

Agricultural Development & Training Society (ADATS), Bagepalli 561 207

10th Effects Monitoring Report

Period: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

A. COOLIE FAMILIES FULLY ACCESS ALL STATE WELFARE & TRANSFERS

A.1. TREND AND DETAILS OF RENT-FREE WELFARE RESOURCES ACQUISITION, RUPEE TERMS

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
A.1.1.	No. of Bank Loans Applied by Coolie Families	734	573
	No. of Bank Loans not availed by Coolie Families	527	371
	No. of Bank Loans did not availed by Coolie Families	207	202
A.1.2.	Rupee Value of Bank Loans obtained	₹ 1,96,00,000	₹ 1,37,85,000
A.1.3.	No. of Coolie Families who Applied Coop Society Loans	540	365
	No. of Coolie Families who got Coop Society Loans	430	297
	No. of Coolie Families who did not get Coop Society Loans	110	68
A.1.4.	Rupee Value of Coop Society Loans obtained	₹ 1,05,96,000	₹ 77,90,000.
A.1.5.	No. of Coolie Families who Applied for Other Loans	456	225
	No. of Coolie Families who got Other Loans	259	146
	No. of Coolie Families who did not get Other Loans	197	79
A.1.6	Rupee Value of other Loans obtained	₹ 1,48,20,000	₹ 84,64,000.
A.1.7.	No. of Women who Applied for Stree Shakthi Loans	1,657	897
	No. of Women who got Stree Shakthi Loans	1,038	822
	No. of Women who did not get Stree Shakthi Loans	619	75
A.1.8.	Rupee Value of Stree Shakthi Loans obtained this Year	₹ 1,42,45,000	₹ 69, 72,000.

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

State Government launched a number of subsidized loan schemes in favour of poor and marginalised people, and flexible criteria that directed banks to give them. Majority of CSU Members have the mandatory documents and applied on time. Hence the number of loans availed is high. Each Bank has its limit to issue loans. After reaching their target, they don't give any more. This is why a few CSU Members didn't get loans. Chickballapur district was hit by drought. Repayment of crop loans by dryland farmers was very low. Most Coop Societies gave loans only to farmers with irrigation facility. The State government notified Chickballapur District as drought prone area and dryland farmers got an incentive of ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 2,500.

The number of Stree Shakthi loans were high, because the same amount is rotated within the women's group. It's a regular activity in each Stree Shakthi group. While it was a great help to women, a source of ready money, it did not result in any asset creation.

Many members bought crossbred cows with loans. 7 mini milk collection centres and 4 sub centres were opened in the district.

Plan of Action

- Get information about different loan schemes and share with primary stakeholders.
- Capacitate functionaries to facilitate members in availing loans.
- Organize special trainings on business skills for functionaries.

A.2. TALUK-WISE DETAILS OF POOR FAMILIES BROUGHT UNDER WELFARE UMBRELLA

PENSIONS

		Last Year	This Year
A.2.1.	No. of Persons who applied for Old Age Pensions (OAP) from Govt. this year	679	296
	Total no. of Persons who are now getting OAP	1,941	2,189
	No. of Persons who are not getting OAP	134	48
A.2.2.	No. of Women who applied to govt. For Widow Pensions this Year	53	28
	Total no. of Women who are getting Widow Pensions	715	763
	No. of Women who are not getting Widow Pensions	2	10
A.2.3.	No. of Persons who applied for Physically Challenged Pension this year	41	-
	Total no. of Persons who are now getting these Pensions	315	327
	No. Of Persons who are not getting these Pensions	3	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

About 40% senior citizens are deserted by their children. They were mainly dependent on Old Age Pensions for their survival. The remaining 60% think it's their right and entitlement to get pensions, because they fit criteria fix by the government.

Field Workers & Mahila Trainers played a vital role in supporting widowed women to get necessary documents required for their pension. As a result all 28 widows are now getting pension.

The Association for People with Disability (APD) has been active in the district to ensure that all physically challenged persons get their pensions and other benefits on time.

Plan of Action

- Keep record of Monthly payment of pensions, and provide extra support to women, senior citizens and physically challenged.
- Facilitate women and physically challenged persons to undergo life skill training.

HOUSES

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
A.2.4.	No. of Families living in Bad Houses	837	400
	No. of Families who got Free Houses sanctioned in the past 1 year	510	235
	No. of Families applied who did not get Free Houses sanctioned in the past 1 year	327	165
A.2.5.	No. of Families	9,127	8,079
	No. of families with electricity	9,127	8,079
	No. of families who are eligible for free electrification	476	369
A.2.6.	No. of Families who now live in Huts & Thatched Houses, and genuinely need houses	327	165

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Most of the members were benefitted through Government free housing scheme. Only 3% were unfortunate and didn't get houses through the newly introduced lucky draw scheme. As we have mentioned in the earlier reports, the free electrification scheme has stopped.

Plan of Action

- Capacitate members to contest in Local body elections.
- Train elected GP Members from the Coolie Sangha on data driven management system.

A.3. FAULTLESS IMPLEMENTATION OF EGA WORKS & PDS

MGNREGA

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
A.3.1.	No. of MGNREGA Works planned from April 2014 to March 2015	1,388	1,279
	No. of MGNREGA Works done from April 2014 to March 2015	1,272	1,053
	No. of MGNREGA Works not done from April 2014 to March 2015	116	226
A.3.2.	Total No. of Days as entitlement	100	150
	Average No. of Days of MGNREGA Works obtained from April 2014 to March 2015	42	64
	Average No. of Days of MGNREGA Works lost April 2014 to March 2015	58	86
A.3.3.	Total MGNREGA Wages Paid out from April 2014 to March 2015	₹ 3,41,80,598	₹ 2,82,77,000
A.3.4.	No. of Cases where MGNREGA Wages were paid after protests, strikes & struggles	13	20
A.3.5.	No. Of families applied for Job Cards this year	9,127	8,079
	No. of Families who have MGNREGA Job Cards today	9,127	8,079
	No. of Families who do not have MGNREGA Job Cards today	-	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING – MGNREGA

Members showed interest towards MGNREGA because there was no other work during drought. They built common assets like roads, check dams, farm ponds, threshing platforms, drains and playgrounds. 685 toilets and 74 backyard cow/sheep sheds were built. About 70% of the MGNREGA fund was used for this.

Most of the protests were made to speed up the payments for toilet construction. Two Major protests at Taluk level were made at Chintamani and Siddalaghatta Taluks to give preference to labour intensive works under MGNREGA. Apart from this overarching demand, each Gram Panchayat had its own specific demand.

Political touts and contractors are exploiting members and getting their job cards. Even a few CSU Members have found a way to get easy money without doing any work.

