

MAHILA SAMAKHYA SOCIETY (KARNATAKA)

BANGALORE

Registration No.728/88-89, Bangalore District.

Annual Report : 1991-92

Ms. Srilatha Batliwala
State Programme Director
Mahila Samakhya Society, Karnataka

Office:
276, Second Cross,
Cambridge Lay-out,
Bangalore - 560008.

C O N T E N T S

Sl.No.	Particulars	Page
1.	List of the General Council Members	1
2.	List of the Executive Committee Members	5
3.	Report of activities of the State Programme Office	7
4.	Bidar District Report	17
5.	Bijapur District Report	23
6.	Mysore District Report	28
7.	Gulbarga District Report	35
8.	Raichur District Report	37
9.	Audited Statement of Accounts	

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS 1991-92:

Name/Designation/Address	Status of Membership
1. Shri. Veerappa Moily, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	President
2. Shri. C.T. Benjamin, Commissioner and Secretary I, Department of Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Chairman
3. Smt. Srilatha Batliwala, State Programme Director, Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member-Secretary
4. Smt. Meera Saksena, Director, Women and Child Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
5. Shri. Ramaseshan, Director, Mass Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
6. Director, Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
7. The Director, Department of Rural Development, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
8. The Director, Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 9. | Director,
State Resource Centre,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore. | Member |
| 10. | Chairman,
State Social Welfare Advisory Board,
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore. | Member |
| 11. | Ms. C.S Vedamanie,
District Programme Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Bidar. | Member |
| 12. | Ms. Nirmala Shiraguppi,
District Programme Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Bijapur. | Member |
| 13. | Ms. Vani Umashanker,
District Programme Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Mysore. | Member |
| 14. | Dr. Sunder Raju S.D.,
Navajeevan Sneha Clinic,
Bidar. | Representative,
Bidar District
Resource Group. |
| 15. | Ms. Rukmini Rao,
Bidar District Resource Group,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Bidar. | Representative,
Bidar District,
Resource Group. |
| 16. | Shri. N.B. Joshi,
Yuvaka Vikas Kendra,
Bijapur. | Representative,
Bijapur District
Resource Group. |
| 17. | Shri. S. Bankapur,
Sharada Vidhya Samsthe,
Guledgudd Taluk,
Bijapur District. | Representative,
Bijapur District
Resource Group. |
| 18. | Ms. Lalitha Karambiah,
DEED, H.D. Kote Road,
Hunsur,
Mysore District. | Representative,
Mysore District
Resource Group. |
| 19. | Ms. Tara,
MYRADA Project,
H.D. Kote Road,
Mysore. | Representative,
Mysore District
Resource Group. |

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 20. | Dr. Prabha Mahale,
Reader,
Karnatak University,
Dharwad. | Member |
| 21. | Smt. Amukta Mahapatra,
Principal,
ABACUS Montessori School,
Madras. | Member |
| 22. | Smt. Vimala Ramachandran
National Project Director,
Mahila Samakhya,
New Delhi. | Representative,
Ministry of HRD |
| 23. | Shri. R.S. Dua,
Assistant Financial Advisor,
Integrated Finance Division,
Department of Education,
Ministry of HRD,
New Delhi. | Representative,
Ministry of HRD |
| 24. | Shri. Amitabh Mukhopadhyay,
Under Secretary (VA)
Department of Education,
Ministry of HRD,
New Delhi. | Representative,
Ministry of HRD |
| 25. | Dr. Veena Shatrugna,
Senior Research Officer,
Institute of Nutrition,
Hyderabad. | Nominee of the
National Resource
Group. |
| 26. | Ms. Corrine Kumar,
CIEDS,
Cox Town,
Bangalore. | Nominee of the
National Resource
Group. |
| 27. | Ms. Nandana Reddy,
Executive Director,
The Concerned for Working Children,
Domlur,
Bangalore. | Nominee of the
National Resource
Group. |
| 28. | Dr. Vijay Padaki,
J.P. Nagar,
Bangalore. | Nominee of
Govt. of India |
| 29. | Smt. Vasantha Kannabiran,
East Nehru Nagar,
Hyderabad. | Nominee of
Govt. of India |

30. Dr. Vinod Vyasulu,
Institute of Social and Economic
Change,
Bangalore. Nominee of
Govt. of India
31. Dr. Gita Sen,
Centre for Development Studies,
Prasanta Hill,
Trivandrum. Nominee of
Govt. of India
32. Smt. Philis Das,
Regional Director,
NIPCCD,
Jayanagar,
Bangalore. Nominee of
Govt. of India

* * * * *

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1991-92:

Name/Designation/Address	Status of Membership
1. Shri. C.T. Benjamin, Commissioner and Secretary I, Department of Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Chairman
2. Smt. Srilatha Batliwala, State Programme Director, Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member-Secretary
3. Smt. Meera Saksena, Director, Women and Child Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka,	Member
4. Shri. Ramaseshan, Director, Mass Education, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
5. Shri. P.S. Nagarajan, Finance Secretary II, Finance Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
6. Smt. Shobha Nambison, Director, Census Operation in Karnataka, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.	Member
7. Ms. Vimala Ramachandran, National Project Director, Mahila Samakhya Society, New Delhi.	Representative, Ministry of HRD
8. Shri. R.S. Dua, Assistant Financial Adviser, Integrated Finance Division, Department of Education, Ministry of HRD, New Delhi.	Representative, Ministry of HRD
9. Ms. C. S. Vedamanie, District Programme Coordinator, Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Bidar.	Member

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 10. | Ms. Nirmala Shiraguppi,
District Programme Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Bijapur. | Member |
| 11. | Ms. Vani Umashanker,
District Programme Coordinator,
Mahila Samakhya Karnataka,
Mysore. | Member |
| 12. | Dr. Veena Shatrugna,
Senior Research Officer,
National Institute of Nutrition,
Hyderabad. | Nominee of
National
Resource Group |
| 13. | Ms. Corrine Kumar,
CIEDS,
Cox Town,
Bangalore. | Nominee of
National
Resource Group |
| 14. | Shri. Jamadhar
Yuvaka Vikas Kendra,
Bidar. | Representative
District Resource
Group |
| 15. | Smt. Jayalakshmi Yarnal,
Teacher,
P.D.J. High School,
Bijapur. | Representative,
District Resource
Group. |
| 16. | DRG Representative,
Mahila Samakhya,
Mysore. | Representative,
District Resource
Group. |

* * * * *

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1991 - 92

An Overview of the State Programme Office:

1. The most significant contribution of the State Programme Office in this year was the key role it played in the expansion of the programme into two new districts. In April 1991, Smt. Uma Kulkarni from the State Programme Office and Smt. Nirmala Shiraguppi, District Programme Coordinator, Bijapur DIU, made an exploratory visit to Raichur and Gulbarga Districts. The resources required for launching the programme in the new areas were identified and contacts were established with a large number of persons in both districts, such as, voluntary agencies, government officials, women activists, mandal members, academicians, local doctors and social workers.

The State Office personnel assisted in identification of potential District Coordinators and Resource Persons. A three-phase training programme was organised to screen and finalise the selection of Sahayoginis for the new districts. A training group comprising of Ms. Uma Kulkarni from the State Office as well as Coordinators and Resource Persons from other districts coordinated all three phases of the training programme.

