

CONCEPT NOTE

By

GRAMA VIKAS

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1. General information:

1.1 PROJECT TITLE : *“Integrated Development and Empowerment Action for Marginalised” (IDEA for marginalised)*

1.2 PROJECT HOLDER

M. V. NARASIMHA RAO. (M.V.N. RAO)
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Project office address:

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1.3 Main sector of activities :

Promotion of child rights,
 Natural Resources Development and Management,
 Community organizing and capacity building,
 Health, Empowerment of Women, Education,
 Promotion of food and income security,
 Skill training and advocacy.
 Grama Vikas also converges aggressively with all the LINE DEPARTMENTS of the State Government

1.4 Location of the Project and beneficiaries

: Yaapaladinne and Atkur GPs of Raichur taluk of Raichur district and beneficiaries SCs, STs and OBCs

1.5 Duration of the Project : **4 years**

1.6 Total Cost

:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Amount in INR (Rs.)</i>	Amount in Euro (€)
Total cost of the Project	25872815.00	287551
KKS Contribution	24380975.00	348300
Local Contribution	4491840.00	64169

(Note: Budget of the project enclosed separately)

2. Project Description:

2.1 Project Goal:

Grama Vikas goal is to facilitate sustainable development and empowerment of marginal rural communities with focus on children, people-centered natural resources management, institutional building of democratically elected grass-root people's organisations and food security of the poorest in general and the highly socially and economically communities in specific.

2.2 Specific Objectives:

- a) To qualify and organise the participant families into 30 Self Help Action Groups of women and men and to federate them in order to increase their concern and solidarity towards common social, economic and local political issues affecting the overall development of the communities and particularly affecting the rights and development of women and children.
- b) The organization will organize the following COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS to address SUSTAINABILITY. They are:
- c) **30 Women's Self Help Groups.
6 Women Milk Producers Co-operative Societies,
15 Farmers Clubs,
15 Youth Clubs,
One Youth Federation,
One Organic Farmers Producers Co-operative Society,
15 Bala Vikas Samithis of Women,
15 Children's Clubs,
One Children's Federation,
One Women's Federation,
15 Village Development Councils,
15 SDMCs
and TWO GP level SDMC federations
and ONE Federation of VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS.**
- d) To organise women from vulnerable families in the project area for creating conducive environment to discharge their rights to have control over themselves.
- e) To improve the quality of lives of the target families especially the women in order to qualify and enhance their self-confidence, human dignity and to build up their own capacity towards self reliance by the process of capacity building through various awareness generation and training programmes on the issues affecting to their lives.
- f) To organise children from vulnerable families in each of the project village for creating environment to pursue their schooling and check the child labour and school drop out flow in the age of 8 to 14 years.
- g) To accomplish child rights and protection of child rights by promoting appropriate action groups in order to achieve 100% immunisation of children, 100% enrollment in schools, achieve child labour free, child marriage free and child trafficking free and female feticide free villages and to achieve child friendly villages.
- h) To promote participation of children to initiate action programmes for attaining child protection through child Rights Protection clubs in every village of the project area.
- i) To create appropriate forum both at micro and at macro levels to create awareness and put pressure on the communities and influence the local administration to direct the policies in favor of children to provide them security to enjoy their childhood.

- j) To explore appropriate and feasible trade and income generation activities and impart training in it to enhance the technical skills of the women to increase the economic status of the families.
- k) To help the communities to have access to cost effective and affordable health care facilities with their participation to enhance their health and economic status with higher productivity and lower mortality.
- l) To increase the community concern on health problems, particularly of women, children and the vulnerable sections by awareness and initiating health programmes through the local health volunteers.
- m) To help women to have access to prevention and curative approach for reproductive and child related health problems
- n) To increase the productivity of unproductive and less productive land holdings of the target families through appropriate soil and water conservation methods by adopting local, indigenous and low cost technology and promoting agri-horti-forestry units for at least 150 families on pilot basis to increase the family income by 100% and thus to reduce migration to 50% over four years.
- o) To assist the target families for sustainable utilisation of available resources through local knowledge and technology.
- p) To explore various participatory methods of technology development and to increase opportunities for agro-based and livestock based income generation activities to ensure food and income security and thus increasing the target groups income by 50% by granting 120 small loans to BUY MILCH ANIMALS through the SHGs to establish 6 Women Milk Producer through micro credit and bank assistance over three years.
- q) To enhance the participation of the community to attain food, income and employment security as their legal rights by means of Right to information, Right to Food, Right to minimum days of employment (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and other relevant legal maces.
- r) To support reduce the drudgery of women and improve their health status to introduce a clean source of fuel for cooking by providing bio mass based bio gas plants.
- s) To collaborate with various government departments, banks and other semi government agencies to implement existing welfare and development projects in the project villages to improve the quality and standard of lives of the community.

