

# GRAAM

---

Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement

An initiative of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement



## Annual Report

2011 - 2012







“Go from village to village,  
do good to humanity and  
to the world at large.

Swami Vivekananda



# GRAAM Annual Report 2011 - 2012

Published **September 2012**

Report **All members of GRAAM**  
Editing **Dr. Anil C & Rohit Shetti**  
Layout & Design **Deepak Mote**

# CONTENTS

## **From the Founder's Desk** **1**

## **About GRAAM** **2**

Core functional areas and projects..... 2

Team .....3

Interns at GRAAM.....4

Collaborations and Partnerships .....5

Learning Environment.....5

## **Work done during the year** **6**

A Evaluation of Old Age Pension schemes .....6

B Arogya Shreni – Technology enabled community monitoring of PHCs.....7

C Evaluation of NRHM's performance in Karnataka .....8

D Evaluation of Karnataka's Public Distribution System (PDS).....9

E Monitoring of news items related to Tobacco in print media .....11

F Qualitative analysis of narratives of Educational Leadership Development Facilitators (ELDFs)...11

G Research in School Leadership Development Program (SLDP) .....13

H Study to understand the efficacy of the 'Ganga Kalyana Yojana' .....13

I Baseline Study of Sanitation and Hygiene in Selected City Schools.....14

J Study on access and utilization of Cash Incentive Programs under NRHM.....15

K Tracking of Funds under NRHM in Mysore District, Karnataka.....17

L Community Advocacy with VHSCs .....18

M Madhyama Manthana – advocacy with the media .....20

N Other activities ..... 22

## **Projects in the pipeline / future activities** **23**

## **Abbreviations** **24**

# FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

Globalization has had a mixed impact on India's development in the past two decades. The knowledge-based society created as a result of a revolution in information technology and communication has disparately impacted urban and rural India. Benefits of overall economic development of the country have not extended to cover basic necessities in rural India and amongst the urban poor. The trends in reduction of absolute poverty have not paralleled with that of relative poverty and lack of sustainable resources for basic necessities continues to plague the lives of people in many areas. The urban and rural divide is greater than ever before and India's top down approach with the entitlement programs, including health and poverty elimination, continues to face systemic challenges. The macro-level projections of economic prosperity have not generated micro-level impact in the lives of people in rural India.

The rise of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has the potential to help address systemic and policy issues that affect the developmental programs in India. Policy development, implementation and impact of entitlement programs are largest when informed from grassroot level participation through systematic research and advocacy. Such a strategy also has the potential to enhance public participation, increase governmental accountability and improve program impacts.

Unfortunately, the divide between academic research in public policy and grassroot organizations represented by NGOs is exceptionally wide. Often policy research is informed by aggregated data not representative of the needs of micro-communities inducing an ecological bias. This could lead to the development of a wrong framework for program implementation. Involvement of NGOs in grassroots research has the potential for improved investment in programs by the NGOs themselves providing for increased accountability of the NGOs. Participation by NGO practitioners in public policy research has the potential to understand the grassroots level realities better, articulate it in a language the policy planners understand and help enrich the state level interventions. It has the added incentive of capacity building of the NGOs along with facilitating ongoing knowledge transfer between the macro and the micro levels.



Keeping this intent in mind, the Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) has been created as a nodal agency that will consolidate and encourage the development of needed grassroots level research to inform and shape public policy. GRAAM aims to create a community of NGO practitioners working at the grassroots, academic researchers, and local community members for knowledge transfer across these groups to collaboratively analyze and inform public policy development and evaluation. GRAAM's main purpose will be to (a) conduct bottom-up research that addresses the needs of the communities and (b) translate that research into a language that can influence the thinking of academicians and policymakers, thus bringing the concerns of communities to the attention of policy makers at the state and national levels, and in turn, influencing state and national policies in a way that benefits communities. It will be part of the Training, Research, Advocacy & Consultancy (TRAC) activities of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Mysore and the activities of GRAAM will be synergistic with the mission and the vision of SVYM.

The last one-year has seen GRAAM grow from an idea to actually begin translating this vision into reality. Apart from providing a platform for highly motivated practitioner-researchers to come together, GRAAM has started to undertake policy-related research in the areas of health, education, social security and community irrigation. We can now be more confident of undertaking participatory research at the community level and look at scaling up our advocacy to the national level. We at GRAAM are deeply committed to our belief that development change should occur from the smaller units, from the villages and should direct policy changes based on success at the local level. As our team and our capacities grow, we are confident of a wonderful year ahead.

We are also grateful to all our friends, well wishers, fellows, advisors, donors and partners for their constant support and encouragement, without which we could not have done so much in such a short time.

Regards,

**Dr. R. Balasubramaniam (Balu)**

Founder & Executive Director

August 2012



# ABOUT GRAAM

GRAAM is an initiative of Swami Vivekananda Youth movement aimed at bringing about changes in public policies that make them sound, relevant and ensure that they reflect the real aspirations of the communities. GRAAM seeks to achieve these goals by making community participation and engagement an integral part of all its activities and processes.

The inception of GRAAM stems from a need to understand ‘development’ from a grassroots perspective and view it as a constant expansion of human capabilities. A strong belief that development needs to be a community-led movement and the need for an inquiry into whether public policies of the day are enabling a process of development that is community centric, relevant, holistic and effective is the core inspiration behind GRAAM.

GRAAM’s core activities flow from this spirit of inquiry and understanding of ‘development’ and includes bottom-up research, policy evaluation at grassroots level, advocacy for change based on research outcomes and empirical evidence, creating dialogue spaces, etc.

## Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)

SVYM is a development organization, founded in 1984 by a team of young medical doctors in the remote forest tracks of Heggadadevanakote Taluka of Mysore District in Karnataka. Today the organization has more than 60 projects across the state in the sectors of Health, Education, Water & Sanitation, Disabilities, Community Development, Advocacy, etc.

Drawing inspiration from Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi, SVYM is rooted to its values of Satya (truthfulness), Ahimsa (non-violence), Seva (Service) & Tyaga (Sacrifice), which is reflected in its program design and delivery, transactions with its stakeholders, resource utilization, disclosures and openness to public scrutiny.

A need to consolidate the learnings from SVYM’s 25-plus years of work amongst the community, share them with like-minded organizations and develop young leaders in the development sector was realised through the setting up of TRAC (Training, Research, Advocacy and Consultancy) services in Mysore.

GRAAM shares responsibility for the research and advocacy components of TRAC and leverages the experience and relationships of SVYM with local populations, governmental agencies, development agencies and academic institutions in India and abroad.

## Core functional areas and projects

The following are GRAAM’s core functional areas:

- i. **Research** – core activity; integrates community perspectives
- ii. **Monitoring & Evaluation** – aims to understand the efficacy and impact of developmental interventions
- iii. **Advocacy** – flows from research and M & E exercises; employs a multi-pronged and collaborative approach
- iv. **Facilitating ‘Dialogues’** – among different stakeholders
- v. **Networking** – to gain multi-dimensional understanding about issues and grow from knowledge and experience from around the world
- vi. **Capacity Building & Empowerment of Communities**
- vii. **Publication**

Since its inception in Jan 2011, GRAAM has taken up projects that fall into one or more of the aforementioned functional areas. The projects constitute a wide spectrum that includes conducting evaluation studies of Govt. programs, public expenditure tracking, technology enabled community monitoring, educational leadership management, media analysis, sanitation surveys in schools, community advocacy at village level, etc.



