, martial arts, theatre, etc
- Facilitating *Bala Sanghams*/School cabinets within the schools and evolving peer educators



- Involvement of *Sangham* members in monitoring and quality issues in schools

We can confidently say that though it was a short period, innovative elements could be brought in reflecting uniqueness of MS in implementation of the programme. It was reflected in child-centered activities like institutional visits, participatory sessions on life skills, wall writings for community mobilization and involving boys in the sessions on child rights. This was possible with the proactive role played by the *Sanghams*, federations and team members at all levels. With the result, by the end of the year, the following outcomes are reflected:

- Institutional visits could be made part of the school education. Facilitating participatory learning methodology as part of classroom processes has been initiated. However, this need to be formalized and integrated into transaction of formal syllabus



- *Sangham* members becoming part of Academic Monitoring Committees (AMCs)
- As a result of Gender Sensitization programmes to teachers there has been

a positive environment towards girls' concerns and they started looking at these issues in a broader perspective



- Increased understanding among girls on adolescence, child rights, reproductive health and menstrual hygiene
- Improved confidence levels among girls and increased participation in co-curricular activities
- Community mobilization became an agenda of *Sanghams* and federations. Different methods were used for mobilizing and sensitizing community on the importance of girls education, increasing age at marriage for girls and issues of vulnerability
- Increased visibility for MS, federations and *Sanghams*
- Spreading MS philosophy to non MS areas
- MS identified as State and District level Master trainers in Balika Chetana programme (Life skill education programme) of RVM (SSA)
- Concerted efforts towards girls'

education involving various stake holders

It is proved that commitment and able leadership and coordination make things possible despite challenges. The experience instilled greater confidence among us to further utilize the already set enabling environment to achieve additional milestones in girls' education. With renewed spirits, we are now planning to reach out to more areas in the coming year.

### **Future Steps**

Continuing the momentum created in women and girls' education, the forthcoming year is crucial for us to substantiate the established ground. In this context our focus would be on:

- Bringing more number of women into the fold of literacy
- Ensuring quality education in schools through proactive role of *Sanghams*
- Building capacities of the issue committees, resource group members and autonomous federations; and involving them in the implementation of different programmes like NPEGEL, Saakshar Bharat
- Building more convergence and linkages at the State and District levels
- Enabling more women to access education opportunities and appear for certification exams
- Playing advocacy role in ensuring quality education, particularly to girls
- Creating awareness among communities on RTE Act and campaigning for effective implementation of the provisions
- Advocating for incorporation of child rights, equity issues and gender to be part of the curriculum, teacher education and teacher training programmes.



## Building Capacities and Strengthening Networks

Building capacities has been a major thrust area in the programme since beginning. From facilitating women to understand their situation, identify concerns and act upon them, the nature of capacity building has become more wide-ranging to include focused inputs on strategic issues and areas where women have to play a greater role in the process of empowerment. In tune with this, as reported in the previous sections, the programme is now in a crucial phase with diverse field needs, dynamic processes and increased networking and convergent action. Accordingly the team members and *Sangham* women had to be equipped with enough capacities to take along the processes, without compromising on the direction of envisioned goals of the programme.

The result has been reflective in 28 mandal level federations evolving as autonomous institutions and taking forward social agenda of women. In these mandals the focus was on building their managerial capacities and strengthening network relations. Same time, in 22 mandals the cluster resource pools are emerging into mandal level resource groups thus the emphasis was on building capacities on respective issue along with institutional functioning.

Simultaneously the diverse field needs like role change of MS towards advocacy and lobbying, programme expansion to new

mandals, need for developing appropriate strategies in line with the changing development trends formed the base for capacity building programmes during the past year. Equal focus was put on strengthening linkages, networking and convergent relations with departments and NGOs to mainstream the rich experiences of MS in facilitating empowerment processes among women and girls.

The past year's activities in this theme are a reflection to the above which are detailed further in this section.

### Field Level Capacity Building

Changing socio, political and economic contexts; and different stages of the programme become the base for identifying and planning input/capacity building sessions at field level. Accordingly different programmes were designed to cater to each category - *Sangham*, issue committee, mandal resource groups, federation bodies and *Bala Sanghams*. Trainings, workshops, brainstorming sessions, ToT programmes, exposure visits were the major capacity building forums, While the content was broadly issue based, thrust was on understanding the issue with gender perspective and the need for strategic planning for wider dissemination.

### Health Trainings

The trainings on this theme are largely a continuum to the previous years' efforts.

General health, reproductive health, anemia, nutrition, seasonal diseases, herbal medicines, sanitation and hygiene formed the content for the trainings imparted to the health issue committee members of the *Sanghams*. Simultaneously, roles and responsibilities of the issue committee members, the need for roping in different village level health care providers like AWW, ANM, and GP for effective delivery of services were also focused. These trainings were conducted phase wise at village, cluster or mandal level using appropriate participatory training methods. In all, such trainings were held in 12 districts and 9,026 members participated.

The outcomes of these various programmes are almost instantaneous and reflected in the actions of *Sangham* members. For example in **Vizianagaram district alone, about 198 women from 38 villages, who earlier were of the view to undergo hysterectomy operation, have contacted gynecologists immediately** after attending trainings on reproductive health issues. They are now using medicines and do not see the need for hysterectomy at this stage of their health condition.

Similarly, the number of women taking second medical opinion, accessing PHC for their health needs has also been steadily growing across the project districts. More number of *Sangham* members are now ensuring that milk, fruits and vegetables like papaya, leafy vegetables, sprouts etc are included in their diet. With increased knowledge on nutritional diet requirements

in addressing anaemia many of the *Sangham* members have started growing vegetables and fruits in their backyards for their regular consumption. In addition, they are ensuring effective service delivery from the village level health care providers. For instance, in Srikakulam district, in 60 villages the health issue committee members are ensuring that NH day is observed regularly and nutrition health education is provided to the participants.



All the 38 *Sangham* women of Kurrampalli village, Kanagal Mandal, Nalgonda District received training in preparation of herbal medicines. Having understood that kitchen ingredients, local herbs and shrubs contain rich medicinal values, they began preparing herbal medicines and using them in their own families. The positive results enthused them to initiate herbal medicine centre in the village. This was discussed in the *Sangham* and decided to contribute ₹ 10/- each to build corpus to start the centre.

Around the same time, a ToT was organized at state level on health and

herbal medicines to which these women also attended. They learnt further details about institutionalizing the centre viz. collection of raw material, preparation and processing, need for arranging suitable equipment, maintenance of records, etc. Equipped with more information and with improved confidence, the women opened a centre in the house of *Mutyalu*, health resource person of the *Sangham* on 28 March 2011. Four other health committee members have joined *Mutyalu* in managing the centre regularly.

### ***Trainings on Gender and Social Issues***

Since the beginning of the programme, the issues of social and gender inequalities are on the forefront of *Sanghams'* agenda. The actions of *Sanghams* in addressing these issues gained them identity as conflict resolution bodies or *Nyaya* committees. As stated in the previous years' reports, mandal level *Nyaya* committees were formed in the federation and MRG mandals and are already working as redressal forums. On these lines, capacity building to the *Nyaya* committees has been a regular process in strengthening their initiatives. Periodical trainings were conducted on legal literacy, counseling skills, gender, documentation and other relevant subjects. Simultaneously, focus was also on evolution of support systems at various levels for sustained and effective functioning of *Nyaya* committees. With these inputs the *Nyaya committees of 6 project districts could resolve 491*

*cases during the past year and are being followed up periodically.*



In addition to the above, during the past year, the issues of female foeticide, declining sex ratio, acid attacks on young women, abuse against adolescents also formed content of the trainings to equip the members with necessary inputs in line with the changing trends and the alarming crime rate within the state. Same time, the earlier efforts made to establish linkages between these committees and the district *Nyaya Seva Sadan* were continued this year too towards ensuring regular support from the department and recognition to the members as paralegal volunteers

### ***Nature of Cases Addressed***

- Divorce
- Women's property rights
- Dowry
- Alcoholism
- Extra marital relations
- Disputes arising from marriages where parents are not supporting
- Early marriages



The *Nyaya* committee of Nellikuduru mandal, Warangal district has earned recognition by successful and amicable resolution of the case of Jyothi.

