



WHAT'S INSIDE....

- » Rockey's journey from field to becoming a TB champion
- » Workshop on the current scenario & way forward for Farmer Producer Organizations
- » Deepak Foundation's Community Help Desk
- » Deepak Foundation celebrates Women's Day



MADHYA PRADESH

Rockey's journey from the field to becoming a TB champion

It was the early summer of 2020, and 21-year-old Rockey from Damoh, Madhya Pradesh was preparing for his final round of the game as a national level hockey player. But this time it was not getting easy, because of reasons yet unknown to him. He was suffering severe bouts of cough, shortness of breath and loss of appetite. About a month to go for the big match, he lined up for his routine health checkup, when the medical officer examined him and suggested that something apparently was not quite well with him, and that he must go for a TB (tuberculosis) screening test. Unable to believe what he was told; he went to a doctor in his locality. The doctor examined him and said that he did not have TB and put him on routine medicine to treat cough and loss of appetite. Important to note that these were just routine medicines and not as per STBI guidelines. These medicines did not give him any respite, in fact his condition worsened. A healthy young man of athletic background was losing his wellness quickly, deteriorating at rapid pace.



By now his family got extremely worried and finally reached out to Deepak Foundation's medical counselor Rahul Parihar, who led him to a specialist doctor. Unfortunately, on April 2, 2020, Rockey's CBNAAT report-based diagnosis suggested that Rockey had developed Rifampicin resistant TB. Rockey felt as if he was being sucked into a deep dark black hole, he felt completely devastated. To add to his agony, he had to face resistant and



stigmatic behaviour from his 'relatives and friends'! Rockey's treatment began on April 11, 2020. Alongside his treatment, doctors counselled him to make efforts to overcome depression and set a positive disposition towards the treatment. Rockey told our team that he wanted to be back in his old form, he wanted his strength, his stamina back so that he could return to the game. He started taking the fixed doses of combination pills as per the doctor's suggestion but experienced severe side effects due to which his face became red, swollen and he developed hyper-acidity. Eventually, he stopped taking the medicine within a week of starting treatment. During the weekly visit, Deepak Foundation's team got to know that he had stopped taking medicine, so as remedial the counsellor visited him again, this time more frequently to keep his morale up and to keep a check on his compliance to prescribed medication. With this arrangement, the situation looked slightly better, Rockey had become regular with his medicine and taking adequately nutritious meals.

After 9 months of ordeal, on January 16, 2021, Rockey looked much better he had gained 9kg weight and moved from being 45kg to 54kg. His physical strength also showed improvement and he was able to run again for 10 kms at one stretch. Finally, Rockey went back to the field. He now volunteers as a TB champion and helps other TB patients in their journey from diagnosis to cure.

Deepak Foundation is working with State TB office as Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) in 22 districts spread over three divisions of Madhya Pradesh – Gwalior, Jabalpur and Sagar. The objective of the program is to enrol every confirmed TB case on Ki-shay portal to achieve the national NTEP goals of elimination of TB by 2025. The tasks include identification and testing suspected cases, seeking treatment from private providers, enrolling the patients to government schemes; and to ensure treatment adherence, counselling and follow-up to complete the prescribed treatment within stipulated timeframe to achieve successful outcome.

Sangaath – Deepak Foundation's Community Help Desk

Sensitive support and handholding from civil society organizations (CSOs), goes a long way in strengthening community identity, and helps people to avail government schemes and entitlements. At times, common people find it difficult to avail entitlements and benefit from various government schemes and programmes, for simple reasons – viz. lack of access, non-availability of supporting documents like Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, Election ID, etc. that need to be submitted with the application, inability to follow-up on technological platforms to ascertain their application's progress, inability to visit the government office at designated hours or on repeated basis, inability to wait for long hours and queues which would result in income loss, etc.

Sangaath – Deepak Foundation's technology-based community help desk supports people to avail benefits under government schemes by strengthening paperwork, documentation, and providing support in preparatory activities for document processing, etc. Unique QR code based 'Adhikaar Cards' are prepared for the community at Sangaath Helpdesk, which is essentially a digital dossier of the individual's identity documents viz. Aadhaar Cards, Voter ID, BPL cards, ration cards, and any other critical records that facilitates beneficiary linkage to government schemes.

Krisha and Kriya are now enrolled in Government of Gujarat's Vahli Dikri Yojana

Krisha and Kriya, are one year old twin sisters born to a daily wager father and a young mother who is temporarily abstaining from wage labour because she needs to stay back at home to look after the two little girls, and her aged and ailing in-laws. The family lives in a shanty, in the Nandesari Industrial area of Vadodara district. There are seven members to feed in the family and only two working hands i.e., Krisha and Kriya's father and uncle. On some days they get work, on some days there is less work and even no work. Their earnings are irregular. This affects their daily life in the form of scarcity of resources, and a sense of helplessness.

Sangaath Help Desk's staff that works at community level, noticed

the plight of the family and visited them to access that how could they be helped, especially thinking about how to secure Krisha and Kriya's future. The helpdesk staff reached out to the family and explained them about the Vahli Dikri scheme. Having understood the components of the scheme, the parents expressed their readiness to enrol the girls. In response to their readiness, Deepak Foundation's staff at Sangaath Helpdesk undertook necessary paperwork and documentation and successfully enrolled Krisha and Kriya into the scheme.

The parents held their enrolment certificate and expressed joyfully "અમને વહાલી દિકરી યોજના વિશે માહિતી આપવા બદલ અમે દીપક ફાઉન્ડેશનના આભારી છીએ. અમે એમની મદદથી આ યોજના માટે નોંધણી કરાવી શક્યા, અને તેઓ મારી દિકરીઓના ભવિષ્યને સુરક્ષિત કરવામાં મદદરૂપ થયા છે." (We are thankful to Deepak Foundation for helping us enrol into the Vahli Dikri Yojana. Our daughters' future is secured now).



Government of Gujarat's 'Vahli Dikri Yojana' (scheme) entitles the girl children of Gujarat state to receive incentives in education and Rs. 1 lakh upon attaining the age of 18 years, to the first and second daughters of the family.

Workshop to gain insights on the current scenario, challenges & way forward for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)



(L-R) Dr. Jai Pawar, Director Deepak Foundation, S.K. Anand, Non-Executive Director, Deepak Group, Deepak Mehta, CMD Deepak Group, N.C. Patel, former Vice Chancellor - Anand Agricultural University, Anand, A.N. Tiwari, IAS (retd) and Vishal Sharma, DGM NABARD.

India is an agrarian economy and farmers play a major role in agricultural production. However; small and marginal farmers, and landless agriculture labour face challenges related to knowledge and access due to significant changes in the agriculture value chain. To address this challenge effectively, collectivizing farmers through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has evolved as one of the most imminent tools of intervention for upliftment of the farmers' condition in India. Statistics suggest that 85% of the farmers in India are small-holders, and experience challenges of:

- Access to modern production technologies
- Use of market information for their advantage
- Transaction of commodities in input or output market on their own terms... which leads to less profit and at times loss in income.

Given the scenario, collectivization of farmers through FPOs has come across as a time-tested and viable response towards arriving at economy of scale in various on-farm as well as off-farm activities; during all three stages of agriculture i.e., pre-production, production, and post-production activities. The approach is considered helpful in integrating farmers directly to market for inputs and outputs and organize collective processing and marketing, while leaving production largely to individual small farmers.

In this context; as an FPO promoting institute, Deepak Foundation had organized a stakeholder's workshop oriented towards collective learning; by inviting FPO promoters, FPO Support and Implementation Institutes, NGOs, academia and policy makers to share their views on the – current scenario, challenges and way forward towards creating an enabling ecosystem of FPOs.

The workshop was held on March 4, 2023 at Vadodara and was attended by Shri A. B. Gor Collector-Vadodara, Shri Deepak Mehta, CMD-Deepak Group, Shri Vishal Sharma DGM-NABARD, Shri A. M. Tiwari IAS (retd)-Advisor Deepak Foundation, Shri S. J. Solanki Director-Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat, Shri S. K. Anand-Non-Independent Director, DPL & DNL and Shri N. C. Patel, Vice Chancellor-Anand Agricultural University and Ms. Ila Mehta, Trustee-Deepak Foundation. While setting the theme for the workshop, Dr. Jai Pawar, Director-Deepak Foundation said "Through this workshop we aim to develop roadmaps for improvement of critical aspects of FPO management viz. governance, financial support, capacity building of members, ownership, leadership, infrastructure and market linkages."



