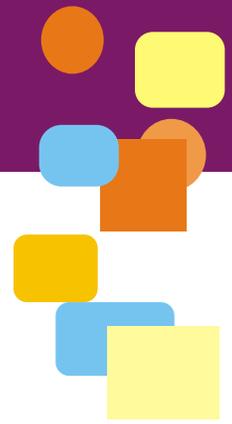




Best Practices Foundation

Annual Report 2009-2010





A Message from the Director

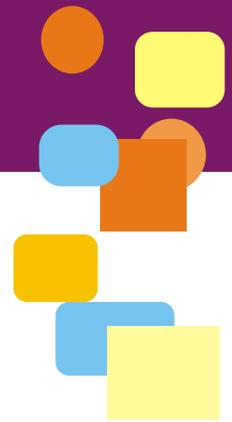
Best Practices Foundation was established in 1999 with the twin objectives of becoming both a knowledge based agency as well as an innovation agency with work on the ground. This year saw these objectives come together in interesting ways. BPF through its own innovations learnt to develop toolkits to roll out and present its work to the world. This year BPF transferred this capacity to other institutions in five states by creating toolkits for other organization's innovations and helping them to replicate and present their work.

BPF produced three such toolkits for other organizations which were presented in a national workshop by organizations to share and learn from each other.

Guided primarily by a commitment and relevance to the ground, BPF's incubation center continued to build its livelihood innovation – MOVE (Market Oriented Value Enhancement) – but now for services. Here BPF Dharwad expanded its horizons to ensure more inclusion of diverse populations such as urban slum youth.

Having worked to strengthen local governance and promote gender-sensitive and inclusive practices, BPF created indicators for decentralized district planning across three sites in collaboration with five other institutional partners. Taking the lead from the Planning Commission of India Guidelines on Decentralized Planning, BPF has tried to build the knowledge base on governance processes by creating monitoring indicators for processes mandated by these guidelines.





Projects (April 2009–March 2010)

BPF Dharwad

- **Improve livelihoods of quarry workers through health education and market training,** Deshpande Foundation

Value addition modules were developed and 16 underwent value enhancement training and six of them added



value or up-scaled their business. Two health camps were conducted with quarry workers for specialized checkups to treat 16 serious patients on diseases related to quarry work including injuries, respiratory problems among others. This year it was clearly evident that the health complications due to quarry work have come down because the demand for health services declined steadily over the years. Furthermore, conditions for the workers improved due to work done with quarry owners. This work resulted in 16 quarry owners agreeing to adopt dust control measures with two already installing these measures.

- **MOVE for Services,** Sir Tata Dorabji Trust continues till August 2009



Dorabji Trust for a total of 102 rural youth and women

The new livelihood methodology for services that was initiated in the previous year was implemented with the support of Sir Tata

and 20 urban youth. From this effort a total of 79 enterprises began. MOVE for Services manual was also brought out.

Umesh and Mailar together started a mobile repair shop after MOVE from which they started earning about 2,000 rupees a month. According to Umesh, *“MOVE helped me to start the mobile business. I got better training on how to do the business. Earlier, I was too shy to speak with anyone but now can build a good rapport with the customers,”* he says and shares some of his strategies, *“If any customer asks for something which we don’t have or which we are unable to repair, we never say ‘no’ to them. I tell them that there is no stock and ask them to come the next day. In the meantime, I go and get it from another shop. This helps me in keeping my customers; otherwise, I might lose them.”*

- **Deshpande Foundation:** Natural resource management project

The Deshpande Foundation Natural resource management Project



commenced on 1st Sept 2009. It aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of 50 farmers, through the promotion of Integrated Farming



Systems in one acre land of selected farmers in Mandihal and Daddikamalapur villages. The project also aimed at upgradation of skills and tools of selected plumbers in Yarikoppa village in Dharwad Taluka of Dharwad

District. Farmers and plumbers were both mobilized into self help groups. All 58 farmers were trained on land development and taken on exposure visits to motivate them to start integrated farming systems.

Plumbers were trained on the use of power tools and taken on exposure visits to Bosch's training center on different plumbing instruments and techniques.

BPF Bangalore

■ **MOVE for Small Scale, Medium Scale, and Large Scale Enterprises in Districts of West Bengal**

continued till May 2009

The application of the MOVE livelihood methodology in West Bengal that began in 2008 culminated this year with



federation members from seven districts fully trained in the MOVE methodology. The aim was to create a sufficient number of trainers among federations for them to then use MOVE in their districts upon their return.