Jyothi lives in Madanaturthi village and has two small children. At the time of her marriage, her parents gave some land in her name towards dowry. After her husband's death she continued to live in her marital home along with the kids. But her marital family members began harassing her saying that she has extra marital relationships and that her conduct was bad. They even complained to the Sarpanch and caused for a village level meeting wherein GP members, VRO and other village elders resolved that the conduct of Jyothi is bad and therefore, she should transfer all the land and property in her name to her mother-in-law in the interest of minor children. The documents were also changed by the VRO accordingly.

At this juncture, Jyothi appealed to the *Sangham* to support her. After careful analysis, the *Sangham* members immediately referred this case to the mandal level *Nyaya* committee, given the complexity involved in it. The *Nyaya* committee members enquired about the earlier proceedings and consulted GP and the local elected representative as to how the resolution was made permitting her in-laws to acquire Jyothi's property. They questioned its legal validity explaining them the legal rights of Jyothi on the marital property even after her husband's death. They also warned her

family on the false allegations they made on Jyothi's conduct snatch so as to away the property. Further continued sittings of the *Nyaya* committee and efforts by the *Sangham* lead to change of name on land patta back to Jyothi's name along with share of the marital property.

Now Jyothi cultivating in her land and educating her children with her own earnings. She is happy that the *Nyaya* committee came to her support and proved that the allegations against her are baseless.

Particular mention here must be made of the traditional *Nyaya* panchayat – *Rai Centre* in Adilabad district where women's participation used to be almost negligible. Through continuous and strategic interventions *Sanghams* could break this tradition and became members of the *Rai Centres* as mentioned in the previous years' reports. The trend continued in the past year too. By the end of the year, the representation increased to 20 in about 6 centres. One *Sangham* woman became *Upa Sir Medial* (next to the President) in Savathi *Rai Centre* of Wankhidi mandal.





In order to further strengthen this initiative, emphasis was put on regularity of the meetings; proper documentation of cases received and improved capacities on laws and rights of women. Accordingly input sessions were conducted on counseling, documentation and legal literacy to the *Rai Centre* members. With the result, the male members are also making efforts to keep in mind the specific needs of women while addressing cases. The case of extra marital relations settled by Jhari Gonduguda *Rai Centre* in Kerameri mandal of Adilabad district is a clear reflection to this.

Gopal, a married person from Jhari Gonduguda village had extramarital relationship with 19 year old Parvati of the same village. He almost deserted his pregnant wife, Rukmini, who has no means to support herself. Rukmini complained about this in the *Rai Centre*. In the subsequent session, both the parties were called for and their arguments were heard by the *Rai Centre* members, five of whom were *Sangham* women. After negotiations, the *Rai Centre* resolved the case saying that Gopal has to leave Parvati since he is already married and moreover, his wife is pregnant. They also resolved that Parvati can marry as per her choice.

However, Rukmini was not happy with this judgment. She appealed that her husband's behavior is not good and that she does not want to live with him any more. Convinced of her arguments and the details narrated by her, the Centre

finally settled the case saying that she can live separately as per her wish. It was also resolved that Gopal should register 5 acres of land in the name of the child to be born, making mother as guardian.

All the villagers in the jurisdiction of this *Rai Centre* were surprised to hear this judgment as never such decision had been made by the *Rai Centre* in the interest of a woman. They appreciated the sensitivity of the members for their bold decision.

### ***Inputs on Panchayati Raj Issues***

At the time of formulating the Annual Plan itself, keeping in mind the forth coming PRI elections, in the ensuing year, (2011-2012) extensive voter awareness campaigns and intensive capacity building programmes for EWRs and issue committees were planned. The objective was to take note of the achievements and challenges faced by them during their tenure and their readiness for re-election.



However due to different political developments in the state and regional disturbances, the trainings or other

interactive sessions planned could not be conducted. Nevertheless, regular cluster level GP meetings, trainings and workshops were held. Emphasis was laid on maintaining marriage registers regularly, playing proactive role in providing infrastructure facilities and in ensuring effective access to provisions of MG NREGS by the wage seekers.

### **MS Team Capacity Building**

Regular review, reflection, thematic meetings at district and state level have always contributed a lot to assess the capacity building needs of team members and plan trainings/input sessions accordingly. In line with this, in the past year too different exercises and short input sessions formed part of the internal meetings besides specific issue based training programmes organized at different times of the year.

During the past year, the formation of internal sub committees within the programme like programme sub committee, purchase, finance and construction sub committees helped in regularizing the systems and procedures and contributed to improve managerial skills of team members. Particularly, the programme sub committee, constituted with representation from State Office, two other project districts, internal DIU and field level team held district level meetings and reviewed the plan, outcomes and challenges. It also contributed to mutual exchange of field level innovative experiments, strategies

and sharing of expertise between the districts in a more congenial manner. Inter district support mechanisms also could be evolved through this strategy. These meetings were held half yearly in all the districts and were found to be effective for critical reflection on the programme progress. Given the effectiveness of this strategy it was decided to continue it as a regular procedure.

### ***Strengthening the Modules***

In line with the changing contexts and field needs the existing modules for capacity building of *Sanghams*, issue committees, *Bala Sanghams*, federations and MRGs were reviewed and refined. Fresh modules were developed for issue orientations and Training of trainers with the involvement of Issue core team members from the DIUs.

Similarly a two-day workshop was also held to review the curriculum frameworks and modules of all existing literacy interventions including MSK with Education core team members and identified MSK teachers. Need was felt for modifications in view of the new developments like Saakshar Bharat and RTE Act. Accordingly, changes were also made in the corresponding training modules of the team members and MSK teachers.

### ***Perspective Building***

Building perspective of team members is a continuous process keeping in view the need for refreshing the information, updating knowledge on changing global develop-

ment trends and identification of the possible priority areas for fresh interventions. External resource support is taken for giving these specific inputs. In line



with this three important workshops were held in the past year.

- A three-day workshop was organized on **Understanding Gender in changing context** for about 35 team members from all levels. The main focus was on discussing the emerging trends in development at different levels- micro and macro, its impact on gender issues. Discussions also included the topics of : the role of MS in this changing context and the need for MS to play a greater role in advocating for more gender sensitive programmes at macro level by networking with other organizations and agencies working on similar issues. NRG members Ms. Kalyani Menon Sen and Ms. Kameshwari Jandhyala facilitated this workshop.
- A two-day orientation on land rights was held to the identified team members, with the support of Rural

Development Institute (RDI) in the context of the new developments in the State and inclusion of land development of marginalized communities under MG NREGS.

### • *Workshop on MRG/DRG*

As already reported in the chapter on Institutional processes, there has been lot of brainstorming on the processes of consolidation in Warangal and Nalgonda districts in view of the new strategy of MRG. Simultaneously, the need for bringing together all the resources and strengths of autonomous federations in the form of DRG and create further support structures to aid their autonomous functioning informed the need to gain greater clarity on DRG and MRG by the team members. Taking this into consideration, two-day workshop was organized in the month of April, 2010 with select team members from different levels.



Brainstorming was done largely on the village, cluster and mandal level structures

of resource pool and resource group, role and representation of *Waada Sanghams*, *Core Groups* and issue committees. Another discussion point was on the need for a mandal level coordinating body keeping in view the autonomous functioning of the MRG. Recollecting field-level processes and discussion points raised by Sangham women, the group came to consensus on having an executive committee similar to that of the federation model and opted for registration of MRG.

All these learnings were further transacted at district level. Apart from these need based capacity building activities, regular internal training programmes were conducted for team members. In addition, induction trainings were organised to the new team members who joined the programme at various levels.

