



SPANDHANA

Annual Report -
2011

Our vision

‘AN EQUITABLE SOCIETY WITH GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE’

Our Mission

TO FACILITATE AND DEVELOP PROCESS THAT IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF WOMEN AND DOWNTRODDEN SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

SPANDHANA IS A NOT FOR PROFIT INSTITUTION AND CONTINUING AS A MOVEMENT TO PROTECT AND EMPOWER DOWNTRODDEN SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY WOMEN. ACTING AS A KEY PROMOTER-FACILITATOR IN THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS

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SPANDHANNA

Message from the Founder Director

Dear Friends,

Another year has whizzed past us. It is an immense pleasure to be able to share with all of you the main activities of the organisation during the year 2011.

The year saw an increase not only in the volume of activities and the people that we worked with. It has also been a period of a subtle shift in the nature of activities. Our commitment to this cause and a progressive increase in our competencies, coupled with the guidance of our well-wishers, helped us in making an impact on the society on many fronts. From a service delivery and implementation mode, we had started a journey towards being facilitators of change with progressive focus on training, capacity building and advocacy.

The growth in the qualitative content in the process of organisational strengthening has also been satisfying. The growing diversity of experience and exposure of the members of the Governing Body as well as the organisation, and the wealth of knowledge and expertise of the advisors, have brought many new insights, and helped in more vigorous internal questioning. The search for answers, and the quest for perfection, continues!

We have been blessed, in all the years, with many enthusiastic and committed youngsters who have contributed in many ways as members and staff of the organisation, and are now serving the community in many capacities outside the Organisation.

As we move on, our confidence resounds eloquently of your constructive comments and assured support. We wish to continue to give people a new experience, one that deeply changes their lives, one that is affordable too. We are eager to embrace a change within, the change we wish to see in the world.

Do join us in our journey!

Ms. Malini Antharjanam
Founder Director

Governance

Our Governing Body comprises ____ members annually elected by the General Body. The governing body includes 1 President, _____. The Founder Director acts as a link between the Governing Body and the Management and attends all Governing Body meetings. A select group of advisors, guides the Governing body.....

The Governing board is responsible for:

- ✓ All Governance issues,
- ✓ Overall organization growth in line with the vision and mission statement,
- ✓ Selection of new projects,
- ✓ Approval of organization budgets and financial statements.

The Governing Body meets once in ____ months and takes important decisions related to governance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The first meeting of the Governing Body (GB) was held on _____, and the issues of --
-- were discussed.

The SpandhanaCrew

For any journey to be successful it is the Crew that plays the crucial part. SPANDHANA's journey, as a movement, also depends on its committed and hardworking co-players. The organisation and its mission would not have been on track without the team, which has involved whole heartedly throughout. We at SPANDHANA, take this opportunity and extend heartfelt gratitude to the entire team, and express that without them it would not have been possible to achieve anything. We hope to count on their support in our journey ahead...

In order to enhance the capacities of these partners regular meetings and, training programmes and events are being conducted by SPANDHANA. Especial care is taken to address their needs and issues of day to day work life. SPANDHANA family would not be complete without these members...

SPANDHANA

Interventions

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES



IN A CAPSULE

It is more than 60 years that our nation has attained independence and since then year after year initiatives are being planned and implemented both by government and other institutions to achieve community development. We as a nation still ranks 134 in the Human Development Report. One of the simple causes for this has been the crisis of ensuring fundamental rights and facilities in the community. Numerous programmes planned and implemented are not need based. The organisation has realised this and as such, the major thrust of SPANDHANA has been in the field of community development. The organisation has continued its initiatives over the years to initiate a mass movement for social change and development. The organisation has been also making efforts to address the crisis of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Facilities for community development. To achieve this, the organisation is continuously engaged in making networks within the community and other like-minded organisations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Anaemia AlisiKutumbaBelasi (Eradicate Anaemia, Progress Family):** This is a unique programme to sensitize the community through rallies and processions, which was conducted for ten days, from 09th to 19th March 2011, in the villages of Channapatna taluk. The objective of this event has been to generate awareness among the community about the damages caused by anaemia and measures to eradicate this deadly health hazard.
- ✓ **Education Fest:** The 09th Education Fest was held on 11th and 12th February 2011. The partners of SPANDHANA and teachers from across the district joined in the event. The issues that were discussed include discrimination in general and gender discrimination in particular in education, rules and regulations in government schools, the qualities required for the teachers to be effective, role of women in

education and various misconceptions and blind beliefs. Cultural events during the fest were the major point of attraction.

- ✓ **One Day Seminar on Women's Health:** The event was held on 08th March 2011 in Channapatna. The Deputy Superintendent of Police was the chief dignitary of the programme. Around 500 women participated and took benefits from the event.
- ✓ **Two Days Seminar on BharathGnanVigyanSamiti:** This was the state level programme conducted on 27th and 28th March 2011. More than 200 members from different fields were present during the event.
- ✓ **MahilaAarogyadadiSamajadaAarogyadaSdigallu (Women's Health is the Foundation for Health of Society):** This programme was conducted keeping view, the women's health, which is deteriorating day by day and adversely affecting the health of all in the society. Around 35 women participated in the event and accumulated information with regard to safeguarding their health to ensure good health of their family members and others. Information on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was imparted to the participating women. The event was conducted on 23rd and 24th October 2011.
- ✓ **Bembala:** This is a counselling centre, which means 'support'. This has been set up by the organisation to extend counselling support to the women victims of violence.