2.3 The Need and Relevance of the Project:

The main target groups of the project are the scheduled caste and other marginalized families, who suffer from geographical marginality, less exposed to modern world, exploited and displaced, who fall below the poverty line (the annual family income of below INR. 20,000 or €300. The target group is either small and marginal farmers or land less agriculture labours. The farming communities solely rely on rain for cultivation and suffer greatly with low production of crops and thus insecurity of food, income as well as poor health conditions. The landless communities get only seasonal employment in the villages and after the harvest season they often migrate to cities and neighbouring states, for employment. Thus, the poverty is seen rampant in the project area and has become one of the major issues of concern. Large number of people especially the children and women still live deprived of basic nutrition, rudimentary shelter, minimally competent medical attention and primary education. Development has untouched by and large.

The literacy rate among the target community in the project area is around 40%. Though presently the children are found in school in good numbers because of the various educational promotion programmes introduced by the government, by and large they are deprived of their basic rights – rights to survival, protection, development and participation. The forced labour among children to contribute to the family income is conspicuous. Several cases of child trafficking have also been reported in the taluka of Raichur , child marriage is in prevalence in the project area. The community seldom considers education and ensuring child rights are important especially for girl children. The acute poverty in the families, lack of awareness on education and child rights in the family and in the society, drunkenness, migration, lack of awareness sensitivity on child rights among the teachers, non-adjustment of the children in the schools and lack of motivation are the main reasons for the children to restrain from pursuing schooling and remain dropped out of school.

Health care facilities are very poor in the project area. Awareness on self health is miserably low among the community and especially among women. Malnutrition among women - Ante natal cases, adolescent girls and among children has been obvious. The birth rate and infant mortality rate is also high. The infant mortality rate is around 50 (state average 40, district average 48 per 1000 live births). The immunization percentage for ante natal cases (with full three examinations and administering T. T. injection and Folic acid tablets) is around 48% and hardly 70% children are immunised against all the 5 diseases within one year of age. The diseases such as Tuberculosis, Chikun Gunya, Malaria often bothers the community. The HIV/AIDS has its presence in the community. This has been the result of the colossal migration of the families especially due to single migration.

The condition of women in the community is very grim. They suffer life-long discrimination at home, the workplace and in the community and require more sensitive attention. Their marginalisation is yet further aggravated if the female belong to lower caste and class, rural or minority households.

The Government or any other developmental agencies have not implemented so far any special sustainable economic development programmes for the community in the project area. People too are not aware of Government schemes for their economic development. Awareness and knowledge on improved agricultural practices, water harvesting, soil conservation, fertility and nutrient management, sustainable agriculture is very much in need among this community. The need for capacity building of the community in this line also felt strongly. Though the community faces several challenges in their development they had not taken any kind of collective action to overcome these problems. Lack of awareness and lack of social and collective leadership is found to be a core issue in the community. The political leadership both within the project villages and out side the villages have literally exploited them since the ages. Organisation of the community in to small action groups, make them to feel united as community, generate awareness on various issues affecting their lives and livelihood, prepare them to initiate actions for their own development, make them to participate and take part in decision making process is found to be primary task to be performed.

Gram Vikas proposes to implement this project with participatory approach for bringing a holistic development in the living standard and promote social and political empowerment among the tribal community. The project area selected by Gram Vikas for intervention is very backward. The communities are deprived of developmental programmes from the government and live in a primeval lifestyle. Poverty, natural degradation, lack of resources, poor infrastructure facilities, low agricultural productivity, non-availability of education and health care facilities have made the life of the people miserable. The proposed action aims to address major problems faced by the local communities - acute poverty, unemployment and migration, insecurity of food and income, basic rights of the children, low investment capacity and lack of technical know how in farming, lack of alternative sources for income generation activities, substantial natural degradation.

2.4 Problems to be addressed by the Project :

The Proposed action aims to address major problems faced by the local communities – acute poverty, unemployment and migration, lack of food production and insecurity of food and income, basic rights of children – rights to survival, protection, development and participation, low investment capacity of

and lack of technical know how in farming, lack of alternative source of income generation activities, substantial natural degradation e.g., low productivity of land holding, non availability of credit facility. The proposed action also address the problems and challenges of lack of awareness of the community on issues and factors affecting their lives, the constraints to discharge the rights of women and public, non-sensitization of government in effectively delivering services to the communities, lack of participation of the community in development, lack of leadership issues, health of the community especially the women and children.