### **Exposure Visits**

Exposure visits to other MS states and programmes outside State organized every year contribute a lot to widen the scope of learning among team members. Back home these learnings and experiences are generally shared and translated into strategies with certain modifications to suit the local context. On these lines, two exposure visits were organized in the past year. One batch went to Gujarat and the other to Assam. The specific learnings from these visits have been:

- 9 team members went to Surendranagar, Muli and Kutch

districts of Gujarat to visit MS programme and Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghatan. The specific learnings from here include the commitment and the systemic activities taken up by Naari adaalats, women enterprise development, and processes of documentation



- 8 team members from different levels visited Assam state. They participated in State Level Consultation on Girls Education held in Guwahati and visited field level programme in the districts of Darrang and Goalpara. The visiting team gathered information on the process of federation women conducting Data Exhibitions, monitoring effective implementation of various government programmes besides understanding about the programme in greater detail.

The data exhibitions and systemic documentation planned during the current year by the district team and the federations reflect translation of these learnings to the field.



## **Advocacy, Networking and Convergent Action**

Going by the increased public private partnerships in development field and the need to mainstream the learnings of MS, more thrust was put in the recent years on strengthening convergent action, collaborative partnerships with different Government departments and NGOs and taking up advocacy for girls' education and women's literacy. While the periodic mandal-level interface forums between the Sangham women and the officials contributed to greater access to the schemes and services by women and to resolve their concerns, the convergent actions with the departments brought in greater visibility to the programme and the autonomous federations.

The past year's initiatives were a continuation to the above and lead to long term partnership with the departments as listed below.

### ***Department of Education***

There has been a great convergence with programmes under department of Education –SSA, SLMA and APOSS in terms of collaborative partnerships for girls' education and women's literacy. These were discussed in greater detail in the chapter Pathways to Education.

### ***Department of Rural Development - MGNREGS***

The positive experiences during the previous years in effective implementation MGNREGS programme in accordance

with the MoU led to bringing in more number of mandals into this fold in the extension period for the year 2010-11. Presently it has been operational in 68 mandals of 12 project districts in collaboration with local NGOs and the Department. As reported earlier, the APNA network formed by the department for effective GO, NGO participation in implementation of the provisions of MGNREGS has become further active during the reporting year. The regularity of meetings at mandal, district and state level contributed to raising and resolution of many field-level issues without taking much time.



Chinna Tulugu village is situated 3 Km. away from the mandal headquarters, Gara in Srikakulam district. MS started working in this village since 2004 and after much facilitation; Sriram Mahila Samatha Sangham was formed in this village with 30 members. The women were quick in getting information on and accessing the provisions available under different schemes and programmes. They went on to gather information on MGNREGS and took up works.

However, their payments were delayed. Though they made efforts to enquire with the field assistant and APO (Mandal level officer) also, they did not get their issue resolved. In this context, the women decided to raise this in the mandal-level weekly meeting. In the following meeting, they voiced their concern before the MPDO, who immediately directed the officials to enquire into the case and ensure payment to all the wage seekers before the monthly state-level meeting.

Thus they not only got the wages, but were instrumental in payments to all the wage seekers of 17 other Panchayats in the mandal whose payments were also delayed.

In addition, as part of the MoU activities in the extended period, the Department also requested APMS to take up identification and appointment of Aayahs under MGNREGS on pilot basis. This has been taken up in 10 mandals of five project districts. Women who are single, old and/or physically disabled and belonged to SC/ST communities were identified and the lists were submitted to the concerned officials. Subsequently these women were appointed as Aayahs.

The other important achievements recorded in the field include:

- Ensuring all those in need get job cards and are provided works - about 2,638 persons got job cards and many more accessed works.

- In Vizianagaram district, 125 *Sangham women* from 25 villages got working tools.
- In Anantapur district, 25 physically challenged persons go wage works under MG NREGS
- Wall writings taken up in the districts to prominently display and propagate helpline number of MGNREGS



Regular participation in APNA network meetings helped in bringing field level issues like ensuring minimum worksite facilities, development of land belonging to SC and ST families, regularization of delay payments and settlement of medical bills, allocation of works to persons with special needs and single women, etc. to the notice of the Commissioner, Rural Development and evolve new strategies.

*Another major development under MGNREGS in the State has been the State's decision to include development of lands belonging to SC and ST communities under shelf of works. In this connection, the Department came up with the idea of preparing land inventory of the lands belonging to SC and ST families across the*



state. APMSS was approached to take part in the process of developing land inventory of all the lands belong to SC and ST families in its project area. Since the issue is very close to MS ideology and part of the programmatic interventions it was taken up in 14 mandals of 10 project districts by appointing one mandal coordinator per mandal in support of the district team member. Federation members from autonomous federations in Medak, Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar districts were identified for village level surveys.

The survey focused on identifying land problems belonging to SC and ST families, listing out landless families among them, identification of assigned lands which are not fertile and far off from the villages and identification of lands which are allotted to them but are not in occupation. Subsequently identification of persons was taken up to develop their land under this programme.

Formation and strengthening of Shrama Shakthi Sanghams (SSS) in the villages with wage seekers was also another recent development introduced by the State towards effective implementation of MGNREGA. MS team members took up this task with the same vigour and as a result 37,680 SSS were formed in 12 project districts. Building their capacities is past of the coming year's plan.

### ***NABARD – Implementation of Watershed programme***

As reported in the previous year, water shed programme is being implemented in three

watersheds Ringanguda, Kautaguda and Waudam in Asifabad mandal of Adilabad district since 2007 with technical support from WASSAN and financial assistance by NABARD. Crossing initial hurdles we are able to visualize clear outcomes at the field-level in all the three watersheds during the past year. Complete involvement of one DIU team member, support from other related departments like ITDA, horticulture, animal husbandry, agriculture etc. contributed towards reaching the present stage.



*For instance, in Dampur village under Ringanguda watershed, one farmer's land was allotted for farm pond. In the previous rainy season, it was filled to the extent that it caters to the needs of the entire village's cattle wealth. Similarly, in Demmadiguda and Metiguda villages under Waudam watershed, people used to go to Asifabad to work in the cotton mills as they do not find enough employment in their village. But once the watershed works are completed, they claim that they are getting regular works in the village itself and the money earned could supplement their income from agriculture.*

*Also they felt that with this additional income from watershed they are able to invest capital to buy bullocks, fertilizers and pesticides.*



In addition, poultry was taken up as part of livelihood enhancement in four villages of Ringanguda watershed area, and plantation of fruits, herbal plants, fodder trees under agro-horticulture was taken up in all the three watershed areas.

### ***MS in State & District level Committees***

In the past year, Dept. of Women Development, Child Welfare & Disabled Welfare has launched, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) in the State. Committees were proposed to be formulated by the Department both at State and District levels as part of its implementation. In this context, given the experience of facilitating women's empowerment for such a long period, APMSS has been approached to take part in the consultations. In addition, APMSS has been nominated as a member in State-

level committee and District-level (Karimnagar and Warangal) Committees.

The district administration of Nizamabad constituted district-level committees with GO, NGO partnership to work towards effective implementation of various Acts related to girl child trafficking, domestic violence, early marriages, sexual abuse, rape, etc. and on implementation of RTI Act. Considering APMSS experience of working with women and girls at grassroots it was invited to be a member in all the committees.

### **Future Steps**

The multifarious roles played by team members at all levels within the programme points to the continued thrust on building capacities of team members, issue committees and federations to take forward the envisioned programmes. On these lines our coming year's focus would be on

- Continued capacity building to team members in accordance with the changing roles and new developmental trends
- Capacity building to issue committees, resource pool and resource groups to play the role of pressure groups in influencing change
- Expanding scope of convergence and net working for effective advocacy for women and girl friendly policies and programmes.



## Expanding Horizons of Community Sensitivity

The process of facilitating women's empowerment requires focused interventions with them, both collectively and individually. With this understanding MS has from the beginning been designing and implementing women centered strategic activities. This effort resulted in establishing collective strength and solidarity among marginalized women which in turn contributed to women utilizing their own spaces for better status. Gradually these Sanghams have emerged as pressure groups; and federated to evolve as advocacy bodies for women entered policies and planning. All these processes created an enabling environment for women and girls at family and community levels. However, it was realized that working with men and boys is important to create a sensitized cadre in support of women's efforts towards empowerment. In this direction, for past few years MS has been working with this group at different levels - *Bala Sanghams*, youth groups, family members and the community. With this intervention MS' reach has become wider and its sphere of influence has expanded.