2. It was decided that the programme would be launched in the new districts through a Jatha (including street plays depicting the status of women and role of education). Ms. Uma Kulkarni from the State Office was one of the key persons in planning and implementing the Jatha. Also due to non-availability of a suitable candidate in initial stages, Smt. Uma Kulkarni was temporarily posted as the District Programme Coordinator.
3. The Director participated in a preliminary meeting to introduce the Mahila Samakhya Programme to women's groups, NGOs and Government Officials in Andhra Pradesh.
4. As a part of skill upgradation Smt. Gangamma, Consultant (health) attended a two-month training programme in July and August, 1991 on Community health and traditional medicine at the Deenabandu Project in Tamil Nadu.
5. The State Office facilitated the Indo-Dutch Review mission to carry out its annual assesment of the programme from October 9th to 15th, 1991. The Mission members spent the first day in the State Office, discussing our approach, strategies, goals and vision. In the districts, the mission member held discussions with the teams, visited villages, interacted with sangha women and saw some of the sangha buildings, childcare centres and literacy classes.

On returning, they spent further two days in the State Office discussing various aspects of the programme such as training and staff development, reporting and documentation, finance and administration in great detail. They also met a large group of Resource Persons from other organisations who have been supporting the programme.

6. In December, 1991, the UNESCO South and South East Asian Regional Conference was held in Bangalore on "Ways and Means of incorporating women's concerns into Human Resource Development." About 15 participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia and Philippines attended the conference. A group of these participants spent a day in the State Office understanding the philosophy and strategy of Mahila Samakhya. Several of them have subsequently attempted to use similar approach in their own countries.

A unique feature of this conference was the session with Sangha women from Mysore, who gave their own assesment of the concerns of grassroots women in HRD, with much humour and forcefulness.

7. The Karnataka Workshop:

The entire Mahila Samakhya team began the new year with an intellectual odyssey: the eight stimulating and brain-teasing days of the Karnataka Workshop. This was one of the most exciting events ever organised by the State Office, as the cream of Karnataka's intellectuals, scholars and activists shared their considerable knowledge, insights and experience with us and a few selected members of sister organisations.

Beginning with the pre- and post-Independence history of the state, we travelled through many challenging territories - land struggles, environmental issues, class and caste movements, literary, theatrical, cinematic and journalistic trends, economic development issues, the women's movement, religion and communalism, and folk traditions and culture. The two dramatic presentations - viz. "Kerege Hara" (about the practice of sacrificing a daughter-in-law when there is a drought) and "Manteswamy Katha Prasanga" (a satire on religious dogma) - were a treat that will not be forgotten for a long time.

Our fears about the ability of the team to concentrate and absorb the ideas and information imparted in each session proved to be unfounded. We were amazed to find that the

participants were demanding encores even after a three-hour session - but perhaps this was a tribute to the quality and calibre of the resource persons, and their capacity to excite and inspire in us a thirst for more knowledge.

As always, the Sahayoginis have demanded that a detailed document, with a chapter devoted to the subject covered in each session, be prepared and given to them for follow-up and use of the material in the field. Several resource persons have agreed to do the write-ups themselves, while other chapters will be prepared with the aid of the notes kept and additional research. This will become a sort of source-book for the field workers.

Another outcome of the workshop was the demand that detailed, subject-wise seminars be held in the districts, so that more Sahayakis and sangha women can participate, and the issues covered in more depth and specificity.

Conclusion:

In Karnataka, the role of the State Programme Office has changed from one of a headquarters to that of a support unit which guides, facilitates and assists. Perhaps this change is best summed up in the words of the Sahayoginis at our Sammelan, who said "we used to call you the head office (Tale Kacheri), but now we will call you the support office (Bembala Kacheri). One could confidently say that the programme has entered a new face in 1992, when the process of decentralise, autonomous planning and decision making have become a functional reality.

* * * * *

STATISTICAL PROFILE OF MAHILA SAMAKHYA KARNATAKA

Particulars	Bidar	Bijapur	Mysore	Gulbarga	Raichur
Total No. of villages	150	195	150	54	30
Total No. of Taluks	4	6	6	3	2
Total No. of Sahayoginis	12	17	11	9	5
Approximate No. of women sangha members	5000	3000	7000	-	-
<u>Sangha huts:</u>					
Completed	10	1	9	-	-
Under construction	6	11	1	-	-
Land obtained	12	15	-	-	-
Land identified	14	40	50	-	-
<u>Creches:</u>					
Total No.	10	5	19	-	-
No. of creches functioning properly	10	5	16	-	-
<u>Night schools:</u>					
Total No. of active schools in sanghas	40	10	12	-	-
Total No. of teachers	40	Volunteers	Volunteers-	-	-
<u>Sanghas:</u>					
Registered	47	5	-	-	-
Receiving honorarium	76	100	96	-	-
Opened bank accounts	76	100	103	-	-
Utilising sangha honorarium	13	10	70	-	-
Started small savings	27	85	2	-	-

Staff Profile of the State Programme Office:

Name	Designation
Ms. Srilatha Batliwala	State Programme Director
Ms. Devayani .K.	Stenographer
Ms. Sreelatha H.R.	Accountant-cum-Office Assistant
Ms. Chandana. S. Wali	L.D.C
Mr. Manjunath .H.	Driver
Mr. Hanumanth Rao. M.	Peon
Mr. Mahendra .V.	Messenger

* * * * *

EXCERPTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS' MINUTES

Seventh Executive Committee meeting - June 19, 1991

"The 3 districts will be setting up Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSK), a condensed course institution for women who wish to complete their formal school education. Pieces of land are being identified in the districts for construction of MSKs. However, the Committee felt that it would be best to hire a building for this purpose and start the MSKs as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the construction. The State Programme Director stated that initially this was a separate grant to be given to institutions who come forward to start the MSKs. But so far the Grant-in-aid Committee had not felt any of the applications received were suitable organisations for setting up such an institution. The National Project Director therefore, suggested that Mahila Samakhya itself may set up the institutions by identifying motivated and experienced teachers and run the MSK at the district level. The committee felt this was the best alternative and ways and means should be found to hire premises and start the MSKs until such time as the land for this purpose is obtained, and construction completed."

"In view of the fact that Mahilâ Samakhya programme has got approval upto 1995-96, Mrs. Batliwala said that there is no plan to expand the staff structure. The structure followed is that in 5 years time there should be sangha federation and membership fee can be introduced, where after 5 years the sanghas will develop funds of their own. Because if more staff is appointed, after 1995-96 the sangha federation may not be able to afford to support too many persons at the district level. But such a federation can appoint some senior sahayoginis and some clerical staff at a marginal salary."

"In 2-3 years time the infrastructure of the State Programme Office can be dismantled as an administrative office. At present it is essentially involved in producing materials, identifying resource persons and basically acting as a support centre. Of course one role it continues to play is taking the programme to new districts."

"The State Programme Director reported about the Mahila Mahiti Mela held in the first week of February, 1991, in Markunda village of Bidar district. More than 1300 women participated in the Mela. She said that after this Mela, lots of Melas are being held at the district level. Recently, an Arogya Mela was held in Mysore where nearly 1500 women participated. Bijapur has planned a series of Melas at the taluk level. The closing ceremony of Mahiti Mela was very much moving with 1500 people, majority women, forming a human chain and shouting slogans at the Mahiti Nagara - the name that place has got after the Mela."

