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TCSRDR Round Up



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My Opinion



Dr. Janki Andharia

*Professor, Jamshedji
Tata Centre for Disaster
Management and
Patron member and*

*Hon. Trustee of Tata Chemicals Society
for Rural Development*

Historically, poverty has been related to income. People can be said to be in poverty when they are deprived of income and other resources needed to obtain the conditions of life —

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TCSRDR Partner's View



Udayan Shriram Modhe,

*Head skill development
S R Shroff
Aajivika Trust.*

I know of Tata Chemicals as one of the largest inorganic chemical complex in the country that produces the highest synthetic soda in the world and is well known for its world-class energy efficiency standards and other aspects such as environmental conservation.

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TCSRDR Round Up

Blossom

Clusters Development Mithapur

During this quarter there was an increase in sales for all the five clusters (Bandhej – Rs. 62905; Block Print- Rs 13158; Bead work – Rs. 7740; Jute – Rs. 245415; Coconut Articles – Rs. 14455). The clusters got the opportunity to be part of the two external exhibitions held at Pune and at Goverdhan, Dwarka. DC (H) training for 200 women also completed successfully. Toolkits and stipend worth of Rs. 1174450 was distributed to all the participants.

The first set of two training workshops in partnership with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Gandhinagar for the crafts of Jute work and Mud (Clay) work for 60 women artisans also completed successfully. This 25 days design and technical up gradation workshop was conducted for the cluster artisans by 10 final year students of NIFT, along with two master instructors. An exhibition was organized at TCSRDR Resource Centre where all the products made during this workshop were displayed and certification was done for all the artisans. Also, wage compensation of Rs. 100/- per day was provided to all the artisans by NIFT.

Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program started at Arambhada and Surajkaradi for 58 women working on Bandhej.



Rural Entrepreneurship Development Program

Enhance

level food security of marginal farmers. During this quarter, 68.80 acres of the land was covered under the SWI cultivation benefitting 39 farmers from 6 different villages.



Demonstration of sea weed fertilizer making

At Haldia, too training on SRI (System of Rice Intensification) and cultivation of sunflower was organized in three villages for 50 farmers. TCSRDR selected 43 farmers to demonstrate both the techniques. It supported them with seeds and fertilizers for the two crops.

Capacity building program for farmers at Babarala

One training program was also organized by the TCSRDR on “Sensitizing farmers towards Organic Farming” at the Village House centre in partnership with “Bramah Kumari”. The objective of this program was to promote nature-friendly, scientific, farming systems and practices that are economically viable, energy efficient, climate friendly. Javik farming or Organic farming is one of the possible options for reducing food driven diseases. 50 farmers participated in the program.

Pond Management at Haldia:

TCSRDR scaled up ornamental fish culture to 20 new households with complete backward and forward linkages. TCSRDR is further planning to develop on cluster for culture of catfishes which has high

Farmers Producer Organization at Mithapur

TCSRDR through its various projects have been associated with farmers to enhance the agricultural productivity. To further build their capacity and knowledge, it provided a platform to farmers from different villages to come and share their learning's and knowledge. It also gave them the opportunity to establish Farmers producers Organisations, which is economically viable, democratic and self-governing organization. A three days' workshop was conducted to mobilize farmers for FPO in coordination with Ambuja foundation. During the three days workshop various topics were discussed related to FPO including challenges of FPO formations, welfares, Guidelines, action plan, Business plan, role of government and Administrative structure etc. A first draft of FPO business plan for Okhamandal Block was made.



Discussion on FPO with Farmer group

Aquaculture Farming at Mithapur

Pilot project of fish water farming started in Poshitra and Khatumba are showing good results. Survival rate of 1.5 lakhs of fingerlings is almost 85%. Rohu, Katala and Mrigal fishes will get ready by January end for sale.