GRAAM’s vision is to facilitate development that expands the capabilities and potential for growth within communities at the grassroots level, while respecting individual rights and values.

## Team

---

The team at GRAAM comprises of people with expertise and experience in public policy, public health, gender issues, governance, psychology, adolescence issues, disability, formal & informal education, environmental justice, Panchayath Raj, IT & Development, agriculture, planning & performance evaluation and statistics. A brief profile of the team members is given below.

### **Dr. R. Balasubramaniam**, *Founder & Executive Director*

- Conceptualized GRAAM
  - Has over 25 years of experience in the development sector
  - Expertise: Community-driven Development, Leadership, Public Policy, Health Systems, Governance Issues
- 

### **Mr. Basavaraju R.**, *Deputy Director*

- Heads the admin wing
  - Expertise: Project Planning & Design, Action Plan Development, M & E and Advocacy
  - Diverse experience in development sector having worked with both NGOs and the Government
  - Implemented development programs at the grassroots in the areas of youth development, sanitation, women and gender issues, HIV AIDS, Child Labour, Vocational and Livelihood activities
- 

### **Mr. Vighnesh NV**, *Research Associate*

- Has an engineering background
  - Interests: Social issues of contemporary India
  - Worked on Education sector research projects
- 

### **Ms. Chandrika Shetty**, *Coordinator - Action Research & Implementation*

- Has a Masters in Development Studies
  - Has worked as project coordinator and communication assistant in NGOs
- 

### **Ms. Divyashree**, *Research Assistant*

- Has a Masters in Human Development
  - Has worked as an Office Manager and in research projects
- 

### **Ms. Lakshmi**, *Project Assistant*

- Has a Bachelors Degree in Statistics
- Has worked as an Office Assistant and Data Entry Operator

### **Dr. Shanthi Gopalan**, *Senior Research Officer*

- Has over 25 years of teaching and research experience
  - Expertise: Tribal Studies, Gender Issues and Third Sector Governance
- 

### **Dr. Jyothi MA**, *Senior Research Officer*

- Has broad experience in teaching and education-related research
  - Interests: Social & emotional climate of schools, Teaching –Learning and Teacher Development
- 

### **Dr. Rekha D**, *Senior Research Officer*

- Has a background in Psychology and about 20 years of research experience
  - Worked on NRHM fund tracking study and School Sanitation surveys
- 

### **Mr. Sham N Kashyap**, *Research Officer*

- Has a multi-disciplinary academic background
  - Interests: Agricultural Policy Analysis, Computer-aided Policy Simulation Models and Decentralized Rural Governance Systems.
- 

### **Mr. Rohit Shetti**, *Coordinator - Community Consultation, Advocacy, IT*

- Has a background in Electronics Engineering, marketing and sales
  - Has been a volunteer with several civil society groups and campaigns
  - Interests: Community dynamics, dialogues and process of “Change”
- 

### **Mr. Narasimhaiah**, *Statistician*

- Has a Masters in Agricultural Statistics
  - Has worked in micro-finance and with cooperative societies
  - Also teaches Research Methodology to in-house PG students
- 

### **Ms. Roopa**, *Admin Associate*

- Has a Masters in Business Information & Technology
- Has worked as a software developer (programmer) for a reputed firm in Mysore

## GRAAM Advisory Board

GRAAM has a distinguished advisory board comprising the following six members, who strategically guide the organization.

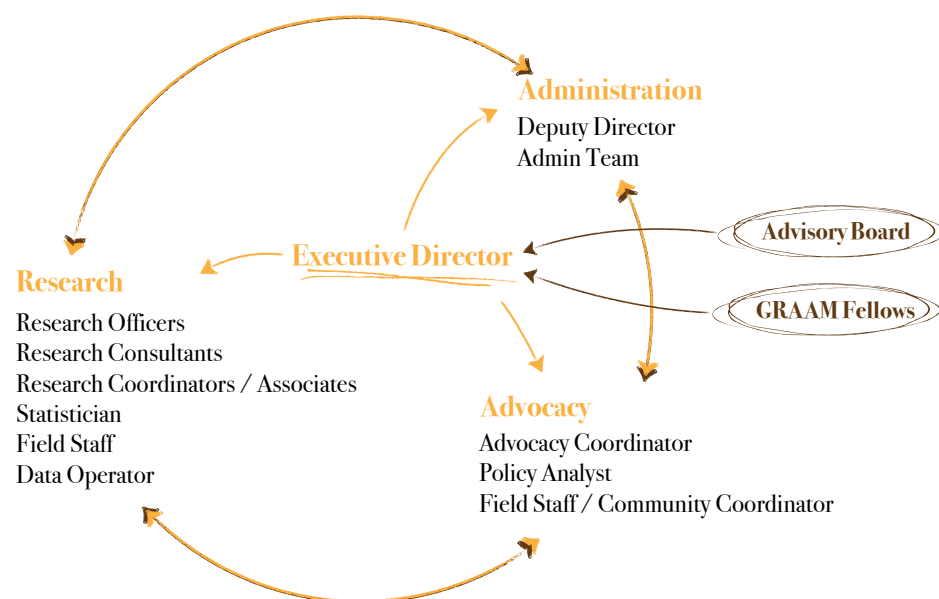
- i. **Justice MN Venkatachalaiah**, Former Chief Justice of India
- ii. **Ricardo Hausman**, Director of Center for Int'l Development at Harvard University
- iii. **Charles Rozwat**, Vice President at Oracle Corporation
- iv. **SK Das**, former bureaucrat and public policy expert, and currently an advisor to ISRO
- v. **Joe Grasso**, Associate Dean for Administration, ILR, Cornell University
- vi. **D.R. Patil**, former member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly and expert on Panchayath Raj Institutions

## GRAAM Fellows

Eminent researchers and experts in the field of Public Health, Nutrition Sciences, Social Anthropology, Development issues, Disability studies, Human Resources, Labor Economics, etc are part of GRAAM in the capacity of research fellows, who provide insights and dimensions to GRAAM's projects. Currently, the research fellows on board are:

- i. **Gary Fields**, Professor of Labour Economics at Cornell University
- ii. **Samuel Bacharach**, Director of Institute for Workplace Studies, Cornell University
- iii. **Sarosh Kuruvilla**, Professor of Industrial Relations, Asian Studies and Public Affairs at Cornell University
- iv. **Susanne M Bruyère**, Director of Employment and Disability Institute, Cornell University
- v. **Rebecca Stoltzfus**, Director of Global Health Program at Cornell University
- vi. **Paul Greenough**, Professor of History of Modern India, Environmental and Global Health History, Department of History, University of Iowa
- vii. **AR Vasavi**, Social Anthropologist and former faculty at IIM, Kozhikode

Functionally, GRAAM is organised as follows, with team-members donning multiple roles at times



## Interns at GRAAM

GRAAM provides opportunity for students from India and abroad to come and work with existing projects and contribute meaningfully. The following students interned with GRAAM during the year.