"The expenditure on preparation of information materials with the following proviso : For the herbal medicine manual the manuscript should be submitted to some authorised institutions such as CIMAPS or VHAI for approval, and a foreword from them should be obtained and published in the manual. The herbal medicine manual may be priced at Rs.20/- for the Directorate of Mass Education and Rs.65/- (the cost price) for sanghas since they have a budget for books. The other booklets ie., "The World Within Us" and "Daughter Grows Up" may be priced at Rs.15/- and Rs.10/- for "Devadasi Story" and "Child Marriage"."

"The Committee approved a special allocation for these expenditures from both state and district unit budgets, but meanwhile an application may be made to Government of India to sanction a special budgetary head for materials preparation and publications in the 1991-92 budget."

"The manuals will be introduced by sahayoginis in the sanghas."

"The matter of representation in the District Resource Groups (DRGs) was brought out for discussion. The committee stated that the membership of the DRG should be changed every year, so that fresh inputs can be obtained by the district units. They also stated that any member failing to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the DRG may be replaced by another member coopted by a resolution of the DRG by vote. Suggestions for new members of the DRG can be put forward by the outgoing members and/or District Coordinators. The District Coordinators may reconstitute the DRGs in consultation with the State Programme Director."

Eighth Executive Committee meeting - January 17, 1992

"The Chairman then enquired about the progress in building of Sangha huts in the different districts. The District Programme Coordinator of Bijapur noted that they have already received applications from 15 villages which have already obtained land for the construction of the Sangha house. In some villages,

villagers have donated their own private land for the purpose. Questions were raised regarding the cost of construction, the plan of the hut, and the actual reason behind the demand for it - i.e., whether the women's demand arises because they know there is a provision for it, or because there is a genuine need for one. It was pointed out by the District Programme Coordinators of all districts that sanghas were not informed initially about this provision at all. When women themselves raise this issue due to lack of a suitable place where the women can meet regularly, only then is the possibility of getting support from Mahila Samakhya mentioned. Even then, it is made clear that they have to undertake the responsibility of obtaining land and all other legal requirements before the grant is sanctioned.

This is further borne out by the fact that in many villages, women have started the construction of sangha hut without any financial assistance from Mahila Samakhya, by gathering local materials, laying the foundation, etc., and that the men are cooperating in this process as well.

When doubts were expressed about whether a house can be constructed with only Rs.15,000/- other facts came to light. Namely, many villages are adding the sangha honorarium funds to this amount, getting construction grants from the Mandals, giving free labour, and quarrying building materials like stone locally. There is a high degree of local participation and regular attendance of Sangha women in the Mandal meetings has facilitated the process considerably."

"There were two important questions raised by the Director on which she felt suggestions from the remaining members would be welcome. The first question was regarding the legal status of the sangha hut. It was pointed out by Ms. Shobha Nambison that the hut would legally become a property of the Sangha, and not the government's (as was questioned) because the money sanctioned for its construction was in the nature of a grant-in-aid. Nevertheless it was decided that the members would find out more information about this matter before the next meeting."

"The second question was pertaining to the registration of sanghas as societies. It was felt that this would be one of the steps to ensure that even in the absence of the organisation, i.e., when Mahila Samakhya withdraws, the sanghas continue to operate as independent bodies. Questions were raised about the various possibilities of registering the Sangha. It was confirmed by one of the members that there were only two such possibilities - either to register as a Cooperative or under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. The members also felt that

registering the sangha under the Societies Act would offer a double advantage. When the need arose, the sangha could also register as a cooperative. Also, registering as a cooperative or a Society implied maintaining accounts and annual audits. The Executive Committee decided that all Sanghas should move towards registering themselves as societies, and that Mahila Samakhya should facilitate this process by providing assistance to Sangha members in maintenance of accounts, recording minutes, etc."

"Progress of expansion of the programme in the two new districts of Raichur and Gulbarga was taken up for discussion. The training strategy for Sahayoginis in these 2 districts was elaborated.

The State Programme Director informed the members that a training team comprising resource persons, Coordinators, as well as older sahayoginis was formed. The training schedule itself was divided into three phases of conceptual and theory inputs interspersed with practical exposure in the field. Each of these phases was used as an elimination round. The trainees were placed with senior sahayoginis in the older districts to expose them to the methods of organising women's collectives.

Another point emphasised by the State Programme Director was the experimental 'Jatha' conducted in 40 villages of Jewargi and Chincholi taluks of Gulbarga district which created a clear understanding of Mahila Samakhya's objectives and methodology before the sahayoginis actually visited these areas with the intention of working with women. The Jatha was thus not only a training method, but also a programme launching strategy which has proved successful. The participation of Sangha women from Mysore, Bidar and Bijapur was another unique feature which created a deep impression on the women from the new villages of Gulbarga."

"The committee authorised the Director to put up a proposal for external funding for putting up of Solar Photovoltaic Lights on an experimental basis in selected villages of Bidar and Bijapur."

"Discussions were held on contracting the above organisation to assist Mahila Samakhya in developing and implementing a long-term training strategy. However, it was decided to work out a one-year contract on an experimental basis with the SHSD at this juncture, for a sum of Rs.3 lakhs to be drawn from the training budgets of all district units and State Programme Office. A long-term contract would be considered only after reviewing this one year's experience."

"Purchase of jeeps for the Gulbarga and Raichur unit was also approved. Expenditure on this may be taken from the budget sanctioned by GDI for programme expansion."

Ninth Executive Committee meeting - March 23, 1992

"In Bidar women have started taking initiative in conducting workshops for women of new villages, thus reducing the workload of sahayoginis. Even in new villages there is a positive response to the programme. 35 girls have been selected for the MSK course. After the literacy campaign a lot of volunteers have come forward to conduct night classes and are doing so. A health camp was organised for the existing creches, and the children were given medical treatment for the common diseases. "

"The District Programme Coordinator, Gulbarga District Implementation Unit, reported that 40 villages have been covered in the 3 taluks of Gulbarga. The programme was introduced in the villages through Jathas. There are 11 sahayoginis, 3 of whom will be transferred to Raichur DIU, working in the field. The response to Mahila Samakhya from the people are very positive. The impact of the Jatha is very strong and all of a sudden people started responding to Mahila Samakhya, and they are also demanding for literacy. There is absolutely no problem working in the field. We have planned to conduct a workshop for ANMs, Anganwadi workers, and the sahayoginis together to make them understand their roles and responsibilities. "

* * * * *

BIDAR DISTRICT REPORT

Sangha Activities: In this period, women have mainly been absorbed in the process of registering their sanghas, opening joint accounts and building of sangha huts. Those sanghas which have received the sangha honorarium have been deliberating on how the money should be utilised. In some areas, women are considering the possibility of pooling in their own personal resources and purchasing goats for the sangha. Others feel that the sangha funds should be kept aside for launching some important activity. Whatever the final decision, all the members, alongwith their Sahayoginis, are discussing the decision with seriousness and at an unhurried pace. They feel that this is an important decision, and should not be arrived at hastily or without the concensus of the whole group.

