







Chitradurga. It is an area where IWMP project is completed. Several visits were made to the village and NGO leaders were interviewed along with the government officials.

Among the activities in which households are engaged agricultural activities are the most important source of income. Income from livestock, forest product and fishing contribute a small amount to the whole household income.

### The Communities in Metikurke

The village community is heterogeneous and includes SC, ST, Yadava community, Kuruvas, Gowdas, Reddy's and Lingayats. All caste groups worked together towards a common goal. Social capital has resulted in positive results in networking among the communities. Watershed project has brought many changes in the village. The main cultivation in the village today is maize, sunflower, green bean, cotton, onion etc. The watershed project has brought about socio-economic transformation in the village life. An increase in productivity of the major crops has brought about phenomenal increase in income. Villagers have learnt about the scientific method of cultivation. There is wide scale participation by women in SHGs, in the planning, implementation of the programme in income generation activity. The NGOs play an important role as a linkage between the community and the project. The partner NGO has sensitised the women and made them aware about the importance of the project and formed Community Based Organizations like SHGs.

### Awareness about the project

The awareness level of watershed project among the people is high. This is mainly because of the grass root level work of the NGO and the Department of Watershed. Also people are benefitting from the project and are actually aware that if they participate in the programme, it will help them in many ways. Most of them are aware of the technological part of the programme. Change is also witnessed in the education level of the community. Most of the parents aspire today to educate their children. Due to participation in SHGs, women have inculcated the habit of saving. Participation of women in soil and moisture conservation measures include assisting in the construction of Contour bunds, assisting in the construction of Nala bunds, assisting in the construction of check dams, decision making in contour bunding, assisting in the construction of farm ponds, decision making in crop rotation.

Chambers (1997) has argued that poor people in particular normally have to diversify sources of livelihood in order to survive in a risk prone and uncertain world. Feminization of poverty has led to a precarious situation where women often bear the brunt of poverty. To cope with the economic crisis women participate in income generating activities and this has brought about a change in their economic status. They are engaged in tailoring, embroidery, papad or pickle making, Soap powder making, phenol making, areca nut plate making, toys making, masala powders making, plastic baskets making, dairy, poultry, piggery, sheep/ goat rearing, preparation of vermi-compost, etc.

Women participate in community based organizations and they have membership in Self-Help Groups, Attending

meetings of Self-Help Groups, saving of money, decision making in providing loans, decision making in selection of training programmes for women, timely repayment of loan, recording the proceedings of meeting, maintaining contact with Gram Panchayat, Banks and other groups are a part of their activities, tour visits arranged by SHGs/ watershed department and NGO form a part of accepting the responsibility of presiding over the meetings. Whenever the situation warrants, visiting neighbourhood to mobilize and enrol new members for the group. Solving the conflicts arising in the group has become pervasive.

### Chikkagondanahally Village – Chitradurga Taluk

Chikkagondanahally is a village of Chitradurga Taluk in Chitradurga District in Karnataka State. Chikkagondanahally is situated 19.8 km away from Chitradurga town.

Social Capital has resulted in Mutual Trust between villagers and helped in rebuilding community. Decision making in the watershed committee is widely accepted. Some sort of equity has evolved in the village. Improved access to Common Property Resource is witnessed and there has been significant improvement in food security. Regeneration of resources has occurred. Equity and distributional impact is witnessed, benefits have accrued to all groups. Diversification of employment has occurred to some extent and there is emerging livelihood security of stake holders in the village. Social capital i.e., bridging building and members linking has led to group formation and have yielded positive result.

### Field work

SHG's have formed through social networking - A case study from Chikkagondanahally.

Name of the Society: Gouri Sahaya Sangha

No. of members in the group : 21

Name of the committee members : 1. Gowramma, 2. Muniyamma, 3. Susheelamma, 4. Saadia, 5. Vijayamma

Out of Twenty One members in SHG, Seven members received income generating assistance of first round in the year 2005. In the present round members received assistance of Rs.2000/- each. For the first round beneficiaries interest was not charged by the SHG. Type of IG activity selected were sheep rearing, cow rearing, petty trading, agriculture, Improvement in the standard of living. Some of the group members did not generate income from their income generating activity due to the fact they had used the loan for purposes like construction of house, medical expenses, children education and invested in the chit funds however, some of them benefitted by selling milk to dairies. They also made profit in petty trading. The standard of their living increased considerably and income levels have gone up from IG activity. The group was heterogeneous and it comprised various communities. But the women had strong networking and emotional bonding. The name of the watershed in the area is Sanganhalli Nala Sub Watershed under IWPM.

Watershed has improved the life style of the villagers and development has taken place. Medical treatment is available, presence of good Doctors and Nurses in the Hospitals, College facilities are available, Income Generative Activities

- tailoring is a major activity, but the returns are meagre as there is no marketing facility. Status of women has not improved despite economic empowerment, sheep & poultry rearing, mobility of children is seen and aspiration of parents are on the rise, regular animal health check-up conducted during the project implementation period in the watersheds.

