

# LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

Building Better Life for the Vulnerable



A  cused dialouge

Monday, 13 October 2014

PHD House, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi

# Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation

## Main Objectives

1. To empower rural and urban poor communities to make informed choices for improving their social, economic, and health conditions leading to empowerment, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood and development initiative;
2. To facilitate the formulation and implementation of better targeted pro-poor social, education, economic, food and health policies for poverty reduction and district/regional growth and development;
3. To develop replicable models of social, economic, health, housing and development programme coverage and behaviour adoption through demonstration projects;
4. To develop human, economic and financial technical expertise/knowledge of govt. and non govt. stakeholders at various levels for better planning and monitoring of rural and urban development programmes; and
5. To undertake research (applied and conceptual) in alternative models and processes of poverty reduction, and improvement in quality of life.

## PRACTICE AREAS

### Programme Design, Implement and Delivery

- Field operations on poverty alleviation initiative
- Stakeholder communication, participation and engagement
- Managing Pro-poor community and mobilization
- Communication and creative services
- Decision making support
- Change and process management

### Research and Documentation

- Knowledge Management, Impact Measurement, and Sharing Best Practices
- Replicable modelling / alternate modelling through innovation
- Academic Networking
- Publications

### Training

- Micro Entrepreneurship and innovation mentoring
- Economic Growth Models
- Specialized skills training and capacity development

### Analysis, Advice and Advocacy

- Scenario analysis- Risks and Vulnerability
- Market opportunities
- Natural Resource Management
- Policy analysis and citizen's participation

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## FOREWORD

Even after six decades of continued development efforts, Poverty is a shameful reality for nearly one third of the population in India. Spiraling governance costs, notwithstanding, results have been far from what we expect amidst claims and counter-claims of efficacies of various tried and tested models of development. The development research space is equally crowded with what has not happened, corruption and leakages in implementation, mal-targeting of the affected population, and misallocation of resources. Top-down approach is detested, trickle-down effect is questioned and participatory potential is not yet given its full credit. The answer possibly lies in accelerating economic growth and simultaneously crafting innovative safety nets for the most vulnerable while focusing on the poor to create an enabling ecosystem that helps them get better at what they do, acquire skills for an alternative livelihood, access resources and markets and empower them for a deeper, sustainable and more meaningful impact towards poverty alleviation. Lifting the most vulnerable who suffer from extreme poverty situation calls for a priority agenda with focused development initiative.

Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA) is an independent development institute that propels policy research, advocacy and resource strengthening in building capacity of the vulnerable to develop entrepreneurship in emerging market situations as guiding factors to create assets, develop skills and deliver prosperity for the benefit of ultra-poor. The team of Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation accords highest priority to the critical issues related to social, economic and environment challenges and its approaches and programmes are results based. Specific programme areas include (i) Advocacy and networking with all development stakeholders; (ii) In-depth policy research on social and economic guidelines; (iii) Programme research, capacity development of partners, and knowledge sharing and (iv) Strengthening resources both for research and programme implementation in partnerships and collaboration.

There are many evidence based approaches which are worthy of attention, to address the issues related to abject poverty eradication, social inclusion and economic development. AIPA with its development research initiative and focused dialogue makes an attempt to identify common challenges and strategic opportunities that vulnerable communities face. Based on key findings, AIPA seeks to develop programmes, services that create opportunities for economic growth, citizens' governance, active participation, improvement of skills and assets for the vulnerable leading to empowerment and self-reliance.

The World Bank states that globally about 1.2 billion people are under extreme poverty with less than US\$1.25 per person per day; of which about 1/3rd of them are chronically poor. A total of 842 million people in 2011–13 or around one in eight people in the world were estimated to be suffering from chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough food to conduct an active life. (FAO 2014). We are aware how women are treated unfairly in terms wage, employment and access to resources and services both outside and even within the family. Can we bridge the income and opportunity divides between various segments of the people that perpetuate poverty, hunger, disease and deprivation? Can we forge common partnerships between public, private and the civil society members including academic experts in policy, research and practice to effectively address poverty, hunger and gender justice-while ensuring balanced market practices and economic growth? Can we be closer to attaining zero extreme poverty by 2030 as one of our most important Post-2015 Agenda? Let us accept that we can ignore such uncomfortable questions and refrain from searching durable solutions only at our own peril.

The institute has planned to bring out a compendium on the occasion of the focused dialogue on the crucial theme:-'Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the Vulnerable'. The dialogue strives to provide a platform to initiate, exchange, question, provoke, explain and address relevant issues and challenges associated with ultra-poverty and find practical ways to eliminate poverty - moving from rhetoric to reality. Towards this end, it invites eminent stakeholders from government, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and business organizations (both public and private sector) to work together on agreeing onto a common course and commitment of eradicating extreme poverty. We all need to think and act to create sufficient conditions so that our deprived citizens can realize their basic rights and entitlements in order to live a life with dignity and peace.

On behalf of the institute we take the liberty of conveying our sincere gratitude to all members on board, volunteers, experts, institute supporters, distinguished speakers and guests for their active participation and contribution to make the focused dialogue a meaningful exercise in redefining our strategy in this direction.

For and on behalf of Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation

Dr. Gopi N Ghosh  
Director and Chief of Policy Research

Amalendu Pal  
Board Member

New Delhi,  
13 October 2014



## **Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the Vulnerable**

### **A FOCUSED DIALOGUE**

**Monday, 13 October 2014, 16.30 hrs,  
PHD House, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi.**

#### **BACKGROUNDER**

##### **Context**

Extreme poverty is a complex multi-dimensional issue and as evidence suggested, we don't have a straight-cut solution for the development of these individuals with their unique history, tradition, culture, education, skills, attitude, economic means, and importantly a system that denies them their basic rights and social justice. Removing such abject poverty is a human urgency, morally binding and politically compelling; and can't be left unattended for long for our own collective secured future.

Several poverty reduction measures have been attempted in the past with rather mixed outcome. On one hand, thousands of people in the lower rungs of the society could come out of poverty, the incidence of extreme poverty remain stubborn for many others. Though the poverty head count in India as per international poverty line of US\$ 1.25 a day is over 400 million, latest C Rangarajan Committee indicated that 30.9% of our population or 363 million people (rural - 260.5 and urban – 102.5 million) are poor or live below the poverty line during 2011-12 – considering per day per head spending of Rs.32 for rural and Rs.47 for the urban population. Quite understandably the bottom 1/3rd of such poverty-stricken people – who are severely disadvantaged and deprived – economically, socially, politically and culturally – are made to live a life of chronic hunger, disease, destitution and despair. A majority of them could be identified either with an isolated tribal communities, or historically neglected social groups (Dalits, SC/ST, traditionally resource poor regions). Then there are fringe individuals such as the severely disabled people, people from dysfunctional families, widows, and orphans, old or infirm people with no one to take care of. Added to this list are those who are the unfortunate victims of war, conflicts, and displacements or suffer due to calamities – both natural and human induced.

Comprehensive programmes of transformative social change and focused intervention such as gender focus, education and awareness, and deploying applicable legal entitlements, there are instances of discernible community empowerment that seeks to reduce the vulnerability and enhance their ability to practice a new set of economic activities and hence improved life. By enhancing the household capacity to access and adopt sustainable livelihoods options while systematically removing various social, political and structural barriers that prevent the vulnerable from escaping poverty, it is indeed possible to make a better tomorrow for these disadvantaged citizens. The key to their upliftment is arguably through fostering a powerful partnership and collaboration between the government, civil society and the corporate world.

##### **About Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA), [www.aipaasia.in](http://www.aipaasia.in)**

AIPA is an independent development institute engaged in producing knowledge-based good governance and influencing policy that encourages innovations for pro-poor impact through research, practice, public-private partnership and field projects. It strives to create a culture and necessary means to address the issues associated with abject poverty.

##### **Purpose of Focused Dialogue**

AIPA seeks and encourages collaborations among various stakeholders, viz. academia, research organizations, civil society, public organizations and private firms to think of the issues of development of the ultra-poor and initiate purposeful intervention in reducing extreme poverty. This in view, the Institute is organizing a focused dialogue on 'Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the

Vulnerable' on Monday, October 13th at 4.30 pm, at PHD House, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi. The aim is to understand the diverse perspectives, needs and expectations of relevant stakeholders for collaborative and sustained action. The dialogue and discussions will examine how companies, government and non-governmental organizations can effectively work together and address the challenges in forging a viable link between business and development while creating an effective ecosystem for the development of people living under extreme poverty.

## **The Dialogue**

The deliberations are expected to revolve around, inter alia, some of these critical questions such as:

Who are these ultra-poor groups, what are various structural issues and fundamental causes for their abject poverty? Is there any particular typology under which we can categorise poor in order to identify and work on their plights? Could there be consensus on the basic debate of poverty lines and how far these are valid given the multidimensional components of historical, ethical, economic, social, gender and political deprivation and discrimination? To what extent refocus on the Asian ultra-poor warranted particularly in a region which also witnessed sustained economic growth for decades? What are the key issues involved and what are the implications of living as an ultra-poor? Aren't the social conflict and incidences of insurgency seen in many pockets, attributable to a large extent to the continued neglect and gross denial of social justice and economic empowerment to the vulnerable? What lessons could we learn from the work of our own and experience of other nations, where cases of extreme poverty has been tackled with measurable success? Can we identify some effective and efficient pathways to systematically put the poor people on an upward economic and social trajectory? What are the different steps required to fulfil their basic needs - food security, health, education, housing, drinking water, and sanitation, access to livelihoods and access to resources and entitlements as well as delivery of key public services? How can we check the incidences of gross violation of human rights and dignity – particularly of the women belonging to the poor households? What are the strategies for their empowerment?

The discussions from various leaders are expected to provide us with valuable insights throwing up a host of ideas and exploring options to get people out of stubborn poverty and lead us to the larger issues of social progress, harmony, cohesion and at the end better society.

## **Expected Outcome**

As outcome we would expect our collective wisdom and creative intellect to critically reflect on the problems and issues, identify need for collaboration, and design pragmatic road map for action while deliberating on the individual and collective roles of Government, Corporate world and the Civil Society in dealing with the challenge of development of the ultra-poor.

## **Epilogue**

It is an encouraging period for India with a pro-active government determined to make a lasting difference to the lives of millions. When some of the best minds from government, industry and civil society partners get themselves purposefully engaged to chalk out a better course for the vulnerable in a focused manner, it gives us great hope and optimism.



## Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation

### Tentative Programme Agenda

#### Dialogue on Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the Vulnerable

Date: October 13th 2014

Venue: Raunaq Room

PHD House,

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016

Telephone: +91-11-26863801-04

Dialogue on Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the Vulnerable	
<b>4.00-4.30 PM</b>	<b>Registration and Tea</b>
<b>4.30-4.40 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Address: Dr. Gopi N Ghosh, Director and Chief of Policy Research, Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation</b>
<b>4.40-5.50 PM</b>	<p><b>Discussion on “Leadership Insights on Development Cooperation in a Globalized World”</b></p> <p>Challenges and Opportunities for building Synergy in Business and Social Development</p> <p><b>Four Thematic Areas :</b></p> <p>i. Business Growth and Social Development : Need for Synergy</p> <p>ii. Creating an Economic Environment for the poor : the Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>iii. Role of Government, Business and the Civil Society – a Win-Win Perspective</p> <p>iv. Innovation for making durable Social Progress: A Pro-poor Agenda</p> <p>Chair: Dr Rita Sharma, Former Secretary Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development and Former National Advisory Council</p> <p>Dr AK Balyan Managing Director, Petronet LNG Ltd</p> <p>Dr Abhishek Goel Faculty, IIM, Calcutta</p> <p>Dr H Sudarshan, Secretary, Karuna Trust Bengaluru</p> <p>Alok De, Mission Manager, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Government of India</p> <p>Raghvesh Ranjan, Governance Adviser, Development Partnerships Hub, DFID N Delhi</p> <p><b>Open Dialogue</b></p>
<b>5.50-6.50 PM</b>	<p><b>Short thematic discussions by invited panels</b></p> <p>Chair – Sanjeev Chopra JS ( MoAgri) (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Livelihoods and ultra-poor</li> <li>• Food security nutrition and ultra-poor</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water, Common resource, and ultra-poor</li> <li>• Education and ultra-poor</li> <li>• Slum smart cities and ultra-poor</li> <li>• Climate change vulnerability and food security</li> <li>• Social Inclusion and ultra-poor</li> </ul> <p><b>Open Dialogue</b></p>
<b>6.50- 7.40 PM</b>	<p><b>Learning from Experience</b></p> <p>Presentation on Trickle Up Intervention for the poor living in ultra-poverty Mr. William M Abrams, President, Trickle Up Program Inc., New York</p> <p>Social Safety Net Policy Reform in Bangladesh Dr Akhter Ahmed, Chief of Party, Policy Research and Strategy Support Program, IFPRI , Bangladesh</p> <p><b>Open Dialogue</b></p>
<b>7.40-8.10 PM</b>	<p><b>Concluding Remarks – Strategic Perspective</b></p> <p>- Ways to Achieve Transformational Change through partnerships and collaboration, Prof. K.G.Karmakar, Ex-MD, NABARD and Prof. SPJIMR Mumbai, Chairman, Advisory Board, Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation</p>
<b>8.10-8.15 PM</b>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks</b></p> <p>Prasanta Das Member, Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation</p>
<b>8.15-9.00 PM</b>	<p><b>Networking Dinner</b></p>



## Development and the NGOs

**Dr. Gopi Ghosh**

Director Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation

As we all are aware, rural development is indeed a complex multidimensional task fraught with challenges and pitfalls. Often many fundamental questions are raised starting with what is meant by development, who is to decide what is good for people, and several issues about sustainability, participation, right course of action, various processes, strategies and approaches to be followed, choices to be made, the doubtful notion of benefactor and beneficiaries, the issues of empowerment, equality, inclusivity and so on. Often the goals seem to be self-contradictory in nature; with equally plausible arguments both for and against the proposal. Intended outcome may benefit one group of stakeholders at the expense of another. It is often found that people for whom development is supposedly targeted are themselves not interested in outside ideas or intervention. Sometimes the course adopted are not found to be pro-poor, pro-women or eco-friendly. They may not like the idea of the so-called experts who see it from outside with inadequate understanding of the social, economic and especially cultural perspectives of the local population prescribing actions for their development.

Sometimes we, as the change agents get frustrated as the help, advice or attention sincerely provided is not respected enough by people for whom it is meant, the way things are planned are not appreciated and eventually, projects do not get desired results. Even if some encouraging results are obtained, these are not scaled up, lessons learnt are not integrated back into next project cycle or next set of proposals. Scores of M&E specialists then attempt to analyze the cause, context and consequence in voluminous reports which are often not read. There are examples galore wherein many huge projects of reputed agents of change including international development organizations going this way. At times great success of a particular development model in one pockets fail to register any results in another area. The highly successful Anand model of Dairy Cooperatives in India makes an interesting case in this regard.

One strong point that comes out is to take people in question right into every process concerning the project from the scratch. Because of a variety of reasons such experiments seem to be possible in limited areas with rather homogenous (socially, economically and politically) and manageable number of people (or community) but large projects may not be able to leverage the full participatory potential and adhere to its burden underlying philosophy in its entirety and complexity. One of the most profound advice given by Mahatma Gandhi is worthwhile to recall in such situation. "Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to *swaraj* [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melt away."

It's a fact that rural people, especially the poor are affected by a series of inter-connected issues while attempting to make their living. When we have projects that attempt to address people's problems in one particular area, these may not provide desired benefit to majority people. Evidently solving one area does not provide solution to other areas. Let me illustrate. Food security is very important for the poor people as a hungry soul can't think of anything else. But same is for health; an unhealthy person is incapable of absorbing the food or working to his/her full capacity or take advantage of the MNREGA entitlements. Education is also key to make any sustained change in the lives of the poor associated with knowledge, information and thereby informed decision making through acquiring various life and

livelihood skills, improve their communication, and thus feeling a sense of empowerment. If there is no source of meaningful livelihood opportunities for the people nothing will move or change in their lives. Again realize; any development intervention is squarely dependent on the development of basic infrastructure - an omnibus term for roads, school, health facilities, banking, power, telephony, water, housing, processing facilities, industry etc. Top of it, we are also aware of the need for an enabling ecosystem that favors equity, equality, inclusiveness and participation of all sections and segments of the population to translate the stated intention of any proposal into outcome. In short, all-round interventions are indispensable for durable development outcome.

I want to stress the need for the government/s of the day to understand and take due responsibility for the development of its people in the form of appropriate policies and action plan concerning several aspects of their lives preferably simultaneously. Say for example nutrition; without proper water and sanitation and hygiene, the attainment of nutritional indices as expected in the MDG goals borders on impracticality. There is significant disconnect between agricultural growth and concomitant improvement in nutrition indices, calling for a serious introspection about what is missing in the whole process. Government should coordinate and plan activities of its various arms to have necessary information and complete coordination about what is happening with their people on hunger, health, environment, food production, markets and prices, calamity, drought or natural resources depletion and so on. As a welfare state it should be concerned about who is hungry, why they are hungry and what steps, short and long term, need to be taken to address their problems in a coordinated manner so as to provide a sustainable support to the most deserving people. And then it must ensure how these action plans are to be carried out with professionalism, honesty, efficiency, equality, inclusivity and sensitivity.

But government has only that much wherewithal, capacity or resources (not only financial but also intellectual, institutional and human) to reach out to all, given the enormity and diversity of our problems. Increasingly its being realized that the private sector has to step in, in a large measure to support such initiatives with a vision and in a manner that match their business interests with the aspiration of the populace. Here comes the role of civil society, non-governmental organizations -being one of the key elements in that segment to support and sustain public initiatives bringing government and people together on the same plane. Local self-government organizations such as Panchayati Raj Institutions could play a stellar role in localizing the task and choices provided they are well-represented, politically equidistant and positively aware of development challenges. NGOs need to ensure all these elements that affect the interests of people- both immediate and long term are factored in comprehensively. They should insist on taking on rural development as a focused intervention of integrating all such inter-linking areas that tend to impede socio-economic development and all-round progress of people. Learning lessons from other players is significant in not doing the same mistake or what they call re-inventing the wheel. Civil societies are expected to bring forth larger grassroots concerns and make government functionaries aware of what should constitute the policy framework. They should also act as watch dog if anything goes wrong or development process strays far from what has been agreed upon and simply against the broad interests of people and the nation.

The role of NGOs is seen as a critical one in taking the neediest people on the path of sustainable development. They must understand community's need, concerns and capacities and make people aware of what could be endless possibilities. They are meant to communicate prospects and problems of any proposed intervention in a transparent manner and insist that people only to take an informed choice about its acceptance and focused implementation.

Some of the basic strategies for rural development the NGOs should focus is to inform, educate and create awareness about the economy, society, technology and change required in communal thinking. They are at right position to raise their hope and aspirations in the process, guide them organize into



purposeful institutions of their own, as a potent tool, help them arrange inputs, finance, technology, management systems, acquire relevant skills, assume monitoring and governance through reliable information sharing and learning opportunities on a continuing basis. They have to motivate people to work increasingly on entrepreneurial mode and focus on scale developments by aggregating compatible small scale economic activities into larger business initiatives to derive fruits of organized marketing. They must understand market, value chain, competition and innovation to survive, sustain and continue on the path of all-round development. In the last, they may be reminded of Abraham Lincoln who once said - you cannot help people permanently by doing for them what they could do for themselves.

## The Pauperisation of Rural India

Dr. K G Karmakar

Professor, SPJIMR and ex-MD, NABARD

Member of the Board, Asian Institute of Poverty alleviation

### How Indian Peasants became Poor

The trend towards rapid urbanization and modernization was set by the British and the rural economy was reduced considerably that continues even today. The trend towards commercialization of agriculture was also due to the British impetus to maximize their incomes and balance their imports from China. The shift from food crops to cash crops like cotton, indigo, tea and opium, was the contribution of the British to Indian agriculture.

Production of crops for the market was needed for supplying cotton to the Manchester mills (due to absence of American cotton as a result of the American Civil War and abolishment of salary). This helped in the production of cotton in India but gained momentum with the railways being built for transportation and mills for production of cloth and better development of rural roads, as necessary for trade and commerce. Some results of this conversion of subsistence agriculture to a plantation or commercial agriculture ensured that many existing systems which had become inconvenient to the British were duly changed as under:

- i) The land revenue system was totally re-oriented and the farmers had to pay land tax in cash and this led to increased monetization in the rural economy which some farmers hitherto paid land revenue in kind. So farmers had to switch over to production of agricultural commodities which had a ready market.
- ii) A new class of money lenders came up in the economy. All the changes in Indian agriculture did not add up to development of the crucial agriculture sector. The colonial British administration did not talk about improvement of socio-economic conditions in India and development for them meant the creation of markets for absorption of British capital and bumper returns.
- iii) The increasing monetization of the rural economy and arbitrary land revenues spelled out the death of the 'jajmani' system in the villages and led to pauperization and creating of the class of agricultural laborers who remained indebted and steeped in poverty.
- iv) The destruction of the cottage industries and handloom industries pushed the rural people deeper into poverty as within 50 years, India changed from an exporter of Exquisite Textiles to an importer of Mill cloth. The Luxury goods segment of Indian industry could no longer compete with European goods as the ruling class now had no taste for Indian goods deemed to be of inferior quality.
- v) With no access to modern education for the masses and massive changes in livelihoods, technologies and systems, the income sources for the common people in rural areas were reduced and this resulted in mass impoverishment as the inclusive "village economy" was shattered and people were forced to migrate to towns and cities in search of livelihoods and sustenance.

### Food Security Issues

Having wasted 68 years and not having reduced extreme rural Poverty in India, a comprehensive policy and investment agenda for achieving sustainable food security is needed to: i) improve smallholder productivity and market access; ii) keep trade open; iii) promote productive social safety nets for smallholder farmers and agricultural labourers; iv) integrate climate change into strategies at all levels; and v) coordinate food security and sustainability policies.



Some areas of risk assessment considered with our present biotechnology crops include:

- i) The potential of genes moving from genetically engineered crops into wild plants;
- ii) Pests eventually developing resistance to pest-resistance crops;
- iii) Introducing allergy-causing compounds or changing food nutritional composition

There are many obstacles to building efficient food safety systems. Food safety as a local health and development problem is still rarely acknowledged by decision makers in many developing countries. It is also clear that one major obstacle to improving food safety systems, particularly in developing countries, is the lack of data on the cost burden of food-borne diseases. Such data is critical to establishing evidence-based national food safety policies. We have little hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015, unless developing countries recognise the need for and invest in improvements for water, food safety and nutrition to be systematically introduced into mainstream food system policies. Producing safe food is not simply a tool for boosting agriculture or trade; it is an essential ingredient for public health and preventing malnutrition for our children who are at grave risk today.

We cannot barter away their future! In India, Agriculture is a state subject and unless the state really cares for its farmers and their farms and protects its small-holder farmers by ensuring better returns, the future of all farmers continues to remain bleak. Each state must set stiff R& D targets for the various Agricultural Universities and Laboratories and agricultural scientists including the KVKs / ATMA's set up in various districts. Breakthroughs in research are badly needed in oilseeds and pulse production and in scientific pure-line breeding of indigenous dairy animals. Alternate sources of income include animal husbandry and fisheries as a means of risk reduction for all farmers. Better scientific technology including use of biotechnology is urgently needed to reduce input costs of farmers and to enhance productivity. This will help farmers' combat climate change effects with confidence as very little seems to have been done in India when compared to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

A comprehensive policy and investment agenda for achieving sustainable food security is needed to: i) improve smallholder farm productivity and market access ii) keep trade open iii) promote productive social safety nets iv) integrate climate change into strategies at all levels v) coordinate food security and sustainability policy vi) ensure food is available at sustainable prices for poor people vii) ensure proper food grains storage and transportation and viii) credit availability. Climate change and globalization are two major processes of global change, and it is assumed that both have major impacts on Indian agriculture. Yet, their combined impacts are rarely studied in conjunction with understanding the regional and local dimensions of vulnerability are essential to develop appropriate and targeted adaptation efforts. At the same time, such efforts must recognize that climate change impacts will not be felt in isolation, but in the context of multiple stresses. The dramatic economic and social changes associated with globalization, present new risks as well as opportunities.

National food security has become crucial in the context of climate change, scarce natural resources and also on account of rapid increase in population. To ensure food security, the technology and research efforts have to be on adaptation and mitigation measures. The accelerating pace of climate change, combined with global population and income growth, threatens food security everywhere. Agriculture is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Higher temperatures eventually reduce yields of desirable crops while encouraging weed and pest proliferation. Changes in precipitation patterns increase the likelihood of short-term crop failures and long-term production decline. Although there will be gains in some crops in some regions of the world, the overall impact of climate change on agriculture is expected to be negative, threatening global food security. Poverty alleviation and achieving the 8 major MDG goals by 2015 will be an empty pipe-dream, if India is unable to develop its agro-biotechnology to better farm productivity norms, immediately. Also, food security compulsions leave us

with no choice except to ensure that smallholder farms and farmers ensure better crop productivity standards, using scarce resources as are available.

De-risking the smallholder farmer is a priority by diversifying into horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries. The farmer does not require handouts or subsidies and should be given due respect in Indian society. Efforts should be made to enhance the knowledge-base and skill-sets of all farmers, as farming increasingly becomes more scientific. The farm sector continues to be unviable for the smallholder farmers with increasing land fragmentation reducing outputs, leading to a vicious cycle of reduced access to modern technologies and credit at subsidized rates. Imbalances in fertilizer usage due to subsidies and subsidized electricity, all have their own attendant problems. The smallholder farmers should be enabled to build up their coping mechanisms with better rural infrastructure.

The RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund) which has been successfully administered by NABARD for about 20 years is reportedly under threat from the Ministry of Finance and the RBI for obscure reasons, which should not be allowed. To ensure better productivity for the farmers, long-term credit flow, infusion of bio-technology, better quality farm equipment, low-cost poly-houses, drip-irrigation systems, balanced fertilizer's and micro-nutrients as per soil-tests, are all essential. If Agriculture is really a priority and the plight of farmers is to be reduced, mere lip-service to the farmers' cause will not do and this is a time when actions speak louder than words. Who will plead the smallholder farmers' cause and give a helping hand when required?

### **Perspectives**

With 56% farmers in India depending on favorable monsoons for good crops and not having access to assured irrigation sources, all crops are a gamble and in a production cycle of 5 years, it is assumed that farmers will have two good crop-years, one bad crop-year and two average-crop years and that an average farmer should be able to repay agri-credit dues. With 55% of the country's work-force engaged in agriculture (largely under-employed except during planting and harvesting seasons), the economy is heavily dependent on the primary agricultural sector. With 82% of the farmers being smallholder farmers (average size of land-holding less than 2 hectares), there is a basic fight for survival as they rarely have access to quality inputs, irrigation, credit, agri-marketing infrastructure, insurance and 80% risks are at the production stages while 20% risks are at the marketing stages. With fake seeds, fake fertilizer's and fake pesticides flooding the market, the smallholder farmer fights a losing battle for survival with climate changes, cloudbursts and droughts and non-availability of cheap credit and global warming. The smallholder farmer has little access to subsidized credit (@4% for prompt repayment) no access to long-term credit or to equity options and is often at the mercy of money-lenders and agents who manage to siphon off 80% of the profits while the farmer with all risks and back-breaking labor, barely manages to have 20% of the profits. With increasing land salinity, land-fragmentation, loss of ground-water, rising cost of inputs, it is indeed a harsh life for the farmers in India. The only way out of increasing pauperization of the farmers, is de-risking strategies and commercial agriculture with emphasis on fisheries, animal husbandry, vegetable cultivation and horticulture.

But commercial agriculture involves high-value infrastructure and inputs such as cheap poly-houses, drip irrigation, cheap credit, market access, quality seeds and inputs, reliable transportation and much-improved storage facilities (ware-houses, cold-storages, reefer vans, etc.) which smallholder farmers are unable to afford and hence for all their risks and back-breaking labor, the farmer is unable to break even and is unable to meet the requirements of his family. On his frail shoulders rest the hopes for sustainable farming, crop diversity and food security for the entire country! New Technologies which help to reduce costs and risks, better access to storages, fair spot markets, commodity exchanges where farmer producer organizations co-exist with traders, cheap credit are all essential for commercializing agriculture. Diversification into fruits and vegetable crop production requires a change in mind-sets, skills, knowledge and practices and even more exposure to risks besides costlier



inputs and sufficient credit resources. For all the production risks, weather risks, market risks the farmer's margins are very thin as the traders' margins are ever-increasing with hardly any risk!

