



NEWS & VIEWS

SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

Issue - (2006 - 07)

APRIL - JUNE 2006

An Overview

Sustainability through Participation, Empowerment and Decentralization-II (SPED-II), the new community development initiative focusing on creating development models and knowledge at grass roots commenced in April 2006. The total approved budget of this Save A Family Plan/SAFP - Canadian International Development Agency/CIDA partnered program is \$23,64,300 i.e. approximately Rs.8,27,50,500. CIDA, the official Government organ of Canada for international cooperation and development will contribute 75% of the total cost plan, where as SAFP-Canada shares 25% of the cost by mobilizing Canadian civil society and church structures. CIDA has been partnering with SAFP since 1978 to empower the poor in India. This New Initiative envisages the development and empowerment of 116 poor village communities from Nine Indian states in partnership with 51 local NGOs working at the grass roots. The program also will empower the local NGOs and Community Based Organizations to establish more partnerships and leverage local resources, supports, services etc from partnering communities, financial Institutions, PRIs and other developmental agencies for sustainable development. The state identified for implementing the new program are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

SPED-II

A Community Driven Initiative for 2006-09

Purpose

The program intends to poverty by ensuring the efficient management of natural resources, increased educational status, improved health condition and improved economic conditions in 116 marginalized village communities.

1. To improve the knowledge and skill of partners and to build long term perspective for initiating poverty reduction processes at local level.
2. To empower and strengthen the capacities of community and their grass root organizations for improving access to local resources and for addressing the local socio-cultural, gender, environmental and other developmental issues by participating in local governance process and networking.

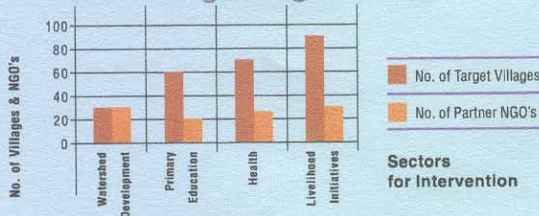
3. To facilitate the evolution of local level poverty reduction initiatives, which are community driven and local resource based in the areas of natural resource management, education, health and livelihood development

Program Reach.

The program reach is 116 poor village communities, approximately 52043 community based organizations with a population of 1150201 members (958329 women and 191872 men) and 51 local NGOs with a from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu

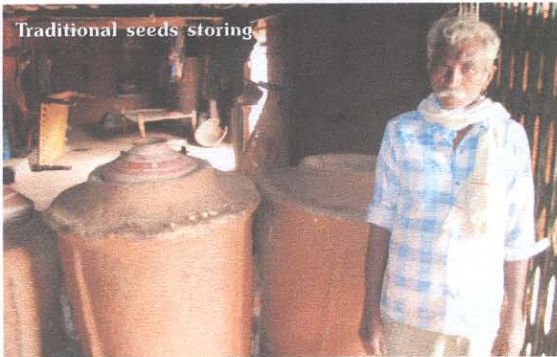
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Partnering Villages and Local NGOs



NORTH INDIA WELCOMES SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

Nearly 75% of the poor in India are either agricultural labourers and small/marginal farmers or casual workers who depend on natural resources for livelihood. Among them 69% are living in just seven states i.e. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Orissa, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh. High infant mortality rate, low maternal health, higher rate of communicable and water borne diseases, spread of HIV/AIDS, prevalence of high burden diseases like Cancer, low life expectancy, less access to safe drinking water, low human/gender development index, low per capita income, low gross national income, higher rate of environmental degradation, higher population density, inefficient governmental systems, low adult literacy rate especially of women, higher



number of school drop outs, etc shows low health, economic, and educational indicators in these states. So any poverty reduction programs in India ignoring these burning issues in North Indian villages is like searching a black cat in a dark room. The organizational skills and knowledge achieved in 40 years of community experiences and the partnership with over 100 local Indian NGOs, 52000 community based organizations, marginalized communities, families etc given sufficient outreach capacity and confidence for SAFP to stretch out its machinery in North Indian mission. This strategic reach out to selected North Indian states was a result based process with long term empowerment and development plans.

