



bala vikasa

Helping Communities Help Themselves

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2016-17**



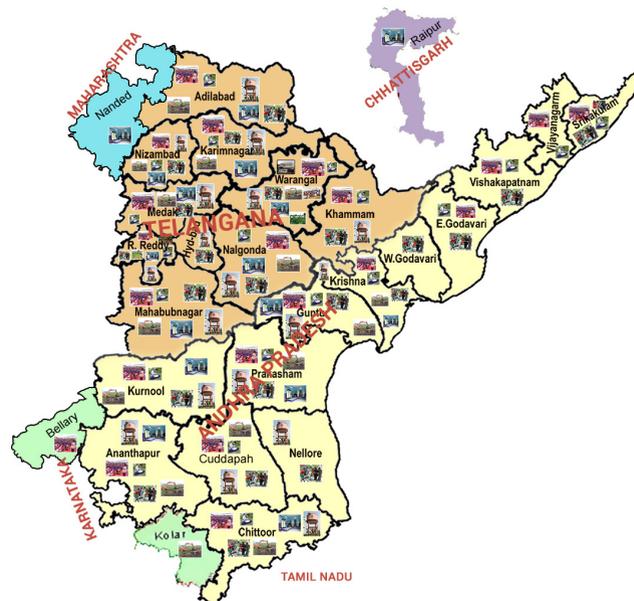


We long for a just and peaceful society in which each individual and each community is empowered and self-reliant; where human dignity, equal rights and equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.

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Achievements of the Community Driven Development Program



INTERVENTION	2016-17	CUMULATIVE
Water		
Water Purification Plants installed	82 WPPs benefiting 54,547 families	750 WPPs benefiting 307,374 families
Bore wells dug	220 bore wells, benefiting 58,075 people	6,261 bore wells, benefiting 191,615 families
Women's Empowerment		
Women's SHGs facilitated	7,428 groups, consisting of 81,598 women members	19,375 groups, consisting of 222,428 women members
Microenterprises set up	6,337	176,337
Skill training beneficiaries	30	1,319
Adult literacy beneficiaries	66	41,974
Widows mentored	15,026	15,026
Food Security & Environment		
Tanks de-silted	28	747
Farm land acres fertilized with natural silt	6,230 acres benefiting 3,510 farmers	112,689 acres benefiting 59,401 farmers
Organic farmers enrolled	202	715
Drip irrigation kits donated	30	327
Trees planted	12,835	5,68,654
Education		
Rural government schools improved	98 schools benefiting 30,703 students	491 schools benefiting 1,42,137 students
Orphans educated	734	1500
Model Communities		
Development committees established	179 committees in 25 villages	831 committees in 128 villages
Volunteers elected	1,023	5,345
Jaladanam centers	246 villages	1605 villages
Dust bins arranged	68	804
Health and Sanitation		
Health camp beneficiaries	45,533	108,463
Helped pre and postnatal	3250	15,260
Family toilets built	409	21,650

Reach of the People Development Training Center

	2016-17	Cumulative
 Number of training programs	21	283
 Number of national participants (NGOs & CBOs)	610	9,947
 Number of international participants	167	1089
 Number of NGOs represented	191	2,669

Bala Vikasa has trained development professionals from 25 states in India and 57 countries across the globe.

Asia

-  Afghanistan
-  Bangladesh
-  Cambodia
-  China
-  India
-  Japan
-  Jordan
-  Lebanon
-  Maldives
-  Myanmar
-  Nepal
-  Philippines
-  Pakistan
-  Palestine
-  Qatar

Africa

-  Sri Lanka
-  Syria
-  Tajikistan
-  Taiwan
-  Thailand
-  Vietnam
-  Yemen
-  Cameroon
-  Dr.Congo
-  Egypt
-  Eritrea
-  Ethiopia
-  Ghana
-  Liberia
-  Malawi

Europe

-  Mali
-  Mauritius
-  Nigeria
-  Senegal
-  Sierra Leone
-  South Africa
-  South Sudan
-  Sudan
-  Tanzania
-  Togo
-  Uganda
-  Zimbabwe
-  Austria
-  France
-  Germany

America

-  Italy
-  Latvia
-  Netherlands
-  Norway
-  Romania
-  Slovak Republic
-  Sweden
-  UK
-  Canada
-  Guatemala
-  Haiti
-  USA



the Founders Message

On June 8, SOPAR celebrated its forty years of existence: an evening of recognition for all our families, friends and loyal collaborators who, during all these years, allowed us to pursue the mission we had given ourselves early on as a couple.

A mission, centered on sharing with the most deprived of our planet of which 1/3 is found in India. During this memorable evening, our hearts were overflowing with gratitude: Gratitude to all our supporters and donors of both side in Canada and in India, Gratitude to all past and present members of the board, Directors and office and field Staff on both sides; Gratitude also, to all our volunteers.

After 40 years, thanks to SOPAR and Bala Vikasa, more than 4 million vulnerable people take control of their future. These figures alone could be used to demonstrate the success of SOPAR and Bala Vikasa.

Yet, watching the “human adventure” unfold before our eyes, exhaustion and pessimism could overwhelm us. People would like to build walls between nations; the immigrant and the refugee should be left to their fate; naval-gazing and protectionism seem fashionable; government and public support for the underprivileged is declining; civil society organizations devoted to international cooperation work hard; without support, many give up.

SOPAR-Bala Vikasa story cannot share this sad picture of a selfish and heartless world.

For us, despite the morbidity, which through media comes to us from all sides, day and night, humanity is moving forward and is progressing for the better. Thus, SOPAR and Bala Vikasa are aware that their small gestures based on openness to others, solidarity, respect and compassion contribute to what one could call as “the quest of the Omega Point”: the “human adventure’s” culmination of a constant evolution towards higher and higher levels of complexity and consciousness.

It is within this movement that SOPAR and Bala Vikasa have journeyed up to now.

May this liberating optimism remain at the source of their action.

Bala Theresa & Gingras & Alingras

Bala Theresa (Angel) and André Gingras

Founders of SOPAR, Canada and Bala Vikasa, India.



the President's Message

Another eventful and successful year has passed as usual. I sometimes wonder how we are able to sustain our level of success, year after year. And when properly analyzed it looks very simple. It is all the result of proper planning and guidance. Thanks to Andre – For his vision and being a think tank to organization - thanks to Bala – proper inspirational motivation, thanks to dynamic Shoury – proper execution and management and thanks to the whole team of Bala Vikasa for their cooperation and dedication.

Let us all congratulate ourselves for accomplishing the commendable success during the year. We feel immense joy and satisfaction when politicians and government officials praise Bala Vikasa for the sincere service render to the needy people. But our satisfaction is much more – when we see the glow on the faces of our beneficiaries, who get benefitted by our schemes. The glow and happiness on their faces should motivate us to do much more for them.

As It is we have completed number of successful schemes during the year. What is heartening is the way the model village's scheme is progressing. We must appreciate the concerned staff and the director for their efforts.

The social movement on widows is taking a positive momentum with the involvement of different religious priests, media and political leaders. It is a wonderful feeling that – a meeting with ten thousand widows will be organized on the eve of international widows day, which would be a unique meeting in the world. Efforts are being made to get it recorded in Limca book of records.

Our next challenge is the completion of Bala Vikasa International Centre. After unavoidable delays – the work on the project is moving in the right direction. Thanks to the efforts of D.Showry, Indra Reddy and Prakash Reddy who are giving their full support for the completion of the project.

Let us all continue with the same vigour and commitment till our Project –BVIC gets its final shape. And I am sure that it would be the most beautiful gift, we could present to our beloved leader Andre Gingras for all the efforts he made for making Bala Vikasa to become what it is today.

Thanking you all.

Basani Marreddy
President, Bala Vikasa



the Directors Message

The reporting year 2016-17 has been another great year in the successful journey of Bala Vikasa. We have initiated India's first of its kind project "SUJAL ATW kiosks" which soon became a good model for many city municipalities, CSR initiatives and social entrepreneurs. The widows empowerment initiative of Bala Vikasa is fast growing as a social movement with active collaborations and participation by different stakeholders. Some of the community development projects are expanded to new areas of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh states especially with the collaboration of new corporate partners.

Bala Vikasa international Center (BVIC) successfully launched the first batch of incubation program for Social Startups in India. People Development Training Center (PDTTC) was able to bring participants from 10 new countries. In general, Bala Vikasa is able to be very effective in many of its initiatives as we had new MOUs and collaborations with reputed organizations, educational institutions, donors, startup incubators, corporate companies from India and abroad.

Bala Vikasa is able to achieve this success due to the commitment of staff at CDDP, PDTTC and BVIC and also thousands of voluntary leaders at community level. The continuous inspiration and support from the founders of SOPAR-Bala Vikasa, Mr. Andre Gingras and Mrs. Bala Theresa Gingras is greatly appreciated. The support received in different ways from the President and the Board members of Bala Vikasa is very encouraging to all the staff.

We thank all our local, foreign, corporate and individual donors for their financial contributions which enabled us to extend our services in thousands of villages and creating effective development models. We thank also the media, officials, people's representatives who have extended their great support and encouragement in carrying forward our mission.

Thanking you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shoury Reddy S".

S. Shoury Reddy

Executive Director, Bala Vikasa



360° COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

IT TAKES TIME AND COMMITMENT – AND IT WORKS.
 SOPAR has built this approach over 35 years of field experience – with concrete results helping entire communities reach their full potential and get out of extreme poverty.



IT FOCUSES ON THE COMMUNITY
 We strive to get an entire community involved. It may start with a small group, evolving, with time, into vibrant and dynamic community.



IT'S COMMUNITY FULL CIRCLE
 All activities of the community are covered: income generation, health, education, water, food security, environment, social justice. Our approach is integrated and sustainable.

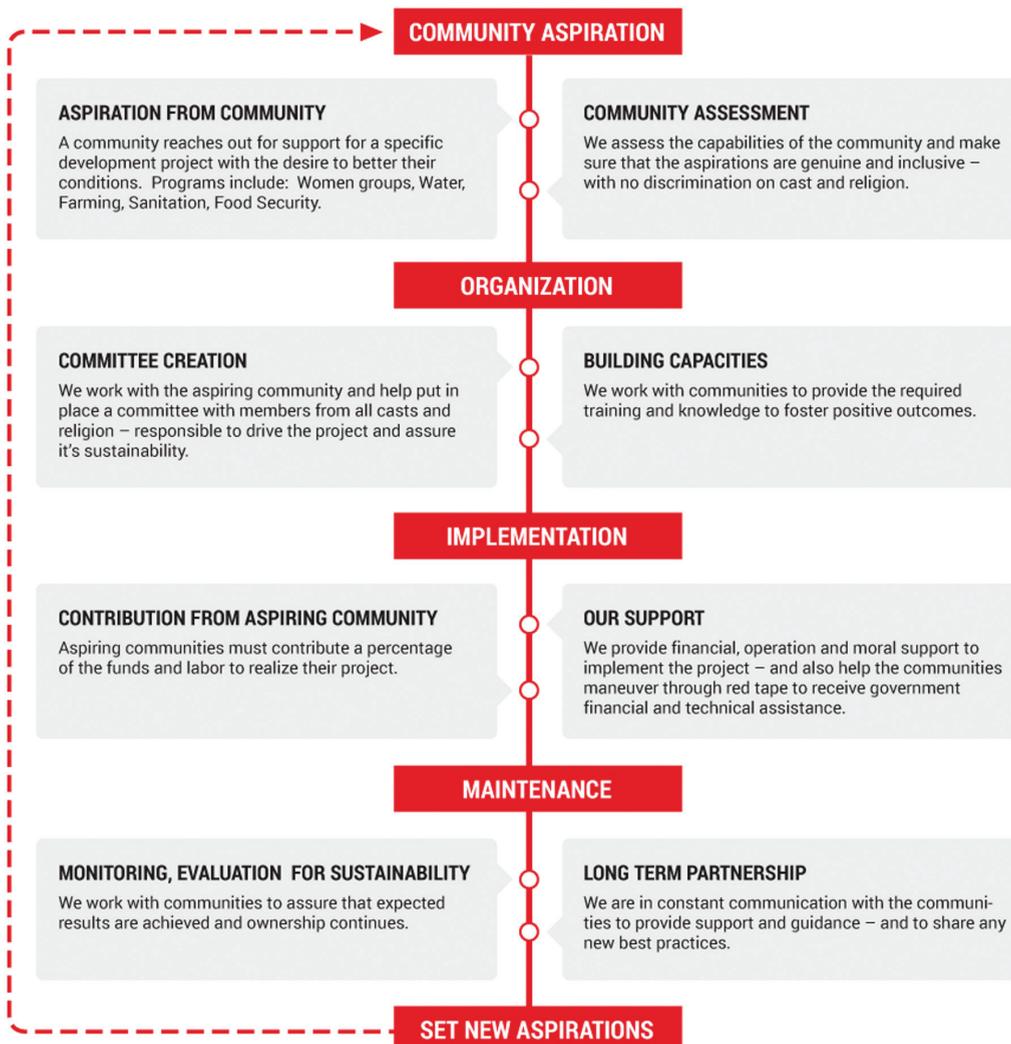


IT'S DRIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY
 All people in the community are the real actors. They build on their existing assets. They contribute their time, money and energy. We help, support and guide.



IT'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPING THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING
 We share our professional expertise. With new knowledge, skills and a change of attitude, people become agents of change in their communities.

HOW DOES IT WORK?





Community Driven Development Spearheaded By Women

Women are a vital part of the Indian economy forming about one third of the national labour force. Indian women are known to take more responsibility for the household, contribute more towards family maintenance and have strong inclination towards savings and for the growth and prosperity of their families. This has immediate ramifications on the members of the family with respect to education, meeting healthcare needs and overall financial security. However, gender ideologies and socio-cultural restrictions have denied a large number of women a chance at realizing their full potential and becoming equal participants in the socio-economic development of the country.

Bala Vikasa firmly believes that no genuine development is possible without the empowerment and mandatory participation of women on par with men. Since 1994, the Women Integrated Development program is being implemented to empower women intellectually, socially, economically and politically. Untiring efforts are being made by Bala Vikasa to incorporate the knowledge, perspectives, experiences, aspirations and expectations of women into the existing development paradigm.

Thousands of women were empowered to rise above the cultural, social and economic biases and build themselves to be strong, independent and confident women who are able to participate in the process of development on par with men at all levels. Rural poor women are now leading discussions on ensuring compulsory education, eradicating child labour, promoting health and hygiene and countering the ill-effects of global warming and climate change. Women became emotionally and intellectually more mature, financially stable and developed collaborative responsibility through their participation. From being a beneficiary, they have now progressed to being partners, owners and donors.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Bala Vikasa's field coordinators approached the villages upon the request of the local women and introduced the Women Integrated Development (WID) program. After talking to the village heads and women leaders, meetings were held to bring together all the women from the community and explain to them the crux of the WID program, the impact witnessed in other villages and how it would benefit the women and their communities. Motivated women who believed that there is much to gain from the program and all its activities joined as members.

