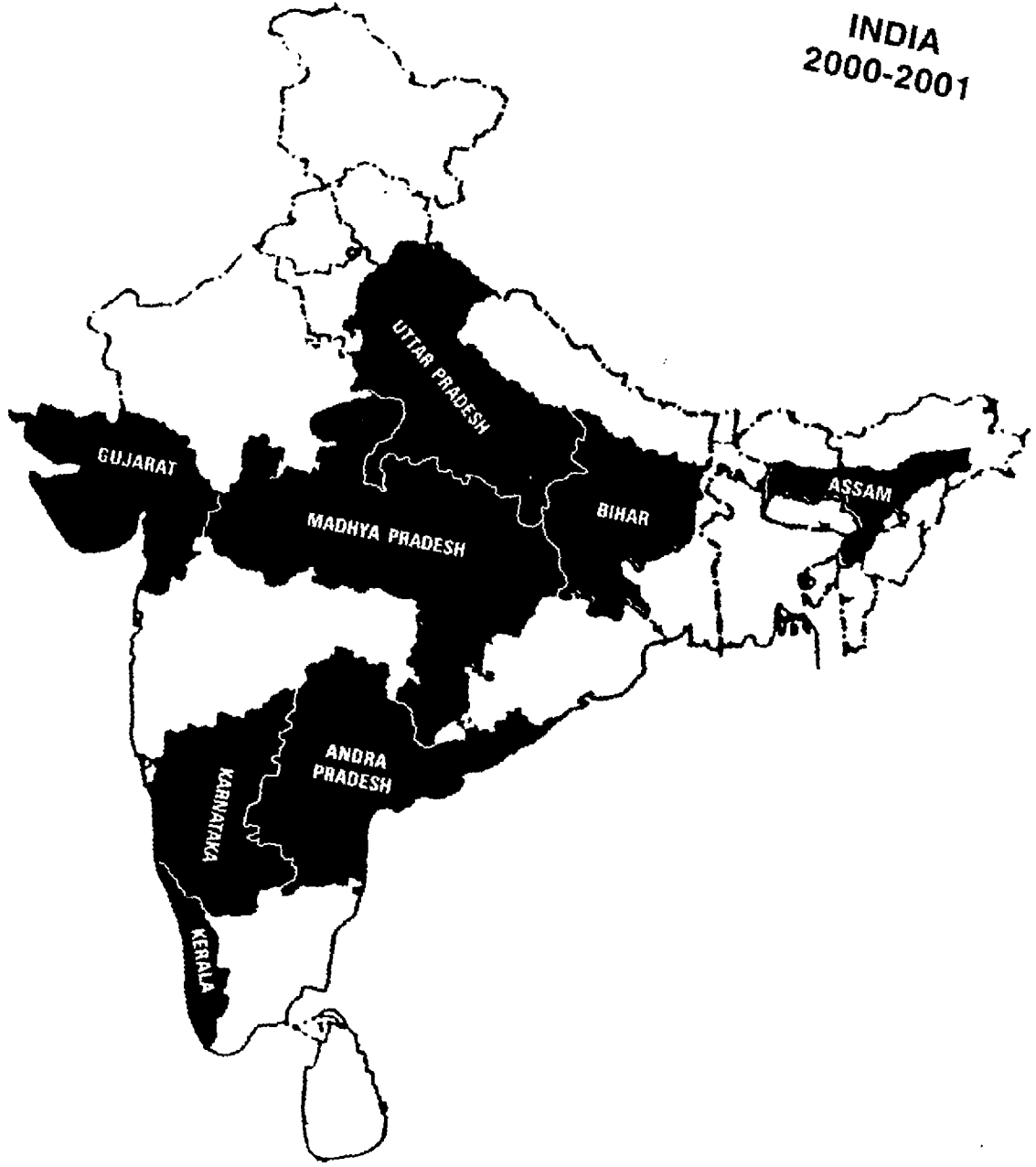


**KERALA
MAHILA SAMAKHYA
SOCIETY**



ANNUAL REPORT
1999 - 2000

INDIA
2000-2001



MAHILA SAMAKHYA STATE

CONTENTS

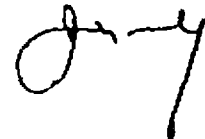
	Page No.
1. Preface	1
2. Introduction	2
3. Report of Activities	6
4. Selection of Sevinies	10
5. Field Meetings	16
6. Sanghamitra	19
7. List of Executive Committee Members	20
8. List of General Council Members	21
9. State Resource Group	23
10. Annexure I & II	24
11. Audited Statement of Accounts	29

PREFACE

I am glad to present the annual report of the Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society for the year 1999-2000. It is a matter of satisfaction that Kerala Mahila Samakhya has evolved in a short time to a serious initiative, touching the lives of women in the two blocks selected for its operation. Unlike many other states of the country, the issues that come in the way of women empowerment in Kerala are more subtle and sensitive. It calls for a different style and approach in addressing these issues.

The style of functioning of the Kerala Mahila Samakhya has been conditioned by these factors. In matter of less than 2 years, Mahila Samakhya has been able to reach out to a large number of women and create structures and processes capable of taking up core issues.

The current phase can be called as 'clearing the ground', which has been fairly well completed. The next phase is one of building up. Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society has gained sufficient expertise and experience to confidently proceed to this stage.



K. JAYAKUMAR

Chairman

Kerala Mahila Samakhya

Secretary, General Education, Kerala.

Thiruvananthapuram
20/9/2000.

INTRODUCTION

Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society has completed one year. In the past one year KMSS was trying to build up its identity and can establish its uniqueness from other 'conventional' women's programmes. This is not an easy task in a state like Kerala, where development indices related to women are considered high. It is very difficult to convince people about the need and relevance of such a project. But KMSS is very happy about the progress of the project and also about the response of the people.

The socio-cultural and political scenario of Kerala is different from other MS states. The literate, educated and politically alert population offers some features of distinct from other states. In the Human Development report of 1996 by the UNDP, in the session of Gender Development Index(GDI) for 16 Indian States, Kerala is placed at the top in terms of 'basic female capabilities'. Kerala has a GDI value of 0.597, comes next to Maldives in the global ranking, at 80 out of 137 countries. It is much better than India's ranking of 103. Kerala is the only Indian State to have favourable sex ratio (1040 females for 1000 males) and it has been like that from 1901.

