

**Annual Report
2016-17**



Best Practices Foundation

PROJECTS

National Consultation on the Mahila Samakhya (MS) Programme | 10th-11th Jan 2017

The MS programme is one of the largest government-supported rights-based movements which have focused on gender equity for over three decades but has been discontinued. BPF has been working to raise funds for the MS programme towards implementing MOVE and other projects for sustainability. As part of our on-going efforts, BPF hosted a two-day consultation in Bangalore on the 10th and 11th of January 2017. The objective of the meet was to obtain a shared understanding of the present status of the MS programme and chart out a future course of action. Members of MS (including the Programme Directors of MS State Societies in Assam, Kerala, Karnataka, and Jharkhand), friends, and supporters, long-term associates of MS movement and Action Aid (who provided partial funding for the consultation) participated in the programme. BPF was given the role of secretariat to anchor efforts for coalition and network building of the MS alliance, set up systems for information exchange and democratic decision-making, as well as build an archive of materials on MS. BPF was also given the mandate of fund raising with different donors. Of the various proposals submitted, we have been successful in getting American Jewish World Service to commit support on strengthening of federations and of women's leadership. The grant has been approved from May 2017.

Financial Literacy Content Design and Development | Rang De | December 2016 – March 2017

Rang De is a non-profit organization, with a desire to eradicate poverty in India by offering credit to marginalized communities for any purpose they may need. Our highly successful track record in innovative capacity building methods for NGO staff as well as entrepreneurs, led Rang De to BPF to create a course. To effectively reach financially excluded populations in India, BPF was asked to develop digital visual content on Rang De's financial services available through the post offices payment banking systems. However, the project was called off by Rang De as their funding stopped.

Dairy Management and Entrepreneurship Training for 30 Rural Women in Dharwad | NABARD | October 2016 – March 2017

BPF was commissioned by NABARD under the Livelihood Entrepreneurship Development Programme (LEDP) to train 30 rural self-help-group women in Kotur village, Dharwad district on dairy farming and entrepreneur skills. Initially two days of the training was held at UAS, Dharwad, followed by 5 days of training at the Kotur village. Out of the 30 women trained, 16 have started dairy farming. Of the 16 animals bought, 4 have started to produce milk, thereby providing an income of between INR 5400 to INR 6000 per. It is expected that the other 8 participants will start to earn equivalent amounts once their animals start producing milk. Participants who availed loans have seen an increase in their confidence level while interacting with banks. The project has also resulted in improved household nutrition status, increased mobility of women, and strong support from their families to continue their businesses.

International Partnership for LGBT Political Participation and Leadership in India | Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute | October 2016 – September 2017

BPF conducted three days of training from 10th-12th March 2017 for the LGBT community. The sessions were largely aimed at introducing ideas and concepts around leadership to be implemented in their respective spheres to help them develop both leadership qualities and a vision. The evaluation of the respective participants before and after the training pointed to an expansion of their vision from just the community into a more broad-based understanding of politics. This was evident in the final presentations that they were made to perform as part of groups. The participants were also oriented on the political history of LGBTQI in India. They were introduced to the ideas of electoral as well as representational politics along with a basic idea of the constitution and its value in our lives as Indian citizens.

Strengthen Leadership in Support of Sexual Minority and Support Their Access to Entitlements in South India | LUSH - Fresh Handmade Cosmetics | September 2016 – August 2017

A consultation in the city of Kolkata attempted to review the manner in which organisations engage with communities in the southern part of India and the manner in which such support could be extended to organisations in the eastern part, as well as evaluate our strategies and the relevance of our approach. We also chose two sex workers from the Theni district in Tamil Nadu to be a part of our extended fellowship program. This consultation helped put us in touch with a network of organizations working in East India and North East India. This has helped increase the solidarity towards LGBTQI related issues and exchange information that is geographically and culturally new to our organization.