These enriching experiences of working with different sections of society helped in building layers of leadership at field level. It is envisaged that this leadership would contribute in sustaining the positive change and taking the movement towards the goal of women's empowerment. In this context and the changing milieu of the development

sector the programme had to reflect and set the direction for necessary role change. Thus, while continuing with grassroots implementation, during the past year the emphasis was also on playing advocacy role at District and State levels for recognition to the federations as institutions for partnership programmes with different agencies; and for mainstreaming MS philosophy and approach into existing government and non-government programmes.

Keeping in line with this changing scenario, the scope of the activities has been widened, not limiting to the *Sangham* or the *Waada*, but expanding to the entire Mandal covering all the habitations. In the process, all the village and mandal-level institutions, and prominent local leaders were also involved. Particularly, awareness generation programmes on various rights, Acts and provisions, services and schemes are taken up in campaign mode. In addition, educational and sensitization programmes are also organized on a large scale reaching out to non-MS area.



In order to disseminate appropriate and qualitative information on a wide range of issues, the issues identified by *Sanghams* as priority issues/mandal-focus issues are given preference. The methodology adopted has been greatly participatory with use of enough audio-visual aids besides displaying pictorial material. Demonstrations held, wherever applicable, also served the purpose of drawing attention of many and prompting them to think on the need for bringing/adapting change.

In this context, to reach out to the entire village with a specific focus on women, *Grama Sadassulu / Mahila Sadassulu* (Village-level meetings) are planned as the strategic forum to discuss common issues and concerns and disseminate information for awareness generation on a large scale. These *Sadassulu* proved to be successful forums in involving the entire community in taking action on the identified issues, viz, child labor, early marriages, dowry, sanitation, HIV/AIDS, seasonal health ailments, migration, etc. Observation of special days is another strategy followed in spreading the concerned messages on a wide scale through interactive forums at different levels. The key objective of these activities is creating a positive and supportive environment for women to raise their concerns and work towards resolving them.

The activities during the past year are largely in the above mentioned directions that are in continuation to the earlier years' efforts. We go into further detail about all these activities in the following sections/pages:

## Priority Issues for Campaign

Issues identified for campaigns are more or less similar across all the project districts since they are the core in facilitating solidarity and collective strength among women sanitation, HIV/AIDS, age at marriage, organic farming, superstitions, anaemia etc. are some of the issues identified by *Sanghams*, *Bala Sanghams*, Resource Groups and federations. Given below is an over view of the different activities held in the past year:

### *Sanitation*

Hygiene and village sanitation continued to be one of the thrust areas for the *Sanghams* across the project districts. This has been identified as priority issue for focused intervention in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Nalgonda, Anantapur and Prakasam districts. Spreading awareness on the need to enhance personal and environmental hygiene, role of community and GP in village sanitation formed the core of various activities held at different periods throughout the year. The outcomes seem quite enthrusting, indicating the positive environment for bringing change. To quote a few examples:





- In Srikakulam district, village sanitation has been one of the focus issues in all four project mandals. In the past year, various interventions like *Grama Sadassulu*, FGDs, rallies and cleanliness drives were held involving the entire village. Consequently, in 51 villages 1344 households are accessing safe drinking water, 1,201 families in 141 villages have started using latrines and 700 families of 20 villages are maintaining cleanliness in and around cattle sheds.
- In Prakasam district, village-level committees came forward to take responsibility of sanitation in two villages as a consequence to the wide spread awareness programmes on sanitation. Water logs were closed with the support of GPs in 14 villages and bleaching powder is periodically sprinkled in the drains to avoid mosquito menace.
- Realizing the importance of ISLs in maintaining village sanitation as well as in addressing women's health and vulnerability issues, 155 families of 3 villages in Anantapur district applied for ISLs and got sanction. Presently, the construction activity is under way.
- In Chintadavalasa village of Mentada mandal, Vizianagaram district there are five families rearing pigs for livelihoods. After the intensive campaign on sanitation and health, realizing the consequences of keeping pigs around their homes they made necessary arrangements to keep their pigs outside the village.

### *Age at Marriage*

Even after constant efforts from different quarters of the society the low age at marriage is still a concern. Though a positive change has been witnessed in the attitudes of the families they are still under the influence of strong socio-cultural norms when it comes to daughters' marriage. Given this scenario, for the past few years we attempted to create sensitization among village elders, religious leaders and the general community. Taking these efforts forward during the past year, wide-spread campaigns were organized in the project districts. As reported in the previous chapters, *Sanghams*, federations and *Bala Sanghams* have taken ownership of this campaign as a regular intervention and are spreading awareness on legal age at marriage.



While doing this campaign it was observed that in Munipally and Kowdipally mandals of Medak district, despite the intervention many such early marriages were continuing to take place. Responding to the situation, intensive awareness drives were held in 30 identified villages of these mandals. Besides holding village-level meetings, performing Kalajathas and wall writings were also taken



up as part of the drives to sustain the momentum generated through the campaign. Automomous federations have partnered in this effort by deputing kalajatha members and in facilitating village-level meetings. About 8,350 people participated in these events. As a result of these campaigns, in 10 villages the villagers took responsibility of ensuring prevention of early marriages therein.

Similar large-scale campaigns were held in all 6 mandals of Kurnool district in which about 2,986 people participated. As a result, about 8 early marriages have been postponed during the past year in the district. In these efforts one has also to mention the active and timely support extended by concerned officials of the police, ICDS and of the GCDO, RVM (SSA).

These positive responses from the field and timely action by the related departments give us boost to continue the campaign with more vigour and attempt to bring change in such deep-rooted social issues entangled with traditional factors.

### ***HIV / AIDS***

Realizing that the issue of HIV/AIDS needs a more critical intervention, a conscious effort is put on spreading awareness on sensitive issues related to HIV/AIDS for the past few years. One has to note that due to various programmes and activities taken up by GOs and NGOs, awareness on the issue has been percolated to the villages. Keeping this in view, MS' campaign was done with a focus on persons in the age group of 15 - 45 years given the tendency of high risk



behaviour in the same. At the same time, thrust was also put on encouraging pregnant women to undergo HIV-testing for early detection and to enable prevention of transmission to the child. As a result many of them are coming forward to test their HIV status. However, it is observed that stigma is still attached to women going for HIV test. Another area that needed focused intervention is the continued stigmatization of people living with HIV, their vulnerability to isolation and violence. In this direction in the past year, the campaign aimed at sensitizing villagers on the stigma and HIV-related violence on women, and also the need for care and support to HIV-infected and affected people.

Various forms of campaign were used to create awareness and facilitate change – Kalajathas, candle light memorial rallies, *Arogya Sadassulu* (Village-level health meetings), stalls in market place, shandies, jatharas etc. were some to quote. *Sangham* women, *Bala Sangham* members, health committees, youth, school children and representatives of village-level government institutions were involved in these activities. In addition, special sessions are taken in KGBVs, schools and hostels to

disseminate information on spread and prevention of HIV, stigma attached to PLHAs and their families and handling

high risk behaviour. Village-level committees were evolved to ensure regular follow up along with *Sangham* and PRIs.