2.5 How the project will contribute to the well-being of children and their families?

“Children First” is the principal concern of the project. The primary focus of the project is ensuring the survival, protection, development and participation of the children in their holistic development. The proposed action visualizes a conducive environment for the growth of the children. It is due to the several factors affecting the community and the family children are constrained to discharge their basic rights in the society and they are subjected to several problems such as deprived of education, confined for forced labour, school dropped out, trafficking, forced for marriage at early age, discriminated because of sexually. Once the issues and problems affecting the families and the community such as poverty, unemployment, migration, food and income insecurity, natural degradation, health and educational facilities addressed, obviously the parents will be able focus their attention towards the well being of their children. Apart from addressing the above issues from the very day of the commencement of the action the project will also directly initiate action for eradication of child labour, universalisation of elementary education, child marriage, trafficking, health of the children and other issues directly affecting the care and protection of children. In order to create a favorable atmosphere for the growth and development of the children the proposed action targets at 100% immunization of the children, 100% enrolment of children into elementary education, 100% eradication of child labour, Child marriage free and child trafficking free villages. Thus, the action certainly contributes the well being of the children in the project area.

2.6 Main Activities of the proposed project:

Activity 1: People’s Institution Building and awareness and capacity building programmes:

The project proposes to organise a total of 120 community based small organizations / Federations / Women Milk Co-operative Societies / Organic Farmers Produces Co-operative Society of the people such as Self Help Groups, Village Project Committees, Farmers organisations, youth/adolescent groups, Issue based Action groups (both at project level and at macro level) Cooperative of farmers. These groups will take the responsibility of planning the action programmes and monitor the same in the project villages.

THE ABOVE IS TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABILITY from DAY ONE of implementation of the Programme.

In order to create awareness and strengthen these CBOs the Project proposes various need based training and exposure activities. The awareness and training programmes on Concept of CBOs, management of savings and credit, leadership, social issues, education, health and nutrition issues, legal aspects, right based development aspects, micro enterprises, food security, productivity – soil and water conservation, management of CBOs, Federations and Cooperatives.

Activity 2: Women development, empowerment & Drudgery Reduction:

Capacity building of women through training and exposures on women in development (WID), Legal aspects (women and law, right to information, right to food, NREGA etc.) capacity building of women SHGs, micro enterprise and micro credit activities, coordinating programmes with the government department and banks, reproductive health, women literacy, drudgery reduction

programme introduction of fuel efficient ovens, provision of proper ventilation to house holds, introduction of rain water harvesting technology, bio mass based bio gas units.

Activity 3: Community Health:

Identifying and training of community health volunteers, training on community health issues, organizing health camps, reproductive and child health, care of ante-natal, post natal, infant care, child health care, immunization of mother and children, family planning, adolescent health care, management of malnutrition among women, children and adolescent girls, special attention towards prevalent diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, prevention and care of HIV/AIDS, Chikun Gunya, cholera etc.

Activity 4: Child Rights and Education Programme:

Enrolment of children to preschool and primary school, special instruction to school dropped out and child labourers and reintegration to the formal schools, running non-formal education centres and tuition centres, Bridge school for child labourers, training of community, teachers, policy makers on child rights and issues concerning on child care and protection of their rights, formation and strengthening of Child protection Cells in schools and education settings, strengthening of School Development and Monitoring Committees, enhance the participation of the community in educational health and nutritional programmes of the government, capacity building of the local Gram Panchayats and people's representatives to initiate and monitoring child care programmes (for eradication of child labour, checking child trafficking, eradication of child marriages etc.)

Activity 5: Promotion of income security and viable income generation activities:

Savings, thrift and credit activities through SHGs, bank linkage and micro credit provision for micro enterprise and income generation activities, identification and training in feasible income generation programmes (both industrial, agro based and trade based), vocational and employment generation training for youth and women, increase participation of families in NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) .

Activity 6: Livelihood, food Security and Environmental protection:

Action to increase sustainable production from the land source through proper soil and water conservation activities, promotion of agri-horti-forestry units (orchids) for sustainable increase of production and income for marginal formers, promotion of cooperative of the farmers to enhance marketing facilities.

Activity 7: Lobbying and Policy Advocacy:

Promotion of issue based action groups for lobbying and advocacy both at project level and at macro (district) level on promotion of child rights, women issues, right based programme. The issues of child protection and care – eradication of child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, corporal punishments in schools, child begging, setting up of child help line, special juvenile police unit, District child protection cell, proper implementation of NREGA in the district, right to food – public distribution system, right to information will be initiated and monitored by the project. The district networks of Campaign Against Child Labour, Campaign Against Child Trafficking, Campaign for Right to Food and Employment will be activated and proper programmes will be initiated.

Apart form the above direct programmes from the project, the proposed action will also plan and initiate complimentary programmes to accomplish the goal of the project with the help of the District Administration, of Raichur, Government concerned departments, NABARD, and local banks

2.7 Concrete Results Expected;

Result 1: Viable Community based organisations have been formed and institution capacities improved:

- At least 160 viable CBOs have been formed with a total membership of 6000 stake holders
- At least 15 functioning village based committees for implementing and monitoring project activities and action programmes formed.
- A Federation of women SHGs to monitor the activities of member SHGs functioning effectively.
- At least 15 Farmers clubs and a Cooperative of Farmers formed monitor and coordinate the programmes for the farmers.
- The Action Groups for child rights, right based development programmes vibrantly functioning both at project level and at district level.
- More than 500 awareness and capacity building trainings and seminars have been undertaken.