Establish & Develop a Pooled Fund Aimed at Strengthening Activism & Leadership in Support of Sexual Minorities in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa | Human Capability Foundation | July 2016 – March 2017

HCF commissioned BPF to support partner Community Based Organizations (CBOs) through a process of putting out calls, vetting applications, conducting visits, interviews and putting in place a panel to make decisions. In order to build perspective and solidarity; debate, plan and measure impact with respect to crisis response strategies, we designed quarterly workshops with our small grants partners. The agenda for this was co-created and co-owned by the CBO members.

In 2016, support was extended to 4 partner organizations; two in Karnataka and two in the newly formed state of Telangana. This resulted in an immense boost in the confidence of these community organizations to tackle crisis cases and encourage more community members to join them.

Enhancing Leadership among Grassroots Level Organisations | PlanetRomeo Foundation | July 2016 – June 2017

Over the course of the last year, workshops and events with the LGBT community were held to understand the prevalent issues and explore possible solutions. A workshop was conducted with our small grant partners in September 2016 in Goa to cover issues ranging from leadership and power, basic legal strategies, accounting and building stronger management boards. We also looked at the core issue of violence and response to crises.

Another workshop called 'Redefining Inclusion' was held on 13th August 2016 in Bangalore within the LGBTQI community. The aim was to encourage urban/privileged sub-communities to broaden their horizons of understanding and come to terms with the realities of sub-communities within the LGBTQI fold that are not necessarily privileged. It also tackled real-time issues like caste discrimination, ageism, religious intolerance, non-binary identity discrimination and prejudice faced by the disabled within the community. It also unveiled the kind of crises faced by sexual minorities and the responses that were possible – showing clearly that those with privilege had access to many more options. The discussions that emerged centred on the idea of building a broader support base for the groups that we are working with (i.e. working class sexual minorities who are not based in the cities).

Needs Assessment | Selco Foundation | April 2016

The SELCO Foundation links the benefits of sustainable energy to poverty eradication. Selco invited BPF to conduct a needs assessment for its micro-entrepreneurs who had adopted solar solutions for their businesses. Sudha Menon, Mamata Das, Meera Halakatti, R. B. Hiremath and V. Pawadshetty collected the data in Dharwad and studied it in order to prepare a detailed analysis. The final report with feedback incorporated was presented to Selco in September 2016, which made a number of recommendations for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to make a significant difference to the livelihoods of solar micro-entrepreneurs.

Build Leadership Among Sex Workers and Sexual Minorities | Astraea Foundation | January 2016 – December 2017

This two year programme provides assistance to CBO members for initiating and expanding their livelihood options, support to handle crisis situations along with teaching them how to handle crisis management, reduce violence, have greater confidence and a strong sense of self-worth. Support for capacity building is provided as well.

The leadership project has successfully been able to ensure an increase in financial resources due to implementation of an efficient donor management system. Over the course of rolling out Project Vayati (aimed to place transgender and other members of the LGBT community into formal jobs), there has also been an increase in interactions and involvement with corporate bodies. We have played the role of a resource body and advisor for Community Business, have partnered with an organisation called Interweave that works on issues of diversity and have been part of the corporate LGBT Executive Forum. Conducting four city level discussions on specific topics helped improve the depth of understanding of community needs and capacities. The final reports of each discussion will be ready by the end of December and will be available for sharing. We have also improved our social media and online presence thanks to our communications officer.

On 4th December 2016, we conducted 'Aikya – Transforming the language of music' in Mumbai. This event marked the bringing together of a lesser-known traditional transgender community (the Jogappas) with a classical singer, with the collaboration of First Edition Arts. The Jogappas were from a remote area in India and were excited to participate in the events, with their traditional instruments. This event was attended by about 120 people.

We also participated in the following events

- Made a keynote speech at the U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad and the Indian School of Business.
- 'Inclusive Workspace: Employing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI)' in 2016, in a CSR event on Gender and Technology conducted by the U.S. Consulate General Chennai and USAID,
- Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion at the Indian Institute of Management in 2016
- Shubha Chacko was a plenary speaker at the 28th ILGA World Conference and speaker at the event hosted by Workplace Pride Foundation.