Strategic Outreach to North India

The mile stones and future plan in reaching out process

Activity	Stakeholders / Participants	Time line
Earth quake Response program in Bhuj-Gujarat. SAFP opened a site office at Bhuj and fully reconstructed on village with the participation of local community and government.	SAFPI, Moto Varnora. State Govt. of Gujarat	2001 to 2004
First visit to North Indian states and interaction with selected local NGOs	Lois Cote (President of SAFP-Canada), Fr. Augustine (Director of SAFP-India) and Dan Grace, Internship Student from Canada at SAFPI	June 2005
Interaction and ongoing communication with local NGOs	SAFPI	2005 June to December



Activity	Stakeholders / Participants	Time line
Second visit to North Indian states and interaction with selected local NGOs	Leslie Porter (Director of SAFF- Canada) and Fr.Augustine (Director of SAFF-India)	January 2006
Facilitating a perceptive planning exercise in 8 local NGOs from North India and Andhra Pradesh	SAFPI and respective local NGOs	November 2005
Consolidation of the results of perspective planning exercises conducted in 8 local NGOs		To be added
Preparation and submission of program proposal to CIDA incorporating the need of poverty stricken areas of North India	SAFPI & SAFPC	November 2005
Former affiliation and partnership with SAFF programs for implementing SAFF/CIDA program		March 2006
Regional meeting of the NGO directors from North Indian partner NGOs conducted in Nagpur, Maharashtra.	All the partner NGO Directors from North India	June 2006
Annual Program Planning and Evaluation workshop	All the partner NGO from North India	August-September 2006
Opening Informal regional office for North India operation in Nagpur, Maharashtra.	SAFPI	January 2007????

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Any efforts in promoting good governance should produce new learning and insights which should further empower the community and their organizations for policy advocacy. On going refraining and action is necessary to achieve sustainability in promoting governance process. Adopting an approach of participatory democracy i.e. ongoing analysis of the policy agenda of governments at different levels and ongoing vigilance & watch of local civil society organizations are essential for good governance. Such analysis and reflection of the civil society organizations should be data based, result oriented and knowledge based. The present structure and orientation of NGOs and civic organizations are not conducive for doing such a kind of analysis and reflection rooted in long term developmental perspective. Their conventional footing should be changed and be

Welcome

We warmly welcome Mr. Kavin Herman and Ms. Koh Gillian A. students of Bachelors degree in Justice & Peace from King's University College at the University of Western Ontario, Canada for their three month long internship in Save A Family Plan.

We are also welcoming Sr. Teena Jose C.M.C. and Mr. Sajan Poulouse as new staff members of Save A Family Plan India.

We warmly welcome Ms. Soumya M.U. MSW 3rd semester student from De Paul Institute of Science and Technology, Angamaly for her concurrent field work placement.



New NGO partners from North and central India participating in SPED-II

States	Diocese/ Congregation	New NGO Partners
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Hyderabad Arch diocesan Social service Society (HASS)
Chhattisgrah	Raipur	Raipur Diocesan Social Welfare Society
Gujarat	Pondicherry Sisters	Prem Nivas Social Development Trust
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Indore Diocesan Social Service Society
	Jabalpur	Jabalpur Diocesan Social Service Society
	Jhabua	Thabna Diocesan Social Service Society
Maharashtra	Chanda	Loksamgrah Social Service Society
Orissa	Balasure	Balasure Diocesan Social Service Society

strengthened to perform the new & relevant roles of NGOs. The new role of NGOs and civic organizations are creating new knowledge and skills from every action for greater policy advocacy process at many levels. After the economic liberalization process, from 1991 onwards the Government has recognized and created space for NGOs to evolve as creative actors in the development of the country favoring initiatives that promote poverty alleviation.

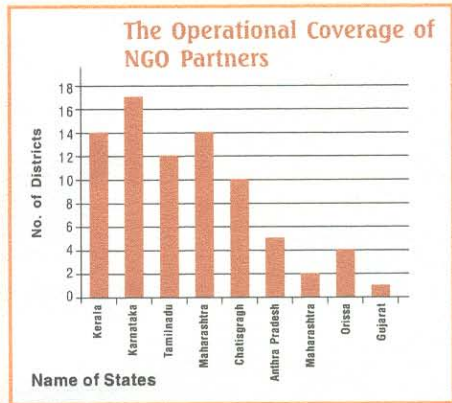
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The different sectors, target, states and respective partner NGOs are as follows:-