This only ensures leaner and starving farmers and their families and fatter agents, aadiyas, money-lenders and traders. With chemical fertilizers poisoning the soils and groundwater (the tragedy of Punjab) there is need to go in for rain-water harvesting, watershed development and intensive drip irrigation so as to conserve scarce water resources. Agricultural extension services and organic farming practices are like fairy-tales today. Without proper post-harvest facilities, farmers will find it very difficult to enhance their profit margins. The State APMC Acts and Essential Commodities Act and a host of outmoded Acts need to be consigned into oblivion as soon as is feasible as these have outlived their utility value. More efficient and modern warehouses, cold storages and private mandis are all essential today. For the smallholder farmer, diversification into animal husbandry and fisheries in ponds is an essential need and not an option so as to diversify risks. More Farmer Associations, Farmer Producer Groups and Joint Liability Groups are needed today to offset the pernicious strangle-hold of traders and agents and ensure better margins for themselves. Capital Investment for enhancing land productivity, building up the assets base and diversifying from subsistence farming into commercial farming, is essential if the smallholder farmer is to survive. Climate changes and global warming due to heavy carbon and methane emissions have reduced farm yields and productivity.

With all these plethora of problems, sustainable farming for smallholder farmers is easily forgotten and in the mad struggle for survival by smallholder farmers and their families, the goal of food security is often forgotten. The smallholder farmers need a helping hand by creating more agri-market infrastructure and small warehouses so as to be able to store food grains for some time so as to get better prices after 2-3 months when prices are not likely to be depressed. Also Warehouse Receipts need to be encouraged by registered warehouses and banks so that farmers are able to get better margins. Finally, the smallholder farmers need a helping hand by creating better agri-market infrastructure and institutional assistance as and when required.



## Creating an evidence base for Social Safety Net Policy Reform in Bangladesh: Highlights from IFPRI Evaluations of Programs

Akhter U. Ahmed<sup>1</sup>

International Food Policy Research Institute

### Introduction

Social safety nets augment incomes and improve food security by offering people with limited means the food or economic access to food. In Bangladesh, about 12 percent of the government budget is assigned to social safety net programs in fiscal year 2014–2015.

Bangladesh possesses significant experiences in providing assistance to the poor through social safety net programs. Although some of the programs started as early as mid-1970, the administrative structure and the implementation mechanisms have gone through substantive changes over the years. The most notable changes include transforming relief programs to development programs, converting ration price subsidies to targeted food distribution, and engaging other stakeholders—such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and micro-finance organizations—in the implementation of various safety net programs.

Successive governments in Bangladesh have shown remarkable willingness to evaluate program effectiveness, confront shortcomings, and cancel or modify programs if necessary. Over the past two decades, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) studied the major safety net programs in Bangladesh using rigorous methods of evaluation. The performance of some of the key programs from recent IFPRI evaluations is highlighted below.

### Performance of Selected Safety Net Programs

#### Transferring Food and Cash to the Ultra-poor in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has some safety net programs that transfer food to the poor, some that transfer cash, and some that provide a combination of both. To help determine the relative effectiveness of food and cash transfers, an IFPRI study examined the efficacy of both types of transfers in enhancing the food security and livelihoods of the ultra-poor in rural Bangladesh (Ahmed et al. 2009). Our evaluation assessed how well transfers were delivered; which transfers beneficiaries preferred; how well transfers were targeted; what effects the transfers had on food security, livelihoods, and gender-related outcomes; and how cost effective the transfers were.

Our evaluation focused on four interventions: (1) the Income-Generating Vulnerable Group Development (IGVGD) program, which provides food transfers; (2) the Food Security Vulnerable Group Development (FSVGD) program, which provides a combination of food and cash transfers; (3) the Food for Asset Creation (FFA) component of the Integrated Food Security (IFS) program, which also provides both food and cash transfers; and (4) the Rural Maintenance Program (RMP), which provides cash transfers.

Our results suggest that, as income increases, beneficiary preferences for food declines, indicating that the poorest households prefer only food as the transfer. Conversely, relatively better-off beneficiaries tend to prefer only cash. Food is preferable over cash particularly during and immediately after disasters when market access becomes difficult even if the people have money in their hands.

It is assuring to note from our study that income transfers from these four major safety net programs are

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playing an important role in improving food security and protecting and expanding the asset bases of poor households. However, the programs have no measurable effects on child nutritional status in terms of stunting, wasting, and underweight.

The size of the transfer clearly matters, and so does the access to microcredit and savings offered by NGOs to program beneficiaries. Increasing the size of transfers and the length of assistance, as well as strengthening access to microcredit and savings services, is critical to achieving sustainable improvements in the food security and livelihoods of the ultra-poor. There is considerable scope for improving the targeting performance of the programs as well. Currently, these programs rely in part on selection criteria that are neither observable nor verifiable.

### **Safety Nets in Bangladesh: Which Transfer Modality Yields Maximum Benefit?**

A limitation of the evaluation by Ahmed et al. (2009) was that the four programs differed from each other along a number of dimensions – the size of transfers, the requirements that beneficiaries must fulfill in order to obtain these transfers, the extent of complementary forms of assistance such as savings and credit. These factors influence program impacts, thus confounding the impact of differences in transfer modality (food or cash).

In order to overcome the limitation, we designed the Transfer Modality Research Initiative (TMRI), a pilot intervention, to provide definitive evidence on the consequences and strengths and weaknesses of different safety net transfer modalities in Bangladesh. By keeping all aspects of the intervention the same (namely, the value and frequency of transfers and the delivery dates), we ensured that any difference in outcomes is attributable to the modality (that is, the form of assistance received)—either (1) cash, (2) food, (3) a combination of cash and food, or (4) cash or food accompanied by a nutrition behavior change communications (BCC) component. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) implemented the pilot intervention from May 2012 to June 2014. We developed a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design to evaluate the impact of the transfer modalities, which includes transfer recipient (treatment) and non-recipient (control) groups of households. We used RCT with “before-and-after” and “with-and-without” differences or the difference-in-differences method for estimating the impact of transfers.

Participants in the pilot TMRI—4,000 ultra-poor women (and their 21,600 family members)—received their monthly entitlements on time, and there was no incidence of leakage or loss. Overall, participants were enthusiastic about the TMRI benefits, emphasizing that the transfers helped them to feed their families and achieve improvements in indicators of family welfare (Ahmed, Sraboni, and Shaba 2013). Our impact evaluation has found statistically significant positive impacts on (1) income, (2) food expenditure, (3) non-food expenditure, (4) calorie acquisition, (5) food poverty, (6) diet quality, and (7) child stunting. It was intriguing to find that the leading impact came from transfers when they are combined with nutrition behavior change communications (Ahmed et al. 2014).

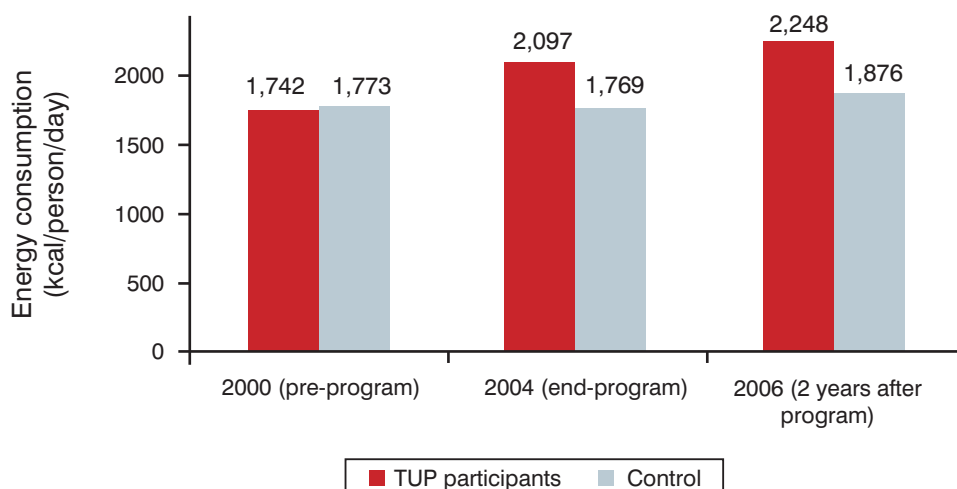
### **The Impact of Asset Transfer on Livelihoods of the Ultra-poor in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has a comprehensive portfolio of public safety net interventions to assist the poor through transfers. However, many of these public interventions fail to reach the poorest of the poor—the ultra-poor. Moreover, transfer payments help the poor over the short term, but do not by themselves trigger sustainable income growth for the ultra-poor. These are the challenges that drove the BRAC to initiate an experimental program called “Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction: Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR/TUP).”

An IFPRI-BRAC joint study (Ahmed et al. 2009)—using the difference-in-differences propensity score matching method of impact evaluation—revealed that that participation in the Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) program played an important role in protecting and expanding the asset bases of ultra-poor households. The program made it possible for its beneficiaries to increase their household food

consumption, and to sustain their augmented food consumption (measured in terms of food energy or calorie) even two years after they had completed the project cycle (Figure 1).

**Figure 1-Sustained impact of BRAC’s asset transfers on food energy consumption of the ultra-poor**



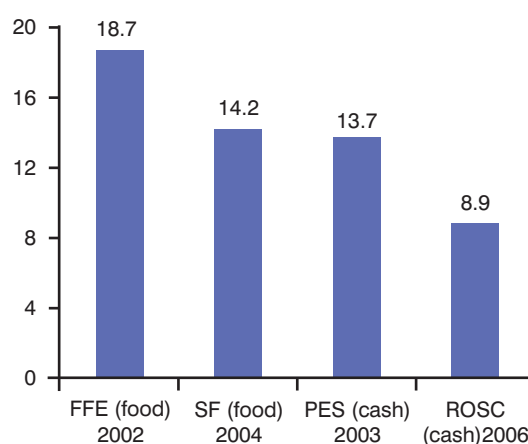
Source: Ahmed et al. 2009.

### Transfers for Providing Education Incentives

Poverty has kept generations of Bangladeshi families from sending their children to school. Because day-to-day survival has to be their first priority, families often cannot provide children with educational opportunities that could help lift them from destitution. The Government of Bangladesh devotes a significant share of its budget to providing incentives to families to send their children to school. How effective are these programs in improving educational attainment of children from poor families?

In the past several years, IFPRI has conducted comprehensive surveys of households, schools, and service providers to evaluate the education incentive programs in Bangladesh (Ahmed 2004a, 2004b, 2005, 2006; Ahmed and del Ninno 2005). Drawing on these evaluations, Figure 2 shows the impacts of these programs on school enrollment.

**Figure 2—Impact of programs on net primary education enrollment rates**



FFE= Food for Education, SF=School Feeding, PES=Primary Education Stipend, ROSC=Reaching Out-of-School Children

Source: Ahmed 2004a, 2004b, 2005, 2006; Ahmed and del Ninno 2005.



The Food for Education (FFE) program provided a free monthly ration of food grains (rice or wheat) to poor families in rural areas if their children attended primary school. In 2002, the Primary Education Stipend (PES) program, which provides cash assistance to poor families if they send their children to school, replaced the FFE program. Both the FFE and PES programs increased school enrollment. The rate of increase in enrollment was greater for FFE in 2002 than for PES in 2003 (see Figure 3). Over time, however, the impact of PES on enrollment became insignificant due to the decline of the real value of the fixed cash stipend. FFE increased household food consumption, but PES did not. The targeting performance of both programs was unsatisfactory. The targeting errors of exclusion (leaving out those who are needy) and inclusion (providing benefits to those who do not need them) were quite large for both programs.

### **Short-term Hunger Alleviation in the Classroom Improves Children's learning**

In 2002, the Government of Bangladesh and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched the School Feeding (SF) program. SF provided a mid-morning snack consisting of nutrient-fortified wheat biscuits that contained 75 percent of the recommended daily allowance of vitamins and minerals of children. An IFPRI evaluation of the program (Ahmed 2004a) shows that SF significantly increased rates of school enrollment and attendance and reduced dropout. The program also substantially improved the diet of the children in the program. The research provided evidence that the SF improved the attention span and learning capacity of students by reducing short-term hunger in the classroom. Participation in the program increased test scores, and students did especially well in mathematics.

### **Conclusions**

Social safety nets in Bangladesh have been quite effective in smoothing the consumption and the income of poor households and helping them cope with stresses and shocks. However, important issues and challenges remain in the safety system.

There are over 90 safety net programs currently operating in Bangladesh. However, benefits of most of these programs are spread too thin to have any noticeable impact. Phasing out ineffective programs and redistributing funds among the effective ones would enable the government to substantially increase the transfer size without reducing the total coverage with the current level of the safety net budget (US\$3.2 billion in fiscal year 2013-2014).

### **Priority investment areas for strengthening the safety net system in Bangladesh would include:**

- Improving the targeting performance
- Scaling up effective programs
- Integrating nutrition through high quality behavior change communication together with transfers
- Extending safety nets to urban areas
- Focusing on pension schemes, social health insurance
- Ensuring sustainability of program benefits
- Consolidating and simplifying programs and phasing out high-cost, inefficient programs
- Exploring promising new programs and the use of suitable technology
- Improving the monitoring and evaluation system
- Moving beyond coping approaches (safety nets) to risk-reduction approaches (social protection).

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## Development Innovation: Thinking Differently

Dr Gopi Ghosh  
Director and Chief of Policy Research

We all are living through a volatile world, in rapidly changing demography, natural resources, market dynamics, technology and climate. The problems that the society faces, both long and short term, are also assuming different dimensions as a result of these changes. Alleviating rural poverty and food insecurity; universalized access to health, education, drinking water, sanitation, urbanization and agriculture are all yet failing to deliver? The implementation of public service delivery is abysmal due to poor rural infrastructure. Critical resources such as land, water, forests, bio-diversity etc. are declining rapidly. A large number of rural populace in India who are predominantly poor are still critically dependent on agriculture and other sundry rural avenues as livelihood options. A paradigm shift in thinking in the way we address fundamental problems of the society and particularly of its economy is urgently required. Greater emphasis is to be put on knowledge, information and innovation to cope up with the challenges of socio-economic development.

Innovation is as old as human civilization, variously described as something 'new', 'unique', 'different' or 'improved'. Innovation is key to improving the lives and livelihoods of people be it a product, process, design, technology, system, service or solution. An innovation can be big or small, new or improvised, complex or seemingly simple. It can happen through systemic change (transformational); could be a small change in an incremental way or through big break (bang) or what is called radical transformation. It is not the source, type, industry or style of innovation that matters, what is important is the impact innovation has on the public or the society at large.

Innovation was previously understood to be happening only through scientific research, corporate endeavor, commercial entrepreneurship or industrial invention and technical excellence. Innovations could be technical improvement; but as well be an improved project design or system of management and manner of implementation or even a robust social intervention. Social and grassroots (rural people) innovations that stimulate social change assume greater significant importance now, given the urgent need for speeding up development to fulfill common people's needs and aspirations in a democratic polity.

Why do we need innovation? It is important to have a different perspective from the way we think about the problems or issues that affect us. It is more important to know how and why many solutions that we prescribe for tackling various problems of the society fail to achieve comprehensive results. A dispassionate situation analysis suggests that "run-of-the-mill" "business as usual" approaches could take us only that far in our tryst with progress. As the levels of poverty, incidences of hunger, diseases, and destitutions are quite unacceptable in our society, and, resources prove to be inadequate for the growing populace, the "status quo" approach is not an option any more. We have to be more intelligent, creative and imaginative in understanding the nuances and offer plausible solutions given the kind of social, political, technological, ecological and economic complexities. Talking of the importance of innovation, Steve Jobs once said- Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower."

The areas of innovation can be diverse and multi-faceted; right from how to analyze the causal factors for our problems; how to inspire people in finding out solutions in their own ways; what kind of development approaches to adopt; what new technologies to induce, adapt and ensure their appropriate use; in what way to respond to changing market dynamics.

Innovative terms like "more with less" "reaching the unreached" "voice to the voiceless" "participatory processes" "crops per drops" "save and grow" "bottom up" "Trickle Up" "social learning" "Digital divide" "creative destruction" "ecosystem governance" "bottom of the pyramid" "theories of change"

“each one teach one” “out-of-box approach” “lateral thinking” “last mile delivery” are some of the innovative coinages intended to provide positive and divergent insights into the complex, often contradictory, uncertain and dynamic social, economic and political environment. Indeed innovative strategies and approaches have influenced the course and contours of global development all through.

Many individuals and institutions are working to inspire, encourage and promote creativity and innovation especially at the grassroots level. Honey Bee Network, National Innovation Foundation, Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network (GIAN) are notable among these, in India. We have to be more pro-active in our business orientation and utilize the creative ability and indomitable spirit of entrepreneurship of people to make them self-reliant in pursuit of income and livelihoods. Skill development, capacity building and handholding make great sense in this regard.

The very approach to innovation has to be organic and spontaneous; rather than routine, mechanistic or hierarchical. National innovation policy should foster creative ecosystem in research and educational institutions, make women and marginalized groups more inclusive, encourage people working in informal sectors (largely poorer people) to be more confident, blend traditional practices (water, energy, knowledge, craft and artifacts) and modern technology to improve sustainable livelihoods, make emerging technology (like mobile and ICT) more accessible, adaptable and useful to poorer people. In fact we must facilitate innovation in every field to assure better growth and socio-economic development by stimulating dialogue promoting innovation among stakeholders – government, private, research and education and public at large - to improve all-round performance of people in individual and collective endeavors. We must recognize that smart innovation helps in achieving efficiency, productivity, quality and competitiveness in the market with reduced cost.

Notably, individuals are the backbone of innovation and many entrepreneurs are doing innovation in their own ingenious ways. Often recognized as what is called "Jugaad Innovation", it is a very flexible, frugal and un-structured method of generating original ideas and solutions. Proving the adage that “Necessity is the mother of invention” this is emerging as cost-effective ways to innovate and achieve breakthrough growth in a complex and resource-scarce situation. Invigorating areas of education and research, information and communication, partnerships and relationships, commerce and manufacturing, trade and investment, institutions and infrastructure all may trigger a flurry of creative activities across disciplines. Pro-active policies, institutional coordination and judicious support can create an enabling innovation environment, wherein people are inspired to experiment, take risks and adopt new ideas. Such creative ecosystem calls for freedom, incentive structure, resources, shared learning and encouragement to challenge existing paradigm and search for viable alternative solutions towards sustainable development with justice, equity and equality.

Closed mindsets, outdated perception, hierarchy and bureaucratic hurdles kill innovation; though success in innovation has never been a linear narrative. Serious lapses notwithstanding, many innovations – big or small- may still be happening in agriculture and rural development across the countryside. However, due to poor knowledge management, lack of social cohesion and right institutional architecture, diffusion and dissemination of such local level innovations are widely acknowledged as problem areas. Sharing, collaboration, recognition, application and scaling up are other grey areas in our society that we must attempt to address to reap enormous dividends.

Our nation urgently needs to draw up robust strategies to promote all-round innovation providing holistic solutions with regard to productivity, natural resources, institutions, wastage, conservation, sustainability, technology and partnership. These should focus particularly on disadvantage groups and communities, resource-poor areas, small farmers’ sustainability, skill and capacity building, reaching the unreached and upholding the basic rights of the dispossessed and less privileged with due care, respect and dignity.

## To rise out of poverty ... Asian women head to the library

Sara Litke

READ Global Marketing and Communications Manager



“Being born a girl is worthless,” said Chuna Devi, a Nepalese woman. Because her family didn’t think her education was a priority, she grew up illiterate, herding goats and cows.

According to the Wall Street Journal, women make up just 24 percent of the formal workforce in South Asia. That represents a huge untapped resource: 336 million women like Chuna could be contributing to their families' income and lifting themselves out of poverty if they had the skills to do so.

Chuna is part of a solution to inequity and poverty that is taking root in some of South Asia’s most remote corners, and it begins with a simple but disruptive idea: going to the library.

For more than 2 million rural villagers across South Asia, libraries called "READ Centers" have already become a powerful platform for women to learn skills, network in her community, and become leaders who change social norms.

At the age of 47, Chuna changed her and her daughters’ lives by learning to read and starting a women’s group. Today, her goal is to convince other women that it’s never too late to learn, earn an income, and change your community.

**Watch a three-minute video of Chuna’s story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN19au1tpsU>**

Women play a vital role in poor households. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put it recently, “Empowering rural women is crucial for ending hunger and poverty. By denying women rights and opportunities, we deny their children and societies a better future.”

A recent UN study shows that if women were given the same access to productive resources as men, it would reduce the number of hungry people in the world by about 12 to 17 percent. Similarly, USAID stated that women are more likely than men to reinvest in their families’ food security, health, and education (see the infographic here).

Despite the obvious benefits, the road to entrepreneurship is extremely difficult for many women. They often lack the education and skills needed, and face gender discrimination. About 493 million women are illiterate worldwide, more than half of whom live in South Asia. These women rarely have the opportunity to learn at a young age. 130 million girls in South Asia will be married as children by 2030, ending their education and resulting in early pregnancies. As adults, these women often must seek permission from their husbands to leave their homes for reasons other than child care or agricultural work.

In South Asia, libraries are seen as legitimate, neutral places for women to visit because they often offer child care and health services that benefit the family. The READ Centers set up by the non-profit READ Global also help women learn income-producing activities, such as sewing, beekeeping, or mushroom farming. When women learn a trade and start providing income to their families, their husbands often gain trust in the READ Center and give them more freedom. Women can become networked with a community of other women who provide mutual, ongoing support.



Literacy does not necessarily precede economic empowerment. But READ Global has found that these skill sets are mutually reinforcing, and together, they can empower women to change the status quo in their villages.

Just last year, more than 1,700 women like Chuna learned to read through READ Centers in Nepal. Many of them also joined savings cooperatives, often putting away money for the first time in their lives. With 3,339 peers, the women collectively saved \$207,382 last year at READ Centers.

And many finally became entrepreneurs: 324 moved from subsistence farming to commercial farming – earning an income from agriculture for the first time. 174 women farmers actually became self-sufficient in their production for the first time, and almost 100 women launched new businesses.



With this new income, the women helped generate almost \$140,000 to invest back into the READ Centers and sustain them.

A major challenge in rural development is that efforts often don't take a holistic approach. Many organizations and government bodies' work in a piecemeal fashion: They provide one-off literacy training to women in a community for a few

months, for example, and then move on.

The women will have taken a huge first step in self-empowerment by learning to read, but they won't necessarily have the resources or the support network to apply or build on their new skill.

**For women like Chuna, libraries like READ Centers can play the role of incubators – not just for businesses, but also for long-term social change.** By working with local partners, setting up committees to manage the centers, and providing a holistic set of training programs over the course of five years, READ Global ensures that rural villagers create local support networks that can sustain themselves in the future.

After Chuna learned to read, she had the confidence to take other training in vegetable farming, women's leadership, health, and mobile technology. She then paid it forward by convincing her friends to join a study group with her, helping them learn to read and investing in her own daughters' education.

"I realized that all uneducated women suffer," Chuna says, "There are a lot of illiterate women in Nepal. I want to tell them that you're never too old to learn."

*To learn more about READ Global, visit [www.readglobal.org](http://www.readglobal.org)*



## Poverty and Education

Dr. Danish Khan,

Founder, Easytech4all, Renaissance One Solution

### Definition of Poverty

“The state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions”. [...]. Encyclopaedia Britannica (2008). Whatever definition one uses, authorities and laypersons alike commonly assume that the effects of poverty are harmful to both individuals and society. Over 200 years ago, Adam Smith (father of modern economics) saw in poorness not just a problem of having access to the basic necessities to support one’s life, but also a social handicap. In this sense poverty’s about being able to follow the customs of a given society and country, because it’s essential to be part of it.

Poverty is a social handicap. Social exclusion, or marginalization, then becomes an essential element for understanding what poverty is. In many cases indeed, if you don’t have a suit, a nice shirt or any decent outfit, you’re very unlikely to be offered a job and your situation will only get worse.

You now understand that giving a universal definition of poverty is quite impossible as it’s an issue that depends on social norms. Secondly, the question of the definition of poverty refers to the problem of measuring poverty. But measuring poverty where? In what context? Surely, inner city poverty is radically different than rural poverty. And yet you're about to find out that governments often don't make the difference. Often on purpose.

Let us a definition of poverty by its solution. If economic development used to be associated with growth, it is now the spearhead of the war on poverty. Therefore, thinking about what is poverty is now-a-days becoming tied to thinking about economic development hurdles. That’s also the reason why the World Bank came out with its slogan: “Our dream is a world free of poverty”. The UN as well has its own program aimed at reducing “by half, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day”: the Millennium Development Goals. So, let’s observe the connection between the question “What is poverty?” and the notion of economic development.

The general assumption is that the causes of poverty are rooted in a nation’s weak forces of production, capital, labor etc. The definition of poverty is then characterized by a general lack of infrastructure, institution, technology and education.

### The role of education

Children are the future of any nation. For an emerging and developing country such as ours, development of underprivileged children holds the key to the progress of the nation itself. Education for the poor children is the key whether we are addressing healthcare, poverty, population control, unemployment or human rights issues. We must educate the girl child; as it is said when a boy is educated only one individual is benefitted; while when a girl gets education, two families get the benefit.

Education plays a stellar role in escaping poverty trap in various ways. The better educated a person is and the more education they get, the more skilled they will be, and the more likely they will avoid economic and social despair. The higher levels of income as a result of good education, not only benefit people and their immediate families. The rewards flow into the communities in which they live, with higher levels of home ownership, entrepreneurial activities and civic activities that lead to high quality of life – besides inspiration and role model for others- that benefits everyone. High quality education and good to great teachers can’t alleviate economic poverty for the short term. But it does help young men and women get the knowledge they need to avoid poverty in adulthood.

Education is the brightest hope for breaking the cycle of multigenerational poverty. Lifecycle approach

to education may ensure knowledge and skills of poor that serve them well as adults. Besides functional literacy and numeracy, which is likely to empower the poor the most, skills development and vocational education are critical for linking such initiative with actual livelihoods. Use of basic technology like radio, mobile etc may accelerate the process of imparting education to the poor. But, kids born to poor, undereducated parents aren't likely to succeed at school without help that targets their family situations, and that help is most needed during their earliest years when drop-out rates are high amongst kids from the poor families. It is also important to give education to the adults by providing a second chance in acquiring right kinds of literacy and other skills.

### **We will never eradicate poverty without quality education for all**

It is crucial to spread the message that equal access to quality education plays a key role in eradicating poverty. Since 1990, although rates have been cut in half, 21% of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty. It is vital to step up efforts to give these people a better chance of a decent and fulfilling life. Education has a central role to play in such efforts. Education not only helps individuals escape poverty by developing the skills they need to improve their livelihoods, but also generates productivity gains that fuel economic growth. While growth does not automatically reduce poverty, without it sustained poverty reduction is not possible. For growth to reduce poverty, it needs to overcome inequality by improving the lives of the poorest and marginalized the most. Education is vital to achieve this goal because it can help ensure that the benefits of growth are fairly shared.

Expanding access to education alone is not enough, however. Equitable learning for all is key to shared national prosperity for all. Globally, over 40 years, income per capita would be 23% higher in a country with more equal education. If education inequality in sub-Saharan Africa had been halved, to the level of Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, its economic growth over 2005–2010 would have been 47% higher. By building a skilled workforce, education can promote a country from one economic bracket to the next. If all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, we could eradicate 12% of world poverty. As such, it is an essential investment.

Skills are the key way in which education reduces poverty. Education makes it more likely for men and women not just to be employed, but to hold jobs that are more secure and provide good working conditions and decent pay. In doing so, education can not only help lift households out of poverty, but also guard against them falling – or falling back – into poverty.

Education plays its role in helping eradicate poverty, progress in fighting poverty is inextricably linked with progress in achieving education for all. The direct costs of sending children to school, as well as the indirect costs of losing a source of labor, can be formidable for poor parents. As a consequence, not only are poor children less likely to enroll in primary school, but those who do so are more likely to drop out. This disadvantage results in children from poor households being over three times more likely to be out of school than children from rich households. Low quality education reinforces this problem, as parents are less willing to bear those costs if they cannot see the benefits of education.

There is no better moment to realize education's role in helping households escape poverty than today. To unlock the wider benefits of education so that it can play its full part in helping the world achieve poverty eradication, all children need the chance to complete not only primary school but also lower secondary school along with technical and vocational training to get them into meaningful jobs and livelihoods when grow up.



## “Bottom- up” Development Innovation- What Next?

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This objective of this article is to stimulate discussion among the development partners, community of scholars, policymakers, economic growth initiators and practitioners to offer ways to achieve better results for social projects and creating an enabling environment for the vulnerable to live a life with dignity.