Result 2: Status of children and women increased. Child friendly environment created:

- No Child labour cases, child marriage case, child trafficking cases and female feticide cases are reported in the project area.
- Vibrant Child Rights groups functioning in all the project villages.
- Empowered and vibrant child Protection units in all the schools of the project area functioning.
- The schools are child friendly and totally got rid of corporal punishment to children.

Result 3: Community health awareness is raised and overall health status of the stake-holders, especially of children and women has been improved:

- At least 15 village based health volunteers functioning effectively in each of the project villages.
- Regular health awareness campaigns, health camps and training conducted.
- Immunization of 100% ante natal cases, children performed.
- Nutritional status of women, children and adolescent girls improved.
- The cases of tuberculosis, malaria, chikun gunya, HIV/AIDS monitored.

Result 4: Livelihood and food security of the beneficiaries with the target area has been improved in a sustainable manner:

- Functioning of women savings and credit groups have been formed in each of the project villages.
- Viable income generation activities / micro enterprise activities have been identified and managed by the beneficiaries.
- At least 2000 beneficiaries are trained in various income generation activities and start up loans provided for implementation.
- The project has developed system for efficient and sustainable management of micro credit programme.

Result 5: Educational status of out school children and women has been improved:

- Fully operational non-form education centres and bridge school will be organized in the project area providing opportunities to at 100 Children in 2 Grama Panchayats 1100
- 85% of the enrolled children in the non-formal educational centres pass exams of higher classes.
- 90% of the women in SHGs are able to sign their names and at least 70% of them attain functional literacy.

Result 6: Awareness on environmental issues has been increased, soil erosion arrested and water harvesting improved:

- Participatory environmental assessments have been undertaken for each of the project villages.
- At least 100 trainings have been conducted on environmental, sustainable agriculture, increased production and soil and water conservation issues.
- Around 400 acres of land holdings of the marginal farmers improved for sustainable production. At least 150 agri-horti-forestry units (orchids) developed for improved production from land sources.
- The Farmers cooperative formed has been managed efficiently providing better opportunities for the marketing facilities for the producers.

Result 7: Concern on child care and protection and issues of women rights increased:

- The Action groups at project level and at macro level functioning effectively with addressing the issues concerning to children and women.
- Districts Networks organized regular campaigns and programmes to influence the policy makers on the issues related to rights of children, women and human rights.

2.8 Sustainability of the project once funding has come to an end:

At the phasing out of the action, the Self Help Groups formed will be equipped with technical skills and institutional capacities for planning activities, organizing programmes, book keeping and accounting and to manage the programmes of their own SHGs independently. The Federation of the SHGs will be trained in to take over the project and to monitor the CBOs in the project area. The Federation of the SHGs will also function as Micro Credit institution to manage the micro enterprises and income generation programmes of the members of the SHGs. The revolved amount, which was utilised for the micro credit activities in the project, will be transferred to the Federation to sustain the micro credit activities. The interest accrued will be utilised for the management of the staff and need based action programmes. The Cooperative of the Farmers formed in the project will also be trained to manage and sustain the activities initiated for the farmers and land development programmes. The Farmers clubs and the Cooperative of the Farmers support the ventures of the Federation. The Federation will be taking the responsibility of continuation of the project once the g\ funding has come to an end. However ,Gram Vikas as local partner will accompany the Federation and the Cooperative even beyond the term of the action to provide follow up services and to facilities link up with other relevant line agencies.

2.9 Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:

The day today activities of the project will be monitored by the project team in the leadership of the Project holder. Monthly plan of action will be drawn up and accordingly the physical and financial progress will be monitored. For the effective monitoring of the activities being implemented, a project monitoring committee will be formed at the central level. This will consist of the selected members from the SHGs and Staff members and the representatives of the Board. Regular participative M & E on the progress of the action will be carried out by the local partner. Results will be thoroughly analysed and reviewed by the monitoring committee. Mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation will be conducted and reports forwarded to KKS. Apart from this on site field visit will be undertaken by KKS and representatives of KKS to have first hand information of the project and to guide. The quarterly, mid term and annual progress reports are submitted to KKS , which will critically analysed.

2.10 Human Resources and principle means proposed for the implementation of the action:

Human Resources:

Designation	No of persons
Project Director	1
Programme Manager	1
Accountant	1
Computer operator	1
NRM programme Coordinator	1
Women empowerment Coordinator	1
CBOs Coordinator	1
Community Mobiliser /Field facilitators	4

Principle means:

3. Details of applying Agency:

3.1.1 The Organisation:

Grama Vikas (GV) is a rural development organisation operating in Mulbagal Taluk of Kolar District in the southern Indian State of Karnataka. Its goal is integrated rural development and it works with poor and marginal communities, particularly women and dalits.