Plan of Action

- Conduct awareness camp on MGNREGA.
- Support members to organize strikes/protests whenever required.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
A.3.6.	Total No. of Families	9,127	8,079
	No. of Families who have Ration Cards	8,946	8,012
	No. of Families who do not have any Ration Cards	181	67
A.3.7.	No. of Families who have APL Ration Card	250	477
	No. of Families who have BPL Ration Cards	8,696	7,535
A.3.8.	Total No. Of Ration Shops	165	167
	No. Of Ration Shops running without corruptions	136	167
	No. Of Ration Shops running with little corruption	29	-
	Cases of protests, strikes & struggles to run the Ration Shop	10	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING – PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS)

Over the years, CSU Members have obtained all mandatory documents to avail benefits of PDS. Each and every Member is aware of details. Ration Shop dealers operated with some fear and caution.

While the PDS is definitely contributing to food security, an overt dependence on charity may kill self respect and the drive to enterprise.

Plan of Action

- Hold detailed discussions in village CSUs on the difference between Dole and Welfare; emphasise that the later is needed to ensure inclusive economic development.

OTHER GOVERNMENT WORKS

		Last Year	This Year
A.3.9.	No. of Government Works approved	620	478
A.3.10.	Budget Allocated for all these Works	₹ 8,57,00,000	₹ 7,45,30,000
A.3.11.	Actual Amount Spent on these Works	₹ 4,27,80,000	₹ 4,25,00,000.
A.3.12.	No. of Works done without any corruption	231	271
A.3.13.	No. of Works done with a little Corruption	227	84
A.3.14.	No. of Works done with a Lot of Corruption	162	123

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING – VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Works such as construction of water tanks, school compounds, village roads and drainage works are labour intensive and need the active involvement of villagers. Quality is maintained and the allotted budget is spent. These are the works that are done without or with little corruption.

Details on contractor works such as tank de-silting, asphaltting roads, bridges are not disclosed to the public. Therefore there is a lot of corruption in the execution of these works.

Plan of Action

- Conduct RTI training at Panchayat level, and facilitate CSU Members to file RTI application.
- Get information on Government works from their websites and share it in an understandable manner with stakeholders.
- Enforce Government to conduct Social Audits of major works done.

B. COOLIE WOMEN ATTAIN A PERSON STATUS WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES

ACTIVITIES

Mahila Meetings

3,196 (40%) of Coolie Sangha memberships in all 5 Taluks are in the names of women; the vast majority of them are really the family managers in their homes. But only 552 (7%) families are genuinely single women headed – i.e. without any male adult in the household.

Tokenism is far higher in Non CSU households where woman are “placed in front to get Biogas benefits”.

	Active Member Families		Inactive Families		Non CSU Families	
Male Headed Households	7,527	93%	28,775	89%	11,927	84%
Women Headed Households	552	7%	3,734	11%	2,271	16%
CSU Membership in Men's Names	4,883	60%	21,746	67%	5,858	41%
CSU Membership in Women's Names	3,196	40%	10,763	33%	8,340	59%

The structure of the Coolie Sangha is that one woman from each household meet *in camera* on a fixed day every week. But only half the villages saw regular meetings held for the value in sitting together and expressing solidarity. In the remaining villages, Mahila Meetings were held at times of need to discuss and pass a health benefit for someone, or decide on how much scholarship should be given to a child, or to give CCF loans to buy fuel efficient Woodstoves, etc. They also met when there was an issue to be solved – domestic violence, desertion, etc.

Health Camps

ADATS did not conduct separate health camps in our 5 Taluk campuses. Instead, we allowed specialised hospitals from the city to conduct “their” camps where we took women with reproductive and other ailments. Though most of the organisation was done by our Mahila Trainers and Village Health Workers, this strategy resulted in reduced direct costs for us.

- In Bagepalli, Gudibanda, Chickballapur and Chintamani, Mahila Trainers took women who were suffering from reproductive ailments to camps organized by M.S. Ramaiah Hospital in their respective Taluks. Mahila Trainers assisted referred women to undergo further treatment.
- In Siddalaghatta two major health camps were conducted at Busetihalli. In these camps, 86 women were identified with reproductive ailments. Of them 50 were taken for hospital further treatment and remaining have early stage problems that can be cured by medicine and frequent follow up.
- Special Ayurveda training camps was conducted in all Taluks by an Expert. She has trained VHWs and Biogas Workers on how to prepare syrups, ointments, balms and creams.

Biogas CDM Projects

Unfortunately Functionality in both our Biogas CDM Projects has drastically dropped by more than 30%. Many End User families have sold their cattle for want of water and fodder, those who still have a few cows do not have enough water to fire the Biogas units. Major repairs cannot be carried out without water. The drought has extracted its price.

But there is a strong cadre of 234 young women – the Biogas Workers – who, along with our Case Workers, have kept morale alive.

5,500 End User women from our first Biogas CDM Project are eagerly waiting for the next verification to get over. Because they have successfully fulfilled their ERPA obligation with Velcan Energy, France. With this verification, after giving Velcan their share, they will get more than 20,000 GS CERs which, when monetised, will give them an average of ₹ 3,600 each.

Woodstoves CDM Project

1,006 more Coolie women took loans from their respective Coolie Credit Funds to install 2 Chulika woodstoves each in their homes. As of date, the total is 1,965 Coolie women from 179 villages. Usage days is 1,221,949 and 5,641 tCO_{2-e} have been reduced through this CDM project.

Mahila Meetings thoroughly discussed each applicant and educated her on the proper use of these stoves before releasing the loans.

Solar Lights

A pilot project was implemented to provide individual solar panels and lighting to 91 homes in 3 villages. Each unit contains a Solar Panel, Battery, 4 LED lights and a Mobile Charging Point. For the maintenance each family has a dumb box where they put side ₹ 5 every day.

B.1. MEN SHARE IN THE MIND NUMBING & REPETITIVE HOUSEWORK OF WOMEN

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
B.1.1.	No. of CSU Families	9,127 (100%)	8,079 (100%)
	No. of Husbands who Cook for at least 2-3 days ever week	684 (8%)	736 (9%)
B.1.2.	No. of Fathers who get Children ready for School and help with Homework on a daily basis	1,878 (21%)	2,064 (26%)
B.1.3.	No. of Husbands who help with cleaning the house, washing clothes, etc. on a daily basis	689 (8%)	586 (7%)

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

There is hardly any change in the division of labour in homes except, perhaps, in the number of men who help children with their homework. This has more to do with an increasing emphasis on schooling children than on reducing the workload of women.