### Details of Activities are as Follows:

District	Nature of Activity	Reach	No. of Participants	Specific Outcomes
Medak	Village-level campaign	45 villages in 3 mandals	4600	All Pregnant women in 15 villages got tested
Mahabubnagar	Awareness campaigns, Rallies	Identified villages in 7 mandals	764	All pregnant women in 3 villages got tested
Adilabad	Trainings, workshops during HIV/AIDS week	5 mandals	742	137 issue committee members trained, Pregnant women and youth got tested during the campaign in Bhimni mandal
Nalgonda	Village-level trainings, camps, village-level meetings	2 mandals	619	85 Sangham women, 50 youth and 105 pregnant women were tested
Srikakulam	Camps, rallies, stalls	4 mandals	1083	240 members in 30 villages got HIV tested
Vizianagaram	Sangham trainings	63 villages	1937 issue committee members	-
Anantapur	Village-level meetings, stalls, Health meetings, Sangham meetings	8 mandals	-	235 pregnant women and 73 Sangham women got HIV tested
Kurnool	Village-level Campaigns, youth trainings, stalls	38 villages	1375	616 persons got HIV tested
Khammam	Campaigns	7 villages	520	Pregnant women in 3 villages got HIV tested

Prevalence of HIV/AIDS is highly reported in Gurrampodu mandal of Nalgonda district. Therefore the *Sanghams* of this region identified it as a priority issue for campaigning across all villages of the mandal. Accordingly, various activities were held with the objective of creating awareness in the entire village on the spread of HIV/AIDS and need for prevention as also to address issues of stigmatization and violence against women and PLHAs. Use of condoms has been widely discussed and demonstrated in all the village level meetings. During one such *Grama Arogya Sadasslu* held in Mosangi village, the villagers along with PRI members, youth and *Sangham* women decided to maintain condom outlets (boxes) in the village at public places for easy accessibility to every one. Same time, they also discussed about ensuring regular supply of condoms in these outlets. Immediately they shared responsibilities among themselves, arranged for condom outlet boxes. Another village-level meeting was organized to set up these boxes with the specific agenda of letting every one in the village know about the presence of condom outlets. Periodically the outlets are filled with condoms with the support of PHC. After this it is observed that the issue of HIV/AIDS and the need to check its spread are openly discussed by people without any inhibitions. Consequently 12 pregnant women underwent HIV tests. One of them was found to be positive and

immediately started taking treatment. Thus the agenda of HIV/AIDS is now shifted from the *Sangham* to the village. Similar instances are reported from other villages also as a consequence to these campaigns. Condom outlet boxes were kept in 9 villages.

### ***Other Mandal-level Focal Issues***

The other mandal focus issues identified for extensive awareness campaigns include TB, Filaria, flourosis, chewing of tobacco (gutka), organic farming, superstitions, etc. These are addressed through specific and locally appropriate interventions such as organizing convergence meetings, workshops, village-level trainings, camps and demonstrations. Wherever need was felt, information was given on various related provisions and schemes. As a result, there has been increased awareness among the community and they are taking appropriate measures to address their concerns. The field reports coming from different project districts indicate this. To quote some examples:

- In Adilabad district, chewing of tobacco products, particularly gutka has been an important concern identified by the *Sanghams* and *Bala Sanghams* given its hazardous effect on health. To address this, intensive awareness drives were taken up in 4 mandals of the district. Convinced of the harmful effects of chewing of tobacco or gutka, 86 children, 24 *Sangham* women and 102 men

stopped the practice. While in ten villages chewing of gutka was banned, in another ten villages alcohol kilns were completely shutdown.

- Prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) has been identified as mandal focus issue in two mandals of Srikakulam and constant awareness camps are conducted at various points of time to spread the messages of prevention and cure. As a result, in four villages, 188 TB patients are regularly visiting DOT centres and taking treatment.
- In Nalgonda district organic farming was identified as focal area for intervention in three mandals. Accordingly different activities are being taken up to encourage women and men to use techniques of organic farming in cultivation. The farmers claim that use of bio pesticides and



vermi-compost has actually helped in increasing the yield by at least 10%. Earlier, they used to collect and sell neem seeds but now they are keeping/storing them for use in their own fields.

## Special Days

Observation of special days formed another important strategy to communicate focused messages to a wider audience and sensitize the gathering on the need to take action. This has been adopted every year as a regular activity that results in mobilizing large number of people from different sections (including State department officials) and spreading information on the particular issue in detail. In the past year too, specific days are observed across the project districts through various events held at different levels (village, cluster, mandal and district).



This year, girls in Nalgonda MSK observed all special days as a celebration. The teachers held small sessions on each special day on the objective behind naming the day as special and the need to understand and take measures to address/promote the issue. Different events were held to mark “No Plastic Day” on 12 September 2010, “Inter-national Ozone protection Day” on 16 September, “Conservation of Wild Life Day” on 3 October 2010, “National Legal Literacy Day” on 9 November 2010 apart from

the regularly observed special days like Environment Day, Teachers Day, Child Rights Week, Girl Child Day, etc. The girls participated in the discussions with enthusiasm and shared their views openly.

*Another interesting incident worth reporting here is that UNICEF organized a village-level event on health and nutrition in connection with World Food Day in*

*Bujarampeta village of Kowdipally mandal, Medak district. As the organizers began to speak on importance of nutrition, the villagers told them that they already knew it through Mahila Samatha and demanded for new information. This prompted the organizers to arrange competitions on the subject. They were surprised to get appropriate answers from most of the participants. Appreciating them, prizes were distributed.*

### **A Glance at Major Events held across Project Districts:**

Special Day	Nature of event held	Expanse	No. of participants in major events
June 5 World Environment Day	Village-level meetings	14 districts	2192 persons
September 8 International Literacy Day	Village, mandal, district-level melas, workshops, rallies, meetings, state-level conference	14 districts	1329 persons
October 16 World Food Day	Village-level demonstrations, meetings, Traditional Food Jataras, stalls	22 villages across 5 mandals in Karimnagar and in 4 mandals of Warangal	1781 persons
October 15 Global Hand Wash Day	Village and mandal level events covering School children and teachers	4 mandals in Adilabad	406 children and teachers
March 8 International Women's Day	Melas, mandal meetings, workshops	14 districts	1730 women



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## Future Steps

As reported above, the efforts of working with women and the rural community for many years and the impact of development trends resulted in creation of positive/enabling environment in the villages. There is growing demand for specific and concrete information on wide range of issues. In this context, awareness generation and sensitization on various social issues is the need of the hour. As such our future initiatives in the theme would be:

- To assess what information has already reached the villages, what changes are already brought in and to identify the areas that still need focused community level interventions
- To involve issue committees and federations/MRG in the campaigns given their sensitivity and responsiveness in dealing with issues
- To further strengthen the capacities of *Sanghams* and federations to become a resource base in the villages that can take along with the processes of women's empowerment.
- To ensure accountability from the community and sustainability of the change processes already initiated.



## Samatha Gender Resource Centre

Over the years, Samatha Gender Resource Centre (SGRC) is concretizing itself into a research and advocacy unit of APMSS, while continuing its efforts towards mainstreaming gender into different initiatives of both GO and NGO.

The past year has been full of activity at SGRC. It include perspective building on Gender for various organizations and Departments, taking up evaluation studies, partnering in developing training material, extending support in translation work, etc. In this process, the participating team members could gain experience in developing and administering research tools and methodologies. These learnings are taken into the regular programme.

Another important development in the year gone by has been setting up an educational resource centre for women and girls. SAMSKAR, a non profit organization working with children and women on education and empowerment issues in Nizamabad district for over a decade has consolidated its activities in the recent past. The organization proposed utilization of its campus for educational activities through APMSS. Subsequently, a formal agreement has been entered into by both organizations for a period of 7 years. It is named as Hemalatha Lavanam Educational Resource Centre for Women and Girls (HLERC), in memory of the legendary social reformer Ms. Hemalatha Lavanam. The centre was inaugurated by the Principal



Secretary (PE), the Chairperson of APMSS, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. This campus is presently used to run an MSK and to organize different residential programmes for women and *Bala Sanghams*. We are envisaging that this centre will soon become a hub of educational activities.

The other major activities of SGRC during the past year are reported below:

### Preparation of Community Based Activity Kit

During 2008-09 and 2009-10, SGRC implemented an action research project on 'Gender Just Families' in seven project districts in collaboration with CARE-India, AP. Given the positive outcomes of the project (reported in the previous year Annual Report), CARE-India has come up with the proposal of developing a community - based activity kit for scaling up the initiative and mainstreaming the learnings into ICDS. The kit is prepared for helping the Anganwadi Worker (AWW) in sensitizing men and family members on

their role in prenatal and postnatal care and child care. Different interventions, methodologies and tools were detailed in kit and was field tested in Warangal and Nizamabad districts. The finalized kit was released through a dissemination seminar organized by CARE India, AP. The seminar was chaired by the Principal Secretary, Department of WDCW&DW, who appreciated the effort and opined that this kit will be very useful in creating a supportive environment at home and neighbourhood level for women. She also suggested supply of the kit to every Anganwadi Centre (AWC) for regular use.