Women were formed into groups of 10-12 and the field coordinators were assigned a cluster of groups with whom they worked continuously throughout the year on several aspects. Since the program's main agenda is to enhance and strengthen the capacities of rural poor illiterate woman, Bala Vikasa conducted numerous capacity building sessions to the members on a regular basis. Women were capacitated on several issues of key importance like leadership, health and hygiene, education, gender equality, environment preservation, social issues and development needs. Enlightened women were encouraged to play a crucial role in solving the various problems plaguing their communities.

The monthly meetings provided a platform for women to discuss, deliberate and debate on several issues that impacted their day to day life from problems in the family to issues at the workplace



to larger needs of the community. These meetings were aimed to encourage the woman to participate actively in sharing their perspectives and instill the confidence in them that they are as important as the male members in the society.

The members were motivated to identify the various development needs in their communities, plan relevant activities and successfully implement them on their own. This process greatly empowered the women as they seized opportunities to partake in community development as equal stakeholders and decision makers. Self Help Associations (SHA) were formed to take the idea of savings and micro-entrepreneurship forward. These played a huge role in empowering the women economically and they no longer needed to depend on the men for every little thing.

Moreover, women's groups assumed an active role in confronting social evils like domestic violence, dowry harassment and alcohol abuse and were actively involved in solving community disputes. The formation of women's groups and Self Help Associations has brought in a refreshing sense of unity, strength and positive spirit to push forward. Problems are identified and solutions are reached at a breakneck speed.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

1500
Villages reached

2,22,248
Rural poor women
empowered

1,40,650
Women members handed
over to partner institutions

43
Partner
institutions

2016-17

7428
New members
joined this year

81,598
Women members
with Bala Vikasa

739
Villages

Program Impact

- ◆ Rural Women lead development activities
- ◆ Women overcome socio-cultural challenges
- ◆ Newfound confidence and self esteem
- ◆ Women intellectually provoked
- ◆ Women became independent
- ◆ Women achieved financial breakthroughs
- ◆ Women participated in political processes
- ◆ Women anchor the society's progress
- ◆ Women became agents of change

Training Women Members, Group Leaders, SHA Members and Field Coordinators to build their Confidence and Competencies

Bala Vikasa has conducted numerous training programs for the members of the Women Integrated Development Program so that they are well equipped to take the program forward. A four-tiered training model was used to ensure higher efficiency and greater success at every step in the process.

- All the women members were mobilized to attend monthly training sessions aimed at building their confidence and faith to be harbingers of change - at their homes, at their workplaces and in their communities. They were capacitated on how they could overcome their problems along with knowledge on several important issues. They expressed their points of view, discussed, debated and formulated solutions to the problems. This helped them in shedding their fears, overcoming the social restrictions and becoming great orators, thinkers, decision makers and change agents.
- Group leaders were training intensively so that they can offer inspiring, dynamic, decisive and effective leadership to execute all the development activities planned by the members. These trainings played an important role in helping rural women to transition from being confined to their families with limited say and mobility to becoming community leaders with much larger influence and greater scope of work.
- Self Help Association (SHA) committee members were provided capacity building sessions to make them aware of the role of women in sustainable development, to enhance their leadership qualities and increase their knowledge. These also helped them in understanding cooperatives and micro entrepreneurship clearly and made them better at planning, developing and executing successful development programs in their communities.
- The field coordinators, who play the important role of being on the field close to the realities of the rural women, were provided trainings to improve their knowledge about development, to enhance their communication skills, to boost their confidence for public speaking and to facilitate the program implementation while evaluating it in the best way possible.

HELD	ON	FOR
12 monthly training sessions	Planning development activities, discussing prevailing socio-economic problems like education, gender equality, widow empowerment, health, hygiene, etc., and finding solutions	65,278 women members
44 leaders trainings	Role of leaders in building model villages, leading widow empowerment movement, bridging gender gaps, social justice, forming cooperatives and raising business capital, election of SHA members	5,607 group leaders
6 SHA trainings	Importance of SHA, roles and responsibilities, enhancing capabilities of members, collective decision making, idea of savings and self financing, taking up social responsibilities, community development	350 SHA committee members
12 field coordinators trainings	Program execution, meeting expectations, achieving results, evaluating progress, record keeping, monitoring and evaluation methods, communication skills	180 field coordinators
2 women entrepreneurs trainings	Making efficient use of physical and natural resources, time management, self-discipline, business models and management	298 women entrepreneurs



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

6337 Women Members Benefit as Self Help Association Members Pool their Savings to Create a Corpus for Self-Financing



Self Help Associations formed by Bala Vikasa worked steadfastly to inculcate the habit of savings even among the poorest of its members so that they have a simple fund for their future and growth. Women set apart a day's earnings every month and pooled it with other members to create a corpus for all to borrow from whenever they are in need. Women made use of this greatly to manage their family expenses, send their children to school and meet their daily needs without depending much on the men of the house.

Also, in order to promote entrepreneurship among the women, a financial capital between Rs. 3000 – Rs. 20,000 was made available from the same corpus for internal lending towards setting up of income generating micro enterprises. Hundreds of women were able to start small businesses and develop them by using their own savings. This gave them respect, recognition and courage to think of entrepreneurship.

14,620 Patients Benefit from the Health Camps Organized by the Women Members

Health Camps undertaken solely by the women members of Bala Vikasa, underlined the importance of health and hygiene, sanitation, mother and child care and disease prevention. The SHA members and Group leaders played a pro active role in motivating donors, mobilizing funds, inviting doctors, ensuring good community turnout and procuring the required medicines. These were really helpful in improving the public health in the region.



92

Health camps conducted

14,620

Patients consulted

284

Medical staff participated

Rs.5,86,900

Worth medicines dispensed

Women Spearhead the Construction of over a Thousand Family Toilets

Family toilets are still not a reality in many villages in India having severe repercussions on the public health, environment and the safety of women and children. In order to uphold the dignity of each individual and eliminate the problems caused due to the lack of toilets, women from 409 families took the lead in constructing family toilets by contributing half of the cost while Bala Vikasa provided the rest. These toilets benefitted about 2045 families. Women from 629 families took the help of the Water and Sanitation committees in order to avail assistance from the government in building their family toilets. This ensured dignity, safety and privacy for all the families and came to the aid of the sick and the elderly.

3250 Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers Provided with Pre and Post Natal Care Sessions in 55 Centers with the support of 150 Medical Staff



Emphasizing on the importance of proper mother and child care, Bala Vikasa's women members organized special sessions on pre and post natal care, health, hygiene, vaccination and nutrition. The doctors also checked the general health of the women and children and offered counseling. Nutritious food along with food supplements like iron tablets and multivitamins were provided. Each mother was provided with 2 GRD Tins. These sessions were really helpful in making the rural women understand several issues concerning pregnancy, childbirth, nutrition and in removing all their fears and doubts surrounding them.

Women Express Solidarity with Orphan Children in an Effort to Uphold Values of Social Justice

Women members of Bala Vikasa continued their efforts towards upholding the values of social justice be it towards the widows, to the orphan children or to the old and the destitute. Bala Vikasa's Women have developed a heart of giving to the weak and poor, irrespective of their own financial setbacks.

About 1500 orphans are currently being taken care of by the women with the assistance of Bala Vikasa. Women empathize with their loss and reach out with love, care and support so that none of the orphans feel left out or uncared for. All the women members contributed from whatever little they had towards supporting them.



Further, "Solidarity Day with Orphans", where all the women, especially mothers working with Bala Vikasa come together to celebrate the birthday of all the orphans, was organized with much ado. Women bring meals for the children in addition to making voluntary financial contributions. The entire event is organized by the women themselves and they take a day off from all their works, pay their travel to the venue and do whatever they can to make the children happy. Children love this event as they are overwhelmed by the love that they receive from the women(mothers) gathered. The special guests who attended the program were also moved and pledged their contribution to this effort spontaneously.



Youth Convention Brings out the Dreams and Aspirations of Vulnerable Children

A special Youth Convention was organized on the 4th of October for the orphans and semi orphans under Bala Vikasa care as well as the children of extremely poor women in the WID Groups. The Convention dwelled on the importance of pursuing education for better life, putting up good behaviour and leading a life of discipline, improving one's personality and skills, social entrepreneurship and widow empowerment movement that is underway. The youth who participated came forward to express their dreams, ambitions and goals to which the distinguished guests offered their knowledge and experience on how to achieve them.



Annual Convention Emphasizes the Role of Women in Social Change

Bringing Together all the Stakeholders onto one Platform for a Constructive Dialogue

This year's Annual Convention on the 'Role of Women in Social Change' was organized on the 31st January, which drew the participation of nearly 3500 women. Women members, Group Leaders, SHA members and Field Coordinators who came together to learn new things, discuss their learnings from the field and to reaffirm their commitment towards leading community driven development from the frontlines. The convention succeeding in encouraging the participants to continue their efforts and that they had the complete support of the larger society for all their efforts.

Dr. Manjula delivered a session on different issues related to health while Ms. Neelima from Warangal District Legal Authority, spoke on women's rights and related legal matters. These sessions were very informative and everybody had something to take away from them. Speaking at the event, Mr. Gangu Upendra Sharma, Telangana Archaka Sangham President said, "It is phenomenal that women are being motivated and mentored to steer their own development without any political support. All the women are united and fighting for the right cause. However, It is also important for women to look at political empowerment seriously.

Taking up positions at the political level ensures that women can ensure that their entitlements and rights are not encroached upon and they can benefit from all the opportunities that are available. I also appreciate the Widow Empowerment movement that has social justice at the heart of it."



Case Study

PARIJATAM: FROM LABOURER TO AN ENTREPRENEUR

Mrs. Parijatham, aged 45 years, worked as a daily wage labourer in Danthalapalli. Her husband who was an alcoholic wasted away much of their earnings making it extremely difficult for her to put food on the table. In despair, she was seeking for any opportunity that could put her out of her misery. She came to know of Bala Vikasa's Women Integrated Program through her neighbor during one of their conversations.

She decided to join the program hoping that she would be able to get some solution to her problems. She used to be a regular at all the monthly meetings and made use of all the capacity building sessions to enhance her knowledge around business. She came to know of how the Self Help Associations were pooling their savings and offering them as loans to potential micro-entrepreneurs.

She applied for a small loan of Rs. 1,000 and opened a petty shop. Over the past 8 years she has built her business from a small shop to cloth store by making use of these loans on a regular basis. Until now she has availed a total of Rs. 1,00,000

and invested in making her business more profitable. The present estimation of her shop is approx. Rs. 2,00,000. Bala Vikasa's efforts in encouraging the business acumen in her and helped to turn her life around, take control of it and secure the future of her family.



# of loans	Amount	What she did
1st	Rs 1000	Opened a petty shop
2nd	Rs 2000	Extend her petty shop.
3rd	Rs 3000	Purchased a sewing machine.
4th	Rs 5000	Bought 1 buffalo
5th	Rs 8000	Opened a fabric shop.
6th	Rs 10,000	Customized her fabric shop (building racks, attaching glasses)
7th	Rs 15,000	Expanded as Ladies Emporium by adding jewelry
8th	Rs 20,000	Amplified and extended fabric shop

Leading a Formidable Movement to Empower the Widows

Superstitions and cultural beliefs in the Indian society place unreasonable and irrational restrictions on its widows. Though they have equal rights legally, their basic human rights like dignity, freedom, safety and security are severely violated leaving them economically oppressed, psychologically depressed and some of them sexually exploited.

Community members consider the face and presence of widows as unlucky and inauspicious believing that they couldn't safeguard the life of their husband who is considered as God. They are socially isolated and prevented from attending any family functions or religious ceremonies. They are barred from wearing good clothes or jewelery, using cosmetics and putting kumkum (bindi) or flowers and are expected to suffer and mourn for the rest of the lives. The society and its conservative members also vehemently oppose Widow remarriage.

Seeing the grave injustices that are being meted out to the widows, Bala Vikasa has been spearheading a movement for Widow Empowerment and for the reformation of the society over the past decade. Through its initiatives, Bala Vikasa brought significant attitudinal change, provided dignity and opportunities to thousands of widows and succeeded in preventing any suicides among them.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Since 2006, Bala Vikasa has been finding innovative and powerful ways of affecting change at the core thought processes and discourses that shape and perpetuate the discriminatory practices towards widows.

An array of activities like awareness campaigns, capacity building and counselling sessions, seminars, conventions and workshops have been conducted for the widows as well for other opinion leaders and decision-makers like government departments, religious priests, politicians, NGOs, poets, writers, advocates and activists so that they can influence the public discourse.

"Care and Share With Widows" meetings were held to encourage the widows to live normal lives, educate their children and beautify themselves like any other women. These meetings have been a great source of relief and motivation for the widows

to go back to their communities with strength and resilience.

Women leaders, development committees, village elders, widows, youth and children were all brought onto one platform to generate discussion and create awareness on these issues at several village level meetings. Youth were primarily targeted to spearhead the movement against discrimination to widows.

Continuous efforts were made to provide access to all the places that the widows have been barred from for ages, be it family functions or religious festivals and ceremonies inspite of facing backlash from religious fundamentalists. 'Vithantu Vivaksha Vimukthi Udhya Samakhya' (Federation for abolishing the discrimination against widows) was formed in order to take this movement forward at a National level through increased activities and campaigns.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

15,026
Widows empowered

40
Widows remarried

2016-17

5
District level seminars

6,923
Participants including policy makers, religious leaders, bureaucrats

24
Seminars for youth

7,744
College students

Program Impact

- 80% of them are putting, bindi, bangles and flowers
- 90% of the young widows participated in Bathukamma feast
- 65% of the young widows are attending functions
- Increased self confidence and courage
- Supporting one another through network
- Learnt about their rights
- Learnt the techniques to relieve inner pain through NLP & Yoga
- Educating their children
- Stopped child marriages
- Increased leadership qualities



Partnering with Leaders of Different Faiths in Dispelling Superstitions and Archaic Religious Traditions Prevailing Against Widows

Much of the cultural and social practices existing in the society often derive their legitimacy from the assumption that they are rooted in religious traditions and sacred texts. In order to understand what religious texts say about widowhood, Bala Vikasa brought the priests of all the religions onto one single platform through its seminar on 'Role of Religious Institutions in Social Change.'



After much deliberation, all the priests came to a common understanding that no religion supports the discrimination of widows nor is it sanctioned by any holy book. The priests also said that disallowing widows from wearing bangles and flowers should be condemned by all. The widows who were present, narrated their personal stories of discrimination and suffering which moved everyone who came.

Bala Vikasa put forward the need for the active participation of the leaders of faith in dispelling the superstitions and encouraging the widows to participate in everything without fear and hesitation. It was agreed that religious institutions can play a pivotal role in shaping the belief systems of not just the widows but also of the communities they live in. This resulted in all the priests pledging their support to widow empowerment movement and in abolishing discrimination against widows.