The late Dr. N K A Iyer whose vision guides the organization even today founded grama Vikas. GV has a Governing Board comprising eminent persons including retired IAS officers and development professionals.

Instituted in 1979-1980, the initial intervention of GV was in child development, through a nutrition programme. Over the second decade of its work, GV incorporated women's development and NRM as other key components of its development policy. Dalit women form 75 per cent of the community that GV works with.

The staff of GV comprises 15 women and 15 men at both the administration and programme implementation. The programme implementation staff is located in 40 Grama Panchayats of 214 villages in Mulbagal, Bangarpet and Kolar Taluks of Kolar District and Raichur taluk of Raichur district in Karnataka.

Grama Vikas is registered as a society under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960. Its Governing Board comprises eminent personalities who have contributed in various fields of endeavor.

GV is registered with the Union Ministry of Home under the FCRA rules (FCRA no.094570024). Donations to GV are exempt under Section 80G of Income Tax Act.

3.1.2 The Legal Status: Society Registration No.: 248/79-80 dated: 18th September 1979

3.1.3 Organisational Aim:

Grama Vikas goal is to facilitate sustainable development and empowerment of marginal rural communities with focus on children, people-centered natural resources management, institutional building of democratically elected grass-root people's organisations and food security of the poorest.

3.1.4 Expenditure of last three financial years as per annual statement of accounts:

Sl. No.	YEAR	Receipts In INR in million	Payments In INR in million
1	2009-10	1,63,52,801.93	1,57,58,884.38
2	2010-11	1,55,36,852.88	1,50,24,846.24
3	2011-12	1,87,49,305.02	1,97,38,625.74

3.1.4 The number of Staff:

Male: 35 Female: 22 Total: 57

3.1.5 Main Activities:

Child Development

Grama Vikas firmly believes that there is no better investment than the overall development of the children.

Early Childcare Development (ECD) & Nutrition

The Activities under Basic education programme are inclusive of:

- Child care center for children under 5 years in 18 villages – children are given two meals a day.
- Special food for pre and post natal mothers in 18 villages.
- Supply of teaching aids and play materials to ECD and anganawadis.
- Special nutrition for children under mal-nutrition.
- Convergence with anganwadis – in 30 villages.
- Training to ECD and Anganwadi teachers.
- Training and awareness to mothers in child care and nutrition.
- Monthly review meeting with child care center and anganawadi teachers and helpers.

Basic Education

The Activities under Basic education programme are inclusive of :

- Night schools for children in the 6 – 14 age group in 28 villages with community contribution
- Support for quality education in Primary Schools
- Learning camps for children
- Children's clubs
- Convergence with Government schools and Education department

Organizing Children

17 Children's Clubs have been formed at cluster level and are functioning. The clubs organize socially sensitive recreation and socially productive activities for children.

Organizing Adolescent Girls

In 54 villages, awareness –building and information dissemination is regularly imparted to teenaged girls about health, nutrition, environment, personal hygiene and good house management.

Cultural Activities

Music, folk arts, sports meets and Drawing Competitions are regularly organised at Village, Cluster and Taluk level to encourage talents among rural children.

Natural Resources Development and Management (NRDM)

Grama Vikas believes that the future of rural India is secure only if the people's most precious resources - soil, water and vegetation are protected. With that perspective, GV activities in this area include:

- Enabling poor farmers for Soil and Water conservation by supporting forming of field bunds, biomass development, construction of farm ponds, cattle drinking ponds and check dams;
- Promoting organic agriculture; production and use of natural manures and pesticides;
- Promoting community seed banks for conservation and multiplication of native variety of seeds
- Forming and facilitating community-based tank management institutions under the Karnataka Community-Based Tank Management Project;
- Restoring community-owned mini water harvesting structures such as community wells and temple ponds;
- Promoting roof top rain water harvesting in villages;
- Collaborating with agriculture department at Taluk and District level;

Women's Empowerment

Grama Vikas believes that development is possible only if women actively participate in the process of development. GV's experiences in integrated rural development over the last two and half decades confirms this belief. During the last decade, GV promoted the formation of 250 women's self help groups (SHG) in 145 villages where it operates. These groups were encouraged not only to engage in savings and credit activity, but also to emerge as grass roots women's institutions in villages.

While facilitating women's SHGs, GV experienced that issues that affect women's empowerment and have bearing on public policy can be addressed by apex organizations of SHGs with their greater numerical strength. Hence GV facilitated the formation of the federation of women's SHGs - Grameena Mahila Okkuta (GMO).