Sangha Discussions: Members who have attended various training programmes, workshops and meetings in the district are sharing their experiences and learning with other Sangha women in a conscientious and systematic manner. In some places, where there was some confusion or misunderstanding about the content or methodology of the workshops attended, the participants clarify the matter with their Sahayogini in the presence of the other Sangha women. For instance, one Sangha's representatives attended a workshop organised by the Bidar DRU (District Resource Unit) and, when reporting on this to their peers, questioned the relevance of the entire workshop, which was about festivals! ("Habba"s) The Sahayogini was then able to clarify that the workshop was really about analysing occasions which bring people together in a united manner, and generate joy and excitement, so that these elements can be consciously reproduced in other events.

Health and Hygiene: Health and hygiene are two commonly discussed topics in all sangha meetings. Diseases that are born out of insanitary conditions, are discussed and women have identified the most effective ways of improving their health, the environment and that of their children. Sahayoginis discourage such attitudes in a strong manner. Though they realise that caste problems are a reality and say "Wherever women cannot feel for each other as women, there is no purpose in building a sangha", they are trying to bring about a change in women's attitude. This has not proved to be a futile effort. Sahayoginis are involved in the process of visiting new villages and mobilising women.

Health problems, hygiene, women's status, etc., are all regularly being discussed in the meetings, apart from the contents of newsletters like Bhima, Sollu, Helu-Kelu, and Namma-Nimma Matu. But no matter what the topic of discussion, it is now a matter of routine that new words, concepts and ideas which come up in the discussion context are analysed and their meaning understood and stored away, as a means of building up women's knowledge base and broadening their horizons. Since the Sahayoginis give great importance to this process, they themselves play a key role in identifying new words and concepts for discussion. For instance, the "Great Wall of China", "Brain" and "Brain Fever", "Electricity", "Needle", "Ghosts and Demons", "Eyes", "Post Mortem", "Fire", "Quarrels", "Salt-making", etc., are just a few of the limitless concepts and words which have been discussed from many angles.

The booklet "Magalu Doddavaladalu" is the subject of discussion in most sanghas. Though the women were hesitant and embarrassed at first, later they expressed curiosity and interest in the subject. Through this book sahayoginis are trying to discuss the concept of pollution attached to women during menstruation and the cruel practices that are observed at home and outside, during this period. In this context, sahayoginis are also trying to explain the matriarchal structure of our ancient society and its transition to a patriarchal one as well as the nature of deterioration in the status of women.

Sangha Huts: Women feel the need for a space of their own, where they can hold meetings, sing, learn and for other programmes and activities. They have sought the guidance of sahayoginis in getting appropriate material/information and are working well in this direction.

Sangha Funds: Each sangha woman saves between 1-2 rupees every month. This is being seen as part of the process of increasing sangha funds. Another objective of this saving scheme is also to increase the sense of belongingness and solidarity in the sangha. This concept has drawn appreciation from the women. This process is underway in more than 40 sanghas.

Since they are given to progressive and efficient sanghas only, women are eager and motivated to build their sangha into a strong and efficient collective.

Meetings and Workshops

Participation in Mandal Meetings: In a number of villages, women are attending the Mandal Panchayat Meetings on a regular basis. Apart from trying to understand and benefit from the various schemes operated by the Mandals, women are also putting forward their demands for land for Sangha huts, assistance towards their construction, and so forth.

Saksharata Andolan: The Total Literacy Mission has been launched in Bidar District this year. Since women's literacy is a fundamental part of the Mahila Samakhya programme, our team has decided to participate in this scheme. We feel that our involvement in the Andolan will facilitate the achievement of our goal of covering a further 100 villages in Bidar District this year.

Guides Teachers' Training: Child Care Workers and Literacy teachers participated in this training programme held from May 4th to 14th in Bidar. The participants were given a lot of information about the Scouts and Guides movement, and learnt about the importance of discipline and orderliness in all activities. Sunderamma, one of the participants said - "If we had had this opportunity in our young days, our childhood would have been quite different. But now at least we can see to it that our children have a happy childhood".

Workshop on Nutritious Foods: A one-day workshop on the above subject was organised at the Kasturba Udyogastha Mahileyara Vasathi Griha on 27th June. All Child Care workers participated. The workshop was conducted by Smt. Padma and Smt. Uma Maheshwari for our team. The focus of the workshop was on the special nutritional needs of infant, pregnant and lactating mothers, and how to improve the nutritional value of our daily diet. There were also demonstration cooking sessions on preparation of nutritious foods for young children.

Literacy: Literacy continues to be one among the myriad activities in which women show great interest. In almost every sangha, some kind of literacy-based activities are taking place - for all, the major motivating force is the ability to at least write an application independently, without seeking external help. Apart from this, 30 sanghas have formal adult literacy classes running regularly.

District Resource Group Meetings (DRG): DRG meetings were held on 16th May and 18th July. Sharing the progress of work in the previous months with the members, many suggestions were also taken from them for coming months. The rape case was discussed in detail and the members promised all support from their side in collecting the needed legal and other information for further action. They extended their support in seeing that the charge-sheet was filed as soon as possible, and offered to meet the Deputy Commissioner in this connection.

Sahayoginis' Meetings: The monthly meetings of this period concentrated mainly on the village-level evaluation conducted by them. The group also tried to identify the changes in their work strategies and impact which followed from the evaluation findings. Each worker was able to see both their progress and weaknesses in this process.

Child Care Workers' Meeting: All the concerned workers participated in this meeting held on 28th July. An attempt was made to assess how much of the inputs given by Smt. Indira Swaminathan were actually being transmitted to children and used by the workers - such as the several songs she had taught them. The workers performed some of the songs with mime - and it was found that they had quietly changed some of the words which they found difficult to pronounce. But the songs were well-remembered on the whole.

Taluk-level Meeting: A meeting of selected sangha women, sahayakis, literacy teachers, creche workers and sahayoginis of Aurad was held in Badalgaon on July 14th. The main issues discussed were the main reasons for sanghas breaking up, and the responsibilities of literacy teachers, with the help of role-plays.

Health Training Camps: In September, November and December 1991 health training camps were held. The main objectives of the camp were to find out the women's level of knowledge about traditional medicine, introduction to other traditional schools of medicine, provision of more information on herbal medicine, its importance and usefulness. Along with this, there were attempts to introduce many aspects of women's reproductive health. A few medicines were prepared during the camp. Apart from showing them slides on various herbal plants, those herbs which were available nearby, were identified and exhibited to the women. Since women found this information very useful, a more detailed programme has been planned with Gangamma.

Workshop on Economic Development Programmes: This workshop was organised in Sundala village on 28th and 29th December. It was conducted by Sahayoginis, Resource Persons and the District Coordinator. 60 women participated in the workshop. Meaningful utilisation of the sangha funds and the responsibilities attached to it were discussed in detail. They were also given information on the kinds of facilities being provided to women.

Sahayaki/Night School Teachers/Creche Teachers meetings: Sahayakis, Night school teachers and creche teachers hold regular monthly meetings to share the happy and sad moments in their work life, identify their doubts and shortcomings and to help each other function more effectively. The sahayoginis of the respective taluks conduct the meeting, with the help of others only when necessary.