**Aman Biswas** July – Aug 2011

*Allegheny College, USA*

Designed GRAAM brochure, logo & stationery

**Holly Lafontaine** Sep 2011

*University of Windsor, Canada*

Undertook field evaluation of Ganga Kalyana Scheme in Nanjangud and HD Kote Taluks

**Khushi Nilani** Nov 2011

*Christ University, Bangalore*

Assisted in training of VHSC members

**HR Apoorva** Dec 2011 – Jan 2012

*PES Institute of Technology, Bangalore*

Helped in creating NGO database and evolving the concept of online dialog forum on GRAAM's website

**Divyashree** Aug 2011 – Jan 2012

*Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, Mysore*

Assisted in Arogya Shreni & Media Monitoring projects

**Kritee Gujral** Nov 2010 – Jul 2011

*University of Florida, USA*

Assisted Dr Balu in the PDS evaluation work

**Jenny Maisonneuve** Jan – Apr 2011

*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine*

Helped develop curriculum for Global Health Program to be offered by VIIS



## Collaborations and Partnerships

GRAAM is proud of its partnerships with various institutions and organizations in different sectors. The following table gives a snapshot of GRAAM's canvas of collaborations.

### Government

- ☀ D. Devaraja Urs Backward Class Development Corporation - Govt of Karnataka
- ☀ Department of Economics and Statistics - Govt of Karnataka
- ☀ Karnataka Evaluation Authority - Govt of Karnataka
- ☀ Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission, Dept. of RDPR, Govt of Karnataka

### Academic & Research Institutions

- ☀ Azim Premji University
- ☀ Cornell University, New York
- ☀ Harvard University
- ☀ University of Minnesota

### Corporate

- ☀ Fidelity Cares
- ☀ Toyota Kirloskar Motors

### Development Organizations

- ☀ International Budget Partnership
- ☀ Public Health Foundation of India
- ☀ GIZ through India Wash Forum
- ☀ Azim Premji Foundation
- ☀ Public Affairs Centre

## Learning Environment

Since GRAAM is a collective with people from varied background and experiences, there is much to learn from each other and not only build knowledge, but also perspectives. At the same time, it is essential for a research and advocacy group to absorb from as many sources of knowledge as possible, both external and internal. As part of GRAAM's internal learning processes, the following activities are conducted:

#### i. Graama Chintana

A discussion forum conducted on the 1st working day of every month, wherein all GRAAM team members present their work of their previous month, and also share the direct and collateral learnings from the project, challenges faced, support required and get feedback from others.

#### ii. Weekend Collective Learning

Conducted on Saturdays, and includes discussions / talks on topics like economics, statistics, anthropology, etc and also interaction with guests and subject experts, viewing documentaries and films, or just working collectively on a current project. The idea is to foster learning and team work.

#### iii. Retreats

Conducted twice a year to debate / discuss / brainstorm on GRAAM's objectives, philosophies, dilemmas, ethical considerations, emerging issues, new ideas, etc. The first retreat, conducted in Feb 2012, helped to fine tune GRAAM's vision/mission statements and draw-up short-term goals, and also enabled the team members to understand each other, their individual motivations and journeys.



GRAAM is committed  
to building  
collaborative learning  
communities in the  
pursuit of human  
development.

# WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR

GRAAM handled a multitude of projects during the year that fall into one or more of its core functional areas. In all of them, the team strived to adhere to the below mentioned common principles:

- ☀ Treating community as the primary stakeholder
- ☀ Employing bottom-up perspectives while undertaking research work
- ☀ Following standard ethical practices in all processes
- ☀ Respecting individual rights and values
- ☀ Enabling communities through capacity building and democratic dialogue

A snapshot of the work done is presented in the following pages, project-wise.

## A Evaluation of Old Age Pension schemes

### Duration

Nov 2011 to May 2012

### Overview

Old-age pension is an important welfare measure and a safety net for the poor elderly citizens of the country. The Directorate of Social Security and Pensions, under Department of Revenue, Government of Karnataka implements two old age pension schemes:

- ☀ The Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (centrally sponsored)
- ☀ Sandhya Suraksha Yojana (fully sponsored by the State Government)

This project attempted to evaluate the implementation of these two schemes, looking at critical issues including pension disbursement, selection and patterns of beneficiaries selected, spatio-temporal patterns in fund utilization across the state, the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries and the relative importance of the pension to the beneficiaries. This evaluation is spread over two phases. In phase-1, literature review and analysis of secondary data and data of the web-based MIS of the department was done. The phase-2 is scheduled for a later date and will include a detailed field-level evaluation.

### Project partners

- ☀ Directorate of Social Security and Pensions, Govt. of Karnataka
- ☀ Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Karnataka

### Key outputs during the year

- ☀ Literature survey was completed. It suggests that the pension schemes have a huge potential / opportunity to impact the lives of the elderly in a positive way.
- ☀ A report detailing the procedure of implementation of the two schemes, taluk and district snapshots of pension beneficiaries, and patterns in growth of the schemes has been submitted. Some key observations are:
  - ☀ There are more number of female beneficiaries than males, and their number is rising
  - ☀ Enrolment is low in Malnad and Coastal taluks, which have better HDI values. However, the overall state level trends in enrolment are related more to the population of the elderly than to the development status of the taluks.
  - ☀ Almost two-thirds of the 22 lakh old age pensioners in Karnataka are covered under Sandhya Suraksha Scheme
  - ☀ There seems to be an inverse relationship between pension coverage and district per capita income (or taluk development status).



- ✧ Despite such trends, in many districts and taluks, beneficiary coverage shows large variations, not directly attributable to district/taluk income levels and development status.
- ✧ 75% of pension delivery is happening through post offices, although preference for banks is increasing
- ✧ The plan for phase-2 of the study (objectives, sampling methodology, districts and taluks selected for study, criterion for selection of beneficiaries) has been submitted to the Department. 26 Taluks falling under 12 districts, which displayed a range of varied, unnatural trends in spatio-temporal spread of pension beneficiaries have been identified. The main objective of phase-2 of the study is to identify causal patterns for variations in deviant taluks and districts (representative of all deviant cases), thereby enabling the government to understand and respond to the specific issues of concern found in these districts.

## Arogya Shreni

### Technology enabled community monitoring of PHCs

#### Duration

April 2011 – ongoing

#### Overview

Arogyashreni is a platform created for community monitoring of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Mysore district through extensive use of ICT. By capturing community perspectives on facilities and services provided in each PHC by using an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), the project aims to create the first ever community monitoring information database about rural PHCs in Karnataka. Community representatives selected and trained in the process provide information on the status of their respective PHCs on a regular basis by dialing a toll-free service number. The information captured is analyzed and processed to generate district-level PHC rankings, which are widely circulated amongst the community (beneficiaries), service providers, public representatives and government officials. This process is intended to encourage the user community to actively participate in the improvement of public health services in their area.

