

SUGRAMADA DHWANI



Dear Comrades,

Greetings to all members of SUGRAMA.

In order to strengthen and sustain SUGRAMA, it is necessary for passing out information from State to Taluk and Vice Versa. The newsletter tries to bring in the details of activities.

All of us have completed two years of our journey in Grama Panchayats and have seen many ups and downs. Some Presidents have been forced to step down within the 2 ½ year tenure. This is a step back for SUGRAMA as we have been continuously following up in ensuring one President completes the 2 ½ tenure. We hope that the next 2 ½ years will have no such obstacles to whoever covets the post.

Let us all work towards in shaping up governance process with last mile delivery of all programs and schemes and strengthen local democracy.

State Steering Committee members



SUGRAMA – Grama Panchayat Chunayitha Mahila Prathinidhigala Sangha - Karnataka

ISSUE 1, January – March 2023

An update of activities – January to March 2023

The state level SUGRAMA Steering Committee meeting was held in January 2023 at Bengaluru. The members visited Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation and had discussions with the General Manager.

SUGRAMA members across the taluks participated in the International Women's Day Celebrations during March 2023. SUGRAMA members continue to attend the various training workshops and meetings conducted by the field staff of The Hunger Project – Karnataka at their respective taluks. This has led them to get more insights about the schemes and programmes and interact with the officials regarding the glitches and issues to avail the benefits.

SUGRAMA members in their respective Grama Panchayats are participating in the Jagruthi Vedike meetings and hearing out the concerns of the community. Thereafter, they are taking it up in their monthly meetings or take it to the higher level through the support and facilitation by the field staff.

SUGRAMA members continue to show solidarity to each other while also obtaining insights from the SUGRAMA mentors who have completed the 5 year tenure as EWRs in the previous tenure. They have also taken part actively in the GPDP process and forwarded their list of issues and ensured that it is included in the action plan.

The State Election Commission declared the schedule of elections to form the new Government. The Legislative Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in Karnataka on 10th May 2023 to elect all 224 members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The votes will be counted and the results will be declared on 13th May 2023. The provisions of the model code of conduct also came into force with immediate effect with the announcement of the schedule.

MEET THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT - Jagadevi, Ward Member, Chitta Grama Panchayat, Bidar Taluk/District

SECRETARY - Roopa, Ward Member, Madadakere Grama Panchayat, Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District

TREASURER - Shashikala, Ward Member, Gadihalli Grama Panchayat, Ajjampura Taluk, Chickmagalur District

VICE PRESIDENT - Parvathi Sanjeev, Ward Member, Hithla Grama Panchayat, Shikaripur Taluk, Shivamogga District

JOINT SECRETARY - Premalatha, Ward Member, Vitlapadnur Grama Panchayat, Bantval Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District

Nagaveni, Vice President, Kolthige GP, Puttur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District

Y.D. Prema, Ward Member, Annigere Grama Panchayat, Kadur Taluk, Chickmagalur District

Sageera Bi, Ward Member, Kankatta Grama Panchayat, Humnabad Taluk, Bidar District

Ahilya Bai, Ward Member, Nagmarpalli Grama Panchayat, Aurad Taluk, Bidar District

Gauramma, Ward Member, Kudligere Grama Panchayat, Bhadravati Taluk, Shivamogga District

Radha C.N. President, Gonibidu Grama Panchayat, Mudigere Taluk, Chickmagalur District

Sudha, Ward Member, Belenahalli Grama Panchayat, Ajjampura Taluk, Chickmagalur District

Shakuntala Sangram, Ward member, Konmelkunda Grama Panchayat, Bhalki Taluk, Bidar District

STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

SUGRAMA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

The second meeting of the SUGRAMA members was conducted on January 18-19, 2023. The first meeting held in May 2022 oriented the members about SUGRAMA and later elections were held for electing its office bearers. After the first meeting, two representatives from Aurad and Humnabad respectively decided to continue with the block level federation and opted out of the state Steering Committee meeting. Hence, there was a change in these two blocks with the entry of two members.

Chitradurga district being a new district to SUGRAMA, there is yet a nomination to be made for a representative from Holalkere Taluk to the state level. The same holds good for choosing a representative from Basavakalyan Taluk. Discussions regarding the Secretary - Roopa being elected as the Vice President of the Grama Panchayat. Further, she shall be absenting from her duties while being on a maternity leave. Considering the circumstances and the changes in President and Vice President in June 2023 (completion of 2 ½ year tenure) the members decided that until the Secretary's return, the Joint Secretary – Premalatha will act as the Secretary.

With members completing their one year of being a member of SUGRAMA, it is the time now for renewal. Hence, the members were told to start the renewal process by sharing the same at the federation meetings and other programmes. The money so collected needs to be deposited into the state level bank account.