TABLE SHOWING NO. AND DURATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR 1991-92

Trainings	Sahgy.	for Drt. (days)*	for Shy/Sgh women	Drt. (days)	for Staff	Drt. (days)
Self Development	4	27	15	37	-	-
Creche/Child care	-	-	5	8	-	-
Literacy/ Education	-	-	18	46	-	-
Health	-	-	7	14	-	-
Communication Skills	2	10	-	-	1	3
E.D.P.	-	-	5	8	-	-

Sahgy = Sahayoginis

Drt. = Duration

Shy/Sgh women = Sahayakis, Sangha women

* Total No. of Days.

Staff Profile of Bidar District Implementation Unit:

Name	Designation
Ms. Vedamanie	District Programme Coordinator
Mr. Joshi	Accounts Superintendent (holding additional charge for a temporary period)
Mr. Veerashetty	Resource Person
Ms. Anita .V.	Assistant
Ms. Sunita Madhav Rao	Steno-typist
Mr. Salim	Driver
Mr. Suryakanth	Messenger
Mr. Kupendra	Messenger

* * * * *

BIJAPUR DISTRICT REPORT

Sangha Activities:

Devadasi Issue: As a result of the Mahiti Mela, the Devadasi issue is being taken up actively by Sanghas. Earlier, they were very careful about the membership of their Sangha - but now, they decided to actively enrol devadasis in their sangha. A "Jatra" at which 23 young girls were to be dedicated as devadasis was coming up in April. With the help of local Dalit youths and the police, they successfully prevented the dedication ceremony. Inspired by this, the devadasi system has been intensively discussed by the majority of sanghas. Many devadasi themselves have come forward in this process, analysing their experiences and why the custom should be stopped. Devadasis themselves are the bitterest opponents in the many villages.

In Sanghas of all taluks, women are making a conscious effort to take up the devadasi issue in various ways. In many cases, such as that of Sadayavva of Muknapur Sangha (Bijapur Taluk), these efforts are taking place within the portals of their own homes and families. Sadayavva intervened to see that her own elder sister's granddaughter was not dedicated as a Devadasi. Sadayavva shared her thoughts at the Sangha meeting, saying, "Being a Sahayaki, if I myself allow such a thing to happen in my own family, what use am I?"

Land Issue: Eighteen acres of land were granted to 6 families in a village of Mudhol taluk by the Government. The land was purchased from a local trader, who actually surrendered only 12 acres instead of the 18 acres in the purchase agreement. Thus, each family got only 2 acres instead of the 3 granted to them. The women of this sangha decided to take up this issue. The sangha members presented their case to the Jamkhandi Asst. Commissioner. Following this, 6 acres of land in a different location were given to two families. But since this was found to be uncultivable wasteland, it was rejected by the grantees who demanded that the land originally allotted to them be given back. The women have now taken the issue to court, inspite of the efforts of local officials to make them accept a compromise solution of each family taking one acre of wasteland in addition to the two acres they have at present.

Of the six women who have been struggling to get arable land, one woman, Bangaravva, has succeeded. The Assistant Commissioner himself came and allotted the land to her. Since the problem of the other five is more complicated, he could not resolve it on the spot, but has promised early action. The women, however, are persisting in their efforts.

Sangha registration: The majority of sanghas in Bijapur district have been concentrating on the question of registration of their sanghas. 82 sanghas have completed the registration formalities, while 18 more are in the process.

Sangha Accounts: The majority of sanghas have opened joint accounts during this period in order to receive the honorarium. The accounts are being operated by two sahayakis and one sahayogini, with all three signatures required for any withdrawals. The experience of going to the bank, signing the cheque and withdrawing funds has been an empowering one for the sangha women. How to make an application to the bank for opening the account, what is a cheque, what is a passbook, how to use these, how to deposit and withdraw money, and other aspects of bank procedures have been discussed and learnt by the women. The women feel so strengthened by this knowledge, that they feel they can tackle other institutions without fear or diffidence.

Sangha huts: Many sanghas are continuing the process of attempting to get land for or actually beginning construction of their sangha "mane" with great enthusiasm. Getting land for this purpose has been relatively easy in areas where the Mandal Panchayats have cooperated with the Sanghas; but in other villages, women have had to go right up to the Tehsildars. Even after land has been promised, many Sanghas have had to run up and down to get the title deeds (hakku patra), without which Mahila Samakhya grant for construction is not given. But the determination and unflagging energy of the women engaged in this process, with the support and backing of their Sahayoginis, is amazing and heartening to witness.

In several places, the construction of the huts has begun. Designing the building and planning the construction, managing the funds, organizing labour and "shramadaan", etc., are going ahead after discussions with the Sahayoginis and Dt. Coordinator. In some places, the women have sought the help of Government engineers to design the building. In others, the women have designed it themselves, with suggestions from the district team. Seven sanghas have obtained land from their Mandal Panchayats and have constructed their sangha huts. A further 6 are in the midst of their construction. The menfolk have willingly assisted the women in this process in many villages.

Small Savings: In one of the villages women have begun small savings schemes. The savings scheme has led to quarrels and disharmony, among the members and discontinued for the time being until better understanding can be created about the purpose and management of savings programmes. Among the successful schemes, the main point of discussion is of how to use the savings of the sangha effectively. Sanghas which had started savings schemes earlier are expanding these, while newer sanghas are beginning small savings schemes for the first time. A one-day workshop was held in Bijapur to help women understand how to make small savings grow.

Fighting injustice: Sangha women are increasingly discussing and acting on a wide range of problems - especially the injustices and oppression they face both at home and outside in their daily lives. Taking live examples of women with alcoholic husbands and other oppressive situations, sanghas are very seriously discussing how to tackle such problems which confront women in their daily lives. How to bring about a change in the status and situation of women continues to occupy a good deal of time in Sangha meetings and discussions. One concrete decision taken is that in cases of violent behaviour by husbands, police complaints will be lodged against the offenders. Following through this decision, one Sangha took up the case of an abandoned woman who was badly beaten by a local man. They helped her to lodge a complaint, and ensured that the man was arrested and charged by the police. In many cases of violent quarrels between husbands and wives, the sangha women have effectively intervened to resolve the issue.

Anganwadis/Balwadis: Sangha women have taken up the question of the improper functioning of local anganwadis and balwadis, and how to obtain these facilities in areas where they are not available at present. In this connection, they are in the process of meeting the concerned departments and officials, to ascertain the criteria for getting anganwadis/balwadis for areas which don't have them, the guidelines for proper running, the services to be provided, etc. In areas where they are not able to get these facilities from existing departments/programmes, sanghas have decided to start their own child care centres.

ASTRA oles: During the sangha meeting in Dokrani village of Muddebihal, the Sahayogini noticed one woman had swollen, reddened eyes. The woman explained her condition as having been caused by the smoke from her stove. The problem was discussed in great depth at the next meeting, with women sharing the many health problems they faced from this source. They were not aware of the existence of the ASTRA ole, or smokeless stove. After visiting the neighbouring village of Abbihala, where most homes have the ASTRA oles, the women decided to have these installed in their own houses.

Environment, Water, and Related Issues: Women are actively discussing environmental issues and problems of their areas. The newsletters "Helu-Kelu", "Sollu" and "Namma Nimma Matu" play an important role in sparking off and sustaining discussions. Sangha discussions and issues are rapidly communicated to women in the new villages taken up in the past few months.

Participation in Mandal Panchayat Meetings: Sangha women and their Sahayoginis attend the monthly meetings of their Mandal Panchayats without fail. This has enabled them to gain a better understanding of the role, powers and functioning of the Mandals.