Sectors	Target	States	Partner NGOs
Integrated Watershed Development	32 village communities	Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu	32
Promoting Basic and Primary Education	60 village communities	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	20
Improving Health Status of Communities	69 village communities	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	23
Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives and Micro-Enterprises	87 village communities	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	29
Gender Mainstreaming	52043 Community Organizations	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	51
Environment Consciousness Building	52043 Community Organizations	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	51
Capacity Building and Promoting Good Governance	52043 Community Organizations	Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgrah, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu	51

Human and Institutional Capacity of Partnering Local NGOs

We have 51 Partnering local NGOs with strong people base and experience in community organization, community resources mobilization and winners for establishing partnerships for achieving sustainable development. They are facilitating 52043 community based organizations with a population of 1150201 members (958329 women and 191872 men) and have reached out to approximately 18700 villages comprised of 2828103 households with their ongoing programs. 1456 full time staff (844 Women and 612 men) and 64791 volunteers (58249 women and 20328 men) have been working through these organizations to reduce poverty and achieve sustainability.

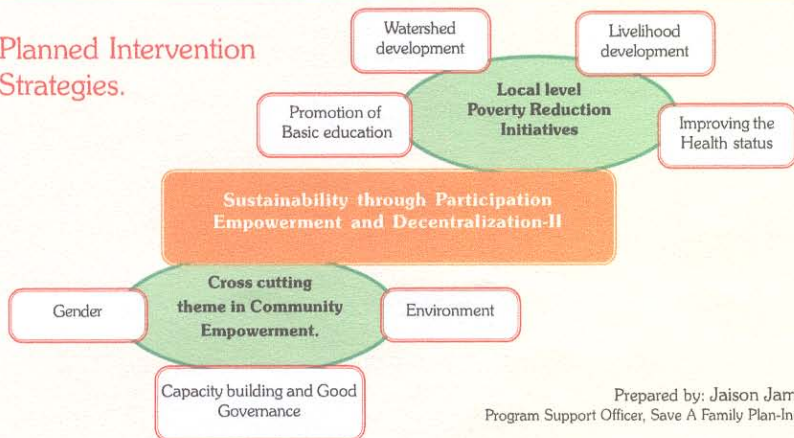


Planned Strategies and Activities.

Sectors	Planned strategies and activities
Integrated Watershed Development	Community organization and capacity building, data base creation, Micro planning and designing of interventions, Implementation and monitoring of activities.
Promoting Basic and Primary Education	Adult education, literacy, readmitting school drop outs back to school, community education and support services, supplementary education for school children, improving parents participation in education

Sectors	Planned strategies and activities
Improving Health Status of Communities	Community Health Education, Immunization and Preventive measures, mothers and child care, starting Primary Health centers, periodic medical check ups, community health monitoring, issues related with HIV/AIDS
Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives and Micro-Enterprises	Capacity building and support services, Promotion of micro-enterprises & livelihood activities
Gender Mainstreaming	Capacity building and resource team building, Gender policy and strategy formulation, Application of GIA tools, publication of hand books
Environment Consciousness Building	Capacity building and resource team building, Environment policy and strategy formulation, Application of EIA process, publication of hand books
Capacity Building and Promoting Good Governance	Human and institutional capacity building,, conducting review meeting of action research, program planning and evaluation, resource team formation, Good Governance

Planned Intervention Strategies.



Prepared by: Jaison James
Program Support Officer, Save A Family Plan-India

P. I. P.

Annual Program Implementation Planning

The SPED-II implementation planning process involved a sequence of consultations, deliberations and exchange of ideas within SAFPI and among the partner NGOs. SAFPI team including governing board members, local NGO team and diverse experts on gender, environment, good governance, participatory methodologies etc were dynamically participated to build up a shared perspective on the approaches and strategies to be adopted.