The 'Kerala Model development' is being acclaimed internationally because of the indicators favourable to women. But now certain negative trends are being reported like the increasing rate of violence against women, increasing sexual harassment at work place, lower work participation, lower social participation, rising unemployment among women, economic dependence and losing self esteem. The invisibility of women in the public domain of Kerala is a puzzle which cannot be analysed by a conventional thinking about women in development.

The positive development indicators of Kerala are competing with that of developed countries (Table I). But these factors have not lead to an increase in the work participation rate of women or their leadership in society. The economic marginalisation is visible and the work participation rate is declining through years. While the female work participation in India has increased from 19.7% to

22.7% between 1981 and 1991, in Kerala the rate continued to decline from 16.6% to 15.9%. The unemployment rate among women in the state is higher than that among men by two times in the rural areas and three times in the urban areas. Also the concentration of women is more in the low paying unorganised sectors. The shift in cropping pattern has also thrown out women from their traditional working fields. The crisis in the cottage industries has also resulted in the diminishing of female work force. Equal wages for equal work is not implemented in the unorganised sector and the gender discrimination at the work place is widely prevalent. The incidence of female headed house holds in Kerala is relatively higher and they constitute 35% of the house holds below poverty line.

TABLE - I

Indexes	India	Kerala
Annual per capita income	Rs.6750/-	Rs.6000/-
Average No. of Children	4	1.9
Infant mortality rate	80\1000	13\1000
Life expectancy	59	74
Female literacy	39.29%	87%
Couples who adopted F.P methods	43	80%
Average age at marriage	14-15	21
Sex ratio - for 1000 men	927 Women	1040 Women

The marginalisation of women in the economic process and the lack of control over resources have been the major impediments in improving the social status of women. Despite the general progressive political environment in the state and active involvement of the women in the grass-root level political process, they are virtually absent in the leadership level. In the trade unions also, even in the sectors like cashew, coir where the membership is predominantly female, the representation at the leadership level is mainly male. The female representation in the entire history of the State Legislature has not exceeded 6% except once.

TABLE - II

Items	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Rape	197	214	188	193	244	370	579
Molestation	569	523	468	679	825	1129	1512
Kidnapping	73	72	78	105	104	178	153
Eve-teasing	5	1	5	3	15	33	86
364 (B) dowry death	13	12	8	9	15	23	71
Offences related cruelty to women 498 A	237	290	380	551	679	993	1640
Others	773	966	767	1005	1434	2244	3265
Total	1867	2078	1894	2545	3313	4970	7306
Source-Crime Records Bureau, Kerala State							

The entire crisis is a direct outcome of a development process in which women have been perceived as the 'target group' or 'beneficiaries' of a material development rather than as potential participants in the development process. The first and effective solution of overcoming women's social backwardness is to involve them as potential participants in the planning and development. An innovative project like Mahila Samakhya - which emphasizes collective learning, collective leadership, decentralised planning, peoples participation and encouraging women to raise questions about their lives is very relevant to Kerala. The Kerala Mahila Samakhya has to develop an approach which can face the present crisis and help the women to overcome it.

The invisibility of women in the public sphere is the main problem to tackle. The presence and access to the basic facilities like schools, hospitals, public institutions, public distribution system, libraries and other cultural centres are not a problem in Kerala. Also the caste barriers in accessing this facilities is also overcome to a certain extent. But women's participation or their presence and involvement in this institutions are very low. For the management and control of these institutions which refers 'the public sphere of the society' is considered nil. Mahila Samakhya can act as a facilitator to increase the women's participation and thus the visibility of women in this institutions.

Development of women in Kerala needs special attention and hence a special strategy. MS can intervene at both micro and macro level. Especially the strategy to intervene in local-grass root level needs special care. Because the Panchayats are more powerful and autonomous in their programmes. They have a vision and programme about their women component plan. So MS can only work in accordance with the women's programme designed by the local bodies. But the Panchayats face a gap to facilitate the process of forming groups (women's groups & SHGs) and giving them the component of empowerment. They are also looking for an agency to give them a women centered (or having a women's perspective) approach to manage the women component plan. Forming separate groups for Samakhya in Panchayats while Panchayats themselves and with the co-operation of other agencies like Kudumbasree (a poverty alleviation programme for women by the Department of Local Self Government) are forming women's SHGs in the same area, is irrelevant. Moreover the local bodies are feeling suspicious about that. The experience in the field for the last one year gives this feed back. So Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society is still concentrating on rapport building with the local bodies and their activities to avoid unpleasant confrontations. In the last year, Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society was mainly concentrated to select Sevinies (as Sahayoginies), and give them proper training to work among women and understand Mahila Samakhya objectives. Networking and making contact with people and organisations working in the same area was also given importance. From this year onwards we are starting the process of forming Sanghas and make them active by themselves.

The two blocks selected were predominantly agriculture area. These areas are more or less sharing the problems mentioned above, the problems confronting the women in Kerala. The field meetings are very effective and women show enthusiasm to participate in meetings and discussions. They really want to enter the public sphere and have a say about the matters regarding the development of the society. They want a medium to group together and work together. Now they welcome and accept Mahila Samakhya as their own medium for their participation in society.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

The programme staff of Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society joined on 1st March 1999. Ms. Mini Sukumar as State Resource Person and Ms. Rohini B.Nair as District Resource Person assumed charge. The initial period was mainly concentrated on collecting basic details about the selected panchayaths and interactions with people. We also tried to collect details about other programmes which also work in the field of women empowerment. Local gatherings of women to discuss their problems were carried with the co-operation of panchayath committees and anganvadies.

A discussion meeting of panchayath, block panchayath members, officials from various departments, representatives of voluntary organisations and Mahila Samajams within Vamanapuram block were held on 17th May at Venjaramoodu High School. Thiruvananthapuram District Collector, Ms. Sarada Muraleedharan IAS, presided over the function and Chairman, KMSS gave a key note address about Mahila Samakhya . Participants were grouped according to the panchyath they belong. A very effective discussion was emerged and they expressed the need of a programme for the empowerment of women, which is not in a conventional framework. Executive Committee Meeting of KMSS was held on 24th May.

On 7th June 1999 National Consultant of Mahila Samakhya Ms.Kameswari Jandhyala and Ms. Geetha Menon visited KMSS. They held discussions with MS functionaries and visited the field. They participated in the local meetings held at Vamanapuram, Peringamala and Pangode Panchayaths of Thiruvananthapuram District. Their visit was very helpful to the Mahila Samakhya Kerala team. They also helped to make the budget and annual plan.