Workshops and Training :

* A workshop to write the report of the Second Annual Samakhya Sammelan was held in our office from April 6-8, 1991. Nine members from the different Samakhya teams participated. The process of reliving each of the seven days of the Sammelan, analysing their import with sensitivity and depth, and writing the report as a collective was a new experience for all of us.

* A writing workshop was held immediately following the above programme. At this workshop, we were able to go into depth on the qualities of a good report by analysing various reports we had ourselves written in the past - such as monthly reports, records of specific incidents, reports of monthly meetings, etc. After the analysis, we rewrote the reports by applying the principles which were discussed in the analysis. We also tried to analyse the problems of preparing monthly reports based on daily village visits, which is the main difficulty of the Sahayoginis. The principles of journalistic writing and how to bring out effective newsletters was also touched upon.

* A workshop on Roles and Responsibilities of Women Mandal Members was held in May. The discussions were effective and sharp. The fact that the participants demanded more such workshops be held is an indication of the impact of this attempt.

* Five Sahayaki Training Workshops were held from May to September, in all taluks, focussing on their roles and Mahila Samakhya's objectives and methodology. The main effort in these workshops was to create an atmosphere of openness and sharing; the main issues discussed were status of women, child marriage, devadasi system, women's education, women in the Mandals, importance of the sangha, etc. The workshops concluded with Sahayakis identifying the responsibilities they would take up in their sanghas.

* A workshop for Sahayakis from the four older taluks was held to discuss how to manage and utilise the Sangha honorarium of Rs.400/- which their sanghas would receive. The main decisions taken by the Sahayakis in this context were: (a) The honorarium should be conserved and built up as a sangha asset; (b) In case the hut construction grant was inadequate, the honorarium may be used as a supplementary fund for construction; (c) The honorarium could be used to help women set up small income-generation activities; and (d) The honorarium should be used to pay the bus fares and other expenses of Sangha members who travel out of the village on sangha work or to attend programmes in other places.

Some time was also spent on discussing the accounting procedures necessary in hut construction, for example: the need to put a twenty paise revenue stamp on vouchers for expenditures exceeding Rs.20, the need to maintain records of expenditures in a clear and systematic manner, checking of expenditures regularly during construction, etc.

TABLE SHOWING NO. AND DURATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR 1991-92

Trainings	for Sahgy.	Drt. (days)*	for Shy/Sgh women	Drt. (days)	for Staff	Drt. (days)
Self Development	4	30	13	21	-	-
Health	1	2	1	2	-	-
Communication Skills	2	8	1	6	-	-
E.D.P/savings/ sangha funds	-	-	1	1	-	-

Sahgy = Sahayoginis;

Shy/Sgh women = Sahayakis, Sanghā women;

Drt. = Duration

* Total No. of Days.

Staff Profile of Bijapur District Implementation Unit:

Name	Designation
Ms. Nirmala Shiraguppi	District Programme Coordinator
Mr. Gopal Purohit	Accountant
Ms. Gowri	Resource Person
Ms. Geetha Bandari	Steno-typist
Mr. Siddappa	Driver
Mr. Anil Chauhan	Messenger
Mr. Suresh Karkun	Messenger

* * * * *

MYSORE DISTRICT REPORT

Sangha Activities: This period has been one of consolidation and development of the strength of existing sanghas. Work has progressed smoothly and questions related to women's life and work are being increasingly raised in sangha meetings.

Sangha Huts: The construction of sanghas huts in H.D.Kote has created interest and eagerness in other sanghas as well. It has also encouraged participation of the sangha members at every level such as identification of plots for the hut in a few villages of Kollegala, H.D.Kote, Nanjangud, Chamarajanagar, and Hunsur. In Arakaduvinaoddi (Kollegala taluk) Goremadu (Chamarajanagara taluk) the sangha women have strongly questioned the Mandal Pradhans seemingly indifferent attitude in this matter.

In a couple of villages, women are discovering the various steps to be followed to procure a possession certificate. In Shivapura village of H.D.Kote, the villagers are eager to inaugurate the sangha hut. The process of acquiring licence of the sangha huts are underway in most of the villages. In places where the sangha funds are found to be short of the amount needed, members are making individual contributions to obtain the land. In Anehole the sangha members are 100 in number. Therefore the women have decided to add the years sangha funds to the sanctioned amount of Rs.15,000/- for the sangha hut to build a large sangha hut. In Honnenahalli, the sangha has decided to buy a private piece of land by making individual contributions. Though this caused a few women to leave the sangha, the remaining said "Even if we are only 10 we will collect money to buy a plot for the sangha hut.

Sangha women in many villages are motivated after having seen the sangha huts of their counterparts in other villages. At Kudigere Hadi (H.D.Kote) women have been enthusiastically arranging for carts to transport building material for their sangha hut. Similarly, in Badigalapura a sangha women remarked "How long are we going to hold meetings in streets and houses? We need a place of our own". The sangha of this village is keen on registering itself, opening a bank account and beginning work on the "sangha mane".

Sangha funds: A sangha funds administrative committee has been set up in September 1991, to clarify to sangha women the exact nature and purpose of sangha funds. This committee consists of 2 sahayoginis, 1 sangha women, and 1 member from the District Implementation Unit. Each committee is responsible for 30 villages. The DPC is a permanent member. Sanghas requiring funds are expected to address their applications to this committee which then discusses the issue in a meeting before releasing the money.

Sahayoginis have discussed the mode of acquiring money for the sanghas at length with the members. Members are also learning about management of funds. Women were explained in detail how the money is acquired; the applications to be made by the sahayoginis and the reasons for which this money may not be given to a particular sangha. The sangha women responded by saying "even if we do not get the money, we will continue meeting in the sangha".

The District Office has been receiving a steady stream of letters from sanghas regarding sanctioning of funds. These letters are seldom written by sangha women themselves. They usually ask a trustworthy person to write the letter and attest it with thumb prints. Sahayoginis feel this would be a good opportunity to explain the importance of literacy to sangha women.

Economic Programmes: In Jayalaxmipura (H.D.Kote) the sangha women are running a savings scheme. The people of Muguthanamoole (H.D.Kote) are planning to set up a Papad factory. Women from Thattekere, Hegganadaru, Yemmekoppalu and Kolagatta visited the SCNT corporation to learn about the facilities available. The nurseries and trees planted by the sanghas in Boodipadaga and Kambiguddedoddi are being tended well by the members.

Shishuvihara: Seventeen Shishuviharas are functioning in the district. Some have run into problems owing to dissatisfaction with the working of the caretaker. In some other villages, problems within the sangha have effected the working of the Shishuvihara. In all the sanghas the need and demand for literacy in shishuviharas is emerging directly or indirectly. Sangha women say that they are glad to leave their children behind in a school when they go to work.

Health: Women in different sanghas have been asking for more information on health problems. For instance, in Mottakerewadi (H.D.Kote) sangha women asked the sahayogini to hold a health mela to know more about ring worm infection which is a common problem among the village children. Similarly an immunisation programme was held on 29.11.91 where children from 4 neighbouring villages of Hunsur taluk were treated for ailments. Information related to childrens health was, also provided during a children's festival in Kalenahalli. Sahayoginis are initiating detailed discussions on health in sangha meetings. Simple aspects of personal and environmental hygiene have been identified during the course of these discussions.

