

# Human Eyes

*The Biannual Newsletter of Human Development Society*

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## **Director Speaks...**

*The strength of an organization lies, inter alia, on the principles and values that it upholds. It is also vital that the organization gains prominence with the passage of time and acts in domains that are in tune with its aims and objectives. It has always been our endeavour to act in a manner that builds a solid edifice for sustainable growth. With every act of ours, whether it is organization of an event or publication of a document or management of a project, Human Development Society (HDS) attempts to exhibit elements of quality, verifiability and sustainable progress.*

*The activities of HDS, which form the contents of this issue of Human Eyes, demonstrate the organisation's strength in successfully implementing wide array of projects covering areas like health, organic farming, social research, monitoring and scientific research. While taking up a monitoring project in collaboration with Delhi Commission for Women is a challenge, entering into the domain of organic certification in Faridabad is no less difficult. So are our projects on injecting drug users and research on earthworms for composting. Thanks to the support of our collaborators and efforts of professionals attached to the organisation, HDS continues its journey successfully.*

*We hope that our friends will find the newsletter interesting. As has been the case in the past, your feedback will contribute to our success.*

Sincerely,

**Anil K. Das**

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## Events and Visits

**Training on CMIS for NGOs:** As part of the project on Monitoring of Mahila Panchayats in National Capital Territory of Delhi, HDS developed a computerized management information system (CMIS) for the purpose of collection of monthly programme management data from 22 partner NGOs. The CMIS format was discussed with the partner NGOs in two training programmes held in the office of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). The first training programme, organized in December 2010, was attended by programme coordinators of partner NGOs. Considering the role of senior professionals of NGOs in the process of data collection, another training programme was organized in the month of February 2011 for the chief functionaries. Both the events provided opportunities to discuss different aspects of CMIS and the ways accurate data could be filled. DCW played the role of a facilitator in both the training programmes.

**Free Health Check up Camp:** A free health check up camp for injecting drug users (IDUs) was organized in Uttam Nagar in west Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The camp benefited 52 IDUs. Besides health check up, the IDUs were also counselled on drug use, HIV/AIDS and preventive health measures.

**Farmers' Exposure Visit:** As part of the project on organic farming in Faridabad, 15 farmers from five project villages were taken on an exposure visit to an organic outlet in Dilli Haat, INA Market in Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The purpose of the visit was to expose them to the potential of marketing of organic produce. Representatives of Navdanya- the NGO that owns the organic outlet- informed the farmers about different aspects of marketing of organic products including their market value. The exposure visit helped in raising confidence level of farmers in regard to marketing. Exposure to dynamics of marketing assumes significance in view of the on-going certification process.

Farmers interacting with representative of Navdanya during exposure visit



**Visit of Concern India Foundation:** Like every year, a team of officials of Concern India Foundation including head-programmes visited project villages in Faridabad in the month of February 2011 to inspect progress of organic farming activities. Besides checking physical parameters of project like vermi-compost beds, organic agricultural fields, wall paintings etc., the CIF team interacted with farmers in villages Rajpur Kala and Badarpur Said.

**Community Events for IDUs:** As part of the project on IDUs in West Delhi which HDS is implementing in collaboration with Delhi State AIDS Control Society, community events were organized on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 in three hot spots namely Uttam Nagar, Guru Nanak Nagar and Sant Garh for raising level of awareness about HIV/AIDS, drug use, safe healthcare practices etc. A professional street play group enacted three street plays in three hotspots. Besides distribution of condoms, a quiz competition was also organized for peer educators who work with the project beneficiaries. More than 200 high risk group population and people living in nearby areas participated in the day long event.