### **Process Documentation of the Journey of Mahila Sanghams to Federation – Case of Makthal Mandal, Mahabubnagar**

Kitakyushu Forum on Asian women, (KFAW) an organization working on women's rights and empowerment issues in Japan has approached the SGRC expressing its interest to document the journey of women from *Sangham* to federation, in English. The objective is to share with Japanese women the unique processes involved in the emergence of a federation of grassroots women's collectives working with a social agenda for women's empowerment the documentation was done by a senior researcher from KFAW and SGRC coordinated this process. Methodologically in involved documenting the institutional processes of *Sangham*, cluster and federation levels through interactive sessions, review of reports, records, documents and interactions with



MS team. KFAW will also be bringing out a shorter version of this document in Japanese language for the benefit of local readers.

### **Developing a Matrix of IEC Material on Mother & Child**

SGRC extended consultancy support to New Concept, a resource agency in Hyderabad, to review and compile the existing material (IEC and training) available in the state both with go and NGOS on reproductive health for its project on *Developing Communication Strategies for Mother and Child health*. As part of this assignment, print, audio-video material was collected from various departments and agencies both at state and district levels, including APMSS, and the same was compiled as a thematic database in matrix from categorizing all the available material into different forms - print, audio, visual, posters etc. besides showing the agency where it is available. Through this assignment we could also explore possible linkages with likeminded organizations in addition to accessing different forms of material for internal usage.

## Evaluation of IKEA Project

Educational Resource Unit partnered with SGRC in evaluation of the project working on 'Girl child labour in cotton fields' implemented in Kurnool district through Unicef with the support from IKEA. The project is meant to bringing girls working in cotton fields into formal schools, provide educational support and ensure quality education. The study was done in 16 schools across 4 mandals of the district. The methodology included community-level interactions, classroom observation, interviews and group activities with children besides workshops with parents, teachers, officials and project implementation team.

MS team members from different levels of different districts formed the research team. This helped them to get familiarized with designing and administering various research methodologies and tools. It also contributed in understanding the systemic issues enabling and disabling access to quality education by children in primary schools. Since the evaluation has been done in the project mandals, it also gave scope to develop appropriate strategies and plan of action for further interventions.

## Gender Perspective Building

During the past year, different Government agencies approached SGRC seeking training support to build perspective on gender amongst their functionaries. Consequently, gender sensitization sessions were held to Headteachers, language pundits and Group I officers from different Departments. In

addition, Bhumika Women's collective and APMS together conducted session on gender perspective building for trainee judicial officers at A.P. Judicial Academy. All the above experiences not only helped us in widening our reach but also contributed in developing strategies for advocacy with these agencies in achieving women's empowerment.

## Study on Micro Finance Institutions (MFI)

Taking into account the different challenges faced by women in repayment of loans taken from MFIs, an internal situational analysis was conducted across the project area to understand the impact of MFIs on women. It was taken up in 386 villages of 12 project districts. Besides Focus Group Discussions (FGD) in the *Sanghams*, random sampling method was adopted to interview 1,366 *Sangham* women by using a questionnaire. It was observed through the study that women are facing double burden, forced to work two shifts to repay the loans, increased instances of violence and abuse at family level; and mounting pressure from their own SHG in view of delayed or non-payment. It is planned to take these observations to a wider forum for analytical discussions with different GO and NGO agencies working on financial empowerment of women and livelihoods.

## Translation of Tool Kit

As reported in the section on Documentation, Best Practices Foundation, Bangalore has developed a tool kit on Gender Education for Men and Boys based on the experiences

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of MS states of AP, Karnataka and Kerala. It is further developed in regional language and SGRC took up this assignment.

### **Future Steps**

All the above experiences clearly inform the future direction for the SGRC to further widen its scope of activities. Now that an educational resource centre is also in place concrete plans are being evolved for optimal utilization of the centre. The future plans include:

- Reaching out to diverse groups for building gender perspective and

mainstreaming participatory approaches for women's empowerment.

- Designing and conducting studies in the context of new developmental trends for evolving suitable strategies for interventions and advocacy.
- Developing appropriate material for advocacy, campaigns and trainings.
- Team building according to the new role envisaged for SGRC.
- Capacity building of the team members to suit the changing needs.





## Documentation

Developing innovative, need-based strategies and interventions to suit the ever changing socio-cultural context is a continuous thrust area of APMSS and the entire process is regularly documented at various levels right from field to State. In the past year too, efforts were made to document processes and outcomes besides regular reporting mechanisms.

As reported in the previous year, Results Frame Work for MS programme has been revised through consultations between MS States, NPO and DFID for capturing the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of the interventions. Taking this further, in the past year, the NPO facilitated state-level workshops to build understanding on the Results Framework and integrate into the MIS systems. Subsequently orientation sessions were conducted for all the district team members. These workshops helped the team members in quantifying the



qualitative information by developing suitable data formats. This has also helped in systematic collection of information,

critical analysis of the outcomes and uniform reporting. The JRM conducted towards the end of the year further contributed in reviewing existing database, documentation and reporting mechanisms, with a critical focus on participation of most marginalized women in various programme interventions.

During the past year various need-based material and modules were developed internally. Besides, the experiences and initiatives of the programme were also reported in the print and electronic media. The details are reported below:

- **Journey of Sangham to Federation** – a flier on autonomous federations, first prepared in 2006-07, was updated in view of more federations attaining autonomy and formation of district level network of federations. It is prepared in Telugu and English languages.
- A booklet on federations - **Samanvitham (a collective journey towards sustainability)** was brought out on the occasion of state level vision workshop with federations. It contains an overview of the processes and activities of autonomous federations.
- On the occasion of state level alumni forum of MSK girls, a booklet - **Samatha Mandaaralu - Mahila Sikshana Kendram Girls** was compiled with updated information on

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number of MSK girls graduated batch-wise, across the project districts. Major achievements over these long years along with objectives and curriculum followed in MSKs are also part of the content.

- A special report was published in Down to Earth magazine with the title '**Menopausal 20-somethings**' in Vol. 19, No.2, June 1-15, 2010, capturing the outcomes of the study on early hysterectomies and further advocacy efforts taken up by APMSS.
- 1 TV, a regional channel has done an episode on the findings of the study on early Hysterectomies and the subsequent action. It was telecast in the form of interviews on the day of its inauguration.
- The paper on **SHGs: Women Empowerment – What Colour & What Form** presented by SPD in a national conference at Andhra University held in the previous year has been selected and published in The Indian Journal of Social Work, Vol. 71, Issue – 4, October 2010.
- Baseline and Mid-term surveys were taken up in the mandals as per the age of the programme and the information was consolidated at district-level along with analytical report on the findings. Same time, in the autonomous federation mandals end-line surveys were taken up along with process documentation.
- *Sangham* and village information formats developed in line with the Results Frame work were used for data collection from all project villages. Data entry and compilation was done through an external consultancy. Data analysis was done jointly by the agency and MS. This process helped us in identifying gaps in filling the data at grassroots level and in facilitation by district teams. Presently this is being streamlined.
- In view of the launch of Saakshar Bharat in the state, a detailed survey has been done in all project villages to understand the literacy status of all individuals in all age groups. The same has been consolidated and used for designing interventions as per the needs of the age groups. It is used to enroll the out of school children into age-appropriate classes after providing necessary academic support and to mobilize the non-literate women to take part in the literacy interventions of MS as well as Saakshara Bharat programme.
- Need-based documentation and material preparation is taken up by the districts in tune with the field-level demands. In this regard, Srikakulam district came up with a small booklet on Legal Literacy and Women's Rights. Similarly Nalgonda district has developed a pamphlet on the importance of informing to the enumerators during the census 2010 the details of persons with special needs, for distribution as part of

awareness campaign on inclusion of persons with special needs.