Sea weeds Fertilizer production at Mithapur

Most of the farmers in Okhamandal block prefer green manure, compost and biological pest control methods. Application of chemical pesticides is very nominal, to reinforce this good practice in coordination with Agriculture Department, 15 farmers got training on how to prepare sea weed fertilizer. Raw material required for formation of fertilizer is Sea weed "Sargassum" was provided to them. Trained and non-trained farmers recognized this as good opportunity for livelihood. Studies shows that Sea weed fertilizer contains micronutrient which helps in plant growth and increases production, it also controls impact of pest to some extent.

System of Wheat Intensification at Babrala

local market demands.

Animal OPD and Artificial Insemination at Babrala and Haldia

Animal Husbandry is making a significant contribution to the national economy and socio-economic development in the country and livestock is one of the main sources of livelihood for most of the landless farmers. At Babrala, the animal husbandry team has been working relentlessly to improve the species of cattle like cow and buffalo and has been providing animal health care and vaccination service at its animal health OPD centre. During the reporting, 24 Animal OPD program conducted in which 697 animals were examined and treated benefitting 649 cattle owner from 40 different villages. Under the Artificial Insemination program, 2764 animals inseminated, these animals belong to 2483 farmers from 40 different villages.

At Haldia too, TCSRDR in collaboration with Haldia Block Animal Husbandry department implemented cattle breed improvement program in Sutahata block. 4 camps were organized in villages. During these camps, vaccination for FMD and health treatment was done for 1450 cattle and goats. The Block Veterinary doctor and village animal husbandry volunteers helped in vaccination and treatment of the cattle. Awareness about the artificial insemination to improve the breed of the cattle resulted in motivating 140 cattle owners. TCSRDR supported the cost of AI for the ones who came forward after the awareness programs.

Anganwadi Renovation at Mithapur

All the children under six should get right to life, right to food and right to education. To contribute this noble cause TCSRDR took initiative to improve infrastructure of educational institutes. Armbhada and Surajkaradi are villages of Okhamandal where 32 anganwadis are approved by Government but only 12 infrastructures exist in reality. This scenario is very prominent in many villages shows direct impact on enrolment of children's, their right to access healthy food and other educational supplies provided by government. This year, TCSRDR contributed to renovate 5 Anganwadies with student friendly interior decoration like paintings, charts, numbers, graphics, pictorial stories etc. This effort helped 120 under six years children to get access to education and basic facilities for child development.

After seeing the success for the System on Rice Intensification (SRI) program, TCSR, Babrala initiated System of Wheat Intensification (SWI). Wheat is one of the world's most widely cultivated food crops. System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) which is based on the principles of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a new wheat cultivation technique which demands to maintain plant to plant distance at 8 cm and 20 cm between lines. This kind of sowing with proper plant density allows for sufficient aeration, moisture, sunlight and nutrient availability leading to proper root system development from the early stage of crop growth. After sowing, it is necessary to maintain plant population by gap filling and thinning of crowded seedlings. Besides this, 2-3 times weeding and irrigation is required for best results.

These practices are carried in the early stage of wheat growth as associated with the principle of intensive care. System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) is one of the promising technologies to increase productivity which ultimately contributes to the household



Anganwadi condition before renovation



Anganwadi Infrastructure renovated by TCSR

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TCSRDR Round Up

Aspire

Bal utsav at Mithapur

117 members from Tata Chemicals from different department along with their HOD gave 1857 hours in all for the Bal Utsav organised at Mithapur. 23 schools from the vicinity participated in the event. The volunteers adopted one school and supported and motivated children to perform their best. 345 children from 14 villages participated with full enthusiasm. Culture program, drawing competition, Science and Maths project, best out of waste and drama, song were the competition organised at the event.



Inauguration at Bal utsav



Bal utsav at Mithapur

Career Resource Centre in Haldia

TCSRDR in partnership with ALAPAN started Career Resource Centre in Haldia in which 25 youth have been enrolled for coaching on preparation of government service examinations.

Skill Development center (SDC) at Mithapur:



Inauguration at SDC

The SDC was inaugurated at Mithapur in the Apprentice Training School Campus on October 18, 2014 with three courses. The Tailoring course has three batches of 15, 22 and 23 students in its first phase. Similarly Beautician course has two batches of 25 students each and ICT/Basic Computer has 12 students in its first phase.

