

Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

ANNUAL REPORT

2009-10



Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society

(Mahila Samakhya Project of Gol)

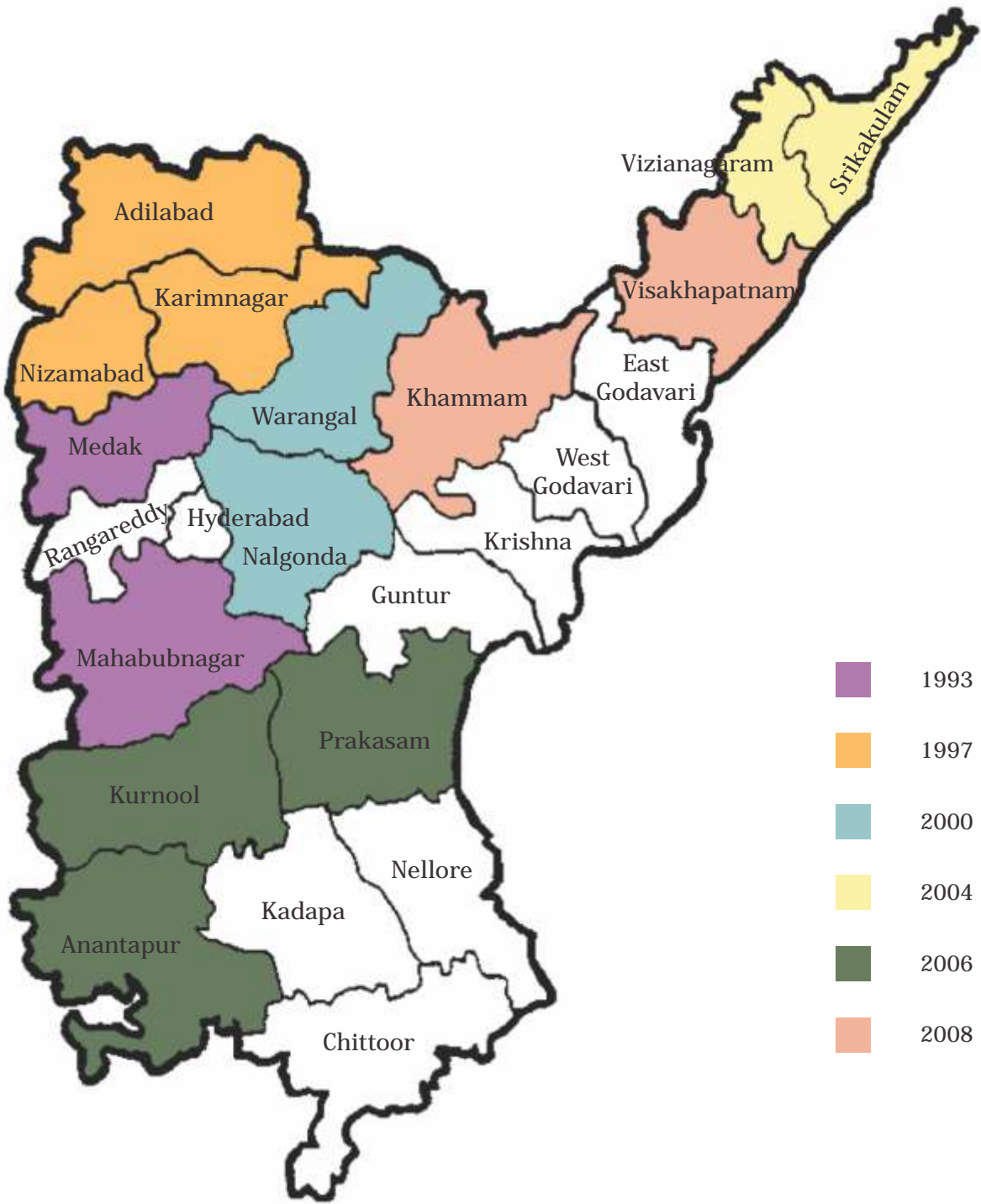
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APMSS Coverage



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Programme Information 2009-10

S No.	Particulars	MDK	MBNR	Dharur	KNR	NZB	ADB	WRL	NLG	VZM	SKLM	PKSM	ATP	KNL	VSP	KHM	Total
1	No. of mandals covered	5	7	1	6	8	5	6	5	5	4	6	8	8	4	4	82
	No. of autonomous mandals	6	7		4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
	Total mandals	11	11	1	10	10	7	6	5	5	4	6	8	8	4	4	103
2	Coverage of Villages	237	254	55	207	282	307	301	298	272	250	273	250	251	160	150	3547
	Villages in autonomous mandals	111	140	-	181	102	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	592
	Total Villages	348	394	55	388	384	365	301	298	272	250	273	250	251	160	150	4139
3	No. of Sanghams	295	214	21	151	721	315	332	452	321	407	194	139	143	30	-	3735
	Sanghams in autonomous mandals	111	140	-	181	102	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	592
	Total Sanghams	406	354	21	322	823	373	332	452	321	407	194	139	143	30	-	4317
4	a) Sangham Membership in existing project mandals	12,392	9,365	541	6,372	12,351	7826	22,035	22,574	12,973	14,144	4,401	4,293	4,770	300	-	134,337
	b) Membership in autonomous mandals	3,010	5,123	-	7,074	5,923	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22730
	Total Membership	15,402	14,488	541	13,446	18,274	9,426	22,035	22,574	12,973	14,144	4,401	4,293	4,770	300	-	157,067
5	No. of Core Groups	17	-	-	-	91	31	168	167	111	78	-	-	-	-	-	663
	Memberships in Core Groups	700	-	-	-	3110	767	8,960	4948	2458	1861	-	-	-	-	-	22804
6	Total no. of literate Sangham women	428	-	-	1350	338	1084	7,776	4000	1296	108	-	-	-	-	-	16380
7	No. of women trained (Sangham & Federation members)	1,485	536	252	380	789	577	1,699	1,581	3,431	2,619	681	678	773	-	-	15481
	*Health	110	25	252	45	83	199	948	1028	1496	681	678	678	773	-	-	6318
	*Legal Literacy	30	55	-	42	71	25	369	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	705
	*Gender	60	88	-	-	-	91	26	30	-	406	-	-	-	-	-	701
	*PR	1200	25	-	59	100	-	129	-	297	237	-	-	-	-	-	2047
	*Economic	60	-	-	46	82	32	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	310
	*Education	25	34	-	105	310	-	113	-	-	165	-	-	-	-	-	752
	* Leadership qualities	-	29	-	40	-	168	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	237
	* NR	-	49	-	-	-	62	187	490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	788
	* Others	-	240	-	43	143	-	-	-	2106	315	-	-	-	-	-	2847
8	No. of MSKs	2	1	-	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	16
	No. of learners at present	66	31	-	69	56	41	56	38	29	27	38	29	52	-	-	532
	No. of girls mainstreamed into Schools / Hostels / KGBVs	26	46	-	31	68	22	46	33	9	25	26	-	48	-	-	380

9	No. of Adult Learning Centres	53	53	5	131	55	55	55	81	49	31	49	39	22	27		650
	No. of Learners	1465	1729	177	3,398	2059	1,295	1,699	1042	572	861	1066	543	873		16779	
10	No. of Bala Sanghas	83	114	5	84	90	120	192	172	201	122	37	72	95		1387	
	Girls	981	1,639	56	1418	963	1790	5,298	2985	2219	1526	568	1089	1497		22029	
	Boys	774	1225	57	813	712	930	4,258	3508	1793	1085	357	747	1578		17837	
	Total children	1755	2864	113	2231	1675	2720	9,556	6493	4012	2611	925	1836	3075		39866	
11	No. of Balasanghams in autonomous mandals	20	67	-	113	28	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	238	
	No. of Girls	200	1050	-	1791	271	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3382	
	No. of Boys	100	625	-	1184	409	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2498	
	Total children	300	1675	-	2975	680	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5880	
12	No. of children enrolled*																
	Boys	809	290	-	103	198	391	823	89	213	924	33	140	567	-	4606	
	Girls	912	445	-	175	234	402	911	110	151	1015	96	275	742	-	5482	
	Total children	1,721	735	-	278	432	793	1,734	199	364	1,939	129	415	1,309	-	10088	
13	No. of Sanghams received sangham fund	4	19	-	54	77	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	
14	NPEGL clusters	19	21	-	20	13	4	11	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	
	No. of schools covered	145	177	-	190	141	30	75	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	855	
15	Total No. of Women elected to PRIs	77	88	-	110	57	96	384	407	219	436	-	-	-	-	1874	
	ZPTC	1	1	-	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	-	-	-	-	8	
	MPTC	2	2	-	5	2	7	34	25	14	32	-	-	-	-	121	
	Sarpanch	4	13	-	7	0	12	43	35	32	46	-	-	-	-	192	
	Ward members	70	72	-	98	55	77	307	345	173	354	-	-	-	-	1551	
15(a)	Total No. of EWRs joined in Sanghams	2	17	1	75	96	25	15	28	170	-	53	-	30	-	512	
16	No. of Nari Adalats/ Nyaya Committee members at mandal level	1	45	-	6	1	17	176	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	246	
	No. of cases received	26	102	-	42	18	18	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	262	
	No. of cases resolved	12	80	-	38	11	18	32	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	211	
17	No. of cases resolved at Sangham / Federation level	-	30	-	30	17	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	
18	No. of Early marriages postponed	35	-	-	-	5	4	3	6	41	56	1	4	-	-	155	
19	Team Trainings:																
	(a) No. of trainings held for team	4	8	-	2	6	8	8	12	2	7	2	7		3	4	73
	(b) No. of Participants	13	31	-	35	24	43	28	51	15	49	28	53		24	15	409

* Through various interventions across the year (excluding MSK)

Acronyms

ALC	- Adult Learning Centre	MSK	- Mahila Sikshana Kendram
APARD	- Andhra Pradesh Academy for Rural Development	NABARD	- National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development
APNA	- Andhra Pradesh NGOs' Association	NACO	- National AIDS Control Organization
ASCI	- Administrative Staff College of India	NGO	- Non Government Organization
AWC	- Angan Wadi Centre	NIMSME	- National Institute for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises
BMK	- Bala Mitra Kendram	NIN	- National Institute of Nutrition
BPF	- Best Practices Foundation	NLM	- National Literacy Mission
CLHA	- Children Living with HIV/AIDS	NPEGEL	- National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level
CRC	- Child Rights' Convention	NPO	- National Project Office
CRP	- Cluster Resource Person	NRG	- National Resource Group
CRPC	- Child Rights Protection Committee	OUCIP	- Osmania University Center for International Programme
DFID	- Department For International Development	PLA	- Participatory Learning & Action
DIU	- District Implementation Unit	PMP	- Private Medical Practitioner
DRDA	- District Rural Development Agency	PR	- Panchayati Raj
EC	- Executive Committee	PRI	- Panchayati Raj Institution
EWR	- Elected Women Representative	PWDV	- Protection of Women from Domestic Violence
FGD	- Focus Group Discussion	RMP	- Rural Medical Practitioner
GB	- Governing Body	RTE	- Right to Education
GJF	- Gender Just Families	RTI	- Reproductive Track Infection
GoI	- Government of India	RTI	- Right to Information
GP	- Gram Panchayat	RVM	- Rajiv Vidya Mission
IEC	- Information, Education, Communication	SGRC	- Samatha Gender Resource Centre
IKP	- Indira Kranthi Patham	SHG	- Self Help Group
JRP	- Junior Resource Person	SPD	- State Programme Director
KGBV	- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya	SRC	- State Resource Centre
MDG	- Millennium Development Goals	SSA	- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
MDM	- Mid Day Meal	STI	- Sexually Transmitted Infection
MGNREGS	- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	TOT	- Training of Trainer programme
MIS	- Management Information System	UNCRC	- United Nations Child Rights' Convention
MPDO	- Mandal Parishad Development Officer	WASSAN	- Watershed Support Services & Activities Network
MRG	- Mandal Resource Group		
MS	- Mahila Samakhya		

Reflections

In the trajectory of facilitating empowerment processes of women, another year of experiences added to the journey that gave interesting insights. The programme has been steadily moving towards envisioned goals as the autonomous federations are gaining greater visibility and mandal level Resource Groups are emerging. On the other hand there were unexpected calamities during the past year that showed impact on the programme. Thus on the whole, the experiences have been a mix of both excitement and challenge.

At the outset, we express our grief on the sudden and tragic demise of our Chief Minister and the President of the Society, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, in the plane crash. We pay our tributes to him.

The devastating floods within one month after this incident created havoc in two project districts in particular, Mahabubnagar and Kurnool during October 2009. Some of the project mandals were totally affected. It was commendable that the federation women, *Sangham* members and team members from across the project districts responded spontaneously and collected relief material within no time. Members from different districts went to the affected villages in batches, distributed relief material, provided moral support and counseling to the affected families, created awareness on health and sanitation. It is noteworthy that these teams played crucial role by doing a quick survey of the most affected families, guiding the public and private agencies reaching the villages with relief material and ensuring that the material reaches the families in dire need. It was a

heartwarming experience to all of us to be part of the disaster management operations.



On the other hand the frequent bandhs and agitations across the project area during the second half of the year posed challenge in conducting major activities. Nevertheless the district team members could modify their plans basing on the field situation and let the programme continue without much hassle.

We are happy to report that we could successfully march ahead in continuing the processes with the support of the *Sanghams* and federations, despite the above challenges. It gives us immense satisfaction and boosts confidence levels in facilitating the processes of consolidation and autonomy. With nine more federations reaching autonomy during the reporting year, the number has gone up to 21. Going by this pace, all the 28 mandal federations would become independent by the end of next year. At this moment, discussions are on for identifying mutual support and resource sharing areas among the federations themselves

and between federations and GO, NGO, MS. In this direction, the concept of *Maha Sangham* – a network of federations, has evolved and being tried in all the federation districts.

It is another exciting development that almost every federation accessed land at mandal headquarters and constructed a cluster hut which is used as their office. This is also used for their activities like trainings, meetings and taking up cases for resolution, etc. While the funds were sanctioned from MS for construction of cluster hut, the expenditure for other activities was being met from the regular *Sangham* contributions and other sources of income (contributions, learning fee from visitors, etc.). However, these funds are very limited for the federation to function as an independent agency and take up necessary programmes at grassroots. Considering this and the need for financial support towards sustainability of the federations, onetime grant is released from MS to the federations. Parameters for effective utilization of funds were developed in consultative process. Subsequently, grants were released to the first 12 autonomous federations.

In the four older mandals of Nalgonda and Warangal districts, the programme reached consolidation phase. As the strategy in these mandals is to evolve a mandal level Resource Group, different from that of the federations, widespread discussions were held during the previous year on the structure and role of MRG in the process of autonomy. Taking this forward, extensive brainstorming took place at team level and field level during the reporting year to gain clarity on the structure of the functional body and the legal status of MRG. Thus emerged the idea of facilitating a registered body at mandal level with representation from the issue based resource groups. During

these discussions, the need was felt for another sub-committee at *Sangham* level to address the issues of sustainability and has been adopted across the project area. All these developments reaffirmed our confidence that the MRGs will soon take a shape of autonomous bodies in these two districts giving lead to all the Core Group mandals in all the project districts.

Dealing with adolescence issues continued to be one of the focal areas during the reporting year. The intensive discussions and the subsequent capacity building sessions on these concerns and life skills education contributed to clearer understanding among the team members. While transacting these to the Balasanghams it was realized that the strategy of peer educators is appropriate. Necessary plan of action was drawn to implement this at field level and the initial responses were positive. It is planned to take this forward at a wider scale in the coming year.

The fruitful convergent relations with the Government departments and NGOs not only enabled many *Sangham* women access entitlements but also created an opportunity to become an advocating agency. In this regard, MS has been successful in facilitating process of building networks at different levels. Towards this, MS has been proactive in forming network of EWRs and a forum on changing forms of violence against women during the reporting year. We envisage the programme would play more of an advocacy role in the coming years to take the rich experiences of MS to the mainstream system.

While the programme is at different levels demanding close attention, the issue of team turnover continues to be a major concern. In the past year, an attempt was made to address this by approaching the Universities in the State for

campus selections. In this regard, the support received from the concerned Universities needs particular mention. As a result of various efforts, many key positions were filled. Thus, team capacity building was also another thrust area during the reporting year.



MS always believes in learning while sharing and participating in various forums at different levels. In this direction, the participation of our APD in the Commonwealth Education Ministers' conference on girls' education held at Malaysia gives us a sense

of achievement. The experience of transacting Social Learning Package in government schools was shared with a large gathering of Education Ministers from Commonwealth countries. It was also a forum to understand the efforts being taken up towards girls' education across these countries.