CHILD RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



IN A CAPSULE

Protection of child rights and ensuring social justice has remained a challenge to the development professionals from years together. The efforts are not yielding the desired outcome and because of this the scuffle to ensure complete protection of child rights and social justice needs to continue further. The organisation, since its inception, is determined to ensure protection of child rights and social justice, especially for the girl children. SPANDHANA is also striving to make sure community participation in its interventions related to child rights. To achieve this no stone is being left unturned and a strong network is being built to advocate at the State and National level.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Review Meets on Child Rights:** Three days review meets on Child Rights were held from 14th to 16th February 2011 and 03rd to 05th March 2011.
- ✓ **Awareness Generation and Sensitization Programmes:** SPANDHANA regularly organizes cultural programmes like Kala Jatha and rallies to generate awareness among the community dwellers about child rights and social justice.



UNORGANISED SECTOR (ESPECIALLY WOMEN)



IN A CAPSULE

The struggle of SPANDHANA in this sphere has been the unification of unorganised sector women workers. It is very unfortunate that the women from beedi rolling and construction labour communities, anganwadi workers, etc. are still unorganised. In spite of their hard struggle, they are unable to achieve the status and standard of living that they are eligible for and entitled to. They are yet to achieve social and economic empowerment. In view of this, the organisation is continuing its twin fold efforts. On one hand it is making efforts to increase enrolment of women from beedi rollers and construction labourers in the unions and collectives. On the other hand, it is trying to pressurize the government to effectively implement women friendly legislation and policies to reach out to the women at the grass root level.

The above is not possible until the women in this sector are intellectually strong and their ideological perceptions are growth oriented. The organisation has kept this in mind while framing its activities that targets these women. Support in all terms is being extended to enhance the capacities of women to fight against violation of their rights and achieve social justice. This effort of the organisation over the years is taking the form of a movement.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Yella Karmikaru Ondagona (Let All the Labourers Unite):** This is a district level intervention conducted in the month of January 2011 in Ramanagaram. More than 500 members from different sectors of society participated in the event. The dignitaries, who involved with the programme, include the District Judge, Principal Sessions Judge, officials from Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and representatives from various Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).
- ✓ **Bangalore Chalo, A Protest Rally:** This is a protest rally held on 10th February 2011, to demand the rights of Mid-Day Meal (Bisi Oota) workers. The rally that commenced from the railway station of Channapatna, reached Bangalore rail terminus and from here a procession was held upto Freedom Park of Bangalore. The attraction of the rally was participation of around 10,000 members from all the districts of Karnataka.
- ✓ **Events to Express Protest and Fulfilment of Demands:** These events are especially conducted for the cause of unorganised sectors of women workers from beedi rolling, construction and anganwadi communities. Highlights of the event include –
 - A protest rally followed by Satyagraha was held on 08th September 2011. The protest rally commenced from the Kanakapura circle of Ramanagaram and concluded in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Ramanagaram. More than 300 men and women participated in the rally.

- A Conference was organised on 21st and 22nd September 2011, to discuss and demand rights of the beedi rollers. The event held in the SPANDHANA office of Ramanagaram and participation of around 32 members was the attraction of the event. During the event, the beedi rollers were provided with the information on various facilities available for them. Along with this, few demands were expressed in the event. most important among them include -
 - i. Rs. 125/- should be paid per 1000 rolled beedis.
 - ii. Equal wages should be introduced throughout the state and this should be implemented effectively.
 - iii. All the beedi rollers should be provided with Identification Cards and Log Books.
 - iv. All the beedi rollers should be provided with Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards.
 - v. Scholarships should be provided in the schools for the children of beedi rollers under a special category.

- ✓ **Events for Networking and Advocacy:** Another area of activities that the organisation lays stress is networking and advocacy. Hence, it conducted events like formation and review of the Karnataka State Beedi Rollers Federation, counselling events to impart information about various government schemes, etc., movement to save Paddy, seminars and workshops, cultural programmes for awareness generation and sensitization of the community like rallies, Kala Jatha, public imaging for the labourers, etc.



Expressions from Beneficiaries and Visitors

SPANDHANA has always looked for support in the form of suggestions and comments from its partners to bring in improvements in its work strategies. These have served as a robust encouragement to continue to march on its way of achieving the targeted aim. Each and every expression of feelings from people involved with SPANDHANA motivates us to do something new and interesting and innovate fresh ways of reaching out to the target beneficiaries.

Our Partners

It would not have been possible for SPANDHANA to proceed ahead on the path of realising its dream without the support of its partners. Be it the community and other stakeholders or beneficiaries or the donors, each and everyone have contributed for the growth of organisation. The major players, who have financially extended support, include the following -

1. Mama Cash
2. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust

In the Offing

- ✓ Increasing membership of unorganized sector labourers into the unions.
- ✓ Continued community awareness and sensitization on issues of health, hygiene, child rights, social justice, etc.
- ✓ Implementation of more creative, unique and progressive community development programmes.
- ✓ Programmes for the empowerment of women to participate in Gram Sabha and contribute in the process of decision making.
- ✓ Capacity enhancement events for the staff focussing on communication, reporting and documentation and training and facilitation skills.