"Some priests, scholars and leaders imposed these humiliating practices to reinforce their power in the society. Widows have every right to lead normal lives, celebrate occasions and live in a safe and healthy environment. The

widows should also overcome their apprehensions and participate in activities like Bathukamma. As the president of the Association of Hindu Priests, I extend my full support." – Gangu Upender Sharma

"Christianity disapproves of prejudice towards widows. It is sad to witness suffering of widows due to outdated traditions and rituals. The church will take necessary steps to ensure dignity and development of widows." – Fr. Joseph, Warangal



"Every widow should be courageous and live the life the way she wants to without any forceful and discriminatory restrictions on her." - Moinuddin Darga Muzavar



Workshops with Poets to Mitigate Atrocities and Discrimination Against Widows

Believing that popular literature and traditional folk media have a very strong impact on the rural masses, Bala Vikasa brought over 50 poets onto one platform and oriented them on the issues of widows and their suffering in the society. Personal narratives of discrimination from the widows who were present gave the poets a stirring insight into their grim lives. This moved the poets to decide that they will compile a book of poems supporting the widows and mitigating the discrimination. They also extended voluntary contributions to the efforts of Bala Vikasa.



Jwalitha, a poet from Khammam says, "Bala Vikasa is not just preaching but following the teachings of religion. They are taking the side of the needy without seeking name and fame. They are giving hope for widows socially, economically, psychologically and ethically. Bala Vikasa started the movement and now it is not Bala Vikasa movement but people's movement. I will contribute my share as a poet in creating awareness among the people".

Numerous Trainings, Seminars and Workshops to Bring about Change in the Public Discourse to Reform the Society

The widows have suffered discrimination and have been deprived of social mobility for so long that they have almost normalized it. They fear to step out or participate in any of the socio-cultural events happening in their communities.

In order to redirect them away from the oppressive social conditioning and reconstruct their worldviews where they are able to stand up for their rights and entitlements, Bala Vikasa conducted regular monthly capacity building sessions. Young widows below the age of 30 were specially focused on in an effort to integrate them back into the society on top priority. Lawyers and Legal advisors created awareness on widows' rights and guided those in need of legal aid. Yoga and Meditation trainers provided sessions to relieve them of the stress, anxiety and agony that they suffer due to the unjust treatment they get.

HELD	ON	FOR
45 centre level meetings	Widows rights and issues awareness generation and motivating people to not discriminate	5206 participants
11 monthly training	Psychological motivation to rebuild self-confidence, self-reliance and dignity. pain relieving session using techniques like NLP, yoga	644 young widows
5 district level seminars	Abolition of superstitious beliefs, struggles of widows, socio-cultural obstacles, protection of widows rights	6,923 policy makers, religious leaders, bureaucrats
24 seminars for youth	Role of youth in widow empowerment	7,744 college students participated

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Inviting Religious Priests to 'Care And Share With Widows' Meetings to Influence the belief System Surrounding Widows

Priests from different religions participated in the 'Care and Share with Widows' meetings in order to speak to the widows present there and reconstruct their belief system. As religious leaders have a wide acceptance and an unmatched influence over people, many participants were willing to alter their perspective and be more open to living life without any fear. 5206 widows and 31 priests participated in these meetings.

Celebrating International Widows Day to Draw Special Focus on to the Widows Issues

Bala Vikasa celebrated International Widows Day on the 23rd June in order to raise the issues of widows and bring them to the attention of the civil society and media. About 7700 people participated in different rallies and meetings that were organized in around 100 villages. These meetings were instrumental in bringing the general public closer to the reality of the widows in their own communities and the need to create an inclusive society that offers equality, opportunity and security to the widows. While some village elders donated clothes to the widows, some women honored the widows with bangles and bindi during the event.

International Women's Day Celebrated with Emphasis on the Issues of Widows

Bala Vikasa's Widow Empowerment team organized International Women's Day at Husnabad in collaboration with the District Legal Aid Cell, MEPMA, ICDS and an NGO by the name Swakrushi. 600 women, who participated in the program, were desensitized on myths and misconceptions related to widowhood and oriented on their rights and means to access legal sources for support and help. The widows were honored with flowers and bangles to encourage them to revert back to leading normal lives. Divisional Court Judge, Mr. V. M. S. Sharma graced the occasion and extended his support and cooperation.

District Level Seminars to take the Widow Empowerment Movement to the Next Level

In order to widen the reach and scope of the Widow Empowerment movement from a village level to the district level, District Level Seminars were organized on 'Abolition of Superstitious Beliefs – Protection of Widows' Rights' in five districts of Telangana. Ministers, high level bureaucrats, government functionaries, political leaders, religious priests, Women Self Help Groups, NGO representatives and women leaders participated in seminars and deliberated on how to take the movement forward in their spheres of influence.

These seminars marked the expansion of the Widow Empowerment movement from Bala Vikasa's stakeholders to the society at large. The wide acceptance and appreciation for this movement was indicated by the fact that all these seminars were held by voluntary contributions of the local community members who expressed the dire need for such a movement. During the event, the public representatives present, promised that they will invite widows to the launch of new projects and involve them in the inauguration ceremony. District level committees were formed with the participants for the protection of Widows' rights.

A memorandum urging the government to take some steps to benefit the widows was submitted at the end of these seminars.

Establish a corporation for the economic upliftment of widows.

Special reservations for their children in educational institutions like Navodaya, social welfare and gurukulam schools.

To bring Widows Protection Act- on the lines of the law protecting SC and STs from atrocities.

Special incentives of Rs. 3-5 lakhs for widow remarriages similar to Kalyana Laxmi.



Seminars in Colleges to Stimulate Discussion on Justice to Widows



Believing that youth are the key drivers of social change, Bala Vikasa organized seminars in College where the message of widow empowerment and eradication of atrocities against widows was sent out loud and clear. Moved by the stories of youth who had lost their fathers, all the youth pledged their support towards ensuring justice to widows in their communities. 224 Boys and girls volunteered for Widows Rights Protection Committees in the colleges.

Widows Break a 400 Year Old Taboo, Celebrate 'Bathukamma' at the Thousand Pillared Temple

600 widows will remember 20th September 2016 as a red-letter day as they celebrated 'Bathukamma', the festival of flowers, in the iconic Thousand Pillared Temple of Warangal. They had been barred from participating in religious festivities for centuries and this event broke the taboo as widows entered the temple and participated in the festivities.

The president of Telangana Archaka Sangham, Gangu Upender Sharma, kept his word in creating an opportunity for the widows to celebrate Bathukamma at the historic temple. This stirred a backlash from the local religious fundamentalists who insisted that the widows be sent away. However, Mr. Sharma took a firm stand for the widows and convinced the protestors about the legitimacy of his actions. The women who were present at the temple refrained to join the widows in the celebration at the beginning but with the encouragement and motivation from Mrs. Bala Theresa, they all joined and shared kum-kum.



Besides this, widows celebrated Bathukamma at two other historic temples while Bala Vikasa ensured thousands of widows across the state participated in the festival, especially in Bala Vikasa's 120 model villages. The joy of the widows after this event was seamless as they found it to be quite liberating and refreshing to be given equal opportunity after years of subjugation and isolation.

Case Study

WIDOW REMARRIAGE AS AN INDISPENSABLE AGENCY FOR WIDOW EMPOWERMENT

Ms. Radhika lost her husband to alcoholism at the young age of 23 years. As a young widow, her suffering and despair knew no bounds as she went through the humiliating ceremony that ripped her off her bangles, bindi and imposed restrictions on her movements personally and socially. Burdened by the loss and the consequential isolation, she sought consolation but couldn't find it. Close relatives would consider her and would invite her to their ceremonies but wouldn't let her participate in the rituals. These took a toll on her and she wished to commit suicide several times.

Some Bala Vikasa women approached her and asked her to attend some of their meetings. These meetings were a great source of strength, comfort and encouragement. They soon started talking about getting her remarried and convinced her parents about the same. With the support from Bala Vikasa, she took the bold step of getting married to Mr. Ramesh. This really changed her life as she testifies of how her husband takes really good care of her and how she feels loved, cared and secured once again.

"I feel I am lucky and I thank Bala Vikasa women members of my village for giving me such a happy life. Sometimes even my parents cry with happiness looking at my happiness. I say to all the widows in young age to remarry and lead a new life without getting struck."





Ensuring Holistic Rural Development through Community Leadership

Rural India, where 70% of the country's population lives, is still far from accessing basic amenities, quality education, decent work, specialty healthcare, adequate financing or responsive governance. Illiteracy, subsistence economy and a weak social and political consciousness prevent the rural communities to put up a collective effort towards development and in claiming their rightful entitlements.

Over the past 20 years, Bala Vikasa has been striving to change and bring about sustainable rural development that is led by conscientized individuals and communities who have a passionate commitment towards transforming their way of life. Believing that grassroots mobilization, participation and leadership are the key to solving these micro level problems, Bala Vikasa has been in the business of invigorating, capacitating and assisting rural communities to take up leadership in securing their socio-economic development.

With its unique Community Driven Development approach employing the time-tested Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology, Bala Vikasa is moving in the direction of building Model Communities with 360° development, where all members enjoy basic human rights and dignity. The model communities' initiative aims to produce villages that are outstanding in education, sanitation, health, food security, income generation, women's rights and participation, environmental protection and blessed with leadership, management, accounting, and technical skills.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Bala Vikasa mobilized all the community members of the identified villages and instilled a sense of unity, faith, conviction and aspiration to work towards making their villages empowered and self reliant. Communities were apprised of the foundational principles like bringing about attitudinal changes, ensuring gender equality, being determined, taking responsibility, investing time and resources, offering leadership and working together as a collective.

Highly motivated youth were identified and trained to be Development Agents to facilitate, moderate and monitor the entire development process at the ground level. For every Model Community, one Village Development Committee to oversee the entire program implementation and several sub committees to work on specific focus areas

like food security, education, health, sanitation, environment preservation, etc., were formed. These committees had 5-8 members each from different age groups and backgrounds and were elected democratically by the community members. They engaged in the work of identifying their assets, strengths, capabilities and talents and used them to achieve the objectives of the committee. Bala Vikasa provided them with relevant knowledge and skills to formulate, undertake and assess the necessary developmental initiatives while also enhancing their oratory and leadership skills. Once these committees started seeing the fruit of their labor they became increasingly confident in their ability to effect change and take up other activities with much more vigour.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

128
Model
communities

831
Number of
committees

5,345
Number of
committee
members

2016-17

25
Model
communities

179
Number of
committees

1,023
Number of
committee
members

Program Impact

- Created grassroots leadership
- Strengthened individual capacities
- Development led by the communities
- Local resources mobilized and utilized
- Decreased dependence on external Aid
- Increased role of the youth
- Women and widows empowered
- Quality of education improved
- Ecological balance maintained
- Villages are clean and green
- Economy strengthened
- Health Improved
- Superstitions eradicated
- Food security ensured



Training Committees, Development Agents, Leaders to Work Efficiently and Effectively

Several capacity building sessions were conducted to improve the methods of planning, monitoring and implementation associated with rural development and model communities.

- Monthly trainings were conducted for the development agents and village leaders in order to enhance their knowledge on the idea of 'development', acquaint them with key sustainable development principles and provide them with necessary skillsets to motivate and unite the communities at the grassroots. These trainings helped them in playing the role of change agents effectively and ensuring that communities were motivated and involved throughout.
- Monthly trainings were conducted to the committee members where they were informed about the role of the committees and the activities that were to be undertaken in a participatory, democratic and equitable way. They were informed of the various government schemes from which their communities could benefit and also given the responsibility of tracking the progress being made in a systematic manner. With the help of these trainings, committee members were able to diagnose the prevailing problems, assess the existing assets, mobilize the local resources and arrive at solutions.
- There has been a special emphasis on providing the rural youth with entrepreneurial skills as well as introducing them to the idea of social entrepreneurship so that they can take up business ideas which are beneficial for the society as a whole. Village development committee members and the local administrative officials were also capacitated on motivating the community members to take up voluntary activities, making use of local resources and raising contributions when required and working together to overcome red tape. Regular Gram Sabhas and Annual General body meetings were conducted to take the views of the community members, evaluate the results and make necessary amendments.

HELD	ON	FOR
12 monthly trainings	Leadership, planning, discussions and review	250-350 village leaders
1 entrepreneur training	Social entrepreneurship, micro enterprises, market facilities, innovative way of selection of business, cleanliness, public relations and track of recording	466 youth entrepreneurs
6 committee trainings	Environment issues, water, health, food security, education, eradication of superstition beliefs, sanitation	1,585 development committee members
2 training	Public speaking, asset identification and management, report writing, account mangment, building social capital	248 committee members and sarpanches
52 AGB meetings	Evaluate the results and make necessary amendments.	13,983 villagers



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Motivated Community Members Restore a Decapacitated Public School

The local public school in the village of Gundaram was seeing a dismal turnout of 11 students. Disappointed by this, all the committee presidents decided to strengthen the school and increase the student enrollment and attendance. The education committee members along with the local village leaders motivated the jobholders from their village to come forward with voluntary contributions towards the school development. While a generous sum of Rs 5, 00, 000 was raised, the committee members ensured that the school developed on multiple fronts. After appointing 8 teachers and 2 caretakers, the school saw a significant increase in the student turnout.



Thousands of Saplings Planted to Preserve the Environment

Environmental preservation has been a prime sustainable development goal, which Bala Vikasa has promoted aggressively through plantation activities. This year, Bala Vikasa planted around 3,850 plants of six different species along the road. Committee Members obtained another 5,073 fruit and shade trees from local nurseries and planted them in their communities. Donors came forward with 4169 plant guards to add to the 3,850 guards supplied by Bala Vikasa. Seeing Bala

Vikasa's commitment to maintain ecological balance and its active participation in the state government's plantation activities, it has promised to provide more saplings as a token of appreciation.

Soak Pits and Farm Ponds Succeed in Conserving Rainwater and Recharging Ground Water

In order to conserve rainwater and also to replenish the ground water, Bala Vikasa encouraged the communities to build soak pits. About 9328 families came forward and constructed soak pits with the support of government fund in about 72 villages. 679 farm ponds were also constructed in 66 villages with the help of the government in order to ensure water for agriculture. This has been turned out to be a successful way of addressing water scarcity.



Thousands of People Working in the Sweltering Summer Heat Benefit from Free Drinking Water

Bala Vikasa brought together 122 Model Village Leaders and Committee Members to organize Jala Danam Centers (from April to June) to supply drinking water to thirsty people in the hot summer. About 241 pots of drinking water were arranged every day so that the people working in the hot sun do not have to spend a lot of money on buying water or fall sick due to dehydration.

Hundreds of Farmers Shift to Organic Farming to Further the Cause of Food Security

255 members from 11 Model Villages were taken on an exposure visit to Ontimamidipalli and Tirumalaipalli Village in Warangal District where Bala Vikasa is executing the organic farming initiative on a big scale. The members could see for themselves the different organic farming methods and the results on the net income of the practicing farmers. Convinced by the impact of organic farming on the crop yield, investment costs, net profits and the environment at large, 10 villages came forward to shift to organic farming.



831 Medical Personnel Come Forward to Participate in Over Hundred Free Health Camps

In order to improve the public health in the communities, as many as 114 health camps were organized where 30,913 patients were diagnosed, treated and provided with necessary medicines. 831 professional doctors, nurses, health workers and Asha workers came together to raise awareness on the issues of hygiene, nutrition, reproductive problems, cancer and so on. Reinforcing their faith in the program, village heads helped with the tents, PA systems and arranged meals for the

doctors as their contribution. development agents and health committee members collected medicines worth of Rs. 17,79,350 from 215 donors.