There is a challenge for development practitioners how to meaningfully include beneficiaries in development process and develop a sense of greater ownership for sustainability. There is a tendency to bring solutions from “outside” in spite of encouraging locale talents and resources. In humanitarian action “top- down” approach is followed. This approaches are valuable in certain context but there is a need to rethink about such approaches when we aspire for sustainable impacts. Development innovation can be achieved through grassroots level community participation, engaging skills, talents and aspirations of so-called beneficiary populations. The objective of development innovation is to build a platform of self- reliance amongst vulnerable section of population.

We also notice that there is a heavy focus on innovation which serves as a tool to solve management issues faced by international actors. There is a need for closer discussion and debate and have proper consensus how to build “ bottom-up” development innovation approach which finds opportunities for self-reliance among most crisis affected, and vulnerable population.

Impact solutions are likely to be sustainable when solutions are embedded with local situations, participation and adequate feedback mechanism in a regular manner. “Bottom-up” development innovation must be built on the principles of self-reliance and a sense of accountability to stakeholders. Many researchers have explained in detail about theoretical aspects, most interesting are innovation theory (Tidd and Bessant 2009<sup>2</sup>), design theory (Design Thinking-Brown 2009<sup>3</sup>) and theory of participatory approaches (Cooke and Kothari 2001<sup>4</sup>). All three theories and its research results become the core platform in building and guiding “Bottom-up” development innovation approach to address the needs and aspirations of the vulnerable. It requires review at a regular interval and assess the modus operandi to have desired impact and measurable results.

The guiding framework to undertake development innovation research from the bottom-up is required to inform social policy makers, responsible economic growth operators and humanitarian service providers to consider local solutions based on local system and resources as a basis for any intervention. The guided innovation helps to overcome the challenges of inclusion, participation and fostering self-reliance amongst affected communities.

### Development Innovation: Key questions

- Why do we need innovation?
- How are we going generate benefit out of it for the betterment of vulnerable/ affected population?
- Do we have a clear innovation strategy to meet the needs and aspirations of vulnerable?
- Do we have an innovative organization? If yes, how does it plan and meet the needs of the affected community. What is the scale of its operation and its impact till date?

2. TIDD, J. & BESSANT, J. R. 2009. Managing innovation: integrating technological, market and organizational change, Chichester, Chichester : John Wiley.

3. BROWN, T. 2008. Design Thinking. Harvard Business Review

4. COOKE, B. & KOTHARI, U. (eds.) 2001. Participation: the new tyranny? London: London: Zed Books.

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- How are we going to make it happen?
- What is our preparedness and readiness to undertake innovation for development?
- How do we ensure development innovation is a critical factor in achieving sustainability impact?

Social progress has become a central point in achieving the results of development innovation. It is closely linked with two factors i. Social policy and development programmes by itself (public policy and implementation through institutional mechanism) and ii. Social progress through trade justice, policy and market operations.

Social progress through economic operations and scale up indicate “Innovation beyond the private sector”. It demonstrates that although innovation is now reaching beyond commercial incentives there is concern over how to include wider social measures, beyond traditional economic indicators. The inclusion of social measures is especially poorly documented for informal markets, micro enterprises and innovation at a local level.

International development aid agencies like The Department for International Development (DFID) has adopted innovation as a central theme in its recent strategy, to guide some of its principles for doing things differently and piloting new approaches to humanitarianism (DFID 2012)<sup>5</sup>. This use of ‘innovation’ adopts the term as a creative way to encourage new partnerships and approaches, but does not define in detail its use or meaning. Ramalingam et al. (2009b) explore innovation theories a bit further by defining what is particular about its application to the humanitarian and development sector or by using case studies to analyse the innovation process within the humanitarian context and larger development issues.

Both within the humanitarian sector and in general innovative thinking, there has been a tendency to heavily focus on product innovations and physical technologies, where the ‘innovation’ label can be associated with a concrete material outcome (such as (AidEx 2012)<sup>6</sup>).

In particular, many discussions of humanitarian innovation focus on product innovations, highlighting technologies such as the role of new Information and Communications Technology (ICT) (see, for example, (OCHA 2013). However, this material view of innovation does not provide a complete or coherent perspective on humanitarian innovation and social progress. Innovation is not reducible to its product constituents. Instead it is best understood as a process; a lens for understanding incremental or transformative adaptation. A good example of this view of innovation as process is provided by The Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF 2010)<sup>7</sup>, which provides grants for new humanitarian projects, and uses the innovation process.



Considering social progress with development, it becomes a crucial point to understand innovation and markets at the bottom of the pyramid.

Govindarajan and Trimble have identified five gaps, demonstrating that innovations from the ‘rich world’ are often not appropriate for the ‘emerging economies’ and that “clean-slate innovation” needs

5. DFID 2012. Promoting innovation and evidence-based approaches to building resilience and responding to humanitarian crisis: A DFID Strategy Paper. DFID.

6. AIDEX 2012. AidEx 2012 - Aid Innovation Challenge

7. HIF 2012. Taking Successful Innovations to Scale - Webinar series. Humanitarian Innovation Fund.



to take place (Govindarajan and Trimble 2012<sup>8</sup>). The five gaps which are identified are:

1. There is an acceptance of lower performance in products or services in emerging economies, due to price;
2. There is limited infrastructure in poor countries;
3. Sustainability is more of a concern in emerging economies and they are therefore more likely to adopt environmentally sustainable products or services;
4. The regulatory systems are less developed in poor countries, so innovations may move faster in these markets; and
5. Each country has its own preferences and tastes.

The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid (Prahalad 2006<sup>9</sup>) paints a picture of these vast, untapped markets in the developing world. He argues that firms and global businesses should recognize the potential that billions of people living in these markets have for new profits and global business growth. In one of Prahalad's last papers he described the potential this market has for business innovation. 'We have traditionally assumed that the focus of innovation is products and technologies for the developed markets' (Prahalad 2012:11<sup>10</sup>). The variety and unique contexts that BOPs present mean that there is no 'monolith' solution. He presents the 4 A's to use in BOP markets which focus more on meeting customer needs, compared to traditional developed market approaches. The 4 A's are: creating Awareness for consumers in the BOP; enabling Access; ensuring that products and services are Affordable; and finally, a focus on Availability considering local distribution constraints.

Indian Association of Blood Cancer & Allied Diseases developed three approaches like product, process and treatment protocol development that helped the organization to serve a large number of patients affected by blood cancer and blood disorders. The team followed highest quality standard to ensure that all approaches become both economically and socially viable. Its result the organization is in a position to ensure sustainability of its services, financial sustainability of the organization and meeting the needs of suffering patients at a very low cost.

### **Bottom-up development innovation: How do we scale it up and build a platform for self-reliance?**

More needs to be done to understand how local innovations occur; focus is on creating social change through development innovation and sustainability approach;

- Cultivation of culture within the minds of development actors like policy makers, economic growth advisors, researchers, field personnel
- Building effective partnerships at all levels and very important when working in local levels
- There is a need for flexibility and a variety of skills over time for innovations to scale
- Networks and 'linkages' are important for diversifying skills required in an innovation process
- Facilitating and supporting local solutions can be shared openly to enable scaling
- Influencing policy makers to allot resources for further research on development innovation process and make it as a institutionalize system.

The objective of "Bottom-up development innovation is not to replace the role of external interventions in the form of technical assistance or financial resources but also to explore ways in which an enabling environment can be developed that better facilitates and works within the existing adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities and their wider networks.

8. GOVINDARAJAN, V. & TRIMBLE, C. 2012. Reverse innovation: create far from home, win everywhere, Boston, Boston: Harvard Business Review Press.

9. PRAHALAD, C. K. 2006. The fortune at the bottom of the pyramid: [eradicating poverty through profits: enabling dignity and choice through markets], Upper Saddle River, NJ: [London], Upper Saddle River, NJ: Wharton School; [London]: Pearson Education.

10. PRAHALAD, C. K. 2012. Bottom of the Pyramid as a Source of Breakthrough Innovations. 29, 6-12.

## Embedding sustainability in organization and its leadership

Abhishek Goel<sup>11</sup>

### Introduction

Sustainability of businesses has become a moot point for industrialised as well as fast industrialising economies. Academics, industry, action groups have created think tanks to ensure sustainability of businesses. As one looks at the details of the guidelines and their arguments three points emerge quite vividly: (i) Sustainability of businesses is important because it creates a market as well as resource base for the future, (ii) Action towards sustainability results in positive outcomes for corporations as well as organizations, and (iii) Regulations for businesses to become more sustainable are either already on the ground, or are quite likely to be adopted.

### The macro and micro perspectives

In the movement toward sustainability of businesses or organizations thus far two polar positions are clearly seen:

- a) Macro view/overall broad perspective of how the world is likely to shape up, the position an industry should take, etc. have dominated the argument space.
- b) Action strategies for organizations by elite fora such as World Business Council for Sustainable Development

The outside or macro view has its limitations. Organizations would soon need sets of measures or metrics that could indicate how well one is keeping up its commitment. Epstein (2008)<sup>12</sup> and Epstein and Roy (2001)<sup>13</sup> have indicated metrics and internal systems that an organization can have. The approach is strikingly similar to creating a Balanced Score Card. While these remain the pioneers in the area of driving corporations towards a more sustainable future.

It is argued here that while these polar positions are useful for creating ends of the spectrum, organizations would need greater clarity on what needs to be done. Epstein and colleagues have some arguments in their favour, but such metric based approach in itself will have certain limitations. Szekely and Knirsch (2005)<sup>14</sup> have argued in favour of bringing leadership and organizational systems to the forefront.

It is indeed surprising that despite such clear calls from scholars early on, measurement/tool have dominated the academic and practice thought process (Strand, 2014<sup>15</sup>; Wolf, 2014)<sup>16</sup>. This thought puts enormous burden of proof on certain outcomes that are deemed useful by a “measurement scale”. Such objectification potentially leads to a very short term approach – of satisfying certain stakeholders.

This, I argue, is one of the key errors committed in the past. The focus on short run and satisfaction of certain demands of select stakeholders had fuelled a system that rewarded satisficing. Thus a satisfying performance on meeting certain “standards” and some lip service to a certain cause – an illustration of beauty being skin deep – qualified as being responsible. While this responsibility is quite

11. Faculty of Organizational Behaviour, Behavioural Sciences Group, A-309, IIM Calcutta, DH Road, Joka, Kolkata – 700104. INDIA. agoel@iimcal.ac.in

12. Epstein, M. J. (2008). Making sustainability work: Best practices in managing and measuring corporate, social and environmental impacts. Sheffield, UK: Greenleaf.

13. Epstein, M.J., and Roy, M. J. (2001). Sustainability in action: Identifying and measuring the key performance driver. Long Range Planning, 34, 585-604.

14. Szekely, F., and Knirsch, M. (2005). Responsible leadership and corporate social responsibility: Metrics for sustainable performance. European Management Journal, 23, 628-647.

15. Wolf, J. (2014). The relationship between sustainable supply chain management, stakeholder pressure, and corporate sustainability performance. Journal of Business Ethics, 123, 317-328.

16. Strand, R. (2014). Strategic leadership of corporate sustainability. Journal of Business Ethics, 123, 687-706.



rewarding because it ticks the right boxes in measurement based approaches, it is not and cannot be a substitute for creating sustainable businesses for the society in attitude and action. Organizations irrespective of their line of business or quest for profit should define sustainability in terms of something larger than responsibility.

### **Need for a definition of sustainability**

One of the most accepted academic definitions of corporate sustainability refers to the concept as “company’s activities demonstrating the inclusion of social and environmental concerns in business operations and in interactions with stakeholders (van Marrewijk & Were, 2003: 107)<sup>17</sup>. It is also considered that while there is a desire to see demands and objectives for society and the organization as independent of each other, it is almost impossible due to strong and complex interlinkages between the two entities that perhaps run at cross roads moving divergent from each other (Bansal, 2002)<sup>18</sup>. The problem gets further compounded when actions of managers are under severe stretch owing to orthogonal goals that refuse to meet at the center. These goals put tremendous pressure on cognitive resources of managers (Hahn, Preuss, Pinkse, & Figge, 2014)<sup>19</sup>. It is therefore quite likely that most decision makers would succumb to the pressure of applying the balm of rational looking number based outcomes to soothe their frayed nerves.

One can empathize with decision makers in organizations that they have to choose from within the set of considerations available as rational decision making processes. It is therefore even more important that both decision makers and thought leaders should widen their mental framework to have a clearer understanding. Such approach needs to be more nuanced and may have alternate frame of thinking as well (Hahn et al., 2014).

A new frame of thinking would, in my opinion, mean that an organization decides to understand sustainability in the larger context, and tries to identify how it is going to contribute to an overall goal, in howsoever miniscule terms possible. Thus definition for sustainability has to be unique.

The next question therefore is of the appropriate level at which such effort should be guided. Of course, it in turn means that corporate sustainability itself moves up the ladder from being sustainability of my corporate to what will ensure sustainability of those involved – the environment, the resources, the organization itself, and of the relevant people within and outside the organization. Since it is difficult for a single organization to think on everybody’s behalf due to issues of jurisdiction and territory, the appropriate forum for such an activity could be a think tank for an industry or a regulatory body that is genuinely interested in understanding sustainability for those that fall under its jurisdiction. Getting to think together about “what is sustainable for us” could probably be the biggest hurdle. The challenge does not end here, however. Schneider and Meins (2012)<sup>20</sup> have systematically argued that adherence to standards set by associations and agencies has two shortcomings: (a) while environmental and social goals aspects make it to the evaluation criteria, goals of the organization itself are generally not given due consideration, and (b) performance and governance of organization are generally mixed together.

The above proposed scheme of identifying four major stakeholders should take care some of the concerns. There is room to do more. The leadership thought, goals, actions, demands for environment needs to be aligned.

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17. Van Marrewijk, M., and Were, M. (2003). Multiple levels of corporate sustainability. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 44, 107-119.

18. Bansal, P. (2002). The corporate challenges of sustainable development. *Academy of Management Executive*, 16, 122-131.

19. Hahn, T., Preuss, L., Pinkse, J., and Figge, F. (2014). Cognitive frames in corporate sustainability: Managerial sensemaking with paradoxical and business case frames. *Academy of Management Review*, 39, 463-487.

20. Schneider, A., and Meins, E. (2012). Two dimensions of corporate sustainability assessment: Towards a comprehensive framework. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 21, 211-222.



## **Embedding sustainability at the core**

It is needed that organizations and their decision makers realize the importance of putting sustainability at the very core of the organization. All actions performed by such an organization will try to adhere to the core value of sustainability rather than use sustainability as a performance indicator alone. Thus sustainability will become a cultural feature for the organization. Choice of organizational culture as a vehicle of choice enables us to have one framework that addresses the issue of alignment between demands of the environment, choice of goals, and the external image that needs to be seen by those under the organization's influence. Besides, there is plenty of evidence that leadership action indeed has a strong influence on evolution of culture (Schein, 2008)<sup>21</sup>.

This model enables us to keep the necessary decision makers and thinkers in the loop. In other words, there is a possibility to fix accountability at the very top of the organization – which in itself could be very important in high power distance cultures such as ours.

I argue here that for an organization to commit to sustainability, there has to be strong internal systems in place, the members of the organization itself become the key stakeholders that should first accept the idea of creating a sustainable organization. The internal requirements of an organization and the understanding of “sustainability” as an approach towards organizing would be imperative for leaders as they create and run the organization. The idea being that internal compliance and thoughtful action by the organization in relation to its context is more important than mere completion of activity. It would require organizations and their bosses to think in an entirely different manner that shall not just be limited to reporting compliance. In other words, arguments will be made in favor of making “sustainability” a core value in our organizations that is deeply embedded in the culture of the organizations. The focus for organizations thus has to be internal as well.

It is only when the organizations themselves become aware of the needs of those they influence, there is greater hope of responsible voluntary action that could result in true sustainability throughout the life of the organization.

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21. Schein, E. H. (2008). Leadership and Organizational culture. New York: Jossey-Bass



## Sustainability and the Poor

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Economic activity and human well-being depend on Earth's ecosystems and the services that these provide as food, fresh water, climate and flood regulation, and recreational and aesthetic purposes. Forests store carbon, provide timber and other valuable products as well as habitat to a wide array of flora and fauna. Wetlands purify water and offer protection against floods. Mangroves protect coasts and coastal populations from storms and tsunamis and support many living entities. Coral reefs provide breeding grounds for fish and other marine lives besides attractions for tourists. The list of benefits provided by nature is vast. Yet, species are still being lost and ecosystems destroyed with nearly two thirds of ecosystem services now considered degraded.

We have witnessed increasing incidences of nature's fury in the form of flash floods, landslides, droughts, cyclone etc and their cruel impact on the most vulnerable. The on-going financial, food and economic crises have also brought new setbacks in our fight against poverty. Although the causes of these crisis vary, at a fundamental level they all share a common feature; the gross violation of environmental principles, misallocation of capital into economic sectors and activities that led to accelerated depletion of natural resources and ecosystems on which the poor depend, inter alia, for their livelihoods, businesses and wealth creation opportunities.

Although the cost of these losses is felt all around, particularly by the poor who are highly dependent on natural capital, it often goes unnoticed at national and international levels because the true value of natural resources is not reflected in policy decisions, indicators, accounting systems and prices in the market. Part of the challenge is that the sheer range of benefits from ecosystems is often poorly understood and undervalued. The term "ecosystem services" – the benefits derived from nature – is a useful concept for making the value of nature more explicit and relevant to human well-being.

A package of sensible investments coupled with policy reforms aimed at making growth socially inclusive and ecologically sound, offers economically viable options to reduce poverty and hunger, and address challenges of climate change and degradation of natural resources, while simultaneously providing new and sustainable pathways to economic development and prosperity to the vulnerable. It is this segment of humanity which overwhelmingly lives on small farms, mountains fringes, coastal areas and around forests and other common resources, depends on the bounties of nature for their livelihoods, nutrition, health, employment, income generation opportunities mostly as a safety net. Degradation of such resources creates a poverty trap, which leads to a reinforcing a loop of further degradation and worsening poverty.

Natural capital – land, water, air, forests, biodiversity - is essential for sustainable economic development and accounts for a quarter of wealth created in the low income countries. Any reduction in stocks of natural capital and flow of ecosystems services negatively affects the well-being of the poor – quite disproportionately and leads to growing inequalities and suffering.

Practicing green agriculture reduces poverty and hunger, while building natural capital stocks. Sustainable farming practices in small farms could be the most effective way to increase food availability, reduce poverty, increase carbon sequestration and water efficiency, and at the same time link marginalized farmers with markets and global supply chains. It has been demonstrated that use of green farming methods (such as integrated pest management, integrated nutrient management, low-

tillage farming, agro-forestry, aquaculture, water harvesting, livestock integration, nitrogen fixing crops, etc.) resulted in productivity increases of 59 to 179 per cent. Studies have estimated that for every 10 per cent increase in farm yields, there has been a 7 per cent reduction in poverty in Africa; and more than 5 per cent in Asia.

Carefully crafted social safety nets build natural resources and reduce poverty. A good example comes from India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2006, a social protection and livelihood security scheme for the rural poor that strives to invest in the preservation and restoration of natural resources within the locality. It takes the form of a public work programme, guaranteeing at least 100 days of paid work per year to every household that wants to volunteer an adult member of any family.

Investing in the provision of clean water and sanitation services benefits the poor. Lack of safe drinking water and sanitation has high socio-economic and environmental costs. Time and resources spent on buying or carrying water are unaffordable, and unhygienic water is major cause of sickness, and malnourishment, especially for the poor. The lost employment days and health expenditure resulting from these diseases add to the economic burden. Investment in water and sanitation is a basic necessity for sustaining a healthy and economically active life, and is a necessary pre-condition to progress and prosperity.

Investing in renewable energy is a cost effective option for reducing energy poverty. The current energy system is both unsustainable and highly inequitable, leaving 2.7 billion people dependent on traditional biomass for cooking. Rural women particularly spend a lot of time and efforts in harnessing such energy. The ill-effect on dwindling forest resources apart, the whole family often subjects itself to unhealthy smoke while cooking through biomass. Renewable energy solutions and supportive energy policies promise to make a significant contribution to improving living standards and health in low-income areas, particularly in rural areas. Some of the approaches which are cost effective solutions include modern forms of biomass, smokeless *chulha* and off-grid solar photovoltaic, with low operating and environmental costs and flexible small-scale deployment options.

Past 20 years witnessed the chains of natural disaster with increasing ferocity and frequency despite global acceptance of sustainable development model. As several global research indicated the spectra of climate looms large on the horizon, which affect the poorest of the poor the most- in terms of living, livelihoods, food security, health and displacements. A coordinated approach is needed to adopt policies and practices so that the poor could quickly learn to adapt themselves to impending weather shocks – one of the severest challenges of this century.

Making tourism greener can support local economy, provide jobs and promotion of traditional crafts, and help reduce poverty. Involvement of local communities in the travel and tourist industry has the potential to stimulate pro-poor growth. The extent of benefits to local communities and poverty reduction depends largely on the percentage of tourism needs that are locally supplied, such as products, labour, tourism services, and increasingly 'green services' in energy, water efficiency and waste management. Tourism is human- resource intensive, employing 8 per cent the global workforce. Greening of this sector is expected to reinforce its employment potential, safeguard natural stocks, while fostering green growth and poverty reduction.

### **The way forward**

Rapid economic and ecological transformation is needed if the world is to better serve the poor and the hungry. To do that we have to address the challenges of global warming and loss of ecosystems and biodiversity, while achieving an egalitarian, sustainable and equitable mode of economic development. A move towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and socially inclusive green economy holds clear benefits to local communities and for reducing poverty. However, a transition away from business-as-usual requires targeted policies, judicious investments and mass awareness of environmental



imperatives including changes in behaviour, eco-friendly policies and investment trends, to catalyse the shift towards a more progressive, inclusive and equitable distribution of benefits.

Important areas of action for sustainable development are: environmental fiscal reform for poverty reduction; support for natural resource based small and medium farms, forest-based communities, fisher folks, pastoralists and rural based enterprises; aligning efforts to build natural resources with produced and intangible capital; improving access to microfinance and micro insurance; promoting green investments; correcting market failures; better access to domestic and international markets for the poor; institutional and organizational innovations; and, raising awareness of the benefits that sustainable practices demonstrably hold for poverty alleviation. It is through wider partnerships with all stakeholders and citizens that we can create a sustainable world for the marginalised populations, when economic freedom, social justice and environmental protection go hand in hand.

## Climate Change and Its Impact on the Poor

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Globally, climate change is a reality now and we have started experiencing it as rise in sea levels, changing patterns of rainfall or melting snow and ice which are altering freshwater systems, thereby, affecting the quantity and quality of water available in many regions, including South Asia. Climate change has widespread impacts on South Asia- home to nearly one-thirds of world's population.

Some recent examples of climate change could be witnessed in the India. Srinagar is the latest where due to lopsided and myopic urban planning and rampant urbanization have led to the disaster, Mumbai's 2005 deluge, cyclonic storm, Phailin in Odisha, and the Uttarakhand floods last year. These events result in massive evacuation process and displacement of people who are left with no employment. The marginalized like the fishermen, dwellers, small shop owners, farmers, are affected the most as they lose their livelihood and means to start a living.

Extreme rainfall, cloud burst and flooding causes illnesses, deaths and mass displacement of ultra-poor and marginalized people. In 2008, the embankments of the Kosi River, a tributary of the Ganges, broke, displacing over 60,000 people in Nepal and 3.5 million in India, and disrupting transport and power across large areas (IPCC 2014). The incidence of many diseases increases with contamination of water due to flooding or severe rainfall. For example, Dengue and Japanese encephalitis outbreaks in South Asia have been associated with temperature and rainfall; Malaria prevalence in India and Nepal has been linked to rainfall patterns.

According to the report on poverty and climate change, many sectors providing basic livelihood services to the poor in developing countries are not able to cope even with today's climate variability and stresses. Over 96% of disaster-related deaths in recent years have taken place in developing countries.

The Kyoto Protocol was perhaps the first international agreement on Climate Change (linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. The Nagoya Protocol adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan along with other innovative financial mechanism comes under the concept of Green Economy. But green economy depends upon green governance as well. Applying economic value to say traditional knowledge which the tribal in the North-East possess will not be feasible. It is impossible to estimate the monetary value of bio-diversity. Instead, one should motivate and incentivize the local communities who are involved in the conversation and sustainable use of nature using their traditional knowledge and methods to preserve the environment. This is possible by giving rights to communities and making them aware of these rights by establishing a strong system of Green Governance.

### **Risks to human and natural systems**

According to IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, effective measures to adapt and reduce the risks associated with climate change can address all three aspects of risk: hazard, vulnerability and exposure. For example, rapid and unsustainable urban development, lack of proper urban planning and implementation, failures in governance and environmental degradation affected vulnerability in regions like Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. These changes unfold in different places at different times.

The figure below shows the risk of climate related impact along with the socioeconomic process.

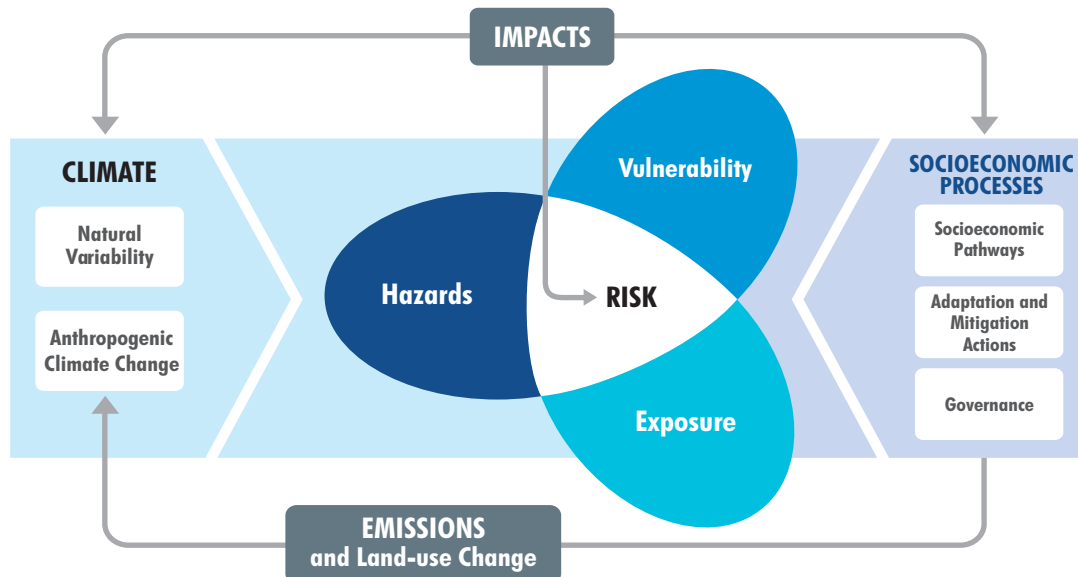


Illustration of the core concepts of the WGIIARS. Risk of climate-related impacts result from the interaction of climate-related hazards (including hazardous events and trends) with the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems. Changes in the both the climate system (left) and socioeconomic processes including adaptation and mitigation (right) are drivers of hazards, exposure and vulnerability

Source: IPCC, 2014: Summary for policymakers. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### Challenges to growth and development in South Asia

The east coast of India with groups of districts having poor infrastructure and rapid population growth are also the regions of maximum climate vulnerability. Sectors such as agriculture and fisheries are vulnerable to rising temperatures, sea levels and erratic rainfall patterns.

The report further states that half to two-thirds of Asia's cities with 1 million or more inhabitants are exposed to multiple hazards, with floods and cyclones. The Fifth Assessment Report indicates that by 2070 the Asian port cities that could be most at risk, in terms of population and assets exposed to coastal flooding, will be Kolkata, Mumbai, and Dhaka. Climate change will also result in food and water shortages especially in Asia with increase in worsened rural poverty for the ultra-poor.

### Food production, with impacts for rural and urban populations

In the Indo-Gangetic plains, which produce 90 million tons of wheat a year (about 14–15% of global production), projections indicate a substantial fall in yields unless there is a shift to different crop varieties and management practices (IPCC 2014). Rural poverty is expected to be more widespread than urban poverty in South Asia in the future.

### Adaptation will bring immediate benefits and reduce the impacts of climate change in South Asia

The IPCC describes adaptation as “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects”. In South Asia, factors such as population growth, rapid urbanisation, and economic growth, emergence of big cities, deforestation and changes in land use could interact with climate change to increase vulnerabilities. Effective adaptation policies should support livelihoods, enhance wellbeing and reduce poverty today. Overall, evidence suggests that South Asian countries' adaptive capacity to manage complex social and ecological change, especially at local government level, is weak (IPCC 2014).