- All the news items and press clipping were systematically filed to keep a record of the media coverage of the programme interventions.
- In continuation to the previous years' consultations, Best Practices Foundation, Bangalore (BPF) has documented the processes of autonomous federation in the form of a case study and developed a toolkit on Gender Education to men and boys as a best practice. In this context, there have been series of interactions and workshops at different levels with MS team, members of federations and *Bala Sanghams*. The toolkit was field-tested before presenting the final version in the dissemination workshops held at Delhi.

### **Future Steps**

So far MS programme has not made a concerted effort to create public or organizational awareness about itself as an autonomous development sector entity in the State. It is now time for the programme

to dedicately take up advocacy role with the rich experience of working on girls' education and women's empowerment for almost two decades. Towards this there is a need to develop relevant audio-visual documents reflecting the innovative strategies, processes and outcomes. Hence, the following are planned in the coming year.

- Documenting successful and best practices for replication
- Developing short films on unique and innovative initiatives like short term MSKs, mobilization of children in difficult situations into mainstream education, etc.
- Bringing out small booklets on core issues and interventions in the form of resource material
- Preparing training modules and learning material in tune to the changing role of the programme as well as the development context
- Taking up studies on new forms of violence against women and adolescent issues.



## Participation in Seminars & Workshops

Team members from different levels of the programme have attended various seminars and workshops organized by NGOs and Government during the past year. The participation gave scope to share the learning and present papers from the field experiences. It also helped in interface, interaction and exposure to different areas of development work.

- RVM (SSA) in collaboration with UNICEF organized a workshop on **Accelerating Girl's Education** on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Bangalore. Resource Centre Coordinator and DPC from Nizamabad district participated in this workshop and presented Mahila Samakhya experiences of facilitating girls' education along with SPDs of MS Karnataka and Kerala.
- Karavan for **A Journey across India in Support of the Women's Reservation Bill** reached AP and a meeting was held with the Karavan activists and press on 2 June, 2010. The event was organized by Asmitha Resource Centre for Women. Resource Centre Coordinator participated in this meet.
- Dept. of WDCW&DW, Government of AP launched **AP Society for Protection & Empowerment of Women and Children, ICPS and Release of Standards of Care for Trafficking children** in the State on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 through a workshop held in Jubilee Hall, Hyderabad. On this occasion, APMSS made a presentation on Strategies for Women's Empowerment – MS experience. SPD and Resource Centre Coordinator participated in this two-day workshop.
- WASSAN organized regional meeting on **Land problems and Local related issues** on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 at Warangal. Two DPCs and three DRPs from 5 districts participated in this meeting.
- Department of School Education and Literacy organized a workshop on **The Issue of Gender and Equity** on 14 – 16 July, 2010 at Gurgaon. It was attended by one DRP from Nizamabad DIU.
- Panel discussion on **Government NGO Collaboration** was conducted by APMAS at Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad on 14 July, 2010. SPD attended this discussion and shared the initiatives taken up by APMSS for networking and advocacy at various levels.
- Regional Consultation on **National Curriculum Framework for Adult Literacy** was conducted by NLMA and coordinated by State Resource Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 at Hotel Hampshire Plaza, Hyderabad. SPD and Resource Centre Coordinator

participated in this workshop. While sharing MS experiences of facilitating adult women's literacy through various strategies including short term camps certain recommendations were given in the areas of strategies for mobilization, methodology for adult literacy and themes to be incorporated in the curriculum framework.

- State Programme Director attended a workshop on **Civil Society, Governance and Public policy in A.P.** on 3 September, 2010 at CESS, Hyderabad. It was organized by Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and Centre for World Solidarity, Hyderabad.
- National celebration of **International Literacy Day** was held in Hyderabad at Shilpa Kalavedika for three days from 6 – 8 September, 2010. It was jointly organized by NLMA, SRC and Dept. of Adult Education, Govt. of AP. On this occasion, Saakshara Bharat Programme was formally launched in the State. In this forum on the first day SPD facilitated the panel discussion on the theme “Empowering Women through Literacy”. 497 Sangham women and team members from seven project districts and State Office participated in this event.
- SPD, Resource Centre Coordinator, Resource Centre Consultant, DPC, DRP, JRP from 3 districts participated in the dissemination workshop of the tool kits developed from the best practices of MS programme in different States. It was organized by Best Practices Foundation for two days, on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at Vishwa Yuva Kendra, New Delhi.
- One day southern regional meeting on **Building Alliance of Civil Society Organizations in Andhra Pradesh** was held on 8 October, 2010 at Tirupathi. It was organized by IPACHA India and DPC, Anantapur participated in it.
- SPD and Resource Centre Coordinator participated in the seminar, **Stake holders' Consultation on the Draft A.P. Children's Act**, organized by Department of WDCW&DW, Hyderabad on 11 November, 2010.
- One DRP from Warangal participated in a two-day workshop on **Sensitization Programme on Implementation of PWDV Act, 2005** conducted by NIPCCD on 18 & 19 November, 2010 at Bangalore.
- APD attended a workshop on **Designing a Road Map for Rural Resource Informatics Centre** organized by WIPRO Ltd. on 22 November, 2010 at National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad.
- Nirantar Resource Centre for Gender and Education organized two-day workshop on **Literacy Indicators** on 24-25 November, 2010 at New Delhi. SPD attended this workshop and shared the indicators developed by APMSS internally to monitor progress of literacy interventions.



- Three-day national workshop was held on **Case study Compendium** at New Delhi. It was organized by NPO and Best Practices Foundation, Bangalore from 26-27 November, 2010. SPD, APD, DPC, Nizamabad, DRP from Mahabubnagar and one federation member from Medak attended this workshop.
- Resource Centre Coordinator participated in the consultation conducted by Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) on **Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill** on 27 November 2010 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram, Hyderabad.
- **Report Card on Gender, Equity and Education - Report on South Asia** was released and a Public hearing was conducted by Asmitha Resource Centre on 30 November 2010 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram. Resource Centre Coordinator participated in this event.
- DRPs from Medak, Nizamabad and Mahabubnagar districts took part in a rally organized by Bhumika Women's Collective on 2 December 2010 at Hyderabad to condemn the move on **Amending IPC Section 498A**.
- APD and one State Consultant attended a seminar on **Impact of MGNREGA on Migration** held by NIRD on 10 December, 2010 at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad and shared MS experiences.
- Two-day **National Consultation with Civil Societies from Southern Region on Women Constituencies for inputs for XII Five Year plan** was held on 18, 19 December, 2010 at Chennai. Resource Centre Coordinator attended this meeting.
- State Level meet on **Campaign against Child Labour** was held on 30 December, 2010 at Hyderabad. State Consultant participated in this meeting organized by CACL-AP Chapter.
- One day State level consultation was held as part of **Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence Against Women** on 31 December, 2010 at hotel Grand Minerva, Secunderabad. It was organized by SWARD (an NGO) and Resource Centre Coordinator, State Consultant and two DRPs from Medak and Nizamabad districts participated.
- SPD and State Consultant participated in a workshop conducted by Bhumika Women's Collective on 29 January, 2011 at Hyderabad on **Sexual Harassment at Work Place**.
- Department of School Education and Literacy organized a three-day workshop on **Equity and Gender**, from 15-17 February, 2011 at School of Ancient Wisdom, Konnamangala Palya, Bangalore. APD participated in this workshop and presented APMS experiences.



## Visitors

We are proud to report that every year APMSS becomes a platform for learning for different national and international visitors. In the past year too, people from diverse fields visited APMSS project districts, interacted with autonomous federations and team members. The main focus in all these visits has been the federations and their autonomous functioning towards addressing women's concerns and child rights. Moreover, the processes involved in sustainability of the federations working with social agenda are an area of learning for many organizations and individuals, including other MS States. The continuing organic linkage between APMSS and the federations is another notable feature and key area for the visitors to witness and appreciate.