‘Community monitoring and demand paves way for guarantee and accountability of delivery of public services’  
– this is the core philosophy of ArogyaShreni initiative.

#### Project partners

- ✧ Mahiti (a Bangalore-based software enterprise that offers technical support)
- ✧ Mr. Kiran Anandampillai (an entrepreneur who has sponsored the setting up of IVRS)
- ✧ *Arogya Vardhini* project of SVYM, which works to build capacities of VHSC – Village Health and Sanitation Committee members

#### Project Area

All Taluks of Mysore District

#### Key outputs during the year

- ✧ Back-end infrastructure necessary for capturing information (toll-free number, IVRS, database, etc) was set-up. The IVRS was inaugurated in Mysore by Mr.Selva Kumar, Mission Director of NRHM Karnataka.
- ✧ All stakeholders were involved in the process of implementation, especially the personnel of the Health Department
- ✧ Performance indicators for PHCs were developed
- ✧ Community representatives were selected and trained in the monitoring process and also in feeding data into the IVRS.
- ✧ Data collection was done every month, starting from December 2011, interspersed with field visits by the project personnel to validate the data collected. On an average, 300 calls were received every month from all corners of Mysore district.



- ☀ PHC rankings and report cards have been generated and released by the Commissioner, Dept of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of Karnataka in the presence of DPMO, Mysore, President of District Planning and Monitoring Committee, Mysore, Gram Panchayath members and others.
- ☀ The donor agency conducted two audits in the project area and expressed appreciation over the way the project was shaping up.
- ☀ The response from the community has been extremely encouraging and there are demands to adopt the same approach for monitoring the performance of Govt schools and Gram Panchayaths as well.



*Shri S. Selvakumar, Mission Director, NRHM inaugurates the Arogyashreni toll free number (DHO Office Premises, Oct-2011)*



*Field visit to PHCs for validation of responses received (Dec 2011 and Jan 2012)*



*Arogyashreni representatives training programme in Hunsur & KR Nagar Talukas, Mysore district (Jan-2012)*



## C Evaluation of NRHM's performance in Karnataka

### Duration

Nov 2011 – ongoing

### Overview

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is operational in Karnataka since 2005 and has been able to bring about a visible improvement in the health status of people and health-care delivery mechanisms across the state.

This project evaluates funds allocation and expenditure under NRHM in Karnataka, and looks at the relationship between fund allocation / expenditure under various heads (like infrastructure, personnel, services, etc) and the taluk's health status, as measured through established health indicators. Further, the project aims to validate the findings of the analysis through a grassroots appraisal mechanism involving open discussions and workshops with community representatives and public health officials.

### Project partners

- ☀ NRHM, Karnataka
- ☀ Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of Karnataka
- ☀ Karnataka State Health System Resource Centre
- ☀ Karnataka Evaluation Authority

### Key outputs during the year

- ☀ Literature survey has been completed. It has captured the overall fund flow mechanism (both structural and functional aspects) and has also highlighted issues like disparities in fund allocation, non-compliance with standard procedures, poor absorption capacities and mis-utilization of funds.
- ☀ Statements of accounts and audit reports have been collected from the State NRHM office and are being analyzed. Taluk level data and head of account-wise allotment and expenditure statements are being collected.
- ☀ An analysis tool to ascertain the relationship between fund utilization and change in health indicators is being developed.



## D Evaluation of Karnataka's Public Distribution System (PDS)

### Overview

India's Public Distribution System (PDS) is the largest food distribution network in the world and is the Government's major economic policy for ensuring food security to the poor. But the system is beset with corruption and inefficiency. According to the Planning Commission, 75% of the money spent by the Govt on PDS does not reach the intended beneficiaries. In Sept 2010, the Hon'ble Lok Ayukta of Karnataka appointed Dr R. Balasubramaniam to investigate the irregularities and corruption in Karnataka's PDS. His study was carried over a period of 10 months, and involved review of records and documents, physical inspection of the supply chain and Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the state, meeting the beneficiaries, officials concerned and elected representatives, and a comparative study of PDS in other states. He submitted his report to the Lok Ayukta in Aug 2011.

### Major findings of the study

- ☀ Karnataka's PDS is loaded with errors of exclusion of actual Below Poverty Line (BPL) families from the BPL status, inclusion of Above Poverty Line (APL) families into the BPL category, and the prevalence of ghost cards (cards that exist, but whose owners cannot be verified) and excess BPL cards.
- ☀ The system is plagued by leakages and diversion of food grains.
- ☀ The monthly economic loss to the Government through PDS is Rs 144.8 crore. This includes
  - ☀ Loss due to over-allotment of supplies – Rs 54.4 crore (38%)
  - ☀ Loss due to distribution leakage and pilferage – Rs 56.6 crore (39%)
  - ☀ Active suspect loss, due to ineligible families drawing rations with subsidies – Rs 24.5 crore (17%)
  - ☀ Stolen subsidies loss, that happens due to the FPS owners withholding the subsidy to the consumers – Rs 5.82 crore (4%)
  - ☀ Loss during transport – Rs 3.5 crore (2%)

As per the Planning Commission of India, only a quarter of the money spent on Public Distribution System in India – the largest food distribution network in the world – reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Civil society imperatively has a moral responsibility to respond to this situation.

- ☀ Other problems that came to light were extortion by wholesalers, distribution of low quality products, faulty weighing scales, beneficiaries being charged more and Fair Price Shops not complying with standard operating procedures

### Suggestions given for improvement

The following measures were suggested for improving the efficiency of the system:

- ☀ Cleaning up the cards' mess – (a) weeding out temporary, inactive and fake cards (b) issue of permanent cards after photo-bio capture (c) complete computerization of cardholders' database
- ☀ Universalizing the PDS benefits instead of targeting
- ☀ Introducing food coupons and smart cards to prevent misuse of subsidy
- ☀ Computerized inventory management, including GPS tracking of delivery trucks and use of Point of Sale (PoS) devices
- ☀ Strengthen monitoring system and also constitute / empower citizens' vigilance committees at the FPS level
- ☀ Enhance commission for FPS and allow them to sell other non-food items

### The aftermath

The Hon'ble Lok Ayukta accepted Dr.Balu's report and forwarded it to the Government with his recommendations. It was picked up by both print and electronic media, who gave it extensive coverage. Tough questions were asked to the persons in-charge including the Minister heading the department. Measures were immediately instituted across the State to identify and disable ineligible cards and arrive at a realistic estimate of the beneficiaries. Consultations are going on to introduce changes in inventory management. Monitoring has been tightened at the field level to reduce pilferage and reign in truant FPS owners. Efforts are also being made to educate the consumers about their rights and entitlements.



