



“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance”

– Ban Ki-moon



GRAAM's key strength of being able to work both at the grassroots and policy level, gives it micro as well as macro level perspectives on development.



Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement

GRAAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

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Abbreviations

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
APF	Azim Premji Foundation	km	Kilometres
APU	Azim Premji University	KSHSRC	Karnataka State Health System Research Centre
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
AYUSH	Ayurveda Yoga Unani Siddha Homeopathy	MNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
BPL	Below Poverty Line	MSP	Minimum Support Price
CADA	Command Area Development Agency	NGO	Non-Government Organization
CCT	Community Consultation Team	NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
CD/DVD	Compact Disk/Digital Versatile Disk	PAC	Public Affairs Centre
CDI	Child Development Index	PDS	Public Distribution System
CDDI	Composite Dalit Development Index	PHC	Primary Health Centre
CMC	City Municipal Council	PIR	Public Interest Registry
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	PRI	Panchayat Raj Institutions
CTDI	Composite Taluk Development Index	PWD	People with Disabilities
DEF	Digital Empowerment Foundation	RAAS	Rapid Assessment of Annabhagya Scheme
DHDR	District Human Development Report	RDPR	Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
DPAP	Drought Prone Area Program	RGRHCL	Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited
EDI	Employment and Disability Institute	RWP	Rural Work Programmes
FCS&CA	Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs	SAGY	Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
FGD	Focus Group Discussions	SC	Scheduled Caste
FPS	Fair Price Shops	SFDA	Small Farmers Development Agency
FSI	Food Security Index	SHG	Self Help Group
FWP	Food for Work Programme	SSLC	Senior Secondary School Leaving Certificate
GDI	Gender Development Index	SSS	School Support Services
GOK	Government of Karnataka	ST	Scheduled Tribe
GP	Gram Panchayat	SVYM	Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement
GRAAM	Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement	THO	Taluk Health Officer
HH	Households	UDI	Urban Development Index
HR	Human Resource	UNDP	United Nations Development Project
HDI	Human Development Index	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
H,M,L	High, Medium, Low	VC	Vigilance Committee
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	ZP	Zilla Panchayat
iSSS	Saath Centre model		
IVRS	Interactive Voice Response System		

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From the Founder's desk >



Dear Friends,

We have completed one full year as an independent legal entity at GRAAM. This year has seen a lot happening both within and outside GRAAM. A new Government has been in place for the last 1 year in Delhi and a lot of policy changes have been happening. The Government seems to be in a hurry to usher in economic development and is focusing a lot on the secondary and tertiary sector economies. The Government began with a difference with the Prime Minister lending his name and credibility to some of the flagship programmes that have been introduced. He has also been proactive in ushering in citizen engagement through online portals and inviting suggestions for his radio talks. On the one hand, we have had the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human Resource Development calling upon the citizens to give inputs to the National Health and the National Education Policy that

are underway. These are all good signs for building an eco-system of participation. On the other hand, we are also seeing evidence of a government being suspicious of the activities of some NGOs and showing intolerance to criticism of its economic and environmental policies.

The internal environment within GRAAM has also been changing. We now have a full-time board which meets regularly to oversee the functioning of GRAAM. While a few people have left the team, it is heartening to note that the core team continues to work and build an organization that is distinctly different. While advocacy activities saw a spurt and our engagement with the government, academic institutions and other civil society organizations have increased substantially, the challenge of finances still continues to persist and all of us had to work doubly hard to keep the flame burning. Despite all this, we are excited to be living in exciting and challenging times.

GRAAM is now increasingly convinced that disruptive engagement with the state and other players in development will only take us this far; the need of the hour is for some real constructive engagement. As we continue our engagement with communities at the grass roots, we also understand that re-negotiating power and power equations is a messy process and long drawn. Our experience is also showing that our fears of policy capture and captured institutions is real and have to be taken into account when one talks of working with

different partners. While the challenge of marrying 'conflict and cooperation' in advocacy will continue, we are confident that governance problems can be solved through collective action. Lessons learnt from the field also indicate that accountability is a public good that no one wants to pay for. It would not be fair to hold only the government responsible to initiate and bear the cost of the processes of accountability. Citizen action needs to emerge from collective ownership and citizens need to own up the responsibility of engaging in an empowered manner.

GRAAM continues to be committed to changing the narrative of India's development from mere income growth and GDP projections to that of building India's human and social capital. We are confident that the journey of putting citizens into the equation of governance is not a far-fetched dream but something that we can consciously and strategically ensure. And this, we believe, will lead to the paradigm of reducing poverty and sharing prosperity. While GRAAM has set out to define this new 'normal' in the discourse on development, we are confident of meeting the many challenges ahead with the committed and reassuring support and encouragement that we have been receiving from each one of you.

I would like to invite you to visit GRAAM and continue your engagement with our activities and us in a more intense manner.

Yours truly,

Dr R Balasubramaniam
Founder & Chairman, GRAAM
rbalu@graam.org.in

Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement

Our focus

- Research on development issues and public policies
- Constant grassroots engagement to capture community 'voice'
- Advocacy driven by empirical evidence & with a collaborative approach
- Consultation for strategy development with our grassroots experience and systematic approach to address the developmental issues

Vision

Facilitating development that expands the capabilities and potential of growth within communities at the grassroots level while respecting individual rights and values.

Mission

To promote a higher standard of living, equal opportunities, civic empowerment, social responsibility, political participation, democratic dialogue and social justice

To impact development and expand human capabilities by expanding the reach of the four major players; the state, the community, the private sector and the NGO sector

To ensure sound public policy through relevant and active research and through strategic and informed advocacy

Strategic Partnership for Development



Achievements and Highlights

During 2014-15, GRAAM has achieved a few milestones due to its persistent efforts and hard work and expanded its range of activities through new ventures. Its adoption of technical innovations in research and data analysis, participation in various platforms and public events and advocacy efforts are some of the highlights of GRAAM's activities during the year under report.

Gaining experience with electronic data collection

As part of the study on evaluation of performance of 24x7 PHCs in the 'C' category districts of Karnataka, the community consultation team of GRAAM, for the first time, started using tablet computers for directly recording information gathered during fieldwork. The survey questionnaires were developed by using Kobo Toolbox available at www.kobotoolbox.org. The whole exercise of developing and implementing the process of using tablet computers for data gathering has been handled in-house at GRAAM.



GRAAM staff members found that, this procedure also helps in reducing use of resources - time, human resources and money – required for data collection and digitizing. GRAAM will focus on streamlining this process in the coming days.

GRAAM congratulates EMC2 for hiring Shreesha Bharadhwaj

After the advocacy event 'Leveraging Human Capital by Tapping Disabled Talents' organized in Bengaluru on 18th July 2014 to promote employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in the private sector, Mr. Karthik Shekhar of GRAAM continued the outreach activities. Profiles of 14 PWDs were circulated to various companies. We are glad to share with you that EMC2 responded and hired Mr. Shreesha Bharadhwaj. We congratulate EMC2 for taking this initiative. We are also thankful to Mr. H. S. Shama Sundar, CEO and President at PCS-HR Future Orbit, for referring Shreesha to us.

Seemandhra Health Dept. evinced interest in Arogyashreni model of study

Arogyashreni is one of the key projects of GRAAM focused on strengthening community monitoring using technology at Primary Health Centres in the rural areas of Mysuru. The Digital Empowerment Foundation and UNICEF had organized a consultation on 'Mobiles for Social and Behavioural Change' on 17th and 18th December in Hyderabad. The objective of the consultation was to present various models implemented for social change across India leveraging mobile phone technology. Basavaraju R, Executive Director of GRAAM, presented the Arogyashreni project and explained how the project, which was implemented in Mysuru district for three years, resulted in strengthening community monitoring.

The presentation was successful in eliciting the interest of participants particularly the National Health Mission of Andhra Pradesh Government. Mr. Vasudeva Rao, the State Project Manager of the Mission stated in his presentation that the AP Government was keen to consider Arogyashreni for piloting in the state. Mr. Basavaraju also had a discussion with the Mission Director of the State Health Mission, Mr. Saurabh Gaur, I.A.S., about the project and its result in Karnataka. Mr. Gaur expressed his interest. It can be recalled that the Public Interest Registry (PIR), USA. and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), New Delhi, India jointly awarded GRAAM the first prize in the eNGO challenge award in the Advocacy category in 2013. Arogyashreni was covered in Civil Society Magazine in its April 2014 issue on the cover page and it was the feature story of the issue.

Basavaraju R in Working Committee to draft proposed Karnataka Sanitary Facilities Guarantee Act, 2014

The Government of Karnataka is planning to pass the Karnataka Sanitary Facilities Guarantee Bill, 2014. The intention is to make the state 'open defecation free'. Mr. Basavaraju R., Executive Director of GRAAM, has been invited to be part of the 10-member Working Committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. It can be recalled that GRAAM had conducted the evaluation of Nirmala Grama Puraskar award winning Grama Panchayats last year.

Widespread publicity and dissemination of RAAS project results by Department of Food and Civil Supplies, GoK

During the 1st week of March 2015, the report of 'Rapid Assessment of Annabhagya Scheme' (RAAS) project was sent to leading newspapers in the state as an advocacy effort by Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Minister Mr. Dinesh Gundurao, GoK, at a press conference held in Bengaluru. Around 500 copies of the report were distributed to various stakeholders involved in the PDS across the state. In the later weeks of the month, a journalist of 'The Week' magazine interviewed the researchers involved in the project - Dr. R. Balu and Ms. Rajeshwari Mallegowda. Based on the interview and report, an article 'Coarse work' was published in 'The Week' magazine.

Minister assures action for PwD inclusion in MNREGA



Mr. H. K . Patil, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayath Raj, Govt of Karnataka assured necessary action for the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). He assured this to GRAAM's Executive Director Mr. Basavaraju R. on the occasion of World Toilet Day on 19th November, 2014, organized by Sanitation Department, Government of Karnataka, with the support of UNICEF. Mr. Basavaraju was invited as one of the speakers for the Media Symposium.

Contributing to the National Health Policy

Dr. R Balasubramaniam and Rohit Shetti attended an interaction session with the committee constituted by the Govt. of India for preparing the National Health Policy on 13th October 2014 in Bengaluru. Dr. N K Dhamija, Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt.

of India, who is a part of this team sought inputs from stakeholders including civil society, private sector players and health care institutions that are working with the State in PPP mode. Mr. N Sivasailam, Principal Secretary to the Dept. of Health and Family Welfare, GoK and Mr. Atul Tiwari, Mission Director, NRHM Karnataka, were also present on the occasion.

The consultation was a significant opportunity to put forth major recommendations on a range of specific as well as broad public health issues that GRAAM has been dealing with over the past few years. These included addressing regional disparities in health, changes in the funding pattern to the districts, de-medicalization of health sector, better working conditions for frontline workers in health, strategies for handling the ageing population of India and palliative care and building a health care system that is relevant to the Indian context and knowledge among others. Pushing for adoption of a systems approach to public health is a key component of GRAAM's public health advocacy efforts. Going further, the Deputy Commissioner solicited a note on the points made and GRAAM team is currently preparing the same.

Academic collaborations

Tie-ups with various top ranked universities through interning, working on collaborative projects and programmes are some of the key activities of GRAAM. This has enabled GRAAM to testify and magnify its research skills to international standards.

Projects

The year 2014-15 brought rich experience to GRAAM through working in projects with a widened research base. The projects are classified under public policy research, program monitoring, evaluation studies and other strategic consultations. Analysis of housing policy under RGRHCL, rapid assessment of Annabhagya scheme, evaluation of 24x7 PHCs in 7 'C' category districts of Karnataka, Premavidya education project and District Human Development Report are the main projects handled by GRAAM during the year under report. The new projects brought GRAAM new partners, opened new ventures and knowledge sharing platforms at various levels of governance.



Expanding Horizons

Year 2014-15 brought GRAAM new partners, which opened new ventures and knowledge sharing platforms at various levels of governance.

GRAAM's projects across different sectors

Evaluations & Surveys

Evaluation of development programmes implemented by Government, Development Organizations and through Corporate Social Responsibility activities of companies



Research & Analyses

Multidisciplinary approaches to research to provide empirical evidence and highlight issues faced by communities



Strategic Consultancies

Policy Development, Programme Strategy and plan for Government and Corporate organizations



Community Engagement

Participatory research, community consultation to emulate research questions from the field and understand grassroots perspectives on development



Advocacy

For bringing pragmatic policy or programme change in collaboration with academia, civil society organizations and media



1. What works and why do things work in Primary Health Centres of North Karnataka

Study of the performance of 24 X 7 PHCs in the 'C' category districts of Karnataka

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Sham N Kashyap, Chandrika Shetty

Field Research Team: Mahesh, Kumar, Ravi C S, Ashwath Gowda, Banu, Mamta

Sector: Public health, evaluation of the performance of institution.

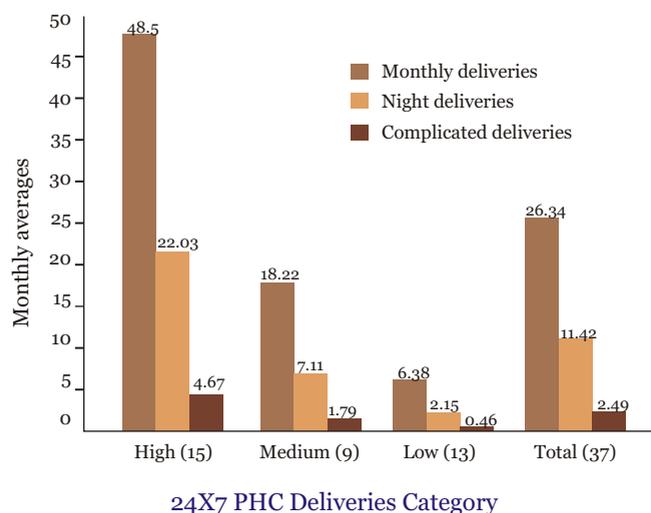
Karnataka State Health System Resource Centre (KSHSRC) assigned GRAAM to conduct an in-depth assessment of the factors, positive as well as negative, affecting the performance of 24 X 7 PHCs in the 'C category' districts (Bagalkote, Bidar, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir) of Karnataka and suggest measures, both at policy and operational levels, to improve their performance. The evaluation was conducted on a sample of 37 24x7 PHCs across the 7 'C' districts. The study used **'live deliveries reported in PHCs per thousand population per year'** as the primary indicator to assess the performance of 24x7 PHCs. This variable was used to assess and categorize the performance of 24x7 PHCs into 3 categories: High (H), Medium (M) and Low (L).