The people's planning programme in panchyaths increased women's participation in local planning and created a space of interaction for women. For an effective co-operation between People's Planning Programme and MS activities in the State, a discussion meeting was organised on 19th July at the State Office. State Planning Board member Dr.T.M. Thomas Isaac, District Co-ordinator for People's Planning Programme Mr.N. Jagajeevan, women's faculty member Dr.T.N.Seema, Chairman KMSS, State Resource Person and District Resource Person, (Thiruvananthapuram) participated in this meeting.

A module development workshop for selection and training of Sevinies was held on 4th and 5th August in the state office. Experts from different fields concerned with empowerment of women attended the Workshop. A Module for the one-day panchayath level workshop to identify women as 'Sevinies' was developed. Also a 5 day long training module for the Sahayoginies was developed. Interview for Resource Person for Idukki and Consultant in the State Office was held on 9th August. Ms.K.G.Jayasree and Ms.C.E.Jayakumari joined duty during September.

Local meetings were organised in the Panchayaths for spreading the message of Mahila Samakhya and to identify women. A one-day workshop was held at each panchayath of Vamanapuram and Adimali Block for screening the women. From this screening workshop we short-listed two or three women from each Panchayath and they were called for the training workshop. Before the short listing we held a counselling cum face to face interview

The State Resource Person, State Consultant, District Resource Person Idukki had visited Gulbarga District unit of Karnataka Mahila Samakhya in October. They participated the Taluk mela in Aland. They visited the state office at Bangalore and had discussion with Ms. Revathi Narayan (SPD), Ms. Remeswari Varma, Ms. Meera. M. Usharani (Senior Resource Person) and other MS functionaries. It was a very good opportunity to know about MS activities in Karnataka.

The training workshop for Sahayoginies was conducted from 22nd to 26th November. Mr. T.K. Jose IAS, Director, Kudumhasree inaugurated the workshop and Chairman, KMSS presided over the function. The training workshop was organised in a participatory interactive method. The workshop had five thematic sessions, orientation visits, cultural programmes and interaction sessions with experts in various fields.

The sessions were :

- Women's issue-a general overview & Gender Inequality.
- Empowerment through collectives(Sangha) and micro enterprises.
- Women & Law.
- Women & Health - Life cycle approach.
- The Social background of Kerala & Status of Women in Kerala.

World Bank appraisal mission for DPEP visited Mahila Samakhya State Office on 17th November 1999. We had a good discussion with them about the areas of co-operation with DPEP and MS in Kerala. The National Resource Group member Ms. Kalyani Menon visited the State Office on 29th August 1999.

The Seviniies of both the MS blocks started their work form 1st January 2000. Their contracts were issued on the same day. Their selection was officially intimated to their respective Panchayath offices. Initially the Seviniies were asked to collect the basic details about their Panchayaths and meet Panchayat representatives, officials from all the Govt. departments, NGOs, etc. They made the house visits and organised small neighbour hood meetings of women. In these meetings DRPs and Seviniies discussed about the importance of being together, the objectivies of MS, the role of women in development of society and the issues confronting women in their day to day life. State Consultant also attended some of these meetings. In both the blocks people welcomed MS and women are willing to work with MS.

A block level discussion meeting was held on 5th February 2000 at Adimali. Chairman KMSS, Idukki Sub-Collector Mr. Suman, representatives from all the six Panchayats, Government officials, representatives of NGOs and other voluntary organisations were present in this meeting. The meeting was successful and it gave a good introduction and recognition to our programme. The district office of MS in Idukki started functioning the same day.

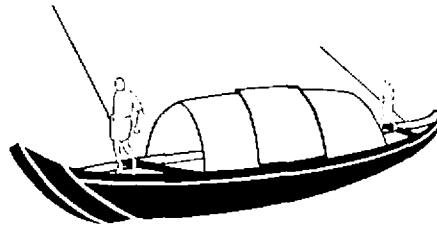
PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL MEETINGS

The State Resource Person Ms. Mini Sukumar and Accounts Officer Ms. C. Vijayakumari Amma attended the SPD's meeting held at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi on April 8, 1999. This was an opportunity to familiarise with all SPD's National Consultant and National Project Director. This helped to understand the national perspective of Mahila Samakhya by interacting with them.

The State Resource Person, Ms. Mini Sukumar attended the National Resource Group meeting held at Gauhati, Assam on the 29th and 30th of June 1999. The meeting mainly concentrated on the strategies to be developed for sustaining the programme after 2002. Even though KMSS was not experienced enough

to discuss the problem, it was a very good experience to understand various approaches within Mahila Samakhya which in fact revealed the strength of the programme. The meeting was followed by a field visit at district Dorrang. They organised two meetings, one in the district office and the other in a village called Kholihoi Gaon. It was a valuable experience to understand the rural life of Assam, their cultural diversity, the political and social problems they face, the terrorist problems, poverty, illiteracy and how MS work change the attitude of the people. Kerala and Assam are similar in many things like vegetation, climate, soil, geography, dress of the people and even food. But the socio cultural difference is evident.

An 18-member team from Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society participated in the National Workshop for Sangha women - "Sanghamitra" - held at New Delhi from 6th to 8th March 2000. The State Resource Person and State Consultant could not attend the workshop because of some personal reasons. The District Resource Persons-Thiruvananthapuram and Idukki led the team. All the Sevinies attended the workshop.



SELECTION OF SEVINIES

For an effective intervention in grass root level, the role of Sevini is very crucial. They must be sensitive to women's problems and have a strong commitment to work hard. In the selection of Sevinies, Kerala Mahila Samakhya had to take extreme care. Because of the high political awareness almost every one has some political interests even in a remote village. There were political pressures to select a person. So for the selection we resorted to a long process which was in four steps. The selected candidate would have to come through all those four steps.

We made it mandatory that the Sevini selected is from the Panchayat to which she works.

