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# Directory of NVA Fellows

## Profiles and Core Competencies

Directory of NVA Fellows

Volume - 1

Jul 2005 - Feb 2007



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Jul 2005 - Feb 2007

Jamsetji Tata  
National Virtual  
Academy for  
Rural Prosperity  
(NVA)



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## Foreword

Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity (NVA) has held so far three convocations where 176 women and 193 men were inducted as Fellows of the Academy. The first two convocations were addressed by H E the President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The fourth convocation of NVA is being held at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 17 Feb 2007. At this convocation, forty women and forty-nine men will be inducted as Fellows. The present publication provides information on the experience and expertise of the new Fellows. A perusal of this publication will show how rich rural India is in talent, entrepreneurship and spirit of innovation. Apart from social prestige, NVA has provided them with an opportunity for giving full expression to their talents and to their commitment for rural uplift.

The Fellows of NVA constitute an effective “**Team India for a New India**”, where urban and rural areas will prosper together and where there is social inclusion in technology access. The Fellows of the NVA will help to bridge the growing urban-rural digital divide. They will help to make our country a truly knowledge society, where knowledge helps to improve the quality of life of the poorest of the poor.

I wish to record our gratitude to Smt Tara Gandhi for leading a team for the selection of Fellows based on merit, and to Mr Senthilkumaran and his devoted colleagues for the trouble they have taken to compile this publication with care and love.



M S Swaminathan  
President

Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity



## PREFACE

It is a matter of pride that the National Virtual Academy (NVA) now has over 450 Fellows hailing from villages of 20 States all over the country. Their occupations are as varied as farming, fishery, teaching, health work, small business, handicraft and many others. In the midst of this diversity, the common bond shared by all the Fellows is their strong commitment to the cause of social upliftment and sustainable rural development. Each of these remarkable women and men have taken initiatives for the welfare of their village. Using the tools of information and communication technology, they share their own skills or communicate useful information and valuable knowledge for the benefit of the local community.

This directory aims to serve both as a documentation of the work of the NVA Fellows and as a resource book. It contains a profile of each Fellow giving their location and personal details, as well as an account of their work and special expertise. Based on these profiles and on separate skill-mapping exercises that have been carried out by the NVA team for Fellows in different regions, a list of **Competencies** has been prepared and categorized under major topics. These in turn have been further divided into sub-heads, depending upon the specializations found within each topic. **Keywords** have been allocated to each Fellow for the purpose of easy access and to facilitate identification of Fellows with competency in any of the listed topics or sub-heads.

NVA Fellows undergo periodic training and capacity building to upgrade their existing skills or to acquire new expertise. They will thus be enabled to serve as resource-persons at workshops, seminars, training courses or hands-on demonstrations for their own peers or for the benefit of scientists, students and professionals. As envisioned by Professor M.S.Swaminathan, NVA Fellows can become master trainers or 'grassroots academicians' who serve as agents of transformation in rural India through such lateral and vertical transfer of knowledge. It is our hope that a wide range of organizations and individuals find this publication useful for the purpose.

Tara Gandhi  
Advisor, NVA

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

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- ITC – IBD, Hyderabad
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- Polymer Educational Society, Nellore
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## 1. Mr K Y V L N Acharyulu (Feb-2007)

C/o. TCS Adult Literacy Program,  
TATA Consultancy Services,  
No.1, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,  
Vadapalani, Chennai – 600 026.  
Phone: 044 – 5550 5555  
E-mail – m.som@tcs.com

33 year old Mr. Acharyulu comes from Gajjullanka of Kolleru Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. A commerce graduate from Nagarjuna University, Guntur, he was a very enthusiastic, energetic leader in his college days. He is very interested in eradicating illiteracy in villages and believes illiteracy is the root cause of poverty.

He is the Nodal Prerak, and has organized many Kalajatharas to motivate the illiterate people in surrounding villages. Through cultural activities he participated in government programmes like Akshra Sankranthi and is active in Akshara Bharathi program also. In 2001 Acharyulu started the TCS- CBFL program and completed nearly 12 batches of learners with 200 people becoming literate. He says that this programme is very effective and easy to learn and easy to teach also. Because of attractive software, mostly women are coming to the CBFL centre voluntarily without any motivation. Even after completing 14 lessons out of 17 lessons, learners started reading newspapers and other print material with a

speed of 15 to 20 words per minute. He is very happy to teach through this CBFL method.