## **Women, children and the elderly can be more vulnerable to climate change impacts**

Women play multiple roles as laborer's, caregivers and managing households in case of male migration. Due to these factors they tend to face more psychological and emotional distress, reduced food intake, adverse mental health outcomes due to displacement and increasing incidences of domestic violence. Children and the elderly are often at higher risk due to limited mobility, exposure to infectious diseases, reduced caloric intake and social isolation; young children are more likely to die from diarrheal diseases and floods (IPCC 2014). They are economically, physically, socially and institutionally at risk to changes in rising temperature, health hazards, rising prices etc.

## **Action on climate change and development are intricately linked**

Climate change is a threat to equitable and sustainable development. The IPCC report states that community-based approaches help identify adaptation strategies that address poverty and livelihoods issues. These techniques capture information at the grassroots, help integrate disaster risk reduction, development and climate change adaptation, connect local communities and outsiders, address the location-specific nature of adaptation, help facilitate community-learning processes and help design location-specific solutions.

In coastal areas, to protect agriculture and human settlements from flooding one can plant mangroves and encourage wetland forests. This will provide opportunities for combining adaptation with mitigation through conservation of ecosystems against floods and cyclones.

The North Eastern Region of India has a huge potential in tapping Green Economy and the use of traditional knowledge from natural environment. The IPCC report is a wake-up call for the government to take an integrated approach for climate policy, carbon emissions and energy. Also, we as individuals and NGOs would have to take responsibility on improving the environment we live in and make rational purchasing decisions to reduce our carbon footprint.

Recent report by Lord Nicholas Stern shows that it is possible to prevent climate change and to boost economic growth simultaneously by allowing fewer carbon emissions. For this to happen, governments would have to spend on infrastructure to build good mass public transport networks to connect upcoming cities. Restoring just 12% of the world's degraded agricultural land could feed 200 million people by 2030, raise farmers' income by \$40 billion annually and cut emissions from deforestation (New Climate Economy Report 2014). The report further recommends that cutting \$600 billion current subsidy on fossil fuels and raising \$100 billion for renewables would result in energy efficiency and poverty reduction. The report, apart from other studies highlights the fact that, no other region is more vulnerable to changes in climate change and its impact as the countries of South Asia. It is home to nearly a quarter of the world's population.

South Asian countries must come together in this mission to ensure that financial resources are made available and are utilized appropriately to invest in adaptation programmes and low-emissions infrastructure.

For a healthy, clean and ecologically balanced environment we need to foster a practical governance model based on-

1. A logic of respect for nature, sufficiency, interdependence, shared responsibility and fairness among all human beings; and,
2. An ethic of integrated global and local citizenship that insists upon transparency and accountability in all activities affecting the integrity of the environment. (Bollier et al 2012)



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## Water & Human Development in South Asia

Dr Arvind Kumar<sup>22</sup>

*"More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. These deaths are an affront to our common humanity, and undermine the efforts of many countries to achieve their development potential."*

*-Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations*

Linkages between water and indices of human development as the main drivers of economic growth and sustainable development are undeniable. Availability of safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation facilities are indispensable for the survival, health, growth and development of human beings.

Water poverty index (WPI), conceived and developed by Sullivan (2002), and the international comparisons now available from Laurence, Meigh and Sullivan (2003) for 147 countries enable us to provide an empirical basis for the argument that evidences to the effect that water security catalyzes human development and economic growth, number of regions for which these evidences are available is too limited for a global consensus on this issue.

In order to realistically assess the water situation of a country, which can capture the crucial attributes like access to water for various uses; level of use of water in different sectors; condition of the water environment; and technological and institutional capacities in water sector, a new index named Sustainable Water Use Index (SWUI) was derived from WPI, where the authors first analyze the nature of linkage between water situation of a country, vis-à-vis access and use, water environment and institutional capabilities in the water sector on economic growth.

It is ironic that at a time when many countries have met the MDG target for water supply and sanitation, South Asia still lacks in this regard. According to broad estimates, about a billion people do not use improved sanitation facilities and 700 million practice open defecation in South Asia and the pace of sanitation improvements has not kept up with population growth in the region. Such a sordid state of affairs can adversely affect the pace of human development in this part of the globe.

According to Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) "the issue of sanitation should be seen as a social, economic and environmental opportunity rather than a challenge and thus can afford revenue raising possibilities rather than being perceived as a cost and a burden on economies", commented on 21 June 2014 at the Opening Session of the GMGSF-15 held at the UNEP's headquarter.

### Water-Human Development Linkages

Water is key to sustainable human development because it entails all aspects of human life. Water plays significant role in fostering socio-economic development and human well-being. Water scarcity limits the ability to achieve full potential in terms of good health, education and livelihood.

Recurring incidents of water and climate-induced disasters, frequently transcending geographical boundaries, put have further strain on already scarce water resources. Water security in South Asia is under threat from many other factors: population growth, urbanization, increasing water pollution, the over-extraction of groundwater, water-related disasters, and climate change. The existing institutional mechanism at national and regional levels along with their current planning and management have

22. President of India Water Foundation, a non-profit organization established for the purpose of generating a heightened public awareness in India and sub-regional level in Asia, regarding water and its impact on human health, economic growth and environmental sustainability.



proven insufficient to address the challenges of meeting diverse needs for water and environment sectors.

The role of water in human development is determined by a combination of critical factors such as availability of clean water, sanitation and economic growth.

### **South Asian Water Challenges**

Water has come to assume unprecedented significance in South Asian development discourse. Its availability, consumption, distribution and impact on people's lives and livelihoods is closely associated to all the major challenges that the region faces now and will continue to face in the future as well. Declining water availability, food insecurity, environment degradation and unsustainable development are all closely related to or determined by water – its availability and usability.

Undoubtedly, South Asia is endowed with fair share of the world's water resources; nevertheless, it experiences substantial temporal and spatial variability in per capita water availability. Besides, climate variability, in recent times, has rendered countries of the region vulnerable to severe droughts and intense floods, with irregular patterns of rainfall.

### **Re-engineering Water Governance**

Water is a primary human need and consequently it should be regarded as a human right that must be gradually realized by respective countries in the region. Commoditization of water spawns its inequitable distribution, especially for the poor who can ill-afford high water prices to be determined by market forces. Such a scenario would be illogical from a human development perspective.

In contemporary South Asia, the ongoing official and public discourse on water is reported to be highly political and motivated more by national and local interests than shared regional concerns. The current water management practices in vogue across the region are predominantly technical in nature. This overemphasis on technical aspects or hard approach to water management results in under representation of social and ecological perspectives.

The new policy shift should focus on equal emphasis on technical approach along with soft approach, an increased role for civil society in national and regional water discourse and formation of a Regional Water Hub to tackle trans-boundary water issues.

The role of civil society engagement on issues of water management has been almost negligible in South Asia. The multifaceted schemes in water sector that attract less public scrutiny are being preferred to high-cost, mega-projects by the governments of South Asian countries. Priority is being accorded to 'privatized development rights' on water and mobilized foreign investors to finance projects, circumventing the social and environmental review processes developed by the international financial institutions. This affords least opportunities for local communities to express their voice at the policy level.

The approach of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), provided by the Global Water Partnership defines it as "coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources," can best help in maximizing sustainable use of water resources in the region. It can help to reduce uncertainty in investment decisions and increase legitimacy for large-scale projects among affected communities by ensuring "buy-in" early in the decision-making process.

Gender equality and women's empowerment, their access to productive resources and services as well as entrepreneurial opportunities, was another topic addressed during the two-day event, as key recommendations from the South Asia Policy Dialogue on Women's Entrepreneurship.

### **Initiatives of government of India**

The advice from the Centre to the states comes in light of the Narendra Modi government's stress on

sanitation. The Centre has asked the states to step up the efforts to make the country open-defecation free by 2019 as that would be a “fitting tribute” to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary that year. In a communication to the state chief secretaries, the Centre has sought better coordination between the Drinking Water and Sanitation departments to effectively deal with water and sanitation issues in rural areas. “To achieve ‘**Swachh Bharat**’, it may be better to have the same department at the state level to deal with water and sanitation issues,” it said. Yearly action by the states needs to be stepped up to at least three or four times that of the current levels in order to achieve the goal of ‘**Swachh Bharat**’ (Clean India), says the communication signed by Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry Secretary Pankaj Jain. “In case that is not immediately possible, then better coordination between two departments at the state level may kindly be done,” it said. In his Independence Day speech, Modi pitched for efforts to build toilets to do away with the need for women to defecate out in the open. He urged parliamentarians and the corporate sector to help build separate toilets by next year for girls in schools across the country. “We are in the 21st century. Have we ever been pained by the fact that even today our mothers and sisters have to defecate in open? Dignity of women, isn’t that a responsibility of everybody? “Women and sisters wait for dusk. Until then they cannot relieve themselves. How much pain their body will be going through? How many diseases they must be prone to? Can’t we make provisions for a toilet for the dignity of our mothers and sisters,” Modi had said in his speech.

### **Meghalaya’s Water-Plus Model**

Water Plus Initiative emphasizes on collective approach by Civil Society, International Organizations and the Government with focus on Human and Infrastructure development towards achieving inclusive and sustainable Meghalaya and North-East.

Meghalaya, located in the North-East region of India, has adopted the nexus approach as part of its Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme (IBDLP) launched in April 2012. The IBDLP programme, launched with inputs from India Water Foundation (IWF), is designed around four pillars – Knowledge Management, Natural resource Management, Entrepreneurship Development and Good Governance and is being implemented in a mission mode through twenty two missions. Every mission is designed to leverage the comparative advantage that Meghalaya has in that sector and to generate livelihood opportunities for every household and to accelerate growth.

The Water Plus Initiative focuses on making incremental investments in the water bodies already created and also harnessing the best value from such investments by putting in place the approach of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Additionally, the IWF’s Environment-Plus Model visualizes a holistic approach of integration of sustainable development into national policy at national, regional and global level. Key elements of this approach inter alia include: capacity-building of sector and Actor through sensitization, incentivization and galvanization; Water-environment-energy-food nexus approach, establishment of a nodal agency as a hub for knowledge sharing and networking in water and environment sectors, assimilation and dissemination of water and environment related knowledge, inter-sectoral approach, equal emphasis on soft approach along with hard approach; and from sectoral to collective approach in water and environment sectors.

### **Key Stumbling Blocks**

There are certain critical stumbling blocks to a closer cooperation among countries in South Asia in settling cross-border water issues for inclusive growth

- Lack of will on the part of political leadership;



- Absence of confidence-building measures in cross-border areas to improve livelihoods of the affected people;
- Negation of the role of the civil society;
- Absence of regional media's role;
- Lack of mutual cooperation and coordination in tackling water related issues.
- Constructing security community in South Asia through water paradigm in mixed cohesion and cooperation.

As way forward under the given situation in South Asia, where future water scarcity entails potential of acting as a constraint on much needed development, cooperative management of water and environment sectors and human development is crucial to ensuring future growth with dignity.

Water resources and sanitation management requires a transformational shift to be effective and foster all stakeholders' inclusive and collaborative partnership. To strengthening regional cooperation on water sharing to resolve water security issues in the region of South Asia, there is a need for the establishment of a Regional Water Hub in which all stakeholders of South Asia have equal representation.

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## **Socio-Economic Vulnerability Scenario and Quality Of Life in Ajoy - Illambazar, Bengal, INDIA**

### **A Case Study - Abstract**

Dr. D K Paul<sup>23</sup>

President WATER and PIA

The paper attempts to analyze the present and future population growth, socio-economic condition, gender sensitivity and quality of life of the people in the project area as the amount of resources available is disproportionately lower than is required to support its total inhabitants. As a result quality of life of individual and socio-economy of that area collapses, as is found elsewhere in the developing world, especially affecting the ultra-poor the most vulnerable adversely. Increased rate of population brings reduction in per capita income creating pressure on land, increasing fragility of the environment, decreasing productivity and increasing demand thus making consumer product costlier. Moreover high population growth rate due to high fertility, low mortality and inflow of migrants prevent improved livelihoods, better quality of life and socio-economic development and human wellbeing in general.

#### **Introduction**

Removing poverty is a complex multi-dimensional issue and is a human urgency especially in Eastern Indian context. Several poverty reduction measures are being taken with some success by various agencies but with mixed and unsustainable results. Ministry of Rural development Government of India has embarked on a comprehensive programmes of intervention involving education, awareness with applicable legal entitlements of community empowerment that seeks to reduce the vulnerability and to enhance their ability to go above the Poverty Line threshold criteria. It goes with the assumption that the key to their upliftment is through better implementation, workable partnership and collaboration between the government, civil society and the resource agencies including NGOs.

#### **About WATER (NGO), [www.waterindia.org.in](http://www.waterindia.org.in)**

WATER a research backed 'Watershed Association for Training, Employment and Resource utilization, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with head office at Delhi, is an independent voluntary agency with agricultural resource/research base engaged in actual pro-poor field based activities in remote and socially disadvantageous areas. It is helping down trodden rural people who comprise the majority of the population and organising them into Self Help Groups/Users Groups along with livelihood development on scientific back stopping. Idea was to take up awareness and implementing key initiatives such as 'Climate Change adaptation', 'Grassroots level Comprehensive Action on Water Management for Agriculture, Food and Environment'. It is to make the society to meet the Challenge on Water and Food which are major concerns - both in understanding and management response to the water crisis as it relates to agriculture, industry, health and environment. WATER is linked to the overarching developmental and research question for India: how can we grow more food and sustain rural livelihoods with less water in a manner that is socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable.

#### **The Case Study**

The Ajoy-Illambazar Watershed Management Project (IWMP-4 /2011-12/WB), is one of the micro watershed taken up for drought and water scarcity, disaster mitigation and area development under the centrally funded Integrated Watershed management Programme of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. It is situated at the Illambazar Block, Birbhum district, W Bengal, and covers 39

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villages spreading over 5 Gram Panchayats. The actual geographical area of the IWMP-04 is 7948.46 ha and has a treatable area of 4591.96 ha.

**Project Implementing Agency (PIA):** The head of WATER along with a team of experts act as the project leader of Watershed Development Team (WDT) with 4 hired experts in different disciplines engaged to oversee all the **Micro Watershed** development activities.

The Ajoy Ilambazar Watershed having 3 micro watersheds MW- 01, MW-02, MW-03 consists of majority of (78.69%) of marginal farmers and rest small farmers with very few large farmers. The main occupation and livelihood is agriculture and allied activities with very less assured irrigation (<10%) and *kharif* paddy is the principal crops grown.

The availability of freshwater is one of the biggest threats facing mankind. Water shortages as well as increasing demand and the competition for water among urban, industrial, and agricultural sectors is growing due to limited renewable water resources.

The Environmental Impact Assessment process has been adopted, accepted and required in several countries in the last decades. Although some improvements are still needed, its procedures and methodologies have successfully been applied in water resource development projects and in the design and implementation of agricultural projects (like Watershed Management) and considered as an alternative to augment water availability. Environmental and health problems have been associated with the stresses on agro-ecosystems due to agriculture intensification and other stresses including increased erosion, soil nutrition depletion, salinization and water logging of soils, and reduction of genetic diversity among major crops.

**Watershed Development Projects:** Due to these impacts, there has been greater support for the use of more sustainable agriculture practices, including Integrated Watershed Management Projects of Department of Land Resources and Government of West Bengal, which includes use of water harvesting and conservation tillage techniques for augmenting soil infiltration and the soil water reserve for ground water recharge and overall productivity improvement.

Water scarcity affects rain fed crop production and directly threatens the livelihood of millions of people. Agriculture is the largest user of rainwater, about 70% of effective rainfall is used to produce food, fibre and forest produce, involving large numbers of people in a traditionally productive way. Here water with proper management is scarce, need for developing rainwater management skills to improve water-use efficiency is emphasized. Population growth necessitates an increase in food supplies, requiring use of multiple cropping farming systems for food production. Watershed management in this sub-humid tropical set up with rain water harvesting can address this problem by increasing water availability to crops under rain fed conditions, and thereby increasing yields. There is ample scope of agricultural and allied alternative source of income generation by rearing fish, cattle, goat, ruminants etc. and other off farm livelihoods support in a scientific way for enhanced additional income of the present community of landless, small and marginal farmers. On the other hand integrated farming system approach can be well developed for better use of farm waste recycling. Dependence on high energy chemical fertilizer can also be reduced/ synchronized to a great extent efficiently with the adoption of technology of making of enriched organic matter, vermin-compost, use of bio-fertilizers for commercial organic food and allied products to minimize the production cost at the farm and watershed level

A number of studies (Paul, 1993, 1995, 2011) have revealed low adoption rates of water conservation technologies or new innovations among smallholder farmers in developing areas such as this. The reason might be that only one or two of the five pillars of sustainability were considered, instead of all five (agronomic productivity, crop production risk, conservation of natural resources, economic viability and social acceptability). The in-field rainwater harvesting technique (IRWH), developed by WATER elsewhere (FPARP, 2011, Jharkhand outside Bengal) combines the advantages of water

harvesting, no-tillage, basin tillage and mulching on high drought risk clay loam soils with good agronomic practices. This innovative water conservation technique has the potential to reduce total runoff and Evaporation considerably, resulting in increased yields due to increased plant-available water (Paul, 2004 and Botha et al., 2004).

**Data collection and analysis:** As per door to door house hold/base line survey, the total population of the project area (39 villages) is 45,596 (as of March, 2013). The Watershed consists of 78.69 % of marginal farmers and rest small farmers with very few large farmers (>2ha of total land holding). The main occupation and livelihood is agriculture and allied activities. The area have very less assured irrigation (<10%) and *kharif* (rainy season) paddy is the principal crops grown and is the main source of livelihood.

**Human Development Index (HDI):** Assessment of study area turns out to be one of the backward districts of West Bengal where socio-economy and quality of life are of unfortunate character due to excessive population growth and inconsistent infrastructural development that cannot keep pace with the population increase. Talking about Human Development Index (HDI) the female population is only 21,590 (903 female per 1,000 male). Again there are 4,652 male children against 4,123 female children i.e. there are 886 girl child against 1000 male children. From this it is inferred that there is a declining trend of girl/women in the population growth where the female population in future will be drastically reduced giving rise to imbalance and social violence against women in the society. Again for the gender ratio /sensitivity only 367 women/female are graduate or higher and technical degree holder against 1,515 among male in the total population of 45,596 persons. This shows the quality of life and HDI in this very backwards minority (Muslim) dominated watershed.

**Community Actions Platforms:** There are about 544 existing and 54 newly developed Self Help Groups and Users Groups of marginal and landless persons for community oriented livelihood enhancement through skill development to take up some rural based production system. About quality of life, the average yearly income is around Rs.12,000- 25,000 (US\$195 to 400) per individual with 74.21 % of the population living Below Poverty Line (BPL) as collaborated by large numbers BPL Card holders (6288 out of 8473 total households). It will be a tremendous task to raise 74.21% of the population living below the poverty line (Rs 26 per day) to Rs 50/day or more, unless sincere efforts are taken by all concerned.

### The Outcome

Introduction of improved and other technological intervention, use of Ingenious Technical Knowledge (ITK) base and Low Cost Technology would be adopted as enumerated in the present Detailed Project Report(DPR) as has been approved for the above IWMP project in WB.

WATER is striving to press the idea of overall development with employment generation activities especially in the high potential backwards states (important for social harmony in Maoist and Naxal affected areas) focusing sustainable productivity improvement with market oriented economy with bio regenerating natural resources on scientific line to further rural industrialization to reduce poverty. It especially focuses on the technical & commercial management aspects and capacity building of NGOs/farmers/SHGs for area development programs so as to reduce the percentage of ultra-poor.



## Food and Nutrition Security and Poverty

Dr. Deepika Anand and Dr Gopi Ghosh

In India, birth of a child is a joyous event irrespective of the community or economic background. Yet, it is not often realized that every year a large percentage of children lose their lives from causes which are largely preventable wherein poor maternal and child nutritional status is one of them. It is worth mentioning that in India, every tenth reported medically certified death has been of the infants (age less than 1 year). Similarly, in 2013, 17 percent of maternal deaths (50,000 of 2.83 lakh) were from India and were due to pregnancy and childbirth related causes.

UN MDG Report, 2014 reported that globally one in four children is still affected with chronic undernutrition having inadequate height for his/her age. India, currently has one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world. One-third of its children are born with low birth weight, 43 percent of children under five are underweight, 48 percent are stunted and 20 percent are wasted. Micronutrient deficiencies are high with almost 75 percent of under 3 children are anaemic, 62 percent are deficient in Vitamin A and over 13 million infants are suffering from IDD.

World hunger is increasing as global food security is facing one of the greatest challenges in modern history. Despite significant development, modern technology and growing international trade, about one in five persons in developing regions lives on less than \$1.25 per day. Indian conditions are even worse as it is estimated that in 2010, one third of the world's 1.2 billion extreme poor lived in India alone (33%). Also, India ranked 63rd on the Global Hunger Index. One can easily understand the degree and severity of the problems of food and malnourishment facing the nation at this juncture.

Poverty, food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition are inter-related and operate in vicious cycle. Appropriate interventions and strategies are required to break this cycle. Apart from poverty, lack of economic or livelihood opportunities, lack of training or skill development, mismanagement of resources, loopholes in safety nets, poor governance and demographic/ social/ cultural/ environmental pressures are the contributory factors to hunger and malnutrition. The problem of hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity is multi-facet and there are number of issues like social, economic, institutional, environment, and policy or cultural which needs to be considered while addressing the problem. However, this paper limits its scope to nutrition interventions to combat the problem of hunger and malnutrition especially among the "ultra-poor".

Nutrition is the key to the achievement of major social and economic goals, including many international development goals. Undernutrition in early years is responsible for almost half of under-5 children deaths, serious cognitive impairment, increased likelihood of poverty and is associated with increased maternal morbidity and mortality. Ensuring food and nutrition security can occur through a combination of through understanding of the inter-relationships of cause and effect, targeted "nutrition-specific" interventions and wider "nutrition-sensitive" development interventions – particularly through food and agriculture, backed up by enabling policy, political and institutional environments and effectively designed processes.

The present era is witnessing multi-sectoral volatility and thus, aggressive efforts are required which can be both nutrition-specific<sup>24</sup> and nutrition-sensitive<sup>25</sup> in nature. Lessons need to be learnt from the

24. Interventions or programmes that address the immediate determinants of foetal and child nutrition and development- adequate food and nutrient intake, feeding, caregiving and parenting practices, and low burden of infectious diseases. E.g. adolescent, preconception, and maternal health and nutrition, etc.

25. Interventions or programmes that address the underlying determinants of fetal and child nutrition and development—food security; adequate caregiving resources at the maternal, household and community levels; and access to health services and a safe and hygienic environment—and incorporate specific nutrition goals and actions. E.g. agriculture and food security; social safety nets; early child development; maternal mental health; women's empowerment; child protection; schooling; water, sanitation, and hygiene; health and family planning services, etc.



best practices, the critical components and elements that made them the 'best' need to be analysed, adapted and implemented through either the existing system or with additional support.

To make poor people food secure and to fight against hunger, short-term and long-term goals need to be identified and implemented. Identifying the vulnerable and charting out strategies to reach them and treat them effectively should be the priority. Long-term strategies may include increasing the food supply (domestic growth and imports); making policies pro-poor; launching new and strengthening the old social and natural safety nets; investing in social sectors and mapping food insecurity. Apart from these, efforts should be directed towards amendment of existing policies and development of new ones. Focus, efforts and resources should be invested for improving the first thousand days of life as it is rightly termed as 'window of opportunity' as in India, most growth faltering occurs before the age of 2 years. It would be the first step in breaking the cycle of malnutrition that runs through the life-span. Correcting Infant and Young child feeding (IYCF) practices should also be on the agenda as it is a contributory factor to poor nutritional status and infant morbidity.

The Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI) is an attempt to measure government commitment to reducing rates of under-nutrition. It combines secondary data for twelve indicators across three domains (spending, policies, and legislation) at three levels (direct - nutrition-specific; indirect - nutrition-sensitive and fundamental drivers) to construct an overall index. As per the 2012 NCI results rank, India, the country which has a third of the under-nutrition burden, is in the bottom half of the 45 countries on commitment to reduce under-nutrition. There is an urgent and strong need of political commitment, leadership in nutrition, identifying the key actors in nutrition, inter-sectoral coordination and result-oriented research to overcome the long persistent problem of under-nutrition in the country. Good governance at all levels is critical. Those in power should seek opportunities offered by scientific and technological developments to address nutrition, health and environment problems, coupled with the rapid spread of affordable information and communication technologies, supporting global sharing of information and knowledge, and increasing smallholder market access and know-how.

Agriculture has multiple purposes - to produce foods for consumption; provide employment opportunities, generate incomes and support rural livelihoods; and to protect and safeguard the environment in terms of land, soil and water and the flora and fauna which depend upon them. It must expand its focus on "nutrition security" not just "food security". Nutrition security refers to the "quality" aspect of food production, consumption and utilization by all individuals in a household. Production alone will not serve the purpose, the need is to increase access to and consumption of a rich and diverse diet. Achieving nutrition security requires that development policies, strategies and plans include specific nutrition objectives and considerations. Given the role of agriculture in food-based approaches to malnutrition, investing in nutrition in this sector is especially important. Doing so requires that household and individual-focused nutrition initiatives to increase production and consumption of nutrient rich foods are incorporated into agricultural development policies and programmes.

The need of the hour is to deliver a package of services as interventions in isolation may not be effective; behaviour change of communities should be promoted and supported especially for IYCF and healthy dietary patterns; equitable access for the vulnerable should be ensured and opportunities and energies in other allied sectors should be harnessed. Also, research and development (R&D) environment be energized to constantly strive for innovation and ideas to find solutions to myriad problems of food insecurity and malnutrition.



As the ultra-poor are mostly found within the tribals and other marginalized and poor communities - inhabiting primarily in dryland areas, or living around forest fringe or in remote coastal regions or in hilly terrains, they are critically dependent on the natural safety nets for their basic food and nutrition. Necessary access, rights and entitlement and their fair implementation are thus crucial. There is also a need for more pro-active research and development of indigenous crops, breeds and traditional practices that the poor people are dependent upon for their livelihoods. Blending of modern technology with traditional ones, spreading of knowledge and awareness regarding food, diet and nutrition, diversifying food baskets, importance of sanitation and hygiene and putting women at the centre of any nutritional intervention are other areas of focus. Nutrition being intergenerational in nature, investment in women – in health care, education, awareness, household and production decision – makes much sense. Finally community institutions tend to work as bullwork for the poor against exploitation and oppression as well as collective bargaining to secure rights and entitlements. Institutional support for food and nutrition security is more important in times of crisis, disasters and emergencies when the impact is too severe on the poorest of the poor.

## Food Security and Poverty

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines food security as “when all people, at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and social preferences for an active and healthy life”. Thus, availability, access and absorption of nutritious food for all people, is to be aimed at along with food stability. Latter is more important for people who are subjected to natural calamities or affected by war or conflicts.

Poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and vice-versa, as one tends to exacerbate the impact of other. Food security is central to poverty reduction, good public health, sustainable economic growth and world peace and security, as was witnessed in 2007-2008 with riots in 22 countries around the world. There are still 31 countries in the world in a situation of food crisis requiring emergency assistance. The present situation has come about because, instead of tackling the structural factors of hunger, in recent decades the world has neglected agriculture in development policies and has failed to invest in agriculture. The impacts of such a situation are generally felt most strongly in the developing countries, as their ability to cope is more limited. It is anticipated that there will be more undernourished, rising inequality and problems of access to food by the most vulnerable populations, and the increased scarcity of natural resources aggravated by climate change.

Self-sufficiency in food grains production in India was a major achievement by the mid-1970's, thanks to green revolution technology and creation of a network of well-equipped agricultural universities/research institutions. However, Agriculture in India is undergoing a structural change leading to a crisis situation. The rate of growth of agricultural output is gradually declining in the recent years. The relative contribution of agriculture to the GDP has been declining over time steadily. The performance of agriculture by crop categories also clearly indicates the slowing down process of agriculture in India. The onset of deceleration in agriculture began from early nineties and it became sharp from the late nineties. The trends in the area, input use, capital stock and technology also reflect the agricultural downfall and the farmer's response accordingly. It is alarming that India is moving towards a point of no return, from being a self-reliant nation of food surplus to possibly a net importer of food in not-so-distant. All these trends indicate that the agricultural sector in India is facing a crisis today and needs a serious relooking.

The Indian economy is now the 12th largest economy in the world by market exchange rates and the fourth largest by purchasing power parity (PPP) basis. India achieved 9.6% real GDP growth in 2006, 9.0% in 2007, 6.7% in 2008, 8.5% in 2009, 10.3% in 2010; however then registering a decline due to slack policy reforms – with 6.6% in 2011, 4.7 in 2012. However it is again seen to be picking up in 2013 onwards going above 5%. The rate grew to India ranks second worldwide in farm output. Agriculture and allied sectors accounted for around 14% of the GDP, but the sector employs 50 % of the total workforce and continues to have a major role in the overall socio-economic development of India.