GMO today is an independent powerful women's organization of over 350 SHGs addressing problems and issues affecting livelihoods of communities and rights of women from a rights perspective. Besides being a dynamic organization at the district level, the federation is now networking other federations to address issues that involve policies. GV facilitated GMO initiative to network the federations at the State level. GMO address is:

GRAMEENA MAHILA OKKUTA, Honnsethalli, Yalagondahalli P.O. 563 127, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka, INDIA. Tel: 91-9159-230 300. Cell: 0-94480-84568. email: grameenamahila@yahoo.co.in.

Health and Sanitation

- General Health check-ups of children 2 times a year – **with community contribution.**
- Environment Sanitation
- Community Health work project managed by 36 women from 34 villages
- Health awareness camps for both girls and women.

- Immunization programme in collaboration with Primary Health Centers.

Promoting low-cost sanitation – i.e. bathrooms & toilets for poor families

RESULTS & IMPACTS OF INTERVENTIONS

Child development

- School enrolment is almost 100% among both boys and girls;
- School drop-out rate among children below 15 years of age is reduced to 28% among boys and 36% among girls in 105 villages in the project area, from 50% among boys and 75% among girls;
- Incidence of child labour has been reduced to about 10% among boys and 20% among girls from about 50% among boys and 75% among girls; and
- A Children’s Federation has been formed and a savings programme involving children has been initiated and stabilized.

Natural Resources Management

- Public education/advocacy by GV has contributed to tank restoration becoming a priority on the State Government’s policy agenda;
- GV has developed people-centered and replicable tank restoration strategies by partial desilting of 62 tanks in the project area;
- GV has helped a number of farmers arrest soil erosion through field bunding and planting saplings on the bunds in 2,000 hectares of dry lands; and
- GV has introduced replicable community need-based social forestry models in five villages.

3.1.6 Sectoral and regional sphere of operational:

3.1.7 Former Donors and Supporting agencies:

Our PAST DONORS

- o NOVIB of The Netherlands from 1981 to 2007
- o COMMUNITY AID ABROAD of Australia from 1982 to 1997
- o SDC-INTER CO-OPERATION OF SWITZERLAND from 1996 to September 2005
- o UPS FOUNDATION, USA from 2009 to September 2010
- o Facilitated 2 World Bank Projects
 1. Women Empowerment Project (SWASHAKTI) in 50 villages
 2. Karnataka community based Tank Management project in 40 villages

Our PRESENT Donors

- CHILDFUND INDIA Formerly named as CCF (Christian children’s Fund) from 1983
- ARGHYAM from Jan 2011
- UNICEF/ZP, Raichur from 2010
- SDTT, Mumbai - from May 2011
- RABO BANK, The Netherlands from Dec 2011

3.2 The experience and expertise relevant for the realization of the mentioned project:

Grama Vikas (GV) has 30 years of experience in the INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR. From the word go, GV, has been investing its resources and energies in the Natural Resources Development

and Management (NRDM). GV has gained lot of experience in implementing projects related to NRDM in general and water conservation activities in particular. In the area of CBOs, GV has promoted a very strong RURAL WOMEN'S FEDERATION in Kolar district and was instrumental in bringing 170 federations of women in the state under one umbrella called KARNATAKA GRAMEENA MAHILA MAHA OKKUTA (KGMMO). GV has also experience in brining a publication involving INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE(ISEC)

4. Assessment of possible risks to implementation:

The beneficiaries of the project will mostly be scheduled tribe and scheduled caste families and this is the first of its kind project proposed to be implemented in the target area, where people are to be participated in every step of the project. So far the people are at the recipient end as beneficiaries but in this project they will be stake holders and considered to be actors of their own development. The project team has to strive hard to prepare the people in the initial stage of implementation. The project focus on right based approach and hence there will be reluctance from the people of vested interest such as teachers, parents, men communities, money lenders, village political leaders and government officials.

Raichur average rainfall is about 500 mm and monsoons are also a possible risk.

Prepared and submitted by

**M.V.N Rao
Executive Director
Grama Vikas
Date: 6.03.2013**

End of this Concept Note

Concept Note on Biodiversity & Sustainable Agriculture

I. Introduction:

Bio diversity is at the heart of food culture, the basic life line of food security and it encompasses a wide-range of life forms without which life on earth would be extinct. Agricultural diversity is most essential component of SUSTAINABLE Agriculture in which lies the future of food for humanity

II. Vision - Mission – Approach of GRAMA VIKAS

Vision: A well preserved ECO-SYSTEM DIVERSITY for SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE to support RURAL LIVELIHOOD without eroding the resource base of the future

Mission:

- Emphasising growth and development of rural communities by promoting increased reliance on Bio-diversity based Sustainable Agriculture along with conservation of local seed diversity
- Creating a gender sensitive environment which enhances leadership skills in women
- Creating marketing for VALUE ADDED cultivated and wild agro-biodiversity
- Connecting natural elements – Soil, Water, Air, Sunlight & Seed – to ensure an abundance of nutritious food and other basic needs of communities
- Nurturing community participation and building people’s institution TO SUSTAIN THE PROJECT.