The major findings of the study are listed below:

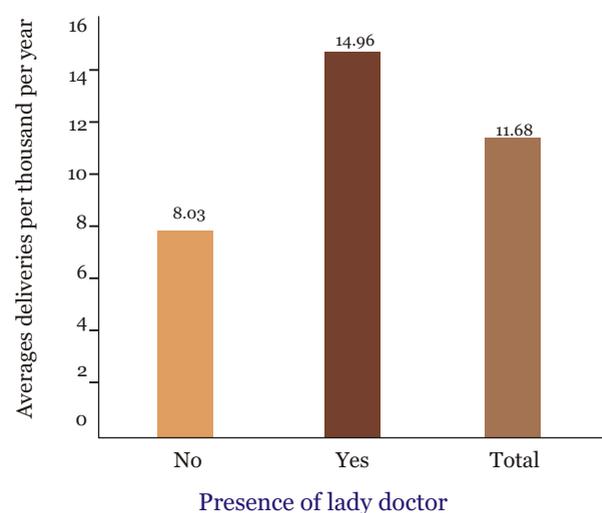
- H level 24x7 PHCs recorded higher numbers of night and complicated deliveries. This proportion was less in M and L level 24x7 PHCs. The average infant deaths in the PHC areas in 2013-14 was 9 in H level PHCs, 7.11 in M level PHCs and 12.38 in L level PHCs. However, these averages weren't statistically significant to draw conclusions.

- H level PHCs were able to provide JSY and Madilu kits to beneficiaries in a more timely fashion compared to other levels. Infrastructure and medicine availability (both generic as well as specific to delivery related) did not differ substantially among the three levels of 24x7 PHCs.
- H level PHCs were significantly better staffed than M and L level PHCs. The proportion of H level PHCs a) having lady doctors, b) having more than 2 doctors and c) having 3 or more staff nurses was higher in comparison to other levels. In 50% of the cases, doctors in H level PHCs were reported to be staying in head-quarters (This ratio was about 22% and 15% respectively).
- The study found that PHCs with lady doctors had considerably higher average deliveries per thousand per year and hence, this affect was visible in H level PHCs, since the proportion of H level PHCs with lady doctors was high.
- Staff nurses of H level PHCs were technically more competent in recalling issues to be observed during ANC checkups and were slightly better trained than those in other levels of PHCs.

Patterns in deliveries in 24X7 PHCs



Influence of lady doctors on deliveries in PHCs





Based on the results and observations, the following recommendations were made.

- Improving the technical competence of staff nurses with compulsory training in BEmOC and IMNCI and motivating the staff nurses for providing the best services, specifically in deliveries and overnight care.
- Streamlining job responsibilities of AYUSH doctors, keeping in mind their larger role in the provision of health care.
- Exploring options for phased regularization of staff nurses and AYUSH doctors.
- Including number of deliveries as performance criteria with the highest weights, for performance based funding of Untied Grants (as suggested by recent changes in NRHM).
- Providing at least 3 staff nurses and at least one lady doctor for every PHC, and more importantly, bringing stability in staff patterns and provision of services.

2. Evaluating the suitability of audio-visual material for teaching secondary school in Yadgir district of Karnataka

A Project to study suitability of Prema Vidya Audio-visual material for teaching of Science, Math and Social Science at the secondary level in Yadgir district of Karnataka

Basavaraju R, Dr. Rajendraprasad P., Dr. Doreraju, Bellegowda | Field Team: Prema Vidya Yadgir Project staff
Sector: Secondary School Education, Action Research, ICT in Education, Program Evaluation.

Technology-assisted teaching has found relevance today in our lives as technology is being applied for finding solutions for several day-to-day problems. Using technology in the process of teaching-learning is becoming extremely common in private urban schools, especially in those which have introduced computers as a subject and have access to computers, projected media (over-head projectors) and other electronic media (Television, DVD players, multi-media projectors).

Prema Vidya is one such technology-assisted intervention of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement conceived to address the educational needs of the economically disadvantaged groups in urban schools of Bengaluru and southern districts of Karnataka. The project has met with success in these schools.

Prema Vidya teaching method is under implementation in Yadgir block of Yadgir district, Karnataka. There are 2 models in this project. While the School Support Services (SSS) model is being implemented in 29 schools, Saath Center model (iSSS) is under implementation in 11 schools. In these schools, audio-visual materials are being used to teach students. Yadgir is a very small district in Karnataka. Most students from this district have poor academic records and are the first school going students in their families. The students in Yadgir belong to a special socio-culture region and the difference can be noticed if we compare them to students from other parts of the State. They have their own language, religion and socio-culture.

According to 2011 census, the district population of Yadgir was split into SC 23%, ST 11.6%, Muslims 9.8%, Minorities 13.8%. The Lambhani community, which forms a major chunk of the district's population, comes under ST category. Out of the 10 lakhs of Lambhanis in Karnataka, Gulbarga (Kalaburagi), Yadgir and Belgaum (Belagavi) districts have a major share together. Yadgir district has 44,225 Lambhani families (Narasimha Nayak 1997 and BVV Rathod 1996-97, 2007). In this light, an action research was carried out to find answers to the following questions.

- Do Prema Vidya audio-visual materials fit into their needs—
- What achievements have been made using Prema Vidya materials—
- What are the barriers to use this material—
- What are the suggestions to overcome these barriers—

While more such questions could have been included, it would have been difficult to find answers to all of them. Prema Vidya audio-visual materials are being used as an experiment to create a new learning environment.

The action research study evaluated whether the audio-visual materials of Mathematics, Science and Social Science subjects were suitable for the learners in Yadgir district or the learner's socio-cultural, linguistic requirements required some modifications. The study also evaluated which subjects required modifications and tried to understand required modification of materials in accordance with the background of Yadgir.



In continuation to our published report on this subject in our previous Annual Report, we wish to record our findings made in the year 2014-15.

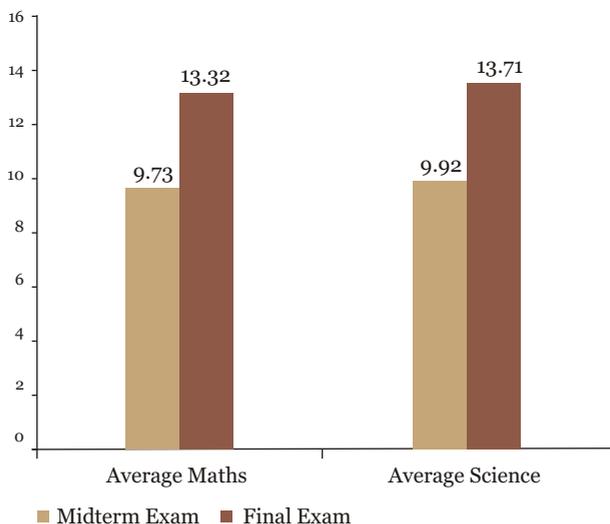
- The collective opinion was that the audio-visual learning was more experiential than conventional learning models. It was observed that more students were willing to attend classes voluntarily.
- It was found that students understood the subject better when audio-visual material was used, even without the assistance of a teacher, as the language used was simple. Students could follow pronunciation very easily. However, participation of students was found to be less in Mathematics.
- It was found that there was an increase of 36% and 33% in attendance respectively in Mathematics and Science subjects between midterm and final exam. Methodology of using PremaVidya audio and visual aid could be attributed to this success.
- In Yadgir taluk, where this methodology was introduced for SSLC students of iSSS model schools, there was an increase of 19% in pass results in the final exam results compared to the academic years of 2012-13 and 2013-14.



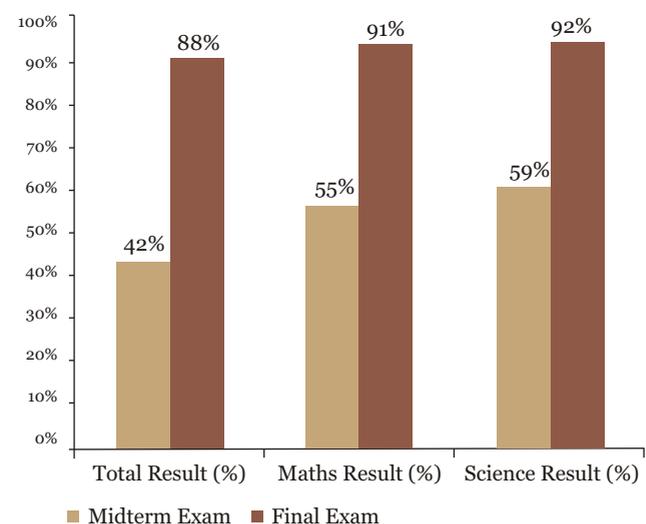
Similarly, there was an increase of 16% in case of SSS model schools during the same period.

- Majority of the students opined that the audio-visual teaching material was in simple language and easily understandable. However some students found the audio visual material difficult to understand. They said a dictionary was needed to understand certain words.
- It was observed the audio-visual teaching methods were used to an extent of 43% during regular classes and 46% during revisions.

Average result of SSS and iSSS schools in Midterm and Final Exams



The result of Midterm and Final Exams of SSS and iSSS schools



Recommendations and advocacy messages

1. Authorities who work on syllabus and work pattern should have to assess the importance and impact of audio visual materials and accordingly plan the syllabus.
2. Special funds and donations are also to be reserved to provide modern audio-visual equipments/materials (subject-wise) to the middle level schools.
3. Teachers should be trained in the use of audio visual techniques. It is not just technology (Audio-visual) that helps the students to better understand the subject. What matters more is effective utilization of the given technology by teachers to make learning interesting and grooming students.
4. While planning to have audio-visuals for the students, emphasis on the usage of blackboard and other teaching aids should not be ignored and the same had to be discussed with the teaching staff.
5. Both SSS and iSSS methods of teaching, which are in practice in Yadagir have advantages as well as disadvantages. This method of teaching will help the backward students and inspires them in learning. While the advantage in iSSS is that all the three subjects are taught in the same way, in SSS model, involvement of teachers in guiding students helps in complete learning.
6. Full time involvement of teachers for understanding the audio-visual content and its technical details is important for purpose of passing on the desired benefits to students. The emphasis should be on capacity building to enhance their professionalism. This can be achieved by understanding the content in Prema Vidya audio-visual module fully before the start, to gain control over the subjects.
7. It is necessary to train the head of the institution, school organizers and 'SAATH' centres, in new methods of teaching and learning.
8. Activities in audio-visual method of teaching can be increased by focusing on asking questions related to exams and giving assignments.
9. In addition to text book lessons, learning materials like CDs will assist both teachers and students.
10. Teachers can also be helped by providing CDs containing additional information on the subject. This will help them in better preparation for the conduct of classes.
11. To involve students actively, they should be encouraged to make notes on the subjects. Teachers should help/guide the students in this process.
12. Along with the state syllabus, central syllabus subjects can also be included.

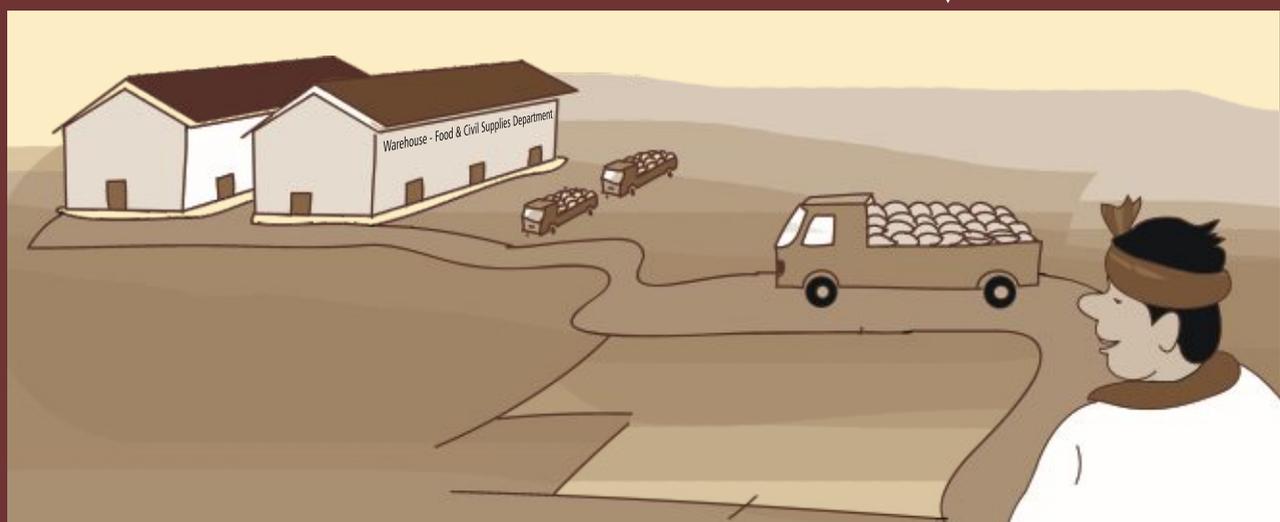
Unique/standout experiences

Challenges/Learnings

- Limited power supply (i.e., Morning: 6 am to 12 noon OR Afternoon: 12 noon to 6 pm)
- Power supply to DVD Player through UPS lasts for less than an hour
- When 3 headphones are connected to DVD player at a time, sound becomes less audible
- Maintenance of hardware (i.e. repairing head phones and DVD players locally)

Addressing shortage of food grains

Focus Group Discussions conducted by GRAAM revealed the fact that the assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy, ragi and jowar would motivate farmers to supply the grains to PDS and thus contribute to solve the problem of grains shortage in PDS.