MODULE DEVELOPMENT

A module development workshop was organised to prepare the criteria for selection of Sevinies, a module for the one-day workshop and module for the selection cum training workshop in 5 days. In the module development workshop experts from different fields like, women empowerment and training, Director of Women's Studies Centre in the University of Kerala, from the Women's Commission, women activists and officials and elected representatives from the two blocks participated. They discussed about the work of Mahila Samakhya in Panchayaths in the background of women's problems. For example unemployment was considered as the main problem among women. But in an agriculture district like Idukki, most of the women work in the agriculture field as labourers in their own family land or diarying. Hence the unemployment is not visible in that area. But at the same time they neither could earn money from this work nor it was considered as their work. Issues like this with regional differences was discussed. Also the nature of work of Sevinies were discussed and according to a criteria or qualifications that they should have been selected. (Annexure I & II)

A module for one-day selection workshop was developed. The aim of this one day selection workshop was to identify women who are capable of carrying out the activities of Mahila Samakhya in the Panchayat level.

Module for five-day selection cum training workshop is generally designed as an introduction to different subjects, which are crucial in making an understanding about women's issues. It also aimed to enhance the leadership quality, self confidence, communication skills and organising ability of women. The subjects introduced were:-

- ◆ *Group dynamics skills.*
- ◆ *Women's issues-a general overview & gender equality.*
- ◆ *Empowerment through collectivities.*
- ◆ *Women & Law*
- ◆ *Women & Health*
- ◆ *The social background of Kerala & status of women in Kerala.*

SELECTION WORKSHOP

After the module was developed we organised selection workshops in Panchayats for identifying women to work as facilitators in the grass root level in the Panchayaths. For Panchayath level functionaries, education upto 10th class or above, willingness to work in rural areas, willingness for extensive travel and outstation stay and experience in organising women were the pre-requisites. The Panchayath committees were being informed about the selection.



The workshop was inaugurated by Panchayat President or any Panchayat representative and lots of women participated. The workshop was held in two sessions. In the 1st session, the aims and objectives of Mahila Samakhya, its approach to women's issues, its functioning in other states and the aims of workshop



was described. After a self-introduction session the participants were divided among themselves to different groups. Each group had 10-15 members. They were given a subject for

discussion. Always it was related to some familiar situations they encountered in their life. Each group was observed by a Resource Person. The opinion of the group was presented in the general session.

In the second session, participants were asked to write a short note on a topic relating to their Panchayat, or on issues of women and development in that area.

This exercise helped to observe and identify women, who had the ability to analyse problems, to deal with it and to work in a group. Also identify women, have positive outlook, having leadership qualities, open attitude and effective communication skills. The selection workshop was completed by October in all the 14 Panchayats of both the blocks. The first workshop was held at Bison Valley in Adimali Block, on August 13th 1999. State Resource Person and District Resource Person (Thiruvananthapuram) conducted the workshop. We had also utilised the experiences of resource persons working in related fields in conducting the group activities. The selection workshop in Peringamala and Nellanadu Panchayats were held on 17th and 18th August 1999. Since most of the participants who had come were not fully satisfying our criteria, the workshop in these two Panchayats were conducted again, along with the workshop conducted in their adjoining Panchayats. The workshop was completed in all the eight Panchayats of Vamanapuram Block in the

month of September. In Adimali Block, the selection workshop of six Panchayaths were completed by October.

From the workshop, we shortlisted 3 or 4 women from each Panchayat and were called for counselling cum interview. Their previous experience in related field, willingness to travel extensively inside or outside state, their family background, awareness and informations regarding their Panchayaths were discussed. The honorarium that they will get was told only during the interview. After this counselling we selected two women from each Panchayat of both the blocks and they were asked to attend the five day training workshop.

SELECTION CUM TRAINING WORKSHOP

The workshop was scheduled as a five-day residential workshop with a participatory methodology. Since Mahila Samakhya team was not equipped to carry out such a training, resource persons having adequate



academic and practical experience in the field of women's development were invited.

We have developed the module and discussed it with many people involved in the gender training process at

different levels. And we had a detailed discussion with the Resource Persons about the methodology and content. A total number of 29 women participated. The training workshop was scheduled from 22nd to 26th of November at the State Municipal House, Thiruvananthapuram. The sessions started at 7 am and ended normally at 9 pm, with a daily review of events of the day by the participants. The first session (ie, from 7 am to 8 am) was an exercise session. It was designed in such a manner so as to overcome the inhibitions and

over consciousness about their body. It also included the techniques to relax, sound modulation, physical exercise, developing imagination and some simple techniques to



overcome common body aches and fatigue which is common among women. This session was developed and carried out by Ms. S.Sreelatha and Ms.C.V.Sudhi from Abhinetri-a women theatre group in Thiruvananthapuram.

On 22nd morning, at 9.30 am Mr. T.K.Jose IAS, Director, Kudumbasree (a poverty alleviation mission which focuses women's micro credit & micro enterprises under the dept. of Local Self Government of Govt. of Kerala) inaugurated the workshop. Chairman of KMSS, Mr.K.Jaya Kumar IAS presided over the function and Ms. Aleyamma Vijayan (Director, Sakhi Women's Resource Centre, Thiruvananthapuram) spoke on the occasion.

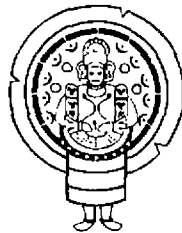
The workshop had five thematic sessions. All the sessions were aimed to establish women's problems, their possible initiatives to solve them and the importance of women's initiatives at grass- root level. The sessions were all followed the participatory methodology of learning. The themes and resource persons were as follows.

- Women's issues-a general overview & gender inequality - Resource Person-Aleyamma Vijayan
- Empowerment through collectives (Sangha) and micro enterprises - Resource Person Dr. Latha Bhaskar.
- Women & law - Resource Person Ad. Jeena Joseph.
- Women & health- life cycle approach- - Dr. A.K. Jayasree.
- The social background of kerala & status of women in Kerala - T. Radhamony.

There was a session on 'Work of Mahila Samakhya in rural areas' - to understand what was the participants perceptions about it. It was a role play session. The participants were divided into 5 groups and they enacted role-plays on it. In this role-plays they pointed out the problems women face in their area and how Mahila Samakhya can address this problems. There was a panel discussion about the relevance of Mahila Samakhya in Kerala in which KMSS Chairman Mr. K.Jaya Kumar IAS and Dr. M.G.Sasibhooshan (Director, Kerala State Literacy Mission and EC member of Kerala Mahila Samakhya) participated. ChairPerson of Kerala Women's Commission Ms. K.Sugatha Kumari addressed the participants and answered their queries. An Orientation Visit was also organised as part of the training.

All the participants were active, aware of women's problems and willing to work for the cause of women. They are qualified enough to handle the work, having writing skills, eager to learn about new areas and having regular reading habits.