Although India has successfully maintained a high level of economic growth for the past couple of years, the same has not translated into concomitant outcome in poverty reduction – more so it failed to attain desired nutritional improvement. Though agriculture continued to achieve food security at national level, with food grain stocks at level comfortable for national food sufficiency, much has to be achieved in terms of food accessibility by millions. It is assumed that positive agriculture development improves household food security, which in turn provides the basis for individual nutritional wellbeing. This assumption portrays agriculture as income-generating and poverty-reducing and as a driver of



household food security and dietary diversification, leading to better nutrition. But there is lack of correlation between agricultural growth and household food security – now recognized and agri-nutrition disconnect.

Moreover, production efficiency and competitiveness, large population still dependent on agriculture, shrinking land and water resources, information, and regional disparities together with vulnerability to climate change continue to be critical bottlenecks of Indian agriculture. The real challenge for the development practitioners remains to sustain the food production levels taking into account the incremental population pressure, dietary changes due to socio-economic development and increased risks due to climate change and related factors, apart from the foremost challenge of ensuring food and nutrition security at household level.

The growing disparity in income levels is creating new challenges of food accessibility both in urban and rural areas. Lack of livelihood access, economic opportunities, resource ownership, skills, social discrimination, environmental uncertainties are some of the immediate causes of household food insecurity for the poorer segments of the society. Further, inadequate 'food nutrition education' and awareness often result in malnutrition or over-nutrition in different socio-economic situations. With over million people living below poverty line, according to a World Bank estimate, the task of securing food and nutrition security at household level is gigantic for India.

Average per capita consumption in India has increased from an annual rate of 2.2% in 1980s to 3.9% from 2000 to 2005. Yet more than three quarters of the Indian population consume less than 2,100 calories per day in urban areas and 2,400 calories in rural areas (Deaton and Dreze 2009). India ranks 66 out of the 88 developing countries and countries in transition for which the Global Hunger Index has been developed (Von Grebmer et al. 2008). There is a very weak correlation between economic growth and the Hunger Index across states (Menon et al. 2008).

Food & Nutrition Security is intimately related with sustainable practices, access of land, water and forests; diversification of agriculture, drinking water & environmental sanitation, proper watershed management and management of dry land agriculture. Nutritional Status of farm and other women, micronutrient malnutrition should also be given adequate attention in this regard. Redefining poverty as capability deprivation of individuals, skill development should be given priority so that poor people can find employment and wage to be able to feed themselves. Identification of households below the poverty line on current definition adopted by GOI must be done to ensure the benefits of employment guarantee schemes and other safety programmes passed on to the poor. Primary Health care, removal of gender disparities are critical that calls for good governance.

India's achievement in social sectors on alleviation of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, healthcare has been far from satisfactory (Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007–2012). Amidst impressive outlays and multi-pronged efforts to provide food security, there has been valid concern about the efficacy of large public programmes attaining desired goals. Considering 1.2 billion population and diversity of India, managing these challenges is a herculean task and calls for close networking, collaboration and knowledge sharing among the actors to find out what really works, avoid duplication and expedite the process. After all it is unacceptable for any nation to have a significant number of people going to bed without food.

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## School WASH infrastructures and compliance with the RTE

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Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools although has been recognized as an important area of intervention by the Government of India. However, retrospection reveals some points which are in need of urgent attention for ensuring adequacy and quality of the water and sanitation infrastructures. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) 2009, has recommended certain norms and standards for the water and sanitation facilities of the schools for safeguarding the rights of the children. The Supreme Court intervened to ensure implementation of the orders. Deadlines were set several times directing states to ensure installation of the required infrastructures in government schools. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Human Resource Development have committed to joint action to develop strategies and approaches to scale up sustainable WASH in Schools<sup>27</sup>. Several government orders have been issued and guidelines published. Standards, and indicators were also set for measuring progress by the District Information System for Education (DISE). But how all these steps are helping to comply with the objectives of the RTE needs examination.

### RTE on School Water and Sanitation

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 aims at safeguarding the rights of every child including those belonging to the disadvantaged groups and protects them from any kind of discrimination and ensures completion of their elementary education in stress free environments. The water and sanitation norms and standards which are very explicit in the RTE are “separate toilets for boys and girls”, “Safe and adequate drinking water facility to all children” and “Barrier-free access”.

### Adopted latrine standards and their adequacy

The action from the government on providing “separate toilets for boys and girls” was very prompt. An order was issued by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development on 6th May 2009 which said “one toilet seat may be provided for every 80 to 120 boys or girls separately”. There is full compliance with the provision of 'separate' toilets but how adequate one toilet seat would be for 80 to 120 boys and girls is a concern. In the same year World Health Organization (WHO) recommended latrine standards for schools- one toilet per 25 girls and one toilet plus one urinal for 50 boys.<sup>28</sup> There has also been recommendation on the school latrine standards from the Bureau of Indian Standards<sup>29</sup> (BIS) in the year 2010- 1 latrine for 25 girls and 1 for 40 boys. On comparing the figures which have been summarized in the following table it is apparent that the adopted standards by the Government of India on school latrines are far below the recommended standards of WHO and BIS.

Organisations	Latrines for girls	Latrines for boys
World Health Organisation, 2009	1 for 25 girls	1 for 50 boys
Bureau of Indian Standards, 2010	1 for 25 girls	1 for 40 boys
Department Drinking Water Supply, Dated: 6th May 2009	1 for 80 to 120 girls	1 for 80 to 120 boys

12. A post graduate from the University of Delhi; worked in the various states and in various roles and thematic areas, Civil Society Support, Public Private Partnership, and Mother and Child Health Care. He has also worked extensively in fund raising for NGOs from schools and from corporate. At present manages water sanitation hygiene programme in government schools and in the rural communities which includes managing Community Led Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing.

13. <http://www.washinschools.info/page/2636>

14. [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/wash\\_standards\\_school.pdf](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/wash_standards_school.pdf)

15. <https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/S03/is.1172.1993.html>

Inadequate latrines place extra pressure on them which affects cleanliness, functionality and durability of the latrines and also affect the accessibility resulting in creating stress among the children.

Another feature appears on comparing the latrine standards adopted by the Government of India with the standards adopted by the neighbouring countries. From the following table it is clear that the Indian standards are the poorest among all the 6 neighbouring countries.

**Latrine standards in the 6 countries of Asia<sup>30</sup>**

Countries	Toilet for boys	Toilet for girls
Bangladesh	1 toilet for 50 boys	1 toilet for 50 girls
Bhutan	1 toilet for 40 boys	1 toilet for 25 girls
India	one toilet seat for every 80 to 120 boys	one toilet seat for every 80 to 120 girls
Maldives	1 toilet for 50 boys	1 toilet for 35 girls
Nepal	1 toilet for 50 boys	1 toilet for 50 girls
Pakistan	1 toilet for 50 boys	1 toilet for 25 girls
Sri Lanka	1 toilet for 50-90 boys	1 toilet for 50-90 girls

So far, in 2013 – 2014 the DISE Flash statistics, are encouraging, 94.45% schools have boys’ toilet and 84.63% have girls’ toilet but when the adopted standards are poor, adequacy is in question. Secondly, indicators are unable to reflect whether toilets are being provided for each of the 80 – 120 boys or girls.

**Hand washing facilities and their suitability**

Providing separate toilets for boys and girls is the first step and the next one is to ensure that those are maintained properly and used fully. Provision of running water is most important for their maintenance and hygienic usage. The need for “flowing water” was mentioned in the SSA (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) guideline of 2010 but formally came as a government order 4 years after the RTE was implemented, 10th July, 2014 and that too for the schools where toilets were constructed post 2007. The order talks about providing “separate toilets for boys and girls with water connection”

Although running water in toilet units is a main thrust area but the indicator used in the DISE for its measurement is little different “percentage of schools having Hand Wash facility available near toilet / urinal” and unable to show how many toilets have water connection. The positive fact is adoption of an indicator on the availability of electricity connection which is the main driver for ensuring running water.

**Concerns for safe water**

The RTE is emphatic on “safe and adequate” drinking water. The SSA guideline has given due importance to the aspect of “adequate” by setting up a standard of “One fountain for every 30” but there is silence on “safe” water. Government of Maharashtra has shown some initiative for distributing sodium hypochlorite grade I (Medi-Chlor M) for adding to the drinking water in the schools<sup>31</sup> but the adoption of similar water purification measures are yet to be seen as standards for all the government schools. DISE Indicator on “% of schools having drinking water facility” is an appropriate one but how many of them are providing safe water for drinking is yet to be measured. Nirmal Vidyalaya Abhiyan, launched by the Government encourages schools to initiate water testing once in a year which is voluntary and it is left to the schools to take measures if contaminations are found in the water test results.

30. State-of-the-art in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka & letter dated 6th May 2009 Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development

31. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Government-to-distribute-chemical-for-purified-water-at-schools/articleshow/6399258.cms>



### **Toilets for the children with special needs**

Safeguarding rights of the disadvantaged groups of children is another important order of the RTE. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has specified that school toilet designs should be developed reviewed and standardized to address quality and concerns and more importantly to comply with benchmarks set for “child friendliness”, “gender responsiveness” and to provide access opportunities to children with special needs (children with disabilities)<sup>32</sup>. A guideline for school development planning has also been published from SSA which says “Children with disabilities should be able to enter the school building easily and negotiate their way around the school and be able to use the playgrounds, drinking water and toilet facilities”. The comprehensiveness of the approach is hardly reflected when its measuring indicator is restricted only to the percentage of schools constructed ramps. The DISE data on the availability of ramp is encouraging 83.33% but the findings of a study report reflects a great concern when it claims that “96% schools toilets are not disabled friendly”<sup>33</sup>. There have been initiatives by the states & union territories e.g. Puducherry to construct “toilets with adaptability” for the physically challenged students and systematic steps were thought about<sup>34</sup> but for the others similar initiatives are yet to be seen.

### **Addressing needs of the adolescent girls**

Studies show that mental stress among the adolescent girls is common at the time of menstruation, particularly due to constant worry that others may know about it. Providing a stress free environment is one of the objectives of the the RTE. Total Sanitation Campaign guideline talks about “gender responsiveness” of the toilet units. UNICEF recognized menstrual hygiene key to keeping girls in schools. There have been initiatives for providing highly subsidised sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in schools. Incinerators which are for safe disposal of soiled napkins have also been successfully piloted in Tamil Nadu and the case has also been published in the website of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. But initiatives are yet to be seen for incorporating them in the WASH in School standards nationally.

### **Unfavourable conditions for installing WASH infrastructures**

Section 18 of the Act is specific about withdrawing recognition in case a school fails to comply with the norms and standards. But a large number of schools have multiple and deep rooted problems resulting in existing conditions being completely unfavourable to install the required infrastructures. 9135 schools<sup>35</sup> exist without any buildings, either run in the open or in tents. A large number of schools are in the rented buildings. Getting lease agreements from the owners for a period of 7 to 10 years which is a precondition for an infrastructure grant from government is a big challenge. Around 900 primary and nursery schools in Tamil Nadu are on the verge of getting closure notices for their failure to adhere to rules on infrastructure, according to an umbrella organization of schools<sup>36</sup>. Maharashtra also has 833 schools which exist in rented buildings. Even when schools have buildings and ownerships, the available space is not always adequate. In 9.45% schools cooking of mid-day meal are not possible because of space constraint and installing the required WASH facilities in adequate quantity will be a dream.

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32. [ssa.nic.in/infrastructureprovisiondoc/20th...of.../Annexure-2%20B.pdf](http://ssa.nic.in/infrastructureprovisiondoc/20th...of.../Annexure-2%20B.pdf)

33. [sesindia.org/FINAL%20REPORT\\_SANITATION%20HYGINE.pdf](http://sesindia.org/FINAL%20REPORT_SANITATION%20HYGINE.pdf)

34. <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/toilets-with-features-for-physically-challenged-to-be-set-up-in-schools/article152221.ece>

35. Flash Statistics, 8th All India School Education Survey

36. [http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil\\_nadu/900-schools-may-shut-due-to-lack-of-infrastructure/2013/06/23/article1648463.ece](http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/900-schools-may-shut-due-to-lack-of-infrastructure/2013/06/23/article1648463.ece)



## **Conclusion**

Compliance with the RTE will require not only adherence to the recommended norms and standards but also alignment with the objectives it has set out to safeguard the rights of every child including those belonging to the disadvantaged groups. The analysis reveals that there is a need for revising the adopted standards to shift the focus from coverage to quality coverage and also to incorporate gender and differently-abled friendly measures. There is also an urgent need for clarity on the basic water safety measures the schools should adopt. Reworking on the indicators is an important area for assessing the achievements following the standards of the RTE. Finally, it is also important to safeguard the rights of the children who are enrolled in the schools which have no buildings, without ownerships of the land and where the available spaces are insufficient for installing the required infrastructures.



## Strategies to overcome the last mile challenge in Asia -“Ultra Poor”

Etali Sarmah<sup>37</sup> and Bedanga Bordoloi

When the Asian Institute of Poverty Alleviation (AIPA) meets on 13 October, 2014, 444 days will remain to the end of 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). A stock-taking of where we stand on empowering the ultra-poor shows that progress at the global level on poverty alleviation initiatives has continued but that it is still a challenge to be conquered. In fact, overcoming this global development's last mile challenge has become more arduous and has made organizations to rethink poverty. Recently, World Bank has established the twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and promoting shared prosperity by fostering income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population in every country<sup>38</sup>.

The ultra-poor are the households that are yet to reap benefits from widespread economic growth, or from existing development interventions like microfinance, community health workers or community-based schools. Ultra-poor or the poorest of the poor are those people that are at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. They earn less than \$1.25 a day. On an average, these people eat 1.5 meals per day, can't afford essential services like education and healthcare, and have an income that is both low and intermittent.

According to World Bank<sup>39</sup>, 872.3 million people live below the new poverty line globally, of which 179.6 million people lived in India. In other words, India with 17.5% of total world population had 20.6% share of the world's poorest in 2013. India's GDP has increased six-fold, between 1988 (\$.3 trillion) and 2013 (\$1.877 trillion) but its poverty rate only decreased from 53.59 % (in 1988) to 21.9 % (in 2013), underscoring the need for poverty reduction policies aimed at employment generation or livelihood options.

Of the many issues that the Ultra poor face Food Security, Climate Change and Livelihood generation to live a sustainable life with access to basic needs are important areas for policy intervention. Predicted climate change in Asia will create barriers to future poverty reduction and reverse many of the important socioeconomic gains made by developing countries. Regional patterns of poverty and hunger within countries also show that the world's poorest are often located in geographically adverse zones. Freshwater availability in Central, South, East and South-East Asia, particularly in large river basin, is projected to decrease due to climate change which, along with population growth and increasing demand arising from higher standards of living, could adversely affect more than a billion of people by the 2050s. Expansion of areas under severe water stress will be one of the most pressing and urgent environmental problems in the region, especially in South and South East Asia, as the number of poor rural people living under serious water stress is expected to increase substantially in absolute terms.

Availability of food is affected by climate change directly (through its impacts on crop yields, crop pests and diseases, and soil fertility) and indirectly (through its impacts on economic growth, income distribution, and agricultural demand). Variable weather patterns cause instability of crop yields and food supplies. Furthermore, access to food is decreased by climate change because lower agricultural productivity will increase food prices. Lastly, food consumption and nutrition are affected by climate change through its effects on health and the spread of diseases. Inadequate complementary services, such as health, education, and insurance services impair the adequate response of the ultra-poor to these climate change threats. Wetlands are also being threatened by temperature increase. The

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The views expressed herein are the personal views of the author and are not intended to reflect the views of any organisation

38. <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/WB-goals2013.pdf>

39. <http://data.worldbank.org>

precipitation decline and droughts in most delta regions of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India have resulted in the drying up of wetlands and severe degradation of ecosystems.

The depth of extreme poverty globally is commonly measured by the extreme poverty gap or the aggregate additional annual income needed to lift every individual in the developing world out of extreme poverty (the Aggregate Poverty Gap). The aggregate global extreme poverty gap amounts to approximately \$169 billion dollars in 2005 PPP dollars, or approximately \$197 billion in 2010. That is, if the income of every extremely poor person were to rise to the \$1.25 line, the aggregate increase in their income would need to total at least \$169 billion dollars in 2005 PPP terms. This is the aggregate extreme poverty gap and represents approximately 0.25 percent of global GDP.

### Strategies

Addressing the ultra-poor in Asia calls for tasks from all development actors. However, it is important to analyze who should play which role in order to tackle the problem in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The **public sector** can play a pivotal role by way of public services, infrastructure, and regulation. The poor across the world and particularly in Asia have suffered because of a massive failure of the countries to fulfill its traditional functions of providing literacy and basic education, basic health care and public health, safe drinking water, sanitation, basic infrastructure like transportation, electricity and public safety and security. The **private sector** can help generate employment by creating or enabling low or semi skill jobs, focusing on the poor as producers, and help increase their productivity and income potential. Private sector can also sell products and/or services appropriately targeted at the poor at prices they can afford. Most ultra-poor need interventions across multiple areas including livelihoods, healthcare, and financial literacy. **Non-governmental organizations** can continue to play their pivotal role by way of their initiatives for the ultra-poor by delivering services such as education, water, healthcare, etc. These organizations are able to reduce the sufferings of the ultra-poor and contribute to alleviate their state of poverty. National NGOs are important mediators between International NGOs (INGOs) and the governments. Hence co-operation between **international NGO** and national NGO serves as a linkage between national social networks and international assistance. National NGOs can play a substantial role in pushing national governments to fulfill their duties vis-à-vis its population.

The above stakeholders should collaborate to facilitate the development of capacity building architecture in general and in building quality community institutions at various levels and ensuring systems such that they reach sustainability and achieve livelihoods, social and health outcomes for the ultra-poor. Close supervision model is a must for any program for the ultra-poor in Asia. Supervision must address assessing the current needs and counseling on how to graduate beyond ultra-poverty. Educating the ultra-poor members about their future planning is crucial. Special efforts needed to change the mindset of the participants who might consider the assets transferred to them as a “relief” item. Community mobilization effort is necessary in order to ensure social security and to create enabling environment within the community.

To cope up with threats of climate change that ultra-poor faces a multipronged strategy of emergency response and resilience building is required. Food or cash transfers should be expanded and should target the poorest, with a focus on early childhood nutrition, regions in distress, school feeding with take-home rations, and food and cash for work. Urgent investments for sustained agricultural growth and food price relief should include expanded public spending for rural infrastructure, services, agricultural research, science, and technology. To mitigate climate change, the technological innovations needed include early warning systems for droughts, floods, and other natural disasters, better soil and water management, improved seed varieties that are more resistible to adverse climates,



and carbon sequestration. Developed countries should facilitate the sharing of innovation and research relevant to enhancing productivity and transforming small-farm agriculture.

The shift from agriculture to industry and services is the normal transformation accompanying India's unfolding economic development. However, this economic transformation has come at the cost of lags in agriculture's productive capacity and rural living standards. The unemployment rate in rural India is 1.7 per cent and in urban areas 3.4 per cent, according to the latest survey results of 2011-12 carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)<sup>40</sup>. About 33.7 crore and 13.7 crore people were working in rural and urban India respectively, while the corresponding figure for the unemployed was 0.62 crore and 0.44 crore respectively. Female employees, both rural and urban, received less remuneration than their male counterparts for doing similar jobs. The average daily wage in urban areas stood at ` 365, against ` 232 in rural areas. While 51% of the country's total workforces are self-employed, only 15.5% are regular wagers or salaried employees and 33.5% casual labourers<sup>41</sup>. The number of people self-employed is higher in rural areas at about 54.2%, against 41.4% in urban areas. In India, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labor force. According to the unemployment records kept by the Ministry of Labor and Employment of India, from 1983 till 2011, the unemployment rates in India averaged 7.6 percent reaching an all-time high of 9.4 percent in December 2010 and a record low of 3.8 Percent in December 2011.

The count of people without a job is on the rise in India as economic slowdown and slower business expansion activities cast a shadow on employment generation. Indicating sluggishness in the country's job market, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has said in its recent report '**Global Employment Trends 2014**' that the unemployment scenario in India over the last two years has been showing a rising trend (3.5% in 2011; 3.6% in 2012; 3.7% in 2013 and 3.8% in 2014)<sup>42</sup>.

Indian growth needs to be more balanced and diverse, so that no environment is overstrained by a crowding of economic activities in cities, or by focusing on agriculture only in the rural areas. There is a need to tap into a number of rural employment reservoirs, including: agribusiness industry and services; labor-intensive irrigation and construction schemes; environmental protection activities; eco- and ethnic tourism; local renewable energy production and ICT. In the European Union, nearly 15 million jobs protect biodiversity and rehabilitate natural resources, while China is creating millions of jobs in forest management alone. In India the potential is even greater, and we are moving in the right direction. This will help ultra-poor both in urban and rural areas.

Importance of employment generation in the narrative of policies has lagged behind its relevance in development plans and India has made little progress in structural reform of the labour market.

### **Sluggish headway in structural makeover**

New jobs are being created in larger, registered firms; however, these jobs are often without regular employment relationships and benefits as a result of the increasing use of contracted and casual labour. The proportion of wage and salaried workers continues to be low, with only 22.5 per cent of workers in India receiving a wage/salary in 2013<sup>10</sup>. Self-employment continues to be common for people in India; in 2013, 59 per cent were own-account workers. With the percentage of unpaid family workers, this yields a vulnerable employment share of 76.1 per cent, a figure that is only slightly down on previous years. Another manifestation of the slow structural transformation is the continuing high share of workers in the agricultural sector. Presently approximately 47 per cent of workers in India still make a living in agriculture<sup>42</sup>.

40. <http://mospi.nic.in>

41. <http://labour.gov.in>

42. <http://www.ilo.org>

India ranks 10th from the bottom among countries ranked according to their female labour force participation rate<sup>10</sup>. This is an important consideration to be noted while formulating any poverty alleviation policy or programmes with employment generation or skill development as a component. The participation rate of youth in India has fallen in recent years, reaching 39.6 per cent in 2013, which reflects increased education enrolment, especially in secondary schooling. Employment growth has been stronger in recent years (at 1.1 per cent in 2011 and 2012, and 1.0 per cent estimate for 2013), most notably for women<sup>10</sup>.

In case of India, it has been argued that the country was experiencing “slow growth” due to the fact that total employment grew by only 1.1 million from 2004/05 to 2009/10 (based on the National Sample Survey), representing an employment elasticity of almost zero. More recently, however, total employment in India expanded from 2009/10 to 2011/12 by a much healthier 13.9 million, though many of these jobs are in the informal economy<sup>10</sup>. However the unemployment rate is not the best indicator of distress in Indian labor markets, given the high prevalence of informal employment and working poverty. By analyzing the Indian labor market the following challenges to accelerating rural employment has been identified that needs to be tackled with suggested recommendations.

**Table: Strategies to overcome the challenges of accelerating employment for the ultra-poor**

S. No	Challenges	Strategies
1	Migration from rural to urban areas.	Government should step up their efforts to support skill and retraining activities to address the gaps between demand and supply of work skills and qualifications to address long-term unemployment.
2	Slowdown of global and local economy.	Deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas. Creation of additional employment in rural areas on works of durable utility to the community.
3	Lack of employment opportunities for skilled youth (mostly in the age group of 18-25 years)	There is a need to seriously invest and build skills amongst the youth. A complete overhaul of our education system closely integrating it with an effective apprenticeship regime.
4	Growing informal employment which counts for 94 per cent of the workforce.	Broad strategy and policy package for a gradual formalization of informal activities and measures carefully adjusted for different categories of informal workers. Empowering informal workers through promoting organizations of informal workers and representation of informal workers in policy-making and rule-setting bodies. Increasing the earnings and growth potential of informal workers, for example through vocational training.

**Progress towards sustainable development:**

Many of the initiatives in generating rural employment have a ripple effect on India's progress towards sustainable development and will help in graduating the ultra-poor out of extreme poverty. For example, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a flagship programme of Government of India implemented by Ministry of Rural Development since 2nd February, 2006. Studies indicate that the act has a positive macroeconomic impact, leading to increase in GDP and trade. With an outlay of Rupees 33,000 crore in 2013-14, the scheme provided 219.72 crore person days of



employment to 4.78 crore households with an average wage employment of 46 person days. The share of women (53%), SC (23%), and ST (17%) person days in this period was 53 per cent, 23 per cent and 17 per cent respectively (9) (7).

Poverty alleviation initiatives framed in the line of NRLM with the involvement of stakeholders from private, NGOs, INGOs and other civil societies will help in accelerating the opportunities for ultra-poor along with other tangible benefits to population thus bringing about sustainable development by the following manner:

Building job skills; Developing self-employment skills; Access to credit; improved health and nutrition; Food security and gender issues; Access to entitlements; Access to public services.

In countries like India, right policies like NRLM and MNREGA aimed at accelerating ultra-poor employment opportunities, economic growth along with financial inclusion will help convert outlays to outcomes. Some of the fundamentals are in place for Asia to return or shift to higher growth paths, namely, the large youth population and increased investment in infrastructure and skill development that has been taking place. With considerable political certainty at present, Asian countries need to enhance efforts to ensure that growth transforms into more decent employment, especially for the young men and women entering the labor market in the coming years. Rather than considering rural development work only in terms of increasing agricultural productivity, alleviating poverty and discouraging distress migration, we should refocus on “rural” as a fully-fledged economy in its true form. This means working to build a rural revolution based on a combination of agriculture, commerce and targeted economic and social services.

The only way to reach the over 1.2 billion ultra-poor people across the world or more specifically the 400 million in Asia in a reasonable timeframe is by developing self-sustaining models that are efficient, cost effective and widely replicable.

## Climate Change, Vulnerability and Food Security

Dr Srikanta K. Panigrahi<sup>43</sup>

Food security is defined as economic access to food along with food production and food availability. It could be further defined as the access of sufficient quantities of food by all people at all times to lead an active and healthy life. This requires not just adequate supply of food at the aggregate level but also enough purchasing capacity with the household to demand adequate level of food. Ensuring food security (physical availability and economic access to food) will continue to be a major challenge not only for India but also for the whole the South Asia Region as well.

Agriculture in India is caught in a low equilibrium trap with low productivity of staples, supply shortfalls, high prices, climate change, low returns to farmers and area diversification - all these factors can be a threat to food security. India still has the highest number of people (423 millions) living on less than one dollar a day. The region has the highest concentration of undernourished (299 million) and poor people with about 40 per cent of the world's hungry. Despite an annual 1.7 per cent reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment in the region in the past decade, the failure to reduce the absolute number of the undernourished remains a major cause for concern. Estimates by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) indicate that by 2015, Asia would still account for about one-half of the world's undernourished population, of which two-thirds will be from India and South Asia in general.

Moreover, the adverse effects of climate change are quite evident on the agriculture production. For example, with the recent heat waves in Russia, floods in Pakistan and china, the prices of the food produce have surged. It has impacted the market scenario of the availability of the food grains too. The Climate Change has the potential to undermine sustainable Agriculture Practices, increase poverty, and delay or prevent the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Furthermore, the problem of Climate Change has been a cause of concern here, as it has a dampening direct effect on the agricultural produce. The policy makers and scientists are working hand in hand so as to hedge the effect of the Climate Change on the agriculture production.

The changing temperature and rainfall patterns and increasing carbon dioxide level would undoubtedly have important effects on global agriculture and thus on food security. Assessment of the effects of climate change on agriculture might help to properly anticipate and adapt farming to maximize agricultural production. Geo-statistical assessment based on climate trends and actual crop yields, and assessment based on controlled conditions or crop simulation models have to be confirmed, because though atmospheric carbon dioxide enriches crop yields, there is less convincing evidence on the impact of warming temperatures. Also, the interactive effect of temperature and plant nitrogen (protein) content on respiration is not fully understood. These studies are urgently needed as the balance between food supply and food demand is shifting abruptly from surplus to deficit. Therefore, though it is imperative to produce more food in volume, we should not forget its value-addition and its impact on the environment. The choice between volume and value is to be spelt right now and should be translated into Government policies on agriculture in general and food-crops in particular, to assure food security.

With respect to Adaptation, a number of adaptation options in agriculture face a dilemma. Increasing water availability and increas—ing the reliability of water in agriculture, i.e. through irrigation, is one of the preferred options to increase productivity and contribute to poverty reduction. However, as a result of the predicted climate change, semi-arid and sub-humid tropical areas that would greatly benefit from

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increased irrigation may see water availability changing temporally and spatially and rainfall not only declining, but also being more erratic and unfavourably distributed over the growing season, so that irrigation in the long term might not be a viable option.