3. Monitoring and vigilance in PDS

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Basavaraju R, Rajeshwari S Mallegowda

Community Consultation Team: *Dr. Siddappa, Prakash. M*

Sector: *Program evaluation, public service*

Strengthening community monitoring for reduction of PDS leakages

In the previous year's annual report, we shared about GRAAM conducting a rapid assessment study on Annabhagya (public distribution system) Yojana in Karnataka state along with the preliminary results. In this annual report, we provide details on the continued work of the project - conducting focus group discussions with farmer groups growing ragi, paddy and jowar across the state. The FGDs were conducted with the objective of understanding farmer's interest in supplying the grown produce to PDS procurement centres. The secondary objective was to analyze the factors strengthening the local production, marketing and distribution network. The discussions revealed the fact that the assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy, ragi and jowar would motivate farmers to supply the grains to PDS and thus contribute to solve the problem of grains shortage in PDS. The detailed version of FGD report is available on our website.

Since its inception in July, 2013, Annabhagya Yojana, the flagship programme of Government of Karnataka, is in the news everyday for one or the other reason. It is criticized equally as it is lauded for its objective of assuring food security in the state. The criticisms are related to its economic and socio-political impacts, governance and logistic issues, nutrition issues and environmental/land use issues. The most important argument analyzed through the lens of nutrition and regional food habits is, due to the heavy subsidization of rice, the food consumption pattern of below poverty line (BPL) households is changing considerably and is dominated by the use of rice, even among the households whose staple food was based on other millets like Ragi and Jowar.

Since the consumption of rice alone does not contribute towards eradication of malnutrition prevalent among BPL families, it is argued that the scheme can prove detrimental to the nutrition level of BPL families.



Annabhagya Scheme is a step in the direction of ensuring food security to the citizens, especially the poor. However, the lack of an effective monitoring system that involves communities is acting as a hindrance to the scheme in reaching its full potential.

Current monitoring systems are inadequate

In Karnataka, monitoring of PDS on the field is a two pronged approach-deployment of Food Inspectors by the Department of FCS & CA and formation of Vigilance Committees at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level, comprising volunteers from the community. This is in addition to a toll-free helpline provided by the department for consumers of PDS and an Ombudsman/regulator for PDS at the Central level.

Key issues

- Less than 23% have witnessed the visits of food inspectors to either monitor BPL cards or to address any other grievances
- The job description of the Food Inspector is humanly impossible to achieve
- The vigilance committees are to be formed at FPS, Block, District and State Level. The FPS level committee is supposed to sit on the first and third Saturday of every month. However, the vigilance committees are only on paper and hardly functional.
- The monitoring by the vigilance committee members is limited to food sampling and general interaction with customers as they are not equipped or trained to monitor the documents or inspect the biometric machines (As per PAC study).





- 90% of PDS consumers and 50% of FPS owners are not aware of vigilance committees (these numbers need to be verified). While most FPS owners are aware of VC at FPS level, 36% are not aware of VC at GP level.
- Where vigilance committees are formed, 38% members are not aware of their own membership and their duties / responsibilities
- 90% of the FPS studied do not have the name and record of the Food Inspectors' visits.
- 72 percent of the Food Inspectors are unable to inspect all the shops in their jurisdiction in a month because of too many shops (49%), distance (17%), non-availability of transportation (20%) and office work (17%).

What the vigilance committees must focus on

- Awareness building among consumers
- Mapping the local community needs and expectations from FPS
- Complementing the Food Inspectors in their roles

- Ensure that the FPS display boards are up to date as per Govt. guidelines
- Conducting public audit of the FPS periodically in the presence of the Food Inspector & GP members

Other recommendations

- Review the job description of the Food Inspectors, increase their number on the field and support them with technology for monitoring (a tablet based monitoring checklist can be developed for the Food Inspectors that can allow for quick entry, upload and analysis of information and remedial action can be undertaken.) GRAAM can undertake a pilot project on this.
- Strengthening community monitoring – activation of vigilance committees, training and capacity building for monitoring, using technology
- The responsibility of ensuring that the FPS level committees are functioning should be given to the President of the Gram Panchayat under whose purview the FPSs are located. Or it has to be part of the GP level VC.



Supply millets under Anna Bhagya, govt told

Rice alone does not provide enough nutrition to BPL families, finds study

BENGALURU: A State government-sponsored study of Anna Bhagya scheme (rice at Re 1 per kg) has revealed that the government's flagship scheme may prove detrimental to the nutrition level of below poverty line (BPL) families in the State. Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement, a non-governmental organisation, has in its final report on the scheme said the food consumption

pattern of BPL households had been changing fast and was dominated by the use of rice.

This has been the trend even among households whose staple food is millets such as ragi and jowar. But rice alone does not provide people with their daily minimum energy requirement, it said.

"Consumption of rice alone does not contribute to eradication of malnutrition prevalent among BPL families. Thus, it is argued that the scheme can prove detrimental to the nutrition level of BPL families," the report, submitted to Food and Civil Supplies Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday, stated.

The NGO has recommend-

ed to the government to seriously think about inclusion of ragi and jowar under the public distribution system in order to combat malnourishment. "We believe that a reduction in the amount of rice and a supplement of approximately 2 to 3 kg of pulses would make for a balanced diet for households," it said.

Eradicating hunger

However, the report said the scheme had been effective and beneficial in eradicating hunger among the poor.

Speaking to reporters, Rao said the department had drawn up a proposal to supply certain quantity of millets, pulses, cooking oil and iodine salt under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

If approved, the supply of rice will be reduced proportionately. It has been proposed to use the remaining quantity of rice for supply to the above poverty line ration card holders, he said.

He said the department had saved about Rs 1,300 crore meant for food subsidy in the current financial year by weeding out bogus ration cards and rationalising the procurement process.

Of the Rs 4,360 crore allotted for food subsidy in the budget, the department has spent only Rs 3,060 crore. About 8.74 lakh bogus ration cards have been cancelled, saving about Rs 500 crore of government money, he said.

DH News Service

4. Kodagu and Kolar's District Human Development Reports

Type of Project: Status report

Team: Sham N Kashyap, Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Basavaraju R, Chandrika Shetty, Prakash, Pushpa, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Rajeshwari Mallegowda, Rohit Shetti, Dr. Siddappa Madiwalar

Preparation of District Human Development Report of Kodagu and Kolar District

The District Human Development Reports (DHDR) of Kodagu and Kolar districts, authored by GRAAM were published by the respective Zilla Panchayats. The District Human Development Reports provide disaggregated status of human development at the district level and below, which allows for the prioritization of specific communities, taluks and districts in designing development strategies and action plans of various government agencies. These reports also provide a comparative empirical analysis of how different departments and different schemes are performing at the district levels and below, and provide an opportunity to rationally address such gaps.

The District Human Development Reports, comprising 12 chapters, capture in detail the status of human development, based on 6 standard indices of development at the taluk level: Human Development Index (HDI), Child Development Index (CDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), Food Security Index (FSI), Composite Taluk Development Index (CTDI) and one perception based indicator at the level of a local Grama Panchayat called Composite Dalit Development Index (CDDI). Together with these indices, 4 small area studies were carried out, to capture the grassroots issues affecting human development in the district.

The drafting of DHDR was a unique multidisciplinary attempt at GRAAM since the majority of the research and community consultation staff were involved in field work, secondary data collection as well as drafting the report. The challenge for the GRAAM team in this initiative was to understand and document the diverse set of macro and micro issues that affect the status of human development in the two districts.

District Human Development Report, Kodagu

Kodagu, also known as Coorg is the smallest district in the state of Karnataka. It is a picturesque, hilly district located in south-western Karnataka, on the Western Ghats of India, and is considered as one of the most beautiful hill stations of Karnataka.

Kodagu's produces one third of the nation's Coffee and its economy is primarily driven by it. Another emerging option for livelihoods in Kodagu is tourism. Together with the traditional religious tourist attractions, Kodagu attracts urban nature lovers with a unique combination of eco-tourism and homestays. The district's per capita income is appreciably high in comparison to other districts of the state. Even with the lack of rail connectivity, Kodagu has been able to achieve high levels of income and sustain it over the past decades. However, there are causes of concern, since the growth trends in income are largely one dimensional and less inclusive.

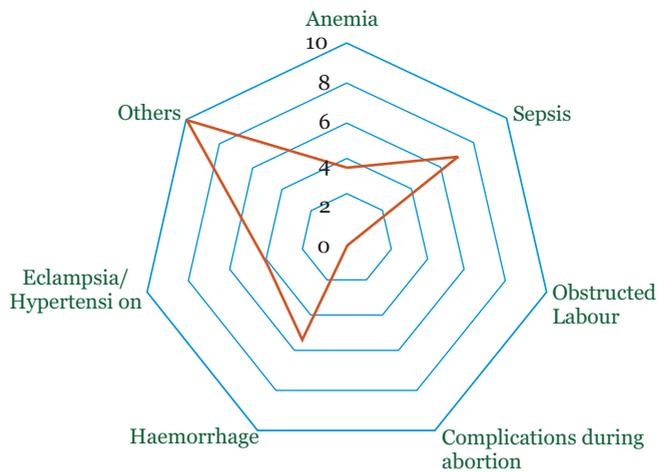
The non-availability of large additional lands for coffee cultivation, reducing quality of ecosystem services, the stagnant yields of coffee, relatively stagnant demand for agricultural labour and the dwindling availability of reliable agricultural labour are some of the issues affecting the livelihood scenario of the district. Thus, the district has the dual problems of unregulated in-migration of labourers due to shortage of labourers and the out-migration of educated skilled labour due to lack of opportunities for them.

While the status of other important human development connected indicators like literacy rates, population growth rates, gender ratio, fertility rates, are better in Kodagu in comparison to that of the state, there are unique and critical challenges in the district, specifically with respect to its human development status of the marginalized tribal populations.

Within the education sector, retention rates and completion of primary education are the major hurdles for ST communities. Special attention needs to be paid to Virajpet taluk, which has a higher concentration of STs and wherein multiple education indicators seem to be lagging behind. The health profile of ST communities provides a grim picture of the issues related to maternal and child health, specifically that of the Jenu Kuruba and Yerava communities. Improving health seeking behaviour, provision of accessible health infrastructure including referral transport and emergency care and emphasis on coverage of vulnerable communities through preventive and public health programmes are crucial in guaranteeing better health status of the vulnerable groups in the district.

HDI	Living Std Index	Health Index	Education Index	HDI	Ranks
Madikeri	0.509	0.879	1.000	0.765	1
Somwarpet	0.573	0.490	0.771	0.601	2
Virajpet	0.515	0.551	0.693	0.582	3

Causes of maternal deaths in Kodagu



Further, these vulnerable communities in the district do not have a significant resource base and are predominantly dependent on agricultural labour. The socio-economic dynamics of rural Kodagu suggest that rather than exclusion based on caste, disparities based on economic categories were probably prevalent in the area. A glance of the land ownership patterns specifically that of coffee plantations shows a highly skewed distribution of assets and provides an idea on the enormity of the economic disparities in the district.

The calculations based on secondary data show that Madikeri taluk has the highest HDI in the district followed by Somwarpet and finally Virajpet taluk. With better health and educational infrastructure and bigger urban population, Madikeri taluk stands first in health and education index of the HDI, whereas Somwarpet performs better in the livelihood dimension. Among the four urban areas of the district: Madikeri CMC, Somwarpet, Virajpet and Kushalnagar town Panchayats, Madikeri town has the highest UDI whereas Kushalnagar has the lowest UDI value in the district.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of these varied factors affecting human development in the district, the following recommendations were made.

- Improving the health, education and livelihood status of tribal communities.
- Creating a platform for effective labour market provision that meets the needs of the labourers and planters leading to a stable and secure plantation economy.
- Strengthening the allied agricultural activities, secondary and tertiary sector activities in the district.
- Using a cautioned approach towards the promotion of tourism related activities in the district with emphasis on balancing economic, social and environmental sustainability.

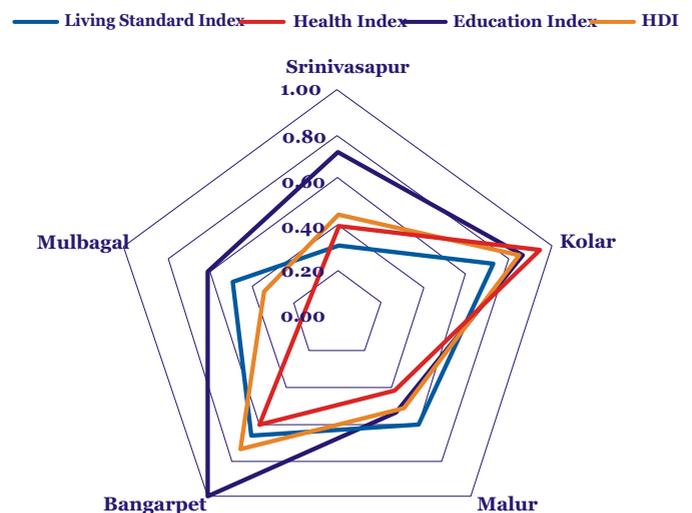
District Human Development Report, Kolar

Kolar, known as the “land of silk, milk and gold” is a district located in the south-east region of Karnataka state of India. The erstwhile integrated district of Kolar comprising 11 taluks was divided to form the new district of Chikballapur in 2007.

The major sources of employment in the district are agriculture, dairy, sericulture, and floriculture. The district is also known for its gold mining site the Kolar Gold Fields, situated 30 km from Kolar. Kolar, once well known for its lakes and tanks, is now infamous for its water contamination, fluorosis and dangerous ground water depletion levels. Although the district has ample opportunities to increase economic security by encouraging horticulture, sericulture and animal husbandry, over extraction of ground water is evident in all the villages of the district, which severely limits these prospects of economic development.

Together with the threat of major diseases like Japanese Encephalitis and Fluorosis, Kolar faces high proportions of Anaemia and malnutrition and alarming signs of declining sex-ratios in all its taluks, the highest being in Mulbagal. Mulbagal also has the highest MMR crossing 200, which in the context of the targets set by NRHM, is unacceptable.

Taluk performance in HDI



The average landholding per landholder in the entire district is just under one hectare, thus largely limiting the choices of agricultural diversification and exposing the small farmers to the risk of crop/price failure and related uncertainties associated with that crop. Asset distribution, in terms of land ownership is clearly skewed against the SC population of the district, with a disproportionately low percentage of SC households owning land in the district. The small area study on situation of water scarcity in the district found that groundwater depletion in the district had reached a precarious



situation and was most likely to affect the sustenance of agriculture as a primary occupation in the district. At the same time, the health of people because of groundwater contamination is also a matter of concern and is only likely to worsen if not addressed immediately. Incidents of fluorosis among children are visible and interactions with the community bring to light health issues faced by them such as joint pains, etc.