Through their participation in the workshop and understanding their approach and attitude to the programme the selection was done. A rank list was prepared for each Panchayat and the selection list for Seviniies was finalised.



FIELD MEETINGS

The field level initiatives began after State Resource Person Mini Sukumar and District Resource Person Rohini B. Nair joined the programme. Initial discussions were held with Block officials, Panchayath representatives, non-governmental organisations, women activists, etc. To understand and study the existing situations of women, they visited DWCRA units, Mahila Samajam, Anganvadies of different Panchayats. In the initial stage, rapport with women were made through the meetings arranged with the help of Anganwadi workers, Social workers and elected representatives. The women usually came to the meeting expecting some benefits in terms of loan, materials etc. It took some time for women to start discussing their issues. The issues that are often raised are unemployment, alcoholism, poverty, need of a space to meet together violence etc.

Group meetings were rather not uncommon here. There were the meetings of mother; PTA's, Mahila Swasth Sangh, Grama Sabha, Mahila Samajam, political party meetings, self help groups Ayal Kootams, etc. Most of them were



generally gatherings for getting some economic gains like loans, materials etc. Slowly meetings of Mahila Samakhya started gaining acceptance. The women started feeling that they require a space, where they could voice their needs, raise questions, talk freely and discuss, relax and talk. Two to three meetings were held in a day and District Resource Person and State Resource Person started attending meetings separately.

Meetings took place more in Peringamala Panchayat and Pangode Panchayat, in the first months. There was greater co-operation from organisations and Panchayat. By September they started holding meetings in new wards in Vamanapuram Panchayat. In September, Consultant and Idukki District Resource Person joined.

Along with these interactions, women who could serve as facilitators were listed. The selection of Sevini's were carried out and they started field work from January. Each Sevini has to cover 10-12 wards in each Panchayat and



cover a population ranging from 15 to 30 thousands.

The Sevini's made house to house visits. They spent time in each household to explain about the programme and build a good rapport. Sevini covers around 40 to 50 households in an area and fixes a time and a place for meeting. These meetings will be in household of any of the women. In the so arranged meetings the DRP also participates. The aims and objectives of the programme, its difference from other programmes are discussed. The importance of collectives is discussed in large.

Meetings were held at the time convenient for women, usually after 2'0 clock. Some women go for some kind of daily work like rubber tapping, collecting forest products & fire wood, quarrying, cane work, etc. Others were engaged with some household work. Hence it was very difficult to hold meeting during the day. Afternoon, women spend their time in front of the T.V.sets which are available normally within the range of some 10 to 12 households.

Sevini's developed rapport with women in the wards to which they belong. Meetings were held in 4 to 5 different places in a ward. In these meetings the general demand from women were for starting some

economic activities, accessing services and benefits, other programmes, employment opportunities, etc. The general expectation was for some loans or financial gains. The Sevinies were not equipped to handle the questions that came during the meeting. Moreover, in the meeting the women expect some representatives from the district units and state office.

In the second round we started discussing the issues that they confront in their day to day life. The issues generally discussed were alcoholism, drinking water problem, dowry, violence against women, wage disparity, domestic violence, pension, ration card etc. It took some time for the women to discuss the personal problems. Women began to feel that they need a space and place where they could get together and interact.

FIELD RESPONSES

There are many instances where girls are married before the age of 18 years. Lack of security is the major concern of parents for such earlier marriages.

In almost all the meetings that we could find a section of girls who have studied upto 10th standard and left their studies. They usually do not wish to go for low paid jobs and remain without doing anything. This also results in parents getting them married early. Several cases of unwed mothers are also seen. The issues that usually discussed during the meetings are rising unemployment among the women, lack of space for women to voice their needs, rising violence against women, insecure environment, family distress including family violence due to alcoholism and drug abuse, drinking water problem, prevalence of water borne diseases, tuberculosis and leprosy. There is general demand for awareness of existing projects, schemes, benefits, training procedures, etc.

There are demands for literacy classes. There are quite a few women in the groups focussed who want to learn to read and write. In certain groups, few women have volunteered to take classes.

SANGHAMITRA

Mahila Samakhya organised 'Sanghamitra'- a workshop of Sangha women at Bharateeyam Ground New Delhi to commemorate ten years of the programme and to debate and decide on the future course of the Sanghas and the programme. Over 1400, Sangha women from eight states-Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala gathered to share their experiences. The thematic areas of discussion were education initiatives, girls/adolescent girls, health, social and gender issues, violence, economic empowerment including thrift, natural resources, access to public and private institutions, Panchayati Raj and self reliance and sustainability.

From Kerala Mahila Samakhya 8 Sevinies of Vamanapuram Block, Thiruvananthapuram district, 6 Sevinies of Adimali Block, Idukki district, District Resources Persons (Idukki & Thiruvananthapuram) participated.

Since the programme in Kerala was started only a year back our role was mere as observers. We could interact with Sangha women from other states and also learn about the programme in other States. The role of MS in other states in fighting against the traditional anti woman practices such as 'Devadasi' system was discussed. Issues and practices that isolate and subordinate women were also addressed in the sanghas. Women were also familiarised with concepts of patent rights. They saw and tested the difference in locally grown seed products, fertilizer bred varieties, original neem trees and their manufactured products, amla and their Products. The women affirmed to protect their environments and their products.

The Sangha women realised the importance of participating actively in the Panchayati Raj election. The need for women to come into electoral positions was stressed, so that issues impacting on the lives of women get voiced through the elected women in their endeavour.



