



# SUGRAMADA DHWANI

March 2016

Volume 5, ISSUE 1

## AN UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES—January 2016 to March 2016

### Special points of interest:

- SUGRAMA members participated actively in the training programmes of The Hunger Project and of other civil society organizations and NGOs.
- Members have also been attending the training programmes and satellite programmes of Abdul Nazir Saab State Institute of Rural Development (ANSSIRD)
- 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 (office bearers of taluk federation) participated in SAMAVESHA held in Bangalore.

Post SWEEP in 2015, the Grama Panchayat elected women representatives participated in the Orientation Programme about SUGRAMA and obtained their membership. Some members of SUGRAMA also went on contest the Taluk level elections and eventually won the posts of office bearers. The quarter January—March 2016 primarily looked at conducting the Taluk federation elections, introducing SUGRAMA to the media and government officials and conduct state level SAMAVESHA. The state level SAMAVESHA also saw the elections to the Office Bearers at the State Level .

SUGRAMA members also participated actively in the taluk level meetings and interface meetings organized by the partner organisations of The Hunger Project Karnataka. The partners are also engaging themselves in encouraging people to participate in Grama Sabha meetings. A process documentation which encapsulates the activities and achievements of SUGRAMA from its inception until 2015 was prepared. The process documentation also encapsulates the journey of the first five year tenure of SUGRAMA since its inception.

### All the Taluk Members

Dear Members,

Greetings and wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2016. 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.

On behalf of SUGRAMA, I welcome you all for obtaining your membership with SUGRAMA. This has been the first elections to Grama Panchayats post 50% reservation to women. Women have spearheaded themselves in the electoral process and went on to become members in both reserved and unreserved seats. In 2015, upon getting elected to Grama Panchayats, you attended the training programmes of The Hunger Project and went on obtain your membership at SUGRAMA. This is your first step towards collective support and guidance. You are now one amongst the 2000 and odd SUGRAMA members.

Let me introduce you to the newsletter of SUGRAMA called as SUGRAMADA DHWANI. As it mentions, the newsletter being brought out on a quarterly basis highlights the activities of a SUGRAMA member or a taluk which has advocated or has taken up an issue of the community. It will also highlight the achievements made by a SUGRAMA member until now. The taluk level activities, SUGRAMA in the news—as covered in the media across our working area and information on PRIs through the circulars of the Government will be continued in all the quarterly newsletters. Case studies which gives you strong message to other women through their achievements will also be presented in the newsletter. Hope you will enjoy reading it and use it to increase your knowledge base.

Best regards,

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

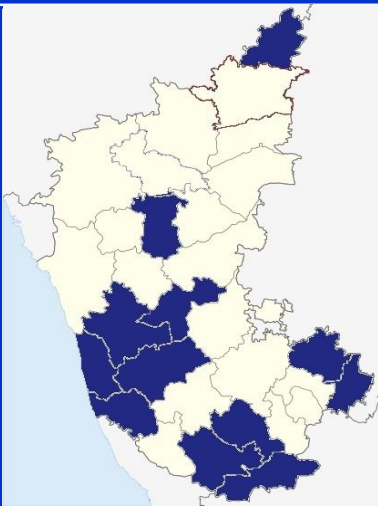
### Next Issue:

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

## Know about SUGRAMA



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SUGRAMA is formed in 25 taluks of 12 districts of Karnataka as follows:

District	Membership
Bidar	299
Chamrajanagar	135
Chickballapur	121
Chikmagalur	143
Dakshina Kan- nada	220
Davanagere	110
Gadag	125
Mandya	75
Mysore	151
Shimoga	115
Tumkur	53
Udupi	100
Total	1647

While this is the first newsletter being sent to the SUGRAMA members who obtained membership in 2015, it would be pertinent to know more about SUGRAMA and place their membership one amongst them and own SUGRAMA:

SUGRAMA –Grama Panchayat Chunayitha Mahila Pratinidhigala Sangha, Karnataka is a federation representing the interest and rights of Grama Panchayat (GP) elected women leaders in Karnataka. SUGRAMA is a platform where women members can come together in solidarity and support each other to bring about change and advocate for better policies.