A lot of grapes, carrots and vegetables are grown in Chickballapur Taluk. Women labour is preferred on these gardens. So husbands are forced to cook and do household chores. Once again, not because of any gender sensitivity. Similarly, in Siddalaghatta Taluk it is common to find both husbands and wives employed in factories and small enterprises.

We have found genuinely feminist men only in villages of Chintamani Taluk – men who believe that the current division of domestic labour ought to change. Perhaps these men were always progressive; we need much more evidence to attribute this

Plan of Action

Local job opportunities for women are steadily on the increase. Women, especially in villages closer to small towns, will soon contribute more towards family income than their menfolk. This will not result in domestic work automatically being shared. Instead, women will face a double burden of both, earning money as well as doing housework.

Mahila Meetings need to be aware of this and consciously monitor male behaviour. The instruments of positive discrimination need to stay in place, sharper Indicators identified, and there should be no let up in rigorous monitoring.

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
B.1.4.	Total No. of Young & Brave Single Women	578	426
B.1.5.	No. of Single Women who were running Successful Businesses Last Year	114	92
B.1.6.	No. of Single Women who are still running those Businesses	108	92
B.1.7.	No. of Single Women who stopped running their businesses	6	-
B.1.8.	No. of New Single Women who have Started Businesses This Year	31	18

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Business and petty enterprise have always been the terrain of a brave few. Over the years, we have tracked their performance. It is time to take a composite look at the experiences of the past 5-10 years.

There is a gradual upgradation of businesses in the variety of commodities that women sell, value addition, as well as services offered. This has gradually drifted their areas of operation from the local economy of their respective villages, towards small towns. There is an increase in turnover and expansion in volume in all the successful businesses run by women.

All this is a well recorded and easily understood general business phenomenon. Yet we notice something being different.

The answer is found in the *type of businesses* that Coolie women undertake. These have, more or less, stayed the same – milking cows (but not sheep and goats); vegetable and flower trade; buying tamarind trees, plucking the ripe fruit, processing with salt, and packing in small quantities that are bought by individual households; saris and bangle trade; tender coconut stalls and petty shops; limestone to chew with beetle leaves, etc. Even the 18 new ventures that were started in 2014-15 were on these same lines.

During this 10th Effects Monitoring exercise, we reflected on the choice of business ventures that Coolie women seemed to have a propensity to undertake. We realised that there is a fundamental difference between the types of businesses undertaken by Coolie women and their menfolk. Male businesses are *only* to make money. "Female" businesses solve practical gender needs and *also*, at the same time, make money. A few examples:

- When Men buy Cross-bred Cows they make a lot of money by selling milk. But there won't be a glass of milk for the child in the house; there won't be cool butter milk to drink on a hot summer day.
- When Men buy a fancy pair of bullocks, they have to be fed the whole year around in order to be put to work for less than 30 days during agricultural operations. When Coolie women buy 2 sturdy cows that can also do a little bit of light ploughing, they get half a litre of milk every day for their children.
- Biogas units solve practical problems of gathering fuelwood, getting smoke in the eyes, blackened vessels, long cooking hours, etc. They *also* earn money through environmental services they provide.

Plan of Action

There are many such "female" businesses. Woodstoves for women without cattle. Solar Lamps, Drinking Water Purification, Low Carbon Farming, and many more. There are other "female" businesses that lie *in between* these businesses. Bagging and selling the Biogas Slurry, or even make Vermicompost to earn more money. Together with Coolie women, we have to identify these and help start them.

B.2. WOMEN COMPENSATED FOR UNPAID DOMESTIC WORK THROUGH CARBON REVENUES

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
	No. of CSU families	9,127	8,079
	No. of Active CSU families participating in Biogas CDM projects	3,562	3,635
	No. of Inactive CSU families participating in Biogas CDM projects	3,195	3,317
	No. of Non CSU families participating in Biogas CDM projects	10,464	10,452
	No. of CSU Families participating in Woodstove CDM projects	482	1,965

Plan of Action

- Assist the Biogas team to focus on repair and maintenance, as soon as the rains come.
- Facilitate more women to get into Woodstoves by clearing CCF Overdue in their villages and taking CCF Loans to buy 2 Chulika stoves each.
- Train Biogas Workers on the Coolie Sangha ideology, principles and way of functioning.
- Support Biogas team to collect share capital from End User families and become members of the newly formed Producer Company.
- Train other NGOs on CDM preparation, implementation and monitoring.

B.3. EQUAL DECISION MAKING ROLE ENJOYED WITHIN FAMILIES

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
B.3.1.	Total No. of Families	9,127	8,079
	Cases of Women who have no say in their Family Expenses, Loans, etc. (<i>Powerlessness Indicator</i>)	74	21
B.3.2.	Number of Marriages that took place in the past 1 Year	449	411
	Of above, number of Choice Marriages	83	143
	Cases of Women who expressed they can support their Daughters in their choice of marriage	60	125
	Cases of Women who expressed they could not support their Daughters in their choice of marriage	23	18

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Powerlessness has certainly reduced. This can be observed not just through a reduction in the number of women who have no say in family decisions, but also through observation.

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
B.3.3.	No. Of Women suffering from different health ailments	61	56
	No. of Women not able to do their normal household/outside work for more than 1-2 months in the last year (<i>Bad Health Indicator</i>)	13	3
B.3.4.	No. of Women who suffered the insult of not being able to cook for their families because there was no Rations, Fuel wood and/or Water for 1-2 days (<i>Poverty Indicator</i>)	-	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Once again, the numbers show that no sick woman is left unattended. The 3 women who couldn't even do their household work for more than a month were because of breast cancer.

Plan of Action

- Ensure that Health Camps are conducted every quarter.
- Promote usage of Ayurveda medicine.
- Put aside substantial Sangha Funds to finance treatment.

B.4. ALL FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (PHYSICAL & MENTAL) TRACKED AND STOPPED

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
B.4.1.	No. of Domestic Violence reported during this year	69	27
B.4.2.	No. of Domestic Violence Stopped	65	23
	No. of Domestic Violence not Stopped	4	4
B.4.3.	No. of Husbands and Wives separated on advice of Mahila Meeting	-	1
	No. of Legal Divorces obtained during the past one year	4	1

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Bagepalli Taluk:

Cluster/GP Meets in Bagepalli Taluk, during this 10th Effects Monitoring exercise, had an uneasy feeling that the number of "hidden" violence may be on the increase. Since this Indicator is being strictly monitored, domestic violence may have actually *increased*. They suspect that wives may not only be beaten (like before, when husbands felt they had the *right* to do so), but now they are also threatened to not report. Only major issues that simply cannot be "hidden" are coming to the notice of Mahila Meetings.