Swatch Gramam Initiative Brings Positive Outcomes in Cleanliness and Hygiene

The Swatch Gramam (Clean Village) initiative brought consensus among the community members on the importance of keeping the surroundings clean and motivated them to reduce littering, segregating the wastes and disposing them at the designated places. Bala Vikasa provided the communities with garbage disposal utilities and trained them on using organic garbage as fertilizers and manures. Several camps on WASH were conducted in schools along with awareness rallies to spread the importance of cleanliness. A significant reduction in the spread of communicable diseases was seen owing to this effort.



Annual Convention Strengthen the Committee Members and Keeps them Focussed on the Task at Hand

The Annual Convention for the committee members of Model Communities program was conducted on the theme of 'Role of Committees in Social Change'. The convention brought together members from six districts of the state and provided a single platform for them to discuss their views, share their learnings, identify common problems, arrive at solutions and create strong networks. Speakers were able to instill unity, pride and conviction in the participants and motivated them to continue taking up more development initiatives. Bala Vikasa received acknowledgement and appreciation from one and all in the way it has facilitated community led development, which not only transformed communities but also individuals.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Sudheer Babu, Commissioner of Police, said, "It is an honor for Warangal to have Bala Vikasa. There should be sustainable development in all that we do and whatever we do should help the future generations. Handling problems innovatively is important to achieve great success. This is the kind of work that Bala Vikasa is engaged in and I am sure this convention will recharge our energy and keep us on the path of affecting change in a big way."



GUNDAREDDYPALLI ERADICATES ALCOHOLISM AND TURNS INTO A MODEL COMMUNITY

With a population of about 2200 from 650 households, Gundareddypally is located in the district of Siddipet Telangana. While the village had basic facilities, the people of the village were divided. The presence of illicit liquor shops and rampant alcoholism not just affected the health of its members but also created a lot of problem for its women.

Seeing the woes of the women, Bala Vikasa decided to initiate community development with the help of the women groups by turning this village into a model community. Bala Vikasa organized a village level meeting with the elected local leaders and leaders of all parties, to create awareness on the prevailing conditions and to address the social issues in the village. The participants were motivated to form into 8 committees with 40 members including 17 women. All the committees played a proactive role in implementing the activities assigned to them by the village development committee.

1. The village development committee has eradicated illicit liquor from the village, and they have put control on alcoholism in the village by eliminating illegal liquor shops.
2. Health Committee organized health camps with the donations mobilized locally, the donors not only gave donations for the medicines but also have ushered the patients to the camps.
3. Education committee worked in coordination with the Sarpanch to revert 40 private school going students back to the public schools. The committee has identified donors to support the school with an English medium teacher by paying his salary.
4. The water committee has initiated water purification project establishment in the village, the project will be operative from 2017-18.
5. The superstitions eradication committee involved widows to break coconut during foundation and inauguration of the government sponsored programs
6. The cleanliness committee motivated habitants to construct soak pits to keep the streets drain free .
7. The village attained status of open defecation free village.
8. The incidence of child labor and child marriages was been brought down to zero.
9. The achievements of the committees have propelled the government authorities to install 10 solar lights in the village.
10. The concerted efforts of the committee played a vital role in getting the village as the best gram panchayat in Siddipet district.



WATER PURIFICATION PROGRAM



Providing Safe Drinking Water To Communities at High Risk of Contracting Fluorosis

About 63.4 million people living in rural India do not have access to clean water as per a recent report on water and sanitation. Several thousands of habitations across the country are affected by the presence of Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate, Heavy Metal and Salinity in the drinking water sources. In addition to that, bacterial contamination is also widespread leading to a barrage of diseases and health risks.

Bala Vikasa initiated its Safe Water program to provide purified drinking water to communities that are at a high risk of contracting Fluorosis in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Over the past 15 years, nearly 800 Water Purification Plants (WPPs) set up by Bala Vikasa have significantly reduced the incidence of Fluorosis and other related diseases, greatly improved the public health and drastically decreased the spending on medical bills.

Bala Vikasa's WPPs, owned, operated and managed by the communities, serve as an exceptional model for community driven development that is highly effective, transparent and sustainable.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Once ascertaining that there is a daunting need for a WPP based on the fluoride levels in their drinking water sources, Bala Vikasa quickly moved into action and mobilized all the community members of the selected villages. Everyone was briefed on Bala Vikasa's model of operating WPPs and the roles and responsibilities the community members had to discharge towards managing them.

Communities in cooperation with their local administration identified the place for the units, set up the necessary infrastructure and mobilized all the resources that are needed. In order to instill a sense of community ownership towards the plant, all the families in the communities contributed an allocated amount of financial resources. While Bala Vikasa took up the setting up of the WPPs, the community members took the responsibility of maintaining each of these WPPs. Committees were instituted in order to oversee the entire process right from planning to implementation to management.

A community member was also employed to take care of each plant and maintain necessary records so that transparency and accountability are maintained throughout. A negligible price (Rs. 3 for

20 Litres) was fixed for the amount of water taken to pay for the overhead costs of maintaining the plant. Water supply is monitored by an indigenous technological innovation that has been adopted for the purpose.

Any Time Water (ATW) prepaid cards were issued to the communities that made it possible to take water any time of the day and eliminated any malpractice in distribution of water. The money generated through this was earmarked for further development activities of the villages and to sponsor similar projects in needy areas.

A federation with the Presidents of all the WPP committees, the Executive Director of Bala Vikasa, Program Officer and three other nominated members provided technical guidance, quality inputs and spares for BV-water plants and monitored the well-being of the projects. A governing body formed from among the members, conducted monthly water testing and submission of test results, collection of AMC for the maintenance of the projects and the identification of local donors to sponsor WPPs in more villages.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

793 Water purification plants	1.6 million people benefitted	4 States
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2016-17

43 Water purification plants	94,410 People benefitted	4 States
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Program Impact

- Reduced incidence of fluorosis
- Water related health disorders prevented
- Public health of the region improved
- Decrease in medical expenditure
- Increase in savings
- Improved unity and social relations
- Increased attendance in educational Institutions



Training Committee Members and Machine Operators for Successful Implementation of the WPPs

In order to ensure that the WPPs are run in the most efficient manner benefitting thousands of families, several capacity building and motivation sessions were conducted for the elected committee members as well as the machine operators on project implementation, maintenance, machinery, record keeping, accounting and sustainability.



HELD

ON

FOR

14

Training Sessions

Project implementation, maintenance, machinery, record keeping and accounting

578

Water Committee Members and Operators

1

Technical Training

RO Systems and work flow, ATW technology, WPP maintenance and service and water sample collection

9

Field Coordinators

Case Study

WPP HELPS COMMUNITY IN REDEEMING ITSELF FROM DWINDLING PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSEQUENT IMPOVERISHMENT

Paruvella is a remote village in Bejjanki Mandal of Karimnagar District, home to 1300 people from 260 families, living mainly on agricultural labor. For the past several years, the villagers have been stricken with several health disorders that were highly symptomatic of fluoride consumption. Upon testing, it was observed that the drinking water sources contained fluoride as high as 2.5 ppm, which was way above the permissible limit. The water also contained bacteria and other hazardous elements with a highly inappropriate TDS value.

As the community survived on meager daily wages, affording purified water from commercial entities was proving to be very expensive and it drained their income indiscriminately. Several families opted out of purchasing purified water simply because they couldn't afford it. Consequent consumption of fluoride-laced water resulted in several health problems resulting in decreased employability and increased medical expenditure. This year, they sought Bala Vikasa's intervention in providing them purified drinking water.

After the motivation meeting, a committee with 3 men and 2 women was formed to look after the overall functioning of the project. The local administration allocated a room following which all the necessary machines were installed. The cost for purified water was fixed at Rs. 3 per 20 Litres



after taking the consent of all the community members.

The project provided employment to 1 person as machine operator cum accountant from the village itself. The water is being supplied regularly and 90% of the community members are taking advantage of it. After paying all the project maintenance expenses, the project has an additional maintenance fund of approximately Rs. 80,000/- in just 8 months. This has resulted in a win-win situation, as the community members are not impoverished by the high costs of buying packaged drinking water. The people are now leading healthy and productive lives.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Bala Vikasa Takes the Water Program to Karnataka By Setting up the First WPP In Chikballapur

Bala Vikasa expanded its Water program to Karnataka this year by setting up the first Water Purification Plant (WPP) in Guntinagahalli, Chikballapur. The village of Guntinagahalli benefitted greatly from the Tank Desiltation program that was implemented last year. The dedicated work of Bala Vikasa and its success in addressing problems and creating a tangible impact prompted the villages to come forward and apply for a WPP. After the necessary assessment, Bala Vikasa set up the WPP in less than a month benefitting nearly 205 families.



CSR Wings of Leading Corporates Sponsor Nearly 40 WPPs Benefitting Thousands of Families

Bala Vikasa continued in its partnership with CSR wings of corporates in setting up of WPPs across the country. The CSR Wing of Chola Mandalam, Chennai, partnered with Bala Vikasa and sponsored 24 WPPs. Bala Vikasa completed 11 WPPs this year benefitting 3300 families while the remaining 13 WPPs are underway. The Hyderabad and Mumbai CSR wings of Franklin Templeton have sponsored 14 WPPs benefitting 5980 families. These partnerships are going a long way in tackling the critical problem of Fluorosis and are providing a much-needed relief to the people.

WPP Committees Discuss Efficient Ways of Functioning at the Annual Convention

The annual convention on the 'Role of Committee Members in Ensuring Safe Drinking Water' was held at the PDTC in order to discuss several issues pertaining to meeting the basic need of potable water and how committee members could play an important role in solving them. Around 3000 Water Plant Management committee members from three states attended this convention to learn more about how they could function more effectively in running their respective WPPs. Some of the committee members who ran their plants in an exemplary manner shared their experience and strategy to benefit the thousands of people present.



Mr. Harish Rao, Minister of Irrigation, Marketing and Legislative Affairs for Telangana State, graced the occasion along with several other public representatives. Bala Vikasa articulated their struggle in meeting the high electricity costs in running the WPPs and how it is affecting the overall sustainability of the projects. A memorandum requesting the government to consider the WPPs for subsidized electric supply was submitted to the honorable minister.

Speaking to the audience present, Mr. Harish Rao said, "Bala Vikasa has been doing really good work be it in tank de-siltation, digitizing the class rooms or providing safe drinking water. I feel it is pertinent to appreciate their work and encourage them to do more. I will take up the matter of subsidized electricity with the Chief Minister and do everything I can to help Bala Vikasa's development efforts."



Quenching the Thirst of Commuters in Sweltering Summers Through a Unique Innovation

Bala Vikasa took its determination and experience to provide clean drinking water one-step further by innovating and developing a one-of-its-kind water-dispensing kiosk that supplied purified and chilled drinking water at the drop of a coin.

These 'Sujal ATW' kiosks supply 1 Litre of chilled water for a meagre Rs. 1; where as other commercially packaged drinking water sells for Rs. 20 a Litre. Setting up these kiosks at prominent junctions along the road in Warangal proved to be a deal breaker as several thousands of commuters quenched their thirst during the scorching summer months. This unique initiative drew appreciation from all quarters of the society as it made safe drinking water accessible and affordable to one and all.

Poor daily wage laborers, autorikshaw drivers, hawkers and small-scale vendors benefitted the most, as they didn't have to shell out any money for drinking water. ATW Cards were taken by many who used the kiosks regularly for their water needs. Extending its work, these kiosks employed differently abled persons as operators in an effort towards providing employment opportunity and building an inclusive society.

Kickstarting an Inspiring Social Enterprise Model and Scaling Up

The district authorities and the Municipal Corporation who have provided the required support in allocating the sites, ensuring power connections and granting the necessary permissions are lauding this initiative of Bala Vikasa. The success of these Bala Vikasa established Sujal Kiosks in Warangal, has spread to other towns of Telangana and Chhattisgarh. Several kiosks have been set up with the help of different corporate donors through their CSR funding. These Sujal ATW Kiosks have proved to be a successful social enterprise model.

The impact created by Sujal ATW Kiosks in Warangal inspired other districts to follow suit. In less than two months of initiating the pilot project in Warangal, Sujal ATW Kiosks expanded to Siddipet, Sircilla, Karimnagar and even to Bhilai in the state of Chattisgarh. Besides setting these at prominent junctions along road, Kiosks were also set up at hospitals, government offices and market places.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

11
Sujal ATWs

3
Cities

2
States

Program Impact

- Access to affordable purified water
- Employment to physically handicapped
- Reduction in plastic usage
- Improved public health

TESTIMONIALS



N. Praveen Kumar, a wage labourer expressed his view by saying, "Sujal water Kiosk is a boon for us especially in summer days because in only one rupee we get one litre of chilled and pure water which is actually sufficient for two persons. I feel healthier after consuming it".

Ram Kumar, a panipuri vendor shared, "I have to stay here in the market from morning 10 o'clock to evening 9 o'clock and I cannot afford purchasing bottled water the whole day. Earlier it was also very inconvenient to carry 2 to 3 cans of water from home. Now I can take as much water as I want for my customers to drink at a very few walking steps".



Venkat a bus passenger told, "I follow this route every day to my work. We don't have this kind of facility in our village but I always make sure to carry 3 to 4 bottles along with me to take this Sujal water to my home. The concept of 1 litre of water in just 1 rupee is reducing a lot of people's daily expenses on water and I am hopeful that someday we will also have such a facility in our village".



Rizwana, an operator of BV Sujal Kiosk says, "I belong to a very poor family and BalaVikasa offered me this job at a time when my husband left me. I am no longer a burden on my family." When asked whether she is satisfied in the current job role, she said "Paani pilana toh sawaab ka kaam hai (to offer water to the needy is a deed of divine virtue). When a very poor person comes, at least I can give him/her a glass of water for free. It is just a matter of one rupee and I can pay from my pocket".





Making Safe Drinking Water Accessible to Far-Flung Tribal Communities

The state of Telangana is a home to a large number of tribal communities that live in remote areas with limited access to the most basic amenities like decent food or clean drinking water. In order to improve the health of these marginalized, tribal communities Bala Vikasa has been implementing a Water project for tribal communities from the past 2 years.

While promoting and executing sustainable community based water infrastructures, Bala Vikasa improved the communities' understanding of practicing hygienic practices and safe sanitation. During the reporting year, with the support of donor Frank Water (H & M Foundation), Bala Vikasa supported 40 tribal communities with 3 different types of water infrastructure. Borewells, pipelines, electric motors and Ground Level Tanks (GLTs) are being provided wherever needed in the districts of Warangal and Khammam. Bala Vikasa ensured that communities participated actively at every stage of the process and also mobilized 10% of the project cost from the beneficiary families in order to sense of ownership and responsibility.



