

RECORD OF MEETING WITH MR. PRAKASH AND TEAM AT GRAM PANCHAYAT OFFICE, KANAKAPURA, ON WEDNESDAY, 5th November, 2008 WITH REGARD TO THE LAMBANI TRIBAL VILLAGE, RACHAIANA DODDI.

AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION DURING MEETING AT VILLAGE WITH ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

1. *Water – borewell for the villagers
Mini Water Supply
Rainwater harvesting*
2. *Brochure of Development Alternatives - Schemes/Projects that can be implemented there – Anita to give awareness talk on various projects.*
3. *Talks by the Reps of various Government Departments regarding their Projects, incentives, subsidies which will benefit the villagers.*
4. *Introduce Mrs. Shobha, the Needlework teacher to the village and fix up dates, timings, etc., for the Tailoring and needlework classes.*

Present :

Representing Government

1. Mr. Prakash, EO, Kanakapura
2. Mr. Chandrashekar, Junior Engineer, P.R.E.D.Sub-Div (Sericulture)
3. Mr. Revanna, Junior Health Assistant, Primary Health Centre, Venkatarayara Doddi
4. Mr. H. K. Ramakrishnaiah, Social Welfare Department
5. Mr. N. Gopal Gowda, ADA, Watershed Dept.
6. Mr. Huchappa, Agriculture Dept.
7. Mr. Krishnappa – Gram Panchayat President
8. Mr. Venkataramanappa – Gram Panchayat Member
9. Mr. Pakirappa, Zilla Panchayat Secretary
10. Ms. Bhagya, Anganwadi Worker

Representing Soroptimists

1. Mrs. Anita Belagodu
2. Mrs. Anne Marie Schweingruber (from SI Berne Arcadia, Switzerland)
3. Mr. Martin Schweingruber, spouse of Mrs. Anne Marie
4. Mr. C. R. Ponnaiah, Engineer, & spouse of Dr. Margaret Ponnaiah, Past President
5. Mrs. Matilda Mathias, Programme Action Co-ordinator, SI Bangalore

Representing Villagers : Mr. Krishna Naik (Headman), Mr. Madhav Naik, Mr. Ramaswamy Naik and others.

Mrs. Mathias welcomed all the Government officials and thanked Mr. Prakash for having arranged this meeting when the villagers and Soroptimists got an opportunity to meet the Government officials and understand from them first hand, the various projects of the government in different fields, and the incentives, subsidies etc. available to the villagers so that they could benefit from them. Mrs. Mathias also introduced Mrs. Anne Marie Schweingruber and her husband Martin to the gathering, as a member of SI Berne, Switzerland, friends of Soroptimist International Bangalore, and also of the Rachaiana Doddi villagers. Anne Marie and her Club members were very keen to see that every village household had its own toilet in this, the UN International Year of Sanitation.

Mrs. Mathias informed the villagers that here was a chance for them to come up with their needs and grievances, so that the Government officials would see how to solve their problems. SI Bangalore was interested in their all-round development, not only academic and financial, but also as good human beings. Theirs being a small, close-knit community, they should be able to live in peace and harmony, and share with one another, thus helping one another to come up and improve themselves. She mentioned that liquor was a great enemy of man, drinking was a sickness, and it would be possible to kick the habit, provided the individual concerned was keen to give it up. If there were people willing to improve themselves, if a list could be given to us, we would arrange for counselors and other people who could come and help them give up the bad habit. **Madhav Naik** was requested to make the list of people concerned. It was felt that with guidance and assistance from the Government and Soroptimists, and with their own hard work, they should be able to quickly improve their lot. With the combined efforts of all, we could make Rachaiana Doddi a model village which other villages and Gram Panchayats would want to emulate.

It was felt that this day was a very important and very special day for the villagers and for Soroptimists, as Mr. Prakash had arranged the Representatives from different departments of the Government to come here to speak to them and help them.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Action by
1	Mr. Prakash informed the villagers that under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, every able bodied adult in the village would be given 100 days of labour in the village itself, @ Rs.85/- per day. When the work in this village was over, they would be given work in the adjoining villages. They do feel that Rs.85/- is much lower than the market rate of Rs.150/- per day, but they cannot do anything about it right now. They can only escalate the matter upward, and finally the State Government would need to take up the matter with the Central Government for any revision in the rate. Mr. Pakirappa advised that about 40 persons from the village had offered to work in the village under this programme, and their job cards were ready. Some of them present were handed over the job Cards by Mrs. Mathias, Mr. Prakash, Mr. Krishnappa, Mrs. Anne Marie and Mrs. Anita. Mr. Pakirappa has been requested to provide us a list of persons from the village, to whom these job cards have been issued.	Mr. Prakash
2.	The Anganwadi Worker, Ms. Bhagya, was introduced to the visitors. The villagers were not too happy because they said that none of the villagers knew what medicines were being given for the villagers, there was no record, they were not being given medication. Bhagya was requested to maintain a register to reflect the medicines received, issued and stock in hand. In the previous meeting at Kanakapura Gram Panchayat Office with Government officials, the villagers had requested a change in the Anganwadi Teacher as they felt she was not teaching the children anything, including Kannada	Mr. Prakash
3.	The Rep from the Sericulture Dept. said that two people had been given incentives for silk worm rearing – the village headman and his neighbour. It was felt that more and more people should be encouraged to get into sericulture. Water shortage was the main drawback for many works. Mulberry leaves were vital to silkworm rearing, and without water the mulberry cultivation was not possible.	
4.	Mr. Revanna, Junior Health Assistant spoke about the benefits available to the villagers if a lady delivered in the home, she was paid a sum of Rs.500/- , a	