Taking up action research on Gender & Climate Change in collaboration with FAO, UN agency has been another major mile stone reached by Samatha Gender Resource Centre (SGRC) in the past year as it gave scope for linking up grassroots experience to a global phenomenon. More exciting was the fact that the case study was presented at the international conference on Climate Change – “Development and Climate Days” held in Copenhagen, Rome in December 2009 and received with great enthusiasm. We are hopeful of getting many such opportunities for ideological spread of MS programme in future too.

The following pages give a detailed account of these experiences.



Institutional Processes

Over the years, the field situation in the State has been changing with more and more women coming into the SHG fold. The focus on MDGs, new developments in line with it, both at Centre and State reflecting gender concerns at policy level have also contributed to increased programmes and services with women as target group. As such women are mobilized and there has also been increase in their mobility and information levels. In line with these changing contexts, we have been adopting appropriate strategies for organizing women at grassroots in the expansion mandals, keeping in view the existing structures and the need to facilitate institutional processes towards evolution of village level Core Group that can act as pressure group to address women's concerns. For instance, in the older districts where MS programme was initiated much prior to the SHG movement, there were village level *Sanghams* with poor and marginalised women. During the phase wise expansion, particularly post 2000, a conscious effort was put on the strategy of working with existing groups. This in turn, in the recent past led to *Waada Sanghams* and Core Group at village level by widening the scope of *Sangham* so as to represent all women whether they are part of any group or not. Thus the strategy moved from one *Sangham* at village to 2 or 3 *Waada Sanghams* and Core Group.

Last year's significant achievement was the emergence of clarity in the above facilitative processes. The periodic thematic meetings contributed to reflect on our existing capacities and to identify the areas where we need to concentrate

more, so as to enable ourselves to come out with a clear conceptual understanding. This has greatly helped the team members in establishing them at corresponding levels with relative ease. At the same time, this understanding also paved way for focused efforts towards strengthening the already existing structures and plan for consolidation in the mandals where the programme is more than three years old.

On the other hand, the activities in the federation mandals of older project districts both autonomous and consolidation phase, has gained momentum in order to reach the envisioned goals. The concept of district level network of federations too gained ground.

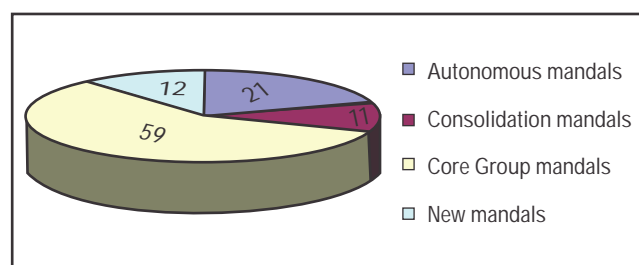
The reporting year, as a result, started with new confidences, raised hopes and new energies. The progress was visible in the number of *Sanghams*, membership and role clarity of the team in facilitation towards planned direction. The challenges faced however, were about standardization of the new structures and planning Sahayogini's time in the village when many structures are evolving in the same village.

In the following paragraphs an overview of the progress was briefly presented.

Core Group Strategy

With the expansion of the programme over a period of time, the number of mandals in the Core Group strategy is increasing. Now there are 71 Core Group strategy mandals in the entire project. In this

context the previous year's brainstorming on the vision, approach and assessment of *Sanghams* at different levels has resulted in developing indicators for identifying stages of *Waada Sanghams* and Core Groups. With this clarity, facilitative processes are implemented in the field during the reporting year. The results are positive in the form of multi fold increase in the number of *Waada Sanghams* and Core Groups across the project districts as indicated below.



Waada Sanghams and Core Groups – 08-09; 09-10

District	<i>Waada Sanghams</i>		Core Groups	
	08-09	09-10	08-09	09-10
Medak	100	208	-	17
Mahabubnagar	28	106	-	-
Karimnagar	-	66	-	-
Nizamabad	166	283	53	91
Adilabad	88	157	9	31
Warangal	-	332	168	168
Nalgonda	378	452	90	167
Vizianagaram	264	321	77	111
Srikakulam	291	407	49	78
Prakasam	126	194	-	-
Anantapur	54	139	--	-
Kurnool	38	143	--	-
Visakhapatnam	-	30	-	-
Total	1533	2838	446	663

Some Experiences of Facilitating Institutional Processes across Districts

In accordance with the age of the programme within and among the districts, we observe

different phases. Visakhapatnam and Khammam are the two new districts where *Sangham* formation is at a preliminary stage with initial visits catered to introduce the programme and identify focal areas for action. In the other districts, the status ranges from formation of *Waada Sanghams* to strengthening issue committees and to evolution of resource pool at cluster level.

For instance in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, MS programme was initiated in the year 2004. The achievements registered over a period of time have imbibed confidence about the collective efforts and it helped in the emergence of a clear agenda for the *Sanghams* to concentrate in the coming years. Keeping this in view, our focus was on strengthening the institutional processes. Accordingly, various activities are implemented.

The efforts put by the *Waada Sangham* on resolving identified mandal focus issues have helped in strengthening of the *Sanghams* and in turn led to the formation of issue based committees within the *Sanghams*. At this stage, while we were concentrating on building systems and procedures like organizing meetings on fixed dates, maintaining registers, etc., there were demands from the issue committees to build their capacities. To serve the twin purposes viz. meeting their demand for capacity building on different issues and keeping the idea of forming cluster resource pools in the near future, we have consciously organized cluster level meetings of issue committees. This exercise has also helped us in clearly defining the clusters for further facilitation.

Engaging Issue Committees

Sangham was formed in the year 2007 with 27 women in Budipeta village in Gajapathinagaram mandal of Vizianagaram district. Though there are bore wells in the village, drinking water is still scarce. For all the

villagers fetching drinking water itself is one of the major activities. Even children's education is also getting disturbed as they have to spend considerable amount of time on getting water.



During one of the night meetings *Sangham* women discussed the issue and resolved to entrust the responsibility of solving the water problem with the PR issue committee members of the *Sangham* by approaching the Sarpanch. On the very next day the issue committee members met the Sarpanch and submitted a representation for providing drinking water through taps. The Sarpanch has also responded positively. Since water tank existed in the nearby village of the same panchayat, pipeline was laid and drinking water was supplied to individual homes.

Inspired by this achievement, now the *Sangham* is concentrating on identifying and resolving other issues.

Similarly in Kurnool, Prakasam and Anantapur districts, the programme is three years old. Focus in these districts is on strengthening *Sanghams*. By concentrating on accessing services from various agencies and building awareness on various issues, *Sanghams* are moving towards acquiring an identity of their own. This has a cascading effect causing formation of *Sanghams* in all the villages in the mandals.

Initially it was not an easy task to facilitate formation of *Sanghams* in the villages, particularly those



which are very interior. The questions raised were "We are already in *Sanghams* (SHGs), why another *Sangham*, another meeting?" Team members had to use different techniques and strategies to bring women in to the *Sangham* fold. For example in Gooty Anantapuram village, Anantapur district, though women were facing many problems relating to access of basic minimum facilities, livelihood opportunities or even MGNREGS, repeated attempts of the team members could not make much head way in binding them together. At last team members decided to organize a *Mahila Sadassu* wherein material display, video show, and other cultural activities reflecting the achievements and advantages of women coming together as *Sanghams* were demonstrated. This strategy seem to have worked out as 18 women came forward immediately to form into *Sangham* and 4 children were enrolled in to RBC. Similarly 40 men and 60 women availed MGNREGS works. Now they are regular in organising meetings and increasing membership.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning here that team members of Anantapur district went to Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts to gain clarity about assessing different stages of *Sangham* and facilitation of Core Groups. On coming back, they are conducting cluster meetings, village level meetings with greater confidence.

As stated above, in the remaining Core Group mandals, the processes are at different phases depending on the age and strength of the *Sanghams*.

Warangal and Nalgonda are the first two districts where a different strategy of working with the existing groups (SHGs) was started unlike the earlier federation approach. This was in the year 2000 when the programme was launched in two mandals in each district. From the beginning, the idea of facilitating Mandal Resource Group in these mandals has been in the thought processes unlike the previous federation mandals as women were already mobilised into mandal level *Samakhya*s. Towards this end, for the past few years, we were contemplating about the strategies to facilitate a structure, build backward and forward linkages and also on developing systems for the proposed mandal level forum including its legal status. The issue was widely debated in the thematic meetings and the ideas that have come up were shared with the *Sanghams*. For this purpose, series of meetings at village and cluster level were organized and taking the ideas from these forums, mandal level workshops were held. Women expressed that they should have an identity of their own including legal status and space for an office at mandal head quarters similar to that of federations in the older mandals.

In this direction, our attention during the reporting year was on strengthening the *Sanghams* by initiating systems and procedures (regularity of meetings, maintenance of registers and assets, contribution towards corpus and organizing regular cluster meetings on fixed dates). Discussions also took place on building capacities of issue committees in order to identify resource persons for the proposed mandal Resource Group (MRG). At this stage it was felt necessary to apply the 'cluster organizer' strategy as was done in the federation

mandals to strengthen the weak clusters. The team members of older project districts supported these districts in identifying, selecting and orienting the cluster organizers. The cluster organizers were of great help to the CRPs who were just placed as part of role change in these mandals to facilitate consolidation processes.

It was observed that Chityala and Mogullapally mandals in Warangal district and Kanagal mandal in Nalgonda district have been advancing in the march and for certain unavoidable reasons, Nampally mandal in Nalgonda was not able to keep pace with the other three. Therefore, some additional efforts were required to make this mandal up to the level of the others. The DIU team members took responsibility of each of the clusters; conducted cluster meetings and assessed the status of each of the *Sanghams*. Accordingly, a plan was drafted to overcome the issues. Now, Nampally mandal is slowly gaining momentum.

Federations

The number of mandals attained autonomy has reached 21 with 9 more mandals joining in the reporting year. Over a period of time, the team has developed capacities on the processes to be facilitated in respect of consolidation mandals and also autonomous mandals. A kind of readiness and preparation for undergoing the processes to graduate to the higher level could be observed everywhere, thanks to the experiences gained so far. At the same time, the previous year's experiment of Mahabubnagar district of bringing all the federations together and forming a district level network was taken forward, as this strategy has been effective. One advantage with this kind of networks is achieving synergies and sharing expertise. We are making efforts to replicate the experiment in other 4 older districts (Medak, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Adilabad).

As happening every year, all the federations have made action plans for the year 2010-11 based on the mandal focal issues coming up from the *Sanghams*. These include children's education, pregnant women's health, accessibility of AWC services, strengthening Nyaya Committees, etc. Some federations have concentrated on building awareness on MGNREGA, narcotics, gynaec issues, HIV/AIDS and violence against women and girls.



Consolidation Phase

During the reporting year attention was paid on strengthening the institutional systems and procedures in the consolidation mandals including regularizing meetings at all levels, ensuring that at least 2/3rd of the governing body members attend the federation meetings. Skills were imparted on managerial issues like maintenance of accounts, registers, assets, auditing of *Sangham* and federation accounts and also on documentation and leadership qualities. On their own the federations are making efforts to acquire land from the government for construction of cluster hut at mandal headquarters for their office space. Federations are also concentrating on building the skills of resource persons through issue trainings and also ToT.



Since the formation of federations, *Sanghams* have been contributing fixed amounts from their resources to enable the federation members meet certain incidental expenses during organizing the activities. While many *Sanghams* are regularly paying their contributions there are some other *Sanghams* which are not paying regularly.

The programme was initiated in Nagireddypet mandal of Nizamabad district in the year 1997 along with Yellareddy and Gandhari. The federation processes went little slow and even the registration of the society has also been delayed for certain reasons like the governing body members not regular to the meetings and cluster meetings not being held regularly. While Yellareddy federation has attained autonomy in July 2008, Gandhari became autonomous in 2009-10. Their trailing behind the other mandals has provoked them to overcome the problems they are facing and compete with the other mandals. In this context, by taking the support of other federations, they sped up their activities during the reporting year. A few of the activities organised by them during this year:

- Achieved regularity in conducting meetings at all levels
- Identification of out of school children in 5 tribal settlements. They were motivated and enrolled through FGDs and Kalajathas involving parents and youth members



- Deputed resource persons to build capacities of issue committees of the *Sanghams* in neighbouring mandals
- Efforts towards acquiring land for office premises
- Demanding training for the issue committee members
- Village level campaigns on sanitation, HIV/AIDS, etc. by the issue committee members in all the villages
- Organized special sessions on HIV/AIDS in schools
- Contributions by *Sanghams* are regulated
- Completion of cluster hut in Dharmareddy which has been kept in abeyance for the last 6 years

All these activities increased their confidence levels and now they are gearing up towards autonomous functioning.

Autonomous Federations

It is always heartening to report that the number of federations reaching autonomy has been scaling up year after year. They are in different stages of their capacities.

- The first four mandals which have completed three years of independent functioning require support in terms of advocacy, convergence and in building support systems so as to enable them identify issues and approach line agencies

for working on such issues and to mobilise resources.

- The federations that are in the middle level need support in building capacities of resource groups and also in terms of convergence and networking. They need exposure to various successful experiments.
- The third batch of federations which just became autonomous needs regular hand holding support.

Accordingly, we have designed programmes to strengthen their processes and to enable them function effectively by identifying and building support mechanisms. As part of this, trainings were organized on leadership qualities, legal literacy, documentation and financial and managerial capacities. In addition, their participation in the district monthly review meetings helped them understand the processes and adopt the best practices within their federations. As part of mutual learning and also for sharing of experiences, inter district exposure visits has been another strategy being implemented. The outcomes of this strategy are encouraging. For example, 10 federation members from Medak district went to Dharur mandal, Mahabubnagar to know the experiences of federation in implementation of MS programme to a new mandal independently. Similarly federation members from three consolidation mandals of Karimnagar district (Koheda, Saidapur and Chigurumamidi) went to Gangadhara mandal to have first hand understanding of the activities of independent federations and learn about the systems and procedures, maintenance of registers and records and taking up activities independently. This has helped the visiting team to replicate the initiatives with equal vigour in their mandals and with necessary contextual modifications.

The Swathantra Bharatha Mahila Federation, Makthal mandal has been independently implementing MS programme in Dharur mandal for the past two years. They have been trying to implement the programme the way it was implemented in the regular MS mandal.

The federation has faced many challenges in implementing the programme. All the EC and GB members are not equally sharing the responsibilities for various reasons. Apart from this, the posts of mandal coordinator and some karyakarthis fell vacant. In the process of overcoming these challenges, a sub-committee for programme implementation was formed to look after and coordinate the implementation. One JRP from MS is also a member of this programme implementation committee. The *Maha Sangham* has also been helpful in strengthening the programme.

Programme in Dharur at a glance

Total number of villages	55
No of <i>Waada Sanghams</i>	21
Total Members in <i>Waada Sanghams</i>	541
<i>Bala Sanghams</i>	5
Members of <i>Bala Sanghams</i>	113
No of ALCs	5
No of learners	177

The autonomous federations are supporting MS in strengthening programme in the non federation mandals in various ways. Their support was derived in the form of providing resource to train issue committees or in the formation of *Sanghams/Waada Sanghams* as well as organising awareness campaigns/camps. They are also providing resource in the form of sharing their rich experiences and guiding them to develop systems for autonomous functioning. Federation members

from Makthal, Utkoor and Maganoor mandals of Mahabubnagar district facilitated cluster meetings with all *Sangham* women in the cluster villages in Devarakadra, Hanwada and Koilkonda mandals which are in the consolidation phase. They spoke about developing systems for effective functioning of federations like the maintenance of registers and records, *Sangham* assets, strengthening of resource groups, developing communication channels between *Sangham*, cluster and federations.

Handling Projects

Independent federations have been improving their skills in handling projects on their own as part of sustainability and building institution. This will



also help federations in gaining recognition and reputation as organizations working with a social agenda. Apart from leaving space for federations within the programme to stand on their own in handling the projects, MS is also lobbying in their favour for accessing projects from various agencies including that of the government.

The following table explains the different projects independently handled by federations:

Name of the Federation	Details of the Project	Year	Agency supported
Swathanthra Chaitanya Mahila Federation, Pulkal- Medak	Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene	2010	RVM (SSA)
- do -	Gender Just Families	Oct 08- Jun 09	CARE India- AP, APMSS
Swatantra Bharatha Mahila federation, Makthal, Mahabubnagr	Expansion of MS programme to Dharur mandal	Since 2007	APMSS
Swechcha Mahila Federation, Utkoor, Mahabubnagar	Gender Just Families	Oct 08- Jun 09	CARE India-AP, APMSS
Mundadugu Adarsha Mahila Federation, Husnabad, Karimnagar	CRC Week Celebrations	2010	RVM(SSA)
Sri Sri Margadarsi Mahila Sangham, Bejjanki, Karimnagar	Gender Just Families	Oct 08- Jun 09	CARE India-AP, APMSS
Samaikyatha Mahila Federation, Yellareddy, Nizamabad	Gender Just Families	Oct 08- Jun 09	CARE India-AP, APMSS
Ikyatha Mahila Federation, Gandhari, Nizamabad	Enrollment drives	2008-09	APMSS

It gives us at APMSS immense satisfaction to witness the trajectory and evolution of federations growing into viable organisations with sound conceptual clarity, partnering with us in implementing projects and also taking MS philosophy to newer domains. It is appropriate to mention that the MS federations in the State of Andhra Pradesh are standing as role models for working on social issues as their primary agenda.