Badhte Kadam Phase – IV was started with Navjeevan Trust in November where TCSRDR sanctioned fund for 90 students; 30 each for three courses in Driving, Security Services and Welding. New batch for Hospitality Management with Taj Hotels is slated to begin next month.

Vocational Training Program at Babrala

The main purpose of Vocational Training Program at Babrala is to provide vocational skills training to youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, for employment or self-employment



Bal utsav at Mithapur

Bal Utsav in High Schools at Haldia

TCSRDR organized INTER-SCHOOL MEET among government high schools which aimed at providing a platform for the students to present their academic talent and skills.

The program structure consisted of two stages. The preliminary stage was an Intra-School competition and was held in the school itself. In the Final, the winners of the different schools competed for the "School of the Year" award.

The intra school program was organized in 8 high schools and the final of the program was organized in Oct'14. During the Intra School program, there was a participation of approximately 2000 students in different programs like the debate competition, extempore, elocution, singing and dancing.



Bal utsav at Haldia

and at the same time to help them in building confidence and develop the foundation skills needed to succeed in the professional world. During this quarter, 174 students have taken admission in various vocational training programs which includes Mobile Repairing (50), Shorthand & Typing (26), Beautician Course (28), Tailoring Course (45) and Computer (25).

Skill Development Programs at Haldia:

TCSRDR started skill development program for unemployed youth in Haldia with the objective of making them successfully employed or developing them as entrepreneurs. The trainings are going on in partnership with Janshikshan Sansthan and Webcon Consulting (India) Ltd. In the current year TCSRDR has selected 5 trades namely computer hardware, mobile repairing, electrical repairing, AC/Refrigerator Repairing and Beautician. 198 unemployed youth from the surrounding blocks of Haldia are undergoing the training programs. The youth who successfully complete the training program would be provided with tool-kits as a support for starting their own enterprises.

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E- Library at Babrala



E - Library at Babrala

TCSR initiated e library in order to bridge the digital gap as well as the to fulfill the need for the basic and useful study resources like competitive exams books, journals, magazines, newspapers etc. which were unavailable in the nearby book stores. For community students who want to pursue higher studies and sit for competitive exams, the e- library is a blessing as they get to subscribe to study material which they would not be able to afford it otherwise. The e library provides an environment of learning to rural students with all modern facilities, technologies and study resources for their knowledge development and professional growth. On an average, 30-40 students come to E-Library for study.

Learning Enhancement Program (LEP) at Mithapur

TCSR organized LEP classes for the two villages- Khatumba and Positra. 25 students from Khatumba and 35 children from Positra attended the classes. The objective of the classes was to enhance their learning levels so that they are able to cope with studies in higher grades.

“Desh ko Arpan” scholarships distribution at Mithapur

170 students were given scholarships to continue with their higher studies under “Desh ko Arpan”. 120 from standard 8th to 10th, 30 from standard 11th &12th and 20 for higher education received scholarship.



Scholarship at Mithapur

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TCSRDR Round Up

Conserve

Rural Energy

Nearly 90 % of the households in Okhamandal block rely upon fuel wood as a source cooking, affecting not only their health but also the ecological balance. As part of the promotion of renewable energy project, TCSRDR helped in the construction of five bio gas plants. These biogas plants are non-polluting in nature and are affordable. It recycles most forms of biodegradable waste and works on simple technology. Among the various models, Deenbandhu model was the most convenient model adopted at Okhamandal. 10 families have been benefitted by these 5 biogas plants. 3 kg of gas per day has helped in cooking all the three meals of the day. Each one has saved 10 kg of fire wood, costing Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per kg. Regular household waste and animal waste is being used as the raw material for functioning of plant. Slurry extracted after processing has helped as an organic fertilizer in farming, which is affordable and more proficient for plant growth. Seeing the usefulness of the bio gas plant, other households are also demanding the same.



