

# bhavishyavani

A Monthly Newsletter of Bhavishya Alliance

May'2008

## What's In:

### Updates on projects:

- *Food Diversification to be scaled*
- *Community Leadership Engagement and Action planning in Amaravati- A step forward*
- *Computer Aided Adult Literacy program ( CAALP) launched*

## Updates on Projects-May'08

### Food Diversification to be Scaled:

After considerable delay due to several reasons, the food diversification project is now going to be scaled to cover all blocks of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra. Taj group of hotels and Integrated Child Development Services are working jointly on this project, wherein Taj would be supporting ICDS functionaries in building their capacities on improvement of the quality of supplementary nutrition and ICDS functionaries will implement the same. Involvement of a local NGO, Shriram Ahirrao Memorial Trust at different stages of training within the district is expected to boost the efforts of ICDS.

The project aims to improve hygiene standards in food preparation and consumption at local levels, improve methods of cooking for better retention of nutritive values and enhance palatability, presentation and diversity by introduction of local nutritious recipes within the allocated ICDS budget at the Anganwadi Centers.

Taj Group of Hotels will train and prepare a cadre of trainers consisting of CDPO's, ACDPO's, Supervisors, functionaries from Anganwadi training center involved in the supplementary nutrition program of ICDS. These cadre of trainers would further train the Anganwadi workers/helpers and Self Help Group women and women from mothers committee in all blocks of Nandurbar.

The project has been conceptualized; roles, responsibilities and budget have been agreed. A project officer has already been identified for field support and monitoring at Nandurbar. 6 different recipes of snacks (semi processed) and 27 different recipes (hot food) for lunch are being worked upon. Training design and module preparation for the training of trainers is in process. The design Team for the project consists of representatives from Taj group of Hotels, State Nutrition Mission, ICDS Commissionerate and ICDS officials from Nandurbar and Bhavishya Alliance.

Master Trainers training has been planned to be conducted in three batches of 20-25 each in July'08.

Few Staff and a Chef from Taj visited Thane, Nasik and Aurangabad to understand the field reality in AWCs.

*Ms. Rashmi Dixit from Taj visited Thane to understand functioning of AWCs. Here is what She expresses about the visit.....*

*Like most people in India, I too was firmly of the belief that our government is up to no good.*

*So when Nayan organized my trip to a district Anganwadi centre, I arrived fully expecting to witness babu's languishing in the office with cups of tea in their hands, Women gossiping, and kids running wild in the Anganwadi center.*



*Ms. Rashmi Dixit Asst. Manager, Learning & Development, Taj Group of Hotels*

*I pictured myself as their 'god-sent' angel of change who would completely transform their world.*

*However, my hopes of being "The Saviour" were crashed at the very onset of my visit.*

*Although the offices were not snazzy, people were working, without a trace of "babugiri" and the lady supervisors were aware and happy to share details about their respective centers.*

*But the part that truly humbled me was the Anganwadi centre that we visited. It was based out of a small room in an unpretentious village. The doors of the room opened to a neat little area. The walls were covered with posters and the floor was covered with a clean 'durri'. The water container had a lid, and the food that was cooked was fresh and flavorful.*

*I realized that the center was not what it ought to be, but it was a sincere effort.*

*I returned with a renewed zeal to make a good thing better..... and a great deal more respect for the government.*

*- Rashmi*

### **Community Leadership Engagement & Action Planning initiative in Amravati- A Step forward**

C-LEAP initiative which was taken up in the month of February'08 to bring together different stakeholders of village Bijudhavdi and Mansudhavdi of Dharni block of Amravati for co-creation of the collective dream of the villages has taken a step ahead now with the visit of the CEO of Amaravati district.

CEO, Zila Parishad, Amaravati, staff of Dept of Health and ICDS, Tribal Development, Revenue, Mahan, Adivasi Utthan, Koshish, KHOJ, Villagers from the 2 villages has been the partners in this process and formed a steering committee.

Following the three day process, the Steering committee has been meeting regularly and planning activities to engage the village community in the process. 4 meetings have already happened at village level and realised that the commitment of District Administration to be very critical in the same and thus the CEO was invited to the village.

On 28<sup>th</sup>May, Muthukrishnan Shankar Narayan, CEO of Amaravati visited both the villages to understand their problems and work out some solutions with villagers. The Steering committee laid down the details of the discussions and actions so far after the February workshop and also laid demand for implementation of the 2 specific demands of – Water for one community in Bijudhawdi and road for Mansudhawdi. This was agreed upon by the CEO for action along with other issues raised primarily revolving around non cooperation of Gram panchayat and Gram Sevaks.

With CEO's renewed commitment and his assurance of visiting the village in next 3 months again gave a next leap to the stakeholders in the process.

### **Computer Aided Adult Literacy program (CAALP) Launched... Training of Trainers/ Preraks held at Nasik**



*Major General Shively & Mr. Santosh from TCS interacting with participants*

CAALP Project is now launched in 20 community sites in Triambkeshwar block of Nasik with the first phase of training of Master trainers or *Preraks* held during 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June'08.

The training of the Preraks (facilitators), from the tribal taluka of Triambkeshwar for implementation of Computer Aided Adult Literacy project (CAALP) took place between 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June'08. 21 tribal women mostly with around ten years of formal education went through the 3 day process.

The Project Officer, Integrated Tribal Development Program (ITDP) inaugurated the program. He motivated the women and

facilitated information on various schemes of the ITDP, Nashik which would be useful for the tribal women. The stationery, primers and overhead cost for the programme are being supported by the ITDP, Nashik.

TCS conducted the training which included sessions on basics of computers handling, operation of the Adult Literacy Program (ALP) software, Teaching and class management skills. The modules were very comprehensive and presented in lucid language and focused on building confidence in these women to facilitate sessions independently. Lot of practicing opportunity was provided for these absolute newcomers. The method of instruction was very interactive and boosted self confidence in the Preraks who were hesitant initially due to novelty of the subject. TCS also provides project monitoring expertise.



*Practice sessions*



*A Participant demonstrating how Spike Card works*

VACHAN had made meticulous arrangements for the 3 day residential program. The environment was that of mutual trust and cooperation, thanks to the human touch brought about by VACHAN. Group learning was the order of the day and inspired the women to attain a common goal of community empowerment and universal education. BA facilitated the effort, supported the cost of the training and helped in documentation of the effort.

The enthusiasm of these tribal women was infectious. It was highly motivating to see a group who had never seen a computer before get transformed into a confident bunch of community leaders out to make a difference. Overall, this CAALP Training of trainers (TOT) was an exercise in teamwork with all the partners playing their role to perfection. A truly multi-sectoral effort!

The partners envisage the same motivation in actual implementation when the centres start by the end of this month. Careful monitoring and supervision would be needed for the success of the project. Also building technical expertise of supervisor for trouble shooting of computers at community based centers is an important factor to be considered.

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If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions, feel free to write to Sangeeta Dasmohapatra at [sangeeta@bhavishyaalliance.org.in](mailto:sangeeta@bhavishyaalliance.org.in) or [sangeetadm@yahoo.com](mailto:sangeetadm@yahoo.com) Ph: +91-22-27823202/9821421554