Maha Sanghams

As explained above the formation of *Maha Sanghams* is a strategy evolved in Mahabubnagar district for the first time. The specific objective has been to form a network of all the federations at district level which functions as a pressure group to raise women's issues through convergent relations with other district level agencies. At the same time, the idea also has been to exchange need based resource support among the federations for taking up activities. Each federation is represented by three of the EC members to this meeting that takes place on first Saturday of every month. Review of

activities taken up by each federation, discussion on roles and responsibilities of *Sanghams* and federations in sustaining autonomy or in strengthening consolidation processes, attending NGO meetings and presenting their activities, identification of common issues and drawing action plans, etc. formed major points for discussions in these meetings. Representatives from NGOs are invited to interact with the federations and extend necessary support. At the same time, depending on the need, federation members visit government offices and interact with the officials to raise and resolve their concerns.

The resolutions taken in these forums are implemented through respective federations. An important outcome of these *Maha Sangham* meetings has been regular support of the autonomous federations to the consolidation mandals by organizing all *Sangham* cluster meetings as reported above. Along with this, they are also extending resource support to facilitate *Sangham* formation in the new mandals of the same district.



When this experience was shared with the federations of other districts, there was lot of enthusiasm to replicate the same. Immediately it was adopted in Karimnagar. Here the idea was taken little further by creating structural identity, giving a distinct name to it, chalking out plan of action and developing strategies for mobilising resources. Similar efforts are also taking place in Medak, Nizamabad and Adilabad districts.

Future Steps

The learning experiences over a period of time are indicating a clear path for us in the direction of

sustaining the initiatives in strengthening institutional processes. Towards this, the following forms tentative agenda for focus in the coming year:

- Strengthening Core Groups and issue committees
- Capacity building to issue resource groups at cluster and mandal levels
- Consolidation of the programme in the four mandals of Warangal and Nalgonda districts
- Building support systems and networks for the autonomous federations
- Taking forward the idea of *Maha Sangham* in all the federated mandals
- Formation and strengthening the District Resource Groups
- Identifying consultants from *Sanghams*, who have considerable experience, imbibed the philosophy and possess authority on the processes to work at district level and contribute for the expansion of the programme



Second Generation ... towards Equality

Over the years *Bala Sanghams* have been progressing in the direction of gaining more and more strength and moving in the process of realizing their rights at an accelerated pace. This has informed us to plan for building their capacities and facilitating them towards further empowerment. For the last two years formation of Child rights Protection Committees (CRPCs), *Bala Sanghams* federating into Bala Panchayaths at cluster level and formation of Youth *Sanghams* consisting grown up boys are a part of the larger strategy in the process of empowering children regarding their rights. Moving on the path, members of *Bala Sanghams* have also recognized certain key issues in which they can play a vital role in initiating change processes at grassroots level. Based on the mandal focus issues like girl child education, child labour, age at marriage, hygiene are some of the important areas wherein *Bala Sanghams* played key role.

Another aspect has been building the perspective of the new team members about *Bala Sanghams*, at different levels, particularly in the districts where the programme had been launched in the recent past. Keeping all these developments in view, we concentrated on building capacities of team members on the one hand and on the other, facilitation of actions taken by *Bala Sanghams*, Bala Panchayaths and Youth *Sanghams* to function as pressure groups for addressing child rights issues.

During the reporting year, there has been considerable increase in the number of *Bala Sanghams* from 1,192 to 1,625 and membership

from 30,553 to 45,746. At the same time, concerted efforts were also made to strengthen the systems and processes of *Bala Sanghams* like maintaining registers and records, achieving regularity in the meetings on fixed dates and ensuring maximum attendance when these meetings are held. *Bala Sanghams* in some districts as in Adilabad District are taking the idea forward. They are trying to replicate the structures of *Mahila Sanghams* by forming issue based committees and *Waada Sanghams*. This is an interesting development which is being monitored in order to assess what forms they would assume over a period of time.

Bala Sanghams across the districts have addressed a wide range of issues like enrolment of peer groups in schools, early marriages, health & gender issues, stopping alcohol consumption & use of tobacco products, personal hygiene, sanitation, environmental issues, etc. Accordingly, capacity building activities were designed. These included not just imparting trainings, but other effective methods like exposure visits within and outside the districts, meetings at village, cluster and mandal levels,



facilitation of discussion forums, workshops and orientation programmes.

A brief account of the activities organised during this year is as follows.

Capacity Building

Capacities of *Bala Sanghams* are built constantly in line with the objective of evolving a peer group from among them, which can facilitate social change in their neighbourhood. As mentioned earlier, different issues raised by them in the meetings, workshops or melas form the content towards this.



Special emphasis is laid on gender discrimination, child rights, right to education, and life skills. All these activities were organised through participatory learning activities, so that they have space for self expression and share their views. The learnings and the inspiration derived from these activities encouraged children to move into action collectively or individually influencing attitudinal changes among their family members, at community level and within themselves. Some of the achievements registered during the year are as illustrated here under:

- Across the project area members of *Bala Sanghams* have taken up identifying and motivating out of school children to join education. Towards this end, they are

convincing out of school children and their parents equally. For example in Vizianagaram district alone, *Bala Sanghams* have succeeded in ensuring retention of 134 children who were frequently absenting from school. In addition, they readmitted 13 drop out children in schools. Similarly, in Srikakulam district, members of *Bala Sanghams* in Gara mandal identified 36 out of school children and strategically brought them into the fold of *Bala Sanghams* first and then motivated them to join school.

The Case of Velugu Bata *Bala Sangham*

Pothureddypally is a small village 5 kms away from the mandal headquarter town Pitlam, in Nizamabad district. A *Bala Sangham* was formed in this village in the month of January-2010, with 25 members. Though the *Sangham* is relatively new, the members were quick to grasp the message and translate the learnings into action. Cleaning the village streets was the first agenda, which they took on seriously on their own. They meet every night and study together after the meeting. They also enrolled two out of school children in the school.

Neelima, a member of *Bala Sangham* is studying in the school. Her parents thought of getting her married off even as she is below 18 years. Neelima shared this issue during one of the meetings, as she didn't like the idea of getting married so early. Members of the *Bala Sangham* went to her home and explained to her parents about the hazards she would face due to early marriage. They were able to convince her parents successfully, so Neelima's marriage got postponed and she could continue with her education.

- In many villages *Bala Sangham* children are campaigning against addictions like alcohol consumption, chewing tobacco products and usage of plastic bags. In Adilabad district where even their peers chew tobacco products,

they succeeded in influencing 6 girls to give up chewing Gutkha in three villages. Similarly, in many villages *Bala Sanghams* and youth Sanghams jointly pressurised the GPs to ban sale of arrack in their villages. In all these initiatives, the *Bala Sanghams* have also been closely working with *Mahila Sanghams*.

- The issue of early marriages is one of the important problems on which *Bala Sanghams* are continuously focussing, though it is a great challenge for them to work against the social norm. The issue is discussed in the meetings held at every level and awareness is spread about its impact on health and intellectual growth of the girls and the way it eclipses the chances of girl children. These learnings had a great bearing on the minds of the members of *Bala Sanghams*. We are very proud to say that *Bala Sanghams* are reacting spontaneously whenever they find an instance of an early marriage being negotiated. They try to convince parents about the risks of early marriage and request them to give the girls an opportunity to go to school or pursue some vocational education. Besides, members of *Bala Sanghams* in all the project districts vowed not to get married till they reach the legal age limit. In Medak alone the interventions of *Bala Sanghams* has resulted in the postponement of 35 early marriages which reflects their commitment. During the reporting year 155 early marriages were prevented or postponed across the project districts.
- Conservation of environment and prevention of indiscriminate use of polythene have been one of the priority issues for *Bala Sanghams* across the project districts for the past many

years. They have been taking up several activities in this direction. They are influencing their parents to grow kitchen gardens, campaigning against usage of plastic, building pressure on local bodies for sprinkling bleaching powder and removing garbage piled in the drainages. In Nalgonda district, *Bala Sanghams* have been growing plants in the schools in 7 villages and in another 4 villages they are ensuring periodic cleaning of drainages and sprinkling kerosene in them to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



The Meaning of Building Capacities

In Gujjili Thanda, Kuravi mandal, Warangal district, *Sangham* was formed in the year 2009. Simultaneously, *Bala Sangham* was also formed in the same year with 26 girls and 12 boys.

The Thanda has a primary school where only one teacher was there who was aged about 40 years. Though he has been misbehaving with girls for long, they were afraid of complaining about him.

The trainings on gender and life skills given to the *Bala Sangham* imbibed confidence among the members to raise their concerns in their regular meetings and in the workshops. In one such *Bala Sangham* meeting, a girl studying 5th class in the same school shared that the teacher is misbehaving with her and many other girls also. Immediately

Bala Sangham has taken this issue to the notice of *Sangham* who discussed this in their meeting, went to the school, enquired with other girls and came to know that this has been happening for long.

Subsequently, *Mahila Sangham* with the support of Youth *Sangham* and villagers lodged a complaint about the teacher with higher authorities and demanded action against him. After conducting a preliminary enquiry into the incident the authorities suspended the teacher.

- Last year modules were prepared on life skills for adolescents and they have been field tested during the year in Vizianagaram, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Warangal districts. The participatory and interactive methodology adopted enabled girls to discuss various issues without any inhibitions. Issues like infatuations, media influence, dichotomies that occur during adolescence etc. were debated in these sessions. Different case studies on these themes were presented creating a comfortable space for them to open up and share their feelings and experiences.
- Recently the issues of unwed pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, deception among adolescents has been observed significantly in the field. Adolescents who are facing these situations are resorting to extreme steps like committing suicide. In this background, separate meetings were held at mandal level with adolescents to debate on these issues and inform them on the consequences of such actions. This exercise helped to build their confidence to share their experiences with their parents and peers.
- Selected *Bala Sangham* members in Vizianagaram and Nizamabad districts were trained for providing First Aid, following which

they themselves collected material and prepared a first aid kit. They have also put their learning into action by providing first aid whenever anyone is injured.

- The high school of Jankapur in Bhimini mandal, Adilabad district caters to 5 villages. The school did not have a play ground. Having understood the importance of outdoor games, children of the school decided to clear vacant land surrounding the school. With the support of the Head Master and teachers, they converted the land into a play ground. Now consultations are on for getting a fund of Rs.55,000/- from RVM (SSA) towards procuring sports and play material under *Panchayath Khelkhud Ayojana*. As the land belongs to a local person, efforts are also made to procure that land for the school.

Members of Bhagath Singh *Bala Sangham* in D. Belagal Village, Kosigi mandal, Kurnool district, had thought differently about their peers who were not going to school but studying in the Bala Mitra Kendra. They thought of starting a library to help these 35 children. The moment they got the idea, they swung into action and collected books from various individuals and institutions in the village including the village Sarpanch, school teachers and house to house collections. When the question arose regarding where the books were to be kept and where the library should function from, few ideas were discussed like keeping it in the school room or at any member's home. Ultimately they decided to have it in Panchayath office. They approached the Sarpanch to allot a room for a library, which he allotted. On February 22, 2010, the library was inaugurated by the MEO. A five member committee was formed to manage the library. It operates for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. They have also taken responsibility to be present in the library during these hours. The experiment has motivated *Bala Sanghams* in 7 other surrounding villages to emulate the best practice.

Orientation Programmes for Adolescent Girls and their Mothers

Age at marriage still below the legal age has been an important concern across the project districts and in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam, it was identified as mandal focus issue for continued action. Continuing the initiatives taken up in the past years, during the reporting year, orientations were held at different levels to the adolescent girls and their mothers together to build momentum.

The objective of the programme was to inculcate awareness about adolescent health - menstruation, biological changes, anaemia, the importance of consuming nutritious food, need for avoiding early marriages and creating awareness about learning life skills. Compulsory registration of marriages has been another important issue discussed during these programmes. It was a conscious effort from our side to bind them in observing the age norms as per the law.

Against Early Marriages

In Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, the issue of early marriages has been one of the serious concerns from the beginning of the programme. There are many intricate issues related to this. Superstition, marriages between close relatives, sentiments are few of the factors that are forcing young girls get into married life just after attaining puberty. If the first proposal itself didn't culminate in girl's marriage, there is a wide belief that it would get delayed for many years. Lack of alternatives like secondary schools in many villages is reinforcing the age old beliefs and superstitions wherein girls are left without any choice, but early marriage.

Realising the magnitude of the issue in all its dimensions, the team has evolved appropriate strategies to put a full stop to this. Counselling to individual adolescents and parents, analytical discussions in the *Sanghams* and *Bala Sanghams*,



facilitating Panchayaths to maintain marriage registers are some of the proactive measures that have resulted in addressing the issue to some extent. Over a period of time it was felt necessary to tackle the issue in a holistic manner. Therefore, facilitation of a forum for girls and mothers to share their views in a democratic way was conceived to be a better strategy, which was experimented in the year 2008-09. The results being encouraging, the strategy was expanded to other areas.

Simultaneously, the issue is being debated in the *Sangham* meetings, which in turn are trying to influence GPs to maintain marriage registers.

Events held to Address Early Child Marriages

District	Village Level	Partici- pants	Cluster Level	Partici- pants
Srikakulam	7	427	2	67
Vizianagaram	6	491	17	562
Total	13	918	19	629

The impact of these sessions has been encouraging. The knowledge about the wide opportunities available to them to pursue general and vocational education has generated a kind of enthusiasm. Even a positive change in the attitudes of mothers towards their girl children has been observed. The figures shown in the following paragraphs reflect this.

- 213 girls took pledge not to get married till they attain 18 years of age.
- 3 adolescent girls joined MSK.
- About 125 girls assured to continue in education -- 31 joined vocational courses, 2 in graduation and another 2 wrote 10th class exams.
- Many GPs have taken up the responsibility of maintaining marriage registers.

Exposures



Learning by seeing and interactions has been one of the important methods adopted in strengthening the *Bala Sanghams*. In this context, the members visit their neighbouring mandals and gather more information on the activities and issues addressed by them. Sometimes, based on the need, inter district exposures are also organized. In this direction, 32 members representing 27 *Bala Sanghams* of Srikakulam district visited the Bala Panchayaths in Warangal and Karimnagar districts. They learnt about the objectives of Bala Panchayaths, its activities, formation of CRPCs, and measures taken to strengthen Bala Panchayaths. On returning from the exposure trip, 2 boys of *Bala Sangham* in Ijjadapalem village, Laveru mandal made a representation to the village Sarpanch for providing space for *Bala Sangham* so that they can hold regular meetings. They shared their exposure

experiences and the learnings to the Sarpanch. Positively responding to their demand, the Sarpanch allotted an unused portion of the community hall in the village where they are presently conducting their meetings.

Similarly, 18 members of *Bala Sanghams* of Adilabad district visited Samskar organization working on child rights in Varni mandal of Nizamabad district and learnt about the activities being organised by their counter parts such as preparation of a newsletter – “Wall Paper”, formation of issue based committees to realize child rights with a special focus on the children of Joginis, and the education programme – “Slate at Home” for educating their parents. Back in their villages, they shared these with their peers and planning to take up similar activities.

Bala Melas

Organisation of Bala Melas every year, during Child Rights week has become the norm in the project area. The objectives of the programme are to provide a platform to share experiences, reflect on the activities and knowledge building on child rights. Apart from group discussions, rallies, workshops, debate competitions, essay writing, quiz contests, exhibitions, cultural programmes etc.



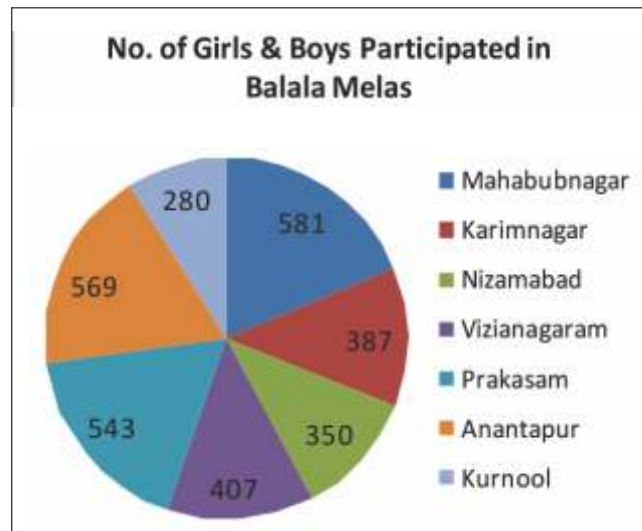
were held and children participated with merri- ment. Government officials and NGO representa- tives participated in the events and promised to support children's initiatives.

