



help Foundation

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Newsletter
newsletter

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Mission Green

Mission Health

Food Security Programme

Research Forum

Social Intervention





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Signature Green Programme

Participation in the National Biodiversity Congress



Participation in the National Biodiversity Congress

HELP Foundation had the privilege of being part of the Preconference NGO meet as part of the first ever NBC 2012 (National Biodiversity Congress) as well as the conference which was being hosted by Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) under the auspices of MoEF, NBA, with the involvement and cooperation of all State Biodiversity Boards, and all other organizations involved in conservation and promotion of biodiversity in the country.



Earth Series Lecture towards launch of Green Messenger

In line with our campaign to 'Save the Earth' and make the society think of its own future and to spread the message, HELP Foundation Signature Program "Green Messenger" was launched on November 2012. To anoint a student as a Green Messenger from the school eco-club we have started a Lecture Series comprising of 10 sessions. Each session of an hour and half is being handled by HELP Foundation personnel. More schools have joined to be part of the program in Kollam district.

This was launched at Mayyanad High School and is ably assisted by Shri Manoj who is in charge of the eco club. The lecture series consists of the below mentioned topics. The researchers attached with HELP Foundation have conceived it in such a way that all tools and utilities needed to help sustain high interest levels and participation from among the student community is incorporated in the lecture.

It's our firm belief that Appreciation and concern for the environment are values that need to be inculcated during the early years of development. And thus children and youth becomes an integral and key towards preserving our ecology and leading the drive towards sustainable development. This lecture series further aims to inculcate among children a general awareness on the problems of environmental

degradation and a sense of respect and responsibility towards the environment and make them aware of the need for moving to a low carbon lifestyle thereby contributing towards combating climate change.

Moreover this lecture series as a prelude to appointing a student as Green Messenger is designed to enhance awareness, inspire behavioral changes for combating environmental damage, and develop the skills needed to resolve environmental problems. The topics covered as part of the lecture series are as below.

1. Man and Nature
2. Destruction of Nature due to modern civilization
3. Water
4. Air
5. Soil
6. Biodiversity
7. Climatic Change
8. Nature's Groves and the importance of it in temple culture
9. Environment Summits and Protocols
10. Green Messenger Charter and Launch



Haritha Theeram



Kandelia kandal (*The first Mangrove flowers from among our saplings*)

Planting, Conservation and Preservation of Rare Mangrove Species

Narrow-Leaved Candela which we planted an year ago could grow up to about a small tree of 7 meters has started flowering. It was a wonderful sight for the students of school eco club who monitor and record details of the plants on a regular basis. The Leaf blades are shiny, mid-green, narrowly oblong, elliptic or drop-shaped-oblong. Stipules are flattened but slightly twisted at the branch tips. Flowers as we observe are whitish, with numerous protruding stamens. Yet to see how the fruit emerges and would be in the form of a pen. Looking forward to plant this on maturity. Moreover we are losing a year and half old mangroves at an

alarming rate as fishermen are being extremely callous about their nets and boats. Routine weekly visits and awareness spreading among the community alone is insufficient to preserve these plants. We need to find resources to fence the plants biologically (preferably bamboo) to be able to protect them for a few years till it's able to survive on its own. Scarce fish resources is causing this over fishing by all concerned, well who is the authority to talk too. Maybe its time we moved towards local community led preservation, conservation and harvesting thus fishermen from far are prevented from operating in a destructive manner. Does local bodies have a role to play here...?



Project Axshya- Status Update on 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 was agreed upon to be from June 2012 to June 2013. To date unfortunately we have been unable to start the project even after putting in meticulous planning and efforts on the ground due to reasons beyond us. Chronology of events as it unfolded.