LIST OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. **Shri. K. Jayakumar, IAS, Chairman, KMSS & Secretary, General Education, Kerala Government.**
2. **Ms. Shalini Prasad, IAS, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.**
3. **Ms. V.R. Radha, Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, Government Secretariat.**
4. **Mr. Sanjay Garg IAS, Director, Social Welfare Department**
5. **Ms. Shobha N, State Programme Co-ordinator, Rural Development Commissionerate, Thiruvananthapuram.**
6. **Mr. V.P. Joy, IAS, DPI, Kerala.**
7. **Dr. Shasibhooshan M.G., Director, State Literacy Mission, Sthanu Vilas Bungalow, Sasthamangalam, Thiruvananthapuram.**
8. **Financial Advisor, Mahila Samakhya, National Project Office, New Delhi.**
9. **Ms. Sheela Stephen, Member, District Panchayat, Idukki, Edunpurath House, Thodupuzha P.O., Idukki Dist.**
10. **Smt. T. Devi, Member, Women's Commission, Kerala, Sujalayam, Kallayi. P.O. Kozhikode-3.**
11. **K. Lalitha, 1-2-16/11, First street, Habsiguda, Hyderabad 500 007 A.P.**
12. **Ms. Ammu Joseph, 71, Shinivagulu Tank, Bedlayout, Koramangala, Bangalore.**
13. **Smt. Jayasree, Sreenivas, Govinda Nagar, Industrial Estate Post, Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram.**
14. **Mini Sukumar, State Programme Director, KMSS.**
15. **Rohini.B.Nair, District Programme Co-ordinator (Thiruvananthapuram), KMSS.**



LIST OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. **President of the General Council, Minister, Education & Works.**
2. **Chairman of the Executive Committee (Secretary to Govt. General Education Department, Government of Kerala).**
3. **Secretary, Dept. of Rural Development in the State Government.**
4. **Secretary, Social Welfare Department.**
5. **Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Dept., Govt. of Kerala.**
6. **Director of Public Instruction.**
7. **Director(s) dealing with Adult and Non-Formal Education.**
8. **Director of Social Welfare.**
9. **Chairman, State Social Welfare Advisory Board.**
10. **Chairman, State Resource Centre.**
11. **All District Programme Co-ordinators.**
12. **Secretary, Women's Commission.**
13. **State Programme Director - Member Secretary.**
14. **Nominated by the State Government.**

- (1) **Aleyamma Vijayan, Sakhi Women's Resource Centre, Convent Road, Thiruvananthapuram.**
- (2) **Dr. R.B. Rajalekshmi, M.G. College, Thiruvananthapuram.**
- (3) **Prof. Sara Joseph, Department of Malayalam, Government College, Pattambi, Palakkad.**
- (4) **Smt. Padma Ramachandran, Retd. Chief Secretary.**
- (5) **Prof. Nabeesa Ummal, Chairperson, Nedumangadu Municipality.**
- (6) **Dr. Vasantha Ramkumar, Dean, Dept. of Education, Kerala University.**

- (7) Dr. Uma Devi, Head of Dept. (Economics), Kerala University.
- (8) Smt. Neena Joseph, Fellow, Institute of Management in Government, Kochi.

15. Nominees of Central Government.

(a) Three officials of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to be nominated by the Central Government.

- (i) Joint Secretary.
- (ii) Financial Assistant or his representative.
- (iii) Project Director (HS)

(b) Three members of the National Resource Group to be elected/nominated by the group.

- (i) Ms. Ammu Joseph, 71, Shinivagulu Tank, Bed Layout, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034.
- (ii) Sr. Sujitha
- (iii) Dr. Kalyani Menon-Sen, Advisor (CAPART, India Habitat Centre, Vth Zone, 2nd Floor, Lodi Road, New Delhi.

(c) Not more than five persons interested in Women's Development and / or education.

- (i) Ms. T. Mini. M.A, Ph.D. Vaisekh, Ala, P.O. Chengannur, Aleppy District, Kerala.
- (ii) Smt. Soorya Rajendran, Rajendra Mandiram, Kadappakkada, Kollam, Kerala.
- (iii) Smt. Rema Reghunandan, M.A, L.L.B., Smruthi, Akkikkave, Kunnankulam, Trichur District, Kerala.
- (iv) Smt.V. Sathi Devi, Sithara, Kathiroor, (Via) Thalassery, Kannur District, Kerala.
- (v) Smt. B. Radhamony, Krishnapriya, Kallar, Near Gas Godown, Nellipathi. P.O. Punaloor, Kollam (Dist) Kerala.



STATE RESOURCE GROUP

1. J. Lalithambika, I.A.S, Principal Secretary, Devaswom Board, Govt. Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. Aleyamma Vijayan, Director, Sakhi Women's Resource Centre, Convent Road, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. Dr. A.K. Jayasree, Social Activist, Kani Clinic, Cheruvaikkal. P.O, Sree Karyam, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. Prof. Sara Joseph, Writer, Geethanjali, Mulankunnathukavu, Trissur.
5. R. Parvathi Devi, Journalist, No.9, Subhash Nagar, Perunthanni, Thiruvananthapuram.
6. Leela Menon, Journalist, Senior Correspondent, The New Indian Express, Kaloor, Kochi.
7. Dr. Indu Kumari, Director, Women's Studies Centre, University of Kerala, University Campus, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.
8. Dr. T.N. Seema, Women's Faculty, Kerala State Planning Board, T.C.42/366(1), Swetha, Parambil Junction, Vallakadavu P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-8.



ANNEXURE I

MAHILA SAMAKHYA

PANCHAYAT LEVEL ONE DAY WORKSHOP

Aim: To select/identify volunteers (facilitators) who are capable of carrying out the activities of Mahila Samakhya in the Panchayat level. They will be the local leadership of MS.

Duration: 10 a.m to 4 a.m

Registration: 10 a.m

First session: 10 a.m to 1 a.m

BEGINNING with a presentation on the MS programme, it's aims and objectives, approach, MS in other states, about the aims of workshop etc. (5mts.)

Tea break

Group Discussion (30 mts.)

The participants will be divided into groups, each comprising of 10-15 members. The subjects for discussion will be the issues relating to their day to day life.

AIM:

To observe their ability to analyse, to tackle problems, willingness to work hard, ability to work in a group, to face problems with self confidence, positive outlook, leadership qualities etc...

Each group will be observed by a Resource Person. There will be a self introduction at the end.

Presentation:

Representatives of each group will sum up and present the details of the discussions. The other groups in turn express their views as well.

Second Session 2 p.m to 4 p.m

Each participant could be asked to write short note on a topic related to their Panchayat or issues related to women and development in the Panchayat.

Aim: To know their ability to analyse problems and writing skill.

Discussion.....(1 Hr.)

What should be the role of MS in that Panchayat.

Aim:.....

- ❖ Suggestions to functioning effectively.
- ❖ Define the methods of functioning.
- ❖ Ensuring participation of one & all.
- ❖ Develop a mentality to work collectively.
- ❖ To increase the awareness about local problems.
- ❖ Acquiring self confidence.
- ❖ To overcome the effects of social isolation.

Evaluation of the workshop and conclusion.....3.30 p.m.