In Vizianagaram district, the *Bala Sangham* members drew up a plan for short term and long term goals in the recent past (2007). They have been working on the same and are continuously reflecting on the reach. During this event also, review of the progress achieved became the topic for group discussions. The hurdles faced and the ways they could resolve were debated and a plan of action for moving ahead was drawn up. Similarly, in Karimnagar district children were made aware about various rights mentioned in the UNCRC, in the background of Bala Panchayaths and CRPCs taking a concrete form in the district.



In Nizamabad, 350 children from 7 mandals have participated in the celebrations. Children of each of the mandals organised different programmes focusing on the concerned mandal focus issues. Thus children of Pitlam mandal have performed *Burra Katha* on nutrition and discrimination of girl child, Nizamsagar mandal children performed *nritya roopakam* (dance drama) on the issues of teenage love and the problems that arise of this. In the same way children from Machareddy mandal have developed role plays on the theme of how girls

are subjected to various forms of violence in different situations and on the relationships between children and teachers, children and parents.



Action plans were drafted in all these melas, which had the following salient features:

- To campaign against child labour
- To facilitate dialogue among the drop out children, their parents and the school teachers, so as to enable them join the education stream
- To educate their mothers and their neighbours
- To campaign for better sanitation at personal and village level, and to denounce the use of plastic bags for a better and healthy environment
- To campaign for observing the legal age of marriage for girls and boys

Bala Sangham motivated Ramanjaneyulu

The Gulabi *Bala Sangham* was formed in June-2009 in Maldakal village in Mahabubnagar district. There are significant number of child labourers in this village. After participating in the Bala Mela in December last year, there has been a great change in the attitude of Ramanjaneyulu, a school going boy

and member of this *Bala Sangham*. Since then he started holding evening classes for the out of school children in the village and teaching them how to read and write. Participation in the Bala Sangham activities and attending Bala Mela has motivated him to do something for his peer group resulting in educating them. The night school began with four children and now more children have joined in it. Presently the centre has 28 children.

The story of Doddenna from the same district is also an inspiring one. A year back the villagers of Bingid-oddi in Aiza mandal would not have imagined him to be a role model to others, as he then was a school dropout. *Bala Sangham* has changed his life course and now he is not only a student but a peer educator also.

While adhering to the plans *Bala Sanghams* have initiated many activities. Many *Bala Sanghams* have started writing registers and updating them regularly. They also started pooling monthly contributions for helping the poor children to buy note books, pencils etc. At many places they exerted pressure on the authorities for registering marriages. They played a proactive role in the maintenance of sanitation in the villages.

Bala Panchayath and Adolescent Forums

Continuing the initiatives taken up last year, efforts were made this year to strengthen the existing Bala Panchayaths. Also, efforts were put in to replicate Bala Panchayaths in other mandals and districts. In the internal reflection meetings at team level, a lot of brain storming took place on the structure, roles & responsibilities and on creating support systems for Bala Panchayaths. These deliberations contributed a lot in gaining clarity on the facilitative processes and taking the programme ahead. In addition, at field level many discussions were taking place to

facilitate the formation of CRPC to support *Bala Sanghams* and Bala Panchayats. Further, the Adolescent forums formed at mandal and district levels in Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar districts continued to work in coordination with local NGOs on issues like child marriages, gender discrimination and girl child education.

Future Steps

All the above activities inform the future steps as under:

- The issue of identifying peer educators from *Bala Sanghams* has been gaining ground, so plans are made to organise training programmes for such children for building their capacities as peer educators on leadership and the need to mobilize more children into the change processes.
- The need for revisiting and refining the framework of all the existing training modules of *Bala Sanghams* was felt. In this regard, refresher workshop is planned in the ensuing year to prepare appropriate modules after reflecting on the rich experiences of *Bala Sanghams* in addressing gender discrimination, child rights and in tune to the changing situation in the outside world. Particularly the increasing violent attitudes among teenagers, their effect on adolescent girls' education and age of marriage need to be addressed through this.
- Bala Panchayaths are to be built as an institutional support system with linkages to village level *Bala Sanghams*. This needs a further brainstorming for greater clarity on the facilitative processes and for taking it up on wider scale.



Pathways to Education

The approach of MS towards reaching the goal of empowering marginalized women through education is unique and process oriented. The conceptualization and implementation of innovative ways to reach out to women, to mobilize them and create consciousness, to help them in overcoming their age old inhibitions about education and getting rid of their traditional, marginalized roles and status is the achievement of MS programme. Over the years with *Sanghams* gaining recognition in the villages through their various activities, there was more thrust on them to function as change agents/monitoring agency for effective implementation and delivery of various services at the village level. Their proactive participation as PRI members, members of other village level committees, increased avenues opened through the wide spread SHG movement for them has further become motivating factors for them to evolve as a resource group. While federations are fast moving towards gaining institutional identity, many of its members still lagging behind in literacy has become a great challenge and inhibiting them from claiming more opportunities available for them in the larger society. All this has contributed to a renewed demand for their education, not just to gain literacy but attempts towards formal certification. In this direction, expanding education interventions and consolidating achievements registered in the previous year have been the focus areas during the reporting year. The previous year's emphasis on strategy of treating every *Sangham* meeting as literacy session has actually proved to be

triggering point to accelerate the enthusiasm created among women. This is reflected in the improved attendance of *Sangham* women at ALCs and their continued efforts to improve literacy skills.

Coinciding with the above is the increased focus towards children and adolescent girls' education. The understanding that all children below 14 years should be in schools has spread wider. *Sanghams* and federations took this up as a campaign and this had been reflected clearly in the numbers. At the same time, efforts were also made towards facilitating *Sanghams* to take responsibility of ensuring retention and quality education in schools.

On the other hand, constant capacity building to the team members at all levels has continued to be a major focal area. At the beginning of the year itself, a refresher workshop was conducted to all the education core team members for reflecting on the existing educational interventions. This helped in greater understanding on the concept of education in MS, the processes and strategies adopted to facilitate women's and girls' literacy. The objective, need and processes of each educational intervention were discussed at length to gain common understanding to all the team members both old and new. In addition, trainings, workshops, exposure visits, refresher meetings etc. held throughout the year helped in further refining their understanding. In all these, special emphasis was on the need for their developing creative, innovative interventions in tune to the field needs.

Thus the whole of the past year has been eventful. The following pages contain an over view of these developments.

Children's Education as Universal Agenda

Facilitation towards Sangham women's literacy since the launch of the programme has great bearing on education of children of *Sangham* women. With the result, most of the *Sangham* women's children are going to schools. Yet, there are certain instances where children still remain out of school or dropping out in the middle. Though they constitute a minority, their difficult situation continued to be a constant challenge more so in the newly expanded mandals. Towards this, the attempts made in the last few years at bringing these children into the education fold have gained momentum.



During the reporting year, different participatory methods like literacy map, venn diagram, seasonal chart, mobility map etc. were used to understand the magnitude of the problem of such out of school children in difficult situation in most of the project villages. Through these methods the number of out of school children in each of the habitations was assessed, potential reasons contributing to the growth of child labour or for children not going to schools, seasons children were absenting from schools, accessibility of schools, etc. were under-

stood. Villagers participated with great interest and we could even get some interesting responses from them. For example in some villages, they complained about insufficient teachers and irregularity of teachers as important reasons for children not going to schools. At the end of the exercise, *Grama Sabha* was held wherein villagers were informed about the number of children not going to schools in their village, reasons and the situation of schools. This exercise has made the community think about the measures they have to take as parents, leaders and teachers. These PLAs were organized in all the project districts.

As a follow up, village level meetings were held in most of the villages, including *Vidya Sadassulu*, *Akshara Jathara* and educational awareness meetings. These are meant to inculcate a sense of responsibility among parents, village elders, GP and other important stakeholders about their children's education and to explain about various options open for children to pursue education like KGBVs, hostels etc. Rallies and marches were also held to bring enthusiasm in them.

Educational awareness camps organized in Gadwal, Itikyalyal and Maldakal mandals of Mahabubnagar district helped to achieve coordination between teachers, parents and other stakeholders. Issues of quality education, enrollment of out of school children, reasons and strategies for minimizing drop outs, entitlements of and facilities provided for needy children, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in ensuring zero dropout rate and accountability of teachers were discussed. These camps were held in 29 villages spread over three mandals in which 2,032 members including teachers, parents and department officials participated along with *Sangham* women and children. The impact of this activity was immediately reflected in the increased parents' participation in school committee meetings.

12 girls joining MSK to continue education, etc. Many other above age children who remained out of school for various reasons have come forward to appear for examination under open school system.

Enrollment Drives in Collaboration

Sanghams have made it as part of their regular activity to participate in *Badi Baata* (enrollment drive) initiated every year during the month of June by Government of Andhra Pradesh aiming at enrolling all children in age group 6-14 years. In line with the Government's policy of ensuring 100% transition of the children from AWC to primary schools, *Sanghams* have concentrated on this activity too as a priority issue. It is not exaggeration to say that in the mandals where *Sanghams* and federations have strong presence, officials have solely depended on them for reliable data about school going and out of school children.



As a result of this initiative, during the past year, a total of 9,657 children joined in schools and hostels, 251 joined in KGBVs and 180 joined in MSKs across the project mandals.

Short Term Motivational Camps

There was renewed focus on short term motivational camps last year as a follow up to ensure 100% retention. Across many project districts at different

times school dropouts were identified and through motivation camps put them back in the schools. Bala Mitra Kendrams were also initiated in Kurnool and Anantapur districts in the villages where many children are still out of schools for various reasons so that children do not miss opportunity due to the dire necessity of continuing to work for wages. Similar is the case of Adilabad district where the already initiated adolescent girls' learning centres continued to function with greater enthusiasm.

Sl. No.	District	No. of camps held	No. attended
1.	Karimnagar	3	72
2.	Nizamabad	3	146
3.	Adilabad	2	58
4.	Vizianagaram	11	239
5.	Srikakulam	4	65
6.	Anantapur	1	89
7.	Kurnool	4	109
	Total	28	778

The short term motivational camps generally held at cluster and mandal are meant for dropouts (who have left education for a year or two) and potential drop out children with a focus on girls. The purpose is to make them refresh their earlier learning and prepare for the next stage of the education. These camps are usually organized in summer, during festival holidays and also during the peak agriculture seasons when child labour was demanded for a period ranging from 15 days to a month. In these camps not only the formal educational aspects are addressed but also life skills are focused in which general information on personal health, hygiene, nutrition, reproductive health, adolescent related problems and social taboos are discussed. In doing so, a congenial environment is created so that

children do not feel fear and hesitate to come to the camp. In order to encourage them further, village officials and important persons are invited to visit the camps and interact with children on educational opportunities available.



At the beginning of the camp the learning levels of the children are assessed and based on their abilities literacy skills are imparted. Teaching is mostly non formal, joyful wherein sufficient space is created for demonstrative learning through visits to different institutions. Every day recreational and cultural activities, sports and games are also organized to enthuse children. At the end of the camp children's acquired abilities are assessed. Based on these assessments and keeping various limitations of each child and the options open for them, they are admitted into different institutions like KGBVs, residential schools, formal schools and hostels.

We feel proud to mention that the intervention has continued to receive support of the mandal administration, GPs, parents and also the villagers. *It is worth reporting here that the academic achievements of the camp children in 15 days amazed the villagers and the GP of Burgul village, Nizamsagar mandal, Nizamabad district. They*

wanted the camp to be extended for another 15 days and came forward to meet all the expenses.

Over the years, with issue committees gaining strength, the education issue committees have taken it their agenda to ensure total enrollment, total retention and that every child receives quality education. To this extent, *Sangham* women make regular/periodic visits to school and observe the proceedings keenly. They not only share their observations with teachers but also bring back the issues identified as pointers for discussion in the *Sanghams* or issue cluster meetings for resolution with the support from other village *Sanghams*.

Gedalapeta is a small village in G. Sigadam mandal in Srikakulam district, dotted with 156 houses and the population of the village is 770. The village is located 4 kilometres away from the main road. The village doesn't have transport facility. While facilitating Sangham formation in the village, team members enabled them to recognise the problems faced by the villagers. During one such meetings, women mentioned that the school in their village has only one teacher - the Head Master and he doesn't come to school regularly. As a result children were absenting frequently and the school is closed many a time.

Team members making various analyses facilitated them in understanding that it is the children losing education, thereby their future is also spoilt and discussed that they too as parents have responsibility in resolving this problem/situation. Women decided to exert pressure on the teacher as a collective. Consequently they negotiated with the teacher as well as brought the issue to the notice of the Sarpanch. The dialogue they had with the Head Master caused good change in him. Since then he has been attending the school regularly and teaching children well. He also made a representation to the MEO for appointing a volunteer in the school as the strength of the school is more.

In this process, women realized the importance of their education too and started ALC for improving their literacy levels. Besides they are regular in monitoring the school activities.

Adult Education

Bringing women into the fold of literacy and sensitizing them on the need to refine their literacy skills has been the thrust for us over the years. Apart from regular interventions (like ALCs, literacy camps, short term MSKs), we have been ensuring that every forum where women meet is facilitated as literacy session. In order to keep pace with the growing momentum for women's literacy, in the past year, we facilitated this with renewed vigour. Women were encouraged to reinforce their learning by practice like writing minutes of the meetings, noting the key words on a chart and display it prominently for regular practice etc. In other words, these sessions became an occasion where the *Sangham* members were not only using their learnings but also expanding their knowledge and making the meetings exciting. In addition to this, in the federation mandals concentrated efforts were put in on imparting literacy skills among office bearers (of the federation) particularly where federations are in the process of attaining autonomy. The idea that they are in more need of capacities to handle their new responsibilities in a



better way was internalized by the *Sangham* women and they are also making efforts to reach this status through demanding literacy inputs.

Improved Confidence through Literacy

Padmaja's husband has a meat shop in Vattipalli village Marriguda mandal, Nalgonda district. When she was 15 years old, she got married and now has three children. Her maternal home was a large family with meagre income. She has four younger sisters also. Therefore her father didn't send her to school. She had to take care of her sisters and her mother went to work. She had so much of work at home due to which she could not even go out of the house. To add to this, her father didn't allow her even to attend the night school though she was very much interested in education. Even after marriage, she had to remain at home most times to take care of her children and in-laws. For the same reason she was very irregular to the *Sangham* meetings. The team members convinced her to come to the meetings and learn literacy as key words are taught in every meeting. They also explained her importance of learning literacy and numeracy skills. For the past two years there has been change in her. She started attending the meetings regularly, practicing literacy and quickly learnt to read and write to the extent that she was further encouraged by the team to write minutes of the *Sangham* meetings. Consequently she learned basic arithmetic operations also. Now, her confidence levels have gone up so much that she is able to handle the meat shop, her husband is running, when he is away. She is able to weigh meat, calculate bill and take cash. She is very happy for her dream coming true. Soon her learning levels have improved with regular practice through *Sangham* meetings that she is now going to the bank and withdrawing money.

In tune to the above, different activities were organized across the project mandals throughout the year. While designing these, assessment of the learning levels of *Sangham* women was a key issue in planning need based and contextual programmes. The overall objective was to bring all the

women into either functional literacy programmes or into formal certification programmes. This has yielded very good results as accounted for in the following paragraphs; on the one hand the number of ALCs and the learners have gone up and on the other, many women have opted for writing examinations under open school system for getting formal certification.

Literacy Camps

Literacy camps are basically meant for the new learners of the *Sanghams* and especially in the recently formed *Sanghams*. Depending on the situation, the camps were organized with two different objectives-one, two day camps for creating enabling environment and motivating women towards pursuance of literacy; and second, five to fifteen days camps for improving literacy among women who could gain some reading and writing skills through literacy sessions or other literacy interventions.

District	No. of Camps	No. of Participants
Medak	33	1,553
Mahabubnagar	82	3,093
Nizamabad	17	800
Adilabad	63	2,103
Warangal	3	322
Nalgonda	10	567
Vizianagaram	43	1,296
Srikakulam	7	713
Prakasam	17	516
Anantapur	20	693
Kurnool	25	1,126
Total	320	12,782

For this purpose various methods like plays, drama, exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations etc. were widely used and the locally available tools were



used as TLM. Names and numbers are taught with the help of coins, cell phone numbers, registers and other small words. They were told that they have been practicing all these for long and the only lacking among them is a technical skill like reading and writing or doing mathematical calculations. These camps generated a positive environment in the villages for non-literates and neo-literates to get in to the stream of literacy. This is well reflected in strengthening of existing ALCs and start of new centres.

Our men in our foot prints...