1. HELP invited for a two days training programme on TB & RNTCP for selected NGOs. The training programme was held on 29th and 30th of December 2010.
2. HELP foundation submits a project proposal to cover 40 schools and 10 Panchayats in February 2011.
3. HELP foundations asked to submit a first quarter action plan specifying schools and Panchayats to be covered and details of the program.
4. HELP Foundation enters into an agreement with Kollam TB Office for TB Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization

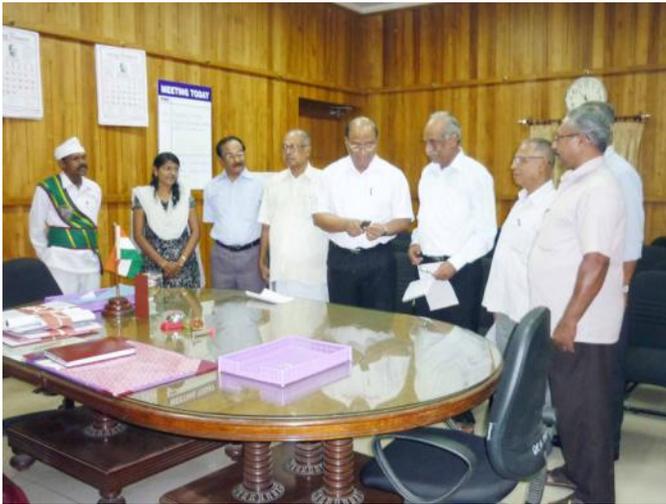
(RNTCP) in the month of June -12 and the project period being an year up to June -2012.

5. Unable to kick start the program due to non release of funds even after multiple visits and correspondence with the TB Office.
6. Initial payment cheque delivered which is inadequate to get started as it doesn't cover the initial costs for the materials and the accessories needed
7. HELP approached Education department for permission to visit schools armed with letter from District TB Officer (DTO).
8. Deputy Director of Education (DDE) says that DTO is already running a similar program in school along the same lines.
9. DTO conveys over phone to DDE not to allow HELP Foundation to proceed, even when DTO has given a letter to the DDE to allow HELP Foundation to conduct the program in schools.
10. DTO when asked for an explanation on the sudden flip flop becomes unambiguous.
11. DTO office requests HELP to attend one more training at Ernakulum in November 2012 and suggests that we should be able to start the project soon.
12. HELP asked to submit a revised proposal based on the changed ground realities in November.
13. The wait is still continuing as we are yet to hear from the TB office.

Does anybody have a solution how to deal with Government Offices in Social Projects and that too on a program funded by WHO...?



**Santwanam–
Integrated Family Health Care Programme
Launch of Call Center– By Kollam Dt. Collector**



As part of HELP Foundations Community Based Integrated Family Health Care Programme named

“Santhwanam” together with Ashtamudi Hospital and a host of other organizations like Janasakthi the Call Centre which is the the nerve center of all the above services has become operational.

This was inaugurated on 18th of October at the Collector’s Chamber by Kollam District Collector Shri. P G Thomas IAS. MGNERGA Ombudsman Prof.B.C. Menon also took part in the function. Other who graced the function at Collectors



Chamber were Dr Mohan and Shri Sisupal from Janasakthi an NGO, Shri Bastian Joseph representing

Elder Frum, Mayyanad and Shri Ramachandran Pillai from Ashtamudi Hospital and Trauma Care Centre.

Subsequent to this Prof.B.C. Menon-MGNERGA Ombudsman Flagged off the Ambulance from the Collectorate



Project DAYA (Dialysis Assistance Programme)



HELP Foundations Project Daya is picking up steam with and more people coming over to

support the cause we represent including corporate’s. We have supported over 160 dialysis free of costs through our Dialysis Centre and are looking at ways and means to ramp it up.

To continue to provide totally free dialysis at our Centre for more patients, we need support from all concerned. We are literally inundated with a long patient queue asking for help as they are unable to bear the cost associated with subjecting oneself to 3 dialysis every week. This can be individuals, our well wishers, 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. Assistance could also be made by providing us with material needed for dialysis, inclusive of blood tubing and dialyser. For those of who, that are interested contact us at help.foundation@rocketmail.com.