### Vision of SUGRAMA

Empowered elected Grama Panchayat women representatives in a gender just and equal society

### Mission of SUGRAMA

To empower GP elected women representatives to collectively advocate & practice good governance for the development of GPs

### Objectives of SUGRAMA

- Encourage elected women representatives to be active and effective leaders in GPs
- Support elected women representatives in addressing challenges in GPs.
- Assess the impact of state policies on Grama Panchayats and undertake advocacy in the interest of the SUGRAMA members
- To disseminate information and advice on Panchayat Raj Institutions to SUGRAMA
- Address issues of social and gender injustice

## What is SUGRAMA—How does it help the EWRs!!!!

SUGRAMA as a vibrant organization helps you as an Elected Women Representatives to assert your voices and exercise rights in an effective manner.

You will be a part of a large membership based organization which represents the rights of elected women representatives .

- SUGRAMA will help you grow as an individual and as a leader
- SUGRAMA will help you to exercise your leadership roles, rights and decision making power as an elected woman
- SUGRAMA is a platform from where you can raise your voice against injustice and corruption
- SUGRAMA is a platform from where you can address violations and exploitations against you and other elected women representatives in your panchayat or in your house/community
- SUGRAMA will help you to create a positive environment for more than 40,000 elected women in the state

SUGRAMA is the only federation of Grama Panchayat Elected Women Representatives in South Asia.

### Organisations behind SUGRAMA:

**Supporting Partners:** The Hunger Project, New Delhi; SALAR; Royal Norwegian Embassy

**Field Partners:** ASEDA, Chickballapura; JST, Dakshina Kannada; ODP, Mysore; SAMARASA, Bidar; SPOORTHY, Davanagere; VIKASANA, Chikmagalur

## SUGRAMA—A HISTORICAL BACKDROP—2008—2015:

SUGRAMA, a federation of Elected Women Representatives of Grama Panchayats of Karnataka was formally launched on May 27, 2009 at a convention in Bangalore. The federation, first of its kind in South Asia was an idea brought out by the then GP EWRs. The EWRs while attending the training programmes of The Hunger Project, Karnataka brought in their issues to the forum and felt that they could not assert voices and be a part of the decision making process in the Grama Panchayats. With the issue being the same amongst all members, the thought of 'why don't we form a forum for ourselves', cropped up. The discussions date back to 2007 and 2008 when SUGRAMA was known as FEDEW (Federation of Elected Women Representatives) which was formed by the EWRs through their ideas and were ably facilitated by The Hunger Project, Karnataka and the partners. Every discussions between the EWRs and THP resulted in formulating a structure of a federation – be it the bye-laws, membership, eligibility for membership—who, what, when, where, why and how were all discussed in detail. This resulted in formulating a bye-laws for SUGRAMA which was later on registered in 2010. The year also being the GP elections year, saw the first full tenure operations for SUGRAMA. Upon its registration, SUGRAMA with the support of THP and its allied partners went on to orient members about SUGRAMA and on obtaining their membership went on to look at series of advocacy initiatives both at the taluk and state level. The structure of SUGRAMA being bi-cameral focused on issues of Grama Panchayats and that of EWRs at the taluk level, which upon discussions and prioritization were advocated through the taluk level officials. In cases of intervention of the state, the issue was brought up by the state representatives also called the Steering Committee members which were then taken up for discussions with the state level officials and parliamentarians. In this manner, SUGRAMA was formed in 51 taluks of 17 districts of Karnataka.

In the process of these activities, SUGRAMA also gained visibility and recognition amongst several stakeholders, CBOs at the state, national and international levels. With the able support of THP and its partners, SUGRAMA went on to take up successful advocacy initiatives such as bringing in 50% reservation to women in local self government; increasing the President's and Vice President's tenure from 30 months to 5 years; rotation of seats for two terms; conducting Mahila Grama Sabhas amongst others. While these have been at the state level reflecting in a positive manner at the Grama Panchayat level; the issues of the Grama Panchayats directly impacting on the functioning of EWRs was taken up at the taluk level. Issues such as participation of EWRs in the GP meetings, Ward Sabhas and Grama Sabhas and other forums were addressed through awareness generation and IEC materials supporting the importance of their participation. Further, issues such as non payment of sitting fees and honorarium; copies of resolutions made and minutes prepared, corruptive practices, non payment of wages under MGNREGA, formation and strengthening of standing committees, regular conduct of ward sabhas, grama sabhas and monthly meetings of Grama Panchayat, issues affecting women—VAW, child marriage, female feticide were also taken up and advocate under the banner of SUGRAMA.