In Prakasam district, during the discussions on literacy for women's empowerment, men also wanted to get literate so that they are informed on basic rights, entitlements and legislations. Women also supported this saying that the informed men become sensitive towards women's concerns and girls' education. Taking this forward, for the first time, a seven day literacy camp was conducted to 36 men in Kankanala-palli village of Tripuran-thakam mandal. In this camp information on early marriages, PWDV Act, RTI Act, sanitation and hygiene, organic farming and information on different schemes were also provided apart from teaching basics of literacy. Officials from different departments visited the camp and gave inputs to learners. These learners are now continuing their learning by allocating specific time. This



experiment has inspired us to continue this activity in the coming years and also preparing peer educators among men for sustaining this interest.

Adult Learning Centres

From the beginning Adult Learning Centres (ALC) are catering to the educational needs of *Sangham* women at village level where women have space to learn literacy skills every day for one or two hours in the evening. More demand has been generated for literacy with the increased number of literacy interventions like the literacy camps, short term MSKs, literacy sessions etc. As a result the existing ALCs were strengthened and new centres were opened wherever the demand has come from. To keep pace with this, the capacities of the teachers are constantly improved through regular reviews, analysis, visits to other centers, preparation of teaching materials etc.

The convergence already achieved with the Dept. of Adult Education, GPs and elected representatives helped to strengthen these centres further. The support received was mostly in the form of teaching learning material, space for running the centres and at times technical resource based on the needs.

The year is also remembered for the launch of Saakshar Bharat programme by GoI across the

country with the goal of achieving 100% literacy and special focus on women from the marginalized sections of the society. Village level Lok Siksha Samithis are set to be opened when the programme takes off in the State. Preliminary preparations were on like identification of volunteers, coordinators, trainers apart from material preparation. In this background, we foresee a possibility of merging the ALCs into the programme when the centres actually start in the villages. We also presume that the trained ALC teachers might get absorbed as volunteers in the programme. More details are discussed elsewhere in this report.

District	No. of ALCs	No. of Learners
Medak	53	1,465
Mahabubnagar	58	1,906
Karimnagar	131	3,398
Nizamabad	55	2,059
Adilabad	55	1,295
Warangal	81	1,699
Nalgonda	49	1,042
Vizianagaram	31	572
Srikakulam	49	861
Prakasam	39	1,066
Anantapur	22	543
Kurnool	27	873
Total	650	16,779

Short term MSK

The strategy of short term MSK has been continuing to be a successful model in improving literacy levels of women as per their specific needs. As federations and resource groups are marching forward, demand for attaining functional literacy has also picked up momentum. In tune to this, short term MSKs are being organized to focus groups like office bearers of federations, nyaya committee members, Mandal Resource Group members, Elected Women

Representatives, etc. According to the need, available time, age, literacy background, the modules were planned. These camps were generally conducted phase wise and each phase for 7 or 10 days according to the need and demand. Apart from imparting literacy and numerical skills, in these camps the focus was also to improve managerial and institutional skills of *Sangham* women. The course content also covers aspects of health, nutrition, natural resources, local governance, social and equity issues, women's rights, agriculture, organic pesticides and manures. Demonstrations, institutional visits, interactions with officials are a necessary part of the camps and different teaching methods were used according to the age and literacy background of the participants.

District	No. Conducted	No. of Participants
Medak	1	18
Mahabubnagar	1	30
Karimnagar	2	63
Nizamabad	5	208
Adilabad	1	23
Warangal	14*	113
Srikakulam	1	17
Prakasam	28*	841
Anantapur	3	69
Total	56	1,382

*Village level non-residential

At the beginning of the year itself, module review workshop was organized for short term MSK intervention. Existing curriculum framework for short term MSK was revisited and necessary changes were made according to the needs articulated by *Sanghams* and federations. Subsequently relevant teaching learning material was also developed at districts. A major development after

this review is introduction of workbook for women to practice the learning even after the camps.

The short term MSKs held last year were according to these revised modules and it was observed that the workbook was of great help in motivating the women to continue learning even after going back. With these positive responses from the field, it is felt that the workbook needs to be regularized and adopted in all the districts.

Open Schools

The *Sangham* members who gained literacy at the initial levels are introduced into higher kinds of learning programmes and enrolled into other similar interventions. In the context of growing opportunities for *Sangham* women within the programme to act as resource persons, cluster organizers and to hold important offices in autonomous federations, evolution of Mandal Resource Groups, there is expanded scope for them to work towards ideological expansion of MS programme. At the same time, there are many avenues/opportunities available for women outside the programme like MGNREGS, *Saakshar Bharat*, IKP, etc. There is a constant demand for their services in these fields at various levels, thanks to the wide experience and capacities they gained by being a part of MS programme. However, lack of formal qualification has become a hindrance many a time to gain identity or to assume the changed roles. It is in this situation that more and more women are opting for a formal certification of their knowledge so that they get the required qualification. Taking admission in the open school system and appearing for examinations through the centres was their direct choice. At the same time, these open schools are coming as a great opportunity for upgrading qualification of those women who were early dropouts and have refined their literacy skills through various literacy interventions.

Compared to the figures of previous year, there has been multifold increase in the admission of women into the open schools and also the number of women appearing for examinations. It is evident from the figures that during the reporting year 25 women wrote class VII examination and 721 wrote Class X examination through open school system.

Mahila Sikshana Kendram

As always Mahila Sikshana Kendram (MSK) has been an important educational intervention for adolescent girls, particularly the never enrolled, early dropouts and 14plus age group girls. While at MSK, changing needs and priorities of the girls are always considered as a priority, in the past year, more focus was on immediate or within a short time, mainstreaming of all younger girls into respective classes and retaining only those who are in difficult situation and older girls so that they can appear for class X privately after thorough preparation. With the increase in the number of KGBVs set up in the State, it has been much comfortable for the girls to join KGBVs after graduating from MSK as the former are also residential and modeled on MSK pattern. This year, 195 out of 532 girls from 16 MSKs joined KGBVs.



Education at MSK continues to be joyful for the girls as reported from their own experiences. Apart from learning, they always participate in extra curricular activities, skill building programmes, martial arts like Karate, etc. Notwithstanding their personal challenges, they excel in different competitions. Girls from Karimnagar, Adilabad and Nalgonda in particular, showcased their talents in martial arts competitions and won many medals. The case of Sridevi from Adilabad MSK is an instance. She, being a dropout in 6th class, derived confidence from Yoga and Karate classes to the extent that she says “now I can face any situation”.

Sridevi, a girl belonging to tribal community in Chou-panguda village, Kerameri mandal, Adilabad district is now 16 years old, left studies when she was in class VI. She had to leave education as her father was not well. Much earlier to her, her younger sister too left education. Worried about her younger sister, she decided to educate her atleast. As her parents were not in a position to accept this, Sridevi joined Andhra Pradesh Adivasi Girijan Sangham where she worked for a mere Rs.1000/- per month. With her earnings she enabled her little sister's education. In the course of time, once while working in the Girijan Sangham she had to go to Kagaznagar. It was late in the evening while she was returning, some miscreants threatened her. Scared of them, Sridevi jumped into a stream over the bridge, swam through it and came home safely. Since then, her parents stopped sending her out.

MS team members, during their visit to the village convinced Sridevi's parents and with their acceptance, she was admitted in MSK. She learned Yoga, and martial arts, while appearing for SSC examinations. Sridevi says with confidence that she can face any situation now.

Like every year, past year too MSK Alumni Forums are organized to create a platform for experience

sharing and cross learning between girls of the present and old batches, to know the latter's present status and provide them with information on career opportunities.

NPEGEL



During the reporting year, NPEGEL programme has under gone change and new guidelines are issued bringing in mandal/block concept. No additional funds are received in lieu of this change and hence activities which are non budgeted continued to happen in all the 96 clusters. A proposal has been made to RVM (SSA) for sanction of additional clusters in lieu of programe expansion. Meanwhile *Bala Sanghams* were facilitated in most of NPEGEL schools. In addition, school level activities like taking sessions on health, gender, life skills to children of higher classes, facilitating them to grow vegetables in the school compound, etc. continued regularly. Children participated in all these activities quite enthusiastically and those who are



not in *Bala Sangham* immediately joined it and began influencing their peers.

Taking these along, we are waiting for strengthening of convergent action with RVM (SSA).

Future Steps

Past year's achievements and experiences show direction to the future planning particularly at this juncture when Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) has been passed.

- Revisiting all the educational interventions and modules in the light of recent developments – Saakshar Bharat and RTE
- Focus on total enrollment and 100% retention
- Bringing more women into literacy programmes and ensuring total *Sangham* literacy
- Wide spread campaign on RTE with the involvement of issue committees and federations



Strengthening Capacities and Building Networks

MS being an empowerment programme, building capacities of women becomes an essential component at every stage of facilitation. Forming into mandal level federations/Resource Groups through village level Sanghams and addressing women's issues is a dynamic and ongoing process. Continuous inputs are required to understand the ever changing contexts and forms of oppression, discrimination or violence against women or girls. Meetings, workshops, experiential sharing, exposures, brainstorming sessions, etc. have been used to transmit knowledge and also to identify the areas in which additional inputs are required. Impact of all these exercises is reflected in the actions at field level and in the readiness of *Sanghams* to frame their own agenda and work on it.

At the same time, linkages with the line agencies (both Government and NGOs) were established for increased convergent action for women friendly planning. What follows is a detailed account of the activities organised during the reporting year.

FIELD LEVEL CAPACITY BUILDING

Sangham Trainings

Capacity building of Sangham takes place in various forms as was discussed elsewhere. During the reporting year capacities of Sangham women were built on the following thematic areas:

- Health
 - ❖ Herbal Medicines
 - ❖ Nutrition
 - ❖ Reproductive health
 - ❖ General Health focussing on women health

- Gender
 - ❖ Gender discrimination
 - ❖ Women's status in the society
 - ❖ Women's Rights
- Natural Resources
 - ❖ Women's access to and control over Natural Resources
 - ❖ Organic farming
 - ❖ Protection and conservation of Resources

Separate trainings for issue committees of *Sanghams* were held on different issues. In each of the thematic areas the trainings covered the following:

- Objective of the issue committee formation
- Roles and responsibilities of issue committee members
- Theoretical orientation on the issue and drafting a plan of action
- Dissemination of the learnings down the line

During the reporting year, different issue wise trainings were organised to issue committee members in 100 Sanghams of 5 project districts in which a total of 1,207 women participated. As a result of these trainings, participation of women has improved in village level activities. Potential resource groups were identified to train the members of new mandals. For such potential resource groups, TOT was organised in Karimnagar and Adilabad districts. Issues like the relationship between Sangham, issue committee, resource pool, resource group, federation; roles and responsibilities of issue committee members and resource group members particularly in lieu of autonomous functioning of federations has also been stressed in

these sessions. In addition, an attempt was made to improve their training skills through short exercises in the sessions.

A special mention has to be made here about hysterectomy. Increased rate of hysterectomy remained an area of concern across the project districts. As a follow up to the previous year's study on hysterectomy which revealed that large number of women are undergoing operations without having proper guidance, the past year's focus was on building their capacities on the importance of uterus, health consequences of early hysterectomy, need for menstrual hygiene, etc. The issue was discussed with adequate attention and analysis on the problems that arise out of this in Sangham meetings. The need for women going for second medical opinion on undergoing the operation at an early age was stressed. Wherever possible, as in Prakasam district, health camps were organized with gynaecologists. In Karimnagar district, village level awareness programmes were held to the Sangham women and to the adolescent girls on general awareness on reproductive health, STIs, RTIs.

These activities were not restricted to the study districts but conducted across the project districts. It is interesting to note that there has been positive response from women across the project area and many women, particularly in the age group of 25-45 years are thinking twice about undergoing the operation. They were either using medicines or postponing the surgery. Sensitization of stakeholders on the alarming trend was another strategy adopted to bring further focus of all concerned about the dangers that women face in the rest of their lives after the surgery and advocate for their support. In this direction, a state level dissemination workshop was held during March 2010 at NIMSME, Hyderabad. The study findings were presented to a select gathering representing GO, NGO, doctors, officers from Arogyasri, social and development experts. The workshop came out with the suggestion of advocacy towards drafting strict guidelines for performing surgeries under Arogyasri, State government sponsored health insurance scheme for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. This needs further follow up in the coming year.



In addition, focus was laid on bringing in RMPs and PMPs who have considerable clout in the villages to support the cause. District level workshop was organised in Kurnool for RMPs and PMPs and the issue of referral of early hysterectomy cases by them was discussed in detail. They agreed upon the need for proper tests and educating women on the impact of early hysterectomy before referring them for the operation. It is a positive indication for change.

Sensitizing GPs

Different activities viz., separate meetings, trainings and workshops were organised across the project districts to bring about sensitivity among the PR Institutions over women's issues and concerns. These activities are organised on thematic areas like need for women's representation in local bodies, identifying and prioritizing women's concerns in the village level planning, roles and responsibilities of elected representatives, funds and finances of GPs, model GPs, role of Sangham with due attention to the women's issues, coordination between Sangham and Panchayats for effective implementation of village development programmes, etc.



Impact of these activities has great bearing for women in particular. For example, the concerted efforts on sanitation in the village led many GPs to respond to the demands positively. Its impact cannot be measured simply by taking into account the cleanliness maintained in the village alone. One will have to consider the improved health of women and general public. This kind of impact may be seen in the maintenance of records which has helped in preventing early marriages. Provision of infrastructure has lessened the burden of many. Similarly the trainings on NREGS helped in regularisation of payments, issuance of job cards and work allotment.

Inculcating awareness about their rights and responsibilities among Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) has been proved to be yielding better results over the years as observed from the field reports. Across the project districts, increased demands by the EWRs that they should be informed about the agenda prior to Panchayat meeting, that the resolutions must be read out before obtaining their acceptance are some indications of the impact the activity is carrying.

Nutrition Centres

Nutrition centres were started in Pitlam mandal in Nizamabad district in the previous year as an outcome of the realization by *Bala Sanghams* that anaemia has been becoming a serious issue over the years among adolescent girls as well as women. It may be noted that anaemia is a priority issue for the mandal. The District Health Administration organised mass tests to assess the magnitude of the problem. It was understood that the number of girls in 3rd and 4th grades is alarming. Nutritious food in the form of sweet items made of ground nuts, sprouts, carrot halwa, etc. are prepared in these centres in hygienic conditions and supplied at low cost to the children as snacks after school hours. Hb levels of the participating girls are monitored at regular intervals to understand the change. Sangham women took up this responsibility and *Bala Sanghams*



ensured that all those girls and boys with low Hb count are mobilized to access food from the centres. Successful implementation of the programme attracted the attention of neighbouring mandals. Within a short period the experiment was expanded to Nizamsagar and Machareddy mandals. Apart from supplying food, they are being constantly explained about the importance of nutrition and disseminating knowledge on the food and vegetables that contain nutrition values. This activity is receiving great support from the GP, village elders, parents and schools. Regular meetings are held with all these sections for sustaining the initiative.

Nyaya Committee

Over the years, Sanghams gained recognition as forums for effective resolution of conflicts particularly relating to family, abuse and violence against women and girls. Most of the conflicts are related to issues like arrack, child labour, girl child abuse, dowry related violence, extramarital relations, etc. In an effort to seek solutions to these, they preferred to form mandal level Nyaya Committee that can act as a resource group besides resolving complicated issues that are beyond the purview of the Sanghams. In order to build the capacities of the Nyaya Committees, training programmes on areas like gender and legal literacy were organised. Their skills were also improved in areas like counselling and documentation. Further inter district exposures organized for cross

learning among the committees proved helpful in establishing regular systems like documentation of the cases, maintaining registers, building support systems, etc.



As already reported, the mandal level nyaya committees formed in the districts of Medak, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Warangal are regularly meeting on fixed dates and are resolving cases that come to them. It is significant to note that some cases pertaining to non MS project mandals are also approaching these committees. In their efforts to further strengthen the initiatives, they are trying to build convergence with the District Legal Services Authority.

During the past year 211 cases were resolved by the nyaya committees across the districts.

Women's participation in Rai centres, the traditional tribal panchayats recognised by ITDA has been an interesting development for the past few years in Adilabad district. Joint meetings are being convened regularly with the Rai centres and this has proved to be promising in more women becoming members of the centres. In the past year 3 women got elected to Veligi Rai centre of Wankhidi mandal. Of these, Kova Karubai became *Upamedi* and Radha bai and Pullubai, members. Taking these forward, district level meeting was convened in Utnoor, head quarters of ITDA in the district.



Representatives from the district Rai centre, other mandal level centres attended this meeting. Reviewing the progress of the Rai centres, need for women's proactive participation, addressing issues related to violence against tribal women and girls in the centres formed major agenda of this meeting. It was interesting to note here that the members were positive to these concerns and came up with a plan to increase women's participation in all the Rai centres, document the cases and proceedings taking place in the centres, working on arrack, gutkha, land related issues in the centres. The follow up needs to be ensured.