*On a field visit during the PDS investigations to a Fair Price Shop*



*A Fair Price Shop in rural Karnataka, with rice strewn all around*



## E Monitoring of news items related to Tobacco in print media

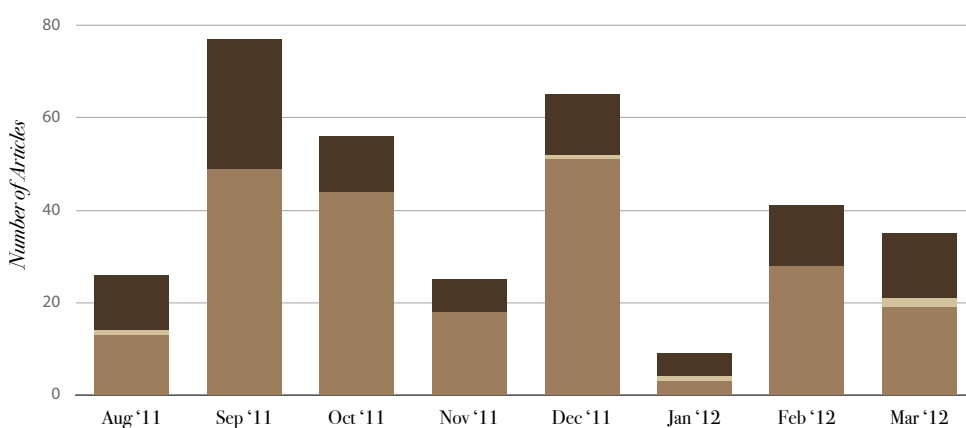
### Duration

August 2011 to July 2012

### Overview

The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is implementing the STEPS project - Strengthening of Tobacco-control Efforts through innovative Partnerships and Strategies. This is a multi-component initiative, supported by research and evidence-based advocacy. Karnataka is one of the control states for the study and GRAAM is one of the implementing partners. One component of project STEPS is producing a daily digest of newspaper reports on tobacco-related issues. GRAAM sources news articles published in Karnataka's newspapers (in Kannada, English & Hindi languages), including those being published at district level and having circulation of more than 50,000. 15 newspapers (English – 6, Kannada – 8, Hindi – 1) are being monitored. Articles in the local language are translated into English before being sent to PHFI, along with the original clippings.

The graph below gives a snapshot of number of articles collected, month-wise.



	Aug '11	Sep '11	Oct '11	Nov '11	Dec '11	Jan '12	Feb '12	Mar '12
Kannada	13	49	44	18	51	3	28	19
Hindi	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
English	12	28	12	7	13	5	13	14



## F Qualitative analysis of narratives of Educational Leadership Development Facilitators (ELDFs)

### Duration

Jan 2012 – Sep 2012

### Overview

Azim Premji Foundation (APF) has partnered with the Dept of Education, Govt of Karnataka to form the Policy Planning Unit in order to improve the quality of elementary education in the State. The Educational Leadership Development Programme (ELDP) is one of the initiatives of this unit, aimed at augmenting the leadership and management skills of the officials in the department – at cluster, block and district levels. Under this initiative, C-LAMPS, a partner of APF has trained about 75 master trainers called Educational Leadership Development Facilitators (ELDFs), who in turn have trained about 2800 department personnel such as Cluster Resource Persons (CRPs) and Block Resource Persons (BRPs). CRPs and BRPs are encouraged to undertake Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) under the guidance of ELDFs

in schools within their cluster/block. ELDFs document the QIPs that are undertaken under their guidance, in the form of written narratives. These documents / narratives capture the context, process, impact and of the QIPs and the reflections of participants. The current study is a qualitative analysis of such narratives, aimed at understanding the process of QIPs and validating the theoretical principles of the ELDP from it.

### Project partners

- ☀ Policy Planning Unit, Office of the Commissioner of Public Instruction, Govt. of Karnataka
- ☀ Centre for Leadership and Management in Public Services (C-LAMPS), Bangalore

### Key outputs during the year

- ☀ The researchers visited selected schools in 5 districts where QIPs were implemented, interacted with the ELDFs and the trainees, and understood how the ELDP operates. They submitted a field-visit report to the donor agency.
- ☀ The researchers attended a one-day workshop on qualitative analysis, conducted at C-LAMPS, Bangalore. Prof. Satish Kumar, Dean of School of Public Health, SRM University, Chennai was the resource person for the workshop. The researchers learned about the various techniques of data cleaning, coding and analysis, and the softwares & tools used in the process. They also received hands-on training in analyzing the narratives with sample datasets.
- ☀ They have developed a theoretical framework for doing the analysis and have started the coding process.

The Education Leadership Development Program has played a significant role in bringing critical perspective shifts about the education system and self among education functionaries, who transform into change agents.



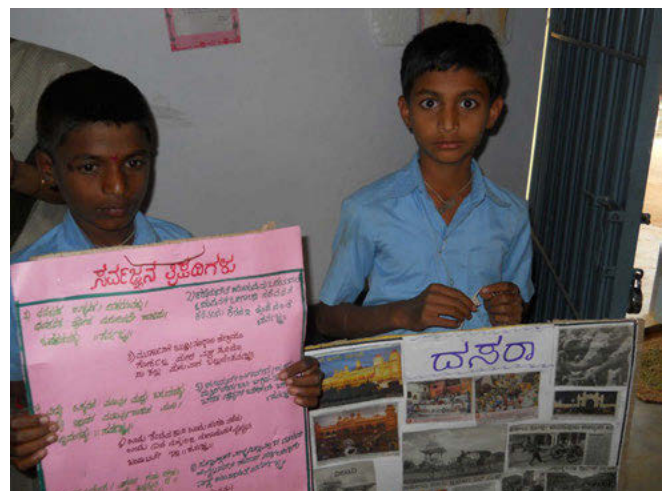
*The team at the Cluster Resource Centre, Halsi, Belgaum*



*Team interacting with SDMC members and parents, Kuppur, Kolar*



*Students reading books in the library, Kamasamudra, Hassan*



*Students exhibiting their work, Uttenahalli, Mysore*

## G Research in School Leadership Development Program (SLDP)

### Duration

Jun 2011 – ongoing

### Overview

The School Leadership Development Program is one of the programs of Azim Premji Foundation (APF), aimed at improving the quality of education in Govt Higher Primary Schools. APF has partnered with several organizations across Karnataka to set up Regional Resource Institutes (RRIs). SVYM's V-LEAD is one such RRI. These RRI train master facilitators, who in turn train Head Teachers of Higher Primary Schools in leadership and management concepts. GRAAM is providing research assistance to V-LEAD in this program, specifically to look closely into the process of leadership development in the Head Teachers who are trained under SLDP.

### Project partners

- ☀ Azim Premji Foundation
- ☀ Department of Education, Govt of Karnataka

### Key outputs during the year

- ☀ The master facilitators (also called School Leadership Development Facilitators – SLDFs) have been undergoing training at V-LEAD since June 2011. They have started preparing their training modules since April 2012 and will begin imparting their training to Head Teachers and CRPs/BRPs from July-Aug 2012 onwards. The research work will start once the SLDFs commence their work / training in the field.
- ☀ So far, the researchers have done an extensive literature review, studied the processes, interacted with the trainees and have developed a theoretical framework for the research work.
- ☀ They have also started developing the research questions. The research will seek to understand the efficacy of the SLDP.
- ☀ A workshop was organized for all the RRI to orient them about this research.
- ☀ The researchers have written a paper titled 'Conceptualizing research in the Educational School Leadership and Governance space', which will be presented at appropriate forums.