The small area study on Composite Dalit Development Index conducted in Avani GP of Kolar showed that caste discrimination is still prevalent and may in general be prevalent throughout the district. Some practices of discrimination were even accepted to be continuance of tradition. However, the study also found that comparatively better educated dalits (like dalit ASHAs) are making in-roads in attaining the socio-economic status that enhances their acceptability and results in lesser discrimination for them.

The small area study on discrepancies in registering PwD indicates that the neglect in information collection can be attributed to the neglect of the development of PwD itself. The case study analysed the cause of this discrepancy and found that the institutional structures for catering to the overall development of PwD were ineffective and unaccountable.

Bureaucratic and political stability in the ZP are issues of concern in Kolar since every single year seems to have multiple



teams of bureaucratic and political leadership. Kolar requires stable leadership for guiding the district's development efforts towards long term economic and environmental sustainability.

Among the 5 taluks of the district, Kolar, the district headquarters was ranked first in HDI, whereas Mulbagal taluk stood in the last place. Bangarpet town had the highest UDI value in the district.

Based on the detailed analysis of these issues, the report identifies crucial areas where the district can focus, for immediate and long term strategies, to increase the overall status of human development in the district. These issues are listed below:

- Attaining higher literacy rates and reducing gender disparities in literacy rates.
- Improving the effectiveness in guaranteeing universal primary education, with special focus on Malur taluk.
- Addressing the issue of declining sex-ratio and lagging indicators of maternal and child health, specifically in Mulbagal and Malur taluks.
- A detailed study of ground water contamination's impact on health and possible intervention strategies to mitigate the damages.
- Sustainable agricultural growth in all taluks of the state, with immediate interventions to minimize water intensive agriculture, regulation of groundwater extraction and adoption of rainwater harvesting mechanisms
- Better provisioning of basic amenities like drinking water (within their premises) and access to individual household latrines for SC and ST households.
- Conduct scientific surveys that adopt universal definitions and criteria to identify exact number of PwD and integrate the efforts of various government agencies aimed towards development of PwD in the district.

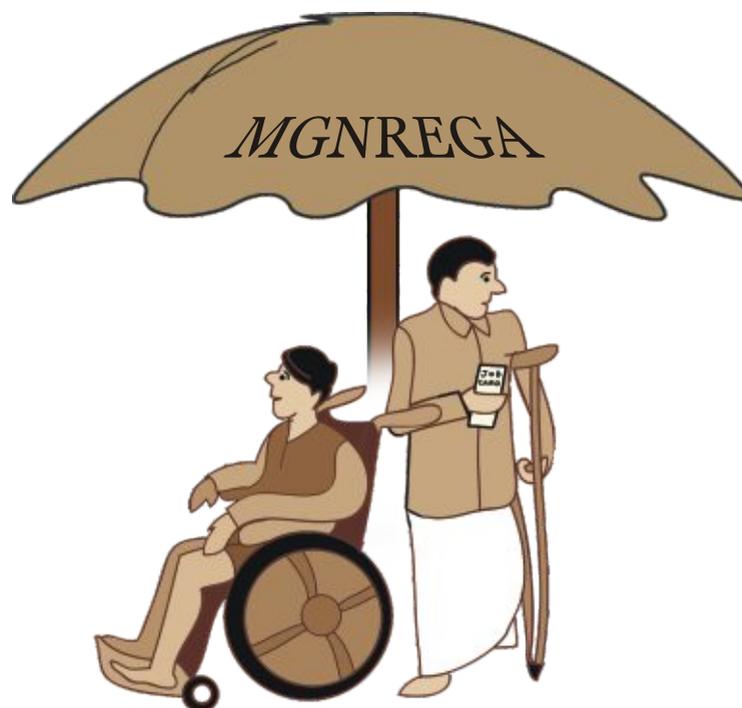


5. Do People with Disability need a job in MGNREGA –

Type of Project: Research

Research Team: Basavaraju R, Dr. Siddappa Madiwalar, Mr. Prakash

GRAAM conducted a study in the Kolar district of Karnataka to understand the importance and effectiveness of MNREGA as a means of employment for PwD. The study included interviews with 454 PwD, their family members and gram panchayat leaders and discussions were held regarding the socioeconomic status of PwD, need for employment, and their awareness and participation level with respect to MNREGA.



Some of the key findings that emerged out of the study are as follows:

Socio-economic status	Employment opportunities	MNREGA as a means of livelihood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 62% of PwD are from the vulnerable sections of society. 70% of PwD own no immovable assets and 93% of PwD do not own any movable assets in their name. 31% families are landless. 35% families have recorded agriculture as their primary source of income. 69% of the families are depending on non-continuous or largely seasonal employment for their source of income. 83% of the families had no opportunity to be in any of the community governance system. 53% of them are not even in Self Help Groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 372 out of 454 i.e. 82% of PwD are in the age group of 18-60 years and of these only 34% are employed. 69% of all PwD said there are no job opportunities for them in their villages. Among those employed, 54% lacked required training. Only 36% have sufficient aids and equipment to perform their job and 38% are not aware of the provision of assistive tools or aids at work place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79% families expressed the need of MNREGA and 66% families said PwD can work in it. 47% of PwD in the productive age group (18-60) years are in need of MNREGA. The requirement is higher (54.76%) in the age group of 36-45 years. 71% of PwD in the age group 18-60 years reported a monthly income of less than Rs 1200/-



MNREGA fails to accommodate PwD

- Present inclusion of PwD in MNREGA is actually by default and not by design.
- Only 41% of those in need of MNREGA could avail the opportunity.
- 49% of the families who got an opportunity to work in MNREGA got less than 50 man days of work.
- 34% of families say PwD cannot work, mainly because they perceive MNREGA has physical labor and it is difficult work.
- Most implementers at the GP level feel “it is impossible for PwD to work in MNREGA.

Recommendations

Policy action needs to be taken at both national and the state level to ensure the inclusion of PwD in MNREGA

At National Level

The act should affirmatively make an effort to acknowledge special categories like PwDs, by stating exclusive provision under Conditions For Guaranteed Rural Employment Under A Scheme and Minimum Entitlements of Labourer (Schedule II of the Act):

- Making it mandatory to issue exclusive job cards for every PwD who can/wants to work under MNREGA.
- Make scope for providing additional days of work and wages for PwD as they have limited access to livelihood in rural areas.
- Budget should be specifically earmarked for accommodating PwD and for required assistive tools.
- PwD inclusion issues should be brought under social audit.

At State Level

The State needs to pay full attention to the strategy for vulnerable groups issued in the Operational Guidelines (4th edition) and consider the following steps:

- Identifying and earmarking jobs for PwD in consultation with the PwD advocacy groups and community members.



- Making District Level Coordinator responsible for accommodating vulnerable groups as suggested in the guidelines.
- Ensure mandatory provision in Management Information System for including PwD.
- Revise MNREGA formats to specifically include and mention disability status.
- Provide separate and independent job cards to PwD.
- Active involvement of civil society organization to organize PwD and sensitize the employers on the field.
- Relaxing work norms and aiding transportation to worksite.
- Establishing separate PwD Kayaka Sangha and priority for a PwD to be the convener of other Kayaka Sanghas.
- Developing one exclusive program in each Gram Panchayat which shall be implemented only through PwDs.

Grassroots voice

- “There should be an exclusive scheme for PwD under MNREGA. One can easily find 600 PwD in 10 GPs, but definitely will not find even 10 PwD working in MNREGA. Unless exclusive work for PwD is planned, it is impossible to ensure inclusion.”
- “Bill should not be passed unless prescribed number of jobs are given to PwD. PwD should get a job card. I can say at least in my panchayat, cards are with GP members and officials, and they use it as per their discretion.”
- “PwD are not getting opportunities. GP members themselves are getting all the work done and hence it is difficult to expect inclusion of PwD. Members also say when normal people are not able to do MNREGA job, how a PwD can work.”
- “Certification process is more corruption prone now than earlier. Previous government created pension slab according to the severity of disability. Although intention of the govt. was good to give more amount to the severely disabled (above 75%), demand for certificate with higher severity has increased and so has the corruption.” – Member of PwD Network shared in FGD

6. Policy for Procurement of land for residential sites

Basavaraju R, Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
Dr. Balasubramaniam

Community consultation team:

Dr. Siddappa, Prakash. M, Harish, Mahesh and Ravi

Sector: Policy analysis

Government of Karnataka has taken several measures to ensure housing benefits to the deserving population both in rural and urban areas. The government is implementing a housing scheme with the support of The Government of India and its own independent schemes. It is necessary for the beneficiaries to possess their own residential sites to get the benefit of the scheme. However, the families living in acute condition of poverty, normally, will not be having sites and are generally left out from the scheme. This further worsens the disadvantage and is likely to render them perpetually shelter less.

Considering the above situation, the government is implementing Ashraya residential site scheme in rural areas and Vajapeyi residential site scheme in urban areas. Under these schemes, residential sites can be provided using the available government land. In case of non-availability of government land, provision has been made to buy required land from land owners

But, authorities are facing challenges to procure required proportion of land due to the following reasons:

- The rate fixed by the government is different from actual market rate.
- The market rate varies from one taluk to another and sometimes within the taluk.
- The land suitable for residential sites is much costlier than other lands, whereas guideline value does not differentiate between them.
- There is little or no scope for involvement of beneficiary in purchase of land and making beneficiary contribution for purchase of land/sites.

Hence, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation (RGRHC) proposed to come out with a new land acquisition policy. RGRHC approached Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) for taking up the assignment to provide a draft policy.

The objective of the assignment was to undertake a review of housing and land acquisition policy in India and to draft a policy for land acquisition for residential sites in Karnataka

Approach

GRAAM followed a consultative and participatory approach to prepare the policy.

Review of existing policy/guidelines in the state and country

GRAAM reviewed the existing policy and guidelines being practiced by the corporation.

Other similar policies and related policies with respect to land acquisition, housing, panchayat raj, urban local bodies, etc. were also reviewed to understand various provisions and clauses that affect land acquisitions/procurement and to ensure that the proposed policy be consistent with the other policies.

Understanding bottlenecks for implementing existing policy

Efforts were made to analyze and understand the bottlenecks for acquisition of land for the said purpose. This was to be done through the following process

- Discussion with the state level personnel of the corporation
- Discussion with the implementation level personnel

Community Consultation

Community consultations was done to understand the grassroots level problems, people's requirements and the challenges faced by them to get the benefits of housing schemes. Also, sample check of beneficiaries who have obtained sites from the corporation was done to understand:

- Challenges for purchasing the sites
- Preference of the beneficiaries: Locations of sites, expectations, requirements, etc
- Status of sites distributed and its utilization

Discussion was also held with elected representatives of the Panchayat Raj institutions and Urban Local Bodies.





Community consultation was done in 10 locations spread across 10 districts in the state of Karnataka. More districts from the north Karnataka region were chosen as the implementation of the scheme had made less progress compared to the southern region.

Also, 100 beneficiaries/community members were interviewed to understand the challenges and processes they had gone through while obtaining the benefit.

Developing the draft policy

The initial policy draft following the literature review, consultative and data collection process was submitted to the corporation. The draft was presented to the expert committee constituted by the Government having expertise in revenue and land records, urban development and housing issues. The draft policy was presented to the committee to solicit feedback and appropriate changes were made.

The final draft was submitted to the Government in the month of April 2015. The Government is expected to notify the draft policy and solicit response from stakeholders.

Koppal ahead of others in facilitating housing schemes for the vulnerable populations

GRAAM did a series of community and other stakeholder consultations for supporting the review of Housing and Land Acquisition Policy of the state in the months of September and October 2014.



After interactions spread across 20 taluks in 10 districts, which also involved consultations with 12 rural and 7 urban local institutions, our Community Consultation Team sensed that Koppal has gone the extra mile in extending facilities to the marginalized communities by granting them housing sites and supporting them for constructing houses on them. Local institutions of Bhagyanagar, Kushtagi and Banapura have used various schemes for facilitating this. Other such encouraging experiences were found only at Inchagari in Bijapur (Vijayapura) district and Belapur in Udipi district.

Voice from community

As Hasansaab Kari belonging to Budagajangama community at Kushtagi poignantly expressed:

“ನಾವುಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ಅಲೆಮಾರಿ ಜನರೇ ಯಷ್ಟಾ... ಸೀಜನ್ನದಾಗ ಊರೂರು ಅಲೆದಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಕಣ್ ಕಣ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ತೋರಿಸಿ, ಹಾವುಗಳ್ಳ ಆಡಿಸಿ ಭಿಕ್ಷೆ ಬೇಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದು ಜೀವನಾ ನಡಿಸಿದ್ದಿ. ಇದೇ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ-ಬೆಳೆದ ಸ್ವಂತ ಊರು, ಇರಾಕ ಮನಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ, ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಬಂದು ಊರ ಹೊರಗಿನ ಬಯಲಿನಲ್ಲೇ, ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನದ ಬಾಬುನಲ್ಲೇ ಟೆಂಟ್ ಹಾಕೊಂಡು ಜೀವ್ವಾ ಸಾಗಿಸಿದ್ದು ಬುದ್ಧಿ. ಈಗ ಈ ಮುನ್ನಿಪಾಲ್ಟಿನೋರು ನಮಗ ಸೈಟ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಮನೀನೂ ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು...ಈಗ ಆರಾಮಾಗಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಓದಿ ಇದ್ಯಾವಂತರ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡ್ತೇವು.”

[Translation: “Sir, we are gypsies. We earn our livelihood every season by showing tricks and snakes. We keep moving from one place to another. This is our native; we have been born and bought up here. We did not have own houses to live. We used to put our tents in the open spaces and playgrounds normally. The municipality people have given us sites and helped us build houses under government schemes. We are now able to live happily. We also send our children to schools and educate them.”]



7. CSR Strategic Consultation

GRAAM believes in symbiotic partnership among the community, the state, the NGO and the corporate sector for sustainable community development. The approach is focussed on these four primary players and their interactions. It aims to facilitate collaboration and dialogue among these players, thereby impacting the development of India and setting a model for the progress of other developing nations. GRAAM has now joined together for community focused CSR.

