



# help Foundation

Quarterly Journal

Newsletter  
newsletter

Vol. 09: June 2012

## In this issue

|  |   |
|--|---|
| HELP Foundation's Low Cost Dialysis Centre: Project DAYA                 | 1 |
| MOU with RNTCP   | 1 |
| Mangrove Cultivation   | 2 |
| Rural Mart for Food Security   | 3 |
| Safeguarding and Preservation of Umayanallor Ela (paddy field) in Kollam | 3 |
| Green Economy  | 4 |
| Social Intervention- PRIs & NGOs   | 5 |

### 80- G Approval from the Income Tax Office

HELP Foundation recently secured Approval under Section 80(G)(vi) of the Income Tax Act from the Office of the Commissioner of Income Tax. Donations made to HELP Foundation will qualify for deduction U/S 80G (5) of the Income Tax, in the hands of the donors subject to the limits prescribed therein. This is a significant achievement for HELP given our work through the last couple of years and we are indeed grateful to our well wishers and donors who have supported us through the past years.



## Activity Report

### HELP Foundation's Low Cost Dialysis Centre: Project DAYA



HELP Foundation's Project Daya is into its fourth month. We have performed over 50 dialysis free of costs and are looking at ways and means to ramp it up. Poor needy patients referred to us by Medical College Trivandrum, is being assisted through this program and the waiting queue is pretty long. Kidney related Education promotion activities as well as

advice on Nutrition & Diet is provided on a regular basis to the patients who are taken care of by HELP Foundation and also their bystanders are regularly counseled.

To continue to provide low cost Hemodialysis facilities as well as totally free dialysis and also to be able to provide free periodical checkups for patients undergoing dialysis at our Centre, we need support from all concerned. All we intend to be is a facilitator so that Ashtamudi Hospital can deliver the services to the



Dialysis in progress at Ashtamudi Hospital

poor and needy. This can be individuals, organizations or corporate's who are willing to lend a helping hand to the needy kidney patients and not to HELP Foundation, as we are simple plain enablers.

### MOU with RNTCP

HELP Foundation as part of its growing expertise in the Health Arena had been short-listed by Kollam District TB Centre for the recently announced Global Fund Round 9 TB Project. This was for implementing **GFATM R9 TB Project – AXSHYA** in the state of Kerala with the support of State TB Office. Recently HELP Foundation entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with Kollam Office of RNTCP (Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme) for advocacy in Kollam District. Through this program HELP Foundation will be working with Schools and Panchayats of Kollam District for the TB advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization under the project with RNTCP. The duration of the cooperation will be from June 2012 to June 2013.

### DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment-Short-course)- Sure cure for TB

In India today, two deaths occur every three minutes from tuberculosis (TB). But these deaths can be prevented. With proper care and treatment, TB patients can be cured and the battle against TB can be won.

The DOTS strategy along with the other components of the Stop TB strategy, implemented under the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in India, is a comprehensive package for TB control.

## Mangrove Cultivation- (Guest Article from Mayyanad HSS)

“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children”

Kenyan Proverb



Sign Board being placed at the site of Mangrove plantation by Mayyanad HSS Eco Club members



First healthy Mangrove sprouts from the project site



Routine maintenance activities at the project site under the guidance of

Mr. Manoj, Teacher Coordinator, Eco club



“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children”

Kenyan Proverb

The above quoted lines aptly mark the unavoidable need of the hour- the eco friendly way of living. But the environment is facing the great threat of globalization under its iron hands. All our biological resources and cultural heritage is being killed or severely changed by globalization. All the facilities we are enjoying now is undoubtedly the boon of our forefathers. But the needs and desires of human beings are ever increasing. To meet the needs we are completely swallowing the whole earth like an ‘apple’, so that nothing will be left for the coming unfortunate generations. This narrow attitude on our part adds to the destruction of the bio resources. The beauties and bounties of nature, such as river, lake, stream, ponds, ocean are becoming the places for recreation and dumping. Even field, mangroves and wet lands are giving way to flats and multi-storied buildings. It is a familiar sight for several decades. The result of this conscious or unconscious act on the part of human is horrifying and is incorrigible. Some forty years back we had to our credit an area of seven hundred square kilometers of mangroves but now the situation is really pathetic that it has depleted to an area of just seventeen square kilometers. Recent studies about mangroves brought to light that the bio resources in mangroves are akin to tropical rain forests. The muddy areas among the mangroves nurturing an ecosystem consisting of fish, crab and micro organisms. In short the rejected mangroves

from the core of biodiversity.

The importance of mangroves and its bio resources were first pointed out by Sri Pekkudan, who dedicated his life for its growth and for the propagation of the message. The mane of the “dalit” has become synonymous with mangroves.

The inspiration, energy and the great lesson imparted by this man to the people who love nature are beyond words. It is impossible to create the biodiversities artificially; it has been evolved naturally through thousands of years. But a t the same time such works on the part of people to create artificially has some symbolic importance for creating awareness.

The inspiration given by the voluntary organization,” HELP Foundation” to the student of Mayyanad Higher Secondary School when they invited the school environment club to join along with them in the ‘mangrove project’ was simply great. In the new education policy, extracurricular activities has due importance.

The student of the Mayyanad Higher Secondary School had imprinted their name and the fame of the School through variety activities such as “Herbarium” paddy cultivation, vegetable garden etc. But for them involving in the project of planting mangroves in the shore of Paravoor back waters is a new experience that widened the horizon of knowledge through observation. The project simply answered their query “what is biodiversity”. The planting marked the opening of a novel venture of a continuous process. It facilitates the students to come closer to nature and to experience it. Once implemented HELP Foundation entrusted the up-

keep and maintenance of the saplings to the school Environment Club. They visit the area regularly and put in black and white each and every change and growth. They are made known that the mangroves which are congenial to each wet land will be grown there. The salinity of the wet land is suitable for the growth of the plants. More over they observed the changes coming over the back waters very closely, besides they collected the names of the fishes which are now extinct. In short the students of the Mayyanad Higher Secondary School are the high priests of the sanctum sanctorum of mangroves.

Sri. Peter Pradeep and Sri. Jesmis of HELP Foundation are giving ample support and proper guidance for the students. But it is really interesting to note that Sri. Peter Pradeep is in the sublime heights of excitement and curiosity accompanying the students. So also Sri. Jesmis. The students are very sincerely carrying out their responsibility and are nurturing the plants very carefully. The project which was implemented by integrating Mayyanad Grama Panchayat, MGNREGA & Social Forestry & Environment Club of Mayyanad High School is by all means a model one which attributes a clear cut direction to the humans. Here the students of Higher Secondary School are not hesitant like the man in Frost’s poem “The road not taken”.

*Mangrove Project: Update contributed by Shri Manoj (In Charge of School Environment Club)*

## Rural Mart for Food Security

The World Food Summit (1996) defined food security as “All people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences to maintain a healthy and active life”.

Although many programs worldwide have aimed to ‘modernize’ agriculture by emphasizing primarily external inputs, these approaches are often not tailored to the present conditions and needs of small holders particularly with new challenges of climate change and high energy costs. Regenerative agriculture and resource management, with judicious use of external inputs have been more sustainable contributing to both food security and livelihood goals, with lower envi-

ronmental costs.

Aiming at the food security through rural solutions without harming the environment, HELP Foundation initiated a Rural Mart which is envisaged as a conceptual Community Exchange Center where members can bring in their home made products as well as agriculture produces from their own fields and kitchen gardens. Being source known products as well as domestic surplus, the consumables may not be ‘commercial’ and profit will not be the motive behind this activity.

Starting with a small packing unit and weighing machine the group members procure agriculture produce and food grains from



*Training being conducted at Thrikkaruva for the enterprising groups*

local or genuine sources and packages it, and distribute by themselves. Family based enterprises are being promoted and small clusters of dairy, duck and poultry farms are formed. This is a micro level contribution to-

wards the GDP and we are aiming at the Gross National Happiness which can be achieved through nature linked life style which deserves dignity and social acceptance.

## Safeguarding and Preservation of Umayanallor Ela (paddy field) in Kollam

HELP Foundation, Umayanallor Ella Samrakshana Samithi & Janasakthi another NGO (Continuation from last quarter’s bulletin) joined hands in petitioning all concerned officials starting from Agricultural Officer, District Medical Officer, Village Officer, RDO, Kollam Collector, Deputy Director of Panchayats and most importantly of course the local Panchayat President assisted by the infamous Panchayat Secretary. To date no office has taken any actions or have got involved into investigating the corrupt practices committed by the local administration at

the Panchayat Level. RTI was invoked to get finer details from each office so that much of the facts on how such a license was obtained aka grafted through multiple offices have been a revelation.

APPEAL PETITION was filed under U/S 276 (1) OF THE KERALA PANCHAYAT

ACT to the Mayyanad Gramapanchayat Standing Committee stating that the license should not be renewed for the financial year 2012-13. What is even funnier is the

Panchayat Standing Committee simply ignored the appeal and the factory is currently running without a license as it had expired by March 2012. We have now taken the case to LSGD Tribunal

(Local Self Government Department) and it is set for final hearing and closure.