Capacity building to the Federations

Keeping in view the different stages of the consolidation processes in the federation mandals, capacity building programmes are being designed and organized every year. In the past year too, the thrust areas for trainings included - Roles and responsibilities of the governing body, executive committee members, legal status and requirements towards independent functioning, leadership qualities, financial and managerial skills, documentation, etc. Besides, focus was also to strengthen their convergent relations with different agencies and identify support groups in each mandal. Building capacities of the issue resource groups and conducting ToT programmes for them has been another important area of action last year. In this direction, meetings and trainings



were held to different issue resource groups like health, social issues, education, etc. Responsibilities of issue resource groups to function in coordination with federation, identification of issues and planning activities was stressed in these trainings. Regular discussions at cluster level, meetings held on specific agenda have also helped in widening the understanding of federations on issues of importance.

At the same time, continuous support and need based inputs were being given to the autonomous federations in accordance with their varying needs. In this regard, the *Maha Sangham* meetings come of great help in assessing the existing capacities and plan for necessary support from programme as well as other federations. There was demand from the federations to train them on proposals' writing and documentation. At some places federation requested MS to support them for some more time in developing proposals for accessing projects.

As reported in the previous sections, it can be said that following these activities, federations' capacities and skills have improved. They are now able to independently deal with different government agencies. In many consolidation mandal registers are being maintained on their own. It was also observed that the meetings at various levels are being held regularly and the attendance in these meetings

has also been improving. Contributions to federation corpus were also improving in a bid to mobilise resources on their own for independent functioning. At every level accounts are updated and are audited. In the process, federations are identifying weak Sanghams and making plans to strengthen them.

TEAM CAPACITY BUILDING

The dynamic field level programme, constant need for new and innovative strategies to strengthen the Sanghams, facilitate them to identify and address their concerns inform the direction of team capacity building. On the other hand, joining of new team members at different levels of the programme necessitates building their perspective on the objectives, philosophy of the programme along with conceptual understanding on women's issues and working towards empowerment of women.

In tune to this, different capacity building programmes were organized to team members at all levels during the past year. These include: orientations, trainings, workshops, exposures, etc. Besides these, the regular reflection and thematic meetings contributed for assessing the programme progress from time to time and reflection on the team's capacities thereby informing further training needs.

Phase trainings

As new team members joined the programme, induction trainings were organized for them to build their perspective. Based on the number of members to be trained these are held in batches. Accordingly during the past year, the said training was organized in three phases for 205 team members. The focus was on objectives and basic strategies of the programme, understanding of education, linkages between the issues, activities, roles and responsibilities of different functionaries in various levels, documentation, etc.

Trainings on thematic areas

Orientation on participatory tools and techniques, building perspective on gender, women's health, education and natural resources were the themes on which trainings were conducted to the new team members. Besides, it was felt necessary for a thorough orientation on MGNREGA in the background of signing MoU with the department for effective implementation of the scheme.

Theatre workshop

It has always been the practice to adapt locally prevailing folk art forms as a method to sensitize the larger community on identified issues, viz. girls' education, health and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, awareness creation on Acts and Schemes early marriages, violence against women, etc. Songs, role plays, skits, *Gollasuddulu* were some of these forms adapted. In the past year, a week long theatre workshop was organized to refresh the skills of team members on the theme, violence against women keeping in view the growing instances of abuse and violence against girls and women. It was a combined workshop for MS Kerala and APMSS and 25 team members were involved in this workshop.



In addition, workshops were held on roles and responsibilities of JRPs, DPCs and RPs as many of these positions were filled last year. The import-

ance of these positions particularly with respect to need based planning of strategies and activities, building capacities of the field level team, networking, coordination and knowledge on systems and procedures, etc. were stressed in these forums.

During the past year, refresher trainings were organized to the team members across the MS states by National Project office under the technical capacity building component. Educational Resource Unit, New Delhi facilitated these trainings. Two batches of induction training and three batches of refresher training were held in this connection at different MS states – Jharkhand and Kerala (induction), Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand (Refresher training). Identified team members also participated in the needs assessment workshop held prior to these trainings. Philosophy of MS programme, present status of women, understanding of education as a tool for women's empowerment, institutional structures facilitated through the programme, strengths, challenges, areas for further strengthening, team building, etc. were the major issues that were dealt within these trainings. Team members who were working for some time now participated in these.



Participation in these programmes is indeed a refreshing and learning experience. Besides enhancing existing knowledge levels, we could also get an opportunity to interact with different experts on education, women's development and communications. At the same time, the interactive sessions and group exercises gave enough space to gather information and learn about the programme strategies and interventions followed in different MS states.

Convergence and Networking

Grassroots planning is a thrust area in the programme and Sangham women are facilitated to identify their concerns and draw appropriate plans to resolve them. Developing convergent relations, identifying support systems and developing networks are the key areas in this direction. Accordingly from the beginning of the programme, creating forums for interface between the *Sangham* women and officials has been a regular event. These forums contribute to initiate dialogue between women and officials where they can express their concerns and seek support from the departments to resolve - effective delivery of services, accessibility of resources, services and schemes or support in implementation of the activities relating to women and girls issues. At times, issues identified in the *Sanghams*, which need action at wider level are also brought to the notice of the officials through these forums. Thereby the convergent relations get strengthened and women gain support, recognition and visibility. For example, in some districts mandal data given by federations are more relied upon than the data given by government agencies. During the past year too, these forums were conducted across the project districts and the participation of women and officials was encouraging. Many issues came to the fore and were resolved almost immediately wherever possible. During these interaction sessions, focus was also laid on identifying and forming District Resource Group.

In Nizamabad district an effort was made to bring together different government departments and NGOs on to one platform with a view to build a forum for collective action and advocacy. District Collector, PD-DRDA, representatives from 8 departments and 15 NGOs participated in the discussions. The District Collector suggested participants to come up with measures to improve services and take part in

planning process. He also appreciated the efforts of APMSS to bring all line agencies at one forum and to initiate common planning and preferred that such meetings be held periodically to review and reflect on the actions taken.

Saakshar Bharat

Last year, launching of Saakshar Bharat programme for imparting literacy to 15plus age group in mission mode has been one of the important developments at national level. At the same time, the programme came with a promise of more provisions and thrust for women's literacy. In tune to this pre-launching initiatives like planning, preparation of resource material, identification of resource persons for building capacities of grassroots volunteers were initiated at State level. National Literacy Mission, State Resource Centre, Departments of Adult Education, AMR-APARD were the departments keyed in for the purpose. APMSS has been identified as an important partner in all the above initiatives at different levels given the vast experience gained in facilitating women's literacy for many years. Apart from identifying MS team members as State level trainers, the contribution has been sought in preparation of resource book, modules and material for women's literacy.

At this juncture, it should be claimed that this experience has been of a great learning to us as we could work closely with the departments, trying to influence them on the need for facilitative processes for mobilization of women and the need for valuing their time and space in learning literacy skills. At the same time, we could introduce them the different innovative methods followed in MS like the short term camp approach to impart literacy to women. We are hopeful of taking this further when the programme is actually launched in the State around next year.

MGNREGA

Sangham members are playing crucial role in accessing facilities, monitoring implementation and demanding accountability in the implementation of MGNREGA since its commencement. At the same time, APMSS has been increasingly advocating for effective implementation of MGNREGA through various forums at district and State level. As reported in the previous year, considering the coverage of APMSS and active involvement of *Sanghams* at village level, Dept. of Rural Development entered into MoU for partnership towards effective implementation of the provisions. 68 mandals spread in 12 districts were part of the MoU signed with concerned authorities apart from continuation of the piloting experience being implemented in collaboration with WASSAN, a State level net work agency. This partnership gave leverage for monitoring, direct implementation, bring problems and anomalies to the notice of the concerned officials and suggest alternatives to plug in gaps in implementation. The results are very much exciting. On the one hand there has been increased access to the scheme by women across the villages; efforts are made to ensure proper provision of worksite facilities and entitlements as per the provisions under the Act. On the other, APMSS has become a major partner in APNA – an association of NGOs formed by the



department for effective implementation of MGNREGA through public private partnership.

Some of the important outcomes of this whole partnership are listed below:

- Awareness created among villagers on the provisions, objectives and rights of wage seekers through Sangham meetings, cluster level meetings, worksite visits, posters and pamphlets
- Ensuring entitlements to women by coordinating with concerned officials
- Resolving problems of wage seekers facilitating weekly meetings between wage seekers and officials
- In certain mandals like Gurrampodu, Nalgonda district, village level committees of the wage seekers and federal bodies at mandal level were formed to represent the issues to the authorities.

During the interactions, worksite visits and meetings problems relating to proper implementation of the scheme were identified such as: despite applying for the work some individuals were not getting any work for many days, there has been inordinate delay in wage payments, musters not maintained properly, irregularities in work allotment and in measuring the work done, lack of amenities like first aid, shelter, Ayahs at the worksites, compensation not being provided for delayed allotment or non provision of work, etc. In order to resolve these issues, discussions were held with the MPDOs across the districts and in some cases, the issues were brought to the notice of the District Collectors. As a result:

- Application for works are kept in MS Offices
- Acknowledgements for the work applications are issued immediately
- It was observed that wage seekers are getting work within the time limit

- In some of the villages wages are paid weekly and the situation is yet to be improved in many a village
- Job cards are up dated regularly
- In many villages muster rolls are read out
- Single women are being provided with work
- Village level records are updated everyday
- Make shift sheds were built in many villages providing shelter for the wage seekers and first aid boxes were also provided
- A toll free number was given for registering complaints. In some cases where information was not given, we encouraged Sanghams to obtain information using RTI

Watershed Programme

Three watersheds are being implemented in Ringanguda, Kautaguda and Wavudam regions of Asifabad mandal in Adilabad district since last year. As reported in the previous report, NABARD has been financially supporting this programme, WASSAN as technical agency.



In this connection, during the present reporting year some progress is recorded in both Ringanguda and Kautaguda watersheds. The farmers started vegetable cultivation with the seeds supplied to them from the Watershed committee. Dry land

agriculture was also initiated and all the wage labour was facilitated to form into labour groups to work collectively, to understand their rights and to access minimum wages.

However, work was delayed in the Wavudam watershed area as farmers were not coming forward to do the required *shramadan*. In this connection, FGDs were conducted with the villagers and the need to work as part of *shramadan* was articulated. Support was also taken from the officials and technical agency to resolve the issue. Regular review, extending need based support on field; concentrating energies of one DIU team member totally on the programme were the other steps that also worked towards positive outcomes.

Future Steps

Over the years, the role change of MS, Sanghams and federations is indicative of the capacity building needs. The Sanghams with their social agenda are marching towards mandal level resource groups and taking proactive role in information dissemination and awareness creation. On the other, the federations with their independent functioning are becoming implementing partners to APMSS in spreading MS philosophy wider. At this juncture the role of MS becomes more of advocacy and lobbying for greater recognition and support to the Sanghams and federations. In this direction, our future year's plan is:

- Capacity building to issue resource groups and ToT programmes for the identified resource persons
- Increased convergent action with various agencies to enable women access their Rights and Entitlements
- Advocacy towards greater visibility to the federations and MRGs



Expanding Horizons of Community Sensitivity

Educating women on a variety of issues has been enabling them identify and address their concerns individually and collectively. In the long run, as the Sanghams are consolidating into mandal level federations and resource groups, there has been role change both at the programme and the field level. On the one hand 21 federations have become autonomous and moving towards formation of district level network of federations – *Maha Sanghams*, on the other in the Core Group mandals issue committees are formed and gaining capacities to form cluster and mandal level resource groups. In this process they are acquiring a distinct identity as pressure groups and change agents at various levels.

At the same time, the changed outside environment with almost all women in SHG fold, introduction of women friendly Acts and Schemes contributed to their greater mobility and increased access to resources. However, it is still a long way to achieve the goal of gender equity. This reflects well in the lack of partnership on equal terms over the issues of control on the resources or taking decisions in family or in society. A more enabling environment has to evolve in the order of achieving concrete outcomes. It would be relatively easy to reach these goals when family members, larger society and institutions support them.

With this conviction, we have been concentrating on creating enabling environment and building support systems for Sanghams to push their agenda. Towards this end, dissemination of information and sensitizing institutions on women's

issues are used as strategic tools. Organizing women, sensitizing their family members and the neighbours in the villages are the first mile stones achieved in this journey. There has also been greater visibility to the Sanghams and federations and networking has been strengthened. Taking this forward, we are in the process of expanding the horizons of influence to larger issues where advocacy becomes the major focus to influence systems and institutions to work towards women's concerns and develop gender sensitive micro level plans.



As can be seen from the experiences of various villages, there are many instances where the Sanghams are taking lead role in identifying various social and developmental issues at individual and societal levels, sensitizing larger society so that the former will also respond to these issues. A noteworthy development in this direction has been the positive response by the authorities and elected representatives to women's concerns and their readiness to take actions to resolve them. Taking cue from these developments, various village level

activities have been planned and implemented in the past year. Involving all stake holders and creating a positive environment for change was the characteristic feature of these programmes.

Given below is an overview of the various community level interventions taken up during the reporting year.

Mahila Sadassu

For the past few years *Mahila Sadassulu* are organised in the Core Group mandals once in two months or three months in the villages. The purpose of these forums is not just enabling the society understand the women issues, but also to create congenial atmosphere for all Sangham members to come together and plan for resolution of their issues. Bringing pressure on the system for effective implementation of various schemes and services, strengthening convergent relations between all the stakeholders is another major objective of these village level forums.

With the new strategy of *Waada Sanghams* and Core Groups in the village, creation of a forum where all women come together and share information on the debates and decisions of the Sangham meetings was felt necessary. *Mahila Sadassu* is one such forum facilitated periodically once in two to three months. Issues raised in these meetings include: Migration, NREGS, sanitation, women and girls' education, early marriages, women's health, RTI and the laws pertaining to women etc.

In Vizianagaram district these *Mahila Sadassulu* held during the past year lead to getting certain issues resolved:

- In 11 villages women raised the issues of cleanliness and sanitation in the village. As a result, drainages were cleared and bleaching was sprinkled.

- 35 Sangham Women arranged dust bins in their homes
- 120 women procured job cards in 8 villages and in 9 villages villagers are accessing NREGS works.

Members of Core Group, Waada Sanghams and other women who are not members of the Sanghams participated in these forums. GP members, village elders and the (VO) representatives also attended. Problems related to basic amenities, minimum needs, services and selection of beneficiaries of various schemes generally form parts of the agenda. Certain issues like pensions, job cards, drinking water issues, etc. could be resolved through the concerned authorities immediately. The agenda and the issues that come up during the deliberations are scaled up at different forums for further resolution of issues. If there are any problems that can be resolved by mandal level officers, they are also invited to participate in these forums.

During the reporting year *Mahila Sadassulu* were regularized in most project districts, thanks to the clarity gained by the team members in the facilitative processes for conducting the event. 258 *Mahila Sadassulu* were held in the districts of Nizamabad, Anantapur, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Mahabubnagar, Adilabad, Warangal and Nalgonda where a total of 10,238 members attended.

Campaign on HIV/AIDS

The campaign being organised all these years on HIV/AIDS and the related stigma has started showing visible outcomes. The numbers of women and men coming forward for HIV/AIDS tests has been growing steadily. As mentioned in the previous year's report it had been very difficult to discuss these issues given the rigidity in social norms and practices. However, when it was

discussed as part of health programmes, there has been good response. During this year also village and cluster meetings, Kalajatha, trainings, awareness activities like photo exhibitions, stalls created congenial atmosphere where in the issues could be discussed with greater ease. Apart from organising these activities throughout the year in the mandals where HIV/AIDS is a focus issue, different activities were held during HIV/AIDS week in the month of December. A woman who visited the programme in one of the villages in Srikakulam was heard saying “*AIDS amte intha undanukoledamma. Yedo muttukokoodadu pattu-kokudadu anukunnanamthe*” (never thought that there is so much about AIDS. I simply thought that we should not touch them or hold them). Awareness programmes and village level trainings were also organised for youth, PRI members, women and adolescents in convergence with Medical and Health Department, teachers, AWC teachers and PRI members. The turnout and response of community to all these events was significant.



In Prakasam district, special sessions were held for children studying 8th, 9th and 10th classes to build their awareness on HIV/AIDS. In 21 high schools spread over 5 project mandals such special classes were arranged in which 1145 children (669 girls

and 479 boys) took part. They were oriented on stigmatising the victims and the spread of the disease. The need for undergoing HIV test before marriage was stressed. Children participated in the sessions with great enthusiasm and said they will spread the message among their peers. School teachers who supported in organizing separate sessions for boys and girls appreciated the methodology and promised to follow it up as part of their responsibility.