The School Leadership Development Program is an important component of the Educational Leadership and Management initiative of APF that recognizes school as a centre of educational change and develops leadership qualities among school heads to contribute towards the development of their own school.

## H Study to understand the efficacy of the 'Ganga Kalyana Yojana'

### Duration

Apr 2011 – Nov 2011

### Overview

The GKY Scheme, started in 1996, provides full financial support to poor farmers of Karnataka for drilling a borewell in their fields and installing a pump-set. The beneficiaries belong to SC, ST and OBC categories. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation (DBCDC) is one of the four implementers of this project in Karnataka. Borewells are allotted to individuals or to a group of farmers, based on their need and eligibility.

This study was designed to ascertain the efficacy of the scheme and its outcomes, and also suggest improvements in implementation. Owing to budget constraints, the study was limited to two taluks in Mysore district – H.D.Kote and Nanjangud. These two taluks had contrasting agro-ecological features, levels of agricultural development and industrialization. To get an accurate picture, a full sampling strategy (as opposed to representative sampling) was adopted.



## The scheme was evaluated based on its activities in three phases

- ☀ Pre-implementation phase – advertising, application process and selection of beneficiaries
- ☀ Implementation phase – drilling of borewell, installation of motor and electrification
- ☀ Post-implementation phase – maintenance of borewells and potential agro-economic benefits to farmers

## Project partners

- ☀ D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation, Bangalore
- ☀ Taluk Panchayaths of H.D.Kote and Nanjangud

## Key outputs during the year

- ☀ Documents were analyzed and discussions were held with DBCDC officials to understand the background and objectives of the scheme and the implementation process. Based on the records maintained by DBCDC, 159 beneficiaries were identified in the two taluks (80 in HD Kote and 79 in Nanjangud). The identification was done by student volunteers.
- ☀ A detailed questionnaire was developed to capture information about the (aforementioned) three phases and the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.
- ☀ In-depth one-on-one interviews were conducted with the beneficiaries. In all, 145 of the 159 beneficiaries could be reached (72 in HD Kote and 73 in Nanjangud).
- ☀ The data was analyzed and the report presented to the Corporation. The report also included important recommendations for improving the efficacy of the scheme. Final word on the report from the Corporation is awaited.
- ☀ As part of the recommendations, GRAAM worked out an advocacy strategy that captures the probable time-line for achieving each advocacy point. For example, a short term advocacy point would be to get a circular to ‘announce the list of selected beneficiaries’ publicly. A long term advocacy point would be to ‘re-frame the selection criteria for beneficiaries’. This allows advocacy groups to pick/choose/prioritize among advocacy points looking at the context in which they are advocating.
- ☀ The report has highlighted the need for giving preference / prominence to women and physically-challenged while choosing the beneficiaries. Bottlenecks like getting electricity connection for the bore-wells, and need for maintenance and support mechanisms have also been brought up in the report.

## I Baseline Study of Sanitation and Hygiene in Selected City Schools

### Duration

Dec 2011 – Apr 2012

### Overview

This is a baseline study of sanitation and water infrastructure in schools, their usage and upkeep, and ways in which hygiene and sanitation issues are incorporated into the school teaching / pedagogy. 12 Government schools each in Mysore (Karnataka) and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), located in the underserved and excluded areas of the city, were surveyed. Both the cities have relatively small yet effective Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and the results of the study are likely to be of interest to them. The study provided baseline information to the GIZ GmbH supported program for improving hygiene and sanitation in schools (GIZ GmbH is a German agency that is supporting the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt of India in implementing the National Urban Sanitation Policy).

## Project partners

- ☀ India WASH Forum
- ☀ ULBs of Mysore and Tirupati



## Key outputs during the year

- ☀ A workshop was conducted to develop the study questionnaire, involving all stakeholders. The questionnaire has 3 components. The first one is on essential information of the school, socio-economic profile of students and staff, school infrastructure, etc. The second section will map out the existing sanitation and hygiene infrastructure of the school, its status and usage and the institutional or informal arrangements for its maintenance / upkeep. The third section focuses on hygiene education provided by the school to its wards.
- ☀ The schools were identified in consultation with the ULBs and data was collected from those schools by GRAAM's researchers. This data was subsequently analyzed.

## J Study on access and utilization of Cash Incentive Programs under NRHM

### Duration

Upto June 2011

### Background

Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi and School of Public Health, SRM University, Chennai offered a training program on Rapid Assessment of Health Programs for Civil Society Organizations with funding from UNFPA. 2 researchers from SVYM / GRAAM (Dr.Bindu and Dr.Shanthi) attended the training. Post training, they had to take up the assessment of an ongoing public health program in their work area. They chose to do a study on access and utilization of maternity-related Cash Incentive Programs under NRHM, by the forest-based tribal women of H.D.Kote Taluk in Mysore District of Karnataka. They were mentored and guided by a faculty member from SRMU-SPH.

The study attempted to understand the awareness levels among forest-based tribal women about Janani Suraksha Yojane (JSY) and Prasooti Aaraike (PA) cash-incentive schemes, identify gaps in their availability and accessibility, and also document the purpose for which the cash incentives were used by the women. The study was descriptive in nature, employing a mix of both qualitative and quantitative methods. 30 haadis (tribal hamlets) out of 109 in HD Kote Taluk were chosen for the study by cluster sampling method. All women of these 30 haadis who had delivered between 01st Oct 2009 and 30th Sept 2010 were included in the study. Data was also collected from service providers (medical officers, ANMs and ASHAs) under whose jurisdiction these 30 haadis fell.

### Project partners

- ☀ Centre for Health and Social Justice, New Delhi
- ☀ School of Public Health, SRM University Chennai
- ☀ Office of the District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Mysore
- ☀ Office of the Taluk Health Officer, HD Kote

### Project outcomes:

- ☀ The study revealed that the women had low awareness about cash incentives. This was particularly pronounced among the women living in remote haadis and who are less (or not) educated.
- ☀ The study also revealed that there was lack of clarity among ANMs and ASHAs about eligibility criteria for cash incentives.
- ☀ It was found that remoteness of the haadis hindered early registration, regular antenatal check-ups and institutional deliveries.
- ☀ 44 % of women received cash under JSY and 10% under PA. The mean waiting time for receipt of incentive was 3.8 months (after delivery) for JSY and 9.8 months for PA.
- ☀ Most of the women utilized the cash for purposes other than for what it was meant for since it was not received at appropriate time.

Presence of ASHAs and ANMs significantly boosts the chances of women accessing health institutions for delivery, even in remote tribal colonies.

- ☀ The study also exposed lacunae in maintenance of records at all levels and deviation from standard operating procedures w.r.t. disbursement of cash incentives.
- ☀ Several recommendations for betterment of the program were given. That included providing soft loans for delivery and a separate ‘Tribal ASHA scheme’ with higher incentive for ASHAs in tribal areas.
- ☀ The study results and recommendations were shared with NRHM and UNFPA officials at a national dissemination meet organized by the funders in New Delhi. The report was also shared with Taluk and District level health officials.