It’s a classic case and we believe this should be subjected to further research on how the entire government machinery and the elected representatives work hand in hand and all the acts and norms which are there to be enforced are violated

by the very officials who are supposed to sage guard it. Through our RTI questionnaire we were able to establish the wonderful sync mechanism between the Panchayat Secretary and the Deputy Director of Panchayats, Kollam. We have an elected Panchayat President who simply hides behind the curtain and says I am not in control, and I am obliged to sing on the dotted line. We had a District Medical Office running for cover and denying any information sought. All in all irrespective of the outcome of the case our 300 plus page documentation obtained from the various offices has to be treated as a case study for further research and analysis.

**“the entire government machinery and the elected representatives work hand in hand and all the acts and norms which are there to be enforced are violated”**



## Green Economy

**"Green Economy— Path Ways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication"**

"Green economics" is loosely defined as any theory of economics by which an economy is considered to be component of the ecosystem in which it resides"

"To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies." Rio Declaration, Principle 8 (UN 1992)"

"Freshwater scarcity is already a global problem, and forecasts suggest a growing gap by 2030 between annual freshwater demand and renewable supply"

The last two years have seen the idea of a "green economy" float out of its specialist moorings in environmental economics and into the mainstream of policy discourse. It is found increasingly in the words of heads of state and finance ministers, in the text of G20 communiqués, and discussed in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

This recent traction for a green economy concept has no doubt been aided by widespread disillusionment with the prevailing economic paradigm, a sense of fatigue emanating from the many concurrent crises and market failures experienced during the very first decade of the new millennium, including especially the financial and economic crisis of 2008. But at the same time, there is increasing evidence of a way forward, a new economic paradigm – one in which material wealth is not delivered

perforce at the expense of growing environmental risks, ecological scarcities and social disparities.

Mounting evidence also suggests that transitioning to a green economy has sound economic and social

justification. There is a strong case emerging for a redoubling of efforts by both governments as well as the private sector to engage in such an economic transformation. For governments, this would include leveling the playing field for greener products by phasing out antiquated subsidies, reforming policies

and providing new incentives, strengthening market infrastructure and market-based mechanisms, redirecting public investment, and greening public procurement. For the private sector, this would involve un-

derstanding and sizing the true opportunity represented by green economy transitions across a number of key sectors, and responding to policy reforms and price signals through higher levels of financing and investment.

Several concurrent crises have unfolded during the last decade: climate, biodiversity, fuel, food, water, and more recently in the global financial system. Accelerating carbon emissions indicate a mounting threat of climate change, with potentially disastrous human consequences. The fuel price shock of 2007-2008 and the related skyrocketing food and commodity prices, reflect both structural weaknesses and unresolved risks. Forecasts by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and others of rising fossil fuel demand and energy prices suggest an ongoing dependence as the world economy struggles to recover and grow. Currently, there is no international consensus on the problem of global food security or on possible solutions for how to nourish a population of 9 billion by 2050. Freshwater scarcity is already a global problem, and forecasts suggest a growing gap by 2030 between annual freshwater demand and renewable supply. The outlook for improved sanitation still looks bleak for over 1.1 billion people and 844 million people still lack access to clean drinking water. Collectively, these crises are severely impacting the possibility of sustaining prosperity worldwide and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for reducing extreme poverty. They are also compounding persistent social problems, such as job losses, socio-economic insecurity, disease and social instability.

The causes of these crises vary,

but at a fundamental level they all share a common feature: the gross

misallocation of capital. During the last two decades, much capital was poured into property, fossil fuels

and structured financial assets with embedded derivatives. However, relatively little in comparison was

invested in renewable energy, energy efficiency, public transportation, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem and biodiversity protection, and land and water conservation. Most economic development and growth strategies encouraged rapid accumulation of physical, financial and human capital, but at the expense of excessive depletion and degradation of natural capital, which includes the endowment of natural resources and ecosystems. By depleting the world's stock of natural wealth – often irreversibly – this pattern of development and growth has had detrimental impacts on the wellbeing of current generations and presents tremendous risks and challenges for the future. The recent multiple crises are symptomatic of this pattern.