He has motivated community people to build ISL sanitary lavatories. He actively participated in many awareness programs like Pulse Polio, AASHA, HIV programmes in and surrounding villages. He is the role model in the village for young people in the village.

## 2. Ms G Anitha (Jul-2005)

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
Renigunta Road,  
Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone:(0877) 2280720,5577796  
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35 year old Anitha of Mypadu village in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh is an active member of PEN India and is doing yeoman service for the good of the people in the village. She has done PGDCA and is practising computer applications and extending ICT related initiatives of PEN India under PENCIL project of making rural people have computer literacy.

Anitha has organized a women's organisation called Aruna Mahila Mandali and organised skill development programs for 200 women in tailoring, embroidery etc with the help of DRDA. She is working for

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technological empowerment of the grassroots population under the IITE's Integrated Resources Management and Empowerment (IRME) program. She using ICT tools for rural, especially coastal zone development and has established her credentials for the last three years in helping the poor rural people.

### 3. Ms M Apsar (Jan-2006)

C/o. Hear  
Marrivari Street,  
Main Road,  
Indukurupet,  
Nellore Dist  
Andhra Pradesh  
Email: fakru\_nlr@yahoo.com

Mogal Apsar (23), is a graduate in computer sciences from Kodavakur in Andhra Pradesh. A member of the NGO, Health Educational Awareness of Rural Area Development (HEAR), she runs a free HEAR computer education centre in Vidavalur Mandal for poor people to develop their livelihood skills. She gives training in computers and subsequently highlights the placement opportunities, which in turn helps improve their economic status.

She conducts IT awareness programmes at her center to emphasise the importance of computer education through which the participants can benefit both socially and economically in future. She throws light on the internet boom in the present era, which acts as a boon for information assimilation. She collects information on self-employment

activities from the Internet and trains and builds the capacity of women to implement them in their respective villages.

### 4. Ms Bandi Vara Lakshmi (Jul-2005)

C/o VELUGU  
APRPRP  
III Floor, Summit Apartments,  
Door No 5-10-188/2, Hill Fort Road,  
Hyderabad - 500 004  
Ph: +91-40-55660315/6

23 years old Bandi Vara Lakshmi from Gopavaram in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Class. She used to do farming, working for hardly 20 to 25 days in a month.

She took up occupation as animator for SHG groups strengthening and formation from 2002 to 2004, organized campaign meetings for SHG members with training and awareness for poverty alleviation, organized cleanliness campaigns in her village with the help of SHG group members and worked for strengthening the SHGs in Madakalavaripalli village.

Vara Lakshmi is a very good leader and she has good communication skills. She worked with nearly 35 SHG groups and has organized more than 300 members into SHGs in her own village. She took the lead in confronting a corrupt Bank Manager in an SHG Bank linked to poorest of the poor (PoP). The community has benefited through her active work. After September 2004, she

has become Community News Reporter in Mahodayam Community News Magazine published by Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (APRPRP). She proved herself as a good communicator and elected as a Editor of Mahodayam Magazine by the Editorial Committee.

---

### **5. Ms Bijili Lakshmi (Feb-2007)**

W/o. B. Sailoo  
Kothapally village  
Shankarpally Mandal  
Ranga Reddy Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 08417-207250

Bijili Lakshmi 43, is a landless woman from Adarsha watershed, Kothapally village in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh, has attained the status of a trainer and has become a practicing trainer for women in other watershed areas. She is not only a leader of the self-help group, which was operating micro-finance activities in her village, but has also been empowered through the watershed programme into becoming a full-fledged community trainer for managing natural resources sustainably. She belongs to the Yerukala scheduled tribe and always tries to find opportunities for the benefit of land less people.

Apart from being actively associated along with her group to prepare healthy and nutritious mid-day meals for village school children through a programme supported by Government of Andhra Pradesh, she has undertaken a new initiative of establishing

nurseries of bio-diesel plantations i.e. Pongamia and Jatropha. This activity is providing extra income for her group working collectively in their free time.

Lakshmi has become a role model in the rural community showing the way for women in villages to build their confidence, and has also increased their awareness for health and environmental concerns.

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### **6. Ms K Chandrakala (Jan-2006)**

C/o ICRISAT  
Patancheru-502 324  
Andhra Pradesh, India  
Tel: +91 40 3071 3071

Ms. K. Chandrakala (28), hails from a small village, Kommireddy Palem of Mehabub nagar District in Andhra Pradesh. She is an enthusiastic, dynamic and committed social worker involved in many community development activities in and around her village.

Her keen interest to serve her village community started in 1995 when after completing her 10<sup>th</sup> class she donned the mantle to successfully run a local society called "Dhanalaxmi". After undergoing the required training, she taught illiterate adults of the village to read and write in the local language Telugu, from 1997 to 1999. She was elected as Executive Member of a women's federation called Adarsha Mahila Samaikhya (AMS) at Mandal level and is currently on its Board. Her persuasive management skills helped to take up

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responsibilities of managing a popular restaurant run by AMS.

She has been successfully mobilizing women in social welfare programs of Andhra Pradesh Government such as "Akshara Kiranam", "Akshara Bharathi", "Indira Kranthi Pathakam" etc. She acquired skills by attending training programs like co-operative "Sangham Dairy" training and "Velugu" community training program. Now she is a resource person committed to organize and train self-help groups. She also actively participated in the "Pulse Polio drops" drive, the largest immunization programme of the Government of India.

As a Village Network Assistant (VNA) at Kommireddy Palem Knowledge Center, she facilitates daily educational training programs for children and basic computer training programme for children, youth and adults of the village. With the knowledge and skills acquired during her training in livestock rearing and dairy development, she provides guidelines to the villagers in improving the milk production, animal healthcare and management, improved compost making from farm waste etc.

Being trained in computer skills, she manages an Agro-Advisory system through IT for community development with the help of experts from the International Crops Research Institute For The Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). She is also helping farmers increase the yields of castor, a major crop in the region through field demonstrations on the use of micronutrients. She also provides services like

informing local weather forecast, comprehensive information in agricultural practices and market prices using Pilot Information Hub of ICRISAT.

Ms. Chandrakala's tremendous energy, self-confidence and sincere commitment makes her a role model of highly respected in her society.

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### 7. Mr Davala Samson (Feb-2007)

Gundlapalli, Nakarikallu,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh  
Ph: 9866574484

D.Samson, aged 32 years, has studied S.S.L.C and hails from Gundla palli Village of Nakarikallu Mandal, in a forest area of Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. He is very dynamic and enthusiastic. He participated in many social activities in his village. Being a son of an Ex- Service man, he is a disciplined person, and a good organizer.

In association with Zilla Saksharatha Samiti as a Nodal Prerak, he started running a night literacy school since 1999 where with traditional methods he made 50 people literate in two years time. From 2002, he is running TCS- CBFL centre in his village and has completed 6 batches in two years. In these two years, he made 100 village illiterate people literate.

Being a mandal level volley-ball player, Samson could inspire village illiterate youth to become literate. His wife is an Anganwadi

teacher and has been helpful in bringing dropout school children to attend the CBFL centre. After developing reading skills, some of these dropouts have gone to bridge schools for higher studies.

He organized rural sport competitions and AIDS awareness training camps, encouraged rural people to build ISL sanitary lavatories and to attend polio, health and family welfare camps. Mr. Samson has done excellent social work for his village community, and has become role model for the village youngsters.

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### **8. Ms K Devaki (Feb-2007)**

**Ikkurru Post, Narasaraopet,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh 522601  
Cell: 9399308040**

A 29 year old B.A in Political Science from Nagarjuna University Guntur, K.Devaki is from Ikkurru village of Narasaraopet Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. Even though she comes from a poor family background, after completing her graduation, she preferred to stay with her fellow villagers to be helpful to them by doing social service.