While SUGRAMA has not only got recognition across all platforms—stakeholders both at the taluk/district/state level, it has also earned an eminence for its regular advocacy initiatives at state and district level. This being the first full five year tenure of SUGRAMA, the successful advocacy initiatives are evident of the strength of SUGRAMA being the only federation of Grama Panchayat women leaders across 51 taluks of 17 districts of Karnataka.

Upon the completion of five year tenure of Grama Panchayats, SUGRAMA members ably supported the process of SWEEP—Strengthening Women's Empowerment through Electoral Process, a campaign conducted by The Hunger Project, Karnataka to impart awareness on women's participation in electoral process, importance of women's participation in elections and increased reservation to women in grama panchayats. Until 2015, 33% of the seats were reserved for women, while for the elections in 2015-16, the reservation was increased to 50%. To this end, several posters and other IEC materials were prepared by The Hunger Project, Karnataka and disseminated across the taluks and districts by its partner organisations and SUGRAMA members.

Some SUGRAMA members went on to contest the elections while some paved way for new incumbents. Of the 17 Steering Committee members, 5 members contested and eventually won the elections. While at the taluk level, many of the taluk office bearers who contested again also won the elections and opted to join SUGRAMA again. As they mention, 'it was SUGRAMA which gave us support and awareness about the importance of women members in Grama Panchayats. With this in mind, I got re-elected and here I am today again as a member of SUGRAMA' at a recently held meeting of SUGRAMA at Bangalore.

SUGRAMA has now gained the impetus of catering to large number of women members/leaders by virtue of increased reservation and enhance their capacities to become 'change agents' in local self government.

*Federating is a way of creating a strong voice that can advocate for a common cause*



**Governance Structure of SUGRAMA:**

SUGRAMA has a two tier structure – Taluk and State Level. Every SUGRAMA member from the selected Grama Panchayats shall form the Taluk federation. Every taluk federation selects its 7 office bearers (Executive Committee) through a secret ballot system and from amongst the Presidents of the taluks, one President shall be nominated for a post at the state level.

Such a nominated district representative will stand eligible to contest the state level elections to office bearers.

The state level Steering Committee comprises of a member representing their district (where SUGRAMA has been formed). From amongst these members, elections are held to the posts of office bearers—President, Vice President (North and South); Secretary, Joint Secretary (North and South) and Treasurer. Considering the length and breadth of taluks of SUGRAMA, two posts have been designated to Vice President and Joint Secretary.

**Taluk level activities**

SUGRAMA members took up the task of enticing SHG members and the women from the local community to contest the elections to the Grama Panchayats. While supporting the partner organisations in their respective taluks to undertake activities under SWEEP campaign, the members also disseminated the IEC materials in their purview too. The result of SWEEP campaign enabled in increased participation of women as contestants. 52% women won from the reserved category and 6.5% got unanimously elected across the working taluks of The Hunger Project, Karnataka.

**Women’s Leadership Workshops/Follow up Workshops**

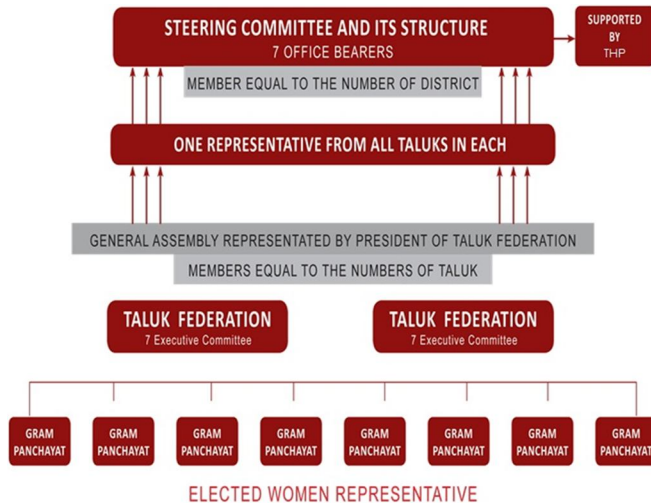
The new incumbents primarily first timers eagerly participated in the WLWs conducted by the partner organisations. The basic premise of the workshops were to impart awareness on gender, social structure, civil and political rights, grama panchayats and its functioning, their roles and responsibilities as EWRs—knowing themselves within and outside the community; understanding their roles and responsibilities as EWRs and supporting them to move beyond their roles. The follow up workshops supported the EWRs to visualize their dreams and aspirations—violence free, corruption free and alcohol free villages; improved food security, educational facilities, health and sanitation and so on.