District	No. of Campaigns	No. of Participants
Medak	60	22,500
Mahabubnagar	7	591
Nizamabad	42	8,500
Adilabad	13	1,207
Warangal	64	3,481
Nalgonda	8	934
Srikakulam	2	275
Vizianagaram	7	605
Prakasam	16	1,264
Anantapur	6	3,430
Kurnool	5	1,186
Total	290	43,973

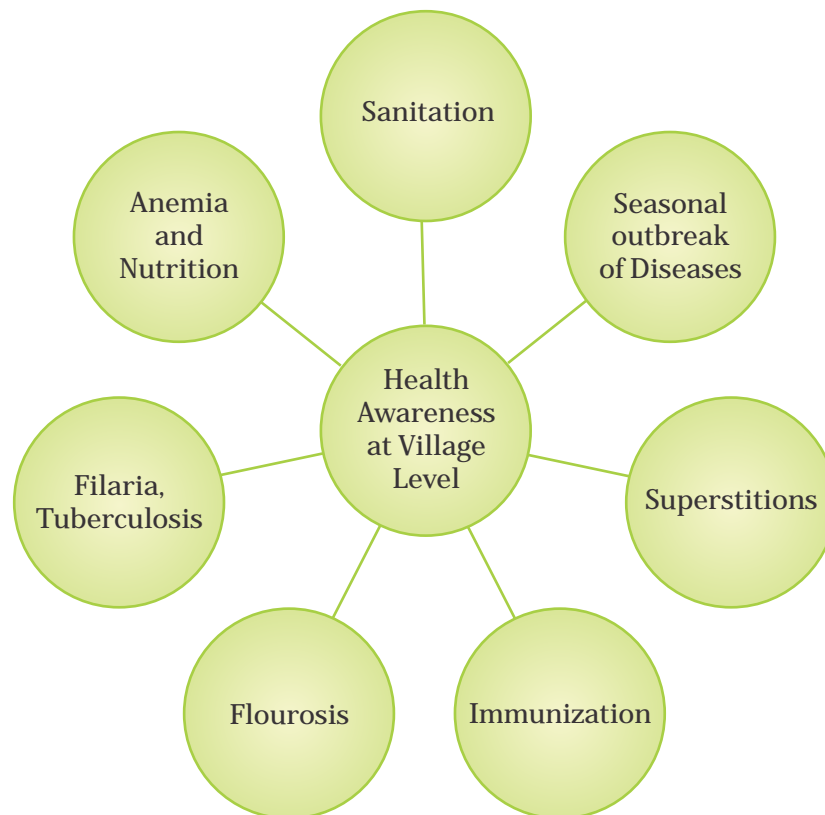
As a result of all these efforts the realization among villagers about the problem, its magnitude and the need for knowing their HIV status is growing. This is reflected in their demand and the number of HIV/AIDS test camps organized in the villages and the turn out. Another important outcome is awareness on premarital test and also sensitizing husbands of pregnant women to undergo the test to know their HIV status. Growing awareness about the importance of taking treatment for RTIs and STIs as a preventive measure is another important outcome of these various activities. It is also observed that there is increase in the number of PLHAs coming forward and accessing the services provided by various agencies. This reflects the



reducing levels of stigma. However, vulnerability of women, particularly newly married is still a major concern as they are contracting HIV through their husbands who were positive before marriage but get married concealing the fact. We are trying to focus on this.

Health Awareness

Activities initiated last year are largely continued and taken forward in many districts viz., campaign on general health, immunization, fluorosis, seasonal outbreak of fevers and other chronic diseases and filaria. As part of building health awareness, the importance of nutrition and its effect on health were largely focused. At the same time, involving all village level health care providers and bringing in their accountability in ensuring effective delivery of health services were the other important issues touched upon. Village level meetings, workshops, rallies, stalls, melas, etc. were the forums for these campaigns and the methodology included participatory discussions, case studies, information dissemination through IEC, etc. Many issues were debated on myths about nutrition and on better health practices.





Autonomous federations and *Bala Sanghams* have played a proactive role in taking the campaigns forward. Health issue committees of the *Sanghams* have taken up the responsibility of ensuring a regular follow up on the actions initiated through these campaigns and ensure sustained action.

Floods occurred to the River Krishna in October 2009 were the severe most in the recent period. Many mandals are simply wiped out. Thanks to the efforts of administration loss of human lives was minimised. Certain project mandals in the districts of Mahabubnagar and Kurnool were also among the severely hit. It may be noted here that Sangham women were also the victims of the floods. Even then, without looking for external assistance they were repairing their houses and simultaneously helping others in this respect.

In the post floods situation, sanitation was the major concern. Removal of mud carried by floods which has piled up a few feet high was a gigantic problem apart from the sanitation problems caused by the dead bodies of animals. It was in this situation that the initiatives taken by the Sangham women and team members to clean the garbage and removal of silt are worth mentioning here. Members of the health committees joined hands with Panchayats and supported them by sharing responsibility in sprinkling kerosene, bleaching, removal of dead bodies, cleaning schools, etc.

Sanitation and Hygiene

Sanitation and hygiene are the twin issues that have received maximum attention for awareness generation in campaign mode across the project districts as Sanghams identified the issue as focal area for wide spread action. Towards this, various activities were organised throughout the year. Mobilising and sensitising villagers towards a clean village has been on the whole a great success. Increasing pressure has been exerted on the GPs for sprinkling of bleaching, clearing drainages, safe drinking water. These issues have also become important points for discussions in the meetings and trainings organised for GP members.



The multi fold increase in the number of requests for ISLs, GPs prioritizing activities relating to village sanitation and the urge for denouncing and putting full stop for age old practices like open defecation indicate the efforts put in this direction. Though the problem is still large, the achievements registered so far are no small when compared to the strong convictions of people.

For example in Satiwada village in Nellimarla mandal, Vizianagaram district, when the issue was being debated with the GP members in a village level meeting, Sarpanch has raised a point about the

non reimbursement of bill for drainages that were repaired and dug by the Panchayat earlier. With the meagre resources they are not able to focus much on village sanitation, he claimed. At this point Sangham women assured that they too will join the Panchayat in approaching mandal administration for reimbursement of the bills. Consequently, Sangham women and GP members together approached local mandal Parishath Development Officer (MPDO) and caused for sanction of the pending bills. The support extended by Sangham women helped to resolve the issue and the Sarpanch is now committed to take up sanitation works in the village.

Masanpally is a large village with about 500 households in Nagireddypet mandal in Nizamabad district. This is a federation mandal. Vijaya Mahila Sangham was formed in 1999 with 25 members in the village. Capacity building programmes were held for all the issue committees in the Sangham. Observing that the sanitational measures are not properly followed in the village, the health issue committee members have disseminated information to the villagers on the importance of village sanitation and hygiene. They initiated discussions on these issues in various forums like GP, Youth Sangham and IKP groups. During this process, they observed that many people not using the toilets despite having them and focused on sensitizing such families to make use of them. They explained in detail the spiralling effects of lack of sanitation on health. Convinced of this, 250 households brought toilets into regular use almost immediately and stopped open defecation practice. Another 145 have applied for sanction of toilets. The committee members have also negotiated with the Sarpanch for arranging dust bins in 4 out of 6 *Waadas*. Deriving inspiration from this, 6 neighbouring villages too emulated the example.

Villagers haven't left the entire issue to the GPs alone in the villages. They are coming forward to keep the surroundings clean and neat and sharing

the responsibility. There are many villages where people motivated by Sanghams are regularly cleaning the surroundings of community bore wells. Even children of *Bala Sanghams* were also participating in this movement enthusiastically in all the districts. Thus the Sangham women are taking lead in villages and facilitating a silent revolution.

Campaign against Alcoholism and Tobacco Products

While arrack related violence on women has been one of the persistent challenges for us and the Sanghams, changed excise policies of the government and the spiralling prices of essential commodities on the families have sent alarming signals to women as they are primarily responsible for managing the family affairs. Therefore, there was a renewed effort to discuss the issue of arrack consumption and the ways to address the issue among Sangham members. Many Sanghams have made efforts to stop arrack sale in their villages. They were joined by the women of VO, youth groups and *Bala Sanghams*.

Lachanupally is situated 5 kms away from the mandal head quarters in Gooty mandal Anantapur district. There are a total of 494 families in the village and majority of the families belong to backward and dalit communities. *Waada Sangham* was formed in SC *Waada* in the year, 2006.

In the process of analysing financial situations of the families in the Sangham meetings, it was understood that most of the men are addicted to arrack. They are spending all their hard earnings on liquor consumption or on playing cards. Even young boys of 13, 14 years old are also following their fathers and elder brothers in consuming liquor. Though there was no wine shop in the village people get liquor from the neighbouring thandas.

All villagers are dependent on daily wage labour. The wages earned out of the day long hard work are spent on these unproductive issues leaving their women in deep troubles. Members discussed on this and resolved to take action. Together with the VO members, they submitted an urge to the Excise department and Police who have initiated action on the persons involved in brewing illicit liquor.

As a result, arrack consumption has come down in the village. This has inspired BC colony women to form into another Sangham.

Involving Panchayats and other elected representatives was another strategy adapted in this movement. In Adilabad, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad and Warangal districts, representations were given to the Sarpanches seeking their support to stop selling arrack in the villages. In Adilabad Sarpanches of 6 villages decided not to allow liquor sale in their villages.

As noted in our previous years' reports, women in many districts and adolescents particularly in Adilabad district are addicted to tobacco and tobacco products. Efforts initiated in the previous years to control this habit were continued across the project mandals. School based counselling, orientation and demonstrations programmes were some of the activities organized in this direction. Sangham women have represented the issue to the Panchayats to ban the sale of tobacco products in villages. On the whole, these different programmes brought in awareness among women and children and change is visible in their habits. Many people have stopped consuming tobacco products.

In Dubbagudem village in Jainoor mandal, Adilabad district, villagers organised a Grama Sabha following the awareness generation activities on the consumption of tobacco products. The Grama Sabha has banned consumption of Gutkha and resolved to

impose a fine of Rs. 2,500/- on those who violate this rule. The shop keepers were also told not to sell Gutkha, and any violation by them would result in a fine of Rs. 5,000/-. They also decided to ban smoking in the village.

All these developments indicate that the training programmes and awareness generation activities organised in the villages are bearing fruits. In Warangal district, shop keepers have come forward to support the cause and stopped selling tobacco products in two Thandas. This is also reflective of the Sangham, more importantly the health issue committees taking these messages into the general public with a sense of responsibility and ensuring follow up for sustenance of the changes.

Education on Rights and Entitlements

Ignorance about various schemes and rights are the real hindrances for women to move in the direction of empowerment. Keeping this in view, we have been continuously building capacities of Sangham women on the Acts and Schemes introduced from time to time by the government and rights and entitlements for women. At the same time information dissemination to the larger community on the rights' and Laws for women is taken up in all the project villages through various awareness programmes like meetings, street plays, wall writings, preparation of pamphlets, posters, etc. in a cam-



paign mode. Specific objective of this was to sensitize villagers and enable creation of positive environment for women to gain easy access to their Rights and Entitlements.

In this direction, focus in the past year has been on MGNREGA, domestic violence, migration and right to education. Village and cluster level awareness meetings, *Mahila Sadassulu*, FGDs, rallies, workshops, etc. were organized (Medak, Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar, Anantapur and Nalgonda) and information on all these issues was disseminated. Here it is worth mentioning that the issue committee members supported the team in explaining the provisions under different schemes and Acts like *Janani Suraksha*, *Balika Samrakshana Yojana*, pensions under different categories, special provisions and rights assured under MGNREGA through adapting different media like pamphlets, skits and street plays. This lead to enthusiastic participation of the community as well as taking immediate steps to access different rights and entitlements.

In Peddavura mandal in Nalgonda district, female foeticide and selling girl children are identified as focal areas for action, particularly in Thandas (tribal settlements). To check this many awareness workshops were organised in 8 Thandas. Discussing issues like declining sex ratio, gender discrimination, status of women in the society; information was also disseminated on the acts related to female foeticide, child rights and other schemes. As a result it was noticed that the birth and death registration has been regularized besides increase in access to schemes like Balika Samrakshana Yojana.

Age at marriage has been another issue identified for wide spread awareness among the villages in the project districts. This has been felt necessary by the *Sanghams* as the age at marriage still remained below legal age in most areas. Certain caste related

traditions, fears or allays of parents about the protection of girls, lack of opportunities for higher education, etc. were some of the reasons cited. Keeping these in view, village level awareness activities were organized in different districts like Medak, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Prakasam, etc. In Medak, the health and social issue resource group members from the autonomous federations extended support in conduction of these campaigns in 45 villages across 3 mandals. As reported elsewhere in the report, registration of marriages, facilitating GPs to maintain marriage registers, dissemination on the prohibition of Child Marriages Act and Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act form the thrust areas of these activities apart from discussing the consequences of child marriage on the girls. A sense of awareness has been created among the community as a result of all these activities and the demand for higher education opportunities for girls has been on the rise.

Celebration of Special Days



To inculcate awareness among general public on various issues we have been celebrating special days/special weeks as a strategy since the inception of the programme. In line with this tradition, this year also we celebrated many an event like violence fortnight, girl child day, international women's day



with fervour and in festive spirit. Rallies, melas, stalls, exhibitions, workshops, etc. were held at different levels to impart knowledge and enable women and general public understand the magnitude of the issues and its importance. As part of the campaign on hygienic practices, global hand wash day was observed this year during October in addition to the regularly held events. Observation of International Women's day has been marked by district level mela in Kurnool with a focus on violence against women and village and mandal level meetings in the other project districts.

Organisation of these events helped in creating a momentum in the community. Women who

participated in the events are trying to incorporate the learnings in their daily life as well as making them a regular agenda in the Sangham meetings, ultimately resulting in expansion of their spheres of action and also contribute to strengthening of Sanghams.

Future Steps

- All the above experiences bring out the need to work on strengthening village level Core Groups and issue based committees to act as change agents. In the coming year, we plan to build their capacities in this direction.
- Simultaneously, we are also planning to organize activities to further sensitize the village level institutions including GP and Youth *Sanghams*. The ultimate results expected out of this sensitization are not just positive response for women's issues but also convergent action of Sanghams and various institutions in addressing them.
- Sensitizing men by disseminating information and encouraging them to support women's cause is also another focal area for future action.



Samatha Gender Resource Centre

This year Samatha Gender Resource Centre (SGRC) has entered into tenth year. Reflecting on it, we see increased contribution of SGRC towards documentation, research and ideological spread of the MS programme. Several initiatives are taken up to build capacities of different organizations and departments on gender and issues relating to women's empowerment as are regularly reported in the annual reports of corresponding years. In addition, research projects and studies are also undertaken both within and outside APMSS project area in recent years to mainstream the experiences and learnings as well as to understand the contemporary issues further to work on in relation to bringing women's empowerment to centre stage. In the process, SGRC has developed a resource pool of expertise on women and development issues. They include Sangham, federation women, team members and those who are closely associated with MS at different times and in different states.

Further taking these forward, last year we planned to extend the scope of SGRC by taking up activities towards knowledge sharing on women's issues and empowerment processes. At the same time the idea is also to link both academics and action research in order to bridge the gaps that often answer many questions and challenges. This idea emerged in one of the Executive Committee meetings and led to the Chairperson constituting a sub committee with representation from EC and NRG members for developing modalities and a draft framework. The subcommittee met once and came up with the suggestions of offering a short term course on

"Approaches to working with women" through SGRC for grassroots NGO personnel or development practitioners. Initial plan was to start a three months summer course to gain hands on experience. However nothing much progressed due to various reasons and we plan to take it up in the coming year.

The other major initiatives of SGRC during the year include:

Gender Just Families

The action research project with CARE India - AP towards facilitating strategic shift in gender roles in reproductive health initiated in later half of 2008 in 380 villages of 19 mandals in seven project districts has come to an end in June 2010. Concluding the project activities, two-day community celebrations were held in all the villages. These contributed to bring greater momentum among community, particularly men as noticed from their active participation in the different competitions held. The GP members too contributed their part enthusiastically by sponsoring prizes to the participants and organizing events. The rich experiences gained through this project gave us confidence to further strengthen our earlier efforts of sensitizing men and GPs to address and support women's concerns.

This project helped APMSS in:

- Understanding dynamics involved in working with men on gender issues
- Facilitating PRIs' involvement in community level health services
- Breaking certain myths and misconceptions

related to pregnant women and infants/ children's food and feeding practices

- Inculcating a sense of community responsibility in taking care of pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants and children below 2 years
- Building resource persons and a cadre of health educators in the villages where this project was implemented
- Building capacities of federations and team members in handling projects



Going by the positive impact of the project activities at the AWC level, CARE came up with the idea of scaling up this pilot initiative. Subsequent discussions in this direction lead to preparation of an activity tool kit based on the project experiences through SGRC. At the time of writing this report the activity kit was prepared.

Gender and Climate Change

APMSS was part of the UN-FAO research study taken up during the fourth quarter of 2008 in three

villages each of Mahabubnagar and Anantapur to understand the trends of climatic shifts over a period of time with gender perspective. Continuing the quantitative survey taken up in the previous year, remaining part of research has been completed during the reporting year. The specific activities include participatory FGDs, quantitative survey, institutional analysis, meteorological analysis towards community's understanding of climate change, gender specific dimensions of risks and opportunities for coping etc. As part of conclud-



ing the study, FAO team made a field visit to the identified villages in Mahabubnagar district, interacted with the target group before consolidating research findings into case study form along with the research team.

