

Rural Empowerment: Karnataka Fellowships

Dharwad based Samaj Parivartan Samudaya (SPS) under S. R. Hiremath has been an IFA partner since 2005. Currently we are supporting the following three Fellows – Kashinath Bagali, Prabhugouda Patil and S.A. Makkabi, independently. Their work complements each other and promotes the same objectives championed by SPS: utilization of various Government Development Programs like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Government Scheme like the Krishi Bhagya Yojna, women empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), along with creating awareness of the need for protecting natural resources including Jal, Jungle, Jameen, Khaneej and Beej. The work undertaken under MGNREGA is road construction, housing, and de-silting; also provide housing for SC and ST rural workers under Ambedkar Ashray Yojana.



*Kasinath Bagli
(Beladadi Gram
Panchayat, Gadag
district)*



*Prabhugouda Patil
(Havanagi & Chatnalli
Gram Panchayats, Haveri
district)*



*S A Makkabi
(Kadakol Gram
Panchayat, Gadag
district)*

Key Interventions in 2022

Livelihoods

- Makkabi enabled 155 new families to get job cards and 625 families got work for 52 days.
- Prabhugouda enabled 322 families to get job cards and 275 families got work for 35 days.
- Kasinath enabled 195 families to get job cards and 97 families got work for 45 days.



(i) Meeting of SHG women members, (ii) & (iii) MGNREGA work in Havanagi Gram Panchayat

Creating Awareness and training

- Create awareness among the people about education, health, employment, environment restoration and proper utilization of the Rs.21,000 crore set aside by the Supreme Court of India for the restoration of the mining impacted Bellary district; selected 11 Gram Panchayats in Bellary district and working with core committee group.
- Organized environmental training programs for schoolchildren, formed Village Forest Committees in Beladadi village for protection of natural resources and medicinal plant area of Kappatagudda. Created awareness among the farmers and Ayurvedic Doctors for rejuvenation of the forest area.
- Training programs for women about the concept of SHG, accounting, bookkeeping, and MGNREGA.

Women Empowerment

SPS Fellows promote women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and train them in accounting, bookkeeping, how to approach banks for loans, subsidies, and link small savings with the Grameen banks. The SHG women are self-employed, using income generating activities like selling vegetables, sheep and goat rearing, and tailoring. The women also work under the MGNREGA scheme.

- Makkabi formed 14 new SHGs in Kadakol Gram Panchayath. Led 7 SHGs (74 women), total savings of Rs. 5,55,791
- Prabhugouda formed 25 new SHGs in Chatanalli. Led 6 SHGs (101 women), total savings: Rs. 1,81,850
- Kashinath led 20 SHGs (127 women), total savings: Rs. 10,92,965

Women Involvement in Village Governance

SPS Fellows also urged SHG women members to attend the Gram Sabha meetings:

- Due to SHG members' involvement in Beladadi Gram Panchayat, the SC, ST colonies got good roads, street lights and food grains from the Ration shop; 10 families were able to get Ambedkar Ashray Yojana houses.

Organized Campaigns:

- **Samaj Parivartan Satyagrah Yatra** [Koodalsangam (Bagalkote district) to Freedom Park, Bengaluru, January 2 to 11], was organized in conjunction with the Karnataka chapter of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM). SKM is the national-level farmers' group whose protests led to the Union Govt repealing three pro-corporate and anti-farmer laws of 2020.
- The main goal of the Yatra was to highlight Karnataka farmers' issues, who are campaigning for the following: (i) a guarantee that farmers' produce would be procured, and that the price paid for this produce would be the Minimum Support Price (MSP)

recommended by the Swaminathan Commission, (ii) increasing the number of MNREGA days from 100 to 200 days, and (iii) increasing wage rates in the near future for MNREGA workers.

- A second more long-term goal of the Yatra was to raise awareness of the need for transformative social change, so that the toiling people (e.g., farmers, farm laborers, Dalits, women, organized and unorganized workers) can live with dignity and in prosperity.



SPS leader Shri S R Hiremath with Sh. Rakesh Tikait and other leaders of the Farmers Movement (L)



On January 6, 2023, Jatha came to Prabhugouda's Haveri district - nearly 250 women and men were involved in the Jatha and made it successful.



JanaAndolanagala Maha Maitri (JMM) Jatha. The latter is a statewide movement for pro-people, pro-farmers and pro-poor policies that are in line with the directive principles of the Indian Constitution. **On January 5, 2023, Jatha came to Kashinath's Gadag district - nearly 200 people were involved in the Jatha and they submitted a memorandum to DC Gadad.**

-- IFA Liaison: Ragini Saxena

*If you assume that there is no hope,
You guarantee that there will be no hope.
If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, that there are opportunities to change things,
There is a chance you may contribute to making a better world. That is your choice.*

Noam Chomsky

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