Existing policies and market incentives have contributed to this problem of capital misallocation because they allow businesses to run up significant, largely unaccounted for, and unchecked social and environmental externalities. To reverse such misallocation requires better public policies, including pricing and regulatory measures, to change the perverse incentives that drive this capital misallocation and ignore social and environmental externalities. At the same time, appropriate regulations, policies and public investments that foster changes in the pattern of pri-



## Green Economy Contd.,

vate investment are increasingly being adopted around the world, especially in developing countries. UNEP defines a green economy as one that results in “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP 2010). In its simplest expression, a green economy is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in income and employment are driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These investments need to be catalyzed and supported by targeted public expenditure, policy reforms and regulation changes. The development path should maintain, enhance and, where necessary, rebuild natural capital as a critical economic asset and as a source of public benefits. This is especially important for poor people whose livelihoods and security depend on nature.

The key aim for a transition to a green economy is to enable economic growth and investment while

increasing environmental quality and social inclusiveness. Critical to attaining such an objective is to

create the conditions for public and private investments to incorporate broader environmental and social

criteria. In addition, the main indicators of economic

performance

performance, such as growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) need to be adjusted to account for pollution, resource depletion, declining ecosystem services, and the distributional consequences of natural capital loss to the poor. A major challenge is reconciling the competing economic development aspirations of rich and poor countries in a world economy that is facing increasing climate change, energy insecurity and ecological scarcity. A green economy can meet this challenge by offering a development path that reduces carbon dependency, promotes resource and energy efficiency and lessens environmental degradation. As economic growth and investments become less dependent on liquidating environmental assets and sacrificing environmental quality, both rich and poor countries can attain more sustainable economic development.

The concept of a green economy does not replace sustainable development; but there is a growing

recognition that achieving sustainability rests almost entirely on getting the economy right. Decades of

creating new wealth through a “brown economy” model based on fossil fuels have not substantially addressed social marginalization, environmental degradation and resource depletion. In addition, the world is still far from delivering on the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Moreover we need to be clear on the linkages between the concept of a green economy and sustainable development.

*(Excerpts from Green Economy Report of UNEP)*

## From the Editors Desk

## Social Intervention- PRIs &amp; NGOs

Post-liberalization era heralded many avenues for the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The NGOs in India using these opportunity had made significant inroads in many fields; the most being rural development & Health Care. But out of them only a few have been successful in making committed and mature programs in the zone of social intervention. Unfortunate side of this was, not enough NGOs were aware or was apathetic to the locally elected body or its elected members. This has really been the roadblock in the approach towards the NGO's in development or social intervention from the side of Local Self Governments (LSG). Though Governments repeatedly pledges support for the programmes of and for the NGOs. 'they' are still 'not convinced' or 'suspicious' of these groups. So it is solely the responsibility of the NGOs to build up confidence and join the galaxy. At the same time we need committed elected leaders with appropriate skills and dedication to the cause, which is woefully lacking among the elected class at the Local Bodies.

Both Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and NGOs have many goals in common - even many functions overlap or get duplicated. It is to be assured that the NGOs should supplement the development activities of PRI's that they (NGOs) should complement the social interventions done by PRI's since PRI's being a governmental agency they have many hurdles in taking the task forward.

PRI's have severe handicaps in many social developmental tasks like psycho- social health, reproductive health, gender welfare, child and maternal health, juvenile justice, HIV- rehabilitating etc. Here headway can be made only with participation from the NGO community. In the case of training to the functionaries and rural folks, NGOs perform a far better job than the government machinery. The flexibility which allows the NGOs to be viable and effective is sorely missing in the Local Bodies.

NGOs can play a contributory role in promoting democratic values in their respective fields. They can also promote an educational and activist role in areas like RTI, MGNREGA, and Food Security etc. SHGs- which are now an accepted form of participatory developmental are a green field for the NGOs. Here too much is desired from the current way of SHG functioning and the way forward.

NGOs and PRI's should be mutually supportive and NGOs should take stock of the functioning of 'delivery systems' pertaining to health, education, irrigation etc and support the PRI's to make it more responsive, supportive and participatory. Social Audit is another key area where NGOs can perform a key role of leadership and authenticity.

Confidence building measures is vital for the activity of NGOs in rural areas. Inclusiveness is the key word that should lead them. Transparency in their work is necessary and proper monitoring inevitable. In short both are the areas of a single body.

*(Suneesh Kumar)*





# Help Foundation

Human Empowerment & Livelihood Promotion Foundation  
Umayanalloor P.O.  
Kollam  
Kerala  
Phone: +91474 255 6414

---

We're on the Web!  
<http://www.helpfoundation.in>  
Email: [help.foundation@rocketmail.com](mailto:help.foundation@rocketmail.com)

---