Bala Vikasa's Approach

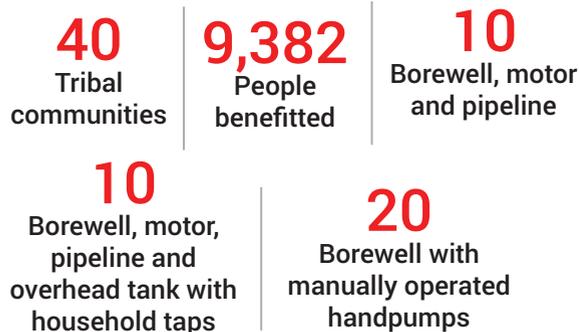
A feasibility study was conducted in the identified villages and information was collected on the existing type of water infrastructure, quality and quantity of water available, types of water borne diseases prevalent and distance and time spent to fetch water. A survey was conducted to assess the family awareness on health and WaSH aspects. Consequently, motivation meetings were conducted to create awareness among the communities on the consequences of drinking contaminated water, poor sanitation and hygiene and the means to overcome them. Once the community members were capacitated on the water infrastructure and their roles and responsibilities, Bala Vikasa provided three different types of water infrastructure based on the demography and need of the people.

Providing Solar Panels as an alternate source of energy for communities facing power cuts

Some of the tribal communities staying in very interior parts face frequent power cuts. Due to this, motors powered by electricity become dysfunctional and fail in providing water. In order to address this problem, Bala Vikasa picked three villages which have been provided Type – I Infrastructure, located in regions facing severe power cuts, and prototyped solar powered motors. This ensured continuous water supply irrespective of the shortage of electricity. The communities living in these villages have benefitted a great deal and this model is ready to be replicated in other such villages.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE



Program Impact

- Continuous access to potable Water
- Reaching the unreached
- Use of renewable energy
- Time and energy for productive things
- Peace and harmony in the community
- Improved public health

Case Study

60 YEAR OLD THATI LAKSHMI NO LONGER WALKS TO FETCH DRINKING WATER OWING TO BALA VIKASA'S INTERVENTION

Mrs. Thati Lakshmi, a 60 year old woman, lives all by herself. Despite her age, she had to walk for miles in order to fetch drinking water from the community hand pumps. Last year, the local hand pumps failed and she had to go to the next village for the same. This turned to be a major challenge for her as she wouldn't have the strength to make such long trips every single day.

Bala Vikasa installed a Borewell, Motor, Pipeline and Overhead Tank with Household Taps in her locality. Speaking of how it has changed things for her, a happy Thati Lakshmi says, " I do not have to go anywhere for water nor do I have to wait for hours nor engage in quarrels with other community members. Water comes to my doorstep now. I am now able to utilize that time and energy in doing other household chores." Speaking of the impact on the community she says that there is a great level of unity among the villages after the project was initiated and there is a lot of dialogue that is happening in order to solve similar problems of the community.



BORE WELL WITH HAND PUMPS



Ensuring Continuous Water Supply through Bore wells and Hand Pumps

Bore wells and Hand pumps are used primarily by rural India for accessing water. Most of these are not situated across the terrain but are put up at the center of a big village. The people living on the edges of the village or in the surrounding hamlets have to walk all the way to fetch water every single day. Besides, several of these have dried up or cannot cater anymore to a growing population. This leads to several conflicts among the users.

Bala Vikasa has been implementing Bore wells with manually operated hand pumps project for the past 27 years and has supported rural communities of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states with more than 6500 wells to ensure a continuous supply of potable water to over 1.2 million people. These really came to the rescue of the people who could redeem their time and energy and invest in something more productive. Sopar, Frank Water, Novara and SFC, have supported greatly in the execution of this project.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Bala Vikasa motivated the community members to form a committee for the project. The community identified and procured a convenient place for the bore well. To infuse the ownership sense, communities are asked to contribute 15% of the project cost in the form of membership fee. Bore wells were drilled to a depth of 250 feet with a proper casing. Hand pumps were installed on the bore wells with a platform constructed to enable water fetching. The community contributed labor for the soak pit.

Also, Schools in Canada were educated on the problems of accessing potable water in India to which students responded by pledging to work small jobs and send their earnings to support bore wells in India. Many people from Italy, facilitated by Novara Italy and School for Children, sponsored bore wells in memory of their loved ones or as a memory of some importance occasions.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

6,350
Bore Wells installed

191,615
families benefitted

2016-17

126
Bore Wells installed

4,452
families benefitted

Program Impact

- Continuous access to potable water
- Time and energy for productive things
- Peace and harmony in the community
- Improved public health

Case Study

BOREWELL RESTORES NAINALA RAMULAMMA'S SELF ESTEEM

About 350 families residing in the K. L. Mahendranagar slum of Warangal district have been facing a major problem with accessing clean drinking water. Though there are three bore well they have been largely inadequate and fetching water from there is often accompanied by everyday quarrels among the community members. Knowing Bala Vikasa's initiative of providing Bore wells, people of this area requested Bala Vikasa to intervene.

Bala Vikasa set up two borewell in this local after interacting with the community members, mobilizing their support and local contribution. There was sufficient water in the place that was identified for the borewell and the joy of the residents knew no bounds.

Speaking of the impact, NainalaRamulamam one of the Leaders in the Women Self Help Group (DWACRA)

in the slum says, "We didn't have any water facility in our house. So we used to go around asking for water from our neighbours. While largehearted people helped initially, the month of summer did not yield sufficient water for the neighbours. So they refused to share the water with us. Once we got the Bore well here, I don't have to stretch my hand in front of others anymore. We get adequate amount of water here and every is done in a very organized manner."





Advocating Sustainable Agriculture through Organic Farming

Against the backdrop of rampant industrial agriculture and chemical intensive food production, Bala Vikasa is leading the campaign for food security through sustainable agricultural practices that are expressly profitable for the small farmer, the consumer, the community and the environment at large.

Bala Vikasa has devoted itself to turning the farmers away from chemical farming, a practice that is highly capital intensive and has damaging consequences on their sustenance and survival; not to forget the adverse effects it has on human health and environment. Alternatively, farmers are being encouraged to embrace organic farming in order to increase their crop yield, reduce their crop-investment and maximize their profits thereby ensuring their economic progress.

Farmers are also being appraised of the benefits of organic inputs in order to wean them away from the use of potent chemical formulations in the form of pesticides and fertilizers. The top priority of Bala Vikasa is to reduce the use of toxic substances that result in air, water and food contamination while negatively impacting soil fertility. Bala Vikasa's efforts are markedly directed at using organic wastes and bio fertilizers thereby conserving soil and water, maintaining the ecological balance, preventing health risks and ensuring sustainability for the upcoming generations.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Bala Vikasa organized a series of meetings for the farmers to make them aware of the consequences of using chemical fertilizers, the financial benefits of organic farming and made persistent efforts towards reverting them back to agricultural practices that are safe and sustainable.

The farmers were motivated and taken into confidence to start organic farming in a portion of their fields to see the difference for themselves. In order to achieve effective results, several organic inputs were provided to the farmers.

They were also trained in the preparation of different

types of organic manures, decoctions and plant growth vitalizing agents that are suited specifically to their crops and the problems that afflict them.

Bala Vikasa staff made weekly visits to the farmers to assess the crop situation, identify anomalies, assist with the preparation and spraying of organic decoctions and track the progress being made.

Bala Vikasa's intensive capacity building programs, continued monitoring and use of innovative methods in program implementation has made it possible for the farmers to benefit to the maximum.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

470

Organic farmers enrolled

4

Districts of Telangana

598

Acres Under cultivation

13

Varieties of crops

2016-17

158

New organic farmers enrolled

160

Acres under cultivation

Program Impact

- Reduction in crop investment
- Increase in crop yield
- Increase in net profits
- Zero chemical fertilisers and pesticides used
- Healthy organic food produced
- Farm land replenished
- Reduced air and water pollution
- Ecological balance maintained



Providing Supporting Mechanisms to Ensure Positive Outcomes

Organic manual to guide the farmers in achieving exceptional results

The organic manual, a multi-coloured guide, which lays out different methods of organic farming, crop based diseases and respective organic remedies, precautionary measures, preparation and application methods of organic inputs was published for the benefit of organic farmers. This handy booklet is designed to aid the farmer in the day-to-day practice for better results.

Maintaining farm journals for accurate assessment and evaluation

Bala Vikasa encourages the farmers to maintain a journal to record the number and type of crops sown, identified problems, types and amounts of manures and pesticides prepared, frequency of applications and so on using a methodological and scientific approach. These journals serve as proof of practice and are checked by Bala Vikasa field staff on their weekly visits. These records make it possible to assess the success of their practice precisely, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Exposure visits to witness latest innovations and learn best practices

In order to keep the farmers updated on the latest advances in farming science and facilitate valuable knowledge exchange, multiple exposure visits were organized. The visits were highly successful in inspiring the confidence of the farmers in seeing organic farming as a viable way of agriculture.

PLACE OF VISIT

OBSERVATIONS AND LEARNINGS

NIPHM
(National Institute of Plant Health Management),
Hyderabad.

Plant Health Management, Nutrition, Disease Management, Innovative Farming Techniques, Bio Fertilizers (Azolla, mychorrhizae, trichoderma, azosperillam, etc), Pest controls (Neem and NPV Virus application)

Rama Rao,
Spine Gourd Farmer,
Koya Chiluka, Khammam

Cultivating Momoricadica Dirica (Spine Gourd) with less investment and getting more income through traditional agricultural practices

Gannaram Village,
Rayaparthi, Warangal

Observe, Understand and learn the various seed cultivations like Novara Paddy

Ramadevi
Organic Chilli Farmer
Kanuvanga, Nagarkarnool

Growing organic chillies and preventing and reducing the high infestation of diseases and pest only through organic remedies
Marking organic Chilli seeds



Training Farmers for Increased Efficiency

Bala Vikasa provided capacity building to different stakeholders in order to bridge knowledge gaps existing at different levels. Group Meetings were conducted to ensure coordination and cohesion among the group members. Trainings were given to group leaders at Bala Vikasa Training Center to enhance their leadership skills and make them adept at program management. A training on organic farming techniques was given to all the farmers at the beginning of every season in order to achieve better results.

HELD	ON	FOR
2 seasonal trainings conducted	Crop rearing techniques, predicting pest and diseases attacks, preparing organic remedies, organic manure preparations, evaluating monsoon, contingency plans, formation of alleys, installation of pheromone traps and colour strips, q and a sessions	628 practicing organic farmers
12 group meetings	Registered farmers, their finances and savings, crop situation, plans for the next month	513 organic farmers
8 monthly training programs	Leadership qualities, public speaking skills, community mobilization, planning, monitoring, coordination and evaluation, program review, monitoring and evaluation, emerging trends, government subsidies, program implementation	326 participants



Comparative Sheets

Comparative Sheets are displayed in all 23 villages where organic farming is being taken up comparing the details of methods, costs, and net income for both organic and non-organic farmers. By seeing this others are enthused to join the program.

Challenge Boards

Further, Challenge Boards are installed in all the organic farms specifying that if any farmer practicing organic methods is proved to be a farce, they will be fined and removed from group.



Inspiring Non-Organic Farmers to Embrace Organic Farming

Demo Farms Inspire and Influence the Shift to Organic Farming in a Big Way

In order to showcase the benefits of organic farming and attract more farmers to organic farming, 'Demo Farms' were established in 11 villages along the roadside. A variety of crops were grown in these farms using only organic practices.

With the provision of organic inputs and constant monitoring and support from Bala Vikasa staff, the farmers were able to achieve exemplary results. Furthermore, the farmers were given cash incentives.

All this piqued the interest of several non-organic farmers of the surrounding communities. Hundreds of farmers visited these demo farms to make sense of the methods of cultivation being followed, organic inputs being used, the resulting benefits and evinced interest in shifting to organic farming.

43 ACRES UNDER DEMO FARMS

- 6 Farms of 5 Acres
- 3 Farms of 3 Acres
- 2 Farms of 2 Acres

Crops grown

Paddy, Maize, Turmeric, Groundnuts, Green Gram, Bengal Gram, Onions, Chillies, Cotton, Wheat and Vegetables.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Using Azolla Beds for Enriched Nutrition

Azolla is an aquatic fern (Pteridophyte), floating on the water surface of flooded rice fields, small ponds, and canals and is well known for its nitrogen fixing capability. It is extremely useful as it can assimilate atmospheric nitrogen to the cavities located at the lower side of the leaf providing them much needed nutrients. During this year, 7 Azolla beds were cultured benefiting 70 acres of paddy farms.



Growing Novara, a Premium Variety of Paddy

Novara, a unique variety of paddy is being grown in the demo farm located in Gannaram village. This particular variety is known for its use by diabetic patients and sells at a premium price. This is drawing the attention of many farmers, as they are able to envision better profits for themselves due to its heavy demand in the market.

Taking the Risk of Growing Organic Chili and Succeeding

Normally, farmers do not take up chili farming in organic methods because there are concerns of heavy infestation of pests and diseases. Under such conduction, Bala Vikasa motivated one farmer to cultivate chili in 1 acre. Experimentation with organic manures and Bio extracts helped in reducing fungus formation to almost zero. By observing growth and yield of chili, many chili farmers got inspired and decided to take up organic farming.



Applying for Crop Certification to Access Global Markets

In order to penetrate international markets and increase revenues through exporting activity, 252 farmers applied for crop certification for C II level from Agricultural and Processed food products Export Development Authority (APEDA), a unit established by Government of India, to lay quality standards of fruits and vegetables for exporting.

Inspired by the Results, KCF Hong Kong extends funding to the Organic Farming Program

KCF Hong Kong, a funding agency that supported water purification and watershed programs in the past, was greatly encouraged by the success of Bala Vikasa's Organic Farming Program. Convinced by the positive impact of this program on the lives of the small farmers and the environment by and large, KCF Hong Kong came forward with funding to expand the program to new villages benefitting hundreds of farmers. This reflects the growing endorsement among the global community about organic farming and the role of Bala Vikasa in spearheading the initiative.



Annual Convention on Organic Farming

Bringing Together all the Stakeholders onto one Platform for a Constructive Dialogue

The Annual Convention on Organic Farming was organized on the 30th of January 2017 at PDTC on the theme, 'Role of Committees in Organic Farming'. The event saw the participation of Founder Mrs. Bala Theresa, officials from the Agriculture department, scientists and researchers working on organic farming, representatives from NGOs and organizations engaged in producing and selling organic products.

Discussions were held on the current scenario of organic farming across the country, the necessary reinforcements and policy level interventions that need to be brought in to benefit organic farmers, creating separate market yards for genuine organic farmers, formulating cost effective ways of going for crop certification and the importance of community mobilization and committee formation for a successful practice of organic farming.

A Memorandum was submitted on public demand to the Government on encouraging organic farmers by providing special incentives such as subsidized



local cows, tools to produce organic inputs and enhanced marketing facilities.

Several non-organic farmers were also invited so that they can know more about the benefits of organic farming and become potential organic farmers in the next phase. All the participants were able to derive great inspiration and valuable insights from the deliberations that were made on the different subject matters.