Action points from all the three sessions were derived at the end of Workshop

During the workshop, deliberations were held on the challenges and opportunities of FPOs. Following are the action points that were derived at the end of workshop, which can be useful for policymakers, government, and other stakeholders to promote and sustain FPOs in India:

(i) Institution Building:

- Promote institutions that build a support ecosystem around FPOs and ensure transparency and up-to-date administration to build trust with farmers.
- Enable FPOs through competent leadership, capacity building of board members, business opportunities, SOPs and establishing linkages with different institutions.
- Focus on capacity building as a regular process for FPO sustainability and availability of decentralized training infrastructure.
- Form federations like GUJPRO to increase negotiation power and widen the scope of operations.
- Provide additional support and incentives for women led FPOs.
- State level officials to provide platform to facilitate interface between FPOs and district administration.
- Develop good leadership skills in FPOs and focus on business planning and applying for value addition-based subsidies and loans.

(ii) Technology & Marketing:

- Provide technology to FPOs for crop advisory, market linkage, farmer-friendly crop and weather insurance products, and drone technology.
- Focus on diverse products linked with market and models to make FPOs sustainable.
- Use of IT to improve record-keeping in FPOs through special training programs for the CEO, BODs and Accountant.
- Involve technical institutions such as IIM Ahmedabad / IRMA, AAU, etc., for guidance in institutional building, processing, and marketing and online linkages with FPOs/ FPCs.
- Focus on developing own retail outlets for higher profits.
- Initiate technology-based interventions to attract the younger generation to farming.
- Use technology to promote farmer friendly crops and weather insurance products.
- Display performance of FPOs by creating their websites to attract private investment.

(iii) Support from Government:

- Ministry of Agriculture and allied govt. departments at State level should display annual performance of FPOs/FPCs and the respective balance sheet. This would attract private equities, angel investors, CSRs, and startups to invest in FPOs that are showing promising growth.
- Involve State government and district administration in promoting FPOs under the Central Sector Scheme of promoting 10,000 FPOs.
- Considering the engagement of various stakeholders in the initiative, the govt. departments should seek advisory from institutions like International Financial Corporation (IFC), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and others on various issues. These are promoting public-private partnerships, financing for developing infrastructure like warehouses, labs for soil testing, road and rail transportation, cool chain, and other logistic supply chain to support FPOs to access the potential markets and risk management products.
- Proactively seek to take advantage of the multiple government schemes available to FPOs for processing and value addition to increase their income.
- Establish regular infrastructure for local haats in rural and tribal areas linked with mandi's and APMCs district and state highway transport connectivity.
- Facilitate periodic dialogue with district/state-level govt. officials and elected bodies through IA's.
- Develop a roadmap for withdrawal of govt. engagement with clear timelines for the sustainability of FPOs.
- Subsuming FPCs under Cooperatives as the registration of FPOs under Company's Act and under Cooperative Act is quite tiresome for CBBOs as there are separate guidelines.



Deepak Foundation's Vocational Skills based livelihood interventions

Vocational skills-based livelihood interventions at Deepak Foundation, aim to prepare, develop and equip job aspirants with technical skill sets and basic theory, for gainful employment. Besides technical skills, trainees also get an exposure to 21st century skills and soft skills that would help them negotiate for work and earnings. In this issue of Deep Jyoti, we would like to present our readers with two stories from the past quarter, about our interventions in vocational skills-based livelihoods.

Parvati from Bhagalpur, Bihar; works in Hyderabad, Telangana

A native of Bhagalpur Bihar, Parvati Kumari came to Hyderabad after marriage; her husband works as a migrant labourer in the Jeedimetla Industrial Estate at Hyderabad. Parvati had completed her 10th standard from Bhagalpur and was married off soon after. After coming to Hyderabad, one day Parvati expressed her desire to work for gainful employment, to her husband. He respected her wish; and as Deepak Foundation is known to industrial job holders, he brought her to Deepak Foundation and girl her enrolled in a Home Health Aide (HHA) course. Parvati turned out to be a good student, she trained well and learned some basic Telegu which could help interact with her classmates and at work. After successful completion of the course, Parvati is now placed as a health care assistant at Suguna Sri Nursing Home, Jeedimetla, Hyderabad. She earns well and is a strong contributor to the family



income. She says that the vocational skill training has not only provided her with the job, but the entire experience of going through the training process has instilled a high amount self confidence in her, which will help her in many ways, during life's challenging situations.

Celebrating Priyanka – a Vidya Sathi

Priyanka works as a Vidya Sathi with Deepak Foundation from Gajula Ramaram, Quthbullapur, Medchal, and Hyderabad. Her core area of work is curriculum delivery to primary school students, using innovative Teaching Learning Methods (TLMs). Priyanka joined Deepak Foundation's Project Vivek Vidya in the year 2021. Initially she was allocated to teach one unit, but she progressed quickly in her work and within a year she was allocated to teach in two units. In addition to her engagement with Deepak Foundation, Priyanka has also been appointed by the school as a teaching resource. Priyanka has truly emerged as an informed educator who uses innovative TLMs to make classroom education interesting and exciting.



EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Deepak Foundation celebrates Women's Day

Deepak Foundation celebrated women's day by felicitating empowered women. Fourth Round of Smt Kantaben Mehta Awards were conferred upon 14 women who had blazed a trail in their own fields. The esteemed guests on the dias were Mrs Ila Mehta -Trustee Deepak Foundation, Army Officer Lt. Col. Praveen Kaur, Dr Niti Chopra-Dean Faculty of Journalism and Communication, MS University, Renu Seth, State Head – Pratham NGO, HD Tuwar – Police Inspector, Crime branch and Dr Jai Pawar - Director Deepak foundation. The award ceremony was followed by a cultural performance by children from Samaj Suraksha Sankul, Vadodara, a residential support institute for physically, visually and cognitively challenged children.



To celebrate Women's Day, the Maharashtra office of Deepak Foundation organized a 'Kids Festival' in association with Pune Municipal Corporation, by setting up a 'Mobile Play Unit'. The festival was attended by parents, especially mothers who gained a deeper understanding on identification and interventions for early developmental delays, innovative methods of early childhood care, and identification and treatment of children with severe malnutrition. The Hyderabad office also celebrated women's Day through awareness and engagement activities regarding de-addiction, women rights; in slums and municipalities of the city. About 350 women participated and the events also witnessed participation by MCH Deputy Commissioner, DNL GM operations, MEPMA project officer and CEO, Accounts Head, SLF and TLF and community leaders.

Project 'Sangaath' Dissemination Workshop - Celebrating Collaborative Efforts: Creating the Impact



Team leader Manorma Jaiswal, Dr Jai Pawar, Director, Deepak Foundation and guest of honor Smt. Stuti Charan, IAS, Hon. District Magistrate & Collector, Chhota Udepur at the inaugural ceremony of the Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop organized at Chhota Udepur.



L-R) Nirmal Sinh Yadav, GM, Corporate Affairs, Deepak Nitrite Limited, Tushar Sumera, IAS, District Collector and Magistrate, Bharuch and Director Deepak Foundation Dr Jai Pawar inaugurate the event.



Team Leader Smita Maniar welcome Shri G. T. Pandya, IAS & Shri A. H. Shiresiya.

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings,

In this edition of Deep Jyoti, we have attempted to capture impact stories from various locations. We as a non-profit organisation attempt to keep humanity alive with ample humility as we implement all CSR projects with equal zest.

Priya Chakraborty Giri

Pooja's journey from being a village girl in Warangal to becoming a Nursing Assistant in Hyderabad

Twenty year old Pooja hails from the Telangana State village of Bandothapuram, Vardhannapet Mandal in the Warangal district. Her parents are farm labourers and her only sibling, a younger brother is a student. Pooja's childhood was challenged by the typical vicious forces of poverty, but thanks to TSWRS (Telangana State Welfare Residential School) she completed her high school education from Zaffargadh school in Warangal district. Thereafter she joined Raiparthy Govt College of Warangal and completed her Junior College. So far so good, but she had no wish to return to her village and engage in farm labour like her parents. She was definitely yearning for a different life. In one of those days when she had gone to visit her parents, she came to know about Deepak Foundation's Home Health Aide (HHA) course from one of her relatives living in Hyderabad. She caught the moment and immediately made up her mind to join the HHA course at Hyderabad. She travelled from Warangal to Hyderabad with her relatives, and visited the HHA training centre, enrolled herself and was all set to learn. She learned well and completed her course successfully. Thereafter she was picked up for a job at The Sigma Hospital in Hyderabad's Shapurnagar area, on a decent salary. Since then, there is no looking back for Pooja. Pooja has achieved her dreams and left the baggage of her poverty-stricken state far behind. From a small village in Warangal, she is now working in a leading hospital of one of the most modern cities of India. Pooja has arrived, and is empowered for higher and exciting journeys now.



For any queries or suggestions, please write to us at:



Nijanand Ashram Premises, Adjoining L&T Knowledge City, On NH - 48, Tal. & Dist. Vadodara - 390019, Gujarat
Phone Number: 7572890011/15 Email: deepakfoundation@deepakfoundation.org Web: www.deepakfoundation.org