GRAAM has entered into an agreement with PAGE Industries to design and implement their CSR activity. Page Industries Ltd. is an exclusive licensee of JOCKEY International Inc (USA) for manufacturing and distribution of the JOCKEY brand in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal & UAE.



PAGE is renowned for its philanthropic activities. The company has been involved in different CSR activities in the last six years. PAGE has generously supported various charitable organizations towards health and education activities. Now the company is keen to have specific CSR plan and policy.

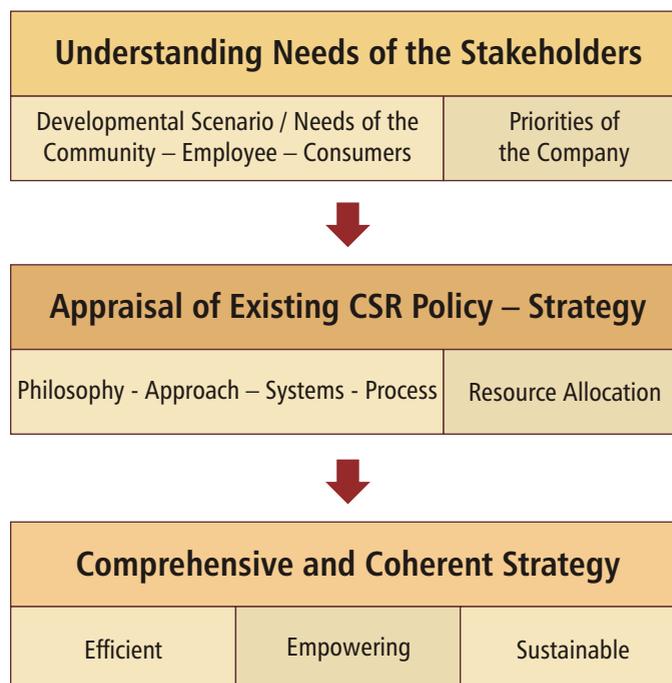


GRAAM, using participatory research techniques, will be conducting extensive Community Needs Assessment in the targeted areas. GRAAM has developed detailed study tools and process to understand actual community needs, status of development in the community, their aspirations and priorities.

GRAAM will be developing the CSR policy, strategy and plan for PAGE in the coming days.

GRAAM follows a synergistic partnership model for development. GRAAM sincerely believes that the new CSR Act is a boon to the development sector not only for receiving resources from corporate sector, but is also an opportunity to exchange strengths like output efficiency. GRAAM has immense experience of working with all the sectors independently as well as collaboratively. GRAAM's ability to understand the corporate environment and expectations, rich grassroots level development, hands on experience and its policy consultation work for the Government positions it uniquely with a developmental understanding both at the micro and the macro level. Adding to this, GRAAM's multi-disciplinary research team brings in a much enriched perspective to the CSR strategy.
(<http://www.graam.org.in/csr>)

CSR Strategy - GRAAM Approach



An engaging and eventful year 2014-15

Members and researchers of GRAAM's Community Consultation Team (CCT) had an engaging and eventful year 2014-15 both in the field and at the desk.



Community Consultation for Research, Evaluation and Need Assessment

Members and researchers of GRAAM's Community Consultation Team (CCT) had an engaging and eventful year 2014-15 both in the field and at the desk. Along with the task of tool development, CCT arranged field visits for staff members and interns. CCT also arranged and facilitated events like Focused Group Discussions, Meetings with local bodies field/site visits and Observations- the process through which CCT captures voices, incidents and scenarios from the community and the field. The team developed a Community Consultation Tool Kit which constituted of a CSR tool Kit, a SAGY tool Kit and a CNA Tool Kit and the tools were tested in the field.

CCT had interaction with the farming community of different crops like Paddy, Sorghum and Ragi farmers. They interacted with 17 Paddy, 20 Sorghum and 25 Ragi growers in Mustagi of Koppal, Muttagi of Bijapur (Vijayapura) and Kolthur Village of Kolar districts, respectively (totally 62 farmers), to understand issues related to crop marketing, as part of the Rapid Assessment of Annabhagya Scheme (RAAS) study.

As part of the study on evaluation of performance of 24X7 Primary Health Centres (PHC), the CCT visited 37 PHCs in 24 taluks of all 7 'C' districts and interacted with doctors, staff nurses, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), other medical staff and patients.

The team traveled across 8 districts, 14 taluks, and interacted with 8 rural and 7 urban local bodies in relation to the study on housing commissioned by Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Ltd. (RGRHCL), and met 19 local administrative bodies (9 urban and 10 rural local bodies) and interacted with 162 individuals for surveying and 220 others as part of Focus Group Discussions to understand various issues related to the government housing policies.

GRAAM identified mothers (7), grand mothers (11) and students suffering from malnutrition in 5 villages in Heggadadevanakote (H.D.Kote) taluk of Mysuru district, arranged and facilitated personal in-depth interview for Azim Premji University Research Team's APU Nutrition project.



Participatory Livelihood Mapping: An Attempt by GRAAM, Mysuru

Community Consultation Team of GRAAM conducted a Rural Livelihood Mapping activity at Gadijogihundi village of T. Narasipura taluk in Mysuru district. The effort was to understand the status of rural livelihood activities in the village, the reach of various livelihood schemes to the village and propose suitable activities to appropriate authorities. The activity was conducted in coordination with the district team of Sanjeevini, and was initiated by Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission under National Rural Livelihood Mission. It can be recalled that GRAAM has provided strategic consultation to the state mission and provided a Strategic Focus Document.

The students of Azim Premji University took part in the activity to learn Participatory approach for mapping rural livelihood. A Participatory Rural Appraisal Method was contextualized by the team to suit the livelihood mapping objective. The GRAAM team developed different tools and indicators to map the livelihood. As part of the activity, Focus Group Discussions were carried out with members of various Women Self Help Groups, Youths and Farmers. A seasonality map was developed to understand the livelihood dynamics and migration. A social map was drawn with the participation of villagers to understand social dynamics and livelihood resources.

GRAAM would develop a detailed report and further develop the tools with an objective to support the state mission in developing livelihood plans using a participatory approach.

Livelihood in backward regions like dry-land, rain-fed, drought-prone, tribal, hilly and desert areas are under threat. Various rural development programmes like Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Command Area Development Agency (CADA), Food for Work Programme (FWP), Rural Works Programmes (RWP), etc. have been implemented. But, these programmes did not give the desired results as only a small fraction of the rural poor were covered effectively.

Participatory rural appraisal techniques were used within rural livelihoods mapping to assess differing livelihoods of poor, average, and better-off households. There are marked differences among households, particularly in human resources, landholdings, and cattle numbers, affecting the livelihood strategies pursued.

The GRAAM team traveled to the village Gadijogihundi along with 12 APU students and 2 staff. In front of a temple at the entrance of the village, everybody gathered. PRA objectives were explained to, both, APU students and villagers. The whole community and students were divided into 3 groups and Transact Walks were done in the streets of the village to find out indicators of livelihood, social condition, household morphology, infrastructure and amenities distribution, etc.,.

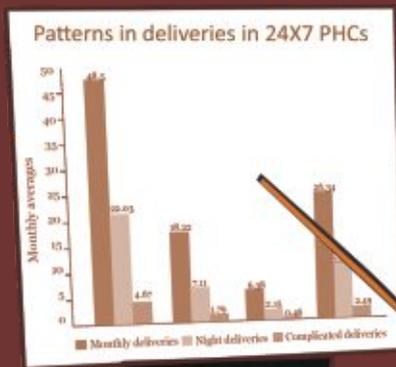
Social Mapping was the second activity done in the village. With the help of facilitators, villagers themselves have drawn the village map. They were able to show the number of houses, caste, household population, occupational structure, livestock population, migration pattern, etc.

After the activities, Women, Youth and Farmer groups sat in their respective groups and had Focused Group Discussion. Basically wealth ranking was done and the Farmers' group discussed livelihood issues.

For all these exercises about 80 villagers were gathered, out of which 25 were women participants.

Development without Confrontation

GRAAM's evidence-driven policy inputs are a testimony to the organization's non-confrontational approach to advocacy.



GRAAM advocacy efforts

Overview

GRAAM's advocacy efforts reached new heights in 2014-15 with a series of initiatives that truly resulted in taking the 'community voice' to the policy makers. With advocacy events at the State level and several tools generated, we were able to ensure that the research and evaluation outcomes reach the intended audience. More importantly, the positive acknowledgement and assurance of action from key people in the system, in response to GRAAM's evidence-driven policy inputs, are a testimony to the organization's non-confrontational approach to advocacy.

Ground Realities

In the year gone by, GRAAM embarked upon a series of events titled Ground Realities with the aim of publicly disseminating evidence and the outcomes of GRAAM's research work. The events, as the title suggests, comprised dissemination of facts from the ground along with an analysis and inference of the data. Needless to add, specific policy recommendations were also a critical component of the programs. Two events were held in Bengaluru over the year – one on public health and another on issues of employment for persons with disabilities.

Ground Realities – Public Health



On 13 June, 2014, 'Ground Realities (Public Health)', a dissemination event was conducted by Grassroots Research And Advocacy Movement, Mysuru, based on findings and experiences from its studies and projects in public health, in Bengaluru. Mr. N Sivasailam, Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Family Welfare Services Department, GoK attended the event which saw about 50 participants from government departments, research institutions and civil society organizations working on public health. The focus of the event was on the issues of community participation in monitoring of health services and regional disparities in health in Karnataka.

During the event, the presence of regional disparities in health situation as well as health facilities and services were highlighted, based on GRAAM's performance evaluation study of NRHM in Karnataka. Mr. Sivasailam agreed with most of the fundamental issues raised in the presentations and encouraged the use of report cards based on community inputs to guide the delivery of services. Towards reducing regional disparities, he agreed with a key recommendation of moving away from facilities-based approach to needs-based approach.

GRAAM's successful experience in technology enabled community monitoring of Primary Health Centres in Mysore district was also presented during the event. A strong case was made for continuation of government support in community participation based on the evidences of Arogyashreni – a 3 year initiative undertaken by GRAAM between 2011 and 2014.

Continuing the dialogue - Addressing regional disparities

Following the event, GRAAM pursued its dialogue with the government on measures to address regional disparities in the health services in Karnataka. The regional disparities are most visible in the skewed distribution of health facilities in different districts of the state. While, Belgaum (Belagavi) and Gulbarga (Kalaburagi) administrative divisions of the state have fewer PHCs and higher population coverage per PHC, Mysuru and Bengaluru divisions have a higher number of PHCs. In comparison to the IPHS (Indian Public Health Standards) guidelines, Mysuru and Hassan districts have 81 excess PHCs each. Hence rationalization of the distribution of PHCs is a key step in addressing regional disparities.

Towards this, GRAAM developed a scheme and submitted a policy note in this regard to the Principal Secretary. As per the note, GRAAM has recommended opening new PHCs in those Taluks where the average population coverage per PHC is high and to close or merge PHCs where the average population coverage is low. However, certain factors like utilization levels of the PHCs, distance to other health centres and their location, must be considered before closure or merger. GRAAM continues to advocate for rationalization of distribution of health facilities and for change in funding patterns to the district, towards addressing regional disparities.

Ground Realities – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

On 19th June, 2014, GRAAM conducted a workshop to disseminate the findings of a study conducted in Kolar district of Karnataka in collaboration with Employment and Disability



Institution of Cornell University. The event was attended by Mr. H K Patil, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Govt. of Karnataka, who assured that steps will be taken towards inclusion of persons with disability in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The objective of the study conducted by GRAAM was to understand the efficacy of MNREGA in including PwD and to identify any barriers for their inclusion. The study involved field research and analysis and brought out the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing employment opportunities in India's flagship employment guarantee program. Evidence further points out that MNREGA is a crucial source of income as well as dignity for persons with disabilities since 61% of PwD are from socially vulnerable and backward groups.

GRAAM released a set of 4 factsheets and a policy brief during the event. Mr. Basavaraju R, the Principal Investigator of the study made a detailed presentation of findings highlighting inclusion level, barriers for inclusion and action required at the policy and implementation level. Dr. Susanne Bruyère - Director of Employment and Disability Institute and Associate Dean of Outreach, ILR School, Cornell University, USA, was also present at the event, which was attended by govt. officials, members of civil society organizations, academic institutions, students and media.



Policy inputs

During the year, GRAAM provided policy inputs in different sectors including public health, education (mid-day meals), public distribution system, livelihood for persons with disabilities, strengthening grassroots governance and sanitation, among others.

Public Health

Inputs to the National Health Policy

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has embarked on a process of drafting a new National Health Policy. Towards this, the Ministry, along with the State level health departments, has conducted consultations with various stakeholders. Dr. R Balasubramaniam and Rohit Shetti attended the Karnataka consultation in October 2014 during which various public health issues in the state were brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, Dr. N K Dhamija in the presence of the Mission Director, NRHM, Karnataka.

Further to the consultation event, GRAAM team members have been engaged in deliberations and discussions on the theme and have drafted a policy note comprising points for consideration by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as inputs to the National Health Policy. A copy of the note was also shared with Shri Atul Kumar Tewari, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Karnataka.

A critique on the Draft National Health Policy 2015

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, had put its Draft National Health Policy in the public domain for comments and feedback. In response to this initiative, the GRAAM team has prepared a critique on the policy draft and submitted it online on the Ministry's website. This is further to the earlier exercise in December 2014, wherein the GRAAM team had drafted a policy note comprising points for consideration by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as inputs to the National Health Policy.

In its critique, GRAAM has observed that the Draft National Health Policy, 2015 document makes an attempt to comprehensively list different issues that India faces in terms of health and is more detailed than the Health Policy draft of 2002. However, the document uses these concerns to set strong policy directions in a very limited way. The document also oscillates between being a commentary on the health situation and a narrative on ideal situations, but falls short of being specific on policy intent, objectives and the commitments of the State and more importantly on how the states will be equipped and empowered to deliver on the policy's ambitions.

Dialogue on Karnataka State Health Policy

The Karnataka State Health Policy was last drafted and adopted in 2004. Over the last decade and more, newer issues and challenges have emerged in the health sector which need to be tackled. At the same time, stakeholders, including communities, civil society as well as private sector players, have been engaged in furthering their relevance in the policy formulation and implementation space.