Annexure II

TOPICS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How can a woman who haven't even basic education, avail of government support/ benefits ? What will be the reaction of a woman in such a situation? (Discuss various possibilities, step to be taken etc.)
2. Steps to be taken in case of help needed from police, whether personal or otherwise. In the event of woman being arrested what will your reaction be as a friend?
3. How will you deal with eve teasers? What will be your reaction to a girl being physically assaulted for reacting angrily to an eve teaser?
4. Is there any gender discrimination in providing education to the children especially higher education.
5. Choosing a suitable partner of your choice, -the groups view on the matters.
6. Problems faced by a social activist in rural areas.
7. How will you react to a problem in your neighbouring house/area?

TOPICS FOR WRITING

1. What will be the steps taken by you in your capacity as a Panchayat representative?
2. What are the problems encountered by women in your area. Suggest some measures for removing them?
3. How will you shoulder household responsibilities if they are thrush upon you ?

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION FOR PANCHAYAT LEVEL VOLUNTEERS - SEVINIES

1. Education : 10 std. pass.
2. Age : Below 50 years.
3. Willing to work hard.
4. Willing to travel & work atleast 20 days a month.
5. Willing to travel & stay in far away places.
6. Leadership qualities.
7. Open attitude.

8. **Effective communication.**
9. **Knowledge of local issues.**
10. **Ability to present facts & identify women's issues.**
11. **Self confidence.**
12. **Positive approach.**
13. **No discriminatory attitude on the basis of wealth, caste etc.**
14. **Ability to work in a group.**
15. **Should not show authority in a group.**
16. **Should have observation, attentive and patience.**



BLOCK DATA BANK 1996 VAMANAPURAM

Table-1 Panchayats, Wards & General Population Particulars (1996)

Sl	NAME OF PANCHAYATHS	NO.OF HOUSE HOLDERS	AREA IN SQ.KM.	NO.OF HOUSE.	POPULATION			SCHEDULED CASTE			LITERACY RATE		UNEMPLOYMENTS	
					MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	KALLARA	11	39.48	5268	11560	12488	24048	1417	1548	2965	82.48	77.58	46.2	81.7
2	NELLANAD	10	18.46	4657	10611	11157	21768	1521	1715	3236	82.56	76.71	45.6	85.7
3.	PULLAMPARA	10	25.90	4547	10682	10991	21673	1912	1967	3879	78.67	71.11	44.6	85.9
4.	VAMANAPURAM	10	23.87	4597	9574	10540	20114	874	966	1840	81.52	74.63	50.2	80.0
5.	PANGODE	11	23.31	6007	13281	14157	27438	2061	2290	4351	79.64	75.38	46.4	79.2
6.	NANNIYODE	11	38.85	5900	12589	13475	26064	1465	1603	3068	82.28	77.26	44.0	79.9
7.	PERINGAMMALA	12	217.94	6551	14821	15323	30144	2304	2352	4656	78.47	71.45	47.4	79.3
8.	MANICKAL	12	33.34	6909	15747	16318	32065	2156	2247	4403	80.54	72.75	50.2	85.5
	BLOCK TOTAL	87	421.15	44436	98865	104449	203314	13710	14688	28398	80.67	74.52	46.82	82.15

BLOCK DATA BANK 1996 ADIMALI
Table2 General Population Particulars of Adimali Block

Sl.	NAME OF PANCHAYATHS	AREA IN SQ K M.	NO.OF HOUSE-HOLDS	POPULATION			SCHEDULED CASTE			LITERACY RATE	
				MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	ADIMALI	271.53	6711	15197	14844	30041	1349	1353	2702	11076	9916
2.	BISONVALLEY	44.03	2755	6761	6494	13255	440	417	857	5430	4874
3.	KONNATHADY	93.08	6238	15238	14726	29964	459	493	952	12876	11941
4.	KUTTAMPUZHA	543.07	5138	11775	11268	23043	929	921	1850	8879	8048
5.	PALLIVASAL	67.47	3668	8502	8083	16585	1889	1887	3776	6736	5582
6.	VELLATHOOVAL	43.06	5374	12914	12547	25461	728	712	1440	10721	9887
7.	BLOCK TOTAL	1062.24	29884	70387	67962	138349	5794	5783	11577	55718	50248

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

VIJAYAKUMAR & EASWARAN

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

T.C.9/2284, Cheruvilakam, Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum - 695 010

Phone : (0) 0471 - 324580, 321182, Fax : 328727, (R) 361769, 364038

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the attached Balance Sheet of M/s. KERALA MAHILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM as on 31st March, 2000 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date and report that:

- (1) 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.
- (2) In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of the books of accounts.
- (3) The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- (4) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account read together with the notes thereon give a true and fair view ;
 - (a) In the case of Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31st March, 2000 and
 - (ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the period ended on that date.

for M/s. **VIJAYAKUMAR & EASWARAN**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



(S. VIJAYAKUMAR)

PARTNER

Place: Trivandrum
Dated: 05.06.2000

KERALA MAHILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

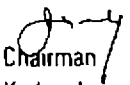
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2000

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (RUPEES)		ASSETS (RUPEES)	AMOUNT (RUPEES)
CAPITAL FUND	204,589.07		FIXED ASSETS:	
Add: Amount utilised for Purchasing			As per Schedule - I	463,791.00
Non-recurring items	508,534.56	713,123.63		
			CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES:	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u>			A. CURRENT ASSETS:	
Unspent Grant	1,750,801.20		Cash in hand	472.20
Advance from Accounts Officer	10.00		Cash at Bank:	
Audit fee Payable	6,300.00		- TPA A/c No.3864	1,728,467.00
Rent Payable	8,000.00		- State Bank of Travancore, A/c No 983	9,285.00
			- State Bank of Travancore, A/c.No 982	66,320.00
Electricity Charges payable	453.00			1,804,544.20
Newspaper & Periodicals Payable	1,034.00	1,766,598.20	B. LOANS AND ADVANCES:	
			Rent Deposit	24,000.00
			Telephone Deposit:OYT	12,000.00
			Gas Deposit	250.00
			Travelling Advance	6,400.00
			Prepaid Insurance	1,404.00
				44,054.00
			INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:	
			As per last Balance Sheet	6,980.00
			Add Excess of Expenditure over Income	160,352.63
				167,332.63
Total		<u>2,479,721.83</u>	Total	<u>2,479,721.83</u>