Support to Undertake Community Development Activities, Transform Program/ Astraea Foundation | January – December 2016

BPF offered a fellowship to a trans-man, Kiran Nayak B so that he can be an effective voice of the transgender community. He is being encouraged to take part in various consultations related to transgender issues and to participate in workshops that help him learn new skills. By offering adequate support and a mentor to guide him in his journey, we hope that Kiran will become a valuable change maker.

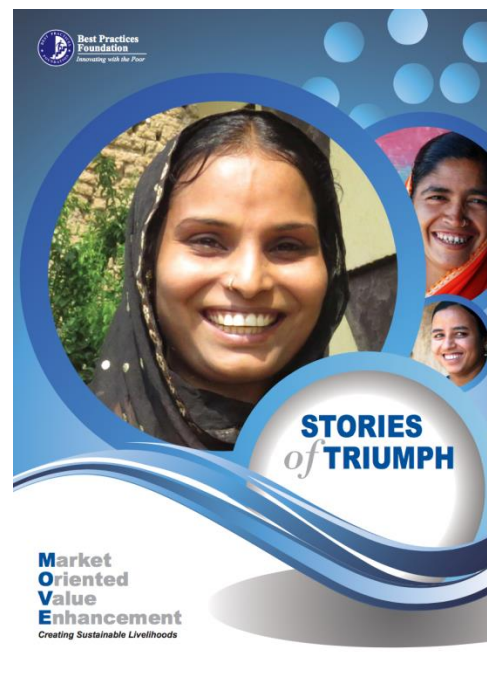
Kiran's participation in public workshops, conferences, consultations and interactions with government officials and community members has made him feel more confident about himself while presenting his work. His constant and steady engagement with the lesbian, bisexual and trans-persons in the community has borne fruit in the sense that their opinions and inputs which have been marginalized so far are being brought to the fore now managed to assume greater significance. His conversations with government officials have been productive as quite a few are also in agreement with the cause Kiran is working towards.

Stories of Triumph – MOVE Caselets | Best Practices Foundation | November 2015 – March 2017

In-depth interviews with MOVE participants in Dharwad were conducted between November 2015 and Jan 2016. This resulted in the production of a book of caselets titled 'Stories of Triumph'. This book has twenty success stories and will be shared with funders, partners, etc. to showcase our work.

MOVE Evaluation | Best Practices Foundation | November 2015 – On-going

An external evaluation of 50 MOVE entrepreneurs and their businesses was conducted by a USAID Fellow in December 2015. Anomalies in the data indicated the need to correct it before analysing and writing up the report. However, this project was put on hold due to other proposals and external project deadlines. An intern from the University of California, Berkeley will be working on the correction, analysis and finalization of the report for a period of 10 weeks from June 2017. He will primarily be working closely with the BPF Dharwad team in order to have the evaluation completed in 4 months.



PROPOSALS

Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiatives (APPI) | March 2017

BPF submitted a Letter of Intent (LoI) to APPI in March 2017 on two major outcomes for adolescent girls. They are: 1) Reduction in the incidence of marriages of girls under the legal age (18 years) from present levels, and 2) ensure uninterrupted secondary and higher education for girls covered by the project. If approved, this project will be implemented in the project areas that the Mahila Samakhya has been working in. However, since it is still at the LoI stage, the geographies have not been finalized.

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) | March 2017

BPF submitted a proposal to AJWS that aims to create a dialogue for a new set of institutional arrangements by federations. This framework envisions an inclusive process of functioning, and ways in which they could play a more effective agenda setting role at district and state levels. This will bring the voice, expectations, and demands of women into the public domain. This project was approved and the dialogues will begin in June 2017. Once the geographies have been decided upon, BPF will be working in collaboration with 1-2 other organisations nation-wide.