Case Study

IMPRESSIVE RESULTS ENCOURAGE FARMER TO BRING MORE AREA UNDER ORGANIC FARMING

Vadi Raj Kumar, aged 40 years, has been a marginal farmer practicing chemical farming for the past 20 years. He observed that, with every passing year, his investment costs were increasing and crop productivity was decreasing. This impacted his financial position and he ran to debts. Three years ago, he was invited by one of Bala Vikasa's organic farmers to a village level training program. By the end of it, he was completely convinced by the benefits of organic farming and immediately wrote an application to Bala Vikasa.

Bala Vikasa immediately stepped into action and provided the necessary training for him to start organic farming. He started cultivating one acre of paddy only through organic methods. Additionally, Bala Vikasa provided necessary organic inputs like green manure, seed, neem cake, pulse flour, jaggery and Panchagavya.

In order to instill confidence in him and facilitate better learning, he was taken on exposure visits to other successful organic farms. He has witnessed a significant decrease in his investment costs and increase in net profits over the past years. He is now able to save around Rs. 9000-10,000 per season. Based on this year's exceptional results, he has decided to go for organic farming in 3 more acres of his land.



Year	Chemical Farming			Organic Farming		
	Investment (in Rupees)	Yield (in Bags)	Net Earning (in Rs)	Investment (in Rupees)	Yield (in Bags)	Net Earning (in Rs)
2014-15	12,600	40	80,000	7,100	29	87,000
2015-16	13,600	35	70,000	8,100	36	108,000
2016-17				9,100	40	120,000



Addressing Water Scarcity through Tank De-siltation

Arbitrary and inadequate rainfall combined with depleting surface and groundwater resources have given rise to a new challenge that is threatening the food security of the coming generations - that of Water Scarcity as the majority of crops require exorbitant amounts of water. Understanding the seriousness of the situation, Bala Vikasa has been implementing a one-of-its-kind Tank De-Siltation program over the past 16 years and has de-silted nearly 780 irrigation tanks in several hundreds of villages.

Incessant soil erosion over the years has led to increased deposits of silt in many of the irrigation tanks resulting in the reduction of their storage capacity and a diminished ability to recharge the surrounding ground water tables. By excavating the silt, these were restored to their original capacity and more water was made available for surface and ground water irrigation. Furthermore, the application of silt, a nutrient rich deposit known for its moisture retaining and manure like capabilities, has proved to be extremely beneficial for agricultural productivity. There is a marked reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers, decreased water usage and a significant increase in the crop yield, all of which are not only profitable for the farmer but also sustainable for the environment

Through this initiative, Bala Vikasa has been able to make a monumental impact on the agricultural production, rural economy, grassroots leadership, public well-being and the environment at large while progressing steadily towards land and water sustainability.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Witnessing the impact of de-silted tanks on the surrounding communities, several motivated farmers made requests seeking Bala Vikasa's intervention in desilting the tanks in their respective villages on a day-to-day basis.

After making a thorough assessment of the applications and conducting a feasibility study, Bala Vikasa picked up villages that were conducive for initiating Tank Desiltation. Motivation meetings were organized in all of these villages where the farmers were made aware of the process of desiltation, the associated benefits, the required level of community participation and the resources that needed to be mobilized. Once all the farmers in the village understood their responsibilities and pledged their time, resources, cooperation and leadership, desiltation committees were formed. These committees facilitated, moderated and implemented the program by identifying and mobilizing the necessary resources and reinforcements in the form of people, excavation machinery, tractors and finances.

The Community Driven Development approach of Bala Vikasa places the responsibility of executing the project on the communities and their representatives in the desiltation committees. While Bala Vikasa took up the task of silt excavation, the initial planning and the ensuring transportation activity of the silt to the agricultural lands was entirely shouldered by the farmers themselves. From getting the permission to de-silt the tanks, fixing the timeline of work, mobilizing the tractors, deciding on a proportionate amount of silt for each farmer and ensuring efficient program implementation, it is the farmers who play a decisive role. To avoid any mismanagement or malpractice, the farmers come up with a charter of rules and regulations to abide by during the entire process so that none of the community members are left out or unfairly treated.

This way, the farmers and the communities at large have been able to come together with one unified voice, work hand in hand with other community members, take initiative and provide grassroots leadership as a way to transform their lives for the better.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

747
Tanks
excavated

112,689
Acres applied
with silt

59,401
Farmers
benefitted

3,203,079
Tractor loads of silt
excavated

2016-17

28
Tanks
excavated

6,230
Acres applied
with silt

3,510
Farmers
benefitted

183,770
Tractor loads of
silt excavated

Program Impact

- Water storage capacity of tanks increased by 20-30%
- Water levels in open wells and bore Wells increased by 30-35%
- Improved soil fertility
- Increased crop production by 20-30%
- Reduction in chemical applications by 50-60%
- Investment costs lessened
- Reduction of water usage by 15-25%
- Increase in income
- Community driven development
- Raising community leadership

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Building Individual Farm Ponds to Harvest Rain Water

Rainwater harvesting is an important aspect of water conservation in today's times of growing water scarcity. As an effort in that direction, Bala Vikasa supported farmers with individual farm ponds to harvest the rainwater. This resulted in the recharge of wells within a radius of 500 meters besides enabling the farmers to use the water stored in these ponds. During the year, 30 farm ponds of 425 cu. mts have been dug in the villages of Raghavapuram and Samudrala. The farmers apart from allotting 0.05 acres of their land towards the farm pond contributed 30% of the cost in the form of tractor rentals.



Bala Vikasa's Efforts to be a Subject of Research for International Water Management Institute

Bala Vikasa's De-siltation methods, approaches and program effectiveness were taken up as a study by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Anand, Gujarat. The study assesses the first year of 'Mission Kakatiya' project, emerging problems and the impact on agriculture and food security comparing it with Bala Vikasa's successful cases of de-siltation, lessons learnt and to be drawn under the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'.

Continuing the Successful Run in Karnataka as the number of Tanks Restored Increases by four times in just One Year

Bala Vikasa's Tank De-siltation program continued its successful run in the state of Karnataka as 12 tanks were de-silted this year across the districts of Chikkaballapur, Dhavangare and Kolar.

This program made its way into Karnataka only last year and Bala Vikasa de-silted three tanks. As a result of the efforts, the surrounding communities greatly benefitted from the increased water availability and higher crop yield. This prompted the farmers from neighboring villages to approach Bala Vikasa for similar interventions in their villages even before the onset of summer. This gave the impetus for Bala Vikasa to organize motivation meetings with the villages. With the support from the local communities, the desiltation program has been extended to two more districts of Karnataka this year wherein 12 tanks have been restored. 1998 acres of agricultural land has been applied with the nutrient rich silt to enhance fertility.



Speaking of the Tank Desiltation program, Mr. N J Shivashankara Reddy, Speaker of Karnataka Assembly, said, "I have never witnessed such an initiative yielding multiple benefits instantaneously. I am touched with the farmers' active participation throughout the project. The path shown by Bala Vikasa will pave way for other development initiatives since the community is enjoying the fruits of unity."

Increasing the Green Cover through Haritha Vikasam

In an effort to enhance the green cover in the villages, Bala Vikasa provided 3,520 saplings and encouraged the farmers to plant the saplings in their villages. The de-siltation committee took an active role in mobilizing funds for procuring the additional saplings. The contribution ratio in regard to the plantation is 60:40 between farmers and Bala Vikasa. A total of 9535 saplings, which include both shade giving plants and fruit bearing saplings, were planted in 22 watershed projects covering 89 villages.



Training Committee Members for Successful Program Implementation

To enhance the competency of the desiltation committee members who were going to play a decisive role in executing the desiltation program, exhaustive capacity building trainings were conducted on program planning, implementation and management.



Case Study

ELUKURTHY– TANK RESTORED, LAND REPLENISHED, LIFE RENEWED

Elukurthy (H) is a small village in Warangal with a population of 1,475 families comprising small and marginal farmers. A reservoir spread over 30 acres was constructed around 60 years ago here. Over the years, silt accumulated over an area of four acres with an average depth of two meters. This drastically reduced the tank's storage capacity. After seeing one of the restored tanks in the nearby villages and its impact on the lives of the communities around it, the villagers of Elukurthy approached Bala Vikasa with a request to de-silt their tank. After forming the committee, providing them intensive training in project management and ensuring that majority of the farmers expressed their commitment to the project, the project was inaugurated.

The silt excavation was carried out for 28 days and the tank was restored to its original capacity. While groundwater sources were recharged, the water retained in the tank enhanced the livelihood of the surrounding fishing community for an additional period. Silt was transported by 164 farmers at their own cost and applied in their fields. Farmers could reduce their investment on chemical fertilizers, conserve water and reduce the costs on electricity and irrigation labor. The farmers could distinctly see the change that was brought in by tank desiltation at multiple levels.

- 8009 Tractor loads of silt excavated from 18,020 Cu. Mtrs.
- 1,80,20,000 Litres – Restored tank capacity
- 164 Farmers benefitted
- 235 Acres applied with silt
- 30% increase in crop yield
- 50% decrease in the cost of chemical fertilizer
- 20% increased water retention in surrounding wells



Improving Public Education through Multidimensional Interventions

Though there has been a prolonged development campaign surrounding free and compulsory elementary education by the Government of India, the number of student dropouts from public schools has been alarmingly high. Infrastructural handicaps, poor sanitation facilities and lack of hygiene have been the drivers of poor student turnout resulting in high levels of illiteracy among several socio-economically backward classes who cannot afford private education alternatively.

Over the past 10 years, Bala Vikasa has been working relentlessly in raising the standards of public education through several multi-level interventions that are aimed at bridging the gaps existing in the state-run education system. A sustained and diligent effort towards bringing students, teachers and parents on one platform, bringing about attitudinal changes and rallying them to make a united effort towards developing their local public schools has been the hallmark of Bala Vikasa's education program.

By providing umpteen infrastructural, educational and functional aids, Bala Vikasa has created an extremely enabling learning environment in nearly 500 schools besides running an outstanding campaign to promote a cleaner, greener and healthier environment.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

After conducting base line surveys on the needs of all the 57 public schools that sought Bala Vikasa's interventions, 25 were selected to undergo total transformation and improve their functioning. Bala Vikasa organized motivation meetings where the school authorities, the parents and the students were introduced to the program concept and working, their specific responsibilities, the activities that needed to be taken up and the consequent impact on the school and its student community. Once all the stakeholders expressed their unequivocal support and assured their sincere contribution, Bala Vikasa executed the program with the objective of developing model schools on multiple parameters like infrastructure, discipline, environment preservation, health and hygiene.

The school management, parents and children collectively participated throughout the program in planning, implementation and monitoring in an unprecedented way. School development committees and Eco Clubs led by students with

pro-active parent membership were formed in order to look into the problems that riddled their schools. They identified the needs that had to be met and initiated appropriate measures towards solving them. Students took up the cause of environmental preservation and sustainable development by tree plantation and building of compost pits.

After a comprehensive assessment of the working of these committees and based on certain performance indicators under cleanliness, hygiene, plantation activity, water management and kitchen garden establishment, Bala Vikasa provided the schools with furniture and library resources to improve the teaching-learning experience. Diverse inputs in the form garbage disposal utilities were also provided for maintaining a healthy and hygienic environment. In an effort to make the schools more comforting, positive wall writings and posters were placed across the campus along with increasing the greenery on it. The multi-stage approach taken by Bala Vikasa ensured that the communities fulfilled their responsibilities earnestly and the schools progressed steadily.

Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

491
Schools

1,42,137
Students benefitted

2016-17

98
Schools

30,703
Students benefitted

- Garbage disposal utilities (50 Dust Pits, 25 Doll dust bins, 25 Buckets, 25 Iron tubs, 25 Garbage trolleys, 244 iron dustbins)
- 5346 saplings (4850 fruits and 496 shade varieties)
- 50 classrooms with dual desk furniture benefitting 2168 students
- 7650 library books
- 50 iron racks
- 50 reading tables
- 300 sitting chairs

Program Impact

- ◆ Emergence of leadership
- ◆ Infrastructural development of the schools
- ◆ Schools are cleaner and greener
- ◆ Improved sanitation facilities
- ◆ Increased emphasis on health and hygiene
- ◆ Enabling learning environment created
- ◆ Absenteeism reduced from 30% to 13%
- ◆ Academic performance improved

Training Students, Teachers and Parents in fulfilling their Agenda

Capacity Building sessions were conducted for the teaching staff and the parents in order to cast a vision towards the development of their schools and the students. They were oriented on the program process and the consequent outcomes, which helped a great deal in keeping themselves motivated and steadfast in their pursuit. Trainings were also provided to the students on various aspects so that they can lead the development in their schools in the most efficient way.



HELD

ON

FOR

2

trainings conducted

Motivating children, mentoring, utilization and maintenance of resources, distribution of motivational material

199

teachers & parents

2

trainings conducted

Student leadership, tree plantation, environment protection, health and hygiene, utilization of library resources

372

students

Case Study

STUDENTS DO MORE THAN JUST READ AND WRITE. THEY LEAD IN THEIR TRANSFORMATION

The 67-year-old Zilla Parishad High School of Uppugal village had around 330 students enrolled during the academic year of 2016-17. It was observed that the student attendance was gradually falling but it hit an all time low during this year. This prompted the Sarpanch of the village along with a few parents to approach Bala Vikasa with a plea to help them change the current situation.

A base line study of the school revealed that the school was struggling with inadequate infrastructure, lack of cleanliness, poor hygiene, indiscriminate littering and absolutely no greenery. The school also had very little to offer to its students in terms of co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

Inspired by Bala Vikasa's approach of taking collective responsibility in development, the school staff and the community members agreed to participate fully in all activities that were going to take place. Consequently, an Eco Club and a school development committee was formed with 12 members led by students along with a fair representation from the parents and the staff. They focused exclusively on improving the cleanliness, increasing the greenery, conserving water, maintaining hygiene and setting up a library

in the school. Working on these issues instilled a new sense of leadership and confidence among the students who were getting to do much more than just read and write.

With constant monitoring and regular trainings from Bala Vikasa, they were able to bring about significant changes in the focus areas. Bala Vikasa provided them with necessary inputs like garbage disposal utilities, furniture, library resources and plantations. Now they testify of a completely different learning atmosphere in the school, responsible behavior from the students along with a clear increase in the student attendance.

"I feel very happy about the contribution made by Bala Vikasa in developing the school. After providing furniture and library, the students can comfortably study and spend their time in the library when there are no classes and read books of different subjects and acquire more knowledge."

Prabin Bondugula, Eco-leader. Library committee

Using Theatre and Arts to Spread Awareness on Several Issues Concerning Children

Bala Vikasa organized several dramas and stage shows on the importance of cleanliness, hygiene, child safety and environment protection. These made a lasting impact on the minds of the children urging them to become responsible citizens and work towards a sustainable future.



Bala Vikasa's Credibility and Success Attracts Corporates to Forge Partnerships

Bala Vikasa's model of adopting government schools, creating efficient and participatory organizational structures, providing material resources and creating a healthy and positive environment of learning has made a significant impact on the lives of the rural poor. Over the years, many leading corporate firms like MSN, Virchow, Symed Labs, etc., have come forward to partner with Bala Vikasa as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility to work in the area of education.