■ **Evaluation of the West Bengal Civil Society Strengthening Programme**, an evaluation for DFID

West Bengal Civil Society Strengthening Programme (WBCSSP), managed by Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), was operational from November 2006 to October 2010. The project objectives were to form and empower Community Based Organisations (CBO) of the poor in the poorest districts and blocks of the State; enhance capacities of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) for analysis, advocacy and policy engagement; and enable greater participation, inclusion and fulfilling obligations of the poor through

the appropriate networks and strategies. BPF conducted an annual review of the WBCSSP program in August, 2009. Commissioned by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK, the exercise aimed to review and evaluate the progress on mid-term review (MTR) recommendations, assess the overall status of the programme progress with reference to the log-frame and make recommendations for the programme for the next phase. The evaluation covered impact assessment of the programme across the three districts of Bolpur, Malda, and Jalpaiguri and at the state level.

■ **Decentralized District Planning** project for Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, from April 2009 to September 2010

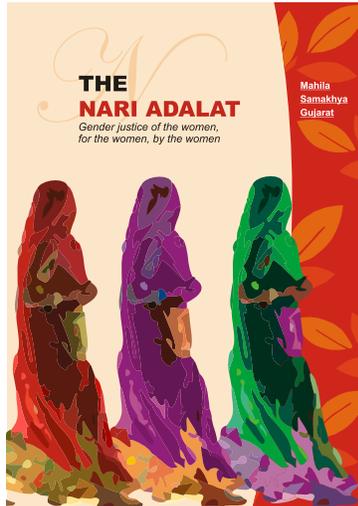
BPF undertook a study titled *Towards Making District Planning Committees More Effective: Creation of Participatory Indicators and Documentation towards Guidelines for Action*. The main project objectives were to create a set of indicators, to measure progress of District Planning Committees (DPCs) in decentralized district planning through a collaborative, participatory process. In this year process indicators were created and tested based on the processes outlined in the Planning Commission Guidelines on Decentralized District Planning. These indicators were tested across three sites in collaboration with its partners - PRIA, Development Alternatives, and Debate., in Madhubani, Bihar, Orchha and Raisen in Madhya Pradesh. Final refined indicators were then presented at a state round table in Bhopal.

■ **DFID project for documentation of Best Practices in Women's Empowerment** from November 2009 to September 2010

Three Toolkits (*Nari Adalat, Panchayat Literacy for Women, and Addressing Inequalities through Gender Education*) developed and disseminated at a National Workshop in Delhi in September 2010.

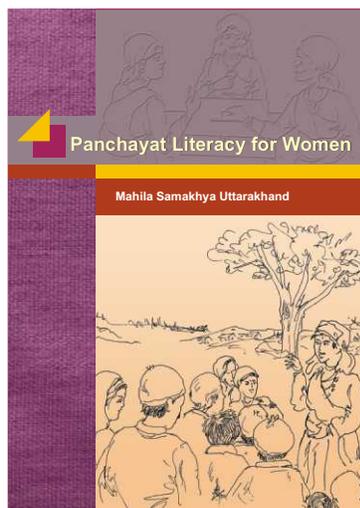
The Nari Adalat Toolkit

The Nari Adalat an innovation of Mahila Samakhya Gujarat emerged as a grassroots response to the rise in violence against women that only a decentralized gender sensitive forum could address. The Nari Adalat is a women's collective formed across age, caste, marital status, religion, region and occupation which addresses issues of violence against women and helps them access their rights as citizens. The toolkit comprises of the steps involved in forming a Nari Adalat. This toolkit was produced in Gujarati and English and aimed at roll out of the Nari Adalat innovation.



The Panchayat Literacy for Women toolkit

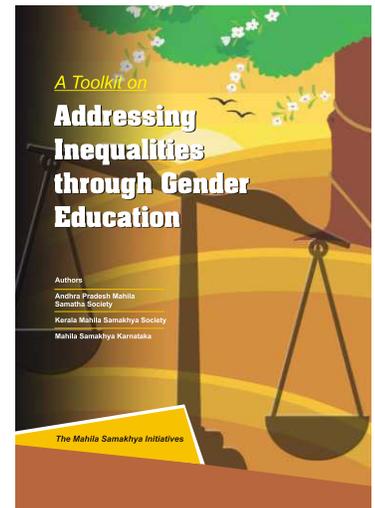
The 73rd amendment of the Panchayati Raj Act led to 33 percent reservation for women nationally. In 2008, Uttarakhand was among the pioneering states to lead the country into an era of even greater gender equity by reserving 50 percent seats for women in all three tiers of Panchayat. Despite reservation, women were unable to play an active role in the Panchayats due to male dominance especially from



family members in executing their functions. MS took on these challenges by introducing their Panchayat Literacy programme for women aiming at engendering the 2003 panchayat elections. Consequently, over the next two elections, the Panchayat Literacy programme for women has brought over 5000 sangha women into power, comprising more than 50 percent of all EWRs in the six districts where MS operates. Through this programme, women learnt to register their names, contest the elections and participate in electoral processes. BPF along with Mahila Samakhya Uttarakhand created a toolkit to capture this programme in Hindi and English.