**Orientation Programme—introducing SUGRAMA:**

Upon the completion of WLWs and follow up workshops, the members were provided with an orientation of a platform to support in realizing their dreams and aspirations. The basic premise of the orientation programme was to introduce SUGRAMA—its vision and mission, objectives, activities and accomplishments and engaging the members to be a part of the platform. The orientation on SUGRAMA enabled women to know of a platform to assert their voices and exercise their rights.

**Taluk Federation Elections—Elections of Office Bearers:**

The elections to the office bearers of the taluk level federation were held at all taluks. This brought in huge response amongst the women and women belonging to all sections and groups participated actively and elected as office bearers. The office bearers—7 in number with President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 Directors were at first educated on their roles and responsibilities as SUGRAMA member and an office bearer. The elections were conducted through a secret ballot system.



Currently, SUGRAMA has been formed in 25 taluks of 12 districts of Karnataka.

Of the 12 district representatives (also called Steering Committee members), 7 were elected as office bearers at the recently held elections at the state level.

**SUGRAMA IN STATE—CONVENTION OF SUGRAMA MEMBERS—MARCH 1-4, 2016:**

Post the formation of the federation at the taluk level, **the process of re-grouping SUGRAMA at the state level** followed by the **General Body Meeting and SAMAVESHA (Convention) of SUGRAMA members** was conducted at Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bangalore **between March 1 and 4, 2016.**

The four day event culminated with the presentation of SUGRAMA's manifesto to the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka.

**The first day of the event** saw the orientation of the newly nominated Steering Committee members about SUGRAMA, background of SUGRAMA, working principles paving way for initiating the process of elections to the 7 office bearers. The members were described in detail about the roles and responsibilities of the office bearers. Amongst the old Steering Committee members, two were appointed as election officers while Renuka, President and Lalitha, both current EWRs supervised the process of elections. Nominations for the posts of office bearers were obtained and scrutinized by the election officers. The evening saw the campaigning of the steering committee members for the elections the following day.

**March 2, 2016** saw the conduct of elections to office bearers. The final list of nominations were read out by the election officers followed by assigning symbols. The day also witnessed the participation of an Advisory Committee member and a Steering Committee member. The elections were conducted in a fair manner under their guidance by the election officers with the support of THP – Karnataka. The state Steering Committee comprising of office bearers and Steering Committee members is as follows:

Sl. No	Name	Designation - SUGRAMA	Grama Panchayat	Designation in GP	Taluk	District	Contact Details
1	Rathamma	President	Berambadi	Member	Gundlupet	Chamrajnagar	9964625704
2	Nethravathi	Vice President - North	Kunkuva	Member	Honnali	Davanagere	8861872074
3	Sakina Bi	Vice President - South	Somenahalli	Member	Gudibande	Chikkaballapura	9164055101
4	Sharada Dalavayi	Secretary	Holealur	Member	Rona	Gadag	9448622214
5	Suvarna	Joint Secretary - North	Dhanoor (H)	Member	Bhalki	Bidar	9483995525
6	Sulochana	Joint Secretary - South	Singanahalli	Member	Madhugiri	Tumkur	9480429778
7	Mahalakshmi. M.	Treasurer	Kanthapura	Member	Nagamangala	Mandya	8277631936
8	Prabha B. Shetty	Member	Katapadi	Vice President	Udupi	Udupi	9738403036
9	Savitha T.N.	Member	Paladka	Member	Mangalore	Dakshina Kannada	9008158564
10	Poornima G.V.	Member	Chandagalu	President	K.R. Nagar	Mysore	7795797973
11	Lakshmi Bai	Member	Hadikere	Member	Tarikere	Chickmagalur	9481629713
12	Shantha Kumari K.C.	Member	Salur	Vice President	Shikaripura	Shimoga	9972994296

Meetings of the federation members both at the taluks and state level are conducted on a quarterly basis through the partner organisations at the taluk level and The Hunger Project at the state level. The meetings provide a forum for members to table out their grievances and upon discussions prioritize and strategize for advocacy initiatives.