Besides, placement of students of social work from different universities as interns has become a regular feature. The students are placed for 45 days to three months in the respective project districts for practical learning and hands on experience in the field. They are given assignments basing on their interest and specialization of the subject.

The visits by individuals, organizations are of great importance to us also as it creates an opportunity for mutual learning and critical reflection on the processes. At the same time the team is exposed to new areas

of work, get new ideas for strengthening the activities and widening the perspective.

The following is an account of visitors from different places – from MS states and non MS areas/organizations during the past year.

- Ms. Moina, reporter of 'Down to Earth' magazine visited Hanwada and Devarakadra mandals of Mahabubnagar district to understand and report the reasons for depletion of ground level water and its impact.
- Team members and *Sangham* women from MS Kerala visited Medak, Mahbubnagar and Nizamabad districts to learn about autonomous federations – structure, functions, networking and experiences of autonomy.
- Team members and Federation women from MS Karnataka visited autonomous federation of Mahabubnagar and Medak districts to understand the autonomous functioning of federations, strategies followed for building support systems and handling projects independently by the federations.
- Three members from Rural Development Institute, (RDI) Hyderabad visited Kowdipalli mandal of Medak district and Gangadhara mandal of Karimnagar district to know the experiences of women *Sanghams* taking up collective farming and land lease activities.

- Six members from RDI, USA visited Tekmal and Andole mandals of Medak district to understand how women are collectively addressing issues of their concern, emerging as alternate redressal forums and working on accessing their rights, particularly land rights.
- SPD, MS Kerala visited Andole mandal of Medak district to understand the functioning of autonomous federations.
- 25 member team from Ethopia visited Koheda mandal of Karimnagar district through Basix livelihood school to



learn about different livelihood activities taken up by *Sanghams*. As part of their visit they interacted with *Sangham* women and learnt about collective farming and activities taken up by *Sanghams* as part of the pilot for effective implementation of MGNREGA in collaboration with WASSAN.

- Four students of Social Work from Telangana University, Nizamabad district were placed in Nizamabad to do their internship. They studied the initiatives of MS and documented the experiences of *Sangham* women.
- One student of Social Work from Ambedkar University, Srikakulam has been placed for a three months concurrent field work at Srikakulam DIU.
- Two Social Work students from Maha Raja PG College of Social Work, Vizianagaram, have done their block field work for a period of one month.



# Audit Report

**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, 2011 and the Income and Expenditure Account and the 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 and Income and Expenditure 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, 2011 and
- ii) in the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the society, the excess of Expenditure over Income 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 : 30.05.2011

**ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY  
HYDERABAD**

**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2011**

LIABILITIES	SCH.	AMOUNT		ASSETS	SCH.	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.			Rs.	Ps.
CAPITAL FUND		723529.52		Fixed Assets	1	3385561.00	
Less : Excess of expenditure over Income for the year		246137.59		Deposits & Advances	2	382700.00	
		<u>477391.93</u>		Cash & Bank balances	3	2648333.01	
Payables	6	6080204.50		Cash & Bank balances -SD	4	5200.42	
Advances Received SD		1700.00		Cash & Bank balances -FCRA	5	132766.00	
				Receivables		4736.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>6559296.43</u></b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>6559296.43</u></b>	

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

for BALAJINAIDU & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants

*G. Balaji*  
G. BALAJI NAIDU  
Partner  
Membership No. 022245



for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

*P. Prasanthi*  
P. PRASANTHI  
State Programme Director

Place : Hyderabad  
Date : 30.05.2011



## ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

HYDERABAD

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR FROM 01.04.2010 TO 31.03.2011

EXPENDITURE	SCH.	AMOUNT		INCOME	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.		Rs.	Ps.
<b>MANAGEMENT COST :</b>						
State Office	7	4575438.00		Funds received from GOI		64171000.00
DIU - Medak	8	1392087.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	9	1168319.00		Funds received from NABARD		464300.00
DIU - Karimnagar	10	1100611.00				
DIU - Nizamabad	11	1347135.00		Funds received from CARE - GJF		75970.00
DIU - Adilabad	12	1178200.50				
DIU - Warangal	13	1247499.50		Funds received from - SRC		400000.00
DIU - Nalgonda	14	1360713.50				
DIU - Vizianagaram	15	1200958.75		Interest on Savings Bank Accounts		435601.00
DIU - Srikakulam	16	1319489.75				
DIU - Prakasam	17	1086536.75		Interest on SB - Samatha Dharani		29690.20
DIU - Anantapur	18	1103858.50				
DIU - Kurnool	19	1046031.00		Interest on SB - FCRA		5048.00
DIU - Visakhapatnam	20	783972.50				
DIU - Khammam	21	562472.00				
TOTAL - A		<u>20473323.25</u>				
<b>PROGRAMME COST :</b>						
State Office	22	7712793.00		Excess of expenditure over income for the year		246137.59
DIU - Medak	23	3199208.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	24	2687833.50				
DIU - Karimnagar	25	3336071.00				
DIU - Nizamabad	26	3608327.00				
DIU - Adilabad	27	2788679.50				
DIU - Warangal	28	3153538.00				
DIU - Nalgonda	29	2722983.50				
DIU - Vizianagaram	30	2800109.25				
DIU - Srikakulam	31	2343183.29				
DIU - Prakasam	32	2662244.75				
DIU - Anantapur	33	2050353.00				
DIU - Kurnool	34	1768791.00				
DIU - Visakhapatnam	35	1255314.00				
DIU - Khammam	36	841683.00				
GNF Project Expenditure	37	-3534.00				
NABARD Watershed Exp.	38	475969.00				
GJF Project Expenditure	39	75970.00				
NIOS Exams - SRC	40	80129.00				
Samtha Dharani Expenditure	41	1134162.00				
FCRA Expenditure		0.25				
TOTAL - B		<u>44693808.54</u>				
Depreciation	1	660615.00				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>65827746.79</u></b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>65827746.79</u></b>

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

for BALAJINAIDU & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants

*G. Balaji Naidu*  
G. BALAJI NAIDU  
Partner  
Membership No. 022245



for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

*P. Prasanthi*  
P. PRASANTHI  
State Programme Director

Place : Hyderabad  
Date : 30.05.2011

## Executive Committee Members

S.No.	Name & Designation	Membership Status
01.	Smt. Chandana Khan, IAS., Secretary to Government, Dept. of Primary Education, Government of A.P.	Chairperson
02.	Smt. Suparna S. Pachouri, National Project Director, Mahila Samakhya.	Nominee of Dept. of Education, GoI, Ministry of HRD
03.	Sri. R. Satyanarayana, Commissioner & Director, School Education, Government of A.P.	Member
04.	Sri. 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. V. Usha Rani, IAS., Director, Dept. of Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of A.P.	Member
07.	Sri A. Sudhakar, Deputy 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.	Smt. Deepa Dhanraj, 268, 5th Cross, 3rd Main, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034.	NRG Member
10.	Smt. Geetha Nambissan, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 067.	NRG Member

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Membership Status</b>
11.	Prof. Fatima Alikhan, 8-2-580, Road No.8, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.	GoI Nominee on EC
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
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. Nagalakshmi, DRP, APMSS, DIU-Prakasam.	Member
24.	Smt. B. Kumuda, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Anantapur.	Member

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Membership Status</b>
25.	Smt. T. Rajeshwari, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Kurnool.	Member
26.	Smt. M. Nirupama, DPC, APMSS, DIU-Visakhapatnam.	Member
27.	Kum. Kanaka Durga, DRP, APMSS, DIU-Khammam.	Member
28.	Smt. Mathura Bai, MK, APMSS, DIU-Medak.	Member
29.	Smt. Parvathi, MK, APMSS, DIU-Nalgonda.	Member
30.	Smt. P. Prasanthi, SPD, APMSS, State Office.	Member Secretary

#### **EC Meetings held**

- 25th June 2010
- 8th November 2010
- 10th March 2011



## Addresses of District Implementation Units

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