Place : Trivandrum,
Dated : 05.06.2000

vide our report of even date

For M/s Vijayakumar and Easwaran
Chartered Accountants


Chairman
K. Jayakumar


Member Secretary


Accounts Officer


Partner
S. Vijayakumar

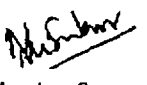
KERALA MAHILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2000

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT (RUPEES)	INCOME	AMOUNT (RUPEES)
MANAGEMENT COST		Grant in Aid from Government of India	2,200,000.00
I HONORARIUM		Add Unspent grant transferred from last Balance Sheet	1,093,683.74
Accounts Officer	1,55,485.00		
Peon	25,860.00		
State Resource Person	56,086.00		3,293,683.74
State Consultant	31,500.00	Less Amount utilised for non-recurring items transferred to Capital Fund	508,534.56
District Resource Person	85,500.00		
Computer Operator	14,940.00		
Seviniyas	73,800.00		2,785,149.18
Secretary	21,840.00		
Driver	26,520.00	Less Unspent grant transferred to Balance Sheet	1,750,803.20
	491,531.00		1,034,347.98
II TA/DA	123,125.75		
III Office Expenses	5,881.19	Miscellaneous Income	160.00
Rent	98,000.00		
Postage, Telegram & Telephone	48,389.00	Excess of Expenditure over Income	160,352.63
Postage, Telegram & Telephone	48,389.00		
Printing & Stationery	20,220.80		
Electricity Charges	6,567.00		
Membership Fees	2,230.00		
Newspaper & Periodicals	4,698.00		
Meeting Expenses	71,926.00		
Vehicle Running Expenses	16,949.74		
Annual Report Translation fee	3,000.00		
Insurance Charges	7,022.00		
Gas Connection Charges	1,935.00		
Audit fees	6,175.00		
Service Tax	300.00		
Rates & Taxes	18,800.00		
Registration Charges	560.00		
Advertisements	8,262.00		
Bank Charges	536.00		
Computer Consumables	950.00		
Contingencies	1,132.10		
	323,533.83		
IV Workshop & Seminar Expenses	38,594.00		
V Travelling Expenses	57,723.40		
	1,034,507.98		
VI Depreciation	160,352.63		
Total	1,194,860.61	Total	1,194,860.61

Place : Trivandrum
Dated : 05.06.2000

Vide our report of even date
For M/s Vijayakumar and Easwaran
Chartered Accountants


Chairman
K. Jayakumar


Member Secretary


Accounts Officer


Partner
S. Vijayakumar

KERALA MANILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31ST MARCH, 2000

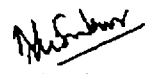
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (RUPEES)	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT (RUPEES)
MANAGEMENT COST			
OPENING BALANCE .			
		I. HONORARIUM	
Cash in hand	517.74		
Cash at Bank		- Accounts Officer	155,485.00
TPA A/c No 3864	1,097,884.00	- Pean	25,860.00
		- State Resource Person	56,086.00
		- State Consultant	31,500.00
Grant in aid from:		- District Resource Person	85,500.00
Ministry of Human Resources		- Computer Operator	14,940.00
Development Corporation		- Savinies	73,800.00
Government of India		- Security	21,840.00
vide Bill No 1199 dated 18.10.1999	2,200,000.00	Driver	26,520.00
			491,531.00
Miscellaneous Income	160.00	II TA/DA	123,125.75
Refund of Car Booking Advance	25,000.00	III Office Expenses	5,881.19
		Rent	90,000.00
		Postage, Telegram & Telephone	30,767.00
		Printing & Stationary	20,220.80
		Electricity Charges	6,114.00
		Membership Fees	60.00
		Newspaper & Periodicals	3,664.00
		Meeting Expenses	71,926.00
		Vehicle Running Expenses	16,949.74
		Annual Report Translation fee	3,000.00
		Insurance Charges	8,426.00
		Gas Connection Charges	1,935.00
		Audit fees	3,675.00
		Rates & Taxes	18,800.00
		Registration Charges	560.00
		Advertisements	8,262.00
		Bank Charges	536.00
		Computer Consumables	950.00
		Contingencies	1,132.10
		IV. Workshop & Seminar Expenses	38,594.00
		V Travelling Expenses	57,723.40
	3,323,561.74	Total Management Cost	1,003,832.98

C/d	3,323,561.74	C/d	1,003,832.98
		LOANS & ADVANCES.	
		Travelling Advance	6,400.00
		Gas Deposit	250.00
			<u>6,650.00</u>
		CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
		Furniture & Fixtures	16,895.00
		Computer	118,790.00
		Vehicle	362,570.56
		Gas Stove	1,250.00
		Books Purchased	9,029.00
			<u>508,534.56</u>
		CLOSING BALANCE	
		Cash in hand	472.20
		Cash at	
		TPA A/c No.3864	1,728,467.00
		- State Bank of Travancore, Adimali, A/c No 982	66,320.00
		- State Bank of Travancore, Adimali, A/c No.982	9,285.00
			<u>1,804,544.20</u>
Total	<u>3,323,561.74</u>	Total	<u>3,323,561.74</u>

Vide our report of even date

For M/s Vijayakumar and Easwaran
Chartered Accountants


Chairman
K. Jayakumar


Member Secretary


Accounts Officer


Partner
S. Vijayakumar

**KERALA MAHILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2000

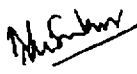
PARTICULARS	COST AS ON 1.4.1999	ADDITIONS		TOTAL	RATE (%)	DEPRECIATION	VDV AS ON 31.3.2000
		UPTO 30.9.99	AFTER 30.9.99				
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	107,823.07	10,195.00	6,700.00	124,718.07	10	12,137.07	112,581.00
KITCHEN UTENSIL	1,662.00	-	-	1,662.00	25	416.00	1,246.00
BOOKS	6,124.00	8,309.00	720.00	15,153.00	25	3,698.00	11,455.00
COMPUTER	-	118,790.00	-	118,790.00	60	71,274.00	47,516.00
VEHICLE	-	362,570.56	-	362,570.56	20	72,514.56	290,056.00
GAS STOVE	-	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	25	313.00	937.00
TOTAL	115,609.07	501,114.56	7,420.00	624,143.63		160,352.63	463,791.00

Vide our report of even date

Place : Trivandrum
Dated : 05.06.2000

For M/s Vijayakumar and Easwar
Chartered Accountants


Chairman
K. Jayakumar


Member Secretary


Accounts Officer


Partner
S. Vijayakumar