**SAMAVESHA—MARCH 3-4, 2016:**

The office bearers of taluk federations of SUGRAMA totaling 175 members, former Steering Committee members, former Advisory Committee members and former Advisory Panel members, representatives of partner organisations and The Hunger Project, New Delhi and Karnataka were amongst the participants who witnessed the SUGRAMA members list out their issues on governance, social justice, economic development and gender. The issues thus listed out were there upon presented by members and then consolidated to bring out the manifesto of SUGRAMA at the State level and taluk level. The manifesto of the state level was drafted before hand taking into consideration the issues listed out by the taluk members prior to the SAMAVESHA. The day was inaugurated by Shri. C. Narayanaswamy, former MP and current Working President, Karnataka Panchayat Parishath and Member, Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act Amendment Committee. Shri. Narayanaswamy releasing the booklets on PRI and Women – Laws called upon the members to work beyond their political lineage towards the development of the Grama Panchayat. He cited the backdrop of PRI in Karnataka and ended up his speech with the recent amendments (5 year tenure, rotation of seats, etc.) brought in to the Act which have supported the cause of democratic decentralization.

The manifesto was then presented to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Shri. H.K. Patil at the convention on March 4, 2016. Representatives of NGOs, CBOs and heads of the partner organisations and media personnel were amongst the participants of the day in addition to the participants present on March 3, 2016.

Ms. Rita Sarin, Vice President and Country Director, The Hunger Project, New Delhi who flew from New Delhi to participate in the SAMAVESHA congratulated the new members especially the steering committee members and welcomed them to SAMAVESHA. She added that SUGRAMA as a sangha was a unique federation in Karnataka which could not be found elsewhere in the country and reiterated that the members should continue the exercise and strengthen it. She added that the insights that she has been receiving from Ruchi regarding the activities of SUGRAMA have been very encouraging and the effervescent participation of the President and Steering Committee members has brought in momentous initiatives leading to amending the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 and bringing in positive impact on democratic decentralization. Ms. Ruchi Yadav, Director (Programmes), The Hunger Project, New Delhi called upon the members to work towards strengthening of SUGRAMA in a collective manner cutting across barriers of caste, creed and religion. Welcoming the new President and the Office Bearers, Ms. Ruchi Yadav mentioned that the legacy of former SUGRAMA members in working towards enabling good governance in Grama Panchayats through their participation and addressing of issues be continued.

Shri. H. K. Patil, started his speech by hearing the issues of the Grama Panchayat members. Responding to the issues and that of the manifesto handed over by Steering Committee members (also briefed beforehand) mentioned that the dues pertaining to honorarium shall be cleared by the Department on a monthly basis starting from April 2016. He cited the measures taken by the Department to strengthen the local self-government - increasing the tenure of President and Vice President and affirmed that the rules with respect to the amendments were being formulated and shall be implemented shortly. He called upon the members to emphasize more on construction of toilets and making the Grama Panchayats a model to others. Giving an instance of increased demand for bottled water, Shri. Patil opined that there is a need to act on the shortage of water and enable every villager get good potable water. He also stressed the need to reduce the child mortality rate which has seen a considerable increase over the years due to malnutrition.

**MANIFESTO—2016:** The manifesto of the state level drawn with the insights of the taluks is as follows:

**Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department:**

- SUGRAMA will like to congratulate the state government's decision on increasing the tenure of the Grama Panchayat President and Vice President from 30 months to 5 years. This amendment will have a significant impact on strengthening elected women's leadership in Panchayats and in the process strengthen local democracy. **Therefore, we would strongly urge the Government to formulate rules and issue guidelines without further delay** so that the current uncertainty towards its implementation is removed.
- SUGRAMA will also like the Government speed up the process **to disburse the honorarium and sitting fees for the new members according to the new amendment (as of now there is no uniformity in disbursement in all the Panchayats) to their respective bank accounts and regularize it with no delays.**
- We would also want the **government to implement of Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act** in its true spirit by also ensuring efficient delivery of services, schemes and programs such as **National Food Security Act, Right to Education Act, NRLM and MGNREGA.**
- Extend the provisions of **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to Grama Panchayats as well so** as to build an enabling environment for women to effectively participate as elected leaders of their panchayats, carrying out their public role, without the threat of violence, of which addressing harassment becomes crucial.
- With more than 50% of women elected to gram Panchayats in Karnataka and Panchayat Bhawans as official spaces for elected representatives to carry out their duties, provision for **separate toilets for women members** needs to be made in the present tenure.
- We welcome government's move towards issuing ID cards for elected representatives in PRIs, however this initiative is yet to be implemented. We urge minister **that the process of issuing identity cards be expedited through** the Taluk EOs.

**Women and Child Development Department:**

- We congratulate the Government for the steps taken to conduct Mahila Grama Sabhas through passing a circular. We demand the Government **to pass an order to this effect and ensure effective implementation of Mahila Grama Sabha on women specific issues rather limiting it to providing awareness.**
- We demand the Government **to reduce the age of the divorced single women from 40 years to the age when she gets divorced or abandoned. This is primarily because many women belonging to BPL category neither get remarried nor are employed and are found to be more vulnerable.**
- We demand proper and effective implementation of the *'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act - 2006'* especially in areas where incidence of child marriage and early marriages are high. The government implement the provisions of the law in its entirety.
- With many programmes & schemes catering to women who are in need of care and protection, **we demand the Government for effective implementation of schemes such as Open Shelter, Ujwala, Swadhara, Family Counselling Centres and Santhwana & make State Women's Commission also as an accountable body to ensure its implementation.**
- We demand the **construction and usage of separate toilets for girls in the schools and functional toilets in all the Anganawadi centres.**
- We demand for the enforcement of **Child Protection Policies in all Government aided and unaided schools and colleges. Further, we ask the government to increase allocation and frequency of bus services from gram panchayats to the nearest institute of secondary and higher education for girls. This is aimed at preventing drop outs of girls as well as reduce the risk of violence that they currently face in pursuit of their aspirations and goals.**
- The Government should look at **providing gender sensitization trainings to school and college staff** and to commit on **'0' tolerance of incidents of violence.**
- We sincerely urge the ministry **to address the vulnerabilities of young adolescent girls at high risk of early marriage and child marriage on a mission mode. Focused interventions need to be undertaken that targets at reducing their drop out from formal system of education** as well as young adolescent girls who have not been able to access the same, especially those belonging to the marginalized groups, (economically and socially) and minority groups. **Adolescent girls at high risk of early marriage should be identified and linked with government scholarship schemes that promote livelihood options, vocational training and skill building.** All these linkages and information should be made accessible with information about the same widely disseminated and promoted in Panchayats involving parents and other key stakeholders.

Some of the other key points as tabled for advocacy at the taluk level are as follows:

- Advocate for regularizing Grama Sabhas, Ward Sabhas, Mahila Grama Sabhas and monthly Panchayat meetings.
- Advocate for strengthening of the standing committees
- Address issues of social and gender justice such as domestic violence, alcoholism, dowry, female infanticide, child labour, trafficking of the girl child and promote education for the girl child and also SC/ ST children
- Advocate for rightful implementation of safety net schemes such as old age and widow pension, public distribution system, housing schemes, educational scholarship for the marginalized especially for BPL families, SC/ST and the differentially abled.
- Setting up women's police station
- Bus pass for elected representatives
- Promote good governance and advocate for increased accountability and transparency in the implementation of government schemes.
- Regularizing the sitting fees and honorarium of elected representatives and make direct payments to their respective bank accounts
- Crop loans and subsidies to women farmers
- Increasing grants to Grama Panchayats
- Payment of wages under MGNREGA and ensuring work is allotted to all job card holders.
- Appointment of doctors and nurses in PHCs and hospitals and ensuring proper medical facilities to the community.
- Demand for payment of electricity bills of the Grama Panchayats from the Government
- Minutes of the meetings and resolutions of the meetings to be passed on to all the members and PDO to circulate all the circulars of the Government to the members

**Address by Shri. H.K. Patil, Minister, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka:**

Shri. H. K. Patil, started his speech by hearing the issues of the Grama Panchayat members. Responding to the issues and that of the manifesto handed over by Steering Committee members (also briefed beforehand) mentioned that the dues pertaining to honorarium shall be cleared by the Department on a monthly basis starting from April 2016. He cited the measures taken by the Department to strengthen the local self-government - increasing the tenure of President and Vice President and affirmed that the **rules with respect to the amendments were being formulated and shall be implemented shortly**. He called upon the members to emphasize **more on construction of toilets and making the Grama Panchayats a model to others**. Giving an instance of increased demand for bottled water, Shri. Patil opined that there is a need to act on the shortage of water and enable every villager get good potable water. He also stressed the need to reduce the child mortality rate which has seen a considerable increase over the years due to malnutrition.