In Siddalaghatta Taluk, the Cluster/GP Meets claimed that there were no cases of domestic violence. This is exactly what the Bagepalli suspected.

Of 11 issues that were tackled in Chintamani Taluk, 10 were small and silly problems that were resolved by the Mahila Meetings. But they had to separate a couple where the girl was forced into a marriage she didn't want.

Plan of Action

- Conduct camps on Women rights.
- Train women on how to use Domestic violence helpline.

- Provide legal assistance for a Woman who face domestic violence.

B.5. POSITIVE TRENDS IN COOLIE WOMEN'S HEALTH

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
B.5.1.	No. of Women who Reported Reproductive Ailments in the Mahila Meetings	352	277
	No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments Treated Locally by VHWs	114	82
	No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments brought to Health Camps by VHWs	238	195
	No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments taken to City Hospitals after Health Camp	182	160
	No. of Women with Reproductive Ailments who are not treated	56	35

Plan of Action

- Conduct Regular health camps once in 3 month.
- Conduct more training on Ayurveda medicine.
- Establish linkage between VHWs and Government health department.
- Taking referring patients to hospital.
- Facilitate members to get enrolled in various free medical treatment schemes.
- Provide financial assistance through Sangha fund or Aid distress.

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
B.5.5.	No. of Childbirths that took place in the past 1 year	465	254
	No. of Childbirths conducted by the VHW in the Village	-	38
B.5.7.	No. of Childbirths conducted in Govt and Pvt Hospitals	465	216
B.5.8.	No of Mother and/or Child Deaths during Child birth during the past 1 year	1	-
B.5.9.	No. of Young Mother who underwent family planning operation this year	303	90
	No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 1 Child	58	6
B.5.10.	No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 2 Children	183	71
B.5.11.	No. of Young Mothers who underwent Family Planning Operation after 3 or more Children	62	13

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Government appointed Asha Workers, *Anganwadi* Teachers, VHWs and ANMs closely monitor pregnant women from the 3rd month till childbirth. Government has made it compulsory to conduct childbirths in

hospitals to avail different benefits to the mother and child. As a result, mortality rate has reduced. Most mothers prefer to undergo family planning operation after the second child.

Plan of Action

- Share information on various Government schemes in Mahila Meetings.
- Continue replacing aged VHWs with young educated women and send them for special training.
- Continue to assist VHWs procure first aid and basic medicines every month, after the Taluk Coolie Sangha Meetings.
- Motivate women to undergo family planning operation after one child.

B.6. INCREASED SATISFACTION WITH FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM

		<i>Last Year</i>	This Year
B.6.1.	No. of Ambulance Calls availed	884	1,035
B.6.2.	No. of Strikes & Struggles against Govt. Doctors & Nurses	3	2

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Everyone is now familiar with the free “108 Ambulance Service “of the government. They continue to be widely used. ADATS vehicles are used only to take referred patients, from health camps, to multi-speciality hospitals in the city.

In Bagepalli Taluk, a few villages were severely infected with dengue fever and there wasn’t adequate response from the Health Department. After protesting against the Taluk Health Officer, a team was sent to these villages. In Chintamani Taluk, a request was filed with the District Health Officer to station an Ambulance in a Primary Health Centre.

Plan of Action

- Encourage VHWs to keep a vigil eye on Government hospitals and health staff.

C. SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES ADOPTED

ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Agriculture (SA)

SA was implemented only in 3 Taluks (Chintamani, Siddalaghatta and Chickballapur) during the 2014 Monsoon season. 93 CSUs came forward to adopt the Package of Practices (PoP) recommended by our SA Team for Ragi, Groundnut and Maize. Please see the table below for the details of selection of plots and members for 2014 Monsoon Cropping Season.

SA Case Worker	Villages	Families	Total Landholding		Discrete Plots		Selected for SA	
			Plots	Acres	Plots	Acres	Plots	SA Acres
Narayanaswamy	15	252	522	722	486	654	358	517
Bravin	19	396	769	1,512	630	1,182	522	1,034
Ramesh	28	476	879	1,889	775	1,612	678	1,366
Nagarjuna	31	687	1,341	2,556	1,236	2,295	1,029	1,795
Total	93	1,811	3,511	6,680	3,127	5,742	2,587	4,711

4 SA Case Workers assisted 1,811 families in 93 villages. Unfortunately, due to drought and erratic rainfall, SA was practiced in only on 37% of the Selected Plots – i.e. 946 Plots. 796 plots (31%) were not even ploughed. On another 845 Plots (32%) SA was attempted, but the entire crop failed due to lack of rains.

Please see the table below for crop wise implementation:

Case Worker	Total Plots	Ragi (Plots)	Groundnut (Plots)	Maize (Plots)
Narayanaswamy	358	200	9	38
Braveen	522	40	56	4
Ramesh	678	129	51	3
Nagarjuna	1,029	280	43	93
	2,587	649	159	138

Plan of Action

- In the previous Effects Monitoring report we had explained how we had integrated our A/R CDM activities into SA since growing farmer friendly trees is an integral part of Sustainable Agriculture. Verification by a UNFCCC registered DOE had ascertained that sequestration was over 9,000 tCO_{2-e}. For technical as well as business reasons, we decided to convert this registered A/R CDM into Gold Standard agro-forestry project. This process is now almost completed and, after a 20% reserve kept back as required in forestry projects, 6,500 tCO_{2-e} are ready to be issued. Monetised at a minimum rate of ₹ 850 per VER, we will be dispersing ₹ 5.5 million to 664 families who have grown trees on 1,152 acres. This will give a big boost to SA.
- For the past 3-4 years, the Fair Climate Network, in collaboration with Environmental Defense Fund, has been measuring emissions from different Main Crops in various Agro Ecological Zones (AEZ's) across India. However, EDF has not yet come up with definite numbers to propose a Methodology under VCS or the Gold Standard. But there were many positive spin offs:
 - Initially our A/R CDM preparation, and then the LCF, brought in a discipline to delineate discrete plots, commit them against satellite imagery, prove land title, record soil type, gradient, etc.

- It made us develop standardised and implementable SA Package of Practices that take into account economic and ecological sustainability, as well as carbon factors.
- We started maintaining Plot Diaries to record every single agricultural operation, enter these into a specialised software solution to collate, aggregate and analyse.
- Low cost, but extremely rigorous systems allowed us to scale up operations from isolated demonstrations toward a genuine proliferation.