GRAAM along with other civil society organizations has engaged in creating a space for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the State health policy driven by the state itself. This calls for stakeholders working on different subjects within the ambit of public health, health services, etc. to come together and use their experiences and evidences to review the policy that is currently in place. The idea has received positive acknowledgement from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka and further activities are being planned in that direction.

Ombudsman for Public Health - Concept note

GRAAM prepared a concept note on the position and scope of Ombudsman (Public Health) and submitted it to the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka. The intent of this document was to present the need for a Ombudsman (Public Health) in the Public Health system of India. In the document, the Ombudsman (Public Health) is viewed as a part of a larger system of Ombudsmen for Public Services with a larger aim of providing channels of communication to citizens that will help in reducing the asymmetry of information.

The Ombudsman (Public Health) has been envisaged as a position that not only facilitates conflict resolution and addressing of grievances, but also as a proactive position, whose office can influence positive systemic changes. As per the concept note, the Ombudsman would be positioned at each Sub-divisional Hospital (Taluk Hospital) and above, including Government District Hospitals and other Government Hospitals with 100 beds or more. The structures, norms and terms for the functioning of the Ombudsman have to be developed further and this document aims at providing a starting point for the same. The document is available on GRAAM's website and we seek inputs and suggestions to improve the concept further. GRAAM would also be happy to join hands with like-minded organizations to push for the position of Ombudsman in Public Health with the larger aim of bringing transparency and accountability in the sector.

Housing

A land purchase policy to meet the State's housing targets

GRAAM has undertaken the task of preparing a draft policy on Land Purchase for Housing Schemes in Karnataka for the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited (RGRHCL). The objective of this exercise is to have in place a policy with practical guidelines that supports the State in implementing its housing schemes, especially for the poor, with an accompanying framework for land acquisition for housing. For the purpose, the GRAAM team has been involved in multiple consultations in both urban and rural settings to be able to grasp the ground realities in different parts of the state. Basavaraju R., Executive Director, GRAAM is also on the Advisory Committee on draft Land Purchase Policy for Housing Schemes in Karnataka, which is chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Housing, Govt. of Karnataka.

Rural Development

Strengthening grassroots governance

In an effort to improve the Panchayat Raj institutions and their functioning, the Department of RDPR, Govt. of Karnataka has initiated a process to review the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 and has set up a Committee headed by Mr. Ramesh Kumar for the same. Based on the experience and knowledge of team members, GRAAM has prepared a note consisting of inputs for the consideration of this committee.

The note comprises points that can lead to the strengthening of grassroots governance and mainly touches upon administrative reforms, measures that can make Grama Sabhas more effective and steps that can be taken towards improving transparency and accountability along with more democratization. The note also mentions the use of technology to strengthen community monitoring processes and how the Govt. can partner with reliable civil society organizations towards achieving this objective. The complete note provided by GRAAM may be accessed on GRAAM's website

Improving Mid-Day Meals in Karnataka

In response to an advertisement issued by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in leading newspapers on 19 Oct, 2014 seeking inputs and suggestions towards 'examination of the Mid-day meal Scheme' by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee, Human Resources Development, Govt. of India, headed by Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, M.P., Rajya Sabha, GRAAM prepared and submitted a list of suggestions to the committee.

These suggestions were made based on the observations and experiences of GRAAM's team members who have worked in the sectors of education, health and nutrition, rural governance and community participation in development in rural areas.

Reforms in PDS in Karnataka

GRAAM has engaged in dialogue with the Commission for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Karnataka with regard to the Rapid Appraisal of Annabhagya Scheme in Karnataka right from the inception of the study to the presentation of findings. In addition, GRAAM has also been dialoguing with the Commission on other issues related to PDS such as leakages and procurement of coarse grains. GRAAM appreciates some of the initiatives undertaken by the Commission in reducing leakages and looks forward to continuing the engagement.

Supporting the 'Making Democracy Work' campaign

GRAAM continued to support the 'Making Democracy Work' campaign undertaken by Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development. The campaign preceded the Lok Sabha Elections of India that were held in May 2014 and covered the Mysore Parliamentary Constituency that included 6 Talukas of Mysore and Kodagu districts. The campaign comprised several public meetings, walkathons, talks at colleges, door-to-door campaigns, voters' clinics across the city and generation of resources.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam was the key speaker at many of these events in addition to chairing a committee of respected citizens that was formed to oversee the progress of the campaign. Rohit Shetti represented GRAAM at civil society meetings where people's manifestos were presented to political representatives for consideration and dialogue. The building and maintenance of the campaign website was also supported by GRAAM team members.

GRAAM's vision of holistic village and community development

On 15th August, 2014, the Prime Minister of India announced the Sansad Adarsh Gaon Yojana (SAGY), a program towards converting villages across India into models of progress, development and sustainability. SAGY entails that all Members of Parliament adopt one village in their respective Parliamentary Constituency to start with and initiate measures locally to address all development issues of the village and put it on the path of progress. By the end of their term, the MPs are expected to take at least two other villages and replicate the process. If carried out sincerely and successfully, it would be possible to have more than 2000 model villages across India in a span of 5 years.

Around the same time, the GRAAM team also worked on its own vision of an ideal and progressive Gram Panchayat and prepared a comprehensive document on the same. The key philosophical underpinnings of this document included looking at development as an expansion of human capabilities, interconnectedness of urban and rural development, decentralization, self-sufficiency and ecological sustainability. In terms of approach, the document laid out that no additional funds need to be allocated for such development, based on the recognition that not only the Constitution of India and the various Acts, but also several programs and schemes launched by successive Central and State Governments are aimed at achieving the goals of poverty alleviation, quality education for all, healthcare, food security, protection of environment, right to livelihood, women's empowerment and social uplift of the marginalized communities, welfare and justice, among others.

The document further laid out targets and outcomes in different sectors that the Gram Panchayat may take into consideration based on contextual factors. Lastly, monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure that the programme is on track, were also recommended. The document today serves as a useful reference for carrying out capacity building, planning and monitoring activities at the village level.

Tools generated

GRAAM developed several advocacy tools including factsheets and policy briefs over the year that were key to furthering its advocacy efforts.

Factsheets

Arogyashreni – Making Community Monitoring Work

Factsheet on the methodology and contributing factors for success of community monitoring of Primary Health Centres.

Arogyashreni – Community Driven Changes

A summary of the results of community initiated advocacy efforts in health, as part of Arogyashreni initiative.

Regional Disparities in Health – Evidences and Recommendations

Factsheet highlighting evidences of regional disparities in health in Karnataka and some recommendations to address the issues.

Making the Disability Certification Process Accessible

Challenges that persons with disabilities face in the certification process that makes them eligible to avail benefits from Govt. schemes.

Discrepancies in data on Persons with Disabilities

Discrepancies in the data of persons with disabilities at the National, State & District Levels that become a factor for deprivation of support and opportunities.

Inclusion Barriers for Persons with Disabilities

Numerous barriers prevent inclusion of persons with disabilities from benefitting from MNREGA despite provisions in the Act.

Why MNREGA is important for persons with disabilities?

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is an important and, sometimes, the sole source of economic and employment support for persons with disabilities in rural areas.

Policy notes

Draft National Health Policy - A critique

A critique of the draft National Health Policy prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, and placed in public domain for comments and suggestions.

Towards strengthening public health in India

This document, drafted by GRAAM, contains points for consideration by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, as inputs to the National Health Policy of India 2014.

A scheme for rationalizing the distribution of PHCs in Karnataka

A proposed scheme to address regional disparities of health services in Karnataka through review of distribution of PHCs based on average populations covered by them.

Improving grassroots governance

Inputs on strengthening governance at the grassroots level by the committee set up by the Government of Karnataka to review the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, 1993.

Inputs to Mid-day Meal Schemes

Suggestions for improving the implementation of Mid-day Meal Scheme submitted to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee – Human Resources Development, Govt. of India.

MNREGA and Persons with Disabilities

Policy recommendations, at the State and National level, that can help make MNREGA more inclusive of persons with disabilities and make a real difference to their socio-economic conditions.

Concept notes

Ombudsman for Public Health

Concept note describing the need and approach for introducing the position of Ombudsman in the public health system of India.

Commemorating 30 years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

2014 marked the 30th anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster, that took place in the heart of India. About 25,000 people have died and lakhs more injured as a result of a gas (Methyl Isocyanate) leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide manufacturing factory on the night of December 2, 1984 and due to the contamination of the ground water as a result of the toxic material buried in the ground by the company during its operations. Though 3 decades have passed since that fatal night, justice still eludes the victims and activists of this disaster and the entire issue is one that raises serious questions on corporate accountability, environmental justice and preference of profit over human life.

To engage with these questions, a series of college talks were held in Bengaluru and Mysuru where Mr. Satinath Sarangi, one of the key members of the campaign for justice in Bhopal, engaged with students on the issues surrounding the tragedy. The talks, held at Azim Premji University, Bangalore, JSS Law College, Mysuru and SDM Institute of Management and Development Mysuru, were coordinated by Rohit Shetti and organized in October 2014.

Advocacy with the Prime Minister's Office

With a new Government at the Centre formed on the basis of a clear majority of seats in the lower house of Parliament, there was an unprecedented opportunity to engage with the Central Government on the approach that may be adopted for development interventions. This led to the preparation of several documents that were circulated among key members of the Prime Minister's Office. These included:

- A development vision for India: A document and a presentation on guiding principles of policies to be adopted by the newly formed Central Government.
- A national body for integral development: Preparation of a presentation and document for a national body replacing the Planning Commission of India.

Capacity building through imbibing knowledge and skills

GRAAMers participated in a large number of diverse events during 2014-15.



Events attended/visits made by GRAAMers

Capacity building and strengthening the staff with necessary research and analytical skills have always been a priority on the agenda of GRAAM. The events participated by GRAAMers during the last year was diverse. In addition to gaining knowledge from various training, workshops and seminars, GRAAM marked its presence in awareness creation events, advocacy platforms and results dissemination meetings at local, state and national levels. GRAAM also organised capacity building workshops for its employees during the year under report.

- Basavaraju R, Executive Director of GRAAM, visited the United States on an invitation for a Visiting Fellow Appointment by Employment and Disability Institute of ILR School at Cornell University from September 22 to October 22, 2014. During the visit, he had an opportunity to visit vocational rehabilitation centres and national level policy advocacy organizations in Washington DC.



- Basavaraju also visited the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), an organization working for protecting rights of PwD through its various programs, including protection and advocacy.
- Basavaraju R participated as a panellist for a session on Social Media: Power to People for Strengthening Democracy, a national workshop held on 13th Nov, 2014 at Garden City College (GCC), Bengaluru, organized by Media School. Different aspects of social media were discussed in the workshop and the objective was to come up with some suggestions and recommendations that can be presented in front of the policymakers to formulate a regulatory body for social media.

Workshops and conferences

- Sharavana C.G., Accountant at GRAAM, attended a capacity building program conducted by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) in Bengaluru from 4th to 7th August, 2014. The program primarily focused on acquainting with the best practices of Financial Planning and Control, Accounts, Audit and Secretarial Practice, Taxation and Labour Laws.
- Sham N Kashyap and Dr. Rajendra Prasad attended a workshop conducted by UNICEF, which was based on the topic 'Creating Effective Monitoring Systems for the WASH sector (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)' from 22nd to 24th July, 2014. Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MoRES) was the main subject of the workshop.
- Chandrika Shetty attended a workshop on 'Gender Discrimination, Mental Health and Sanitation' organized by SOCHARA on 19th September, 2014, in Bengaluru. The objective of the workshop was to share and learn from different types of works on sanitation done in different parts of Karnataka. Chandrika presented our research findings from the study on evaluation of Nirmal Graam Puraskar Awards. Organisations like Argyam, Open Space, Floride Network, Acharya Education Institute, SOCHARA, GRAAM and SVYM were among the other participants.
- Rajeshwari Mallegowda attended the 3- day Capacity Development Workshop and Networking Meet, 2014 organized for CIM Returning Experts (REs) from Germany in New Delhi between 29th to 31st October 2014. The event was hosted by GIZ India on behalf of CIM. The workshop aimed mainly to provide REs with insights related to the areas of effective communication, management competencies and leadership and to serve as a networking platform for the RE community among themselves and also with representatives from GIZ programmes.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad attended a 2-day Annual Seminar on "Public Policy and Expenditure: Some Recent Studies" held at Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS), Bengaluru, between 4th and 5th December, 2014. The seminar focused on issues related to public expenditure on children in Karnataka, working conditions of teachers in Karnataka and Jharkhand, impact of women GP adhyakshas on delivery of services and democratic processes in Karnataka.

- Chandrika Shetty shared our experience with implementation of Arogyashreni project at Tec for Seva conference organized by Seva Bharati in Hyderabad on 12th and 13th December. Her presentation on how Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) technology usage enabled community members to monitor their Primary Health Centres, find solutions to their problems and improve services, was very well received by the audience.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Rajeshwari participated in the International Conference on 'Ethnicity, Discrimination and Social Exclusion of Minorities and Margins: Post Colonial Debates' organized by the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), University of Mysore, Mysuru, on December 18 and 19, 2014. For GRAAM, which is thinking of setting up of 'Inclusive development' centre, the conference provided valuable insights into the various dimensions of issues related to exclusion and inclusion, both, with minorities and majorities within a society.
- Sham N Kashyap attended a consultation workshop conducted by UNDP, on the status of tribal development in South India, held in Puducherry on the 4th and 5th of February, 2015. Sham presented the analysis of human development of tribal communities in Kodagu based on the experience of preparing the District Human Development Report of Kodagu district.

Networking and advocacy meetings

July 2014 | National Colloquium on Leadership and Governance in Civil Society, Ahmedabad

Rohit Shetti participated in a National Colloquium on Leadership and Governance in Civil Society held at Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Ahmedabad from 22 to 24 July, 2014.

The colloquium dealt with issues of leadership and governance in civil society, especially looking at how the sector is braced to face the next decade or so, leadership transitions, the role of the knowledge function and research in particular, strategies for impact, people's voice, policy environment, etc. The event included talks and presentations of papers and work by a range of eminent people along with working blocks where the participants could delve deeper into specific questions related to different themes.

The event was of particular interest to GRAAM as it dealt with the theme of 'Giving People Voice' among others and this particular session focused on the questions of not only qualifying people's voice, but also about ensuring that the power distance must be kept at a minimum while engaging

with communities. These aspects are likely to contribute significantly to the evolution of the concept and practice of community consultation in GRAAM.