While the need for extending the provisions of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to Grama Panchayats was briefed to him beforehand, he seemed not convinced of the demand but welcomed a discussion regarding the subject later on with SUGRAMA. Citing the members, the Minister opined that the result of 50% reservation to PRIs has led women to covet the posts at the GPs and it was nice to being in the midst of sea of women.

Prior to this speech, the Minister had discussions with the members as to their issues and in response to the sitting fees and honorarium, Shri. H.K. Patil mentioned that the members should not henceforth have an issue of it as the Government has taken steps to make the payments regularly without any delay.

The manifesto as finalized by the members was handed over to the Minister by the Steering Committee members. The SUGRAMA members were found elated by the visit of the Minister and his guiding words which kept on their momentum to advocate for better policies.



**GLIMPSES OF SAMAVESHA :**

**Elections to Steering Committee:**



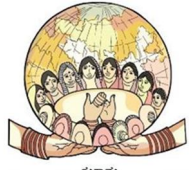
**SAMAVESHA:**



**ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಸಮಾವೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವ ಎಚ್.ಕೆ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಭರವಸೆ  
ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಗೌರವಧನ**

• **ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಸಮಾವೇಶದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಸಮಾಜದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಭಿಮಾನದೊಡನೆ ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಗೌರವಧನ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಗೌರವಧನ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಗೌರವಧನ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸುಗ್ರಾಮ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು ಗೌರವಧನ ನೀಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಸಚಿವರು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.





ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 025

## CIRCULARS OF THE RDPR DEPARTMENT:

This section provides with important circulars of the Department to suffice the EWRs knowledge building process. Copies of the same can be obtained from the representatives of the partner organisations:

1. Government order vide No. GRAAPA 75 JIPASA 2014 dated 18.02.2016—Release of honorarium for the period January 2016 to March 2016
2. Government order vide No. GRAAPA 44 GRAPASA 2015 dated 29.02.2016—Release of balance of 1st instalment of 14th FC grants to newly formed 449 GPs
3. Government order vide No. GRAAPA 75 GRAAPASA 2015 dated 08.02.2016—guidelines for utilizing 14th FC grants
4. Payment of interest to PRIs for the delay in release of grants for the year 2013-14 under 14th FC grants— GO No. RDP 19 GPS 2015 dated 29.02.2016
5. Payment of interest to PRIs for the delay in release of grants for the year 2015-16 under 14th FC grants— GO No. RDP 44 GPS 2015 dated 04.03.2016
6. Conducting special grama sabhas—National Panchayat Day—24.04.2016
7. GO No. GRAAPA 21 GRAPAMA 2015 dated 10.3.2016—Release of the 4th quarterly instalment of Grants of Government of Karnataka—of which 60% needs to be utilized for payment of electricity bills for the period January 2016—March 2016 and 40% to staff salaries. Other than mentioned, the GPs and ZPs are not permitted to utilize the grants for any other purposes.

### Amendment to Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993:

Following the recommendations of the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Amendment Committee headed by Shri. K.R. Ramesh Kumar, the Government has passed an order vide No. GRAAPA 09 GRAAPAMA 2016 dated 23.02.2016, The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Act, 2015

1. Inclusion of Habitation Sabha under Clause 16 A and B section 2 of the Principal Act and 3A providing with functions and powers of Habitation Sabha
2. Insertion of Chapter IA— Directive Principles of Panchayat Policy
3. Insertion of new sections 58B, 58C, 58D, 58E and 58F
  - 58B—Duty of GP to prevent traditional, social and religious practices that denigrate human dignity
  - 58C—Duty of GP to prevent sexual harassment of women
  - 58D—Duty to recover possession of encroached property of GP other than Revenue land
  - 58E—Duty to maintain hygiene
  - 58F—Dangerous quarrying, bore wells, open wells and ponds
5. Amendment to Section 61—Standing Committees:
  - General Standing Committee—agricultural production, animal husbandry, rural industries, poverty alleviation programmes, education, public works and other works of the GP, supervision and reporting of pilferage
  - Finance, audit and Planning Standing Committee—finance of the GPs, framing of budgets, scrutinizing proposals for increase of revenue examinations of revenue and expenditure, storing vision and annual plans, data related to census, surveys conducted, PRAs, etc.
  - Social Justice Standing Committee—promotion of educational, economic, social, cultural and other interest of the SC/STs and OBCs; welfare of women & children