Visit to Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation: the members together with some select field staff along with the state team visited Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation and interacted with the Manager. A presentation was made by the officer to give inputs to members on the various schemes and programmes at the rural and urban level with respect to housing. The interaction helped the EWRs to share their concerns with the officers and obtain guidance. The officer also took up questions from the members about the delay in instalments. It was noted that at every level of construction, a GPS needs to be made by the PDO and uploaded for further release of instalments. Unaware of this, many beneficiaries have either completed the construction or left it incomplete awaiting the release of instalments. He personally inspected such applications and directed the members to take it up with their PDO and the local nodal officer to rectify the mistake. The meeting with the manager was very helpful to both the field staff and the EWRs who find that such meetings and visits would help them throw light on the issue.





Ambika belongs to an agriculture based middle class family and has completed B.Ed. She is a Ward Member of Hanthur GP, Mudigere Taluk. Ambika faced a tough fight during elections from the elite families. The GP has a large population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and most work in coffee plantations on daily wages. Families send their children out of their homes to hostels fearing security and violence or get them married early.

People rely mostly on the ration provided by the PDS outlets. But, it was found that the PDS outlet distributes ration to card holders of certain major villages leaving out hamlets of these wage labourers. They were forced to visit 4-5 times citing out of stock, provide their thumbprints one day and fetch ration the next day thus foregoing their wages. Ambika took it up at the GP monthly meeting. The members summoned the PDS dealer and sought an explanation. Further, Ambika took it up with the food inspector in the federation meeting and the interface meeting. It was thereafter decided by the outlet to earmark the days allotted as per the ration card and notify the villagers well in advance. In this manner, Ambika got the 2500 families obtain their due ration. Mobile van distribution was also initiated to some hamlets, wherein people are happy that the extra amount to transport ration is being saved.

Ambika is ecstatic and points out, 'Food is required by all for their living. This is where I felt I need to work as an elected member. I am happy that I am helping them. This is what I wanted, smiling faces of the villagers. It means a lot to me'

SUGRAMA members across the Taluks participated in the activities conducted by the field staff of The Hunger Project – Karnataka. During this period, the members attended 11 Need Based Workshops, 12 Federation Meetings at block level, 9 Interface meetings at block/district level and 145 Jagruthi Vedike meetings at GP level. The issues raised in the Jagruthi Vedike meetings were raised (some resolved) by the EWRs at the block level meetings with officials. Some of the initiatives of the EWRs during the quarter are as follows:

- SUGRAMA members across the blocks were trained by the field staff on the **usage of different apps** including E-Grama Swaraj, Mahiti Kanaja, Bapuji Seva Kendra, Housing and so on. The EWRs through the information thus obtained personally inspected the works and correlated the same with the uploaded documents through the Apps.
- SUGRAMA members across the blocks participated in the **Kalika Habba 2023** by engaging children in math learning andolan and non-academic activities and events conducted in February 2023
- SUGRAMA members actively engaged in the **preparation and finalisation of action plans under GPDP** and participated in the second round of ward sabhas and grama sabhas held in February and March 2023
- SUGRAMA members took keen interest in ensuring the **formation and effective functioning of standing committees** in their GPs. Meetings of sub-committees were also held during the period. Special interest on forming of social justice committees was made in Dakshina Kannada, wherein a separate room was also allotted for the President of the Social Justice Committee.
- EWRs of Hosadurga, Holalkere, Shikaripur and Tarikere were instrumental in providing over 200 **title deeds and housing facilities**.
- EWRs of Sundal GP, Aurad Taluk and Mannalli GP, Bidar took up the **issues of lack of street lights** and got 15 street poles and lights installed
- Mahadevi, member, Santhpur GP, Aurad Taluk was successful in laying of roads in the SC/ST colony – a work pending for a long time for which Mahadevi continuously followed it up with the GP and got it sanctioned.
- EWRs across the blocks took up the issue of **repair and maintenance of anganawadi centres and schools**– construction of compound wall, water and toilet facilities, cleaning the surroundings, painting of walls, repair of roof and rooms, construction of kitchen and so on.
- EWRs across Shikaripur, Holalkere, Aurad, Humnabad, Bhalki and Tarikere blocks were instrumental in getting **the water tested and proper pipelines** laid to avoid the inclusion of contaminated water.
- In some parts of Shikaripur and Bidar, women complained of **rampant sale of illicit liquor**. Accordingly, the EWRs of Kappanahalli and Sindol GP took note of it and were successful in curbing the sale of illicit liquor being done through petty shops closer to school premises and houses.
- EWRs across enabled in the repair of the **health and wellness centres** and stationing nurses and doctors (issue pending since the last 2-3 years).
- EWRs of Hosadurga, Bidar, Shikaripur raised the issues of **job cards and timely payments under MGNREGA**.

