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ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಚುನಾಯಿತ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪ್ರಾತಿನಿಧಿಗಲಾ ಸಂಗಠ - ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

SUGRAMADA DHWANI

July 2017

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AN UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES—April 2017 to June 2017

Special points of interest:

- SUGRAMA members participated actively in the training programmes of The Hunger Project
- 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
- With the support of Jagruthi Vedike, SUGRAMA members looking at redressing the issues of the Grama Panchayats
- Members giving more importance to anganawadi and so on and making regular visits to anganawadi, schools, PHC, functioning of ANM, distribution of food in PDS and anganawadi
- Redressal agents towards violence against women—SUGRAMA linking the aggrieved with other platforms.

The 2nd quarter of the year saw many tumultuous achievements and success to the SUGRAMA members at the taluk level.

The Steering Committee meeting of the Steering Committee members was conducted in the month of May 2017. The members had interactions with the Chairperson of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KCPCR) and a visit to Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation.

With the support of the partner organisations, the women members have ensured the rightful implementation of Grama Swaraj and Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act—2016 and gave more importance to the President's tenure. With the women Presidents either heeding to the pressure or tendering their resignations despite the five year tenure, the members advocated for the same.

The members of SUGRAMA have ensured proper hygiene and sanitation across their GPs and were instrumental in getting separate toilets constructed in their GPs. This newsletter gives in nutshell the activities of SUGRAMA members during this period.

All the Taluk Members

Dear Members,

We at the State level have been getting good reports from the block level. The State Steering Committee members have been discussing about the issues of the taluk level and these are in turn discussed at the state level and strategies are being formulated. This has resulted in undertaking advocacy initiatives.

It is heartening to note that the SUGRAMA members have been giving due importance to the construction of toilets and ensuring the rightful beneficiaries are selected under various housing schemes.

The members have also gone ahead in constructing separate toilets for women in the Grama Panchayats. The GPs at Gadag, Bidar and Kalburgi have also been rendering their support to enhance the capabilities of adolescent girls and ensuring that the girl does not succumb to child marriage and instead has other options open for her prior to her getting married at the legal age. This newsletter shall bring in some success stories of the work with adolescent girls.

This gives in the need for all SUGRAMA members to work in tandem to not only in looking at the development of the GP—road, drainage and so on but also work towards monitoring of service providing departments—anganawadi, hospital, school and so on and also work towards the betterment of girl child.

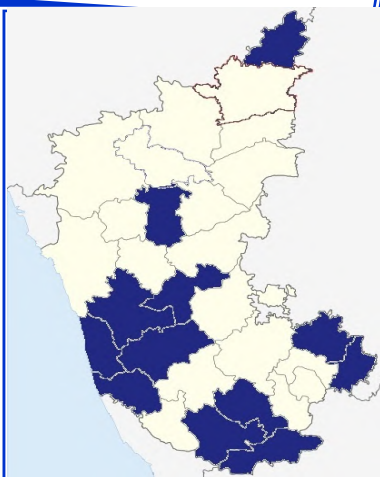
Further, some taluks have gone ahead and have created a niche for SUGRAMA by being a supportive agent in redressing issues of violence against women. One such case study is being shared here. The members have been taking the issues of the GP on a serious note and have identified themselves as the advocacy agents thus redressing the issues of the GP. This is really commendable and wish the SUGRAMA members to continue to work for the betterment of the Grama Panchayats especially of women and children

Best regards,

Next Issue:

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

Taluk Level SUGRAMA



SUGRAMA is formed in 27 taluks of 13 districts of Karnataka

District	Renewals
Bidar	134
Chamrajanagar	122
Chickballapur	46
Chikmagalur	115
Dakshina Kan- nada	138
Davanagere	88
Gadag	61
Mandya	50
Mysore	119
Shimoga	99
Tumkur	23
Udupi	55
Kalburgi	35
New	102
Total	1231

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. Some of the initiatives taken up by the taluk level federations are as follows:

- ⇒ SUGRAMA members with the support of Jagruthi Vedike members of Gauribidanur taluk were successful in ensuring disbursement of wages in time to 185 workers under MGNREGA.
- ⇒ The issue of food grains was also discussed in the federation meeting at Gauribidanur wherein they also met the officials in this regard.
- ⇒ Members of Bhalki and Humnabad blocks were successful in getting 25 labour cards to enable the workers avail several welfare schemes - accident insurance and so on.
- ⇒ The SUGRAMA members of Madhugiri block were successful in stopping a child marriage in a GP and referred the case to CWC.
- ⇒ SUGRAMA block level office bearers of Mangalore, Bantwala, Puttur and Udupi met during this period to discuss the issues of tenure of GP President, Habitation Sabha, Grama Swaraj and Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 2016 and so on.
- ⇒ SUGRAMA members across the blocks of Gudibande, Gauribidanur, Nagamangala, Kadur, Shikaripura, H.D. Kote and Chamarajanagar participated in the World Environment Day Celebrations on June 5, 2017 and raised awareness on the need to secure environment. They stressed the need for construction of toilets in every household.
- ⇒ EWRs of Dapparthi GP, Gudibande block spoke to the MLA through a live phone in programme and were successful in getting approval for a long standing demand of a GP building.
- ⇒ EWRs of Bhalki and Aurad blocks have been working towards providing job cards and labour cards to the community As part of AJWS funded project.
- ⇒ EWRs of Gadag block have taken up issues of water and sanitation and providing drinking water units
- ⇒ **SUGRAMA** members of Shimoga and Chickmagalur district representing 4 blocks took up the issue of a young girl studying 10th standard (who was gang raped by 3 men) to get her good medical facilities in the hospital and provide her with better care and security through Child Welfare Committee. The members also got a FIR registered against the offenders leading to one person getting arrested. The news was covered widely in newspapers and local TV channel. The girl is now being looked after.
- ⇒ SUGRAMA members have been attending the Need Based Workshops conducted by the partner organisations and have been obtaining information on MGNREGA, Mudra (scheme) Education loan, Pashu Bhagya and so on.
- ⇒ A case of misappropriation of funds was brought to light by the President of Shivapura GP, Gundlupet which was later successful resolved through the intervention of CEO of the district
- ⇒ Construction of anganawadi was taken up across all the blocks
- ⇒ Members of Kadur and Shikaripura have been working towards resolving issues of violence against women. Two cases were settled during this period.
- ⇒ A meeting of the Grama Panchayat Presidents and Vice Presidents was conducted by VIKASANA during this period. The presidents were given inputs on their tenure, their roles and responsibilities and so on. This was pertinent in the wake of forced resignations of the President and Vice President in some blocks.
- ⇒ A case of the forced resignation was taken up by SUGRAMA members of Ron and

State Level SUGRAMA**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING—: MAY 22-23, 2017:**

The 4th Steering Committee meeting of the Steering Committee members of SUGRAMA was conducted at Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bangalore on May 22-23, 2017. The agenda of the two-day meeting was as follows:

- Role of SC members with regard to decisions taken up in the previous meeting
- Meetings attended or participated by the SC members – issues undertaken (President Tenure), challenges, follow up and so on
- Challenges faced by members in the course of their activities – violence based, issue based
- Current status of SUGRAMA – renewals, receipts and payments made of membership, next steps
- Next course of action – Action plan for the next 3 months
- Discussions on the next day's agenda - interaction with Department officials/meeting KCPCR Chairperson and members – drafting letters and setting up discussion points

There was a need felt that the members need to venture out and take up the issues at the state level with the officials and Ministers during their visit to Bangalore for the Steering Committee meeting. Accordingly, a visit to meet the Minister of Women and Child Development Department was made to discuss about speeding up the process of bringing in the recommendation of Justice Shivaraj Patil of making child marriages null and void into the act at the earliest. Though the meeting could not take place, the members were taken to meet the Chairperson and members of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KCPCR). The Government had discussed about the recommendations made by Justice Shivaraj Patil Committee to make child marriages null and void. The Hunger Project – Karnataka has also been supporting the issues of adolescent girls and paving way for their higher studies or livelihood options or providing with life skill education, there was a need to bring their issues for discussions with KCPCR Chairperson and members. SUGRAMA can lobby with the Government and the Commission to take the recommendation forward and pass it in the assembly sessions.

The Chairperson mentioned that the GoK has forwarded the same to the Union Government to bring in a change in the central act, which needs to be followed up. The members discussed the need for extending the sponsorship programmes/schemes to adolescent girls and girls of single parent/guardian and panchayat recommendations to be inserted in the sponsorship assessment form for providing scholarship. The Chairperson mentioned that a letter to this regard could be forwarded to District Child Protection Unit (DCPU)/Women and Child Development Department with a copy to the Commission. The Chairperson also mentioned that the members could also monitor the functioning of Government schools and its status as one of the agenda of the Commission has been to strengthen the Government schools and support girls to attend school by providing all amenities in the school thus indirectly supporting the need to curtail child marriage. A joint action plan to be developed.

Thereafter, a 3-member team visited Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation and met the Managing Director. The members - Nethravathi and Shanta Kumari were able to get hands on information on the issues pertaining to the various housing schemes – delay in releasing the instalments to the beneficiary. The Cor-

CASE STUDY OF SHAN-TAKUMARI

In pursuit of supporting women and children towards their issues, SUGRAMA members have also been taking stand on issues of violence against women and children both in their community as well as fellow EWRs in other GPs of their taluk/district and that of other districts. Shantakumari, Steering Committee member, SUGRAMA—Vice President, Salur Grama Panchayat, Shikaripura taluk, Shimoga has been spearheading in redressing issues of violence against women. She got to know that the GP member of Begur Grama Panchayat, Tarikere block and her son were assaulted by evil mongers over an issue at the GP and a case was filed against the member and her son. Shantakumari took up the issue with the Sub Inspector and was successful in resolving the same. Similar instance of violence on an EWR was witnessed in Siddarahalli Grama Panchayat, Tarikere over the issue of works undertaken under MGNREGA. With the support of SUGRAMA members of the block, Shantakumari met the Sub Inspector and apprised him of the works undertaken by the member in a lawful manner and was successful in obtaining justice to her. An instance of verbal abuse on an EWR by a fellow member at Singanamane GP was also resolved by SUGRAMA under her leadership. Shantakumari also took up issues of violence against two women. The women sought the support of the members. The case of sexual assault on a 16 year old girl belonging to Davanagere was also resolved.

GLIMPSES OF SUGRAMA



SUGRAMA—AS COVERED IN THE MEDIA:

