

SUSTAINABLE MODEL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF RURAL YOUTHS & WOMEN THROUGH AGRI & ALLIED CAPACITY BUILDING

MASS: A Brief Background

Despite its prolonged poverty ridden conditions, the western belt Orissa was yet to be intervened by any professional group/NGO when a batch of Sociology and Anthropology students from Sambalpur University came together in 1988 to dedicate themselves for development of the downtrodden. Initially they arranged a series of discussions among themselves and with their teachers. Almost all the discussions led to the need for such a forum, but nobody was clear as to what could be done. Then prominent personalities including social workers, journalists, academicians, govt. officials were invited for an informal meeting and problems of the region were discussed in detail. After this, the in-house capability was evaluated at length. Keeping in view both these aspects a decision was taken that the present group of students and a few other interested youths from different backgrounds will join together to form a Registered Society named ***MANAV ADHIKAR SEVA SAMITI(MASS)***. Realizing the need of the region at that point of time MASS was thought up as a Resource Centre. But this could only be possible if we had the experience in working directly with the target communities. Since then, therefore, we have been working in selected clusters directly with the communities and also been maintaining close and constant linkages with a cross section of the concerned persons and institutions starting from local to international level to promote the issues of the grassroots and to build MASS as a Resource Centre for the poor of this belt of Orissa.

Introduction

One country that will grow increasingly younger is India. By 2050, its 1 billion populations will hit 1.57 billion. According to India's census bureau, 40% of the populace is below the age of 18, and by 2015, 55% will be under 20. That sounds like plenty of worker bees to fulfill the promise of making India a services and manufacturing power over the next two decades.

According to a 2004 study on India's manufacturing exports by McKinsey and the Confederation of Indian Industry, the nation will need 1.5 million trained technicians every year for the next decade.

As India is lacking far behind in skilled work force, these youths can be given skill education and make them contributory members of the society.

Skill education is a must for an each and every member of our society especially the school

dropout youths to contribute to the society and to earn a sustainable livelihood with dignity.

Scenario of targeted region:-

Sambalur district has been ranked in one of the least performer district of Odisha in malnutrition and poverty. Nearly 76% of its population depends on Agriculture, having one of the lowest Human Development Index (HDI).

Agriculture in the district is characterized by small land-holdings, upland terrain, traditional cultivation practices, limited irrigation, poor water conservation measures, low productivity, limited crop diversification and low yields of food grains.

This district is tribal dominated having one of the highest populations of schedule caste (SCs) and tribes (STs) in Odisha.

The economy of the district is mainly dependent on agriculture and forest, which employs about 84% of its labor force. This is not because agriculture is well developed in the district, but due to the fact that opportunities for gainful work outside agriculture are extremely limited. Undependable and low returns from agriculture and forestry, absence of a backup system and poor credit worthiness throws the poor small and marginal farmers and landless labor at the mercy of the traditional money lenders.

The dropout and unemployed youths of the area are either working as unskilled laborers or simply loitering and becoming the burden to the parents and to the society. A huge number of adolescent girls are moving to cities in search of job but are trapped and involved in the flesh market. The only way to prevent and to save these youths is skill education. Skill education can give them a new hope in their lives.

The challenge, however, remains to convert these commitments into tangible actions and benefits for women, especially those belonging to socially disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

Necessity of the Project-

- Acute unemployment , joblessness and underemployment among the youth workforce
- Lack of adequate options of occupation in rural area in between non-remunerative traditional cultivation and unskilled labor.
- Non-alluring employment option pre-empt the educated (little formal education below 10th Class) youth to migrate in search of better options.
- Most cases of migration cause severe exploitation and unhygienic working condition

leading to hazards on life and security.

- High degree of seasonal unemployment , 8-9 month in a year (just barring 3-4 month of cropping period)

Target Community:-

- Unemployed and dropout youths besides socio-economic deprived Schedule caste and Tribal communities of the targeted area

Training details-

In present scenario, promotion of appropriate production methodologies among farmers for effective conversion of organic waste into nutrient rich compost should be emphasized.