We therefore decided to continue with LCF for its Sustainable Agriculture (SA) value. Irrespective of whether we are able to demonstrate GHG reduction and claim Carbon Credits or not, there is value in low external input sustainable agriculture:

- i. The caste-class we work with cannot afford to take the financial risk inherent in mainstream cultivation.
- ii. Poison free cultivation protects soil health which, in turn, promotes biodiversity and human welfare.
- iii. Market demand for chemical free farm produce can collectively be met through their Producer Company.
- iv. If and when EDF provides irrefutable numbers that are internationally accepted, SA will get 2 additional benefits:
 - a. A positive recognition and place of pride that the cultivation of our people – small and marginal farmers – is a part of the solution to Climate Change, and not a part of the problem.
 - b. Carbon revenue that will give them additional income.

However, we see this as “the icing on the cake” and are not really holding our breaths in anticipation!

End User Producer Company

As on 31 March 2015, 8,414 families from 402 villages have paid up their share capital to form the “Bagepalli Fair Climate Producer Company”. Gudibanda Taluk, which has not recovered from the reversal we suffered 2 years back, is still tardy.

A gender analysis shows that 62% of them are women and 38% men. Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute 39% of the shareholders, the very backward castes and minorities another 16%, and slightly better off families constitute 45%.

Taluk	Villages	Shareholders	Men	Women	Caste Category				
					SC	ST	BCM-A	BCM-B	General
Bagepalli	122	1,812	666	1,146	447	284	351	715	15
Chickballapur	60	1,012	442	570	189	86	135	591	11
Chintamani	130	2,056	728	1,328	632	287	291	803	43
Siddalaghatta	64	1,173	513	660	293	117	184	572	7
Gudibanda	26	361	86	275	148	28	43	141	1
Total	402	6,414	2,435	3,979	1,709	802	1,004	2,822	77

35% of them and longstanding members of the Coolie Sangha, another 30% are in Tax paid Members for 5-10 years, and 8% are relatively new.

27% of them are non-Coolie Sangha families – those with Biogas units. Later in this Report we will argue that this is what portends to be the future of the Coolie Sangha; a relatively smaller number of core members who protect the values, tenets and principles, with others belonging to the economic body – the Producer Company.

Taluk	Villages	Shareholders	Years in CSU			Non-CSU
			> 10 yrs	5-10 yrs	< 5 yrs	
Bagepalli	122	1,812	606	497	209	500
Chickballapur	60	1,012	253	202	87	470
Chintamani	130	2,056	830	625	111	490
Siddalaghatta	64	1,173	441	424	79	229
Gudibanda	26	361	138	177	22	24
Total	402	6,414	2,268	1,925	508	1,713

60% of families who have paid up their Share Capital are End Users of the two Biogas CDM Projects, 17% benefit from the Woodstoves CDM, and 33% from SA efforts.

Taluk	Villages	Shareholders	ADATS Biogas	BCS Biogas	Under A/R	Woodstoves	SA
Bagepalli	122	1,812	871	387	137	503	267
Chickballapur	60	1,012	270	504	14	138	258
Chintamani	130	2,056	715	683	219	281	924
Siddalaghatta	64	1,173	357	364	75	150	684
Gudibanda	26	361	246	8	2	17	-
Total	402	6,414	2,459	1,946	447	1,089	2,133

Plan of Action

ADATS Field Workers and Mahila Trainers have a Herculean task ahead of them to educate Shareholders and Directors, on how to run their newly formed Producer Company – both, the statutory/financial requirements of regular meetings, notices, etc. as well as on the various activities that can be taken up.

E.g. Already, there are intense discussions on how Member Coolie families can pool their waste (rocky) lands and set up Solar Parks, attracting venture capital to the tune of over ₹ 80 million for each such park.

Since most of the village CSUs and other forums of the Coolie Sangha are mature and largely self governing, this is possible. Had ADATS Field Staff to attend and direct all and every village and Cluster/GP meeting, this would have been a well nigh impossible job.

C.1. NO FORCED MIGRATION DUE TO DESTITUTION

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
C.1.1.	No. of Persons who Migrated due to lack of food and employment	-	-
C.1.2.	No. of Families (children and aged) who suffered because Earning Member was not at home	-	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

There was no forced migration during this drought year. But there was a choice migration, especially from larger families. They migrate in order to earn some money. They go away for about 2 months and then return back to their villages.

C.2. NO. OF TEMPTATION SALE OF COOLIE LANDS, LURED BY FANCY PRICES

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
C.2.1.	No. of Coolie families who own their own land	7,076	
C.2.2.	No. of Coolie families who actually sold their lands during the past one year	1	6
C.2.3.	No of Coolie families who attempted to sell their lands during the past one year	8	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Once again, there was hardly any sale of land in spite of the severe drought. The 6 families from Bagepalli who did sell their lands did so to SC/ST Corporation – a body that assists Scheduled Castes & Tribes. This was because they had other lands to cultivate, and the SC/ST Corporation bought it to distribute to landless CSU Members from their villages.

Results seem to have plateaued in some Indicators like this one and the previous, showing that real achievements have been made. Perhaps it may not be necessary to monitor them in the forthcoming annual Effects Monitoring exercises.

C.3. INCREASED AREA UNDER TREE CROPS WITH AN 80% SURVIVAL RATE OF PLANTED SAPLINGS

Taluk	Villages	Families	Acres Planted	Saplings	Survived	Survival Rate
Bagepalli	56	211	477	55,640	21,212	38%
Chickballapur	11	20	38	5,643	2,896	51%
Chintamani	55	265	374	45,390	28,752	63%
Siddalaghatta	24	138	261	28,515	13,547	48%
Gudibanda	5	10	3	360	236	66%
Total	151	644	1,152	135,548	66,643	49%

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Monitoring of survival rate is done only once a year. So we do not have accurate data on the current status. Pre-monsoon monitoring started after the current 2014-15 Effects Monitoring exercise was completed – i.e. a few weeks back. Therefore the above figures on area planted, survival rate, etc. may not be accurate.

D. COOLIE FAMILIES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVITIES

945 Coolie Credit Fund (CCF) loans worth ₹ 3.66 million were given out by 68 village CCFs in 2014-15 (654 loans amounting to ₹ 2.95 million in the previous year). In this same period, 694 instalments worth ₹ 1.05 million were repaid in 42 villages. All these CCF loans were for Coolie women to take up climate projects.

At the start of this reporting period, there was some discussion as to whether crop loans could be given to 1,811 families practicing Sustainable Agriculture. By mid June 2015, it became clear that the monsoons may fail.

D.1. PETTY BUSINESS VENTURES BECOME PROFITABLE

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
D.1.1.	No. of Self-Employed Business Units that were running Successfully Last Year	122	94
D.1.2.	No. of Youth who were in those Self-Employed Business Units last year	370	267
D.1.3.	No. of those Self-Employed Business Units that are still running successfully today	119	94
D.1.4.	No. of New Self-Employed Business Units that have started this year	10	-

Plan of Action

- Facilitate youth to undergo business skills training at various institutes and avail loans.