In addition, the interrelations between adaptation and mitigation need to be carefully considered (Bates et al., 2010). At best, adaptation and mitigation strategies exhibit synergies. Positive examples include many carbon-sequestration practices involving reduced tillage, increased crop cover, including agro-forestry, and use of improved rotation systems. These lead to production systems that are more resilient to climate variability, thus providing good adaptation in view of increased pressure on water and soil resource. In the worst case, they are counter-productive. In relation to water, examples of adaptation strategies that run counter to mitigation are those that depend on energy to deliver water and, therefore, produce additional greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, some mitigation strategies may have negative adaptation consequences, such as increasing the dependence on bio-fuel crops, which may compete for water and land resources, reduce biodiversity and increase monocropping, increasing vulnerability to climatic extremes.

Short-term plans to address food insecurity provide access to water resources, or encourage economic growth must be placed in the context of future climate change, to ensure that short-term activities in a particular area do not increase vulnerability to climate change in the long term. Policy attention is needed in the following areas:

1. Developing long-term water policies and related strategies, taking into account country-specific legal, institutional, economic, social, physical and environmental conditions (FAO, 2010c). Policies and strategies will also need to integrate the different sectors depending on water – rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, nature and biodiversity protection, manufacturing and industry, and municipal water use. Water policies need to address such issues as upstream-downstream competition over water resources and equitable allocation of water across regions and generations;
2. Increasing water productivity by promoting efficient irrigation and drainage systems;
3. Improved watershed and resource management, integrating the different natural resources – water, soil, flora and fauna – through, for example, the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) processes;
4. Enhancing water availability through better use of groundwater storage, enhancing groundwater recharge where feasible, and increasing surface water storage. Given the current economic situation of many water-stressed countries, however, managing demand is equally important: reducing water consumption and improving water use efficiency;
5. Institutional and governance reforms that balance demand and supply across sectors and that mainstream climate change adaptation;
6. Enhancing stakeholder participation in water development and climate change adaptation;
7. Improve information and early warning systems to provide land and water users with timely and adequate information and knowledge about availability and suitability of resources to promote sustainable agriculture and prevent further environmental degradation. Information exchange and dialogue between the agriculture, water and climate communities is vital (FAO, 2008c), not only at national levels but also at trans-boundary river basin level;



8. Human resource, capacity and skills development of policy makers and end-users to help them deal with new challenges;
9. Increase investments in agriculture and rural development. The 2003 Maputo declaration called for African governments to target 10% of their national budget to the agricultural and rural development sector. This is clearly justified, given the overwhelming environmental, economic and social importance of agriculture in SSA, the anticipated impacts of climate change on agriculture (especially in semi-arid and sub-humid areas) and the role agriculture has to play in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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Though SAARC countries have established a food bank to meet the needs of food security in the region, although it has not been operational, even during times of crisis. This is despite the felt need of member nations to evolve mechanisms to make the SAARC Food Security Reserve operational.



## The Power of Heuristics

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### Introduction

The world we live in offers us an abundance of options, and the freedom to choose between them. Whether it comes to food, clothes, entertainment, or sport, we are spoilt for choice. Much of the time, this ability to choose enriches our lives. But this plethora of choices has an important implication: every day, and in many different ways, we are called upon to make many very complicated decisions. These decisions require us to acquire, process, and act on a great deal of complex information. This can be stressful. Being called upon to make these decisions can feel like a chore rather than a privilege. The ability to choose so desirable in the abstract can feel like a burden when decisions actually have to be made.

Think for a moment of all the decisions involved in managing our personal finances. We struggle to decide how much money we should save for retirement. We find it hard to settle on the right investment mix between mutual funds, stocks and bonds. Decisions about the best mortgage for a family or the right way to finance children's college education are complex and inherently difficult. So are those about how to manage the finances of a business, however small. Neither is such complexity confined to financial decisions. Most of us struggle to find the right diet or exercise regime for our particular health needs.

As a result, many policy interventions try to help us make better decisions in areas ranging from health to nutrition to business to finance. The typical program aims to counter the inherent complexity of the decision by providing in-depth information. By providing such extremely detailed and complex information, these interventions try to enable people to make perfect decisions. For example, in the aftermath of the financial crisis in the United States, some policymakers suggested that individual savers should be taught about the complexities of interest rate models, portfolio allocation, and so on. Others proposed finance classes in high school. Governmental and non-governmental organizations invest hundreds of millions of dollars a year in financial education programs. The approach taken in other areas is similar. In the field of nutrition, such education often focuses on informing people about the nutritional content of various food items on a myriad of dimensions and educating them on how these dimensions interact with their body chemistry. Everywhere, policy seeks to improve complex decisions by providing people with commensurately complex information.

### Existing Applications: Financial Education, Agricultural Extension, and Medicine

In this section, we look at three different areas where heuristics are already being applied to help people with decision choices: financial education training for microentrepreneurs, agricultural extension services, and the use of checklists in medicine.

**Microentrepreneurs** often lack the financial skills required for the complex financial decisions they face, and may end up taking decisions that are not in their own best (business) interest. Usually, such entrepreneurs are given accounting-based training which emphasizes giving entrepreneurs the knowledge base they need to make the best decisions for their businesses. But it is not clear whether such training improves their decision-making and the performance of their businesses, and whether alternative financial capability programs could do better (for a review, see McKenzie and Woodruff 2012). There were big differences in the impact of the two approaches. People who were offered rules of thumb based training showed significant improvements in the way they managed their finances and in

the accuracy and internal consistency of the numbers they reported. They were more likely—as much as 10 percentage points more, compared to the baseline—to keep accounting records, calculate monthly revenues, and separate their home and business books. In contrast, there were no significant changes for those in the standard accounting training. Overall, it appears that the microentrepreneurs in our study were more likely to implement what they learned in the rules of thumb training.

And the differences were not restricted just to business practices. Rules of thumb training led to a statistically significant and economically meaningful improvement on weekly revenues. In particular, it led to an almost 7% increase in the level of sales during bad weeks. This is likely because they allowed microentrepreneurs to diagnose periods of bad sales more quickly and thus respond to them proactively by doing things like increasing opening hours or changing the product mix offered.

In contrast, the standard accounting training produced no significant effects. Interestingly, heuristics were particularly effective for those whose initial levels of financial literacy were low, as well as those who said that they were not interested in training. This makes such training a particularly useful way to reach those who are most resistant to or hard to affect using traditional training methods.

A recent evaluation of a mobile-phone-based **agricultural extension service** in India by Cole and Fernando (2012) provides an interesting example of a situation where targeted information provision acts very much like a rules of thumb based approach to education. The study evaluated a service where farmers in western India could both receive weather and input information on their mobile phones. They could also call with specific queries about planting and input use decisions on their especially with regard to the use of particular kinds of pesticides, without any strong evidence of corresponding increases in knowledge and understanding. One way to interpret these findings is to see the information being provided very much in the mode of rules of thumb. Farmers were told about the right thing to do in their conditions without necessarily the full rationale and thinking that lay behind the recommendations being explained explicitly. That they nevertheless took better decisions is a testament to the power of the approach.

It is particularly striking that the behavioral change that resulted from this simpler approach was much larger than that from many decades of more traditional agricultural extension in the same part of India. In particular, whereas only 1% of farmers reported using government extension services as their primary source of agricultural information, over 60% of the farmers given access to the mobile-based service used it, and it replaced the advice farmers were previously getting from input sellers. The simplicity of rules of thumb based education or literacy programs means that they are more likely to be adopted and used than more traditional approaches.

**Checklists** are lists of action items, behaviors or tasks arranged sequentially so that they can be ticked off as they are performed (or noted if they are missed out). Fields such as the airline industry or the military have long used checklists in order to ensure that protocols are carefully followed and tracked, and to reduce errors of omission. Most recently, checklists have been widely applied to ensure a consistent standard of care in medicine, especially in areas such as anesthesiology and emergency medicine, for diagnosing brain death, for the withdrawal of end of life support, and so on. Their use has been shown to improve the quality of medical care, including adherence to evidence-based best practices (including routine but often neglected hygiene practices, such as hand-washing and sterilization), contributing to large improvements in patient safety, and helping cut infection rates at hospitals.

Checklists are usually thought of as being aids to memory. But as Hales et al. (2008) note in their survey of the evidence about the use of checklists in medicine, they are like rules of thumb in that they are “important tools to condense large quantities of knowledge in a concise fashion”. In particular, checklists—like rules of thumb—are oriented towards ensuring that the right actions are taken, rather



than increasing knowledge or information about when the action is appropriate. In this case, note that the people in question often already “know what they need to” but fail to act on it as often or with the regularity needed. This suggests that heuristics might be particularly useful in situations where appropriate actions are not taken even though people know what those actions are and even understand why they are important.

### **The way forward, and a health warning**

Realizing the full potential of heuristics will require us to do a number of important things. Some of these relate to how we ourselves think, while others relate to the way we go about disseminating knowledge.

First, we should recognize the importance of heuristics by striving to learn heuristically wherever possible. Translating complex structures into simple rules of thumb can help all of us learn more effectively.

Second, one of the key advantages of heuristics is that their simplicity allows them to be easily disseminated using new technologies and channels, such as text messaging, phone applications, or the internet more generally. Testing the efficacy of providing heuristics through such new technologies emerges as an important goal for anyone interested in providing solutions in a sustainable and scalable way.

Thirdly, heuristics-based education should be treated as the default for most short-term adult learning programs. In other words, using more in-depth, complex, classroom modules should require explicit justification based on the specifics of the situation rather than being the automatic approach. It is almost certain that there are some situations where more in-depth training is needed—but the tendency so far has been to assume that it always is, whereas it is reasonable to believe that the truth is closer to the opposite. If those tasked with designing training programs would think long and hard about whether in-depth, complex training is really needed, such programs would be used only when they are appropriate and really needed. This would also ensure better use of the resources devoted to these programs.

Finally, a health warning. It is true that many useful heuristics have emerged endogenously. But it is important to remember that such heuristics can sometimes be misleading. In particular, a rule of thumb that is useful in the vast majority of situations may be misleading in a minority of others that may appear to be similar. For example, treating sore muscles with a cold compress is not always the right approach (though it may often be useful); similarly, saving a certain percentage of one’s income is a useful heuristic for most people—but not for those who are carrying a large amount of credit card debt, who may be better advised to first pay it off.

### **Conclusion**

The best heuristics are those that encapsulate useful information in a way that is intuitive to remember and act upon but that are also specific to their context. Their power lies in their ability to induce people to take better actions. By carefully testing and vetting heuristics, we have an opportunity to create better ways to get knowledge and skills to those who need them, but which are designed to ensure that they are not misleading (as some that have developed over time can be), and that they encapsulate reliable science.

This process has the chance to transform the decision capabilities of individuals without needing them to devote significant chunks of their lives to acquiring in-depth knowledge of complex phenomena—but rather by giving them ways to act in ways that serve them well.

## Cooperative Model of Development for Poverty Alleviation

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It is true that sixty five years of planning in India has resulted into lopsided development. There have been regional imbalances and wide and glaring disparities in income and employment opportunities amongst vast multitude mostly in rural areas. Rich have become richer and poor poorer and within poor the Ultra Poor. It is ironic that today the number of people below poverty line has grown to 363 million that is more than the population of the country of 359 million in 1950. There are multiple reasons for people suffering from abject poverty for generations. Innumerable poverty alleviation measures taken at government and other levels have not borne the desired results.

The Ultra Poor are dalits, scheduled castes and tribes, people below poverty line, individuals with disabilities and sufferers of natural and human induced calamities. There is paramount need for coordinated approach to lift their standard of living by fostering collaboration and partnership between the government, civil society, and community based organizations like cooperatives and corporate world on sustainable basis.

There are many causes of poverty in India. They include geographical, personal, biological and economic factors. Widely prevalent corruption, general scarcity/dearth of quality human, physical and financial resources, agriculture production not keeping pace with the requirements, inadequate infrastructure for spread of literacy and education, ill-effects of globalization, weak government institutions/civil society movement not responsive to the needs and aspirations of people, lack of efforts towards institutional strengthening and capacity building restricted mostly to the departments and not of the poor, operation of institutions to diverse/competing interests and motivations, misty strategies of development based on self-analysis and directed at poverty alleviation, fundamental weaknesses in institutions like lack of financial resources to manage them, their working on routine lines rather than on project lines. What is required is to ensure as to how institutions can be poverty focused and how the participation of people in policy formulation and improved understanding of poverty resources is sustained.

So far as Ultra Poor like SCs and STs are concerned, it may be necessary to look at the problem unfettered by the existing formal, procedures and legal framework. It is universally accepted that despite considerable overt attention, the tribal areas/people lag woefully behind others in development. A question therefore arises what is the solution for their ills, particularly when the national agenda is at loggerheads. Tribal continue to be plagued with lack of road network, means of communication, low key agriculture and allied activities forcing them to go for daily wage labour which are few and far between. They also fail to avail of poverty alleviation assistance due to cumbersome procedures, bureaucratic red tape, discrimination, denial and corruption – as a result many of these tribes facing extinction. It is necessary to sensitize the government functionaries with due accountability and lend support to NGOs of credibility and people's organizations like cooperatives to improve the living and working conditions and quality of life of these disadvantaged people.

One way of looking at the problem of poverty alleviation is building up of efficient local institutions, especially of women in Programme Related Investments (PRIs) made by foundations to support charitable activities that involve the potential return of capital within an established time frame, Self Help Groups (SHGs) for generating income and self-employment opportunities and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) to develop the forest resources with people's participation, focus



on livelihoods of the forest fringe communities, community based organizations like cooperatives, formal and informal producer groups, etc. The poor is affected most by lack of institutional support. Here cooperatives and SHGs can play a pivotal role in bringing about rural transformation in the areas of access to resources and services, collectivization, market access, procurement of technology and processing for value addition etc.

The tribal/forest, primary marketing, primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) or large sized multi-purpose cooperative societies (LAMPS) for tribal at the village level can play an important role in poverty alleviation efforts of ULTRA POOR, besides cooperative of weaker section of the community like dairy, poultry, handlooms, SCs and STs, handicrafts, rural crafts, education, rural sanitation, drinking water, drainage, sewage disposal, animal care, health, disease prevention, irrigation, micro irrigation in rural areas, labor, agriculture insurance, transport, generation and distribution of power by new, non-conventional and renewable sources of energy, rural housing and other services including rural tourism. Basically cooperative model aims at creation of infrastructural facilities for long term gains, development of business on sustainable basis to create income opportunities to improve economic condition of members and human resource development. These cooperatives at the village level strike at the root of the problem.

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. They are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. Cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. Cooperative Movement in India is more than 100 years old. It is the largest movement in the world with about 6 lakh cooperatives and 25 crore members. It covers 98 per cent village of the country. About 25 per cent of the members are STs and SCs. A sizeable membership is of women. It has played a very important role in ushering in Green and White Revolutions, promoting poultry, fishery, handlooms and other weaker section programmes. It has three tier structure, primary cooperatives at the village level, district and state cooperatives at the secondary level and national /international level cooperatives at the apex level. It is a formal system of development. A cooperative is a business enterprise. There is a system of registration of societies, their functioning and winding up and it is a state subject supplemented in its efforts by Government of India.

It has played an equally important role in creating income and employment opportunities for small and marginal farmers, land less laborer's, womenfolk, fishermen, handloom weavers, SCs and STs and other vulnerable sections of the community. It permeates all sections of the society and sectors of the economy. The Cooperatives are primarily funded by NABARD, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), State Governments, Ministries of GOI, Commercial and Cooperative Banks and other funding organizations. The funds are provided for creation of infrastructure, business promotion, capacity building, human resource development, education and training of all types of cooperatives. Cooperatives of poorer sections of the society get preferential treatment with an element of grant.

For SC and ST societies, besides National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and other institutions, funding support comes from National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Finance and Development Corporation who has an all India network. Special central assistance flows to benefit tribal under Tribal Sub-Plan of various Ministries. There is need for coordinated and focused approach of various funding organizations to provide much required funds to the institutions of these poor of the poor. There has to be basic policy framework which has to be at variance with the general approach in the sectoral programmes. These people need to be empowered through innovation and entrepreneurship.

The leadership to lead these poor, unprivileged/underprivileged, impoverished people has to come from within the community. The leadership hoisted from outside cannot work here. There is need to

motivate and empower the educated un-employed youth in this task. They may be imparted education and training about cooperative management. Institutions in this regard already exist for members and employees of cooperatives at all levels. Skill development and capacity building will be integral part of all the funding programmes. Another important element of promotional and developmental role of funding institutions is area development through the involvement of all cooperatives in a particular area say a district over a period of time with local resources and local potential for development by establishing vertical/horizontal, forward and backward linkages. Social engineering is an integral part of the programme.

Empirical studies have revealed that implementation of these focused programmes have alleviated poverty and improved the socio-economic life of the people and particularly poorer of the poor. For the poor, salvation lies in joining hands and for this purpose no institution is better equipped than a cooperative which is self- managed. Cooperatives can also work in partnership with PRIs, SHGs and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in their area of operation. They can provide all type of expertise for running a self- help group by maintaining a revolving fund and hand holding facility/forward linkages and if necessary motivate them to join a cooperative ultimately. Self-help groups are formed fast and their attrition rate is even faster. But nurturing them by a local cooperative can save them from quick extinction. Cooperatives are accountable to members who are supreme, and their accounts are audited. They are legal entities. They have to work within a framework and their working has to be transparent.

NABARD, NCDC and other organizations can work hand in hand in alleviating the sufferings of the poor and poorer of the poor by tailoring special programmes for them and securing policy and funding support of various Ministries of GOI and other organizations devoted to the cause of cooperatives. No doubt the path is pretty long but there is no darkness at the end of the tunnel.



## Role of Women in Poverty Alleviation

Amalendu Pal<sup>44</sup> and Dr. Gopi Ghosh<sup>45</sup>

Current data indicates that about 45 percent of the world's population depends on agriculture, forestry, fishing or hunting for its livelihood and that worldwide, women constitute 43 percent of the agricultural labour force, producing a large portion of the world's food. Women's roles range from being cultivators on their own or others' plots – as unpaid or paid workers, employers or employees – to being wage-labourers in on- and off-farm enterprises, alongside their parental and child rearing roles and responsibilities. Everywhere in the world, women face constraints that limit their capacity to contribute to agricultural production and take advantage of new opportunities arising from the changes shaping rural economies. They face overt and implicit discrimination in access to key productive resources such as land and to services such as credit and extension; they face wage discrimination in rural labour markets, and are more likely than men to be in part-time, seasonal and/or low-paying jobs when engaged in rural wage employment; and they often work without remuneration on family farms. There are distinct historical, biological, societal and cultural elements attached to the inherent denial and discrimination of the women- almost across the globe.

Women make crucial contributions in agriculture and rural enterprises. They act as nurturer of the environment and the bio-diversity. They save production resources better than man. Women play a key role in rural economies, where the fight against hunger and poverty is most pressing, as this is where the large majority of the world's poor live. They are also central to family food security and nutrition, as they are generally responsible for food selection and preparation and for the care and feeding of children. Investment in education of women is doubly beneficial as an educated girl child tends to positively impact on the members of two families, instead of only one individual when a boy gets same education.

Women manifest an impressive resilience and multifaceted array of talents, but they also face a range of constraints particularly in their access to productive resources such as land, inputs, training and financial services which prevent them from becoming equally competitive economic players, capable of creating better lives for themselves and their families, and contributing fully to the growth of their communities and countries. We now have proof that closing this gender gap in agriculture and in other aspects of rural life could bring about significant developmental advances. Simply by giving women the same access to productive resources as men, yields on women's farms would increase significantly, and substantial progress would be made in lifting millions out of food insecurity. Moreover, bridging this gap would put more resources in the hands of women and strengthen their voice within the household. A scenario that has proved to have multiplier effects on the food security, nutrition, education and health of their children, and better-fed, healthier children learn better, become more productive citizens and foster more innovative rural societies. Clearly, the benefits would span generations and yield large dividends in the future.

The importance of investing in rural women as a channel for progressive change is significant. At the same time, as cultural realities come into play, the achievement of greater empowerment and equality also implies a strong engagement with both men and women. Cultural and behavioural change is integral to the transformation of intra- and extra-household dynamics, and is a prerequisite for greater gender and social equality. In some cases, gender gaps are reversed, with men and boys experiencing marginalization or missing potential. Thus, engaging reducing gender inequalities in the agriculture sector clearly holds great promise for FAO's mandate of reducing hunger, poverty and injustice in the world.



The fight against poverty is one of the key issues in development policies. In many occasions women frequently do not benefit from development efforts. But it is an established fact that without active participation of women the dreams of development efforts will not be fulfilled. As a result, development policies have to be oriented to women and development and this may be represented best by the concept of autonomy.

In practice it is experienced that autonomy concept has a very close link with different approaches for proper involvement of women in development process. We can categorize those approaches as:

- vi. The welfare approach in which woman is economically dependent on a male breadwinner.
- vii. The equity approach women are lagging behind in the society and the gap between women and men can be bridged by specific measures.
- viii. The anti-poverty approach women's role is confined to the producers in the context of self-sufficiency.
- ix. The instrumental approach it is the integration of women in development process in order to strengthen the national economy.
- x. Empowerment approach which is based upon the view that structural inequality between sexes can be overcome by strengthening and broadening the power base of women. This approach is close to autonomy concept.

Social and gender analyses of specific sectors and investments and contribute to strengthening gender analysis in project preparation, support the preparation of practical gender based action plans, assist with the identification of gender-related design features to incorporate within project components. Such approach strengthens the ability to identify and report on gender equality results in Gender mainstreaming as well as the lessons learned about maintaining a focus on gender equality results; analysis- and evidence-based plan for achieving gender equality; capacity development of executing and implementing agencies and continued implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

Development cooperation based on the principle of autonomy for women means endorsing a vision of distribution of power in all manifestations. Where a redistribution of power from men to women is not an explicit feature of the policy being pursued, cooperation should be reoriented towards direct poverty relief. Direct poverty relief can be based on the different interests and needs of women and allows them to indicate their own priorities. A policy based on female autonomy should constantly take account of the four distinct elements of autonomy and their inter-relationship when programmes and projects are being implemented. If, for example, women's productive tasks are made more onerous, assistance should be provided to relieve the burden of women's reproductive and nurturing tasks. Assuming that societies are characterized by a system of male domination, it is also important to remember that autonomous forms of organization and resources are needed to enable women to strengthen their position vis-à-vis men.

Consequently, projects specially geared to women and aimed at increasing their autonomy – whether for enhancing production capability to enabling better nurturing role of the family, from nutritional improvements to accessing education, from better health care to provisioning of drinking water and sanitation - may be increasingly taken up and supported by various development agencies to eradicate absolute poverty from the society by 2030.

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45. Dr. Gopi Ghosh Director AIPA and Head of Policy



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## Voice of Slums for SMART Cities

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India is back on rapid pace of urbanization. Census 2011 confirm highest ever growth of census towns, urban decadal growth and urban population in absolute numbers is recorded more than rural growth. The role of slums and their potential are critical and decisive to have sustainable urban growth.

In this regard, Government of India has recently announced the promotion of 100 smart cities with a budgetary allocation of a little over Rs.7000 crores. The basic idea of smart cities covering digital connectivity, basic services and infrastructure, productivity and environmental protection is not confined to 100 cities only. These are likely to serve as a pilot project to have demonstration effect in a larger context of nearly 8000 urban centres in the country. Owing to the magnitude of work Government of India has indicated a mission mode approach. This could be called National Mission for Smart Cities (NMSC). Slums are an integral part of urban India. Therefore the approach on smart cities has to duly include slums in the selection, scope of work and funding for smart cities.

### The Guiding Factors

Our approach towards SMART cities has to be developed in view of the vision statements of NDA government being *sabka saath* (inclusive growth) and *sabka vikas* (inclusive development) alongwith minimum government and maximum governance. Further, the NDA manifesto spells out urban sector goals to have sanitation (Swachchhata), housing for all and rural-urban continuum. Three things need to be specially noted in this regard: (i) many components of focus areas of smart cities are already included in the current urban development initiatives. Yet, they have not made desirable impact. Therefore a consolidated approach is needed in the form of a pilot programme for smart cities to scale up replication in a larger context (ii) Governance deficit is the single most important reason for a slow progress of current initiatives and (iii) urbanization is inevitable and recent census has confirmed the link between development (growing share of non-farm sector in GDP being 86% in 2013) and expansion of cities and towns.

### Overall Strategy

Government of India has come up with a brief and pointed concept note on smart cities. There are three areas for necessary follow up such as (i) selection of representative cities to have smooth and effective replication (ii) scope of work and (iii) efficient mobilization of resources.

### Selection of Towns

As part of the selection of towns, the concept paper has divided the urban centres into five main categories namely (i) mega cities (4 million plus), (ii) other metros (1 to 4 million), (iii) Tier two cities with a population of 100000 to 1 million and (iv) small and medium sized towns (v) towns as capital city, heritage town, corridor town etc. and (vi) towns with religious importance and heritage related significance. Their selection would provide a basis for further consolidation of development work including slum improvement.

Yet another category of urban centres which is not mentioned in the Gol note but deserve due attention is the census towns which are still waiting for the status of a city government (statutory town). A suitable methodology on governance and planning process among census towns needs to be evolved to make them SMART in due course. The above category of towns deserve detailed examination in terms of nature and dimension of slums and respective issues.



### Scope of Work

The voice of slums has to focus on sustainable habitat in terms of access to shelter, services and livelihood opportunities. A recent study by IIPA has identified a few areas of concern and action (Inclusive Habitat, 2012, IIPA). These are as follow:

Item	Status	Scope of activities
Land Tenure	Secure Tenure (Mix of in-situ and relocation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rental tenure to be planned,</li> <li>Option for just arrived need to be considered</li> </ul>
Affordable Housing	Loan through banks (using ISHUP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banks to come forward</li> <li>Savings potential to be fully explored</li> <li>Authorities to use hire purchase method</li> </ul>
Water Supply	In-house connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Supply System (tap) is needed, Partnerships are not attempted in the supply/O&amp;M</li> </ul>
Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-site provision</li> <li>O&amp;M not effectively planned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Segregation, disposal system with PPP to be tried</li> </ul>
Education	Within reach/Skill education also attempted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventive health care should be suitably planned</li> </ul>
Health	Depend on existing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope for convergence with existing schemes / programmes</li> </ul>
Social security	Community structure emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple use of community / common space</li> </ul>

A system of benchmarking would be needed to ensure objective assessment and implementation of slum issues and strategy under the mission. In this regard suitable indicators need to be finalized to have initial and periodic assessment on smartness. Digital connectivity, Real Estate Development, Environmental protection, Maximum governance are essential components of slum issues for smart cities. These are to be integrated with the supply of basic infrastructure.

Conservation, recycling and treatment and safe disposal of water and scientific disposal of solid waste should be an essential part of the mission due to their high externalities on health, productivity and quality of life particularly in relation to slums. A recent World Bank study in India points out sizable gain in the GDP to the tune of 6.4%, if water sanitation and solid waste management are provided adequately.

The scope of work should also cover in-situ development and relocation under two specific contexts; Need for incremental and self-help and vertical growth wherever feasible.

The role of slums in the economic potential of smart cities cannot be kept away from the scope of work of the mission. In this regard local governments among the mega cities, metro cities and two tier cities have to play a decisive role to promote local economic development whereas small and medium towns

and census towns should be selected for the spatial dispersal of economic activities. While doing this, the potential of urban poor and surplus labour from farm sector should be given special attention. In this regard skill development is also essential to upgrade capabilities of our unskilled workforce.

### **Mobilisation of Resources**

Another area for consideration is mobilization of funds for 100 cities and scaling up of the mission .Initial budgetary allocation is not a small amount. This should be seen as seed capital to mobilize necessary resources from a range of stakeholders. These include:

- Foreign Direct Investment and participation of private sector .
- Public sector funding could be mobilized through
- finance commission allocation
- sharing of GST proceeds, once are made available
- using clean energy fund and
- sharing of land value gains with development. Development Authorities in the country have mobilized substantial savings which need to be shared with city governments .Second Administrative Reforms Commission and XIII Finance Commission have already made recommendations in this regard. These funds should be brought for implementation of the mission.

Finally, capacity building should be given a top priority to effectively implement the inclusion of slums by respective agencies and ULBs. This is particularly important in the light of ULBs inability to use JNNURM funds. A city to city learning and city to city competition should be promoted. In this regard, a series of studies should be commissioned to identify scope of work as per the typology of towns to be covered under the mission. Accordingly user friendly guidelines, checklists, manuals would be needed be to promote on-the-job and applied training at town level.