This year too, Bala Vikasa has forged partnerships with multiple organizations to revamp the public education system through their CSR wings.



DIVIS LABORATORIES SPONSORS DUAL DESK BENCHES TO 23 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Divis Laboratories, Hyderabad, sponsored classroom furniture to 23 rural public schools in Chinnakodur Mandal, Siddipet through their CSR wing, benefitting about 2450 poor students. Minister for Irrigation, Mr. T. Harish Rao inaugurated the program in the presence of students, teachers, parents, village elders and local leaders.

STATE BANK OF INDIA FOUNDATION SPONSORS 50 PROJECTORS FOR DIGITAL CLASSROOMS

The State Bank of India Foundation sponsored 50 digital projectors to the public schools of Medak district. After doing a feasibility study in all the 65 schools, Bala Vikasa narrowed in on 50 schools suitable for setting up of digital classrooms benefitting about 19,513 students. Teachers from all these schools were provided an orientation of the program, the importance and impact of digital learning, need for interactive digital projects at the school level and implementation procedure. Bala Vikasa took up the responsibility of procuring the hardware, installing the software and ensuring the required digital curriculum was available in both English and Telugu. Besides this, Bala Vikasa also provided the necessary technical training to in-charge teachers on the operation of the projectors and integrating them into the classroom sessions.





Enhancing the Competencies of Development Workers for Greater Efficacy

International and National Development Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Charitable Trusts and Foundations, and several Corporate CSR wings are executing numerous development programs for the public in parallel to the state's development and welfare initiatives. They have emerged to be significant contributors in setting the development agenda, mobilizing resources, developing action plans, creating grassroots networks, offering leadership, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the programs on the beneficiaries.

While they find it relatively easy to generate required financial capital, finding and deploying human resources that are competent, highly skilled and well versed with development principles is an extremely uphill task. With very little knowledge about successful development practices available in the public domain, Bala Vikasa has established the People Development Training Centre (PDTTC) and translated over 25 years of Bala Vikasa's field experience into well-structured, customized and highly effective capacity building modules.

In order to build a robust knowledge and organizational capital in other development organizations, PDTTC has capacitated several thousands of development practitioners across several hundreds of national and international organizations by providing relevant subject, technical and management knowledge. Empowered development professionals, local administrators and government functionaries with enhanced competencies have ensured effective service delivery and optimized results consequently.

Bala Vikasa's Approach

Bala Vikasa has invested the lion's share of its time, energy and resources on making individuals and communities competent, confident, consistent and committed to the cause of sustainable development in all of its development programs. This greatly contributed towards the success of Bala Vikasa's interventions and in achieving all of its objectives.

In order to introduce this successful model to other change agents and development institutions, and increase their understanding of various approaches of community driven development, Bala Vikasa conducted different capacity building modules at People Development Training Centre targeting various stakeholders.

Short-term trainings up to three days were conducted in specific thematic areas to provide necessary skills and competencies to development practitioners from several regional NGOs. Four Week and Two Week long term capacity building programs were organized on the Community Driven Development approach of Bala Vikasa to International participants to provide them a holistic understanding of how to drive community led development in their local contexts. As part of their

ongoing efforts to take Bala Vikasa's development experience to developing countries in South Asia, an overseas training was conducted in Bangladesh. Upon receiving requests from Government and Non-Governmental organizations to share program knowledge, Bala Vikasa also developed customized programs with specific focus as was required.



Achievements at a Glance

CUMULATIVE

283
Training
programs

57
Countries

29
States

2,669
NGOs

1089
International
participants

9947
National
participants

2016-17

21
Training
programs

7
New
countries

8
States

191
NGOs

167
International
participants

610
National
participants

Program Impact

- ◆ Wealth of knowledge gained by global development professionals
- ◆ Exchange of best practices
- ◆ Developed organizational competencies of Numerous development institutions
- ◆ Human resources empowered
- ◆ Increased intellectual capital
- ◆ Improved efficiency in development practice
- ◆ Exposure to cultural diversity
- ◆ Expanded development networks

Short Term Trainings, Seminars and Workshops Provide Insight and Enhance Capacities in Specific Focus Areas

To bring the development professionals updated on the changing development trends, emerging innovations and the best practices of Bala Vikasa's 360° development approach, PDTC organized three-day training programs. By the end of these intensive trainings, participants were able to gain a strong foothold in areas such as effective multimedia documentation, social entrepreneurship and Community Driven Development strategies and methodologies. One-day workshops were also conducted to bring likeminded NGOs onto one platform for exchanging program knowledge and field experience to improve the development outcomes.



Two-Week and Four-Week 'Community Driven Development' Trainings Provide Intensive Training to International Participants with Working Knowledge from the Grassroots



The core methodologies and approaches of Bala Vikasa's unique 360° Community Driven Development model have been collated and developed into two-week and four-week training modules for International participants. Government officials from Ministry of Social Work, National Cooperative Council, Sri Lanka, development students from different universities of Canada and Italy have participated in these trainings. Bala Vikasa not only enhanced their competencies in subject knowledge and program management but also took them on exposure visits to show them the working models at the community level. The theoretical knowledge and practical learning instilled a great sense of confidence and conviction to replicate these approaches in their communities.

Overseas Training in Bangladesh provides a new Development Perspective to the Local Change Agents

Extending Bala Vikasa's practices and positive approaches to small and medium NGOs in South Asian countries, PDTC designed and executed its Overseas Training Program in Community Driven Development. This year, the overseas training was organized in Bangladesh in collaboration with Village Education Resource Center. Participants from various parts of Bangladesh attended and expressed that the content is very relevant to their communities and stressed the need for conducting such training programs every year.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PDTC CDD Alumni from Bangladesh Reunite for A Day of Reminiscing the Impact of the Trainings in their Day-to-Day Development Practice

On December 7, 2016, a one-day CDD Alumni Meet was organized at Dhaka for all the Bangladeshi participants who have been trained over the past 15 years at PDTC. About 35 participants made it to the event and expressed their joy in being able to come together, meet and greet the Bala Vikasa personnel as well as other people who are working in the same sector. All the people shared how PDTC trainings helped in bringing about an attitudinal change within themselves and in the communities they work in, the impact of applying the approaches of 'Community Driven Development' and how it has yielded success not only for the program but also for their personal and professional lives. They requested for more such events to be organized in the coming days so that there is a constant exchange of knowledge and experience for the benefit of all.



One-Day Seminar Advocated for Social Entrepreneurship among Leading NGOs of Bangladesh



PDTC organized a one-day seminar on Social Entrepreneurship at Caritas Development Institute, Dhaka on the 7th of December 2017. Several NGOs operating in Dhaka participated in this seminar to know more about Social Entrepreneurship that is now emerging as a panacea to tackle challenges of poverty and achieve economic development in a sustainable way. Bala Vikasa imparted valuable subject knowledge and also urged the NGOs to integrate and promote social entrepreneurship as an important aspect of sustainable development. The participants were able to see it as a viable way of securing economic development while ensuring the communities and the environment benefits as a whole.

Bala Vikasa Draws the Attention of the US Government to Fund the Afghan Civic Engagement Program

To explore the 360° community development model of Bala Vikasa, Grass Roots U and Counterpart International financially supported by the US Government organized a three-day program on "Bala Vikasa: Hybrid Model for sustainability" in collaboration with the PDTC. This program was held from January 22- 24 for 15 participants from different civic organizations from Afghanistan. Participants were exposed to the key approaches of Bala Vikasa and also taken to a model village and a Sujal water project, a social enterprise model. They were greatly impressed with Bala Vikasa's sustainable and scalable projects and had much to learn from the way Bala Vikasa executes its development programs.





NIRD Showcases Bala Vikasa's Community Development Programs as a Testimony for Best Practices

With a belief that success of training depends on the exposure to the best development practices on the ground, National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) brought International participants for an exposure visit to Bala Vikasa community development programs. 25 government officials from 13 countries learnt the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach and witnessed its implementation

by visiting a model village on January 9, 2017 as part of a training program in Community Driven Rural Development.

A team of 15 International delegates from 11 countries, part of the "Planning and Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects" training program organized by NIRD, visited Any Time Water (ATW) kiosk set up in a slum of Hyderabad.

Also, Bala Vikasa was invited by NIRD to share its 360° approach of building model communities to panchayat leaders from across the country as part of one day Orientation workshop on "Pradhan Mantri Adharsh Gram Yojana".

MANAGEMENT GRADUATES AND RURAL YOUTH EXPLORE BV'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MODEL

Deshpande Foundation organizes Kakatiya Sand Box endeavor every year for providing business exposure to rural youth. As part of this, 43 MBA professionals and motivated youth were brought to Bala Vikasa for exploring the Social Enterprise model as well as a Bala Vikasa Model village on January 19, 2017. The participants were greatly inspired by the idea of Social Entrepreneurship and decided to see if they could integrate the approaches of Bala Vikasa into their professional ambitions going forward.



APSA STAFF TRAINED ON THE APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY APPROACH

Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA), an organization from Hyderabad visited Bala Vikasa to learn about Appreciative Inquiry approach and its use as a motivating tool in mobilizing the communities. As part of this visit, the team of 15 visited the model village, Gangadevipalli, to witness how the communities have applied the concept and achieved development across multiple areas.

The multimedia unit of PDTC, documents Bala Vikasa's development experiences and best practices and shares them with like-minded NGOs, civil, government and non-governmental organizations in and outside of India.

Social Responsibility Series 4 - "SMEs and Business Social Responsibility: The New Era of Business". This publication enlists the opportunities and challenges associated with BSR in small and medium enterprises. It gives an understanding of how small businesses have transformed after integrating Business Social Responsibility as part of their DNA. This publication makes an effort through some case studies from Indian and European SME sector.

Annual Report: 2015-16 Report describes all the program activities and results during the reporting year. The hard and soft copy of this report is distributed among the NGOs, trainees, funding agencies, and other stakeholders.

Vikasa Tharangini: A newsletter is published once in every 4 months i.e. in May, September and January to share the updates of all Bala Vikasa's Community Driven Development programs. The e-copy of Tharangini is circulated among the NGOs and printed copy in English and local language is distributed among all the stakeholders, partners and donors.

Sharing Series-13 "Model Communities - The Cohesive Future": This publication describes the approach of Bala Vikasa in developing model villages and serves as a guide to the government and Corporates, who adopt villages as part of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana scheme launched by the Prime Minister.

bala vikasa international center
For Business For Good

SMEs & BUSINESS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:
THE NEW ERA OF BUSINESS

bvric

Social Responsibility Series 4

bala vikasa
Helping Communities Help Themselves

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15



TESTIMONIALS

Maira Isabel Gamez Salazar, Spain

"The training provided at Bala Vikasa undoubtedly boosted both my personal and professional development. The training programs strive for excellence and working on high impact initiatives. I have learnt significant aspects for my growth and future".

Abdoul Khalighi, Guinea

"The torch of CDD knowledge is quite refreshing, enriching and creating a vision".

Alnadaf Muhammad, Jordan

"I am transformed, learning all the positive approaches".

David Allen Powell, UK

"PDTC is a temple of learning with a splendid blend of culture across the globe".

BALA VIKASA INTERNATIONAL CENTER



Advancing the Idea of Responsible Entrepreneurship

Since times immemorial, businesses have largely been driven by the desire to make profits and to increase the shareholders' wealth. While generating wealth has remained a constant, there is an increasing introspection from all the stakeholders on the way wealth is being generated and the aftereffects of business practices on the society and the environment.

On the other hand, the industry is also witnessing a paradigm shift in the way businesses are taking up a much broader and inclusive business approach rather than the narrow profit-based one. Addressing social issues and preserving environment and resources are becoming integral to the businesses. Over a period of time, a new genre of business practices emerged, termed as 'Responsible Business Practices (RBPs).' These practices are now being recognized as best sustainable business practices across the globe. However these are at a much nascent stage in India due to several reasons.

The Bala Vikasa International Center (BVIC) was set up to engage with start-ups and businesses in integrating these practices and to promote 'Responsible Entrepreneurship'. The programs being implemented by BVIC are intended to deliver inclusive growth that delivers socially and economically balanced benefits to all the stakeholders, with zero or negligible environmental effect, resulting in sustainable development. Bala Vikasa has currently focused on 'Business Responsibility' and 'Social Entrepreneurship' to take the idea of Responsible Entrepreneurship forward.

Advocating Business Responsibility

Bala Vikasa created strong and successful collaborations with corporates and businesses and encouraged them to adopt responsible business practices for sustainable development. The credibility of Bala Vikasa and its field experience in development over the past few decades is expected to play a major role in driving the corporates and businesses in this direction.

Bala Vikasa capacitated several businesses with necessary fundamentals of Business Responsibility which are the current revolutionary trends redefining and challenging the traditional business motives of profit alone and leading towards a more sustainable development based on people, planet and profits.

Bala Vikasa not only promoted responsible business practices in the corporate sector, but also

focused on the Small and Medium Enterprise sector to ensure all round development. BVIC constantly engaged with Industry networks such as CII, IICA, ALEAP, DICCI, IIT-M, NIMSME and engaged them as knowledge partners so as to build collaborations and keep BVIC activities and experiences available at a much larger level.

Additionally, BVIC is well positioned to design, develop and execute the mandated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs effectively for businesses and offers capacity building, advisory and consultancy services to corporates in CSR program implementations and related activities. BVIC ensures that the programs reach their designated objectives and goals, benefitting stakeholders, environment and society at large.

Championing Social Entrepreneurship

In order to promote social entrepreneurship and encourage the growth of social enterprises, Bala Vikasa conducted awareness programs in various colleges and universities to capture the young minds that are willing to explore business in a completely different perspective. Bala Vikasa is greatly focusing on youth and women to take the idea of social entrepreneurship forward.

In order to stir curiosity as well as provide necessary knowledge on social entrepreneurship, BVIC organized many seminars and workshops besides participating in similar events outside. Bala Vikasa networked with people and institutions that

are working on social entrepreneurship in a big way and organized events to push the idea forward.

Bala Vikasa initiated a one-of-its kind fellowship program for aspiring social entrepreneurs, which provides them the required subject knowledge, technical expertise, business acumen and financial assistance to help them convert their business ideas into reality. Through the SOCENT fellowship program, Bala Vikasa incubated, mentored and supported social sector start-ups and early stage social ventures to create high-impact, scalable and sustainable social enterprises.



SOCENT Fellowship – Unique Incubation Program for Aspiring Social Entrepreneurs

SOCENT is derived from two words – Social Entrepreneur. The SOCENT Fellowship Program provides the fellows with financial and non-financial assistance in the form of Incubation support, coaching, mentoring and business development over a period of twelve months to mould their ideas into high-impact and investable social enterprises.