#### **Naigere Village – Hosadurga Taluk**

Naigere is a small Village/hamlet in Hosadurga Taluk in Chitradurga District of Karnataka State, India. It comes under Hydersabpalya Panchayath. It belongs to Bangalore Division. It is located 57 KM towards South from District headquarters Chitradurga, 197 KM from State capital Bangalore.

**NISARGA** – An NGO has been able to bring about widespread changes under the leadership of Sr. Levenis D'souza. The interface between the NGO and government has been instrumental in bringing about socio-economic transformation in the village.

The characteristics of Naigere village, Hosadurga Taluk before the intervention of NGO are as follows :

- Naigere lacked the basic infrastructural facilities like Health, Hygiene, Sanitation, Child labour, and Migration was prevalent
- The community was extremely patriarchal, High level of illiteracy prevailed among women, School dropout rate was high.
- Gender discrimination - During the interview women recalled their lost childhood in terms of days spent helping their mothers collecting water, looking after siblings, unlike their brothers. The Watershed Project has made a visible impact on the life of the women.
- Women now have space, but their participation in public life. Earlier they were constrained by social norms of mobility and appropriate social behavior. Women of all groups own mobiles and T.V. Aspiration of mothers to send their daughters to school have increased. Gender ratio is favourable in the village and a girl child is prized today.
- Today they have fewer restrictions in the public domain. They are making time to attend S.H.G Meetings and are able to negotiate with men leaders. Women like men are not a homogeneous category.
- Identities intersect with other forms of Social stratification such as class, caste, identity gender. Women's are selling milk to private dairy and earning income on their own. All women's life style reflects change.

In Naigere village, Hosadurga Taluk social capital is proportionately high and well entrenched. Consequently, the villagers have the required self confidence in engaging in community collaboration. They also believe that other members will follow suit (Pretty, 2003). When a community is characterized by distrust or conflict, cooperative activities are unlikely to emerge. To increase trust reciprocity is needed, which refers to simultaneously exchanged goods and knowledge. Reciprocity develops sustainable obligations between people which lead to mutually agreed upon drivers of behaviour, i.e. norms and rules of society. As can be seen, four interconnected features of social capital are listed as essential; relations of trust, reciprocity and exchanges,

common rules and norms, and connectedness in networks and groups (Pretty, 2003). Different forms of social capital have played different roles in Naigere. Bonding ties with neighbours have acted as safety nets and have leads to the emergence of Self Help Groups in Naigere. Women have found strength in their groups, in doing things collectively. Collective mobilization for building of collective wellbeing is witnessed. Concept of SHG and book writing are organized regularly. Bridging with people from different network provides linkages with Institutions and Banks to promote economic empowerment. It has enabled them to undertake various entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Income Generating Activities. Vocational training is given for tailoring, doll making, food products preparation, leaf plate making, surf, phenol and soap making, value addition and nutrition preparation and broom polishing. For these programmes linkages have been established with NABARD. Youth Self Help Groups and Children Club have also been formed in the village.

In order to improve the livelihoods and monetary independence of men and women, entrepreneurial endeavours are being increasingly accepted as an imperative. It also acts as an important source of value addition in the creation of jobs. NISARGA has targeted the unemployed and have come up with various strategies to address them. A number of policy interventions have been formulated and variously implemented.

A comprehensive study that can be used at a grassroots level for design, implementation and evaluation of development interventions. While there is much debate at the theoretical level as to what empowerment comprises and how it best can be achieved, there has been little primary research at the grassroots level to contribute to an understanding of what empowerment means in everyday terms and how NGO Government interventions takes place. Thus, it appears that there is not enough research done in assessing the impact of development projects and NGO State collaboration on the process of empowerment of target individuals or groups. The aim of this paper is to outline how social capital is defined and distributed among the communities in three villages Metikurke, Chikkagondanahally, Naigere and how a focus on relationships can relate to capacity building through community participation. Using examples from three villages in Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka, India we would see how social relations are perceived and how they lead to trust between individuals and communities.

Collective action is possible when individuals join together to deal with problems they face in common and achieve positive outcomes. Social capital, may therefore be a resource for collective action. For example, networks of trusting and reciprocal relationships develop among community members leading to positive relationships. This paper therefore explores the role of social capital in community development by focusing on Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka, India. Social capital as a useful resource, facilitates social interaction, promotes mutual support, cooperation and thus improves participant's livelihood through income generation, better community governance and capacity building. An important observation

is that social capital yields superior outcome if it is used in line with the local conditions of a given society. The findings suggest lessons for policy planners, donor agencies, development practitioners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and civil society to use social capital as a resource in order to achieve sustainable community development.

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