D.2. FAMILY SAVINGS & ASSETS BUILT UP

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
D.2.1.	No. of Families who have Bank/Post office Accounts	9,127	8,079
	Average Family Savings in Bank/Post office Account	₹ 2,000	₹ 1,500
D.2.2.	No. of New Assets (Land, House & Cattle) purchased by Member Coolie Families	290	151
D.2.3.	Total Value of New Assets Purchased	₹ 1,11,48,000	₹ 1,80,00,000.

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

In spite of the drought and general hardship, a number of assets were purchased by CSU Members during this reporting period – 7 plots of land, 2 houses, 25 house sites, 88 heads of cattle, 7 vehicles and 22 sheep &

goats. These were bought by those who had an additional non-farm income sources like remittance sent by youth in city jobs, milk sale, and other businesses.

It has been mentioned in our earlier Effects Monitoring Reports that every CSU Member has a bank account through the Financial Inclusion scheme that we promoted. Banking has, to some extent, promoted the culture of saving.

E. COOLIE CHILDREN

The Coolie Sangha have supported a total of 58,413 children through a largely self financed effort, over the past 22 years. 69% of these children have either completed 10 years of schooling, or are still in school. Failure to retain is 31%.

In the last 2 Effects Monitoring Reports, we expressed a concern that their own efforts may slacken, now that they have to fully finance the effort without any supplementary support whatsoever. The slight slip has now been corrected and there is an increase of 2% in the number of children, in spite of a loss in membership. This has happened because the Coolie Sangha stuck to its strategy of empowering Mothers to take care of their children.

	Children		Boys		Girls	
Supported by Coolie Sangha	58,413	100%	30,719	100%	27,694	100%
Left after Primary School	11,591	20%	5,792	19%	5,799	21%
Left after Middle School	6,355	11%	3,327	11%	3,028	11%
Left after Completing School	19,317	33%	9,857	32%	9,460	34%
Left after College	11,357	19%	6,818	22%	4,539	16%
Still in School	9,793	17%	4,925	16%	4,868	18%
Failed to fully Support	17,946	31%	9,119	30%	8,827	32%
Successes	40,467	69%	21,600	70%	18,867	68%

As on 31 March 2015, 90% of School Age Children (i.e. 5-16 age group) from Active Member families in functioning CSUs are in School.

	Children		Boys	Girls	SC/ST	Middle	Upper
Primary School (1 to 5)	3,296	34%	51%	49%	35%	14%	17%
Middle School (6 to 7)	2,281	23%	49%	51%	38%	14%	17%
High School (8 to 10)	4,216	43%	50%	50%	38%	15%	16%
Total	9,793		50%	50%	37%	14%	17%

In the previous Reports, we commented on resistance to the change from a fixed scholarship to a need based assistance to school going children. This has now been accepted with posturing by better off families squarely met. At the start of the 2014-15 school year, Mahila Meetings in each village selected only 46% of eligible children, based entirely on the financial situation of their families.

	Number of Children		Amount	
Eligible for Scholarship	9,787	100%	44,16,750	100%
LESS: Children from Families who have not paid continuous tax	-	15%	6,59,700	15%
Therefore can give	9,787	100%	37,57,050	85%
Scholarships given out	4,484	46%	30,74,670	82%

Of the 1,128 children who appeared for their school completion examinations, 77% passed and we have no results for 23% in our database. Failure and drop outs were just 4 children.

	Girls		Boys		Total	
Appeared	601	100%	527	100%	1,128	100%
Passed	467	78%	398	76%	865	77%
Failed	1	0%	1	0%	2	0%
Dropped-out	2	0%	-	0%	2	0%
No Result	131	22%	128	24%	259	23%

F. COOLIE YOUTH

ACTIVITIES

Field Workers & Mahila Trainers listed 150 Youth who are educated and active in the Coolie Sangha, and distributed 150 Computers given free of cost by Tech Mahindra, Bangalore. All 160 were trained for 3 days on hardware maintenance, internet, government sites with public Information and MS Office. They now act as “information centres” in their respective villages. CSU Members and others approach them to enquire on various government schemes, payments made for public works and under the MGNREGA, price of vegetables and other farm produce, etc.

Another 24 Girls were trained in driving at Accion Fraternal, Anantapur. Of them, 10 were placed as drivers in an only-women cab company in Bangalore.

F.1. COOLIE YOUTH OBTAIN CITY JOBS

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
F.1.1.	No. of Schooled Completed Youth	1,849	1,692
	No. of Schooled-completed Youth who are in City Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	967	939
F.1.2.	No. of Girls among them who are in City Jobs Today (cumulative total as on today)	186	155
F.1.3.	No. of School-completed Youth who are NOT in Jobs (cumulative total as on today)	882	753
F.1.4.	No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs after 3-6 months and are now Unemployed	15	14
F.1.5.	No. of Youth who came back from City Jobs and started their Own Businesses in the Village	9	6

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Youth who stay back in their villages after schooling, take responsibility and come forward to involve themselves in Coolie Sangha activities. Youth who are working keep in touch with their families and send remittances. When they visit their families during functions and festivals, they enquire about Coolie Sangha activities, and attribute their present position and earning to Coolie Sangha support. They also influence village lifestyle in mundane as well as serious manners.

A few Youth still behave irresponsibly and are a threat to the Coolie Sangha. During elections, act as touts and agents of various political parties and damage the credibility of the Coolie Sangha.

Plan of Action

2015 may be the last year when we can implement special and separate projects for Coolie Youth. We are running out of funds for skill training, job placement, etc. But this does not mean that we will stop working with Coolie Youth. Instead, they will be an integral part and parcel of all Coolie Sangha activities.

The Biogas Workers or “business women” will, for example, gradually replace the aging Village Health Worker cadre in the villages. SA Monitors will continue to be young men who were born and brought up in the Coolie Sangha. And social indicators like marriage age, etc. will continue to be tracked in the annual Effects Monitoring exercises.

F.2. MARRIAGE AGE PUSHED ABOVE LEGAL MINIMUM

		<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>
F.2.1.	No. of Marriage-age Girls (over 18 years)	815	826
F.2.2.	No. of Marriage-age Girls who are in College	453	384
F.2.3.	No. of Marriage-age Girls who are in Jobs	186	155
F.2.4.	No. of Marriage-age Girls who are doing petty businesses	14	22
F.2.5.	No. of Marriage-age Girls who are at Home	162	195
F.2.6.	No. of Attempts made to stop Under-Age Marriage	-	-

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

Due to tremendous efforts by the Mahila Meetings for more than three decades, results can be clearly seen. Girls continue with higher studies after school, and their parents fully support them. Most parents do not differentiate between daughters and sons – something we didn't dream would happen in our lifetime. Girls who fail in college are not immediately shunted into the marriage market; they are encouraged to undergo skill training and get city jobs.

