

Human Eyes

The Biannual Newsletter of Human Development Society

Issue 1

October 2009-March 2010

Director Speaks...

IT gives me immense joy to share with collaborators and friends of Human Development Society the first newsletter of the organization, titled Human Eyes. This is a sincere attempt of the organization to highlight its activities and to solicit views of its well-wishers on issues that contribute to programmatic excellence, organizational transparency and sustainable growth. Since its inception in the year 2002-03, Human Development Society (HDS) has undertaken several initiatives towards realizing its vision of building a 'Society with a culture of philanthropy and a society free from inequalities'. These initiatives, notwithstanding their relevance, need to be further strengthened and new initiatives need to be undertaken in order to face the challenges of development. Poverty, social deprivation, systemic fault-lines and several other problems that we face today require collaboration of government, non-government and multi-lateral agencies for action, advocacy and research intervention. This can be achieved meaningfully through sharing of information and expertise and entering into dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

I am confident that the newsletter will enable HDS to connect with institutions and individuals working for the cause of human development. It will be presented once in every six months. Your feedback will immensely help us in all our future endeavours.

Anil K. Das

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Events and Visits

NGO Mela: HDS participated in the one-day NGO Mela organized by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in association with Concern India Foundation on 20th December 2009 in NOIDA- a satellite town of Delhi. The key objectives of the Mela were to showcase activities of NGOs and to disseminate information regarding volunteering opportunities in the participating organizations and the products they produce. About 25 NGOs of Delhi and the National Capital Region participated in the Mela which was visited by more than a thousand people.

Besides presenting the activities of the organisation graphically on display board and chart papers, HDS also showcased organic produce viz. tomato, potato, beans, wheat, carrot etc. collected from its Faridabad beneficiaries. Vermi-compost and *Eisenia foetida* were also on display. The products on display generated lot of enthusiasm among the visitors, as our stall was one of its kind in the Mela. The Mela could be effectively used to disseminate information on organic farming, activities of HDS and volunteering opportunities with the organisation. Residents engaged in kitchen gardening showed particular interest in vermi-compost. HDS plans to translate people's enthusiasm in organic produce into long-term partnership.



HDS in NGO Mela

Exposure Visit to Mewat

*In Faridabad district of Haryana, where HDS has been promoting organic farming since 2007, a federation of beneficiaries called Kisan Jaiwik Federation (KJF) has been formed in order to consolidate the project activities and to execute joint strategy for certification, marketing and troubleshooting leading to sustainability of initiatives. In order to strengthen the KJF, HDS took representatives of the federation from each of the five project villages on an exposure visit to Block Nuh, District Mewat in the State of Haryana, where **Mewat Mahila Federation (MMF)** has been functioning quite successfully since **2004**. The **MMF** is a federation of poor women who have been empowered through different income generating activities. The purpose of the visit was to expose our beneficiaries to the functioning of MMF which would enrich their knowledge and capacity to manage the affairs of KJF. During the visit the beneficiaries met members of the federation and office functionaries and discussed the genesis and functioning of the federation. According to Thakar Das, president, KJF who had visited Nuh, the exposure visit was an enlightening experience as it could equip the beneficiaries with knowledge of functioning of the federation. The visit, in the opinion of other beneficiaries, would enable them to run the affairs of KJF effectively.*



Members of KJF at meetings with women and officials during Mewat visit

Visit of Concern India Foundation

A team of officials of Concern India Foundation (CIF) visited the project site in Faridabad on 24th March 2010. Representatives of HDS apprised the team about the progress of organic farming promotion project. Besides inspecting some vermi-composting sites, the team members interacted with representatives of KJF. Thakar Das, President, Devender Nagar, Vice President, KJF and other beneficiaries spoke about functioning of the federation and the challenges that they face. Some of the women who are assisting their families in preparing inputs of organic farming (vermi-compost etc.) also participated in the meeting.



CIF Team interacting with members of KJF

Project Updates

NPI Survey in N.C.T. of Delhi

In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Administration, HDS is currently executing a project titled "Survey of Non-Profit Institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI), 1860 in NCT of Delhi". The survey is sponsored by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India. The Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is acting as the nodal agency. The prime objective of the Survey is to estimate the extent of contribution of non-profit institutions to the Gross State Domestic Product of NCT, Delhi.

Special Project

Our special project on understanding of vermi-compost technology is proceeding according to the plan. Implemented with the support of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and in collaboration with Central Potato Research Institute, Modi Puram, Uttar Pradesh and Department of Botany, R.B.S. College, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, the project successfully completed its first year in November 2009. Experiments of local species of earthworms are going on in three locations viz. Modipuram, Agra and Faridabad, with the exotic culture of *Eisenia foetida* as a check/control. As the project proceeds, HDS hopes to make meaningful contribution to the understanding of vermi-compost technology.

Promotion of Organic Farming

Thanks to the support of CIF, the project on promotion of organic farming in Faridabad completed nearly three years of implementation. With 100 beneficiaries in five villages, who include marginal as well as big farmers, opinion makers and unemployed youth, the project activities will be consolidated in the coming years with a view to making them sustainable. The focus of future activities will be, inter alia, on community-based monitoring and evaluation, organic certification and marketing of organic produce. Considering the present level of mobilization and training, HDS hopes to successfully implement the future plan of action, which is indeed very challenging.

Final Highlights

HDS with SOS CVI: In the month of October 2009, HDS successfully completed the following research studies for SOS Children's Villages of India (SOS CVI).

Healthcare scenario and relevance of SOS Medical Centre in Latur

The study examined the nature of healthcare facilities, people's dependence on these facilities and also the need for continuing the SOS Medical Centre in the area.

Feasibility study for Education Programme in Latur:

The study, inter alia, recommended measures that an education programme, including starting a primary school should undertake in Latur.

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.

Call of the East

HDS submitted final report of the project titled "Role of Women in conflict Management: A Study of Insurgency in Valley Areas of Manipur" to the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in the month of January 2010.

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LOOK, WHO IS HERE... 😊

Pooja Chowdhary, a Post Graduate in Political Science and Post Graduate Diploma in Public Relations joined HDS in December 2009 as Assistant Manager (Communication). She is looking after Development Communication Unit of HDS. We welcome her to the HDS family.

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