The eminent speakers at the event included Dr. Syeda Hameed, Mr. Gagan Sethi, Mr. Ashoke Chatterjee, Mr. Murali Padmanabhan, Mr. Bhushan Punani, Mr. Astad Pastakia and Mr. Jagadananda among several others. The event was organized by HID Forum, Bengaluru, in association with EDI, Ahmedabad.

July 2014 | UNICEF-DEF consultation on Mobiles for Social and Behavioral Change

GRAAM participated in a consultation on how mobile technology is resulting in social and behavioural change among communities, held on 11 July, 2014 in Chennai. The event had about 35 to 40 participants and included Govt. officials from RDPR and ICDS in Tamil Nadu, technology developers, researchers, telecom service providers (Vodafone and BSNL) and some representatives of civil society organizations. UNICEF-DEF conducted these consultations in various parts of the country and invited case studies from those regions for presentation, so that locally relevant discussions could be held.

During the event, Rohit Shetti made a presentation on Arogyashreni and how mobile phones had triggered community-driven advocacy for changes in PHCs through the project. It was well received and there were several questions on the challenges of community mobilization and whether the impact of mobile phones for advocacy has been studied. It was a good platform for advocacy about our project and for pushing the case of using technology in community monitoring.

GRAAM was subsequently invited to another consultancy by UNICEF held in Hyderabad, following which UNICEF officials visited GRAAM and the project sites.

August 2014 | Jan Arogya Andolana-Karnataka (JAAK)

GRAAM participated in a meeting organized by JAAK on 20 August, 2014 in Bengaluru. Rohit Shetti representing GRAAM shared the experiences of Arogyashreni project, as part of the consultation related to facilitating community monitoring initiatives. The presentation generated quite a lot of interest among the participants, triggering discussion on a wide range of issues, from project model replicability and scaling up to the uses of data and information generated during project implementation. The event also provided an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other organizations and individuals partnering JAAK. While efforts to reorganize JAAK and its functioning continue, Rohit has accepted the responsibility to moderating the network's e-mail group.

Going further, GRAAM is expected to consistently participate in JAAK's activities and contribute towards the larger public health advocacy work of the network.

November 2014 | Right to food campaign

Rohit Shetti and Ashwin MA from GRAAM participated in the state level consultation on Public Distribution System (PDS) organized by CIVIC, Bengaluru, and the Right to Food Campaign, Karnataka (RFC-K), on 3rd November, 2014, in Bengaluru. The highlights of the event included a discussion of draft rules for implementing the National Food Security Act in Karnataka led by the researchers from National Law School, presentation and experience sharing related to improving the PDS system in Karnataka by Non-Governmental Organizations and community members. The event was held in the presence of Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Karnataka, and other officials from the State Department for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. A strategic consultation of the network partners of the Right to Food Campaign, Karnataka (RFC-K) was also held during the event. The event was an opportunity for GRAAM to network with other organizations working towards ensuring food security in the state.

December 2014 | Global PHM Meeting, Bengaluru

Rohit Shetti represented GRAAM at a meeting of the People's Health Movement held at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru. The meeting held on the sidelines of the National Bioethics Conference had PHM members from UK, Germany, Sri Lanka and other parts of India. The meeting was a great opportunity to meet and network with the PHM members from different parts of the world and get to know their work. About 60 to 70 people attended this meeting and briefly shared their association with PHM and their work. During this event, the fourth edition of 'Global Health Watch', an alternative World Health Report (www.ghwatch.org) was also released.

Some of GRAAM's factsheets on community monitoring and regional disparities in health were given to the international delegates at the event.

December 2014 | Conference on public health issues in Karnataka

On 17 December, 2014, Karnataka Janaarogya Chaluvalli (KJC), a network of civil society and grassroots organizations working on health issues in Karnataka held a convention deliberating on the health care situation in the state in Belagavi. During the convention, several issues related to quality of health care, accountability issues, inadequacy of the available infrastructure and manpower resources in the State

were brought up. A summary presentation by Dr. Akhila Vasan giving the overall situation of health care in Karnataka was the highlight of the initial part of the programme followed by comments of other members of KJC. Mr. Mahinder from Joida Taluk in UK district talked about the issues of reaching health care services in remote areas. There were also quite a few touching personal narratives of people of how the health system had failed them.

During the meeting, Rohit Shetti spoke about the issues of regional disparities and ways to address them and updated the gathering on the points being drafted by GRAAM as part of inputs to the National Health Policy.

The event culminated with the submission of a memorandum by a delegation to the Health Minister, which includes calls for strengthening the Government health system and action on recent violations of health insurance schemes, which also resulted in the conducting of unwarranted hysterectomies on vulnerable women in Birur. A meeting is being planned with the Health Minister in mid January 2015 by the KJC to take the discussions forward.

December 2014 | Regional consultation on Institutionalizing Convergence, Bengaluru

The National Forum of Action on Convergence (NFAC) along with Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and IT for Change organized a regional consultation for developing a concerted national advocacy agenda on the issue of institutionalizing convergent public service delivery at the grassroots in Bengaluru on 22 December, 2014. The forum itself is a network of various experts, civil society organizations, retired civil servants and others who have been engaging with a cross-section of stakeholders to address a core question of "how can we develop a convergent service delivery system that guarantees entitlements to the most marginalized -"

Rohit Shetti attended this consultation and shared points and perspectives based on the experience of GRAAM that include capacity building of bureaucracy to internalize the concept of convergence, stress on information handling processes and ensuring that the processes or tools employed such as data or identity registry processes do not become tools of exclusion. The event was primarily a networking opportunity for GRAAM and some of the participants were quite interested in GRAAM's work. A note on our points was subsequently sent to NFAC, which was used in its national level consultation.

Events organized by GRAAM

Organization of project events is a day to day activity at GRAAM. As a protocol, for every project GRAAM takes up, it organizes a 'training workshop' for field staff before data collection and an 'experience sharing workshop' after data collection. Intermittently, several capacity building workshops for field staff and stakeholders are held at various levels of the project and also at various study locations. As part of research methodology in many of the projects, GRAAM has conducted a large number of Focus Group Discussions and Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) with various stakeholders on field across the state.

1. Capacity building activities

During the year under report, the research staff at GRAAM attended two workshops as a part of capacity building facilitated by Prof. S. Madeshwaran and Dr. Shailendra Prasad, the Technical Advisors of GRAAM. The main focus of the workshops was to enrich the knowledge of staff with statistical methods and technical writing.

While Dr Shailendra Prasad, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, handled a Technical Writing Workshop, Prof S Madeshwaran, Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Policy (CESP) (ISEC), conducted a one day workshop on statistics.

2. Release of the 3rd Annual report

Releasing the 3rd Annual Report of GRAAM, Mr. Pratap Simha, Member of Parliament from Mysore-Kodagu Lok Sabha constituency said that we should go beyond just one village and create at least 25 villages where basic infrastructure and facilities are in place. He further said that with the involvement of good NGOs, many positive changes can be made.

Other dignitaries present at the event included Shri Ninganna, member of Beerihundi Gram Panchayat, Mysuru Taluk, Dr. R Balasubramaniam, Founder and Chairman of GRAAM, and Shri Basavaraju R, Executive Director of GRAAM.



Speaking to an audience that comprised students, academicians and researchers and development professionals among others, Mr. Simha said that knowledge created by people who have worked with communities is more important to people and taking a constructive path can help people realize the importance of their health, education and participation in development. He added that there are few who join hands with politicians in doing good work and felt positive about working with people like Dr. R Balasubramaniam.

Mr. Simha also interacted with the audience in a Q & A session and spoke about how citizens can track the performance of their MP and the fact that he is the only first time MP to have asked 73 questions in parliament and had a 100% attendance. He remarked that the productivity of this parliament was 103% and hoped that the disenchantment about politicians in society would go.

Mr. Ninganna, member of Beerihundi Gram Panchayat, Mysuru Taluk, who has played a proactive role in the development activities within his Panchayat also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of winning the confidence of those in the opposition. He greeted the young Parliamentarian with an expectation that youth will be a significant focus area of his work. Mr. Ninganna spoke about the hurdles he faced after winning the elections and the steps he had taken to minimize corruption in his Gram Panchayath and also remarked on the hard work that the field team of GRAAM had to put in for ensuring that community meetings took place. He thanked GRAAM for the awareness building that has taken place due to the projects conducted in the villages of Beerihundi GP.

Collaborations and partnerships

GRAAM would like to acknowledge with gratitude the support and contribution of a number of individuals and institutions that have helped it grow over the past year and with their continued support GRAAM can stride ahead with confidence. In alignment with our philosophy, we have engaged with institutions from different sectors – academic, government, NGOs, private sector and, most importantly, communities.

GRAAM has been privileged to work with the following institutions and individuals over the past year.



3. KHPT: Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Karnataka Health Promotion Trust for facilitation of collaborative projects and initiatives, sharing and mutual learning, joint dissemination of information and knowledge and working towards common interests
4. Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited, Department of Housing, Government of Karnataka
5. Kodagu Zilla Panchayat, Government of Karnataka
6. Kolar Zilla Panchayat, Government of Karnataka

Research and Academic Institutions

1. Employment and Disability Institute, International Labour Relations School, Cornell University, USA
2. Azim Premji University, Bengaluru (Dr. Seema Purushothaman)
3. University of Alleghany, United States of America

NGOs and Civil Society Movements

1. Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, India
2. Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Mysuru
3. Vivekananda Institute for Leadership Development, Mysuru
4. Karnataka Disability NGOs Alliance, Bengaluru

Government Departments

1. Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, GoK
2. Karnataka State Health Resource Centre, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka

Corporate Sector

1. Page Industries Limited (Jockey Brand), Bengaluru

Technology Partners

Newline Advertising and Marketing

Academic/Research Institutions



NGOs and Civil Society Movement



Corporate Partners

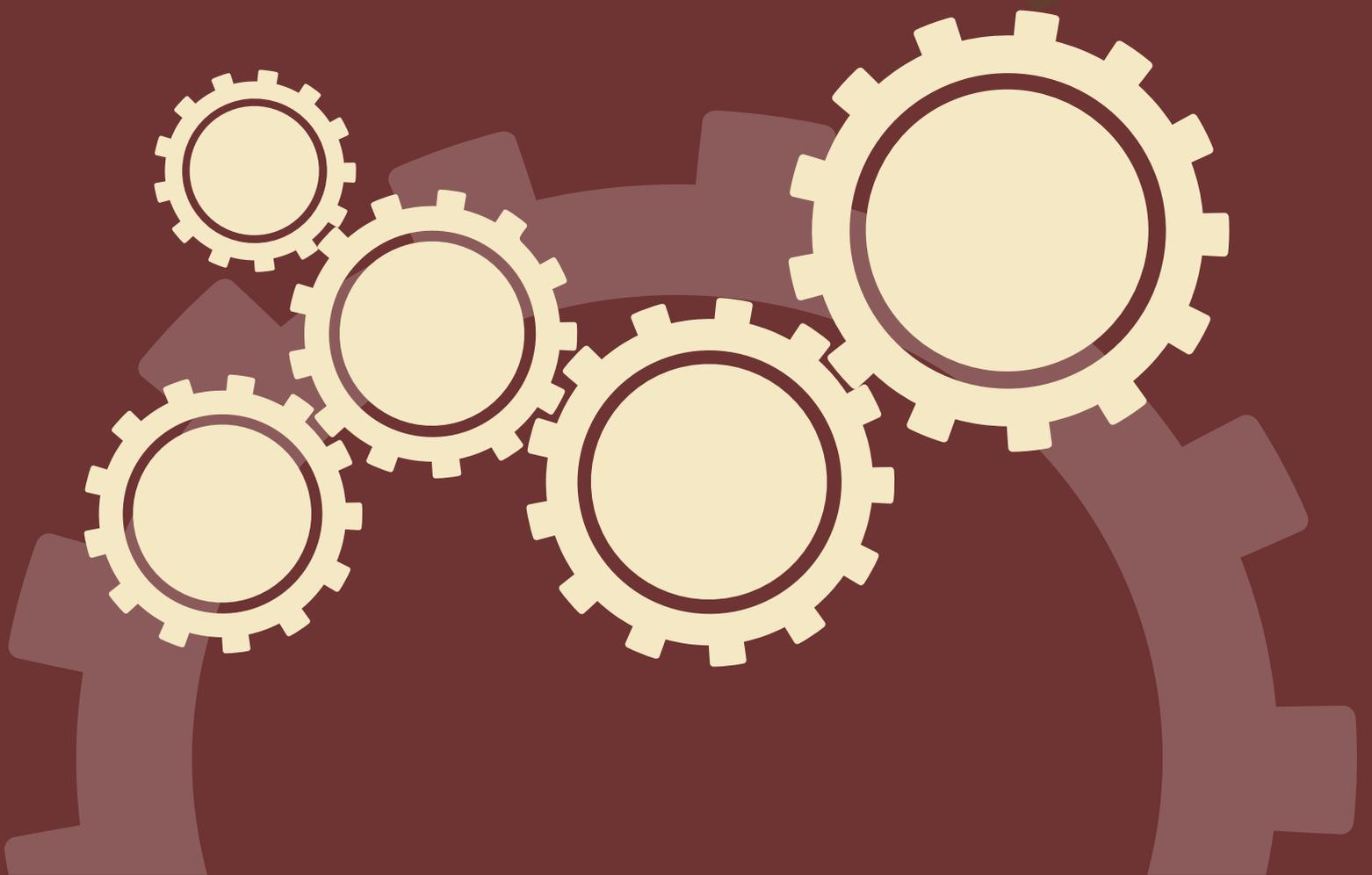


Government Departments



Drawing strength from collaborations and partnerships

GRAAM understands the importance of collaborations and partnerships to realize its goal.



GRAAM Team

GRAAM embraces an excellent team of individuals consisting of people with varied backgrounds and interests. As they put in their valuable experiences and expertise, GRAAM is able to acquire strength as an organization and it values and appreciates the multiple perspectives and inputs contributed by them. The following is the sneak peak of the profiles of the members who have been a part of the team at GRAAM for the year 2014-2015.

Basavaraju R.