	<p>hospital delivery would be paid Rs.750, and if it was a caesarian section, the amount was Rs.1,200/- Besides, transportation cost of Rs.200/- would also be paid. Every new mother was provided with a kit which contained about 18 items including some clothes that would be required for the baby. He also mentioned that a Doctor was supposed to be visiting the village. He was requested to keep the Anganwadi Worker informed of the date and time of visit of the Doctor, so that she in turn could inform all the villagers so that those who were ill could see the doctor.</p> <p>There was one villager who was a TB patient who was not taking his medicine regularly. The Health Assistant said that if he were to take his treatment without fail for 6 months, he would be cured. However, this gentleman does not take his medication. Besides, he drinks liquor too. The villagers were requested to kindly advise him, and get his wife and children and the Anganwadi Teacher to ensure that he took his medicines regularly. Matilda explained to the villagers that if he was not cured, he might spread the infection to others around him.</p>	<p>Health Assistant</p> <p>Anganwadi Teacher</p>
5.	<p>Mrs.Mathias introduced Shobha to the villagers and to the Govt. Reps. It was decided that the tailoring classes could start from Monday, 10th November. Mrs. Mathias requested that a list of names be given to her of the people who were interested in learning needlework and tailoring. Madhav Naik to make the list. Mr. Prakash said he would see to it that they could get 4 to 5 sewing machines</p>	<p>Madhav Naik</p> <p>Mr. Prakash</p>
6.	<p>Water being the most important factor for all developmental activities, Mr. Prakash informed that the new borewell was working. A request was made to build an overhead tank so that there could be water pipes in every toilet for washing, bathing and for the toilet. Due to the small number of people, they said an overhead tank was not justified. Mr. Ponnaiah said that even an overhead tank was not required, because the hills and the lake being at a higher level, water could flow due to gravitational force itself and reach all the houses. On inspection it was found that there were leakages and wastage of water. A pipe had been damaged due to a tractor or vehicle running over it, so water had spilt on to the road. At the borewell itself, it was found that the pump was switched on, without the valve of the borewell being turned on, so the water was leaking from a badly fixed gasket, since the pump was running uselessly, it would cause wear and tear, besides it would be a waste of electricity. He suggested that a surface level tank built near the borewell could receive water from the borewell if the pump was run for about half an hour, there need to be three pipes running down to the village, one to serve the lowest level, one for the medium level and the third for the houses at the higher level. This way, wastage of water and also electricity would be saved, while the villagers would have a continuous supply of water. It was also noticed that the switchboard of the pump was kept near the borewell, covered with a piece of plastic. Mr. Prakash ordered that it be immediately moved to the platform that was built for it, and be kept covered. Due to the ignorance of the villagers, there was a lot of wastage of the limited water that was available.</p>	<p>Govt /</p> <p>Madhav Naik</p> <p>Govt/</p> <p>Madhav Naik</p>
7.	<p>The Social Welfare Department has the Ganga Kalyana Scheme under which those persons who had land were given a borewell. The Village Headman was one of the beneficiaries of this scheme. It was felt that if some 5 to 6 households could get together and a borewell could be given to them, all of them could also benefit from this scheme. Madhav Naik to make a list of persons who could share a borewell.</p>	<p>Madhav Naik / Social Welfare Dept.</p>