Monitoring of Biogas plant

At Haldia too, 110 energy efficient (EE) cooking stoves were constructed under the same program. The model for the EE cooking stoves was adopted from Kalyani University (West Bengal).

4 Bio-Gas plants were also constructed at Haldia using the same Deenbandhu Model in four households. Cow dung has been used for the production of gas which is further used for cooking and

Work on monitoring of biological parameters and the growth of transplanted indigenous corals at the Mithapur coral reef continued during the reporting period.

ECO Clubs Program

The ECO Clubs program aims to create awareness on biodiversity conservation and Climate Change amongst the community, especially students of rural schools in and around Mithapur as also the employees of TCL and their family members.

Two new ECO Clubs were initiated at Poshitra village taking the total number of ECO Clubs formed to 30. A total of 21 programs on Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change and the Model ECO School initiative were organised during the reporting period covering more than 1,100 students, teachers, employee volunteers and their family members. Support was extended to the Ahmedabad Nature Lovers' Association for organising marinelife education camp at Mithapur.

Mangrove Plantation Project

The mangrove plantation project aims to restore the mangrove cover at the Rukshmani Creek site near Dwarka. Plantation maintenance and "Entromorpha" algae removal work continued during the reporting period.

A total of 3,600 Avicennia marina mangrove seedlings were shifted from Arambda nursery and transplanted at Rukshmani site. Monthly waterfowl surveys were also conducted.

Biodiversity Reserve Plantation Project

The Biodiversity Reserve Plantation project is an ex-situ attempt for conservation of indigenous flora of Okhamandal through creation of a 150 acre botanical reserve. Work on removal of Gando Baval (Prosopis juliflora) and other maintenance activities continued with support from employee volunteers and their family members. Work on consolidation of the endangered Gugal (Commiphora wightii) plantation also continued. Awareness programs on importance of indigenous flora were organized for employee volunteers as also students.

lighting.

Water Management

To tackle issues of water scarcity, TCSRDR has been promoting micro irrigation methods like drip and sprinklers. 22 sets of sprinkler have already been installed covering 10 hectare of land. Drip and sprinklers has helped farmers to save 65% of water compare to flood irrigation.



Sprinkler irrigation

Land Development at Babrala

Under the land development program at Babrala, 38 acres of land was reclaimed during this quarter benefitting 10 farmers. Under the laser leveling program, 77.44 acres of land covered benefitting 60 farmers from 12 different villages.

Whale Shark and Coral Reef Projects

The Whale Shark is the largest fish in the world and has been declared an endangered species due to the sharp decline in its population. It is a regular visitor to the Saurashtra coast and TCSRDR in partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India and the State Forest Dept. have been working on "Save the Whale Shark Project" since 2004 to protect this endangered fish. The project is currently in its third phase which focuses on research on the habitat, migratory pattern and breeding biology of the Whale Sharks.

Work on Whale Shark rescue and monitoring of biological parameters for habitat study continued during the quarter October to December 2014. 40 whale sharks were rescued during this quarter taking the total rescue figure till date to 472.

Volunteer teams from 4 TCL departments – Purchase, ISMS, Transport and PED have adopted a 25 acre Gugal plot. Baseline data collection exercise including fauna and avi-fauna surveys and preparation of checklist were organized through volunteers' participation. The aim of this initiative is to sensitize employee volunteers and their family members on biodiversity conservation and seek their support for up-keeping of the plantation. Volunteers also helped in collection of seeds of the indigenous flora species and a nursery for raising seedlings has been established.

Marine Turtle Survey

The beaches on the Okhamandal west coast feature nesting sites for two endangered species of marine turtles - the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtles. These turtle nesting sites have been affected by coastal erosion which is likely to hamper their breeding biology. The marine turtles require a gentle slope along the beach to reach their nesting sites. However, in the recent years, the gradient of sand dune slopes has increased due to rising sea level and the resultant increase in coastal erosion.



Monitoring of Marine Turtle at Mithapur

Monitoring of coastal erosion at the five beaches - namely Okhamadhi, Shivrajpur, Sagar dam, Mithapur beach and Kala Tul beaches continued during the reporting period. The monitoring activities for turtle nesting and mortality also continued simultaneously.