**A Street Play during community event**



### *Project Updates*

**Targeted Intervention for Injecting Drug Users:** HDS has been successfully implementing a targeted intervention project for injecting drug users (IDUs) since July 2010 in collaboration with Delhi State AIDS Control Society. The Drop-in-Centre (DIC) located in Uttam Nagar in west Delhi has been providing clinical, counseling and recreational services to the injecting drug users. The specific services provided and targets achieved under the project till end of March 2011 are the following:

- ✓ Treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- ✓ Referral services to ICTC-Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre and Anti Retroviral Treatment for HIV positive
- ✓ 76 Routine medical checkups of IDUs done at DIC
- ✓ 33 HIV tests conducted out of 64 referred to ICTC
- ✓ 3 out of 5 HIV+ IDUs have been registered at ART centre at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital.
- ✓ Counselling held for 261 IDUs
- ✓ 31 IDUs tested for Syphilis

**Promotion of Organic Farming:** The organic farming project in Faridabad, being implemented in collaboration with Concern India Foundation, achieved many important milestones during the quarter, as noted below:

- ✓ Commencement of work by Lacon Quality Certification (Pvt.) Ltd.- the agency hired for organic certification
- ✓ Completion of registration of Kissan Jaiwik Federation, as a community-based organization, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
- ✓ Exposure visit of farmers to organic products' outlet in Dilli Haat managed by Navdanya- an organization known for its work on organic farming
- ✓ Promotion of saving by KJF in the form of monthly membership subscription
- ✓ Promotion of micro-enterprises leading to income generation for some beneficiaries

**Monitoring of Mahila Panchayats:** HDS joined hands with Delhi Commission for Women in November 2010 for monitoring of the Mahila Panchayat Programme, which the latter has been implementing in the NCT of Delhi since 2001. Mahila Panchayat is a unique community-level dispute resolution mechanism for women who often suffer due to gender disparity, time and cost involved in judicial process, illiteracy and ignorance. The panchayat, consisting of women of the community, helps resolve cases amicably that women often face like domestic violence, bigamy, alcoholism etc., and cases like rape and property disputes are referred to appropriate agencies like police and court. The monitoring project presently covers 43 Mahila Panchayats which are managed by 22 partner NGOs in different parts of the city. Besides monitoring of physical parameters in the areas of operation, HDS receives inputs through CMIS and community-level monitors.

### Special Project

*Supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and implemented in collaboration with Central Potato Research Institute, Modipuram Campus and Department of Botany, R.B.S. College, Agra, the project on understanding of vermi-compost technology made visible progress in terms of identification of local efficient earthworms for vermi-composting and further experimentation on their efficiency and multiplication. The Modipuram Centre started producing compost on large scale basis with the help of local earthworms. The Agra Centre could find one efficient variety and on which further experiments are on. While efficient earthworms for composting have not yet been identified at Faridabad Centre, the efforts are going on in this direction with the help of more than 200 local earthworms. Also, the Centre is in the process of multiplying the local earthworms found in Agra and Modipuram. Successful identification of efficient earthworms is an indication of the success of the project. All these findings were presented at the meeting of Programme Advisory Committee of the Department of Science and Technology held in New Delhi in January 2011, which rated the project's progress as "very good".*

### Final Highlights

**Case Studies of Settled Youth:** HDS successfully concluded the project titled "Case Studies of Settled Youth" for SOS Children's Villages of India. The study covered 24 settled youth, with a break up of 12 highly settled and 12 not highly settled youth, covering the entire geographical area in which the sponsoring agency functions. Besides developing comprehensive psycho-social analysis with the help of different psychometric tools covering aspects like basic needs satisfaction, health, jobs satisfaction, marital life, social support, self esteem and locus of control, HDS also prepared a tool for measuring basic psycho-social profile of SOS CV youth in exit mode. The tool will help SOS CV to know aspects of youth like self concept, self esteem, social skills and socio-emotional adjustment at the time of their exit from the organization to enter into the outside world.

**HDS** can strengthen its activities and realize its vision with your sustained support. For the purpose of donation, please use the Donation Form given below.

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Yes, I would like to support Human Development Society for the cause of:

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- Welfare of elderly
- Empowerment of women & children
- Capacity building of unemployed youth
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