Out of 150 applications, 30 Social entrepreneurs were invited for a workshop and 20 of them selected for the screening panel interview comprising Bala Vikasa Co-founder Andre Gingras, BVIC team, UnLtd team and industry experts. 9 candidates were finally selected based on their skills and the capacity to implement their business idea. The start-up ideas were in diverse sectors, such as education, youth empowerment, healthcare, energy, women empowerment and livelihoods

In the first cohort, 4 out of 10 social entrepreneurs have successfully completed SOCENT Fellowship

program and are ready for graduation. The evolution of SOCENT fellows from the initial innovative idea stage to successful entrepreneurs was achieved through rigorous coaching & mentoring sessions and several value-added training programs. The awarded fellows were provided with 4 quarterly seed grants after successful appraisal of their performance and milestone achievements. The candidates were also provided ample networking opportunities, which fostered some useful connections.



Seminars and Workshops on BSR, CSR And Social Entrepreneurship to Steer Businesses in the Direction of Sustainable Development



Workshop Emphasizes the need for Innovation and Sustaining It throughout

A workshop on 'Leading Innovation: Maximizing the power of ideas' was conducted by BVIC on January 21, 2017, at Hotel Green Park in Hyderabad. Mr. Richard Reochefort, Founder of 'Dare to Lead', a leading Canadian organization facilitated an interactive session for social entrepreneurs, development professionals and corporate representatives. The seminar ignited discussions around innovation and how to lead and sustain it in the participants' professions.

Enhancing the Capacities of NGOs on CSR and Social Entrepreneurship

A three-day workshop on 'CSR & Social Enterprise: A new model for sustainable development' was organized at the PDTC - Warangal from 16-18, June 2016. Participants attended the workshop from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in India. The workshop emphasized how enterprises can integrate social values into business operations and create sustainable profits. The participants worked in groups to understand the sustainability practices, including business approaches and bottom-up community-driven strategies, which will enhance the social capital within the community.

Enriching Experience for International Participants on Current Development Trends

BVIC organized a one-day workshop on Social Entrepreneurship in September, on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in November and on Climate Change & Sustainability in January at P DTC, Warangal.

International participants from countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Guinea, Italy, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Spain, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Nigeria, Guinea, Sudan and Zimbabwe learnt different aspects of social entrepreneurship and characteristics of social entrepreneurs. A total of 90 participants shared about their social enterprises and the challenges they face in their countries. The participants worked in groups to create their own social enterprise by identifying systematic business approaches.



They also learnt about CSR, climate change, sustainable development, business models and funding sources during the sessions. The participants were provided with additional practical knowledge through case studies and exercise on these subjects. The participants have expressed that it was an enriching experience for them to learn new concepts, share their knowledge and experiences with others during the sessions.

International and National training sessions were also conducted on the same themes in June, September, November and January. More than 120 participants attended the sessions from India and other countries like Canada, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Applying Neuro Linguistic Programming for a Transformational Leadership and Personality Development

Another workshop was organized on 'Transformational Leadership and Personality Development' based on Neuro Linguistic Program (NLP), which focusses on positive thinking, behavioral patterns, overcoming fears and limitations, building successful relationships, and achieving state of excellence. The event was held on September 30, 2017 at Hotel Green Park, Hyderabad. Highly experienced NLP expert, Dr. Magimai Pragasam conducted the workshop and worked on the leadership skills of the participants during the daylong session. The participants were able to learn and understand how to develop their cognitive abilities.



Youth Encouraged to take up Social Entrepreneurship for the Greater Good

BVIC organized two youth conventions in the month of March and August 2016 for 4,000 young individuals on social entrepreneurship. Mr. Shoury Reddy, the executive director of Bala Vikasa provided orientation to the students on social entrepreneurship and shared knowledge on creating solutions to the social issues through the development of innovative and sustainable social enterprises.



BVIC COMES OUT WITH A REPORT ON SMES BUSINESS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BVIC undertook a comprehensive study on more than 90 Micro, Small and Medium scale enterprises (SMEs) in and around Hyderabad to understand and evaluate the 'Opportunities and Challenges associated with Business Social Responsibility (BSR) practices' in the SME sector.

The assessment and results, inspiring case studies, BVIC proposed interventions and recommendations along with broader global perspectives of BSR have been encapsulated in the form of a publication titled 'SMEs & Business Social Responsibility: A New Era of Business' and is fourth in BVIC's Social Responsibility Series publication. Reputed institutes, industrial associations, academia and close to 100 SMEs have offered their support for successful completion of this publication. The comprehensive document makes a serious effort in driving the BSR spirit among SMEs and promoting inclusive growth.

BVIC PARTNERS WITH VILGRO FOUNDATION FOR A SERIES OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENTS



BVIC entered into a partnership with Villgro Foundation, a reputed non-profit in social entrepreneurship sector, for joint co-operation and engagement in sector relevant development programs in Hyderabad. BVIC was associated as an incubation partner for 'Unconvention' event in Hyderabad organized by Villgro. Mr. Rahul Bhardwaj from BVIC was part of the jury for final pitch session of the event. Mr. Shoury Reddy, ED, Bala Vikasa appreciated the winners and shared further information on the incubation support that was being offered by BVIC for the event winners and potential incubates.

BVIC also partnered with Villgro in 'Speaker Series: Fundraising Opportunities for Social Enterprises'. Social entrepreneurs, business enthusiasts and researchers attended the session. Mr. Shoury Reddy spoke about BVIC's incubation program, current incubates profile, program features, and the upcoming campus at Ghatkesar, Hyderabad. The social entrepreneurs participated in the event presented their ideas and pitched for incubation, funding and mentoring.

BVIC ATTENDS ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETITIONS AS JURY

Mr. Vijay Kumar and Ms. Anusha Reddy from BVIC participated as panel judges at 'Launch Pad: Ground Reality Beyond Profits', the annual entrepreneurial summit of BITS Pilani, Hyderabad. In addition to judging the business plan competition, BVIC team provided their feedback and valuable inputs to the enthusiasts and participants of the business competition. The winners of the competition were provided with incubation and mentoring support by BVIC for a period of three months.



St. Francis College hosted 'Empact-Plan the (Re)Solution' event and Second edition of Edge Talks (2016) with the theme of social entrepreneurship on 1st and 2nd, December 2016. BVIC was invited as jury for the city inter-college business competition and to deliver Edge talks. BVIC team supported the college in designing the judging criteria, screening the teams and awarding the winners of the competition. Mr. Vijay Kumar and Ms. Anusha Reddy delivered talks on BVIC focus areas around social entrepreneurship and business responsibility to more than 150 audiences at the event.

Bala Vikasa Contributes to the Dialogue on Social Entrepreneurship and Women Empowerment

A round table session was conducted to deliberate on 'Social Entrepreneurship and Women Empowerment', a topic of research conducted by the British Council in India, US, UK, Brazil and Pakistan. Prominent development professionals attended the session and presented their perspectives.

Mr. Vijay Kumar offered BVIC's view on the topic and shared experience from the ongoing incubation program with other speakers at the event. He was asked to moderate and lead a team of 5 session participants to deliberate and obtain common consensus on the given topics. The round table speakers suggested further concrete actions to promote stronger role of women in social entrepreneurship domain.



Hosting Afghan Civil Society Leaders for an Interaction with Local Social Entrepreneurs

The US Consulate General, Hyderabad, and BVIC, in association with Counterpart International, USAID and Grass Roots U hosted an interactive session with Afghan civil society leaders. The event was organized to facilitate interaction between members of the Afghan Civic Engagement Program 2017 and local social entrepreneurs and development professionals in Hyderabad. Delegates from diverse organizations shared their experiences on how the not-for-profit and social enterprise sectors in India function and cater to diverse sectors impacting lives at the bottom of the pyramid. Mr. Shoury Reddy, ED, Bala Vikasa informed the participants about the 40 years of development work by Bala Vikasa at the community level and the new focus areas that are being fostered by BVIC.

Canada Consulate General Terms the Efforts of Bala Vikasa as Inspiring

Ms. Jennifer Daubeny, Canadian Consul General from Bengaluru and Mr. Vikram Jain, Canadian Trade Commissioner, Hyderabad visited BVIC office on September 2, 2016. Ms. Daubeny greatly appreciated innovative efforts of Bala Vikasa in promoting Social Entrepreneurship and Business Responsibility. She expressed her happiness for being part of the Canadian government in contributing to Bala Vikasa's efforts in achieving sustainable development.

BVIC Campus set to Function in Full Capacity from 2018

BVIC is coming up with a state-of-the-art facility on its spacious 20-acre campus in Rampalli – Ghatkesar along the Outer Ring Road and adjacent to the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR), Hyderabad. The 1.5 lakh-square feet facility will house a training center, multiple conference halls, an auditorium, multimedia center, office space and a residential complex. The center is set to become an epicenter for diverse trainings, conferences, workshops and events post its inauguration. The facility also hosts an incubation center and offers co-working space for start-ups, in addition to various programs to benefit the development professionals and corporate sector. The Facility is under construction and will be ready by 2018.

Bala Vikasa 10 Development Rules

Bala Vikasa has derived 10 Development Rules from its extensive field experience. They form the core of our development policies and as guiding principles of our development approaches.

1. Bala Vikasa's philosophy is that **people** are the cornerstone and the main assets of development. Development should be for the people, of the people and by the people.
2. **Women** are the heart of development. For development to be tangible, women must be given their rightful place in the community in which they are major assets.
3. Development is **change of attitude** and it starts in the mind. Self-esteem and self-confidence in one's own abilities are pre-requisites for self-development. For people to change their lives, they have to first reject the 'mendicant mentality' and build on their assets.
4. Development is **solidarity** within groups and within communities. In their search for wellbeing, people are supported by their group. In return they must invest in the group and in the community.
5. Development is **iterative**: at each step of the development process, the question should be asked 'Are we in pursuance of the goal?' When the goal is lost sight of, corrective action has to be taken immediately.
6. People must **participate** in all stages of their development; they have to identify their assets and their needs, and must themselves find the solutions to their problems. They must take ownership of each stage of the development process.
7. Development is **intra-cultural**. People's culture has to be understood and integrated into all facets of development as an important dimension of the community.
8. Development is **long-term**. It is unrealistic to think that development impact can be obtained after a few years of community activities. Change of attitudes takes time.
9. Development is **not free**. People's contribution in kind and in money to their own development warrants ownership and is an essential condition for sustainable development.
10. Development builds on **results and credibility**. Agents of change must show results if they want to be accepted by the people. For an NGO, there should be consistency between the rules and mission, professionalism and transparency at all levels.

CSR Partners



Our Donors



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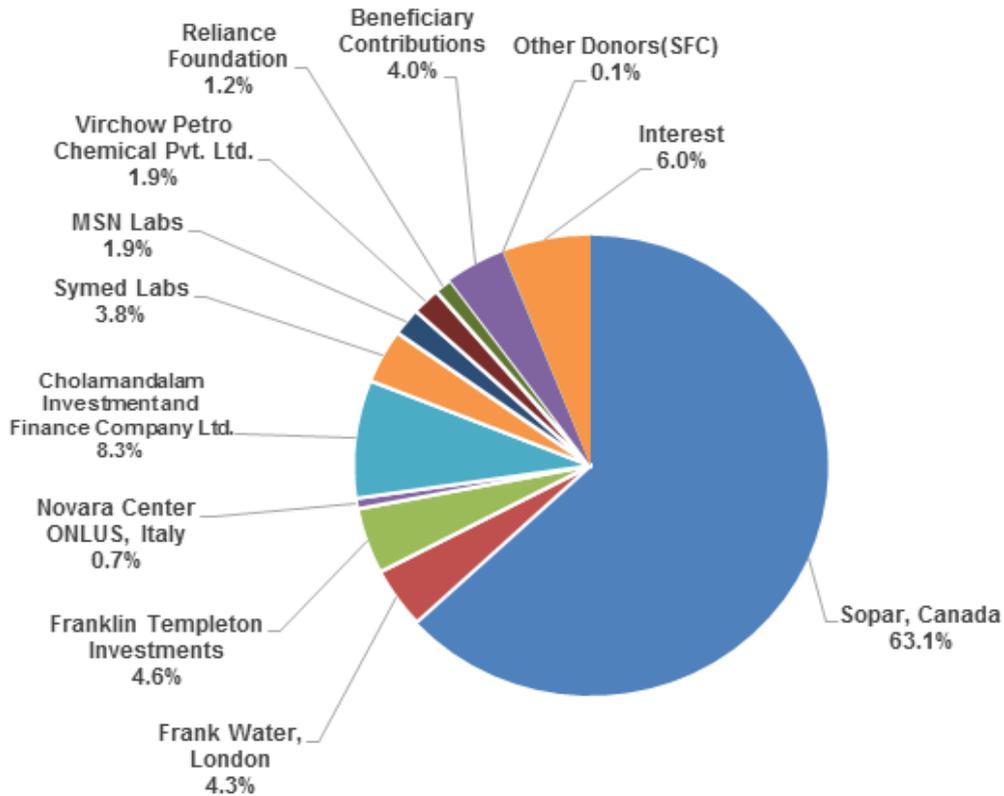
School for Children Italy



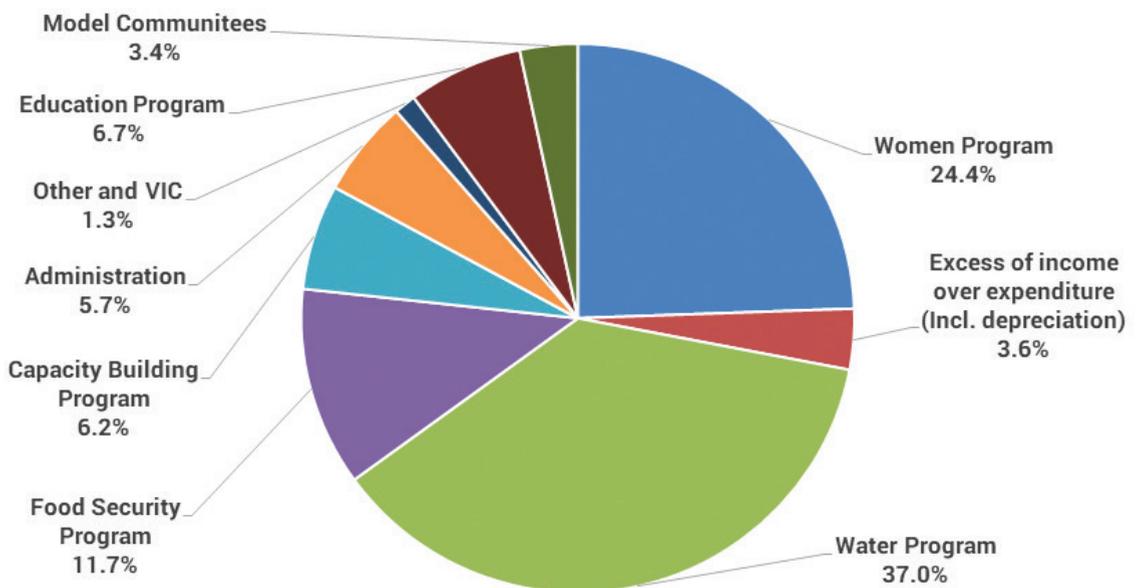
Unicef

Summary of Financial Statement 2016-17

Income Rs. 109,653,966



Expenditure Rs. 110,469,010



వితంతువుల సంక్షేమం కొరకు
ప్రత్యేకమైన చట్టం కావాలి



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