Meetings: Sangha women have been meeting officials in the district offices. Twenty five women from 6 villages went to different offices in the district. They questioned the Land Army office about the cost of building materials for the sangha hut.

Similarly, sangha women have been visiting their counterparts from other villages to express solidarity and give direction to sanghas which are facing internal strife. 32 women from Nanjangud taluk comprising 22 women from Kanninura and 12 women from Kappesogge visited 3 villages in Hunsur taluk of which Hosakote is a new one. They discussed issues such as the malfunctioning of the sahayaki in one village.

Children from Nanjangud attended the 'Bhima Sangha' festival at Bangalore. The children enjoyed the excursion and one of the children used the opportunity to question CWC about not including one of his articles in their newsletter. Eleven sangha women participated in a seminar on "Ways and Means to Incorporate Women's Concerns in HRD". On reaching the districts these women shared their experiences.

The weekly meetings in all villages are held irrespective of whether the sahayogini visits them or not. Newsletters are distributed in these meetings. In one of the meetings, the sahayakis discussed the positive effects of the girl child festivals held in various villages. There was consensus in the group regarding the importance of translating the issues discussed into action.

Sahayoginis' Meeting: The monthly sahayoginis' meeting was held where the group discussed improvement of report writing skills, literacy statistics collected from villages, etc. The group felt that literacy does not mean the number of people who can read and write alone, but also needs to be assessed in terms of development and improvement in their skills. During this meeting the team discussed the most effective strategy to maximise the impact of the programme. The following steps were seen as essential in developing a sound strategy : (a) Planning (b) Gaining information (c) Tapping resources (d) Awareness of ones roles (e) Sincere efforts and interest in work.

The team has decided to make the sahayoginis meeting a forum for discussions to make the team strong and effective. The sahayoginis have divided themselves into different groups that assume different responsibilities in the meeting, for example, reporting, TA bill collection, etc.

Sahayaki Mela: A Sahayaki mela was planned to coincide with the review missions district visits. This mela, the sahayoginis felt, would enable the review mission to interact with many sangha women and also afford a bird's eye view of the sangha's style of functioning. The arrangements for the mela were taken care of by 3-4 sahayoginis. Sahayakis performed roleplays depicting the working and role of Mahila Samakhya before a very large audience. Alongwith the roleplay they also explained the working of their individual sanghas. Small group discussion on the sangha hut and utilisation of sangha funds were held. Sanghas functioning with relatively more clarity in this regard were asked to share their experiences. The guests Smt. Kumud Sharma and Ms. Caroline (members of the Review Mission) to the mela introduced themselves and participated as far as possible. Due to the language problem, however, translators were needed. Some women from Hunsur had participated in such a large mela for the first time. They said "we are proud that at such a young age, we have been able to experience so much".

Sahayaki Training: A sahayaki training programme was organised on September 18 and 19th at Alladakatte village of Periyapatna taluk and the role of the sahayaki, and concept of the sangha was analysed through role plays.

Training on construction of Astra Oles: Following a detailed survey on the use and impact of the Astra stove, a follow up programme was designed by the sahayoginis. The team expressed the desire to train themselves in the making of the stove. The training was provided by Mr. Ali of the Zilla Parishad, and Mr. Shivakumar (KSCST). The programme coordinators were Shri. Vijay Padaki, Shri. S. Ramanath (ASTRA) and Mr. Lokras. The sahayoginis training took place in Heggedehalli village where discussions had been held with the sangha and permission secured for the construction of the stove.

The villagers provided some of the locally available raw materials while some others were brought by the trainers. There was great enthusiasm generated in the learning process and the practical training of building the stove in the Kitchens of sangha women, was appreciated greatly. Twelve houses of Heggedahalli now have Astra stoves. As a follow up, it was decided that women from other villages be made to see the newly constructed stove.

23 people including a few sangha women, participated in a workshop on Mandal Panchayat and Zilla Parishad. Female members of the Mandal Panchayat also participated. The workshop focussed on the composition of the Mandal Panchayat, and Zilla Parishad as well as the importance of the Grama Sabha. It was conducted by Mr. S.W. Pinto.

A workshop on Research Methodology was also organised from 4-6 December, 1991. The DRU team, 6 members of Mahila Samakhya and one representative from the SRC participated in the workshop which was conducted by the State Programme Director.

Mahila Shikshana Kendra: Sahayoginis had identified many young girls in their villages, who due to lack of opportunities, have been unable to continue their education. Therefore it was felt appropriate that the Mahila Shikshana Kendra be started. The first attempt had failed due to faulty planning. A very moving feedback was also given by one of the sangha women from Nanjangud who said "once our children study, they do not want to identify themselves as our children. They feel ashamed and look down on us". Therefore the team decided that the curriculum to be devised for the Mahila Shikshana Kendra should not perpetuate these false values.

The Kuttuwadi Land Issue: The Kuttuwadi dharna has been discussed extensively in sangha meetings. It was decided that a dharna be held before the Zilla Parishad's office on 26th of August, 1991. Sahayoginis played a facilitative role in clarifying the issue. A journalist was also present at this meeting held on 13.8.91. The sahayoginis and the District Coordinator discussed the issue and decided that all responsibility for the dharna should be assumed by the people. It is also decided to intimate all the sanghas the ZP and Police officers well in advance about the dharna. Literate Sangha women of Kuttuwadi wrote letters to the concerned parties about their decision.

The participants in the dharna paraded in a silent march before the ZP office. Three representatives from the group requested the ZP officer to address the group. A few women articulated their problems and demands very confidently. The ZP officer promised all help possible and assured the people that he would visit Kuttuwadi the following week. The people however demanded a specific date and did not leave till he offered a written commitment. The future course of action was discussed in a joint meeting of the sangha women, sahayoginis and the DPC. It was decided that a pamphlet informing the other sanghas about the ZP officers visit would be circulated. On 4th of September, the ZP officer arrived and addressed the gathering at Kuttuwadi. The Revenue Inspector, Village Accountant, and Tribal Officer were present for the meeting. Though the defendants son tried to contradict all the accusations made by the sangha, he was forced to accept defeat before the collective strength of the group.

Expansion Activities: New villages have been identified in Hunsur and Periyapatna taluks. In some villages, only 5-10 women are beginning to gather for sangha meetings. In some others, women are very hesitant to even step out of their homes. Sahayoginis have had to spend a great deal of time building rapport with the village women. However, in some others there is a demand from the village women that the programme be introduced in their village, too, as in Kappasogge and Kurshundi villages of Nanjangud. The women of Hosakote village have shown great interest and enthusiasm in forming the sangha. In some areas, along with the Mahila sangha, men are forming the Ambedkar sangha.

Education and Awareness building: the growing role of newsletters.: Sahayoginis and sangha women from different villages of a particular taluk, have been involved in bringing out the newsletter "Sollu". These newsletters contain small articles on a number of subjects such as health, poems, short stories etc. There is a demand for greater number of newsletters as well as the desire to learn the process of preparing it. It is worth mentioning the statement made by one sangha woman who was moved by the front page photograph of the Kuttuwadi dharna - "We are not the same old Soligas who will not question injustice". The presence of more women in the photo of the dharna has also evoked surprise in many sanghas.