Planning starts from grass roots WIN Society, Alleppey

'Good Governance'

is a word that first appeared in early 90's in the ambient of globalization and economical liberalization. Economical liberalization and subsequent changes in the socio-political systems changed the parameters and perceptions of poverty & development. It also redefined the roles and responsibilities of public, private and voluntary sectors. Making tangible results or producing more from less became inevitable for the sustainability of the above sectors. The Government still remains the key facilitator of economical development and the provider of all the most basic services such as justice system, human rights protection, law and order, social security systems, currency, etc to the public. If the service delivery and law enforcement system of government is inefficient, it will be a bottleneck for the development of the country. The need and urgency for promoting good governance evolved in this context

Good governance could be defined as a process of understanding the political dynamism and dimensions for facilitating democratic functioning. In other words, it is a strategy to address poverty by promoting the ability of civil society to effectively respond to ensure the efficient performance of public institutions. According to Adam Smith, father of modern capitalism, stated in his book; 'wealth of nations' that 'government is necessary to govern the least'. The public in general and especially the poor and the marginalized are the prime stakeholders of governmental services and hence naturally the poor are the victims of bad governance. When the key reasons for poverty were critically analyzed,

the policy frame work of the government is the root causes of poverty. So unless and until the policy frame work of the government is not conducive for development, the efforts of private or voluntary sector will not be worth the effort. So any efforts to address poverty should be started with promoting good governance in government. This is the logic behind many national governments, international and UN led developmental agencies for promoting good governance.

The inefficiency of the governmental system is a centre of public debate over many decades and any effort to improve its efficacy has not yet produced any tangible results. The media and judiciary have not yet given a sustainable

solution for this. Various administrative reforms commissions recommended massive restructuring and reform measures to improve the responsiveness of government programs to public needs. Local people may say; the local Panchayat is corrupted, it may be true, but the crucial generation is what they have done to correct it. Erection of PRI paved a new path for political decentralization, which is one of the methodologies for promoting good governance. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments for erecting PRIs have given tremendous space and opportunities for the civil society to get a stake in the governance process. The reforms in government and the empowerment of the people should go hand in hand. The

local people are the primary stakeholders of the works of a local self government and local public institutions. So the local community should be empowered to validate the performance of local institutions so as to improve the responsiveness of local institutions to local needs. This will be achieved by promoting a process of capacity and empowerment process at local level. The NGOs and civil society groups should regularly analyze and appraise the policy agenda and programs of governments at different levels including local government with the support of data base. This is not only applicable to governmental structures but also to all the institutions that render services to the public.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

A Road Map To Development

There are eight *Principles of Good Governance*. Any efforts of civil society and its organizations to promote good governance should be based on these principles.

Equity: Governmental services should be non-discriminative to everybody irrespective of their cast, creed, political affiliation etc and it should not treat *unequals as equals*. It should be fair to all considering their unique strengths and weaknesses.

Inclusiveness: Governmental systems should provide space and opportunity for every citizen. This is the contradiction of Kerala Model of development. The fisher folk, tribals etc were sidelined the past from the mainstream development process

Accessibility: Governmental services should have physical and real access to every citizen in a people-friendly manner

Transparency: It is not the good will of the people who are steering the machinery, but the transparency which reduces the chances of corruption. If there is no transparency, there is more chance for corruption and inefficiency. One of the reasons for the disintegration and total collapse of Soviet Union is lack of transparency.

Accountability: Besides the governmental systems for accountability, the media and NGOs have a clear role in ensuring accountability. Accountability should not be limited to the beneficiaries of a particular program but should

extend to all the stakeholders involved in it.

Participatory: Participation and creating space for participation through advocacy. Enabling the legislations along will not ensure the prompt implementation of the programs, but the participation of civil society has to be ensured

Sustainability: Sustainability of the systems, procedures and programs are to be ensured locally through civil society participation

Consistency: Consistency in delivering services and in good time and cost effective manner. This will be achieved only through ongoing vigilance of civil society.

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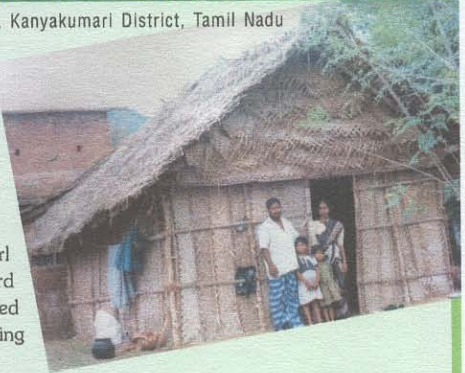
A Quest for Self Reliance...