Climate Neutral Village Project

Taking a broader approach towards tackling the effects of climate change in the Okhamandal region, a pilot project on Climate Neutral Village has been initiated at Poshitra village. The goal of this project is to facilitate communities to adopt a lifestyle which enables them cope with the effects of climate change. In its first phase, the project aims to build a climate resilient community composed of 100 households.



Celebration Of Whale Shark Day

Rangoli, painting, quiz and elocution competitions were organised in 20 schools in and around Veraval and Mithapur as part of the Whale Shark Day Program. The main function of the Whale Shark Day celebrations was organised at Somnath on 22nd November 2014 and was attended by the Somnath District Collector and the Chief Conservator of Forest, Junagadh. Prizes were given away to the winners of the various competitions at this function. Relief amount cheques were issued to fishermen who had incurred fishing net damages during whale shark rescue activities. Earlier in the day, a Whale Shark conservation awareness rally was organised at Somnath by school students. Members of the Somnath and Veraval fishing communities, Forest Dept. and Wildlife Institute of India staff also joined the rally.

Till date, the survey has taken into account the household and plot data of 96 households. These include agriculture activities, livelihood alternatives; public resources utilized etc. which are focused towards climate change adaptation. Apart from this, a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was conducted in the village wherein qualitative data on agricultural productivity, functionality and activities Self Help Groups, status of health and education etc. were collected. Village maps, both social and natural resources were prepared with the participation of the villagers.

Organic Waste Converter

The Organic Waste Converter plant was restarted with the aim of obtaining wealth from waste and reduction of waste in Mithapur. Till December, a total of 6 tonnes (approx.) of organic manure has been produced from food waste collected from 4 locations within Mithapur township namely Maruti Hotel, Hostel Complex dining hall, Hotel Parivar and Sewa Sadan. Product samples of the first batch sent to M/s. Excel Industries for quality verification and the results have come back with positive results. In the coming months, the plan is to make the production into a self-sustaining livelihood project.

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TCSRDR Round Up

Nurture

“Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan”

TCSRDR is supporting Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd Oct. 2014. Spreading awareness through school and village level campaigns, encouraging garbage disposal, using sanitation units, adopting hygiene practices, bring behavioural changes regarding healthy sanitation practices are some of the initiatives which will be taken up under this program. TCSRDR has signed MOU with DRDA under “Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan”. Following the message given by Mahatma Gandhi “Sanitation is more important than independence”; TCSRDR in partnership with WASMO and CSPC has already implemented the sanitation project, wherein it has built 435 sanitation units in every household in 5 villages.



Female benefited by RRWHS and Sanitation unit through TCSRDR



AIDS Awareness at Mithapur

Mother & Health Program at Haldia

TCSRDR in collaboration with CINI (Child In Need Institute) is implementing the Mother and Child Health Program in two gram panchayat of Sutahtata block of Purba Medinipur. In the previous quarter TCSRDR organized training program of the Anganwadi workers on carrying out baseline survey of the health status of target population. The AWW post training carried out the baseline survey of the 100% households of pregnant and lactating mothers. A sensitization workshop with the government functionaries like the panchayat office, asha workers, ANMs on different health issues was organised during this quarter. In collaboration with the panchayat body, a health check-up camp for the children below 2 years of age was also organized. The severely mal-nourished children were referred to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre for their proper growth. TCSRDR is also supporting the ICDS department for distribution of nutrimix as food supplements for the mal-nourished children.

Thalassemia Awareness Camps was also organised in two colleges in collaboration with Rotary Club and Medinipur Thalassemia Society. During the camp, blood test of the participants was also done. The thalassemia positive people were properly counseled by the doctor.

Empowerment



TCSRDR field staff conducting session on sanitation and hygiene practices with school children

Eye Camps

In view of the persistent demand from beneficiaries' eye camps are held twice a year covering the whole of Gunnour Tehsil, consisting of Gunnour, Junawai and Rajpura blocks Babrala. These eye camps are a boon for the elderly patients, who are highly prone to cataract and are in no position to get them operated. The pre and postoperative care of such patients is done exclusively with the help of dedicated volunteers from TCL. In addition to cataract operations, eye ailments are also treated as part of the camp. The eye camps are a much-awaited event for the local community. 100% community of Gunnour Tehsil is aware about eye camp in village house. A total of 606 patients were screened in which 174 patients operations operated.

At Mithapur too an eye camp was organised targeting the village women of Okhamandal. 400 women eyes were screened during the camp.



Eye Camp at Mithapur

AIDS awareness program at Mithapur

An "AIDS Awareness program" near Tata Chemicals Truck

To improve the development activities and Income of the people of the core command and Gunnour Block, TCSRDR and Its employees are working whole heartedly. During the Oct - Dec 2014, 240 SHG established. These SHGs cover 25 different villages. The forming of SHGs also includes linking to the Bank so that they can operate their financial activities properly. During this period various SHG's took a inter loan of Rs. 20 lakhs from within a group for income generating activities.

At Mithapur, two SHG Trainings were organized, which includes Village Level Federation Health Committee Training where 41 women attended and Annual meet with Nari Adalat members wherein they shared information on Violence against Women. It was attended by 75 women. The quarter had 60 SHG meetings on an inclusive agenda for overall Livelihood Program like awareness about Skill Development Centre, Health and Education; along with the specified micro-credit discussions about audit fees, regular saving, bank linkages etc. 6 new SHGs were formed and Social Security Baseline Assessment was completed in Batisa. 45 women participated in the Garib Kalyan Mela where they also displayed their products at a handicraft stall provided at the venue. Audit for 35 SHGs was completed in the last quarter. 13 recurring accounts were opened and widow pension scheme was facilitated. 15 SHG bank loan linkages were developed with a total of Rs. 27,70,000. An awareness drill on Disaster Management was conducted in Bhimrana, Lalpur and Arambhada along with TCL and government agencies wherein the people were made to participate in the mock drill to increase their emergency preparedness. An interactive session with high school students of DAV Public School, Mithapur was organized wherein the information about SHGs, their functioning and histories were shared with the students. The team also participated in the on-going PRA process.

Affirmative Action Programs

At Haldia, 27 new households were provided training in poultry farming and 30 chicken capacity poultry farms with the objective to increase their income. TCSRDR in collaboration with Water For People India Trust supported 3 government high schools with drinking water and construction of toilets.

TCSRDR supported 26 students of government high schools with

association was organized to sensitize the truck drivers and contract employees. Pamphlets were also distributed after the session. In Surajkaradi village too, an AIDS Awareness session was taken benefitting 70 people.

scholarships which would meet their expenditure on tuition fee and books.

Rexene Cluster completed three orders by Kenax Fire, TCL Babrala and Skill Development. Total selling for this quarter for the cluster is Rs. 72,500. REDP program was started with 30 women in Rexene articles in collaboration with Gram Technology. Awareness and need assessment has been completed for a new REDP training in Baradia village. Stipend distribution was organised for 24 women who were earlier given training in Leather and Rexene items by GRIMCO. 42 students were imparted Skill Development Training through Navjeevan Trust and Rishi Technical Education Institute. 6 trainees from the cluster have been facilitated to send their applications as trainers in Gram Technology and GRIMCO.

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My Opinion

Widening the Horizon of Understanding Poverty



Dr. Janki Andharia

Professor, Jamshedji Tata Centre for Disaster Management and Patron member and Hon. Trustee of Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development

Historically, poverty has been related to income. People can be said to be in poverty when they are deprived of income and other resources needed to obtain the conditions of life—the diets, material goods, amenities, standards and services—that enable them to play the roles, meet the obligations and participate in society forge the relationships and contribute in ways that they consider meaningful. The subsistence idea was a result of work prompted by nutritionists in Victorian England. Families were defined to be in poverty when their incomes were not “sufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency”. Although allowance was made in calculating the income level for clothing, fuel and some other items, this allowance was very small, and food accounted for much the greatest share of subsistence. The use of “subsistence” to define poverty has been criticized because it implies that human needs are mainly physical rather than to include social needs too.

The widespread adoption of Basic Needs strategies in developing countries was a response to this dissatisfaction with achievements on poverty reduction. There was a concern to be more specific about the precise way in which income growth impacted upon the quality of human life (Seers 1972) and a concern to focus more explicitly on the way in which average income growth was distributed between poor and non-poor households.

Conventional measures of poverty relate household per capita income or expenditure estimates to a poverty line derived from a nutrition-based estimate of minimum income or expenditure. This approach is criticised on the grounds that it fails to capture important dimensions of poverty and often fails to reflect subjective perceptions of well-being.

In an attempt to define poverty operationally, the World Bank in 1990 adopted a rule-of-thumb measure of US\$ 370 per year per

The emergence of the human development paradigm underpinned by Amartya Sen’s conceptual framework (Sen 1999) broadened existing understandings of both poverty and development. The merits of this approach have been recognised by its rapidly widespread proliferation which consequently has placed human focused poverty reduction at the centre of global development agendas. The interdisciplinary capabilities approach (Sen 1999) challenged existing commodity based understandings of poverty such as the human capital approach (Laderchi et al. 2003) and the concept of basic needs (Fukuda-Parr 2003 p. 304). The capabilities approach (Sen 1999), combining elements of philosophy and economics, has become the principal alternative to previously dominant economic frameworks and discards the measurement of poverty based solely on income and the assumed maximisation of utility (Laderchi et al. 2003). Instead poverty is understood from a broadly humanist perspective as the deprivation of one or more rudimentary capabilities (Sen 1999 p. 87). These capabilities are essential for individuals to achieve minimum functioning within their society (Banerjee et al. 2006 p.1) and subsequently access freedom to live the lives they value (Laderchi et al. 2003).

The human development approach addressed the limited scope and failings of previous economist interpretations of poverty by broadening definitions of ill-being to incorporate more than simply average income and consumption levels (Desai 1991). The dominant monetary and modernisation approaches equated development with economic growth and top down market growth strategies such as the 1980’s structural adjustment programmes pursued by the International Bretton Woods Institutions (Wade 2004; Wade 2004). These neoliberal policies directed by economists, formulated on GDP growth and household survey data on income and consumption, did not overcome issues of poverty (Srinivasan 1994 p. 239). Instead, the impact of a largely human cost became apparent as a result of these free market programmes of privatisation and deregulation (Ruckert 2007 p.1051). The social consequences of invoking theories that assumed economic growth would trickle down to overcome poverty led instead to widening inequalities and evidence of worsening levels of diseases and epidemics, environmental concerns, crime and the weakening of social fabric in spite of sustained economic growth in many developing states (UNDP 2011; Banerjee et al. 2006 p. 7).

person at 1985 prices (the “dollar a day” poverty line) for poor countries. This crude indicator may have been a convenient interim measure for practical purposes, a short-term expedient, but is of scant continuing value from the perspective of people in poverty. Each country articulates a poverty line, including India.

Poverty line:

A large proportion of India's population is poor. To distinguish the poor from the non-poor, a poverty line acts as a cut-off. As mentioned earlier, the conventional approach to the development of a poverty line is to define it in terms of a consumption, expenditure or income level sufficient to meet primary human needs. The official poverty line of India is defined by the income that is needed to provide each individual with a certain specified minimum number of calories per day.

Three “Below Poverty Line (BPL)” censuses were conducted in India - 1992, 1997 and 2002, respectively. While the first two censuses used income/total expenditure for the identification of poor households, the third census made use of multiple indicators. The present poverty line is based on a minimum standard of living and sets a norm in terms of per capita consumption or income, and those who do not meet the norm are identified as the “poor”.