The study clearly showed strong gender dimension to the impact of climate shifts on farmers' livelihoods and coping strategies to ensure food security. It was noticed that men and women farmers were equally likely to report seeing changes in weather compared to 30 years ago. However, men are more likely to report impact on farm production, women on health. Similarly among the preferred livelihood strategies for increased climate variability, men preferred migration to wage labour whereas women preferred wage labour first. Thus it was evident from this study that any future strategies

for adaptation to long term climate changes must integrate a gender sensitive approach.

The whole experience has been wonderful in giving a new capacity to the team both on participatory research methodology and linking grass root experience to global phenomenon. Another moment of excitement has been that the research findings were presented in the climate change conference – “Development and Climate Days” held in Copenhagen, Rome during December 2009. The presentation was received with keenness by the participants as the FAO team shared.

Future Steps

As reported above, SGRC is gaining strength over the years with diverse activities both within and outside MS project area. Our future actions are informed by this realization while not losing focus on documentation and research.

- Bring in more resources both human and material to further extend the scope of the centre and its activities.
- Identification and building a pool of resources within the programme and outside.
- Continued thrust towards studies and research



Documentation

In APMSS, documentation has been one of the major thematic areas for regular updating, reflection and assessment of the programme progress. During the reporting year, main focus under this theme was on systematizing already initiated processes and further strengthening the capacities of team members to effectively document programme activities and processes. Besides, lot of energy went in to preparation of Sangham and village information formats as part of developing MIS.

Monthly updating of data & reports, photo documentation of important events, collection of case studies from field, classification of library books, regularization of news letters etc. were some of the many steps taken up to streamline the existing systems and procedures. In the past few years, many team members joined the programme at various levels and at the same time there have been major strategic shifts in the field level facilitation processes in lieu of the contextual demands. Keeping these in view, in the thematic meetings we put more emphasis on process documentation of the innovative strategies and programmes taken up at the districts. It was felt that this would greatly help the new team members in understanding the processes followed at every step and at the same time helps in identifying further field needs. Simultaneously, we also focused on preparing process reports for the autonomous federations at the time of withdrawal. Base line survey has been initiated in the two newly started districts of Khammam and Visakhapatnam as well as in the new mandals of older districts. In addition, during the past year,

ORG-Neilson, a consulting group did base line study in identified project districts as part of MS Base line commissioned by DFID.



Specific documentation prepared during the reporting year includes:

- ❑ APMSS brochure was prepared in 2005. Keeping the subsequent changes in strategies and expansion of the programme, it was updated.
- ❑ Website was updated and activated. We are happy to report that there are many viewers to the website as we are getting frequent responses from the viewers. However, it needs upgradation still to make available more information.
- ❑ A calendar giving important features of each project district and a brief note on the MS programme was prepared.
- ❑ Best Practices Foundation (BPF), Bangalore based organization was commissioned by DFID and NPO to document best practices of

Mahila Samakhya states. In this regard, BPF organized State level workshop for ranking the best practices of APMSS. Autonomous federations, short term MSK, All Women Panchayat and *Bala Sanghams* have come up as the top priorities. Taking these ahead in the national level workshop held in February 2010, a decision was taken to develop case study of autonomous federations and the experiences of gender education to boys to be made first part of the three part toolkit on Gender Education to boys, men and school teachers.

- The project activities and outcomes in respect of the action research project on “Creation of Enabling Environment for Gender Just Families” were documented both at district and State levels.

- As part of the efforts to develop regular MIS and to capture qualitative and quantitative outcomes of the Sangham processes, separate information formats for the village and *Sangham* are developed and kept in all *Sanghams*. The *Sangham* members fill these every month while Karyakartha will have the information in her diary. The objective of this lengthy but extremely useful exercise is to develop a MIS package for easy access to information as per need and to do trend analysis, assessment and monitoring for further inputs and capacity building. These forms were filled for the whole year (2009-10) with the support of the team members. At the time of writing this report we are in the process of consolidating the information.



Seminars and Workshops

- ✘ State Programme Director, State Resource Person and one District Programme Coordinator participated in the "*National Consultation on Women's Literacy*" held at New Delhi on 20-21, April '09. It was organized by Nirantar Resource Centre.
- ✘ A workshop, "*Promoting Quality Education for Children belonging to Tribal Communities in AP*" was held at Kakatiya University, Warangal on 9 and 10 June, '09, which was jointly conducted by UNICEF and ASCI. District Programme Coordinator and district Resource Person, Warangal participated in this workshop.
- ✘ "*17th Common Wealth Conference of Education Ministers*" was held at Kaulalampur, Malaysia from 16 -18 June '09. Assistant Programme Director participated in this conference and presented a paper about the experiences of APMSS in working for quality education through NPEGEL programme and implementing social learning package in select schools.
- ✘ State Resource Person, one District Resource Person, three Junior Resource Persons and 4 *Bala Sangham* girls from four project districts participated in the State level workshop, "*World Day against Child Labour*" on 12 June '09, organized by Andhra Pradesh Forum for Children.
- ✘ Assistant Programme Director attended a consultative meeting to share and receive feedback on two scoping studies conducted on social sciences education in Andhra Pradesh and the social sector scenario particularly with reference to training, education and skills. This meeting was held at Osmania University Center for International Programmes (OUCIP), Hyderabad on 17 July '09.
- ✘ State Programme Director participated in a panel discussion on the theme, "*Girl's Education in partnership with Mahila Samakhya: NPEGEL; KGBV and MDM*" on 21 July '09 at New Delhi. This event was held as part of Joint Review Mission of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- ✘ Resource Centre Coordinator attended a workshop on "*Collaboration with NGO's in off-campus Training Activity*" held at AMR-AP Academy of Rural Development (APARD), Hyderabad on 26 August '09.
- ✘ State Resource Person participated in Hyderabad Round Table conference, "*Right to Education for Children living with HIV/AIDS (CLHA)*" organized by Center for Advocacy and Research on 20 August '09 at Press Club, Hyderabad.
- ✘ Resource Centre Coordinator participated in "*Meeting on Advocacy Strategies - Way Forward*" a meeting to discuss strategies for promoting violence free lives for women in India. It was organized by OXFAM India at Hotel at Minerva Grand, Hyderabad on 25 August '09.
- ✘ Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies and Human Rights Forum organized a round table discussion on "*Gram Nyayalaya: The New*

- Face of the Judiciary*" on 19 September '09 at OUCIP, Hyderabad. Resource Centre Coordinator and two District Programme Coordinators from Medak and Nizamabad districts participated in this discussion and shared about the alternative structures for conflict resolution evolved at mandal level by the Sanghams.
- ✘ Kerala Mahila Samakhya organized a national workshop on "*Challenges to Rural Development: Addressing Issues of Social Justice and Gender Equity through Local Self- Governance and Convergence*" on 5, 6 October '09 at Nilambur Gram Panchayat in Mallapuram district, Kerala. Resource Centre Coordinator, District Programme Coordinator, Nizamabad, Consultant, Resource Centre and five federation members attended the workshop presented their experiences of being in Sangham and addressing women's issues collectively.
 - ✘ State Programme Director and State Resource Person participated in a regional symposium on "*Addressing Educational Concerns and Priorities*" organized by M.V Foundation and Solution Exchange on 5, 6 November, '09 at Hotel Katriya De Royal, Hyderabad.
 - ✘ One District Programme Coordinator and two District Resource Persons along with State office team attended the event *Ladli Media Awards* on 17 December '09 at Ravindra Bharathi. The programme was organized by Bhumika, Women's Collective.
 - ✘ State Resource Person attended public hearing on the issues of the children infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, organized by Action Aid. It was held on 24 December '09 at hotel Katriya De Royal, Hyderabad.
 - ✘ NIN, Life-HRG and KICS organized a consultative meeting on "*Women's Health in the context of Hysterectomies - Medical and Ethical Issues*" at NIN, Secunderabad on 9 January '10. A five member team from State Office and project districts attended this meeting and shared the experience of working on the issue in APMSS project area.
 - ✘ Resource Centre Coordinator attended the study dissemination seminar on "*Youth in India- Situation and Needs*" organized by APSACS and NACO. It was held on 22 January '10 at Green Park Hotel, Hyderabad.
 - ✘ State Resource Centre, Hyderabad organized a two-day national conference on "*Strategies for Vitalizing Female Literacy – Challenges of 21st century*" held at St. Anns Generalate, Hyderabad on 9, 10 February '10. The experiences of Mahila Samakhya programme in facilitating women's literacy were presented through a paper "Empowering Women through Literacy- Reflections from the experience of Mahila Samakhya Programme" by Resource Centre Coordinator and State Resource Person.
 - ✘ Resource Centre Coordinator and Consultant, State Office participated in a two day workshop on "*Gender Budgeting with Focus on PWDV Act 2005*" organized by Bhumika, Women's Collective on 19, 20 February '10 at Hotel Minerva Grand, Secunderabad.
 - ✘ Resource Centre Coordinator and Consultant, State Office participated in the workshop, "*The Role and Status of Support Services for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence*" conducted by OXFAM India and Bhumika Women's Collective on 3 March '10 at NIMSME, Hyderabad.



Visitors

APMSS has always been a platform for experiential sharing and learning for many. Visitors from diverse fields coming to project area, interacting with Sangham and federation members, learning from their collective initiatives and gains has been a regular feature. These include the development professionals, academicians, international study/research teams, officials or team members of other MS states. At the same time, different universities send their social work students to APMSS project districts for block placement.



The following is an account of visitors from different places- MS and non MS to the programme during the past year.

- ❖ MS Kerala team visited Warangal district and interacted with MSK girls. They also attended Core Group meeting and a cluster meeting to understand the processes of Sanghams.
- ❖ FAO team visited MSK in Mahabubnagar as part of their field visit in connection with the Gender and Climate Change study.
- ❖ A group of nine members from MS Chattisgarh visited APMSS to learn about the strategies, processes and educational activities taken up by MS in the State. After interaction with the State office team they visited the districts of Karimnagar and Warangal to further understand the field level programme and facilitative processes.
- ❖ Ms. Masako Otta from Kitakyushu Forum for Asian Women, Japan did her Ph.D. on girl child labour in agriculture, Andhra Pradesh during 1999. Her field work was done in Dandu, Makthal mandal of Mahabubnagar. As an assessment of the change in the scenario after ten years, she interacted with State office team members and collected filled in questionnaires from the village.
- ❖ Three members comprising two from National Audit Office, UK and one representative from DFID along with SPD, SSA visited Medak district during October in connection with their visit to DFID supported programmes in India. They interacted with federation members of Andole and learnt about their initiatives towards children's education. Further they visited High school in Sultanpur village, Pulkal mandal where NPEGEL is implemented, discussed with women of the cluster committee and enquired about their responsibility in ensuring quality education in School.
- ❖ Three students from Telangana University did their concurrent field placement in Nizamabad district. Similarly two students of Maharaja PG College of Social Work, Vizianagaram did their field placement in Srikakulam district. During their stay, they worked for their thesis on "Reasons for Girls not getting Education"

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, 2010 and the Income and Expenditure 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, 2010 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 : 14.06.2010

**ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY
SECUNDERABAD**

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2010

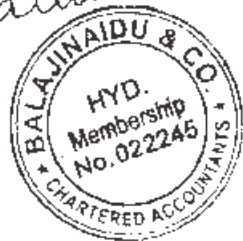
LIABILITIES	SCH.	AMOUNT		ASSETS	SCH.	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.			Rs.	Ps.
CAPITAL FUND		15272368.02		Fixed Assets	1	3551063.00	
Less : Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year		12935815.55		Deposits & Advances	2	366957.50	
		<u>2336552.47</u>		Cash & Bank balances	3	509995.55	
Payables	7	5083071.00		Cash & Bank balances -SD	4	1107972.22	
				Cash & Bank balances -NPEGEL	5	1613022.95	
				Cash & Bank balances -FCRA	6	127718.25	
				Receivables		142894.00	
TOTAL		<u>7419623.47</u>		TOTAL		<u>7419623.47</u>	

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

for BALAJINAIDU & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

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



Place : Hyderabad
Date : 14.06.2010

P. Prasanthi
P. PRASANTHI
State Programme Director

ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

HYDERABAD

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR FROM 01.04.2009 TO 31.03.2010

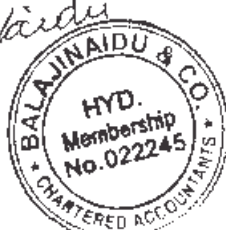
EXPENDITURE	SCH.	AMOUNT		INCOME	AMOUNT	
		Rs.	Ps.		Rs.	Ps.
MANAGEMENT COST :						
State Office	8	7410328.80		Funds received from GOI	52211000.00	
DIU - Medak	9	1240975.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	10	1117755.75		Funds received from NABARD	248700.00	
DIU - Karimnagar	11	1077823.50				
DIU - Nizamabad	12	1332147.50		Funds received from CARE - GNF	2140689.00	
DIU - Adilabad	13	1098941.50				
DIU - Warangal	14	1224851.50		Funds received - FCRA	962018.00	
DIU - Nalgonda	15	1149665.00				
DIU - Vizianagaram	16	1053383.00		Interest on Savings Bank Accounts	306323.00	
DIU - Srikakulam	17	1162918.00				
DIU - Prakasam	18	909188.50		Interest on SB - Samatha Dharani	38242.00	
DIU - Anantapur	19	912167.50				
DIU - Kumool	20	841603.00		Interest on SB - NPEGEL	54755.00	
DIU - Visakhapatnam	21	594635.00				
DIU - Khammam	22	67819.00		Interest on SB - FCRA	24500.00	
TOTAL - A		<u>21194181.05</u>		Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	12935815.55	
PROGRAMME COST :						
State Office	23	6818086.00				
DIU - Medak	24	2977047.50				
DIU - Mahabubnagar	25	3239430.25				
DIU - Karimnagar	26	3958749.50				
DIU - Nizamabad	27	3318159.50				
DIU - Adilabad	28	2865183.00				
DIU - Warangal	29	3264139.50				
DIU - Nalgonda	30	3046992.50				
DIU - Vizianagaram	31	2804168.00				
DIU - Srikakulam	32	2613000.75				
DIU - Prakasam	33	2812649.50				
DIU - Anantapur	34	1927954.50				
DIU - Kumool	35	2039697.00				
DIU - Visakhapatnam	36	594354.00				
DIU - Khammam	37	295055.00				
Samatha Dharani Expenditure			84.00			
GNF Project Expenditure	38	2361286.00				
NABARD Watershed Exp.	39	229959.00				
NPEGEL Expenditure	40	8980.50				
FCRA Expenditure	41	1872133.50				
TOTAL - B		<u>47045119.50</u>				
Depreciation			672742.00			
TOTAL		<u>68912042.55</u>		TOTAL	<u>68912042.55</u>	

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

Place : Hyderabad
Date : 14.06.2010



for ANDHRA PRADESH MAHILA SAMATHA SOCIETY

P. Prasanthi
P. PRASANTHI
State Programme Director

EC Members

S.No.	Name & Designation	Membership Status
01.	Sri J.C. Sharma , IAS., Secretary to Government, Dept. of Education, Government of A.P	Chairperson
02.	Ms. Suparna S. Pachouri, National Project Director, Mahila Samakhya.	Nominee of Dept. of Education, GoI, Ministry of HRD.
03.	Smt. Poonam Malakondaiah, IAS., Director & Commissioner, 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. Y. V.Anuradha, IAS., Director, Dept. of Women Development & Child Welfare, Government of A.P.	Member
07.	Additional 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.	Dr. Revathi Narayanan, 903, 2K, Cross, 9th Main, HRBR Ist Block, Bangalore	Member
10.	Smt. Geetha Nambissan Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 067	Member
11.	Prof. Fatima Alikhan 8-2-580, Road No.8, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad	GoI Nominee
12.	Sri. D. Roshan Kumar, SEEDS, D.No. 4-16-25/3, Bandlamudi Complex, Near Andhra Bank, Amaravathi Road, Guntur – 500 002	Member

S.No.	Name & Designation	Membership Status
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. Vinoda, RP APMSS, DIU-Mahabubnagar	Member
16.	Smt. Noorzahan, 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. A.Umadevi, 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. T. Prabhavathi, DPC APMSS, DIU - Prakasam	Member
24.	Smt. B. Kullayamma, DPC APMSS, DIU – Anantapur	Member
25.	Smt. T. Rajeshwari, DPC APMSS, DIU – Kurnool	Member
26.	Smt. M. Nirupama, DPC APMSS, Vishakapatnam	Member
27.	DPC, APMSS, Khammam	Member
28.	Mahila Karyakartha	Member
29.	Mahila Karyakartha	Member
30.	Smt. P. Prasanthi, SPD APMSS, State Office	Member Secretary

Addresses of District Implementation Units

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