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SUGRAMADA DHWANI

March 2017

ISSUE 1-2017

AN UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES—January 2017 to March 2017

Special points of interest:

- SUGRAMA members participated actively in the training programmes of The Hunger Project and of other civil society organizations and NGOs.
- Gaining more visibility at all platforms at the taluk level/state level
- SUGRAMA members raising their voice against the non disbursement of pensions to the poor, old and widows
- Members conducting and participating in Women's Day programmes
- Members reiterating the need for effective implementation of Grama Swaraj and Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 2016 and insisting on demarcation of habitation sabha.

The start of the year saw the conduct of Steering Committee meeting in February 2017 wherein the 12 members (1 member representing Madhugiri could not make it) discussed about the 10-pointers as designed in the November 2016 Steering Committee meeting.

The members also brought in the issues of the taluk level and was found that the major issue has been that of Public Distribution System. Discussions to this effect have been fruitful and members across the 13 districts have been working towards lobbying with the officials and departments to continue the process of public distribution as against the proposal of cash transfers.

The members have been taking up issues of Standing Committee, nonpayment of honorarium and sitting fees, proper allocation of funds under 14th Finance Commission and so on. The newsletter gives in a nutshell the activities of SUGRAMA members over the period of 3 months with the able support of the partner organisations of The Hunger Project—Karnataka. Women's day conducted across the blocks were also attended by SUGRAMA members.

All the Taluk Members

Dear Members,

Greetings and wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2017. May this year help you all in realizing your dreams and aspirations. As every year passes by, our responsibility in sustaining SUGRAMA becomes more vital. This is the time when you need to reflect yourselves as we are entering the 4th year of the tenure.

The members all are in their second year as EWRs. The period has been exhilarating for many with challenges, hardships while some have found success in the endeavor. I am sure the support of partner organisations has been helping a great deal in overcoming challenges.

As SUGRAMA members, you have seen many changes in your personal and public space. Today you are recognized as an EWR which I am sure wouldn't have happened without SUGRAMA. As an EWR, some of you have already obtained ID cards from your Grama Panchayats—this again was one of the major issues taken up in our meetings. The Government acted on it and today you can easily represent yourself as an EWR.

Let me come to SUGRAMA. The year ahead will bring in a new support to you—Jagruthi Vedike. The Hunger Project has envisaged on the formation of Jagruthi Vedike. Some of you members shall have the support of Jagruthi Vedike in resolving the issues of the Grama Panchayats. Now is the time for renewal of your membership as well. Trust all the members have been renewing the membership.

Best regards,

Padmini Ananth, The Hunger Project Karnataka (overlooking the activities of SUGRAMA)

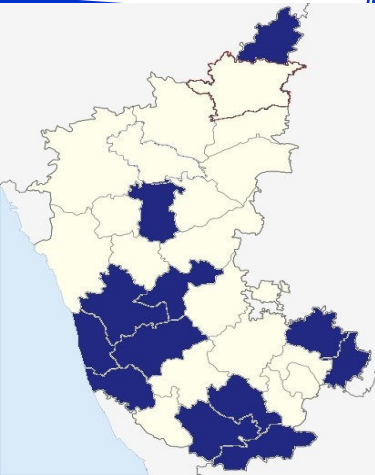
Next Issue:

- State and Taluk reports
- Current status/Achievements of SUGRAMA
- SUGRAMA in the news
- Information on Panchayat Raj—Circulars of the RDPR Department

Taluk Level SUGRAMA



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SUGRAMA is formed in 27 taluks of 13 districts of Karnataka

District	Membership
Bidar	368
Chamrajanagar	171
Chickballapur	132
Chikmagalur	143
Dakshina Kan-nada	245
Davanagere	126
Gadag	125
Mandya	82
Mysore	171
Shimoga	115
Tumkur	55
Udupi	100
Kalburgi	63
Total	1896

The taluk federations have been the major backbone of SUGRAMA. The members of the Grama Panchayats come together at the taluk level through the taluk federation meetings and discuss about the issues of their GPs. Based on the focus group discussions, the members take up advocacy initiatives at the taluk level. While some initiatives have found success, some are still in the process of being resolved. Some of the initiatives taken up by the taluk level federations are as follows:

- ⇒ SUGRAMA members of the taluks of ODP working area have started to document the issues faced by them in the GPs. These are then brought to the taluk level, wherein all the issues are pooled together for consolidation of issues. The memorandums then prepared in the letter head is being handed over to the department officials. They have also been successful in following up their memorandums and seeking to resolving their issues.
- ⇒ Some of the issues thus dealt were—submission of memorandum at the interface meeting to provide compensation due to fire to the aggrieved GP member, Padaguru; list of beneficiaries (intervention of MLA) in Hosagrahara GP; non cooperation of PDOs; illegal sale of liquor and so on
- ⇒ Similar issue of illegal sale of liquor cropped up in Gangasandra GP and Mudlodu GP of Gauribidanur block. The members have forwarded the letters to the Excise department and followed it with visits to the office.
- ⇒ Members following the need for separate toilets in GPs were instrumental in construction of toilets in Hitla, Hiriyur and Neralekere
- ⇒ Following the successful formation of Federations at Kalburgi and Chittapura, the members took up a rally in Kalburgi citing various issues of the Grama Panchayat and submitted a memorandum to the CEO and DC of the district.
- ⇒ Similarly the members of Davanagere—Chennagiri and Honnali brought up issues related to payment, creating more work projects, not to use machinery in the work site and submitted memorandum to district officials for releasing the grant money under MGNREGA.