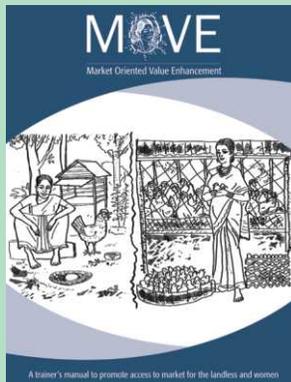
Inequalities through Gender Education toolkit

Attaining women's empowerment requires a women-centred political process and orientation. Gender education is a programme designed to achieve this mission and vision. Gender education focuses on the analysis, critical reflection and questioning of this socialization process which casts men and women into stereotypical roles. BPF in collaboration with Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society and Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society created this toolkit primarily for staff and trainers of institutions with a clear gender perspective to further the goal of gender education.



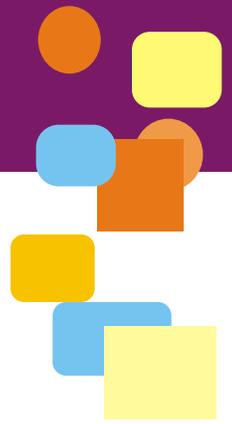
Reports and Publications

- West Bengal Civil Society Strengthening Programme (WBCSSP) evaluation report. The evaluation of the programme was conducted and a report was produced which examined the impact of the programme on civil society institutions and community based organizations. It looked at the inputs provided as well as the deliverables expected, following up on recommendations of previous evaluations.
- MOVE manual for services was refined and is in progress of being published.



BPF Representation

- The Director attended a strategic planning meeting of the Huairou Commission, in New York in May 2009
- BPF Kolkata presented the MOVE approach in the Self Help Group Promotional Forum in January 2009 in West Bengal
- Soumita Basu and Sangeetha Purushothaman presented BPF strategies to document practices to DFID and the NPO, Mahila Samakhya, New Delhi in November 2010.



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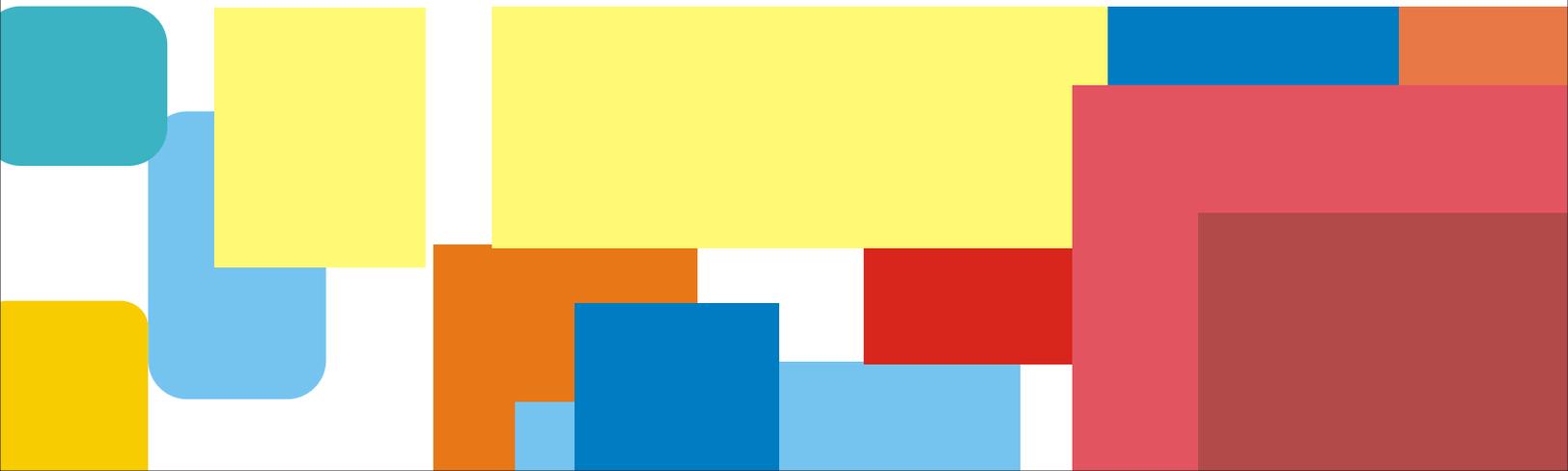
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The Best Practices Foundation is registered under the Society Act in April 1999 (Registration number: 1127/98-99) and has 80G exemption (No. DIT(E)BLR/80G(R)/ 148/AAAAB3288L/ITO(E)-1/Vol2008-2009) and also has FCRA permission (FCRA number: 094420980).





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