Most parents believe that educating girls is an investment for their daughter's secured future. This is the main reason why marriage age of girls in the Coolie Sangha has increased from 18 years to 21 years, for a considerably long period. However, being a Gender achievement, we are wary of the fact that things may reverse.

G. NEW FORM OF UNITY THAT PRESERVES MEMBER PARTICIPATION & CONCEPT OF REPRESENTATION EVOLVED BY COOLIE SANGHA

G.1. STEADY CSU MEMBERSHIP, YEAR AFTER YEAR

Income Declaration, Sangha Tax payment & Membership Renewal

Every year, in December, those who wish to renew their membership in the village Coolie Sangha declare their family income in an open and transparent manner, in front of all others who wish to continue their membership. This takes the whole of December, every year. The following month, in January, they pay an agreed upon percentage of these declared Incomes as Sangha Tax. This is called the Membership Renewal process.

Because of this procedure, even under normal circumstances, Coolie Sangha membership fluctuates. We interpret this as a healthy symptom of "staying alive".

But under special circumstances, such fluctuations can be turbulent. This is what happened 2 years back, in Bagepalli and Gudibanda Taluks. Please see our 8th and 9th Effects Monitoring Reports at <http://www.adats.com/documents/book3/0337/> and <http://www.adats.com/documents/book9/0904/> for a candid and self critical description. ADATS had correctly predicted that what happened in Bagepalli and Gudibanda was "waiting to happen" in the other 3 Taluks.

In 2015, overall membership dropped by a further 12% from 9,136 families in the previous year, to 8,079 families. The number of villages also dropped from 393 to 364. This entire loss happened in Chickballapur, Siddalaghatta and Chintamani Taluks. As we had predicted, Bagepalli Taluk saw a revival with a 15% *increase* in membership from 1,604 to 1,849 families. When elaborating on the next Indicator on Coolie Sangha Meetings, we will explain why.

Sangha Funds

Sangha Funds have been built up by 36,604 Member Coolie families from 857 villages, over the past 21 years, with no "external moneys". Sangha Funds are entirely and solely contributed by Member Coolie families themselves.

No money paid into any single village CSU is, under any circumstance, transferred or used by another CSU. Sangha Funds are spent by the village CSUs on a number of activities – scholarships for needy children,

running a reproductive and referral health programmes, providing legal aid and aid distress, paying bus fares and stipends to elected functionaries, etc.

Unspent balances at the end of each financial year are placed in Fixed Deposits, in names of the respective village CSUs. These form the decentralised corpus of the Coolie Sangha. Interest earned from these thousands of FDs go to their respective village CSU bank account in order to add to the current year's income. As a result, each village CSU typically has Sangha Tax collection of that year, plus interest earned from their 20+ Fixed Deposits.

As on 31 March 2015 the total Sangha Fund balances stood at ₹ 80.32 million – a 11% increase over last year's balance. But Fixed Deposits dropped by 4%. This is because, due to Icco's sudden pull out from the current ongoing BfdW programme, Sangha Funds are being used to support nearly half the total programme budget.

Growth in Sangha Fund Balances

	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March 2008	31 March 2009	31 March 2010	31 March 2011	31 March 2012	31 March 2013	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
Village Fixed Deposits	42,443,417	54,625,000	61,043,200	61,043,200	63,854,200	71,420,200	73,666,700	70,451,200	53,062,800	51,343,100
Village SB Accounts	12,331,701	7,002,869	6,313,348	11,962,912	11,852,287	11,816,227	13,072,600	13,072,600	18,926,791	28,273,743
Taluk Fixed Deposit	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	450,000		450,000	450,000
Taluk SB Account	41,826	449,004	515,233	889,744	1,377,187	2,168	1,461,774	203,425	225,268	249,677
Total	55,266,944	62,526,874	68,321,781	74,345,856	77,533,673	83,688,595	88,651,074	84,177,225	72,664,859	80,316,520
+/- from pre-Year	12%	13%	9%	8%	4%	8%	6%	- 5%	- 14%	11%

Membership Strength & Coverage

ADATS works in a total of 1,252 villages, of which the Coolie Sangha covers 908 villages. The remaining 344 are villages where we have constructed Biogas units for non-CSU families.

Let us first look at the active and functioning village CSUs:

- There are 8,079 Active Member families in 364 villages. They comprise 19% of the population of these villages.
- These same villages have 12,165 Inactive families who have not declared their 2014 Incomes, paid Sangha Tax and renewed membership in 2015. They comprise 29% of the population.
- Finally, there are 3,970 non-CSU families who avail benefits from the 2 CDM Projects that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha implement. They comprise another 9% of the population of these 364 villages with functioning CSUs.

The total coverage of ADATS in 364 villages with functioning Coolie Sangha Units is therefore very high at 57% of the population.

CSU Membership & Ethnic Coverage (as on 31 March 2015)

	Villages	Population (families)	Active CSU Members		Inactive Families		Non CSU Families		Total Families	
Functioning CSUs	364	42,241	8,079	19%	12,165	29%	3,970	9%	24,214	57%
Dropped out CSUs	544	51,876	-	-	20,350	39%	3,401	7%	23,751	46%
Non CSU Villages	344	29,758	-	-	-	-	6,827	23%	6,827	23%
Total	1,252	123,875	8,079	7%	32,515	26%	14,198	11%	54,792	44%

In the dropped out villages where CSUs once functioned, coverage is 46%. In villages without any village CSUs, it is 23%. Overall, in the 5 Taluks of Chickballapur District, ADATS has a coverage of 44% of the total population.

Our algorithms calculate that ADATS and the Coolie Sangha together have a combined sociopolitical presence of 22% in the district.