*Participants at the training on  
Rapid Assessment of Public  
Health Programs*



*Dr. Bindu Balasubramaniam  
presenting the findings of the  
study on access and utilization  
of JSY funds among forest  
based tribal women in HD Kote*



*Dr. M A Balasubramanya  
responding to questions  
at the dissemination  
workshop held in HD Kote*



## K Tracking of Funds under NRHM in Mysore District, Karnataka

### Duration

Project concluded in Aug 2011

### Overview

This project / study looked into availability, disbursement and utilization of funds in three components of NRHM, namely cash incentives (primarily Janani Suraksha Yojane and Prasooti Aarika), untied fund and maintenance fund – at the district and sub-district levels. The end objective was to see if the budget allocation had been translated into service delivery and if the benefits actually reached the end-users.

### Project partner

☀ International Budget Partnership

### Key outputs during the year

- ☀ The study report was finalized and shared with the funding partner. The major inferences from the study were as follows:
  - ☀ Presence of ASHA is critical for improving institutional deliveries and in ensuring that the eligible women get the delivery-related cash incentives in time.
  - ☀ Allocation for JSY has been increasing over the years, but there is a constant pool of women who are yet to receive their incentives. This backlog has to be cleared immediately.
  - ☀ The fund disbursement (or the fund flow) at various levels is not consistent with the action plan or the outputs envisioned.
  - ☀ There is a need for better understanding of NRHM's vision and intent among various stakeholders so that funds could be put to better use and spent according to the guidelines.
  - ☀ The budgeting has to be 'need-based' and hence should follow the village health plan. The Plan should ideally be done with active participation from community representatives.
- ☀ The study findings were shared with the NRHM State Mission Director, the key officials of the health department at the district level and the medical officers of the PHCs covered under the study.
- ☀ The findings were also shared with IBP's project partners at the partners' meet held at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- ☀ Two more activities were conceived as an extension of this study – community advocacy and media advocacy. Both components were actionised during the year and have been described in the sections below.

Timeliness of disbursement of funds plays a critical role in ensuring their effective and efficient utilisation.

Untied funds are often released towards the end of the financial year, leaving little time for planned usage of funds.



*Interview with beneficiaries of cash incentive schemes under NRHM*



*Patients at PHCs waiting for their turn to be examined by doctors. Infrastructure and health services at PHCs are expected to get a boost through various funds under NRHM*

## L Community Advocacy with VHSCs

### Duration

Sept 2011 – ongoing

### Overview

As reported earlier, GRAAM, with support from International Budget Partnership (IBP), had done a study for tracking of NRHM funds in Mysore district, with specific focus on components like cash incentives (JSY and Prasooti Aaraike) and maintenance and untied funds. The field experiences while carrying out the project convinced GRAAM and IBP to take up advocacy activities at various levels (with Govt, community and media) to try and ensure that NRHM's objectives are met to the best extent possible.

NRHM envisages that community monitoring of public health services at the village level should be done by the Village Health and Sanitation Committees (VHSCs). GRAAM concurs with this view and therefore believes that strengthening of the VHSCs is a crucial factor to make this component a success. 3 VHSCs (covering 5 villages) under Kallahalli PHC of Mysore Taluk were chosen for the community advocacy component.

### Project partners

- ☀ International Budget Partnership
- ☀ Office of the District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Mysore
- ☀ Office of the Taluk Health Officer, Mysore Taluk
- ☀ Harohalli Gram Panchayath (Jayapura Hobli)





- ☀ Rise Foundation, Mysore
- ☀ VHSCs of Maddur, Kallahalli and Kadanahalli in Mysore Taluk

### Key outputs during the year:

- ☀ A preliminary study was done to understand how the three selected VHSCs were functioning.
- ☀ VHSC members of the 5 villages were trained / oriented in the process of preparing the 'health plan'. [Note: The 'process' involves conducting PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) exercises, group discussions, mapping of available resources and identifying the deficiencies, prioritizing them, listing possible solutions and putting them into a plan.]
- ☀ 83 resource persons of the Arogyavardhini project of SVYM were also trained for facilitating the exercise. [Note: Arogyavardhini is an NRHM-funded project and does training, capacity building and hand-holding of all VHSCs in Mysore & Hassan districts]
- ☀ PRAs were carried out in all the 5 villages. Each PRA took 2-3 days of work with the community and additional 2-3 days of visits by field staff to get the missing data. Utilizing a PRA process for health plan preparation was a new approach for the VHSCs and they wholeheartedly participated in the process.
- ☀ Health plan for 1 VHSC was completed by 31st March. The other plans were completed in April 2012 and presented to the Gram Panchayat President in the presence of Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), GP Members, VHSC members and other people from the community.

**'Sense of ownership' instilled is a true measure of the success of community engagement activities, not just the interest generated or numbers of participants – this understanding was reinforced in our community advocacy initiatives.**



*Social mapping exercise with community members as part of Participatory Rural Appraisal*



*Discussions with VHSC members on the process of health plan preparation and soliciting their consent*





*Interviews and Group discussions with different community members, health functionaries, etc*



*Presentation & discussion of the salient points of the draft health plan prepared by Kallahalli VHSC*



## **M** Madhyama Manthana – Advocacy with the Media

### **Overview**

Advocacy with media is one component of GRAAMs' overall advocacy efforts flowing from the outcomes of the NRHMs fund-tracking project. However, GRAAM also needed to build a broad-based relationship with media and identify the right media partners who would be willing to engage with GRAAM on a long-term basis. With this background, Madhyama Manthana – a one day workshop on Development Journalism was conceptualized to provide a platform for senior editors and journalists from state-level media to deliberate on the present day issues, opportunities and challenges with respect to development journalism. This was also an opportunity for GRAAM / SVYM to present some of its experiences of working with the community and get feedback from the media persons on how these could be weaved into development stories.

The event was held on March 31st 2012 at Hotel Chancery in Bangalore.

### **Key outputs**

- ☀ The event was very well attended and gave a good visibility for GRAAM. Some participants remarked that it was the first time that an event of this nature had been attempted.



- ☀ In the first half of the event, a panel discussion was held involving senior editors and journalists. The panel discussion was inaugurated by Mr. K Sathyanarayana, senior journalist and former editor of Kannada Prabha. Mr. Suresh Kumar, Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development, Govt of Karnataka chaired the panel. The participants comprised of senior journalists from across the state working in print and electronic media, journalism students, and freelancers. The discussions were moderated by the veteran journalist Mr. Ishwara Daitota
- ☀ In the later half, GRAAM presented its experience of working with communities, especially with regard to health / NRHM related projects and sought feedback from the participants on how media can be collaboratively engaged in this work. Several journalists shared their own experience with development journalism and enriched the session with their valuable comments.
- ☀ The event also succeeded in kindling the interest of young journalists in development journalism.
- ☀ Discussions have started with interested journalists to draw up a media advocacy strategy with focus on NRHM-related objectives / outputs.
- ☀ There are plans to conduct similar events at the district / regional level too. There are also plans to start accepting media interns at GRAAM.