Hindustan Unilever Limited | March 2017

Unilever was looking for an organisation/consultant to document their Handwash Project in Bihar. As documentation experts, BPF was introduced to Unilever and we sent them our capability statement. This was shared with their team in England and Kenya. Upon follow-up with them, Mr. Sarfaraz from Unilever said that the project has been put on hold, and they will get back to us once there is clarity.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) | February 2017

A proposal was submitted to PHF in February 2017, on strengthening federations of grassroots women's groups to enable gender-just communities through independent grassroots women's collectives. The proposed project area is Assam in the North East. PHF has told us they will take about 6 months to get back to us.

Apollo Tyres | January 2017

Apollo Tyres CSR team got in touch with BPF in January 2017 for documentation of their activities and we sent them a presentation on BPF's documentation expertise. When subsequent discussions threw up BPF's empowerment capabilities, they asked us to submit a proposal on designing and implementing a water literacy course in their project area in Tamil Nadu. We are waiting to hear from them.

Gramin Shiksha Kendra (GSK) | January 2017

Mr. Pavan Chandra of GSK asked BPF in January 2017 to submit an action plan and proposal to conduct an impact assessment and develop their annual report, brochures and leaflets for GSK. The project is expected to start in May.

Mahila Samakhya Karnataka (MSK) | December 2016

BPF has been in conversation with MSK since November 2016, to roll-out MOVE for their federations. In December 2016 BPF submitted a proposal to MSK with the objective of enabling women to build sustainable businesses that can increase women's access and

control over incomes. It also aimed at building the capacity of MSK to roll out livelihood intervention programmes throughout the state. Initially the project is proposed to be implemented in 2 federations in the districts of Bellary and Belgaum. As an outcome, a total of 900 federation women will be trained on BPF's award-winning market-driven entrepreneurship model (MOVE). A minimum of 300 sustainable businesses will be created. Eighteen MOVE trainers (9 in each federation) will be capacitated to provide continuous support on entrepreneurship development, after the project ends.

UNDP Entrepreneurship Awareness and Development Programmes | November 2016

We had submitted two proposals on entrepreneurship awareness and development for women and girls, however, both projects were given to other NGOs.

Copal Amba | October 2016

BPF submitted two proposals on entrepreneurship development for marginalized women living in Bangalore as part of Copal Amba's CSR activity. One was to improve lives of elderly female sex workers in Bommanahalli. The second was to develop entrepreneurial skills of marginalized Muslim women in the operational area of Raza Educational and Social Welfare Society (RESWS). Since Copal Amba was only funding one project, the proposal on entrepreneurship development with RESWS was put forward, but not accepted as it only focused on one particular community. Subsequently we were asked to revise the proposal to make it more inclusive. Though the revised proposal was submitted in October 2016, and we have been regularly following up with them, we have not heard back yet.

UNDP Empanelment | June 2016

We are still awaiting a formal letter of confirmation from the UNDP head office regarding the empanelment.

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

Launch of Rang De's first Swabhimaana Kendra | Bangalore | 8th March 2017

BPF was invited to participate in the launch of Rang De's first Swabhimaana Kendra at Yeshwantpur village on March 8, 2017. The programme seeks to empower a woman in rural India to avail loans based on her own credentials and literacy levels.

Royal Mysore Marathon | Mysore | 29th January 2017

As part of its fund-raising initiatives, BPF participated in the Royal Mysuru Marathon (RMM-2017), a charity running event held to help civil society organisations raise funds championing their causes. Held in Mysuru on 29th January 2017, the colourful event saw the participation of several NGOs and corporates from Mysore and Bangalore. Close to INR 1.5 lakhs was raised by BPF through this event. It also led to exploring opportunities for partnership with the corporate sector and creation of brand visibility for a wider audience.



Disha Workshop | Bangalore | 15th November 2016

BPF participated in the Disha workshop that brought together policymakers, businesses and women entrepreneurs from across India. Hosted at the ThinkBig2016 Summit, participants assessed the current ecosystem that women entrepreneurs operate in, and how different actors can work together to boost access to skills and financial resources, bridge information gaps, and create market linkages that enable business owners to succeed. Disha is a three-year partnership between India Development Foundation, United Nations Development Programme and Xyntéo, supported by the IKEA Foundation.