For more information on the program with the monthly dialysis count and other details, please visit the below mentioned link.

<http://www.helpfoundation.in/daya.html>

Update on Umayanallor Ela Litigation

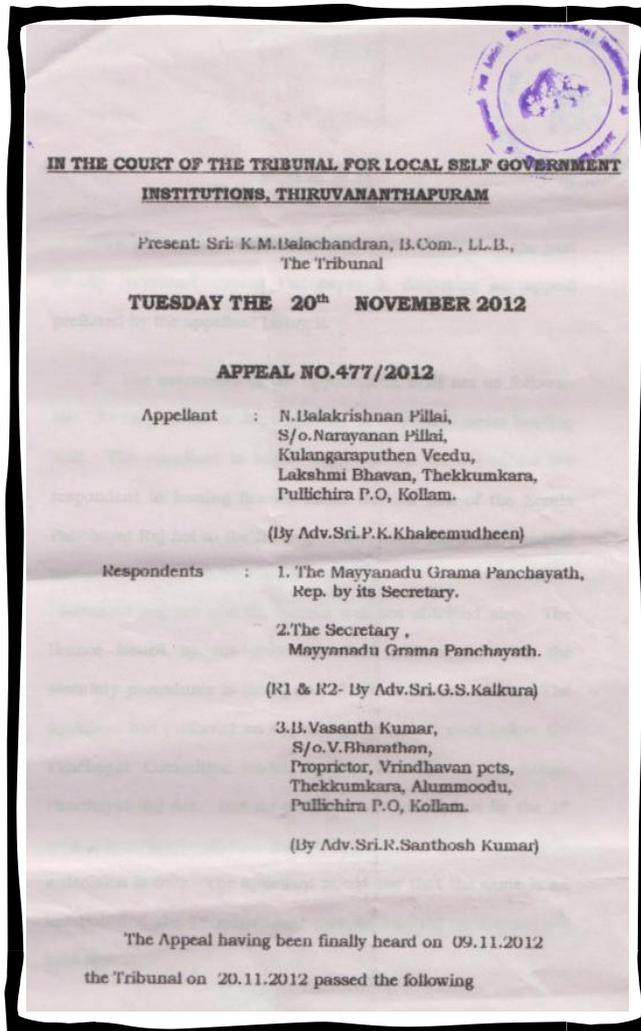
As per the last update, APPEAL PETITION was filed under U/S 276 (1) OF THE KERALA PANCHAYATH RAJ ACT to the Mayyanad Gramapanchayat Standing Committee stating that the license should not be renewed for the financial year 2012-13. The Panchayat Standing Committee simply ignored the appeal and the factory is currently running with-out 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 has been 4 months since and the Panchayat has not been able to produce any legal papers on license and has been de-laying the case under some pretext or the other. Finally the LSG Tribunal Judge has issued summons to the Deputy Director of Panchayat to appear in person before the Tribunal.

Meanwhile the factory is continuing to operate illegally violating all norms of licenses, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution and heavy machinery. And still no authorities want to stop the factory from operating as the money siphoned up as we come to understand is huge. Meanwhile since the last 1 ½ years various letters have been submitted to the

Panchayat President, and copied to the infamous secretary, but to date not a single reply has been provided by the Panchayat.