To overcome from scarcity of skilled human resources, insecurity of rural livelihood and youth migration from rural to urban areas for employability, we have selected following four viable trade under this project to produce trained and skilled human resources:-

- Organic compost Production:-** In present scenario, our country is facing problem of intensive use of chemicals in agriculture and decomposition of huge organic waste produced by agriculture industries, kitchen waste, local vegetable Mandi and Hatt. So, why not develop a skill and produce capable and trained mass to decompose and recycle the organic wastes to convert it into Organic compost
- Organic Nursery raising:** - In present most of all medicinal, herbal, vegetables and fruits plants has been raised with chemicals in Nursery.
- Organic Seed Growing:** - Organic kitchen garden should be promoted for elimination of malnutrition, food in-security and dependency on chemically treated food.
- Mushroom Production:** - Mushroom cultivation is a short duration and high value farming can be easily popularized to economically empower the peoples with disability.

Operation Area: - The proposed project will be operated among the Tribal dominated blocks of Sambalpur district of Odisha.

Project Duration: - 18 Months

Proposed Trades:

- 1)-Organic compost Production
- 2)-Organic Nursery raising
- 3)-Organic Seed Growing
- 4)-Mushroom Production

Duration and subject of Training:

Sl. No.	Training subject	Duration (Days)	No of Trainees	Skill / topic covered under training program
1	Mushroom Cultivation	30	30	1. Introduction and Importance
				2. Necessity and used ingredients
				3. Various Methods Mushroom cultivation
				4. Method of preparation
				5. Routine observation of different parameters like disease-pest attack, color, growth and moisture etc
				6. Observation of testing parameters
				7. Processing methodology and value addition
				8. Market strategy and linkages
2	Organic Compost preparation	60	30	1. Introduction and Importance
				2. Necessity & use
				3. Types of composting
				4. Different ingredients and its role
				5. Method of preparation
				6. Routine observation of different parameters like color, smell, weight & moisture etc
				7. Quality testing parameters
				8. Sieving, grading and packaging
				9. Study about market strategy and entrepreneurship skill
				10. Distribution of study materials of entire said topics
3	Organic Nursery Raising	90	30	1. Introduction and Importance
				2. Necessity & use
				3. Types and specific plants & its importance
				4. Different parameters and its role

				5. Method and its demonstration
				6. Routine observation of different parameters like soil type, plants characteristics & irrigation etc
				7. Seed treatment & quality testing parameters
				8. Application doses of different plants nutrients, manure and plant growth regulator etc
				9. Study about market strategy and entrepreneurship skill
				10. Distribution of study materials of entire said topics
4	Organic Seed Growing	90	30	1. Introduction and Importance
				2. Necessity & use
				3. Layout and crop selection
				4. Different tools and its application
				5. Method of growing and its demonstration
				6. Routine observation of different parameters like crop growth, crop health, insect & pest attack and fruiting etc
				7. Quality testing parameters
				8. Doses of organic crop nutrients and pest control
				9. Harvesting, grading and packaging measures
				10. Study about market strategy and entrepreneurship skill
				11. Distribution of study materials of entire said topics

Future Prospects:-

- Self-employment of target group in profitable vocations as entrepreneur
- Removal of hidden unemployment among traditional farming communities
- Social and economic empowerment of marginalized redundant groups.
- Optimum utilization of local physical and human resource

- Creating scope for greater employment & better professional excellence

Financial Details of the Project

Skill Training Sector (includes all expenses like accommodation, food, training, study material etc)	<u>Training Duration</u> <u>(Days)</u>	<u>Expenses/day/entire batch of trainees</u> <u>(Rs.)</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
1. Mushroom Cultivation	30	12,000	3,60,000
1. Organic Compost preparation	60	12,000	7,20,000
2. Organic Nursery Raising	90	12,000	10,80,000
3. Organic Seed Growing	90	12,000	10,80,000
Total			32,40,000 (Thirty Two Lakh Forty Thousand only)

*This budget includes all the others miscellaneous expenses also during training like Raw material required during Practical Training, Printout & Xerox of study materials and others training related.