Approach:

GV’s approach to agriculture is based on understanding of nature’s way of coping with biotic and abiotic stress and follows the nature’s order of evolution.

The philosophy of farming is based on internal inputs and recycling and efficient use of energy within the farm. The focus of farming is not aimed on increasing yields and maximizing profits but on maximizing the harmony in nature and self – sufficiency for the small farmers.

Focus:

GV works with women folk from small and marginal farming families depending on farming under rainfed conditions in Drought prone region of Raichur District, Karnataka State, India

GV is involved in CONSERVATION OF AGRO – BIODIVERSITY, PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY BASED FARMING PRACTICES, ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED SEED BANKS with high emphasis on Native Seed Conservation

Page

GV started its activity in Raichur related to DIVERSITY BASED FARMING SYSTEMS as a modest effort with 200 farming families in one Grama Panchayath. Now it is gearing up into a kind of movement involving 5000 farming families across taluk of Raichur

III. Empowering women to power Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture

Since ages, women have played pivotal role in conserving diversity. It is imminent to rediscover their role. It is women who decide on the amount of seeds that has to be stored and the variety and the different ways of storing them. The role of women in the selection of seeds begins when the crops come into flower. While diverse tasks of women are extremely difficult to quantify there is no dispute about the role of women in securing food for the household.

IV. Role of women in Seed Bank

The concept of seed bank is not just to understand how to store seeds in a place or how to distribute – market – exchange within communities. It is a system in the process of community agriculture which includes village level facilities, a garden or field where traditional varieties are safeguarded. Through this system, farmers have played a key role in the creation, maintenance and promotion of genetic diversity.

Farmers have developed skills to meet their specific needs such a quality, resistance to pests and pathogens, adaptation to soils, water and climate etc.

Under this system, local farmers have established their own seed networks to facilitate seed supply to their families and local markets.

The seed banks are managed by women’s groups. The women have the capacity to select the seeds, store the seeds and maintain the germination to the level of improving their performance. Seeds are distributed to the farmers and in return receive twice the quantity to replenish the store.

AND seed bank is the right of the farming community for it is they who have saved and conserved the diversity for the future generations. But for this effort of the farming community diversity would have been lost.

Grama Vikas is looking forward a partner who is committed to realise this concept to SCALE UP this project to work with 1000 farmers in RAICHUR DISTRICT in North Karnataka, Karnataka, INDIA.

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An intervention to empower adolescent girls in Karnataka

The focus

The government and the civil society groups have rightly identified the well being of pregnant women, new mothers and infants as a top health policy priority.

But there is another segment in the society, perhaps equally vulnerable, but frequently overlooked: the adolescent girls between 14 to 19 years of age. In particular, the challenges faced by the newly married girls in this age group are daunting.

The policy makers have begun to expand their focus to cover this segment as well. A slew of programmes have been launched in the last few years to promote their welfare.

Some of them are being implemented well in project area, especially the programmes seeking to provide nutritional support to adolescent girls. But those seeking to improve healthcare access, provide counselling and empower them have utterly failed.

Grama Vikas would like to use this opportunity to comprehensively address the problems of adolescent girls in select villages of its project area. It would also highlight the shortcomings of the present programmes and try to overcome them through advocacy at the policy level as well.

Objectives

The first two objectives of the project seek to bring about certain desired changes in the project area. The third pertains to advocacy at the policy level.

1) Create an effective support system for newly married adolescent girls

The newly married adolescent girls are a highly vulnerable segment. The project would focus on them to:

- a) Improve their health and nutrition
- b) Improve their autonomous decision making capability in the context of patriarchy
- c) Set up counseling and support groups

2) Better counseling and health care access to unmarried girls below 19.

- a) Create better counselling opportunities about their bodily changes, sexual rights and health issues
- b) Improve access to healthcare facilities, which they do not have
- c) Organise and impart life and career skills to empower them.
- d) Set up support groups

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3) Advocacy

The learning of the project would be disseminated among policy makers, civil society agencies and media. They would be engaged on a sustained basis to give higher visibility to the problems of the adolescent girls and on the strategies to address them.

The project area and duration

The Project would be implemented in 30 villages in the Devaraya Samudra and Mittur Grama Panchayat areas in the Kolar district of Karnataka. These villages cover a population of 15,000.

Grama Vikas also aims to take up similar work in its other project areas later on. The duration of the project would be three years.

The problem

1) Situation of married adolescents in the project area

A 2008 study conducted by Grama Vikas brought out that 20% of the girls in its project area married below the age of 18. The majority of them had dropped out of school especially after failing in the 10th exams.