Now that the order of the tribunal is out on 20th Nov 2012 and the factory is still running without license. See salient features of the order below castigating the statutory authorities (Panchayat and Secretary)



The respondents 1 and 2 contend that the appellant has not preferred an appeal under section 276(1) of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act. Of course in the file produced by the respondents 1 and 2 such an appeal is not seen. Document No 1 produced by the appellant is the copy of the said appeal. The said appeal dated 5-3-2012 appears to have been preferred on 28-3-2012 as the receipt issued in favour of the appellant is also annexed to this appeal. This document produced as document No1 by the appellant has not been denied or disputed by the respondents 1

(Mayyanad Grama Panchayat, rep by its Secretary) and 2 (Secretary, Mayyanad Gramapanchayat). From this it's evident and clear

If so the contention of the respondents 1 (Mayyanad Grama Panchayat, rep by its Secretary) and 2 (Secretary, Mayyanad Gramapanchayat) does not appear to be correct. In fact the respondents 1 and 2 ought not to have raised a contention like that since they are statutory body and the statutory authority. Such sort of illegal and incorrect versions are not anticipated from these two bodies.

Update on Umayanallor Ela Litigation Contd.

that the appellant has actually preferred an appeal before the Panchayat committee under Section 276 (1) of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act challenging the license granted by the 2nd respondent in favor of the 3rd respondent. If so the contention of the respondents 1(Mayyanad Grama Panchayat, rep by its Secretary) and 2 (Secretary, Mayyanad Gramapanchayat) does not appear to be correct. In fact the respondents 1 and 2 ought not to have raised a contention like that since they are statutory body and the statutory authority. Such sort of illegal and incorrect versions are not

The 1st respondent Panchayat is directed to consider and pass orders on the appeal preferred before it on 28-3-12 by the appellant within a period of 30 days from today and inform the decision to the appellant and to this tribunal.

anticipated from these two bodies.

Thus it is clear that the appellant has preferred an appeal dated 28-3-2012 against the license issued in the name of the 3rd respondent before the 1st respondent. The 1st respondent was duty bound to dispose the said appeal within the statutory period mentioned in Section 276 (1) of the Kerala Panchayat Raj act. By giving a direction to the 1st respondent to dispose the appeal within a specified period this appeal is only to be allowed. In the result the appeal is allowed. The 1st respondent Panchayat is directed to consider and pass orders on the appeal preferred before it on 28-3-12 by the appellant within a period of 30 days from today and inform the decision to the appellant and to

HELP FOUNDATION Teams up with Indo – International Initiative for Billions of Fruit Trees (IIBFT)

HELP Foundation has entered into an understanding with IIBFT for being part of its Food Secure Future. “The continued functioning of the Earth system as it has supported the well-being of human civilization in recent centuries is at risk. Without urgent action, we could face threats to water, food, biodiversity and other critical resources: these threats risk intensifying economic, ecological and social crises, creating the potential for a humanitarian emergency on a global scale”. Risk to global sustenance brought about by rapid, unsustainable and environmentally destructive utilization of finite resources such as fossil fuels, water, land, and minerals among others have been well documented. Of the number of challenges facing human civilization, large scale famines and social disruptions due to rising food insecurity is imminent within a generation.

IIBFT proposal is to plant a billions of **Fruit Bearing Trees** which will contribute to humanity and all other forms of life by providing food supplements. The idea has a simple logic behind it. Let us assume that due to food shortages only 300 grams of rice / wheat is available instead of the 400 grams needed by a small family for a meal. The shortage of 100 grams could be compensated if the family had a fruit bearing tree such as a mango or jack fruit in its backyard. Fruits are rich source of vitamins as well which have positive impact on health.

This has caught HELP Foundations imagination and we believe that in the next ten to twenty years this IIBFT Project will contribute immensely to the benefit of the society.



From the Editor's Desk

Panchayati Raj System and the village's assets related to Food Security, Water Scarcity and Biodiversity in the light of LSG Tribunal Ruling in the Umayanallor Ela (wetland) Mineral Water Plant. (See *Fact File to date below*)