Thus, the preliminary agenda for voice of slums for SMART cities should be taken up to develop detailed agenda covering action plan and indicators to develop 100 smart cities for a wider replicability and scaling up in a larger context of challenges and opportunities posed by the process of urbanization. Simultaneously, a reform agenda for states to engage cities for tripartite partnership with the national government should also be included in the work plan of the mission.

## REACHING THE ULTRA POOR IN INDIA

Trickle Up works to create a world in which it is unacceptable for anyone to live in ultra-poverty. We inspire and support the poorest and most vulnerable to build sustainable livelihoods and take their first transformative step out of ultra-poverty. Working with local partners to reach the most vulnerable, we use the Graduation approach to promote sustainable livelihood development in Central America, West -Africa and India. Trickle Up also seeks to increase effective outreach to populations living in ultra-poverty by supporting the policy and practice of governments and other organizations through technical assistance, advocacy, and knowledge sharing.

## WE FOCUS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE



Since its inception in 1979, Trickle Up has reached over one million people, with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized families living in ultra-poverty. Often overlooked by larger development efforts, this includes people living in remote and rural areas who face multiple dimensions of poverty, with women, indigenous populations, people with disabilities, and scheduled castes over represented among the poorest.

People living in ultra-poverty tend to have insufficient and irregular income, are chronically food insecure, have minimal productive assets and saving, and often experience poor health vulnerability and social marginalization. They typically must prioritize meeting immediate consumption needs over investing in livelihood development, thus severely limiting their opportunities to break the cycle of poverty. Families living in ultra-poverty also tend to be harder to access, as poverty is often associated with geographic remoteness. Historical patterns of exclusion further contribute to isolation and poor access to services.

## WE HAVE DEEP EXPERTISE IN THE GRADUATION APPROACH

Trickle Up is active in the CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation consortium, which focuses on people living in ultra-poverty and seeks to move them out of extreme poverty through an approach that combines elements of social protection, livelihood development, and microfinance.

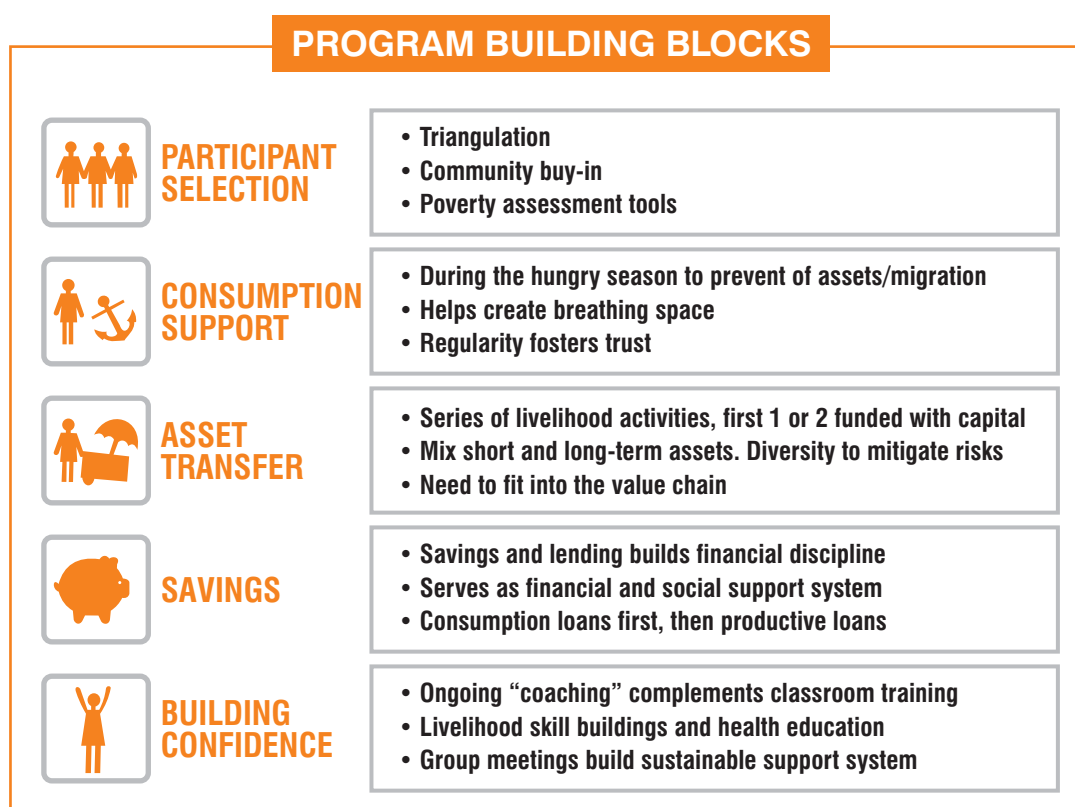
In 2007, Trickle Up implemented one of the first pilot projects in the Graduation initiative, which brought together 10 organizations in eight countries to demonstrate the effectiveness of integrating social protection and economic promotion for the world's poorest. In partnership with the Human Development Centre, Trickle Up support 300 participants from communities in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, to launch livelihood activities and establish self-help savings and credit groups, which resulted in significant economic, health, and social gains.

## TRICKLE UP'S GRADUATION COMPONENTS

Identifying Families Living in Ultra poverty

The most vulnerable and marginalized people rarely self-select into development programs, therefore deliberate selection strategies are required to identify the poorest families in communities. Trickle Up has refined the use of Participatory Rural Appraisal tools (social mapping and poverty wealth ranking) to ensure community members are engaged in helping identify the poorest households. The selection process includes multiple levels of verification of each household to ensure the poorest people in the community are selected. We also take deliberate steps to build trust over time and encourage risk-averse families to participate.

## Livelihood Development Planning and Training



In order to ensure livelihood interventions are successful, it is essential to help families plan a series of livelihood activities to address food security and other financial needs of the household. Trickle Up has developed an innovative livelihood planning process for field workers and participants to develop the best sequence of livelihood activities according to a family’s strengths, productive assets, and the local market. Financial training on basic bookkeeping and market analysis are coupled with technical training on specific income-generating activities, such as animal husbandry, agriculture, and small trade, to give participants the necessary tools and knowledge to build and sustain successful livelihoods.

## Seed Capital Grants

In order to avoid placing a debt burden on household, the Graduation approach operates on the assumption that it is critical to provide seed capital grants to families as they begin their livelihood activities and establish a steady and sustainable income stream. Furthermore, direct grant distribution to individual households, rather than larger groups, is essential in ensuring that the most vulnerable households identified through our targeting efforts truly obtain the support they require. The seed capital grant is invested after a series of trainings to identify and launch livelihood activities that lead to immediate income, as well as longer-term livelihood investments expand and sustain their livelihood activities with profits from their activates and/or loans from their savings and credit groups.

### **Savings Group and Credit Mobilization**

Trickle Up trains local partners on Self-Help Group (SHG) and Village Savings and Loan methodologies so they can enable women living in ultra-poverty to establish self-managed savings and credit groups. Weekly participation in SHGs builds and reinforces discipline as participants establish a safe place to save and access credit in flexible amounts and at reasonable interest rates. Group meeting can also serve as a platform to deliver training to participants on other non-financial topics such as nutrition and good health practices, while providing a vital opportunity for participants to build



social capital by working with their peers. Partner agency staffs are trained to facilitate vertical linkages with municipal development committees, government programs, and other development organizations so that participants can seek support for themselves and their communities. Participation in SHGs increases confidence and solidarity, builds awareness and access to available programs and services, and often leads to collective action by the groups to address barriers they encounter, either at the household level, such as domestic violence, or at the community level, where they have advocated with local officials for increased services.





## ENABLING LIVES

Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (established in 2011), the social development arm of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd, is a young foundation working to improve basic education, woman and child health, access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunities and provide a forum to discuss and advocate development issues. Its activities are spread across 5 districts of Odisha – namely Rayagada, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Jajpur and Angul. The foundation’s efforts actively contribute to the national goals and lead to inclusive growth. A number of organic issues such as advocacy, gender, partnership, and performance management underlines the BIPF programmes .

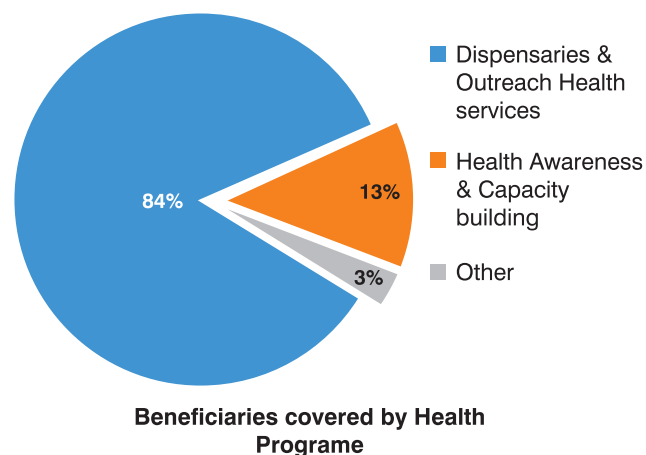


- 212 women die per 1,00,000 live births every year in Odisha
- 64 children die out of 1000 live births every year in Odisha

The high rate of MMR & IMR calls for timely care and diagnosis which can reduce the incidence of mortality especially among children and pregnant women. Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) addresses this critical issue from multiple directions. Interventions for this can be grouped into four areas; counseling & education of women on nourishing and caring for themselves and their children; clinical interventions by providing service delivery to maternal, newborn thru outreach health services; training health workers and increasing access to inadequately equipped local health centers; and protective interventions including provision of vaccination thru coordination with local Government functionaries.

BIPF strategy is to contribute to improve maternal and child survival by activating SHG-based social platforms, that can serve as an operating system on which family health interventions can be layered. This model holds tremendous promise as a platform for community mobilization to expedite changes in family health behaviors and social norms, as well as establish strong linkages with the health system at a local level in order to improve access to health services.

Some of the initiatives taken in the last years include Partnership with International NGO “Pathfinder International” to build the capacity of ASHAs and ANMs in two districts so as to further equip them with necessary capacity on diagnosis and timely action to prevent maternal death; Janani Express: a service provided to transport pregnant women to the nearest health facility for institution deliveries; Health services to



achieve better population health outcomes by making available fully equipped medical services closer to community. Uniqueness of this model lies in its comprehensive approach where health promotion and prevention are given equal importance while curative is administered.

### EDUCATION

- 64.36% of women are literate in Odisha

Education is by far the most powerful tool for socio – economic transformation. Yet in many of the villages children do not go to school due to lack of infrastructure, absence of trained teachers, financial inability etc.

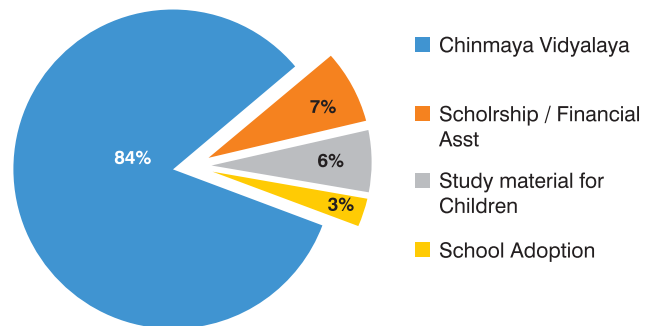


Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation believes that education is one of the most liberating factor in life and accordingly BIPF’s core principal for this sector includes two inextricable areas, children and the infrastructure necessary to ensure access, retention of poor students specially girls.

Towards this, BIPF manages and operates the **Chinmaya Vidyalaya Therubali (CVT), an English medium CBSE** school established in 1980 by IMFA to ensure access to quality education for the children of the remote Rayagada

district. Additionally the foundation has been instrumental from the very beginning in supporting and patronizing the schools ranging from primary school to secondary school and extending material and financial support to the children. Some of the BIPF’S key initiatives in this direction include: **Adoption of**

**SC & ST Ashram Schools** in partnership with the SC & ST Department Government of Odhisha, to improve the infrastructure including, repair, maintenance and provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities, so as to create appropriate facilities for the children to attend school; **provision of essential educational and learning materials** (including provision of the LED lanterns in the villages without electricity) for the children thus reducing the financial burden on the parents; providing financial assistance to necessitous children



Coverage Under Education Programme

to assist them to continue their studies. Along with its pursuit in the education sector the foundation is also deeply involved in promoting/ supporting sports and culture as an initiative towards the overall development of the children – The citizen of tomorrow.

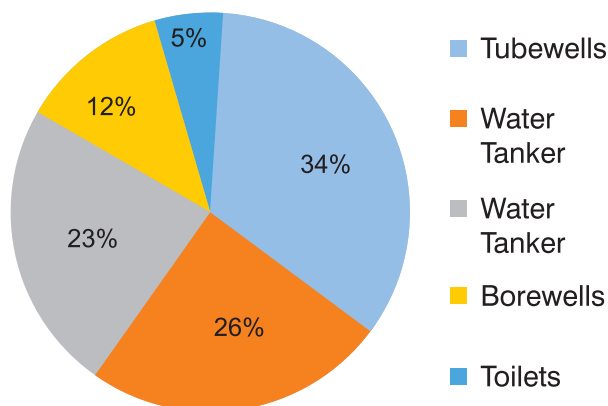
### WATER & SANITATION

- 76.6% households in Odisha still defecate in open
- More than 1,000 children die every day in India from diarrhea
- Around 38.5% families travel at least half a km to fetch drinking water in Odisha villages.

Clean water changes lives. Unsanitary practices and use of contaminated water remain the major cause of child deaths, diseases and malnutrition, especially affecting poor. Women and girls walk

several hours to collect clean water for the household on the cost of education and productive work.

To reduce the health risk and shorten the time for water collection, BIPF has taken up **Suswasthiya**, comprehensive water and sanitation programme. Community participation and collaboration is central to the foundation's overall strategy for water and sanitation, where improved hygiene practices are the backbone of the programme supported by improved sanitation and safe water supplies. The strategy is to stimulate the bottom-up participation and planning through organized village communities for creating awareness on the positive hygiene practices & sanitation, which range from washing the hand to simple covering of faeces or cleaning the drainage to clear the stagnant water. Towards this, **Behavior Change Communication (BCC)** activities are carried out annually to create awareness about environmental sanitation, through awareness camps, group meetings/discussions, group activity and demonstrations. Village cleanliness drives are undertaken where community takes an active part.



**Beneficiaries covered by Sanitation Programme**

In all the 5 programme district's, BIPF has annual programs for clean water supply system installation. The defined intervention area in each district is a 10 km radius around IMFA's operational areas, covering approximately 100 villages per district. BIPF adopts villages and provide complete water solutions by building/ installing, repairing and maintaining tube wells, bore wells, overhead tanks with connecting pipes to several common junctions within the village. Social mobilization precedes the initiation of construction of water and sanitation facilities. Other activities include water purification to keep the village sources clean, provision safe

water and sanitation facilities to several schools with a special focus to keep the girl child in school.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 50% of Odisha's population is below 25 years of age
- 63.2% of Odisha's population is below poverty line
- In Odisha over 1 million youths (registered) are unemployed youth.

Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation believes in enabling individuals to live a life of dignity. To achieve this BIPF focuses on generating sustainable livelihood thru skill development and promoting small business. The foundation envisages social transformation in the hands of women by building their capacity to handle economic and social life themselves.



Through its project **UNNATI**, in Keonjhar, Jajpur, Angul and Rayagada, the foundation aims to transform the lives of poor women by enhancing their capacities with an integrated self help approach (including finance, health, livelihood microfinance, marketing etc.). The strategy is to activate SHG-based social platforms in all the programme districts, which will serve as an operating system on which behavioral change and family health interventions can also be layered. On the other hand, BIPF gives a lot of focus on Skill development, both vocational and short term employability training. As part of this BIPF oversees the management of **Therubali Industrial Training Center (TITC)** established in 1994 by IMFA with an objective to contribute in the countries goal to provide employable Skill training to youths to create a workforce empowered with the necessary and continuously upgraded skills, knowledge. TITC is equipped with class rooms and workshops for different trades and imparts vocational training for fitter, welders, electricians. Trainings are kept in alignment with the guidelines of National Council of Vocation Training (NCVT), GOI. Recent addition to this includes a **new industrial Training Centre in Sukinda**. The ITC Sukinda will follow on the footsteps of our ITC Therubali. We also plan to set up training academies in a few districts of Odisha over the next five years. Additionally livelihood trainings such as goatry, poultry, dairy, bee keeping, vegetable cultivation, tailoring and mushroom cultivation etc. for women continues as an ongoing program of the foundation.

### EMERGENCY

Cyclone, floods are regular phenomenon in Odisha and BIPF has always provided its support during natural calamities. One such calamity was Cyclone Phailin which struck the coastal districts of Odisha on 12th October, 2013 affecting more than 12 million people from 17,674 villages of 151 blocks. Subsequent flooding worsened the situation. Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation procured and distributed emergency food materials, tarpaulin sheets, blankets, and other essential in a timely manner and reached out to the people in distress. The foundation also supported the district administration by providing quintals of food for mass cooking. In addition to this, BIPF also donated to Chief Minister's Relief fund.



### ADVOCACY

Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation undertakes several advocacy initiatives from time to time.

**Ideate - Annual Panel Discussion:** Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation organizes annual panel discussion and successfully advocates the most challenging issues of society. The first panel discussion was organized in 2012 in partnership with Pathfinder International on “**Maternal & New Born Health**” followed by the panel discussion on “**Water and Sanitation: Foundation for improved Health**” in 2013 in partnership with FICCI Aditya Birla CSR Centre of Excellence and FICCI Odisha State Council.

Objective of these panel discussions is to bring experts across sector (includes Government, INGOs, UN bodies, corporate foundations, PSUs, Private Sectors and Media) under one roof to discuss ways in which various stakeholders can contribute to meet the challenge of creating awareness among people.

**Shambhavi Puraskar:** Bansidhar & Ila Panda Foundation has instituted Shambhavi Puraskar in 2013 to recognize excellence and innovation by emerging social catalysts and thereby encourage more citizens to act as agent of change. The first Shambahvi Puraskar for the year 2014 was conferred upon Mr. Krushna Sabar, for his outstanding contribution in the development and empowerment of Saura tribe. The winner was decided by group of independent jury with representatives of NGO, civil society, Government of Odisha, media and BIPF. The award, first of its kind in the state, carries a trophy a citation and cash prize of one lakh rupees.





## Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) - Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the strategic approach toward sustainable community development and the key to inclusive growth. With that as a focus, JSLs Corporate Vision is “To be recognized as a Socially Responsible Corporate and a Sustained Value Creator for all its Stakeholders”.

Aligned to its vision, JSL through its Foundation has a wide range of social development programmes initiated near its Corporate Head office, Plant locations and factories with the aim of empowering communities and bringing succor to their woes. Jindal Stainless Foundation, a registered society under the Registrar of Societies was established with the aim of implementing various social and environmental initiatives through direct & indirect methods.

Mrs. Deepikaa Jindal, Chairperson Jindal Stainless Foundation provides the overall guidance for the CSR initiatives. Direct interventions are carried out by professional and experienced CSR teams members at Plant Locations and programs are also implemented through reputed national and international civil society and Non-Government Organizations. We believe that “CSR is the direct connect between “Head & Heart” and can only be achieved when Professional speaks the “Language of Heart.”

### The broad CSR objectives of JSL are as indicated below:

- To work towards Social advancement of all stakeholders i.e. employees, communities and their families
- Empower Rural Youth and Women through skill enhancement and promoting entrepreneurship
- Provide basic amenities to rural communities living around our areas of operations i.e. Primary Health care, Basic Education etc.
- To work towards Environmental Protection
- To provide an enabling environment and promote best practices
- To ensure a proper reporting structure.

JSL’s CSR interventions are mainly based around the plant locations in Jajpur (Odisha) and Hisar (Haryana) focusing around (I) Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (II) Integrated Health Care (III) Promotion of Education (IV) Business and Human Rights (V) Environment Conservation (VI) Others

### I. Promoting Gender Equality And Empowerment of Women

JSL is streamlining the Women Empowerment Principles within the company. It has also signed up to the United Nations WEP Principles Statement of Support and is one of the 30 members of the UN WEP Leadership Group. JSL has come up with safety guidelines for women, and is encouraging women to apply for Managerial positions. JSL also has a strong Internal Complaints Committee. A policy for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace and guidelines towards safety of women employees has been in effect.



- **Save the Girl Child** - Responding to the issue of diminishing girl population in the State of Haryana and its deeper implications, JSL introduced a project “Save the Girl Child “in partnership with Child Reach International India (NGO) targeting 630 Currently Married Women (CMWs) in Hisar. The project focuses on creating awareness among different stake holders such as elderly mothers, eligible couples, male community members, adolescent girls etc on health and hygiene, gender issues, educations, rights, importance of girls and female feticide.



- **Self Help Group** - In Hisar and Jajpur, the women SHGs are involved in thrift and credit activities. JSL is focusing on the capacity building of the SHGs by providing skill training on buffalo husbandry, tailoring, handicrafts, mushroom cultivation and need based trainings as and when required. In Jajpur, the SHG members have been linked to TRUPTI Project of Government of Odisha and have also set up the papad making and dal processing units. Currently, there are 692 SHG members in Hisar and 1805 SHG members in Jajpur.

- **Asmita - Production Centre** - JSL runs various tailoring centers in around the plant location in Jaipur. Most of the trained women start their small enterprises at the household level and are able to make a small income out of it. In an effort to bring the program to the next level and add more value in the lives of these women a new production centre model was introduced. These production centers would produce good quality finished products which would then be connected to markets in and outside Odisha.



A group of twenty young women were handpicked for the initiative and provided intensive training on home furnishing products in IKAT. A one and a half month long training was conducted at the Jindal Institute of Industrial Training, a master trainer from All India Artisans and Craft workers Welfare Association (AIACA) conducted the training. This program is in partnership with the Earthy goods Foundation. The products are made under the brand name ASMITA.

ASMITA has been receiving bulk orders from J.P Handlooms and Fabindia for stitching over the past few months. These young women do all by themselves, right from sourcing of the product to production, quality check and marketing. More orders from Fabindia are in the pipeline.

In Vizag, young girls and women are also tailoring skills at vocational centers.

## II. Integrated Health Care

- **Static and Mobile Health Clinic** - JSL in partnership with Wochardt foundation is providing health care in Jajpur by providing awareness, diagnosis and treatment through a Mobile Medical Van. The Medical Van is fully equipped, in accordance with the prescribed medical standards, to attend to the needs of the patients in the Target Areas.

The objective of the static and mobile health clinic is to deliver Preventive, Promotion and Curative health service that reaches out to the rural population especially to poor women, children and old in the peripheral villages of JSL. The health care unit comprises of a doctor, pharmacist, a counselor and a medical van. The commonly found diseases amongst the people are fever, cold, cough, loose motion, arthritis, APD, UTI, anemia etc.



Apart from the Mobile Health Van, regular blood donation camps, health awareness camps and dental camps are organized in Jajpur.

In Hisar, the Mobile Health Dispensary project, initiated in August 2010 jointly with N C Jindal Hospital, provides medical services at door steps for the unreached population. The medical team addresses the needs of ten villages and visits them twice a month. The medical services in terms of Diagnosis, treatment and medicines are provided to the rural beneficiaries on at Rupees Five as registration fee. The team also creates awareness on different health issues as preventive health care. Patients with chronic problems are advised to visit NCJH for further treatment. Since the inception of the project, 32290 beneficiaries have been served medically.

JSL also runs an HIV&AIDS Volunteer Program Employee Engagement in Hisar. Post training by Modicare Foundation, the HIV&AIDs Master trainers from HRD, CRD, NC Jindal Hospital, VDJS, OPJMS and JIL formed a core committee to bring about awareness on the issue in the rural areas.

The volunteers aim at fostering awareness of the disease and work to change attitudes and behavior towards those who have been affected with HV&AIDs. The Master Trainers, through the Volunteer engagement program educate people on the prevention of HIV&AIDs, to reduce the level of stigmatization, prolonged life through medication and healthy life style.

In Vizag, eight free medical camps were conducted in the villages surrounding the factory.

### III. Promoting Education

- **Hole in the Wall (HIWEL)-Computer Aided Learning Station -An Innovative way to Learning** - JSL entered in partnership with Hole-in-the-wall Education Ltd. (Hiwel) in December, 12 for setting up of Learning Station(LS) with a prime objective of promoting self learning process for enhancing their academic education through computer system. The learning materials installed in each of the system are in the form of multimedia such as cartoons, games, and other interesting modes which can be easily accessed by the children on their own or with a little trial and error method.



At Hisar, we have two learning stations and we have six learning stations in Jajpur. Children are joyfully accessing the stations on their own and make use of the materials. In Jajpur, JSL has set up village libraries to inculcate reading habit amongst children. Bridge course education centers and computers centers have been set up so that children can enhance their learnings.

- **Skill Training** - JSL, CSR initiated a new project last year in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), with the aim of imparting skill training to the unemployed youth of Jammu & Kashmir. Himayat is a part of the Skills Empowerment and Employability (SEE) scheme of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) being implemented through the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Himayat has its focus on bridging the gap between the industry requirements and the skill sets of the youth, so that more employment opportunities can be generated. Through the program over 2000 youth from the State of Jammu and Kashmir are being trained over a two year window in Electrical, IT, Stainless Steel Fabrication, Hospitality etc.





## IV. Human Rights and Business

JSL continues to be associated with the CEO Forum on Business and Human Rights, by taking a leadership role and facilitating other Corporations to be a part of the process. The company will continue to reinforce its initiatives and ideologies on Human Rights. Efforts will be made to further share and sensitize employees about Human Rights. Over the past few years, a number of consultation and training programs, both external and internal have taken place in order to embed the UNGPs. Efforts are also on to sensitize the MSME and the supply chain on issues relating to Business and Human Rights as articulated in the UNGPs.

## V. Environment Conservation

- **Project “Paper Back”**

JSL, in collaboration with Greenobin has initiated a “Paper Back project” across the companies to recycle paper waste and demonstrates good practice of using, reusing and recycling paper for making products, which are not only useful but are aesthetically good. All Jindal employees have been asked to ensure that whatever paper they use is worthy of recycling. And that the waste paper is not soiled as wet paper remains just a waste paper and cannot be re-used. Hence the paper should remain clean and dry. This paper gets collected by the office boys and is given out for recycling. This project is an attempt to save environment as industrialized paper making has an effect on the environment. 90% of paper pulp is created from wood and paper production accounts for 35% of felled trees.



- **Organic Farming in Hisar**

States like Punjab and Haryana are considered to be developed and self-sufficient in the agriculture sector. The progress has also brought in picture the usage of heavy machinery, usage & diversification of high yielding varieties, increased usage of chemical fertilizers and sprays. This has resulted in depletion of the soil condition and increased cost of cultivation and also impacted the human health. Keeping this in mind and as a promoter of environment friendly technologies, CSR – Hisar took the mission of reviving the traditional concept of farming by commencing the organic farming initiative. Currently JSL is intervening in ten villages with the objective of motivating the farmers to adopt organic farming techniques which are proven and considered to be sustainable. Our team interacts with the farmers at various levels, conducts awareness sessions, identifies the progressive farmers, and shares farming inputs. Further support is also being extended for marketing by linking them with the contacts either within or outside the village. A total of 160 farmers have adopted the organic farming.



## VI. Other Programs

- **NOIDA Deaf Society Outreach Program in Hisar**

Jindal Stainless Limited in collaboration with NOIDA Deaf Society started a program in English Communication skills and Sign Language skills for the deaf youth in Hisar. This initiative was started to mainstream deaf children and youth into the society through quality education and vocational training.



- **Youth and Skill Development**

Youth learn about careers and career pathways through various courses run at Stainless Skill Training Institute including employer guest speakers, informational interviews, workplace visits, training in soft skills; obtaining hands-on work experience at shop floors, internships, training goals that align with personal career goals, earning industry-recognized occupational credentials, receiving ongoing support from staff and adult mentors, including job coaching, academic assistance, and supportive services. This has enabled the students to use their expertise in earning a living. Skill development is an essential element in improving the employability and potential productivity of the youth who belong to the lower economic strata. Stainless Skill Training Institute is imparting skill training in Dress Designing & Fashion Technology in partnership with Usha International Ltd., Beauty Culture, and Computer Software in partnership with NIIT foundation & Electrical in partnership with Schneider Electric Foundation.