The demographic breakup of Coolie Sangha families is as under:

	Active Member Families		Inactive Families		Non CSU Families	
Pre-school (< 6 years)	332	1%	45	0%	83	0%
School Age (6 to 17 years)	10,145	20%	12,249	8%	2,903	8%
Youth (18 to 25 years)	9,059	18%	27,727	18%	3,532	10%
26 to 40 years	13,734	27%	47,445	30%	12,932	37%
41 to 65 years	14,085	28%	54,255	35%	14,745	42%
Senior Citizens (> 65 years)	3,293	7%	14,138	9%	984	3%

G.3. REGULAR & DISCIPLINED VILLAGE MEETINGS

		Last Year	This Year
G.3.1.	No. of CSUs	393 (100%)	364 (100%)
	No. of CSUs who held Regular weekly Meetings	185 (47%)	152 (42%)
	No. of CSUs who do not held Regular weekly Meetings	208 (53%)	212 (58%)
G.3.2.	No. of Mahila Meetings	393 (100%)	364 (100%)
	No. of Mahila Meetings who held Regular weekly Meetings	211 (54%)	183 (50%)
	No. of Mahila Meetings who do not held Regular weekly Meetings	182 (46%)	181 (50%)
G.3.3.	No. of Cluster/GP Meets held regularly with quorum in the past year	30	28

NUANCED UNDERSTANDING

The regularity of weekly CSU and Mahila Meetings has further dropped this past year. ADATS field staff mistakenly identified this as the *Cause* for a general weakening of the sociopolitical presence of the Coolie Sangha. They thought that redoubling efforts, by Field Workers and Mahila Trainers themselves attending as many weekly meetings as possible, the problem would be solved.

During reflections that took place while preparing this 10th Effects Monitoring Report, we examined whether this was indeed a *Root Cause* or whether there was anything else that caused this as an *Effect*. We realised that “Irregularity in Weekly Meetings” itself was an *Effect*. It was caused by the emergence of other (parochial) Identities.

When we first built up the Coolie Sangha, 37 years back, the rural population had just 2 class Identities that subsumed all other – *Ryots* (big and middle peasants) and *Coolies* (small and poor peasants). Every other Identity giving social institution waned before this all prevailing feudal classification. Along with community organisation and conscientisation, the sheer force of utter destitution kept the Coolie case-class together, united across parochial divides.

Today, this is no longer the case. In a small part because of freedoms gained through the Coolie Sangha, but largely because of the transformation in the wider political economy, people now have multiple Identities. Quite contrary to a classical and dated Marxian supposition, Caste, Community and other parochial Identities have surfaced with *laissez faire*. The Coolie Sangha, with its various forums, may no longer be the pivot around which all their life processes rotate.

This is what Causes the Effect, “Irregular Coolie Sangha Meetings”.

Plan of Action

With this sobering realisation, we need to respond in an appropriate manner, relevant to the changed times. Deep discussions need to take place in the village CSU Meetings, with 3 questions honestly answered:

- i. Whether they wish to develop their individuality, person status and self interest?
- ii. Whether they can do so by themselves, without community support?
- iii. Whether such community support needed for personal development and individualism can indeed be provided by parochial social institutions like caste, religion, party affiliation, etc.

Or, is it necessary to take a sober look at the core tenets of their strategy of yore; the one that proved that if people with near identical problems get together, they stand a good chance at solving those problems. Be these confronting corruption, low wages, depressed prices for their produce, obtaining credit, domestic violence, lack of status, fighting discrimination, or whatever.

Member Coolie families have to themselves make the choice. Should they opt for the latter, they have to recognise the Coolie Sangha as a primary Identity giver, even as they enjoy multiple identities. Regular getting together (in weekly or fortnightly CSU and Mahila Meetings) will then become the natural Result in the Means ⇒ End logic.

Let us link this discussion into membership strength. Up until now, we have always equated increased membership numbers with sociopolitical strength. This corollary was proved wrong in 2006 and once again in 2013, when we suffered serious sociopolitical setbacks.

Perhaps, after 37 years, we need to accept that a smaller and more committed membership, which refuses to compromise on the basic tenets of the Coolie Sangha, is what is now needed. If each village CSU has a few women and men who staunchly defend the core values, are capable of making sound analytical judgement and, at the same time, carry the flock forward, we will have a different type of structure, functioning and an altered discipline. Quite naturally, such transformation will not happen overnight. For it to be an effective progression from where we are today, it will take several years.

In the meanwhile, the more prosaic needs of the general Coolie caste-class can be taken care of by the Producer Company they are forming . In order to collectively sell their Carbon Offsets or chemical free farm produce, End User families do not really need an ideologically committed Coolie Sangha. But in order to ensure efficient and democratic functioning of the Producer Company, the Coolie Sangha is a must.

These are the discussions that need to take place in the coming years, in each and every village.

G.4. UNIFICATION ACROSS CASTE LINES

Secondary Data

ADATS works with 54,792 families, of whom 8,079 are currently active in the village CSUs, 32,515 are inactive, and 14,198 are non-Coolie Sangha families.

- Among the Active Member families, Ethnic Cover is almost the same, across all castes and communities. This means that the same percentage of poor, irrespective of the caste or community they belong to, renewed 2015 membership in their villages CSUs.
- But when we see the Inactive Families (and the total of both), we see that the Coolie Sangha is more attractive to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and the more backward among the Backward Castes & Minorities.
- But once again, when we see the Overall figures of *all* – CSU Members as well as non-Sangha families, we observe a unification of all castes and communities.

These numbers, steady and unchanging over the past 2 decades, irrefutably prove that a larger unification has indeed taken place where Membership is concerned. However, when examining the earlier Indicator on regularity of meetings, we found that such a unification is weakening. These are the paradoxes we face when organising the poor.

	Population (Families)		Active Members & Ethnic Cover		Inactive Families & Ethnic Cover		Non CSU Families & Ethnic Cover		Overall Ethnic Cover	
SC	37,729	30%	2,792	7%	12,974	34%	2,389	6%	18,155	48%
ST	17,200	14%	1,154	7%	4,873	28%	1,596	9%	7,623	44%
BCM - A	,139	20%	1,391	6%	6,582	26%	2,169	9%	10,142	40%
BCM - B	40,245	32%	2,628	7%	7,510	19%	7,872	20%	18,010	45%
General	3,562	3%	114	3%	576	16%	172	5%	862	24%
Total	1,23,875	100%	8,079	7%	32,515	26%	14,198	11%	54,792	44%

Primary Data

		Last Year	This Year
G.4.1.	Total No. of Marriages that took place in the past 1 Year	449	411
G.4.2.	No. of Simple Marriages in Village Temples, in front of Houses & in Mass Marriage Functions	317	307
G.4.3.	No. of Marriages performed according to Rituals and in Marriage Halls	109	104

G.4.4.	No. of Marriages Registered with the Sub Registrar	18	411
G.4.5.	No. of Inter-Caste Marriages that took place in the past 1 year	4	-
G.4.6.	No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Girl was from Upper Caste	3	-
G.4.7.	No. of Inter-Caste Marriages where Boy was from Upper Caste	1	-
G.4.8.	No. of Hindu-Muslim marriages without any Conversion	1	-