A development professional with a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Mysore, Basavaraju has expertise in Strategic Planning, Project Plan Development, Social science Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Advocacy. Starting as a training co-coordinator at SVYM, he grew within a short span to take up more responsible positions at V-LEAD as Head of Training Division, Head of Projects. Currently he serves as the Executive Director of GRAAM. During his involvement, he has led various developmental, research, monitoring and evaluation projects in collaboration with the Government and NGOs across various states in the country. He has also served as Deputy Director in the Department of Labour (GoK), and is an Advisory Committee member of the State Rural Livelihood Mission and a member of the working committee formed to draft the Karnataka Sanitary Facilities Bill. At GRAAM, he engages himself in the overall management of the organization and his areas of interests include CSR, Rural Livelihood, Child Labour, Disabilities and Advocacy.

Chandrika Shetty

Holds a post graduate degree from University of Mysore in Development Studies. She has experience of working with NGOs and in the areas of public health, media and development and disabilities. She has exceptional communication skills and is also interested in gender development and socio-cultural aspects of the communities. At GRAAM, she is Senior Research Associate, working in various health related projects.

Divyashree H. R.

Being a Post Graduate in Human Development from UOM, she has experience of working with office management, community engagement and research assistance. At GRAAM, she has worked as Research Associate for various projects related to areas such as water and sanitation, media advocacy, CSR evaluation, nutrition and human development.

Doreraj

Having qualifications in various disciplines such as Masters in Anthropology, Sociology and Diploma in Women Studies,



Rural Development and Linguistics, he also holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology. He has experience regarding research in Tribal sector and has also worked in areas like Physical, Medical, Nutritional and Socio-Cultural Anthropology. He was involved at GRAAM in a Nutritional project in collaboration with Azim Premji University.

Dr. Balasubramaniam R.

Being the Founder, GRAAM is his brain child and he has been a development activist since the past 30 years. Having qualified as a physician, he is additionally qualified in Health Systems Management, Hospital Administration and Public Administration. His expertise in community-driven development, leadership, public policy, governance issues and advocacy efforts is the guiding factor for GRAAM's motivation and success. He leads the GRAAM team as an Executive Director.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Holding a Master's degree in Social Work and a Ph.D in Community Participation in the development of School Education, he has experience of 13 years working with NGO and education sector. His professional expertise include, Universalization of Equitable Quality Right to Education, Child Rights, Community Mobilization, Community Development, Rural and Urban Development, Career Guidance and Personality Development, Teaching, Participatory Research, Policy Formulations and Legal Reforms, Networking and Advocacy and Lobbying with the State and other agencies. At GRAAM he is working as Fellow-Participatory research and engaged in Action Research of NRTT and SVYM PremaVidya Programme at Yadgir and School Leadership Development Programme in Mysuru District.

Dr. Siddappa S. M.

Holding a Ph.D. in the area of Development and Planning from the Dept. of Geography, University of Bangalore, he has worked in various Developmental Organizations in the field of Sustainable Agriculture, Watershed, Community Organization, Gender, Regional Development and Planning.

He has also served as an Assistant Professor in academic institutions in India and abroad. Having vast experience in the fields of Training, Teaching and Research, he also participated in a Special Technical Training on "Participation with Gender and Social Development" jointly conducted by University of Swansea and London University in the United Kingdom. At GRAAM, he is involved in the Inclusion of people with disabilities under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and works as community consultation coordinator.

Harsha Kumar N.

Holder of Masters degrees in Business Administration and Information Technology. He has experience in Business Strategy and Planning, Human Resource Management, Investment Management with focus on B2B and B2C initiatives. At GRAAM he was involved deeply with the administrative activities.

Lakshmi

Graduated in Science and holding a Diploma in Statistical Process Control and Operational Research, she plays a vital role in project coordination, statistical assistance and data coordination.

Karthik Shekhar

Worked as coordinator in Corporate Social Responsibility wing of GRAAM.

Prakash

Holding a Masters in History from the University of Mysore and Bachelors Degree in Education, he has experience in education related projects, Self Help Groups (SHG) and watershed projects. At GRAAM he is working as Research Associate, part of Community Consultation Team.

Pushpa C. O.

Having pursued a Masters Degree in Agricultural Statistics from the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru, she is working as a statistician at GRAAM. She was involved in designing research projects that apply valid scientific techniques and utilize information obtained from baselines or historical data in order to structure uncompromised and efficient analyses across all projects. Her interests included Regression Analysis, Sampling techniques and Multivariate analysis.

Rajeshwari S. Mallegowda

A development sector researcher with academic and professional background in Agricultural Economics, Rural Development, Food systems and value chains. Holder of double Master's degree- from UAS, Bengaluru and second one from European Union, she is anticipating her Doctoral degree from Humboldt University of Berlin by 2015. In GRAAM, as Research Fellow, she heads 'Food Security and Nutrition'

portfolio. Her main research interests are in program evaluation techniques, social auditing, public policy analysis and project management. Along with regular research activities, she handles courses on 'Indian Economy' and 'Research Methodology' for Masters in Development Management students.

Ravi C. S.

Working as Community Co-ordinator at GRAAM, he is currently pursuing Bachelor of Arts from Karnataka State Open University. With holding keen interest in community participation and rural development, he is deeply involved in various community engagement activities.

Rohit Shetti

With a Electronics Engineering background, he has worked for about 11 years in the electronics industry in the techno-commercial capacities. He has been actively involved as a volunteer with various civil society groups and campaigns. He is interested in community dynamics, sustainability in development, environment and social justice. He, at GRAAM, is the Coordinator for advocacy, community consultation and IT.

Roopa J.

Comes with a from a medical background and she has pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Surgery. She is an experienced medical transcriptionist and has worked in this line for about 8 years. She, at GRAAM, is the Executive Assistant to the Founder/Executive Director and also supports in administrative activities.

Roopa Navil Kumar

Served as Operations Manager in GRAAM. She is holder of MBA from BIMS, University of Mysuru.

Sham N Kashyap

With a multi-disciplinary educational background with dual post-graduation degrees in Computer Science and Agricultural Economics. He has worked in various distinguished capacities such as Social Scientist, Policy Analyst, Trainer, Subject Matter Expert and Panchayat Development Officer. At GRAAM, he works as a Research Head and plays a key role in conducting evaluation studies, analyses and action research in the areas related to social security, public health, micro-irrigation, water sanitation, community monitoring and governance.

Sharavana C. G.

Graduated in Bachelor of Commerce from University of Mysore, he works as a research assistant and data entry support for various projects at GRAAM.

Thenmozhi

Served as Secretarial Assistant in GRAAM.

GRAAM Advisors

GRAAM has a distinguished advisory board comprising the following six members, who guide the organization in terms of strategy and direction.

Justice M. N. Venkatachalaiah - Padma Vibushan awardee and former Chief Justice of India

Ricardo Hausmann - Director of Harvard University's Center for International Development

Charles Rozwat - Executive Vice President of Oracle Customer Support Services

S. K. Das - IAS (Retd.). A renowned civil servant. Served in various capacities in Govt. of Karnataka and India. He was a member (Finance) of the Space Commission and Atomic Energy Commission.

Joe Grasso - Associate Dean for Administration, Finance and Corporate Relations at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labour Relations.

D. R. Patil - Former Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly and a popular name in cooperative movement from village level to national level

Panel of Technical Advisors

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:

Gary Fields - Professor at Cornell University, ILR School, USA

Rebecca Stoltzfus - Professor, Nutritional Sciences and Director – Program in International Nutrition, Cornell University, USA

Sarosh Kuruvilla – Professor of Industrial Relations, Asian Studies and Public Affairs at Cornell University

Sasanne M. Bruyere, Ph. D. - Director, Employment and Disability Institute and Associate Dean of Outreach, ILR, Cornell University

Paul R. Greenough - Distinguished Faculty at the Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa, USA

Prof. S. Madheswaran - Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, ISEC, Bengaluru

Dr. Shailendra Prasad - Associate Professor and Director of Global Family Medicine, University of Minnesota.

Dr. Arun Karpur - Director for the NY State PROMISE, Research Faculty at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in the Employment & Disability Institute

Visitors to GRAAM

1. Visit of 'Communication for Development Specialist' - UNICEF to GRAAM. On 22nd January, 2015, Ms. Seema Kumar, Communication for Development Specialist with UNICEF Hyderabad Office, India, had visited GRAAM to understand about the implementation of Arogyashreni project. Her visit was inline with the interest for replicating Arogyashreni model in Telangana, possibly in Mahabubnagar District.

2. Dr Seema Purushothaman, Azim Premji University: Visited GRAAM for interaction with GRAAM staff regarding usability of tablets in collection of data from respondents and seeking technical support for their research project on Rural Urban Agrarian Dynamics.

3. Visit of The Ambassador of the United States of America to India to GRAAM: The United States ambassador to India, Ambassador Richard R. Verma visited Grass Roots Research And Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) on the 1st April, 2015.

Guests

1. Dr. Shailendra Prasad, handled Technical Writing Workshop. Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and GRAAM Technical Advisor
2. Prof. S. Madheswaran, one day workshop on Statistics (2014-11-23) Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Policy (CESP) (ISEC), GRAAM Technical Advisor

Field staff

GRAAM's work cannot be accomplished without the tireless efforts of the field staff who bring in data, experience, perspectives and a sense of the ground realities that help in making our research and advocacy initiatives relevant and meaningful. Below is a list of individuals who were part of the field teams in GRAAM in various projects.

- Harish
- Mahesh
- Kumar
- Ashwath Gowda
- Banu
- Mamta
- Prema Vidya Yadgir Project staff

Interns and volunteers

Every year students representing Universities/institutes at regional, national and international levels join us to learn and understand and get involved in the work GRAAM is engaged in. Here is a list of such budding scholars who spent a few days/months at GRAAM and learnt from and contributed to our work.

- **Ajay Raju** - School of Rural Development, Tuljapur, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
- **Indira Patil** - Law, Governance and policy, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru
- **Revathi K L** - Law, Governance and policy, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru
- **Linu Elizabeth John** - JSS Law College, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru
- **Raziya** - Cornell University, USA
- **Lisa Leibfried** - Cornell University, USA
- **Garren Bostanian** - Cornell University, USA
- **Amanda Lindner** - Cornell University, USA
- **Alexandra Wagner** - Cornell University, USA
- **Erica L Freeman** - Cornell University, USA
- **Victoria Sulenski** - Cornell University, USA
- **Mara Rose** - Alligany College
- **Erica Bryson** - Cornell University, USA
- **Kalyssa Lee** - Cornell University, USA
- **Abhishai Persaud** - Cornell University, USA
- **Cora Walsh** - Medical School, University of Minnesota
- **Saanchitha Chandrakumar** - Symbiosis Law School, Symbiosis International University, Pune

Looking ahead

The year 2014-15 started with a positive note for the GRAAM team. A strategic meeting held in February 2014 enthralled each member to think about Portfolios and Centres concepts. Our team unanimously echoed that the purpose for GRAAM's existence is to reach voices from the grassroots to the policy making authorities backed with empirical evidence. The team felt the importance of uniting independent projects in to Portfolios so that the focus on the issue could be sustained and the required impetus for advocacy activities can be ensured.

In the year 2014-15, the thrust was more on positioning GRAAM as a credible research and advocacy organization in the Government, Corporate and Academic arena. The thrust was to strengthen the advocacy initiatives through systematic dissemination, events and communication materials. We also looked at strengthening our Panel of Technical Experts and thanks to Dr. Arun Karpur, Dr. Shailendra and Prof. Madheswaran for accepting to offer their technical expertise to GRAAM team.

This year was a major milestone in our four-year journey. At GRAAM each one of us strives hard to see our research findings translates in to policy and/or program change. We had more reasons to be proud this year as we got an opportunity to work on a policy for the Government. GRAAM worked with Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation, Department of Housing, Government of Karnataka in drafting 'Land procurement policy for housing schemes'. It was indeed an enriching experience. We observed and analysed policy bottlenecks, field level realities, challenges to implement policies and, more importantly, need for dynamism in the policy. It should be modelled to suit the changing socio-economic contexts and not become an obsolete piece of literature. GRAAM's Community Engagement Team conducted rigorous Community Consultations at different urban and rural locations across 10 districts of Karnataka to get the community voice in developing the policy.

We developed our own set of tools for conducting 'Community Needs Assessment' to understand developmental needs and priorities of the community. We hope this will add immense value in providing Corporate Social Responsibility strategy and plan for our partner organizations.

We also successfully completed an evaluation of Primary Health Centres in Northern Karnataka region (6C districts) which function 24 hours X 7 days a week. The report is submitted to Karnataka State Health Systems Resource Centre. This study further helped to deepen the knowledge of our Public Health Portfolio. Rapid Assessment of the State's ambitious Public Distribution Scheme 'Annabhagya' undertaken for Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, The Government of Karnataka was another



achievement. The Government welcomed our observation and suggestions. More importantly, some of the suggestions were incorporated in the scheme.

We have done a considerable amount of work on our advocacy front too, with the persistent endeavour of our team. We generated good amount of advocacy materials such as fact sheets, policy briefs, provided policy advocacy notes to Government of India, contributed towards flagship programs that incumbent Government launched and many more. The report on advocacy section provides more information.

We are hoping that year 2015-16 will be much more challenging and enriching. Our thrust will be towards

- Strengthening different portfolios, leveraging support of our panel of technical advisors.
- Endeavouring further to deepen our community consultation processes and thereby focusing more on issues being faced by the community
- Strengthening CSR portfolio to provide 'community centred' CSR Plans for our corporate partners. We have started the year by entering into an agreement with Jockey (PAGE Industries) a renowned apparel brand for providing comprehensive CSR solutions
- Building partnerships with other organizations having similar objectives and who believe in the spirit of complementing each other's strengths.
- Doing our bit for encouraging youngsters to get in to public policy research space in collaboration with our partner organizations

As ever, we look forward to the support of all our well-wishers and for more intensive involvement with our team.

Basavaraju R.
Executive Director



GRAAM would like to thank and appreciate every individual, organization, network, institution and community that has contributed to its success thus far and would bank upon their continued support and encouragement in its future endeavours.

GRAAM

GRAAM is a public policy research and advocacy initiative founded with the aim of nurturing a space for evolution of public policy that embodies community 'voice' and is based on empiricism, democratic principles and a progressive interaction of the key stakeholders in development that includes the State, Citizenry, Private Sector, Civil Society and Academia. (More at <http://www.graam.org.in/about-us>)

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