They face challenges ranging from lack of sexual rights, forced reproduction, unaddressed health especially gynecological problems, malnutrition and anemia, low awareness and status within the families.

See footnotes for a detailed explanation of their problems we seek to address. **(1)**

2) Unmarried girls below 19

This segment splits into school going girls and drop outs. The nutritional needs of this segment is met by various government programmes. **(2)**

But the government schemes to create awareness on their health, sexual rights and provide life and career skills through counselling have utterly failed.

They also have no access to healthcare facilities to address the health complications when they arise. Due to lack of awareness and support groups, they also find it hard to talk about their health problems. **(3)**

In our project area, there have been three state government programmes to counsel these girls:

In schools - provide sexuality-related counselling to sixth standard girls through women teachers, books and other educational materials.

Sneha clinics - counselling through PHCs.

Sakhi project – Training two girls in each village to turn them into knowledgeable peers to assist other girls.

All three programmes have been miserable failures. **(4)**

3) The family members - the parents, husbands, other elders including the in-laws. They tend to be swayed by the tradition and are receptive to social pressure. They would need to be mobilised and sensitised to the needs of the adolescent girls.

Intervention measures

1) Survey the problem

Identify married adolescent girls, document their problems, the available government programmes and facilities to address their needs and establish their functional status.

2) Create a resource centre

Document different aspects of the problem, solutions and intervention strategies, counselling materials including audio visual documentation and case studies for dissemination.

3) I/E/C campaign

Mobilise the community especially the stakeholders – involve various local influencers - teachers, panchayat members, Asha and anganawadi workers, PHC doctors etc. Create support networks at the taluk level as well.

The campaign will create a calendar of events and undertake methodical, sustained and widespread activities to help the target groups internalise key messages.

4) Mobilise adolescent girls

Through I/E/C campaigns and creation of clubs and support groups

Reach out to them to provide counseling and networking opportunity, life skill training, educational tours, media exposure, organise cultural activities raise their social profile.

Mobilise family members - strengthen the existing clubs of young men to involve the husbands, to create new norms of behaviour through peer pressure and counselling. Evolve and implement strategies to target other members of the family.

5) Nutrition assistance for married adolescent girls

Identify and popularise easily available local materials which can be consumed to gain vital supplements. (We have worked in the past with experts from Nimhans; would like to scale up now.)

6) Advocacy

The project is an attempt to address the shortcomings in the existing health policy and its implementation. Our findings and experience would be relevant to policy makers to make course correction and address the issue on a larger scale.

Gram Vikas has experience in working with the media and government to bring issues to limelight and seek redressal.

The advocacy would focus on

- a) Improving the status and needs of married adolescent but not yet pregnant girls.
- b) Re-orienting health care facilities to meet the needs of the adolescent girls and making them more accessible
- c) Making effective counselling and support groups widely available ,
- d) Expanding the activities of Asha and Anganawadi workers.

We would also work with our media friends to keep the issue in limelight.

Monitoring and evaluation

The project has been designed to have definite and measurable outcomes.

It would be monitored periodically to capture and analyse data on progress to codify learning's and effect course correction.

Some of the metrics that can be tracked are:

Girls - the changes in the mean marriage age, mean age of the first birth, spacing of births, reporting of health problems, access to healthcare, improvements in their health, participation in clubs and support groups

Community – participation and performance of the different stakeholders and target groups in the project

Government and media - improvement in PHCs, counseling in schools, involvement of government officers in programmers, media publications, changes in policy

Innovation

- 1) In our project area, it would be the first time for any NGO to work for the wellbeing of adolescent girls in general, not just within the context of marriage and pregnancy.
- 2) Build an institutionalized support system for them.
- 3) Emphasis on mobilizing other family members and sensitizing them to the needs of adolescent girls has not been systematically attempted so far.
- 4) Tie explicitly the needs of the adolescent girls with several government programmes on sanitation, health and nutrition and panchayat raj.
- 5) Mobilise the local network of NGOs we are working with.
- 6) Our model and experience would be useful for other NGOs working for expectant mothers and newborns.

Tentative Budget plan for 3 years

Sln0	Name of the activity	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Local contribution
1	Survey the problem	30000	0	0	0
2	Create a resource centre	200000	200000	200000	60000
3	I/E/C campaign	156500	116500	70000	35000

4	Mobilise adolescent girls	72000	72000	36000	18000
5	Nutrition assistance for married adolescent girls	25000	25000	25000	7500
6	Advocacy	102000	102000	102000	31000
7	Monitoring and evaluation	50000	50000	50000	
8	Personnel Cost	625245	675265	729286	
9	Over head cost	229400	209952	226748	
	Year Total	1490145	1450717	1439034	
	TOTAL for 3 years		Rs. 4379896		151500