## Karuna Trust

Karuna trust has an interesting beginning in that it was not a planned. While Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (VGKK) was providing healthcare to tribal's through its clinic at Yelandur, it was noticed that several of them had contracted leprosy through interaction with the non-tribal rural population of Yelandur taluk. This led to the learning that Yelandur was hyper endemic for leprosy with an incident as high as 21.4/Thousand among the general population. Begun primarily to address this problem, with time more needs emerged, as the population in this backward taluk of Karnataka was a victim of several other challenges brought on by large –scale poverty and illiteracy.

### Vision

A society in which we strive to provide an equitable and integrated model of health care, education and livelihoods by empowering marginalized people to be self-reliant.

### Mission

To develop a dedicated service minded team that enables holistic development of marginalized people, through innovative, replicable models, with a passion for excellence.

### Karuna Trust and PPP

Over 30% of rural India and 20% in urban India don't seek treatment due to financial reasons. Nearly 39 million people in India are pushed to poverty because of ill-health every year. The common man spends 72% of out-of-pocket expenditure on drugs. Public spending on health today at 0.94% of India's GDP is among the lowest in the world.

In such a scenario, the work undertaken by Karuna Trust gains significance. Through its direct intervention programs at primary healthcare level as well as lobbying and advocacy with state and national governments on health policy, the Trust is able to effect positive changes in the communities it serves.

The Management of a Public Health Centre (PHC) in Gumballi Chamarajnar was handed over by the ministry of Health and family welfare to Karuna trust 1996 .This set in place a pioneering examples of PPP in primary health care .All national health programmers including reproductive and child health (RCH) were important components of healthcare activities at the PHC and a number of Specialist care service were integrated with primary care in the PHC at Gumballi

### Strategy

Equity and social justice in health care service delivery has been the guiding principle of KT in managing PHCs. Thus KT establishes service delivery systems to reach the unreached with following strategy:

- Community-based
- People-oriented
- Need-based
- Culturally-acceptable
- Using appropriate technology
- Low cost and affordable

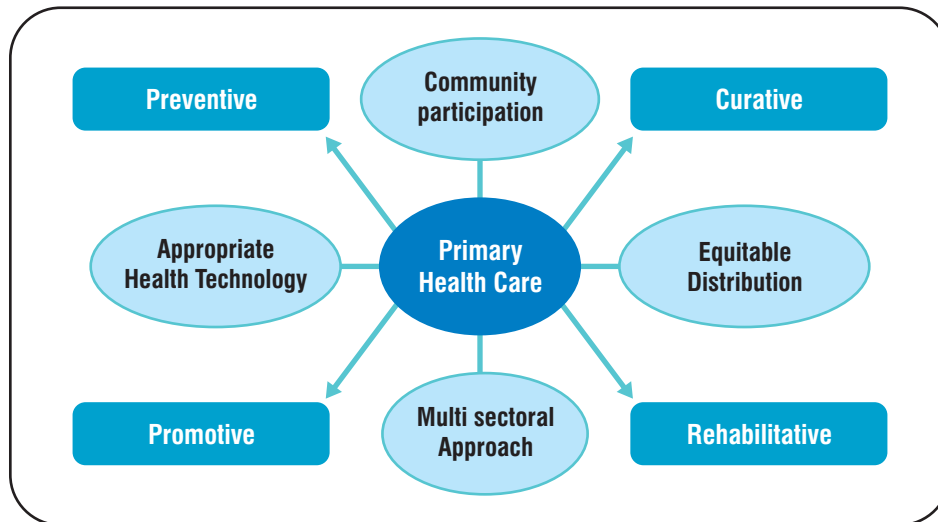


Fig: Comprehensive Primary Healthcare

**The Model of this comprehensive primary healthcare consists of:**

**PHC Infrastructure:** low cost, appropriate technology, culturally acceptable PHC infrastructure

- Fencing and landscaping done
- Demo garden and nursery for traditional medicine
- Staff quarters renovated and occupied
- Operation Theatre renovated through local funds
- Rain water harvesting with help of a local NGO

**Human Resource Management:**

- To bridge the gap of skilled human resource in rural and remote areas, Karuna Trust has started its own ANM School to train qualified ANMs.
- 3000 ASHAs were trained by Karuna Trust
- Regular Motivation and trainings for the staff towards new trends in healthcare and to work in remote areas.

**Essential drugs and vaccine:**

- Karuna Trust believes in generic drugs, all PHCs managed by Karuna Trust procure low cost and high quality generic drugs and makes them available through out the year
- Karuna Trust manages supply chain management of drugs very efficiently, at any given point of time; KT PHCs will have 99.9% vaccine availability.

**Community Participation:**

Karuna Trust believes in community participation for the sustainability of services. Empowering Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) for planning and monitoring and empowering RKS (PHC Committee) to manage PHCs.

**Decentralized PHC planning:**

PHC will work on annual action plan based on the local needs and local health problems. For Example, if the PHC area is prone to sickle anaemia, then certain part of its annual fund is kept for the management of these cases which needs special care and resources.

## Cost effectiveness:

Karuna Trust with its experience is able to show the cost effectiveness in managing primary healthcare. We are able to provide Comprehensive primary healthcare at a cost of Rs 150/- per person per year. Around 2% of revenue is spent on overheads to manage these PHCs.

## Health management:

Health management is not merely inspecting the staff, but intense supportive supervision. This supportive supervision includes, finding the gaps in the services and training the staff to fulfil these gaps.

## Value based management:

Karuna Trust as a “Brand” does not give any money to government officials for sanction of grants. It also does not take any money for its primary healthcare services and believe in Right based approach.

## Reaching the unreached

Karuna Trust today reaches out to over 1 million people through direct management of 70 PHCs in 7 states of India, 8 Mobile Health Units, 2 Citizen Help Desks, 1 Eye Hospital and 1 First Referral Unit with over 1100 dedicated healthcare professionals serving the poor in the areas where healthcare has hardly reached. In addition to the respective State Government, the Trust has collaborated with Corporate to manage Health Centres as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility initiative. With a prime objective of ‘Reaching the Unreached’ to provide health care to the underserved and the poor in the remote areas, Karuna Trust continues to serve the community it has been serving with renewed energy and dedication.

## Photo gallery:



Figure 1: Patient waiting at Gumballi PHC



Figure1: Important drug supplied by Karuna Trust



Figure 2: Community Process activity at PHC level organized by Karuna Trust



Figure 3: Mobile Health unit managed by Karuna Trust



## **MetLife Foundation**

**MetLife Foundation having a mission of bringing financial inclusion to low-income Communities around the world.**

MetLife Foundation believes that affordable, accessible and well-designed financial services can transform the lives of those in need. The foundation has committed \$200 million over the next five years to advancing this effort around the world. It has built its vision for global financial inclusion on three powerful pillars: Access and Knowledge, Access to Services and Access to Insights.

Since its founding in 1976, MetLife Foundation has provided more than \$530 million in grants and \$100 million in program-related investments to non-profit organizations.

MetLife Foundation provide grants to partners with the ability to reach large numbers of underserved households around the world, increasing their readiness, willingness and ability to engage with the financial sector.

### **Innovations for Poverty Action**

The foundation is piloting and testing new "commitment savings" products in India and Bangladesh that empower low-income individuals to effectively build and maintain assets. These "commitment savings" products have proven to help users overcome behavioral and social barriers that prevent many individuals from reaching their savings targets and making desired investments in the future. Commitment savings products allow households to set aside money for a predefined goal with either soft commitments, such as simply labeling a savings account with a particular goal, or hard commitments, such as the imposition of withdrawal restrictions on money stored in an account.

### **Building Liveable Communities**

MetLife Foundation works to meet the needs of the community through affordable housing, hunger-relief and community development initiatives.

## Shaping the Dream: Green India with Clean Fuel



Petronet LNG Limited, one of the fastest growing world-class companies in the Indian energy sector, has set up country's first LNG receiving and regasification terminal at Dahej, Gujarat, and another terminal at Kochi, Kerala. While the Dahej terminal has a nominal capacity of 10 MMTPA [equivalent to 40 MMSCMD of natural gas], Kochi terminal has a capacity of 5 MMTPA [equivalent to 20 MMSCMD of natural gas]. The company is in the process to build a third terminal at Gangavaram, Andhra Pradesh.

Petronet LNG is at the forefront of India's all-out national drive to ensure country's energy security in the future. Formed as a Joint Venture by Government of India to import LNG and set up LNG terminals, it involves India's leading oil and natural gas industry players. Our promoters are GAIL, ONGC, Indian Oil (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL).

The Vision: "To be a key energy provider to the nation by leveraging company's unique position in the LNG value chain along with an international presence."

The Philosophy of the Company on Corporate Governance is to ensure transparent disclosures and reporting that conforms fully to laws, regulations and guidelines, and to promote ethical conduct throughout the organization with primary objective of enhancing shareholders value while being a responsible corporate citizen. Company firmly believes that any meaningful policy on the Corporate Governance must provide empowerment to the executive management of the Company, and simultaneously create a mechanism of checks and balances which ensures that the decision making power vested in the executive management are used with care and responsibility to meet shareholders and stakeholders aspirations. Company is committed to attain highest standards of Corporate Governance.

### **Business Responsibility:**

Principle 1 Businesses should conduct and govern themselves with Ethics, Transparency and Accountability

Principle 2 Businesses should provide goods and services that are safe and contribute to sustainability throughout their life cycle

Principle 3 Businesses should promote the well-being of all employees

Principle 4 Businesses should respect the interests of, and be responsive towards all stakeholders, especially those who are disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized

Principle 5 Businesses should respect and promote human rights

Principle 6 Businesses should respect, protect, and make efforts to restore the environment

Principle 7 Businesses, when engaged in influencing public/ regulatory policy, should do so in a responsible manner

Principle 8 Businesses should support inclusive growth and equitable development.

Principle 9 Businesses should engage with and provide value to customers and consumers in a responsible manner.

### **Corporate Social Responsibility**

Petronet LNG, as responsible Corporate/Community/Government Citizens, undertakes Socio-



Economic Development Programme to supplement the efforts to meet priority needs of the community to help them become self-reliant. These efforts would be generally around in the areas of Education, Civil Infrastructure, Healthcare, Sports & Culture, and Entrepreneurship in the Community. Petronet LNG also support Water Management and Disaster Relief thereby help to bolster its image with key stakeholders.

### **Social Philosophy**

Petronet LNG promote community projects selected on the following parameters in the focus areas:

- Shared resource contribution by Petronet with Government, credible partners and Community
- Sustainable impact of projects on the well-being & self-reliance of the community
- Process credibility to enhance corporate image – projected, working, critical evaluation of success in meeting desired objectives & documentation.

### **Community Support**

- Water Cooler and purifier installed in UP School, Puthuvypeen, Kochi for students.
- Solar Lights installed at 10 locations in LUWARA village, which is nearby to Dahej Terminal.
- Donation to Kerala Chief Minister's fund for providing infrastructure facilities at rehabilitation area for resettling the evacuees of the area between RMP Thodu Canal and Kalamuku Junction.
- Renovation of personal facility at panchayat office Luvara , Dahej.
- Construction of fencing at panchayat office Luvara , Dahej
- Donation towards Bharuch District Civic centre development
- Contribution to Gujarat PCPIR Society for the development of villages under Dahej PCPIR
- Supply of building material for the construction of school building in village Lakhigam , Dahej
- Construction of approach road in village Lakhigam , Dahej
- Construction of two 5000 litres sintex tanks water facility in Luvara, Dahej for drinking water
- Donation towards Mataria talav water scheme to Collector Bharuch
- PLL has sponsored 'Mataria Talav drinking water project' of the Bharuch Municipality Corporation. This project is for the supply of sweet drinking water from the Narmada River to the residents of Bharuch city. MD&CEO handed over cheque for Rs. 25 Lacs to the Collector, Bharuch on 13/06/2011.
- Construction of Community washing facility for 35 ladies simultaneously
- Employed 100% land losers' who have completed application procedure.
- Public awareness campaign on LNG for 1000 people at Luvara, Dahej and nearby villages.
- Company has given contract of housekeeping to M/s Lakhabawa Mandali, Lakhigam
- Contribution towards Mukhya mantri KANYA KELAVANI NIDHI.
- Contribution to Kanya Kelvani Project



**Mataria Talav drinking water project  
of the Bharuch Municipality Corporation.**



## Health Initiative

- Petronet LNG Limited, in association with Anugraha Drishtidaan conducted a Free Eye Check Up Camp for the local public at Govt. UP School, Puthuvypeen on 14th August, 2011. Benefits:
- 768 patients screened and medically examined
- 401 number of OPD patients given medicines
- 335 numbers of OPD patients given Spectacles
- 45 cases identified for cataract surgeries
- 26 patients operated successfully with IOL (Phaco) at Arvind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore
- 3 patients were operated successfully for Retina/ Glaucoma Surgery
- 19 patients could not go for operation because of Ramadan and personal problem
- Petronet LNG Limited in association with Chaupal organized free Medical camp at Village Bhainswal, District, Sonapat on 21 August, 2011 Benefits:
- 2400 patients were examined & free medicines distributed to all
- 1000 patients got their eyes tested for Refractive Errors
- 300 patients were dispensed free spectacles
- Free hearing aids, wheelchairs, crutches, lumbar belts and knees caps provided persons
- Preventive and Social medicine aids Village clinic operation from April 2010 at Dahej, Gujarat.
- Contribution to TDO Vagra, Dahej for Village sanitation (APL/BPL families) for village Muler.
- Health awareness campaign at Luvara, Dahej with Vidya Deep Community College Bharuch
- Establishment of dispensary at village Luvara, Dahej.
- PLL organized a free medical health camp at Lakhimpur, Mohammadi, U. P. in December, 2010 with Free medical health facility to 22000 people out of which 2450 referred by doctors to diagnostic services at the camp. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Jitin Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas on 21st December 2010.

## Education Projects Initiative

Petronet LNG, as Corporate Citizens, undertakes Socio-Economic Development Programme to supplement efforts of government to meet priority needs of community with the aim to help them become self-reliant. Our efforts are around the New Delhi, Dahej and Kochi, with focus areas being – Education, Civil Infrastructure, Healthcare, Sports & Culture, Entrepreneurship in Community.

In education, Petronet believes in Encouragement of literacy and higher education and facilitating young pupils of less privileged sections. Petronet has so far aided construction of various schools and distributing uniforms / note books, providing scholarships for higher education and sponsoring students for vocational courses and trainings.

Recently, Petronet LNG Limited distributed school uniforms (3 shirt pieces with a pair of trousers, a set of 2 pants and 3 shirts and a pair of shoes each) to 210 visually impaired children of J.P.M Secondary School, Lodhi Road, of The Blind Relief Association, New Delhi on 23rd July, 2012.

- Ms Rekha Ahir has been admitted to complete One year Nursing Course run by Vidhyadeep Community College Bharuch.
- Supported 3 NGOs to undertake various social and educational activities.



- Sponsored one year nursing certificate course for one lady of village Lakhigam, Dahej
- Sponsored one year nursing certificate course for two ladies of village Luvara, Dahej.
- Scholarship to 3 girls of village Lakhigam , Dahej to undertake higher education after std.12
- PLL supported UPS School, Puthuvypeen, Kochi situated near our LNG Terminal. Initially, uniforms, water bottles, note-books, etc. were distributed by PLL Team on 6th June 2011 to pupils in a function attended by Executive Members of the Gram Panchayat and the Principal, Teachers & Students. PLL is further committed to change flooring and roof in some rooms and also improve the general get up of the school.

#### **Support for Environment Project**

- Installed 10 nos. Emergency solar lighting at prominent places in village Luvara, Dahej, Gujarat
- Construction and Commissioning of Drainage /storm water disposal pipeline of 1 mtr diameter from village luvara, Dahej to approach to sea.
- Installation of drainage crossings to remove accumulated water at 4 locations in Luvara, Dahej.

## Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra

Thirty two years ago Dr. H. Sudarshan, with a small group of dedicated doctors and social workers, undertook long treks in the dense forests of Biligiri Rangana (BR) Hills to visit the Soliga settlements in search of tribal communities that needed medical help. More often than not, when this team reached there, it found that the tribal people had fled their settlements in fear, and left behind only the aged and children. However, Dr. Sudarshan and his group persevered and over time, the tribal overcame their fear and began approaching them for their ailments. Vision and commitment of Dr. Sudarshan to provide comprehensive services to the tribal population of BR Hills led to the launch of Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra [VGKK].

An eight-bedded hospital was established in BR Hills in 1980 exclusively to provide medical services to the tribal communities. A mobile unit with necessary equipment and medicines was also put into service in order to reach remote tribal settlements. Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra [VGKK] was registered in 1981.

With a realization that healthcare alone was not enough, VGKK began implementing integrated tribal development programmes covering education, vocational training, housing, water and sanitation, horticulture, sustainable agriculture and conservation programmes. Later on, food processing and organic farming were also added through the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), Technology Resource Centre (TRC) to help the tribal people optimize and add value to Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs) that they collected.

VGKK has thus evolved over years and now works in diversified areas of health, education, livelihoods, community development and eco-tourism, which collectively aim at integrated tribal development. A small effort to bring curative health to the Soligas has over the years developed into a large range of activities spanning health, education, livelihood, and biodiversity conservation on a national scale. VGKK now 33 years old, has evolved in response to the needs of the local tribal people and today proudly reflects the might of a dexterous team and endearing volunteers. VGKK believes in empowering tribal societies and achieving sustainable development keeping their core culture intact. The association of the Soliga tribe with the Doddasampige tree (*Michelia champaka*) is eternalized in their myth and they continue to revere it till date.

As per Census of India (2011), tribal population in India constitutes about 8.6 per cent of the population. VGKK is committed to the holistic and sustainable development of tribal people, keeping in mind their socio-cultural background and their rights. VGKK now has nearly three decades of developmental experiences with the Soligas and other tribes in Chamarajanagar and Mysore districts of Karnataka, and subsequent experiences with tribes in Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands under the able and inspiring leadership of Dr. H. Sudarshan. As mentioned earlier, this experience has resulted in an integrated approach to tribal development with health, education, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation as the means to sustainable development and empowerment.

### **Vision:**

A self-reliant and empowered tribal society rooted in its culture and tradition living in harmony with nature

### **Mission:**

Sustainable development of tribal people through right-based approaches to health, education, livelihood, security and biodiversity conservation

### **Objectives:**

- To implement a comprehensive, holistic, need-based, gender- & culture-sensitive, community-

centered system of health care integrating indigenous health traditions

- To establish an education system that is specific to the tribal language, culture and environment
- To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce
- To ensure livelihood security through sustainable agriculture, vocational training and value addition of forest produce
- To empower tribal communities through Sanghas (people's organizations) and women's Self Help Groups

**Photo Gallery:**



Figure 4: Mobile Health units to remote Tribal Settlements



Figure 5: Tribal women trained as Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery in VGKK, at B R Hills



Figure 2: VGKK, Tribal Hospital, B R Hills



Figure 3: VGKK, Residential school at B R Hills and Children at school



Figure 4: Tribal women involved in Honey processing at VGKK



## ANMA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (AIDA)

AIDA is a non-government, non-profit voluntary association. Founded on 8 December 1985



### Our Vision

We envision a North East India, where diverse communities live in peace and harmony, work to achieve their potential, cherish and care for all creation, and collaborate to build a just, and humane world.

### Our Mission

AIDA is committed to the integral development of the marginalized, vulnerable sections of society, engaging in relationships that enhance capacities, build and express solidarity, and change structures that foster injustice and violence.

### Our Core Values

**Solidarity:** We affirm the innate dignity and potential of those who live in poverty. Our solidarity with them is our commitment to empowering them to meet their basic needs, develop their full potential and work to change structures that undermine justice and freedom.

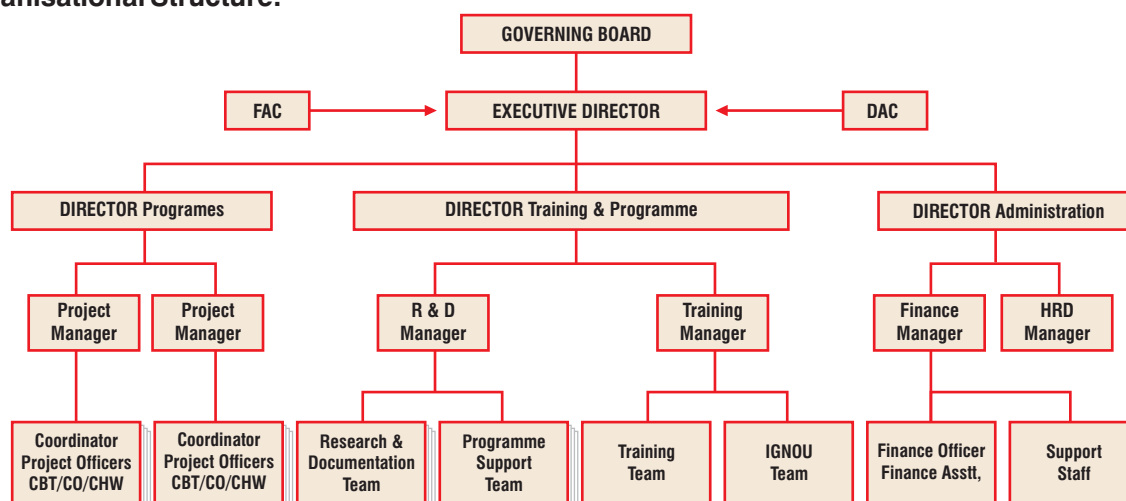
**Integral Development:** We are committed to care for people in the context of their family, community and environment, with concern for their physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual well-being.

**Justice and Equity:** We believe injustice is the consequence of broken relationships at family, community, national and global levels. We are committed to restoring right relationships, valuing diversity and solidarity among various ethnic and religious groups and working to create a world where everyone shares equitably the goods of the earth.

**Excellence:** We are committed to providing the highest quality of professional service to our partners, colleagues and the people with whom we work. We pursue excellence in all that we do by encouraging feedback, introspection, initiative and creativity.

**Collaboration:** We are committed to partnerships with institutions, groups, organisations and movements, recognising that we are part of a larger alliance to build a better world. We learn from and with others, and model integrity and modesty in our dealings with others.

### Organisational Structure:



FAC-Finance Advisory Committee, DAC- Development Advisory Committee

To achieve the above mentioned Vision AIDA is implementing the following projects:

### 1. AIDA TEA PROJECT:

Through this project AIDA is aiming at creating a positive self-image of Migrant Adivasi Tea Garden labourers amongst themselves; who are being empowered from being a laborer to be the owner of their own tea garden.

Historically the Adivasis from other parts of India, particularly Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal were brought by the British planters to Assam, who now have created the world renowned Assam tea gardens. However, their own socio economic condition has been pathetic. Since Adivasis cleared the jungle, they had under their possession quite extensive plots of land. But due to lack of capital they were not able to develop these plots of land they owned. Slowly rich persons from other communities began purchasing these lands and Adivasis stood on the threshold of becoming landless. To prevent this mishap, AIDA began Tea Project, by which TEA SAPPLINGS are being distributed to the tea garden laborer's, who plant them in the land they possess and become the owners of their own Family Tea Garden and prevent the land being snatched away from them.



### 2. Rural Entrepreneurship

Most exotic flowers bloom right in the middle of thick jungles and die unseen and unnoticed by the world outside. Such also is the case of skills and talents. In order that such skills and talents do not go wasted, AIDA has started Rural Entrepreneurship program through which individuals with skills are searched and identified in remote and rural areas. After the exploration, these skilled individuals are assisted to begin their own entrepreneurship. The emphasis of the program is to do the skilled activity in their own village, preferably in their own house. In so doing the end result has been the creation of entrepreneurial centres in remote and rural areas. This has created training centres in far flung villages, where other people can go for training in that skill. The entrepreneurs have become role models for

others to imitate their entrepreneurial spirit in rural areas. The project to a certain degree has stopped exodus of people to towns and cities, by showing them possibilities to earn livelihood in their own villages.

### 3. COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROJECT:

School drop outs and those who have never been to school is a common phenomenon in Indian villages. Those found in this phenomenon and falling within the age bracket of 12 to 22 are potential candidates for anti-social gang groups. In order to bring about meaningful change in lives of these youngsters, AIDA is running 100 schools at village level, which is called COMMUNITY SCHOOL. One such school is set up, in a village where 30 to 40 youngsters are found and the village is willing to take the responsibility to run the school. Teacher is chosen preferably from the village itself depending on the availability of suitable teacher and the village makes available the space ( a house or a hall) where classes can be held.

#### 1.2 Objective

The objective of the program is to build and enhance Literacy, Leadership, Basic Financial Management, and Life skills among the younger generation of boys and girls who have never attended school or who are school drop outs, in the villages of Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

#### 1.3 Stake Holders

The real stake holders of CSP are the villagers – the students, parents and village community. Right from the outset through every phase - base survey, motivation meetings with students, parents and community members – the idea that the real ownership of the program is in their hands is repeatedly stressed so that their full and active involvement in running the program is ensured.

#### 1.4 Community Involvement

The program strives to get the local communities involved in its planning, execution and continued running. While mobilizing the community, awareness of the importance of education to free them from the various bondages that have enslaved them is driven home to them as well as the idea that only their full co-operation will make it a success.

**The Village Education Committee (VEC)** monitors every aspect of the school and gives a helping hand in the day to day running of the school.





## INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IISD)



Making India Sustainable

Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), is registered as a national not-for-profit, public trust at New Delhi, under Indian Trust Act, 1882; an Leading Indian Think Tank, with an objective of working for empowerment of weaker section of the society to ensure social justice and overall improvement of lives and living of common man, through scientific innovations. IISD strives to put India in sustainable path that is inclusive and equitable in overall political, economic, social, cultural and environmental direction, which helps in poverty alleviation through livelihood generation, ensures energy security to sustain the present day high economic growth engages climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote cleaner technology in order to sustain overall development of society. Moreover, IISD works with the governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies, industries, academia, premier scientific research institutes, private and public sector organizations, multinationals, credible national laboratories and the other civil society organizations, using research & social, scientific and engineering consultancy as right tools to attain its basic objectives.



**CARBON MINUS INDIA (CMI)  
NEW DELHI**



Carbon Minus India (CMI), is registered as a non-profit public Organization, an Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) initiative and a Credible Indian Think Tank; established at New Delhi, in the larger interest of man-kind for the survival of the earth from Global Warming and other adverse impact of Climate Change. CMI is engaged to evolve a strategic framework for India as well as the planet, in identifying low carbon growth opportunities and guide / facilitate a series of planned and scaled-up programme, which would support to the on-going dialogues for establishing a climate friendly development path, which also strives for:

- Articulate a cost-effective strategy for further lowering the carbon intensity of the economy at the macro and sectoral levels that is beneficial for national growth objectives, by identifying synergies, barriers and potential trade-offs and financial needs to address these blockades
- Identify opportunities for and facilitate leveraging financial resources, including external finance, such as Carbon Finance (CF), to support of a low carbon growth strategy, as well as explore the possible need for new financing instruments; and
- Raise national awareness and facilitate informed consensus on India's efforts to address global climate change.



### A. Leadership Insights (A focused dialogue)

- I. Leadership Insights: Building Better Life for the Vulnerable  
October 2014, New Delhi
- II. Leadership Insights: Achieving Livelihoods Prosperity  
(Key areas: ecosystems, biodiversity and the climate)  
December 2014, Bhubaneswar
- III. Leadership Insights: Transforming Life through Education and Skills  
January 2015, Kolkata/ Guwahati
- IV. Leadership Insights: Making Entrepreneurship More Effective  
February 2015, Hyderabad
- V. Leadership Insights: Governing for Basic Health Services  
February 2015, Bangalore

### B. State Leadership Summit (2015)

Location: Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala

A unique policy dialogue that brings together state and local policymakers, leaders of different domains, business communities, and other key stakeholders. The unit works with all parties to provide a neutral common ground that supports candid, goal-oriented policy dialogues among state and concerned leaders. Summit topics range from costs, access to technology, citizens' participation and economic development.

#### The summits help answer these key questions:

- What are the state's major priorities?
- How can public and private institutions forge new partnerships with their communities to better address them?

### C. International Summit on Vulnerable Justice (January 18th -20th , 2016)

#### Programme Coverage:

- i. Voice Justice ( Citizens' Rights; Citizens' Participation)
- ii. Governance Justice ( Policy, Governance, Process of Implementation, Equity and Transparency)
- iii. Social Justice (Unorganized Sector, Education, Health, Housing, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
- iv. Gender Justice ( Women Empowerment)
- v. Livelihood Justice-Access, Entitlement and Empowerment
- vi. Food Justice
- vii. Environment Justice ( Natural Resource Management, Natural Calamity and Vulnerability)
- viii. Development Justice ( Economic Diversification and Trade Practices)

*For more details, please send an email to [director@aipaasia.in](mailto:director@aipaasia.in)*



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