The critique: There are two main strands of criticism on methodological issues in the measurement of poverty. The first strand accepts the calorie-norm framework but raises many important issues within it, including various deficiencies in the method of determining calorie requirements. The second strand of criticism states that calorie-based poverty estimates do not reflect the real extent of deprivation that poor people suffer. This strand suggests extending the definition of poverty beyond the “calorie norm” and supports inclusion of other essentials like expenditure on housing, education and health services necessary for a “decent” life. Others have pointed out that there are serious weaknesses overall in the poverty-line approach, and argue that it involves making assumptions and choices which can undermine attempts to reduce poverty (Bapat, 2009).

The theoretical elements of the capabilities framework (Sen 1999) that underpin the human development approach demonstrate the shortcomings of previous poverty policies, such as the monetarist and basic need approaches, in order to create a multidimensional and realistically nuanced understanding of the realities of poverty (Sugden 1993).

Consequently, a more complex yet realistic picture of poverty can be gained through this deeper understanding of household activities and the way income is shared and utilized. This allows the human development approach to focus on the life aspirations and achievements of those in developing countries, value as opposed to the basic needs assessment of poverty which simply identifies and classifies detached goods that households possess (Anand & Ravallion 1993 p. 136).

The inception of the human development approach has witnessed the increasing use of participatory research methods which allow those experiencing poverty to be involved in conceptualisations of poverty and the proposal of their own interpretations of wellbeing in direct contrast to previous top down approaches (Shaffer 1996).

- Poverty Line vs. The Poor – Ashwani Saith (Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 40 – 2005)
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- Measurement of Poverty and Poverty of Measurement Martin Greeley IDS Bulletin 25.2, 1994 (Institute of Development Studies 1994)
- Poverty lines and lives of the poor Underestimation of urban poverty - the case of India - Meera Bapat February 2009 IIED 2009
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TCSR Partner's View



Udayan Shriram Modhe,
Head skill development
S R Shroff Aajivika Trust.

I know of Tata Chemicals as one of the largest inorganic chemical complex in the country that produces the highest synthetic soda in the world and is well known for its world-class energy efficiency standards and other aspects such as environmental conservation. But, being a professional in social field what attracted me towards them was their commitment towards community development through their NGO arm Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSR).

I am associated with them for last 4 years. I am their privileged partner for their project "Sustainable livelihood for rural underprivileged & under educated youth, through vocational training". I have been and currently too, interacting with many of their officers. Every time I interact with them, their passion reflects in their words.

During my so many visits to Mithapur, I visited few villages along with TCSR project co-ordinators. I could feel that TCSR is spending lot of resources in transforming rural lives. I was really touched by seeing these activities of an Indian corporate. I was also introduced to the top management of Tata Chemicals plant. I could feel their passion for working on projects with a social cause, which passes through the hierarchy right up to the person working at the village level.

We are a Non-profit in the field of skill development, operating out of Vadodara. We work on two fronts first being "To address to the need of industry for skilled manpower" and on the other side "To generate sustainable livelihood for Rural/Urban, unemployed, under-educated and/or underprivileged".

We offer short term (45-90 days) vocational training courses for Welders, Fitters, and Electricians. We certify candidates for NCVT courses of MES patterns. Lot of candidates from outside Vadodara, come to our institute for training, hence we have set up a hostel facility for them.

Till recently, I was associated with only Mithapur team and since last few months I am associated with Babrala team. In last few months, TCSR has sent almost 20 candidates from Babrala and Mithapur for training in the area of Domestic electrician, welder and fitter. Their training fees and cost of lodging and boarding facilities were borne by TCSR (to the tune of approx. 10000/candidate). One thing reflects from interaction with these students that, they have a great sense of gratitude for TCSR for offering them opportunity to develop skills for their livelihood. We always offer the candidates a choice of jobs around Vadodara or other places through us. Many of them were offered jobs through us.

Recently, we are awarded a skill development project of MoRD. We are looking forward to work with Mithapur team on that project.

We are committed to "Mapping livelihoods at the bottom of industrial pyramid to the underprivileged youth by empowering them with vocational skills, thereby creating a sustainable livelihood opportunities." And we are looking forward to a partnership with TCSR on a long term scenario.

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