The pressing need of the hour is that instead of engaging with politics in development, politics should be based on development issues – one of the many insightful remarks at the Workshop on Development Journalism.



*Reflecting and pondering; (L-R) Suresh Kumar, K Sathyanarayana and Padmaraj Dandavati - on the panel at Madhyama Manthana*



*Inauguration of Madhyama Manthana - GRAAM's first engagement with media on Development Journalism*



*The event saw about 45 to 50 media professionals participate, making it a significant achievement*



*A holiday for political news from the front pages - an idea among many points made by Suresh Kumar*

### Advocacy efforts of the Executive Director:

During the year, Dr.R.Balasubramaniam, Executive Director of GRAAM, had several opportunities to present his views / thoughts on development issues in various government, non-government and academic fora, and also in print and electronic media.

- ☀ He is a member of Karnataka Knowledge Commission's mission-group for public health, which was mandated with preparing a blue print for promoting public health and AYUSH systems in Karnataka.
- ☀ He is a member of the 12th plan review committees of the Govt of Karnataka, tasked with preparing the plan for health, education, tourism sectors in Karnataka.
- ☀ He is a member of the Karnataka Vision 20-20, a high powered group headed by the Chief Minister to prepare the vision document for Karnataka's development.
- ☀ He is a member of the task force for tiger conservation - a State initiative headed by the Chief Minister to oversee the tiger conservation efforts in Karnataka.
- ☀ He was appointed as Special Investigator by the Hon'ble Lok Ayukta of Karnataka for investigating issues of corruption and mal-administration in Karnataka's Public Distribution System.
- ☀ He is serving as the Board Member of the Public Affairs Center, a premier research and advocacy body in Karnataka and a think-tank on key developmental issues.
- ☀ He writes regular articles on development and civic issues in two newspapers – 'Prajavani', the highest circulated Kannada daily in Karnataka, and 'Star of Mysore', the popular evening English daily of the city of Mysore.
- ☀ He serves as adjunct faculty and scholar in residence at Cornell University, USA
- ☀ He serves as adjunct faculty and Professor of International Programs at University of Iowa, USA



### Interaction with Dr. Richard Cash of Harvard School of Public Health

Dr.Cash visited GRAAM and V-LEAD in the month of June 2011. He gave a talk on sanitation initiatives of BRAC, Bangladesh (the world's largest NGO) and ethical issues in public health, using slides and video documentaries to drive home his point. He also spoke about the potential of visual media as an effective communication tool to reach out to the students and masses alike. He went on to share his thoughts on monitoring and evaluation of public health programs, with an example of BRAC's another initiative called Oral Therapy Extension Program (OTEP) – a program that has taught millions of mothers in Bangladesh to prepare and use Oral Re-hydration Therapy (ORT). He later interacted with the Arogyashreni project team and gave his opinion about the project design and processes.

### Course in Action Research

With an aim to understand the nuances of Action Research and to enhance a collaborative learning community within GRAAM, the entire team participated in a short course on Action Research with distinguished faculty of Cornell University (CU) – Davydd J. Greenwood, Goldwin Smith Professor of Anthropology and Richard Kiely, Director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning and Research. The course comprised live video sessions with Davydd and Richard, several readings on Action Research & allied topics and discussions within the team on the ways in which the learning applied to the sphere of work in which GRAAM is engaged.

A highlight for the team during the course was the intense narratives of each member's personal journey and motivations to be engaged in research and advocacy activities in the development sector.

## Teaching at Masters of Development Management Program

Most of GRAAM team members engage in teaching activities at V-LEAD, which conducts a Masters Program in Development Management (MDM), recognized by the University of Mysore. GRAAM's involvement in teaching is a distinctive experiment wherein GRAAM faculty strive to provide students a unique blend of academic knowledge and exposure to practical and grassroots challenges in different sectors.

## PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE / FUTURE ACTIVITIES

GRAAM plans to widen its scope of work, grow its roots deeper and sharpen its focus in the coming days. All ongoing projects will be taken to their logical conclusion. Besides, several other new projects / initiatives have been lined up for the ensuing year. Some of them include:

- ☀ Evaluating Poverty Elimination Programs for People with Disabilities – an assignment for Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) , Govt of Andhra Pradesh
- ☀ Phase II (Field survey) of the Evaluation of Govt. Old Age Pension Schemes in Karnataka
- ☀ Preparation of strategy and roadmap for Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of Toyota Kirloskar Motors, Bangalore
- ☀ Nutrition Study in three districts of Karnataka in collaboration with Azim Premji University
- ☀ India Human Development Survey II – an extensive state wide socio-economic survey in collaboration with National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- ☀ Developing a process / manual for empanelment of agencies, for Karnataka Evaluation Authority, followed by an output grading manual
- ☀ Study to determine effectiveness of Vitamin Supplements before pregnancy on infant birth-weight with Cornell University

### Advocacy Strategy

GRAAM's advocacy strategy is continuously evolving and will expand over the subsequent months to include specific advocacy initiatives in the sectors of public health, education, community governance, livelihoods and social security. Adopting a multi-pronged approach to advocacy, GRAAM seeks to engage with different stake-holders viz. Community, policy makers/planners, media and Civil Society organizations.

### Collaborations

GRAAM is also looking forward to add to and build on the existing collaborations with Researchers and Universities across the world, and within India.

The future promises to be exciting for GRAAM, not only as the collective expands its experience in new areas of research and entrenches itself deeper into advocacy, but by constant incorporation of grassroots perspectives on issues and research approaches.

# ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
APF	Azim Premji Foundation
APL	Above Poverty Line
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CHSJ	Centre for Health & Social Justice
C-LAMPS	Centre for Leadership and Management in Public Services
DBCDC	Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation
DHO	District Health Office/Officer
ELDF	Education Leadership Development Facilitators
ELDP	Education Leadership Development Program
FPS	Fair Price Shop
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
GKY	Ganga Kalyana Yojane
GP	Gram Panchayat
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRAAM	Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IBP	International Budget Partnership
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
IIM	Indian Institute of Management
ILR	Industrial & Labour Relations (Refers to ILR School, Cornell University)
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization
IVRS	Interactive Voice Response System
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
M & E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
PDO	Panchayat Development Officer
PDS	Public Distribution System
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PHFI	Public Health Foundation of India
PPU	Policy Planning Unit
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RDPR	Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
RRI	Regional Resource Institute
SLDF	School Leadership Development Facilitator
SLDP	School Leadership Development Program
STEPS	Strengthening of Tobacco-control Efforts through innovative Partnerships and Strategies
SVYM	Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement
TRAC	Training, Research, Advocacy & Consultancy
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VHSC	Village Health & Sanitation Committee
VIIS	Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies
V-LEAD	Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, Mysore





*GRAAM team is a coming together  
of an eclectic mix of people from  
diverse backgrounds and  
varied experiences*



# GRAAM

Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement

---

# CA-2, KIADB Industrial Housing Area  
Ring Road, Hebbal  
Mysore 570016  
Karnataka, India

Phone +91 821 2410759

[www.graam.org.in](http://www.graam.org.in)  
[graam@svym.org.in](mailto:graam@svym.org.in)