Women’s Day celebrations across the blocks:

The members of SUGRAMA participated in the women’s day celebrations in the month of March 2017. The members of Shikaripura, Gauribidanur and Gadag taluks evinced their interest of conducting women’s day celebrations in their respective taluks. Following this, the members organised women’s day programmes.

Shikaripura taluk:

At the International Women’s Day event held at Shikaripura on March 13, 2017, the sitting MLA Shri. B.Y. Raghavendra inaugurating the event called upon the woman for independency towards sustainable development. He also urged women to bring issues of violence in the GPs and effective use of women power in the Grama Panchayats.

Gadag Taluk: The members invited the zilla panchayat officials and Taluk panchayat officials to grace the occasion. The event was held at Hole Alur Grama Panchayat wherein the members reiterated the need for effective functioning of women members and understanding their roles and responsibilities as EWRs.

State Level SUGRAMA

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING—FEBRUARY 27-28, 2017:

The 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the Steering Committee members of SUGRAMA was conducted at Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bangalore on February 27-28, 2017 with the following agenda:

- Activities undertaken as part of the 10-point agenda drafted out in the previous SC meeting
- Reflection of issues taken as part of advocacy in the interface meetings
- Activities of the taluk/state level:
 - a. Activities, learnings and experiences during the last three months after SAMAVESHA
 - b. Participation of members in taluk level activities (THP and non-THP meetings)
 - c. Activities undertaken by SUGRAMA members
- Next steps of the taluk and state SUGRAMA
- Membership of SUGRAMA – renewals and current status
- Transfers of membership made to state level
- Change of signatories – Bank Account of SUGRAMA
- Utilising SUGRAMA membership money for expenses incurred by state SUGRAMA members

The members shared their advocacy efforts towards the 10—pointers— Housing facilities, Public Distribution System, MGNREGA, Sitting fees and honorarium and President's tenure. The following were some of the additional issues taken up:

- Need for effective Social Audit
- Separate toilets for women at Grama Panchayats
- Setting up women's police stations
- Appointing Protection Officers
- Ensure effective conduct of Mahila Grama Sabha and Makkala Grama Sabha

The members also discussed about the women's day celebrations. Some of the members eagerly took up the need for SUGRAMA to conduct women's day celebrations across their blocks. The day also saw the successful transfer of bank signatories from the old members to the new President, Secretary and Treasurer. The KYC of all the members were produced to the Bank following which the change of signatories was made.

Award to SUGRAMA member:

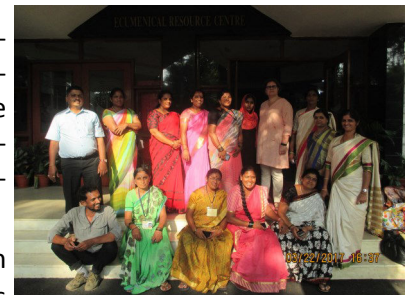
Rajani, President, Somenahalli Grama Panchayat was one among the 9 in the state to have received the award. She was felicitated for taking up the construction of 250 toilets in her GP. **Project Bhoomika, A venture by Eastern Masala, Bhoomika is about honouring women who have been an inspiration for others and have influenced people in their daily lives - <http://bhoomika.eastern.in/>**



Interaction with Ms. Josa Karre:

SUGRAMA members interacted with Ms. Josa Karre, a Swedish delegate interested to know about SUGRAMA. 12 SUGRAMA members of whom 7 were Presidents, 2 Vice President and 3 members were present. Standees were made highlighting the activities of SUGRAMA members—pictorial and newspaper clippings. Ms. Josa also interacted with the members and queried about their challenges and vision for their GPs.

SUGRAMA members also queried Ms. Josa about the local governance in Sweden and issues/challenges of local governance. A presentation on SUGRAMA was made followed by presentations of group discussions (made earlier in the day) on the activities, achievements and challenges of SUGRAMA members.





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CIRCULARS OF THE RDPR DEPARTMENT:

- Release of funds for paying honorarium for the period January—March 2017 vide GO—GRAAPA 50 GPS 2016, Bangalore dated 30.01.2017
- Release of 14 FC grants to GPs and setting aside 25% of the funds under ESCROW for payment of electricity bills—GRAAPA 03 GRAPASA 2017 dated 24.01.2017
- Uploading the receipts and expenditures under 14th FC in Rashtriya Gram Anudaan Evam Vikas Dashboard vide GO GRAAPA 44 GRAPASA 2015 (P) dated 25.02.2017
- Utilising of grants of not less than 25% towards welfare of SC/ST as per Section 213 of the Act vide GRAAPA 440

GLIMPSES OF SUGRAMA—TALUK LEVEL



SUGRAMA—AS COVERED IN THE MEDIA:



SUGRAMA is formed in 27 taluks of 13 districts of Karnataka. The membership of SUGRAMA stands at 1709. The renewals for the quarter have been 121.

All the membership amount are being transferred to the Bank Account of SUGRAMA:

Savings Bank A/c No: 32525017783.—Richmond Town Branch, Bangalore, Mission Road, Bangalore—560 027

IFS Code: SBIN0011352 through RTGS/NEFT

SUGRAMA—Grama Panchayat Chunayitha Mahila Prathinidhigala Sangha—Karnataka , C/o The Hunger Project, No. 4, 2nd Floor, Berlie Street Cross, Opp. Ganesh Puja House, Langford Town, Shanti Nagar, Bangalore—560 025 Ph: (080) 2222 4580, 98453 17795