Partner Family: **Mrs.D.Selvam**, Mathiyasnagar, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

It was a quest for self reliance! Selvam, a young village woman has not hidden her excitement. Her partnership with an SHG empowered her to access SAFF support to start a telephone booth and own up a pre-owned Autorikshwa, which made her and her husband employed.

The old house of D.Selvam in 2000

Selvam along with her husband and two girl children lived in a hut made up of substandard materials. The meager income from casual unskilled labour was quite inadequate for their ever increasing household expenditure.



The Family in front of the present residence and the Autorikshwa in 2003

In this acute stage of poverty and deprivation, Selvam joined in a local SHG in 2000 facilitated by Marthandam Integrated Development Society (MIDS), one of the local NGO partners of SAFF. Her vulnerable family situation and the participation in SHG eventually motivated her to acquire new skills & competencies and to access the support of SAFF's Family development Program. As part of the Family development Program, her husband bought a pre-owned Autorikshwa for taxi service in July 2003 and she started a public telephone booth in November 2004, which made them economically productive. The increased income and the capacity to contribute to the economical activities empowered Selvam to have more access and stake in family and community resources.



The Family in front of the telephone booth in 2004

The financial support of SAFF, ongoing facilitation and support services rendered by the local NGO for identifying a feasible livelihood activity, encouragement and loan from SHGs etc are the key reasons for the success of their endeavors. Today the family has almost cleared the loans, shifted to a house which is livable, increased to standard of living, is educating its two girl children and its looking forward for a prosperous future with more vigor and hope

Her message to other SHG members is very strong and clear; "Search new innovative livelihood initiatives rather than conventional activities; do not imitate the enterprises of others, but discover your own initiative which is feasible in your own unique circumstances!"



Build on the Rock...

A stable foundation is an essential prerequisite for a permanent, strong and relevant structure. This is true of physical as well as social structures. The commencement of CIDA/SPED-II program for 2006-09 resembles the construction of a new house on rock. Constructing 'a stable foundation' in empowering the poor by building long term perspective, ownership and control among all stakeholders involved, especially among the primary stakeholders, is a firm step in development process. This so called 'foundation' should be laid among 'the most appropriate people' by reaching out to vulnerable communities or families and conceptualizing their felt needs in their own perspective. These two are the most core insights SAFF learned in the past decades. Our experiences show that any systems and structures lacking long term perspective, transparency, ownership and control of stakeholders will lead the community to a very desperate state. The cumulative organizational knowledge and skills of past 40 years has now empowered SAFF to reach out to more poverty stricken communities in North India and to engage in new developmental avenues like 'promoting good governance' that are relevant today.

In our Country, governments, starting from local to national, are the providers of all basic services and are the key players concerned in the welfare of the poor. Hence any disorganization, inefficiency or bad governance in government will further marginalize the poor and the deprived. Even though the government earmarks a massive volume of resources every year to minimize poverty, the incompetence of government machinery for implementation has a pervasive effect poverty alleviation programs. Our learning and insights convinced us that *promoting good governance and improving the responsiveness of public institutions* to the community needs are two of the best strategies for addressing poverty on a long term basis. On other hand, unless and until we address the severe social vulnerability North Indian villages by extending the partnership with potential local NGOs there, the mission of SAFF in India will be incomplete. These two i.e. promoting good governance and reaching out to poor North Indian communities are realized today when we begin SPED-II

We hope that SAFF's various organizational potentials like steady and development sensitive leadership in management, committed and well experienced staff, competent program management and financial control systems, new round the clock online networking among the partner NGOs for information and resource sharing, well-organized knowledge management systems etc will add more synergy in the performance of SAFF as a relevant NGO in coming years.

Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara
Director, Save A Family Plan, India

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to this Newsletter.
www.acdi-cida.gc.ca



SAFF-India President, Bishop Mar. Sebastian Adayantharath has visited Canada recently. He attended the board meeting in Canada, visited CIDA office and made a presentation on gender and discussed various issues.

The translation of hotel books on gender and environmental Impact Assessment to Hindi and Telugu languages is under way and is expected to be published by 2007 beginning.

SAFF is currently developing an online system connecting its offices in Canada, India and all the NGO partners. This net based online system will ensure effective communication, resource sharing, documentation and knowledge management among the various partners. The online system will be in operation by May 2007.

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