8.	Mr. Ponnaiah said that the village was a gold mine as far as water was concerned. If only the rain water could be properly channelised into the lake, and efforts could be made to conserve that water from leakage and seepage, the amount of water available to the village would be about 10 times, and since the lake was at a higher level, even an overhead tank would not be required. A visit to the lake was undertaken, and Mr. Ponnaiah explained his view point and managed to convince the officials about his point of view which was finally accepted by Mr. Gopal Gowda. Mr. Prakash informed that an Action Plan for the lake work had been approved, a sum of Rs.3 lakhs had been sanctioned, and the work should start within the next 15 days. Mr.Ponnaiah offered his services in an advisory capacity. Soroptimists need to be informed when work will commence, so that Mr. Ponnaiah could be available to guide the workers.	Mr. Prakash
9.	Mrs. Anita Belagodu explained to the villagers a few projects from the brochure of “Development Alternatives” – manufacture of roofing, mud bricks, briquettes from wood, each of these needing an investment of about aars.1 – 2 lakhs, and “choolah” which would need about Rs.300/- One of the villagers, Ravi Naik, was interested in the manufacture of mud bricks. It was felt that it would be ideal to get a demonstration first of these projects, so that the villagers had a better idea of what it entails and whether they would be able to continue doing it as a sustainable activity, and then purchase the required machinery. We also need to ensure a ready market for the products manufactured. For this we would need the help of the Government and the Members of Soroptimist International also, as there should be a good number of orders in hand at all times. It was felt that we have to make a feasibility study first. Mr. Ponnaiah will arrange for the demo.	Villagers to select their area of interest and Govt. Reps to ensure feasibility and co-operation
9.	Mrs. Mathias requested Mr. Prakash and the Rep from the Agriculture / Horticulture department to kindly arrange at the earliest, saplings of medicinal plants like : Amruthaballi, Aadu soge, Dodda Patre, Tulsi, Brahmi (Ondelaga) Preethabringaraja, Aloe Vera, Hippli, Chakramuni, Pomegranate, Hibiscus, Marigold, Lemongrass and Amla, fruit trees like guava, papaya and banana, and vegetables like drum sticks, cluster beans, French beans, ladies fingers, brinjals, tomatoes, ginger, onion, lime, garlic, pudina, turmeric, palak, sabakki sappu, dentu sappu, and teach the villagers on the method of cultivation, so that they could grow the vegetables for their own consumption to improve their health. It was suggested that if an acre of government land was made available to a group of landless villagers, they could all cultivate a Community Garden , where they could work together and share the fruits of their labour. They could also avail of the benefits from the government for this community garden. Mr. Prakash offered to look into this and arrange the land.	Agriculture / Horticulture Department / Mr. Prakash Mr. Prakash
10.	Mrs. Mathias felt that if the KSRTC bus could come up to the village, it would be a great help to all . Mr. Prakash offered to bring this subject up at his next meeting	KSRTC / Mr. Prakash
11.	Mrs. Mathias pointed out to Mr. Prakash that the villagers were interested in honey bee cultivation , and with the available natural resources it would be a good source of income for the villagers. Mr. Prakash promised to speak to the Industries Department and organize someone to help the villagers with bee keeping.	Mr. Prakash
12.	Mr. Ramaswamy Naik, a villager, showed a sample of cane weaving that someone had been giving training to the villagers. This was for use for sheets on which silkworm cocoons were to be stored. This was also a good occupation for	

	the villagers, and they should be encouraged.	
13.	Mr. Madhav Naik said that it would be good to contact the local MLA, Mr. D. K. Shivakumar, and explain the various projects and plans we had in mind, so that he could extend his help and co-operation for the well-being of the villagers. Madhav Naik offered to introduce the Soroptimists to the MLA.	Madhav Naik
14.	It was also mentioned that the MLA's brother, Mr. D.K. Suresh was supposed to be visiting the village the next day. Mrs. Mathias therefore requested Mr. Prakash to convey all our requests to him so that they could extend the financial and other help required by the villagers.	Mr. Prakash
15.	Mr. Prakash gave the reference of the Commissioner , Social Welfare Department, Mr. Babu Rao Mudubi, and said it would be good to meet him and apprise him of our activities, specially in the village.	

After the visit to the Lake, members visited the Village Headman's house to see silkworm rearing. This is considered very profitable, and it would be good if more persons could start this work.

Our next halt was House No. 1 where the first toilet is being built. Mr. Ponnaiah informed that the toilet should have been ready by now, but since we were still trying to do research on material to be used, trying to identify the manufacturer, etc., it was taking time. It was estimated that the cost of the toilet should be within Rs.20,000/-. The model of the toilet was explained to the Government Representatives as well as to Mrs. Anne Marie and her husband.

One of the persons present, Mr. Venkataramanappa, a Member of the Gram Panchayat, spoke to members of Soroptimist International and requested us to reach out to his village too. He said they belonged to a neighbouring village where there were not even proper roads, no bus, no school, no toilets, and requested some help from us. They are all of a scheduled caste, and cultivate some medicinal plants. We assured him we would visit him on one of our next visits.

Overall, this was a very important, eventful and meaningful meeting. Our grateful thanks to Mr. Prakash for organizing it and co-ordinating the visits of the various departments concerned. All of us have a lot of work to do now, trying to implement all the ideas that came up during the discussions.

Mrs. Anne Marie was very busy going around the village and taking snapshots which she could send to her fellow-Soroptimists in Berne, as they were all very interested in helping the villagers with their toilets

Matilda Mathias
Programme Action Chairperson
SI Bangalore
7th November, 2008