1. Panchayat Secretary deliberately included Jars in the license issues, when PCB (Pollution Control Board) had only sanctioned small Bottles & Caps manufacturing & not Jar manufacturing (RTI from PCB) and that too to a factory which is erected on a wetland.
2. Per rules for all units above 5HP, different norms apply; Secretary gave permission for a 25.5 HP motor when he is not authorized to as per rules. (Information from LSG Tribunal Court Trivandrum)
3. Secretary has not followed the guidelines as mentioned in Panchayati Raj Act 232,233,234 & 254, whereas it's using these same rules the license has been issues (Licenses copy submitted in High Court).
4. Pollution Control Board had clearly stated that there is bound to be air pollution as well as noise pollution. PCB has stated that studies should be conducted for ascertaining the health hazards before issuing the license. Panchayat Secretary has ignored this deliberately. (RTI from PCB).
5. Secretary issued the license based on a DMO report with Signature on both papers of the District Medical Officer (DMO) s order signed by different people and there was no Office seal on it. It's strange that an order is not sealed, let alone the signature.
6. Benchmark data on the ambient air quality, groundwater status and quality needs to be obtained at the cost of the owner, whereas PCB has called for such studies.(RTI information from PCB)
7. Secretary had not made sure Physical, Chemical & Biological Parameters of Soil should also be provided at the cost of the owner to set the benchmark before issuing the license when PCB has mentioned the same.
8. Secretary had not made sure that Report on Water Analysis should be obtained for benchmarking dissolved salts and other metals in the ground water.
9. Secretary had decided to ignore the fact that the unit stands on Wetland (survey numbers 93/6-1 & 93/7-1) and Conversion of Wetland for other purposes reduces the recharge area.
10. Secretary has deliberately ignored the fact that being wetland pollution gets directly in the groundwater and it's irreversible and is a violation of the Paddy & Wetland Conservation Act 2008.
11. Secretary deliberately overlooked the part which calls for facility to dispose wastes as called for in the DMO report and irrational disposal of plastic will cause animal death.
12. Secretary had deliberately ignored the fact that Gradual but continued exposure of pollutants in ground water is irreversible.
13. Secretary and the Panchayat Standing Committee decided to overrule the ward member's objection and hence the Ward member had to join the mass movement.

14. Secretary had overlooked the fact that this proposal was not kept in Gramasabha for approval.
15. Secretary had decided to overlook the fact that there is no project report yet
16. Approached Dy. director of Panchayats, District Medical Officer, Panchayat President, Village Office, Agricultural Office, RDO, Kollam Collector pointing out the anomalies. No administrative decision has been taken so far.
17. Approached the Panchayat Standing Committee to not renew the license at the end of 2011 fiscal and then finally the LSG tribunal
18. Tribunal censures the Panchayat and Secretary to take appropriate action on November 20th-2012 but factory still operating without proper license.
19. Guess the same person has another mineral water plant in the same Panchayat operating without license but with the blessings of the local Panchayat since the last 3 years.

This leaves us wondering how impotent and immaterial the common citizen is and the fate of the next generation as the assets supposed to be passed over to them are looted rampantly. Panchayati Raj system was meant to empower we the local people. Instead, in a way that few of them understand even today, it has done the exact opposite admirably assisted by local politicians and ruling party.

Empowerment requires the rule of law. People feel empowered only when they know that they have rights and that the institutions of Local Self Government exist, first and foremost, to enforce them. The rule of law is, however, only another name for justice. Empowerment therefore requires justice. But then who enforces court orders administrations on political parties. Panchayati Raj has not been able to create something that people value, but just stooges and illiterate thugs lording over as ward members and add to it inexperienced/naive female ward members just happy to get their cut of the pie (routine commissions with constructions and licenses).

How do we protect our wetland our biodiversity and our agricultural lands which is the very basis of our existence? To whom is the local administration responsible to? To the people who elected them or the extortionist (local businessman) who loots us. It is a simple exercise of brute power by an employee (Panchayat Secretary) or representative of the state over the citizen.

Every act of extortion is a fresh reminder to the citizen of his or her impotence. This becomes complete if he or she is denied redress for the abuse of power. Does anybody care of the fate of next generation citizens? It's time to rein in local administration and bring in some accountability into its decisions





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