"Magalu Doddavaladalu": The booklet "Magalu Doddavaladalu" has been received well, in villages. The reactions are however interesting. Though the sahayogini had prepared grounds for introducing this booklet, the initial reaction was one of embarrassment and shame. Though, the pictures were appreciated, women said they were surprised that such pictures could be made in the first place. One of the sangha women said "Pictures make learning easy". Sahayoginis have reported, that, after reading the booklet women have become more careful about their health and hygiene during this period. One of the sangha women Kullamma, said she was happy that a book exclusively for women had at last been made.

Literacy: The need for literacy has emerged strongly from many sanghas. However, meeting the growing demand has proved to be difficult. The team feels that a great deal of effort is needed on their part to nurture and develop upon this demand. The sanghas have been asked to identify members from among themselves who can teach the members.

Three other newsletters, 'Kodagu Mitra', 'Bhima' and 'Arogyanani' have created a great deal of interest to learn more. In fact, in the new areas, these newsletters along with other new ones, are being used to build rapport with the women.

Girl Child Festival: Children's festivals as well as those exclusively for girls were organised in many villages. Processions with slogans about women's empowerment, jathas, games, dance and painting competitions were some of the common features. In some villages children from upper castes also participated in the festival and were welcomed by sangha women. This opportunity was used to dispense information on child health and diseases. Villagers have cooperated well in making the programme a success.

TABLE SHOWING NO. AND DURATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR 1991-92

Trainings	for Sahgy.	Drt. (days)*	for Shy/Sgh women	Drt. (days)	for Staff	Drt. (days)
Self Development	3	23	5	11	1	2
Health	1	3	1	3	-	-
Communication Skills	2	9	1	3	2	9
Literacy Education	1	2	4	21	-	-
Creche	-	-	1	7	-	-
Mahila Shikshana Kendra	-	-	1	5	-	-

Sahgy = Sahayoginis; Drt. = Duration
Shy/Sgh women = Sahayakis, Sangha women; * Total No. of Days.

Staff Profile of Mysore District Implementation Unit:

Name	Designation
Ms. Vani Umashanker	District Programme Coordinator
Mr. Prasad	Accounts Superintendent (deputee of State Accounts Department)
Ms. Meera	Resource Person
Ms. Kiran	Assistant
Ms. Usha P.A.	Steno-typist
Mr. Ramappa	Driver
Mr. Purushotam	Messenger
Mr. Perumal	Messenger

GULBARGA DISTRICT REPORT

Programme launching in Gulbarga was done through a jatha (consisting of street plays depicting the status of women and the role of education) which was conducted in Jevargi and Chincholi taluks of this districts. The jatha covered 54 villages and elicited a great deal of participation and confidence from the women. Sahayoginis, sangha women from the older district and DIU staff participated in planning and enacting the jatha. Work began in earnest in December 1991 as a team of 9 sahayoginis covered 35 villages of Gulbarga, Chincholi, Chincholi Thanda and Jevargi taluks.

The responses of men and women in various villages clearly proved that the jatha had had a strong impact and created an identity for the programme. In many villages the women asked the sahayoginis why they had not come in a month's time as had been promised to them after the jatha. They said "We too want to form a sangha" and asked the sahayogini to come to the village regularly. In a few other villages, sahayoginis were instantly recognised as the "drama people" and given a warm welcome. However, in a few other villages the response has been negative, with women reacting in a hostile manner and demanding loans and money from the sahayogini. In Aurad, the women questioned the sahayoginis saying "How can we come together if you don't give us money"? However, sahayoginis have succeeded in utilising these very issues to motivate the women to build a sangha and tackle issues relevant to their lives.

The Sahayoginis have begun identifying problems in the villages, along with the sangha women, the most common of which are lack of drinking water, problems related to widow pensions, borewell repair, irregularities of schools, mismanagement of the primary health center, the Anganwadi, etc.

Literacy:

Though Gulbarga is a relatively new district and all the sanghas are not very strong, the demand for literacy has arisen very soon and very strongly. Many sanghas are complaining about the mismanagement of the AE centres and demanding that the sahayoginis take up the task of teaching them to read and write. In Tumakunta the women have been discussing how the jatha has made them aware about the malpractices of the medical system. Thus they have been questioning the doctor at the local primary health centre and demanding that they be treated properly.

Surprisingly, the men folk have been encouraging their women to learn literacy skills very actively. The team has realised that this interest to learn should be sustained, and are working hard towards identifying instructors to take up the task of teaching women to read and write. Depending upon further requirements a literacy workshop has been planned for them.

The programme launching in Gulbarga (through the jatha) has been one of the most unique experiences for us. The identity that it has carved for the programme has made it very easy for the sahayoginis to build rapport with the women.

Staff Profile of Gulbarga District Implementation Unit:

Name	Designation
Ms. Uma Kulkarni	District Programme Coordinator
Shri. Joshi	Accounts Superintendent (deputee of State Accounts Department)
Ms. Susheela .V.	Resource Person
Mr. Prakash	Steno-typist
Mr. Rajkumar	Messenger
Mr. Naggappa	Messenger

* * * * *

RAICHUR DISTRICT REPORT

The Raichur district implementation unit was established in January 1992 with the recruitment of the District Programme Coordinator and Resource Person. A few sahayoginis had been selected earlier and placed in Gulbarga unit. In February 1992 it was planned that Mahila Samakhya programme would be launched in Raichur through a jatha. However, due to lack of sufficient time for preparation and planning, this could not be implemented. It was also felt that since the Saksharatha Andolana jathas were a common sight in villages, the programme may fail to build a distinct identity. In March 1992 work began in earnest with field visits to 30 villages of Kustagi taluk, of which only 18 villages, the team felt, were very backward and in need of the programmes services. At present 5 sahayoginis are looking after 5-6 villages each. Through meetings and discussions the team has begun to identify key areas where the need for training inputs being felt both for the sangha women and the District Implementation Unit.

It has also been planned that gram sabha meetings shall be organised in villages, which can be used as a forum to develop a rapport with the women and introduce the programme more meaningfully.

Staff Profile of Raichur District Implementation Unit:

Name	Designation
Dr. C.P. Parimala	District Programme Coordinator
Ms. Manjula	Resource Person

* * * * *

MADHAVAN AND TRINADH
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

32/1, 1ST FLOOR, 3RD CROSS,
AGA ABBAS ALI ROAD,
BANGALORE-560 042
Tel: 5 6 7 1 3 2

MAHILA SAMAKHYA-KARNATAKA

NOTES:

1. Depreciation on fixed assets has been calculated and provided in the accounts at the rates specified under the Incometax Act.
2. The Society maintains its accounts on mercantile basis.
3. Previous year's figures have been recast and regrouped wherever necessary to make them comparable with those of the current year.



AUDITORS' REPORT

1. We have examined the attached Balance Sheet of the Mahila Samakhya-Karnataka as at 31st March, 1992 and the Income and Expenditure account for the year ended on that date and report that:
2. Further to above:
 - a) We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
 - b) Proper books of account have been kept by the Society, so far as appears from our examination of books.
 - c) The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account referred to in this Report are in agreement with the books of account.
 - d) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts, subject to our comment given above, 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, 1992 and,
 - ii. in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date.

Madhavan and Trinadh
MADHAVAN AND TRINADH
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

BANGALORE

DATE : 11.03.1992