Workshop on Effective Proposal Writing | Bangalore | 17th September 2016

As part of our capacity building initiatives, Debayani Bose, Research Associate, participated in a workshop on effective proposal writing. Organised by the Resource Alliance India, in collaboration with The Thompson Reuters Foundation and India Cares Foundation the workshop was attended by NGOs from Bangalore and provided a good networking platform.

The WDB Trust, 25th Anniversary Celebratory Dialogue: 'Making Poverty History' | Pretoria, South Africa | 10th –21st July 2016

The intent was to draw inspiration and lessons from participants themselves – women from all over South Africa. Businesswomen, rural and urban entrepreneurs, academics and students brought their thoughts and expertise on how to end poverty. In addition to the uplifting presentations, there were 'workshops' on the challenges that women face in their homes, community and workplace. Through this Dialogue, WDB wished to continue engaging with a broad spectrum of women to assess collective progress in addressing poverty challenges. It was a platform to share ideas on methods that have been found to be effective and how to replicate them, to identify what still needs to be done by women themselves, together with government and the private sector. The aim was to find practical ways to end poverty and create sustainable livelihoods for families and communities.

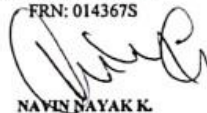
It was a great experience to meet and interact with women from different backgrounds and to understand the challenges of women at the grassroots level in Africa. The emphasis was entirely on women and men coming together in dialogue, across divisions and differences.


Creating Win-Win Corporate NGO Partnerships | Mysore | 27th May 2016


Mamata Das and Sharda Tappal represented BPF at this workshop organised by the Resource Alliance India and CII Foundation. It focused on developing successful NGO-corporate partnerships, fundraising and the CSR strategies that corporates look for in NGOs.


FINANCIAL AND AUDIT REPORT 2016-2017

BEST PRACTICES FOUNDATION							
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017							
Amount in Rupees							
AMOUNT 2015-16	LIABILITIES	Note	AMOUNT 2016-17	AMOUNT 2015-16	ASSETS	Note	AMOUNT 2016-17
97,88,233	GENERAL FUND	1	73,42,057	2,42,418	FIXED ASSETS	3	1,83,172
	CURRENT LIABILITIES				CURRENT ASSETS		
18,453	Duties & Taxes	2	36,140	65,62,579	Fixed Deposit	4	58,33,057
				18,99,022	Loans & Advances	5	10,24,335
					Cash and Bank Balances	6	
				10,78,288	Cash at Banks		2,79,878
				24,380	Cash in Hand		57,756
98,06,686	Total		73,78,197	98,06,686	Total		73,78,197

For Navin Nayak & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 014367S

NAVIN NAYAK K.
Partner
M.NO: 205154





For Best Practices Foundation

Trustee





Date: 30.10.2017
Place : Bengaluru

BEST PRACTICES FOUNDATION							
CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2016 TO 31.3.2017							
Amount in Rupees							
Amount 2016-16	EXPENDITURE	Note	Amount 2016-17	Amount 2015-16	INCOME	Note	Amount 2016-17
15,05,178	Deficit from Projects	7	40,35,457	21,93,451	Surplus from Projects	9	15,10,291
1,31,756	Indirect Expenses	8	2,59,467	3,20,122	Indirect Income	10	4,17,563
1,67,675	Depreciation		79,105				
7,08,963	Excess of Income Over Expenditure		-	-	By Excess of Expenditure Over income		24,46,176
25,13,573			43,74,029	25,13,573			43,74,029

For Navin Nayak & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 014367S

NAVIN NAYAK K.
Partner
M.NO: 205154



For Best Practices Foundation

Trustee



Date: 30.10.2017
Place : Bengaluru