Because of her leadership qualities, she could move freely among the poor illiterate people of the village. This helped her to motivate them to participate in village social activities. For 3 years she was running a night school, and in 2003 she started running TCS-CBFL program, completing 10 batches. Both through conventional method and through CBFL method, she made 200 village people literate. She proudly said that she was happy

to have the TCS computer without which she could not have achieved such high results.

Devaki motivated the village women and helped them to form 20 SHG groups. She herself is the leader 5 SHG groups.

---

### **9. Ms K Dhanalakshmi (Feb-2007)**

**Nelapadu, S.C. Colony, Tenali,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 08644-220779**

35 year old Dhanalakshmi is from Nelapadu Village of Tenali Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. A graduate from Nagarjuna University, Guntur, she is running a TCS-CBFL centre since 2001 which achieved 81% literacy in her village. She says that this method is very attractive for village women and it was easy to teach through this method.

As the leader of 30 DWACRA groups of her village, she organized income generating programs with the help of Jana Sikshana Samasthan which gave training in making items like wax candles, washing powders and phenyl. She actively involved herself in social activities like pulse polio program, HIV awareness activities and Government-sponsored Prajapadam, Indira Gramina Vikas Yojana programs. Her work commands respect from the village community.

**10. Mr Doddaka Mastanaiah  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. Hear  
Marrivari Street, Main Road,  
Indukurupet, Nellore Dist  
Andhra Pradesh  
Email: fakru\_nlr@yahoo.com

Doddaka Mastanaiah (30), from Mudivarthi Palem, Nalgonda Dist, Andhra Pradesh is a B.Com graduate with knowledge of computer operations. He is employed as an accountant in a private company and joined a voluntary organization HEAR, in the year 2002.

He has been actively involved in educational training activities for the underprivileged in rural area as a HEAR member. He started a free Computer Training Programme in Mudivarthi Palem and the surrounding villages with the objective of training youth from poor and lower middle class families in computer software and hardware. He is imparting information to all the people in his community about agriculture, aquaculture, cropping, seeding, various saving schemes and self-employment. He has a special inclination to work for the poor and is a prime motivator in spearheading projects that would directly benefit the deprived and underprivileged sections of the society.

**11. Mr S K Fakruddin  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
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Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
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Mobile:9246999897  
email:penindia\_India@yahoo.com

25 year old Fakruddin of Indukurpet mandal in Nellore Dt., Andhra Pradesh is a graduate in computer sciences. He works primarily as a social activist of PEN India and is motivated towards developing opportunities for unemployed people in rural areas. As a committed PEN Member he is providing free faculty services through various institutions in Nellore District as per the PENCIL theme and has provided around 4500 students with computer education.

To popularise ICT for knowledge and development he recently initiated a district level unit namely Nellore District ICT Action Committee for which he is the secretary, with the intent of creating knowledge centres in villages under the aegis of PEN India.

**12. Mr K Hanumantha Rao  
(Feb-2007)**

Peda Agrakaram,  
Piduguralla,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh

K. Hanumantha Rao comes from Pedda Agraharam Village of Piduguralla Mandal,

Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. He is a post graduate in Commerce from Nagarjuna University. 26 years old Hanumatha Rao's dynamic personality inspires co- young villagers to participate in village social activities.

Since 1997, he is associated with Zilla Saksharatha Samiti, working as prerak, running the CEC centre in his village. In 2002 he started TCS-CBFL center and till now he has made 250 illiterate people in his village literate.

Hanumantha Rao motivated and encouraged villagers to build individual sanitary lavatories, and to keep the village surroundings clean and green and also encouraged village youths to participate in self employment schemes. He is actively taking part in government welfare programmes like JanmaBhoomi, Jalayagnam, and NSS programmes. He persuades dropout school children to rejoin school and tries to admit the child labour victims in bridge schools.

---

### **13. Mr G Harsha Vardhan (Jul-2005)**

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
Renigunta Road,  
Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
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Harsha Vardhan from Mypadu village, Nellore Dt. Andhra Pradesh is a 25 year old B.Com graduate with computer qualifications. He

works with facilitating ICT in rural areas as per PEN formulae and is initiated into PENCIL programs of PEN INDIA.

Harsha Vardhan is trying to organise ICT oriented functions in coastal areas. He has given computer training to students and also engages himself in social activities such as addressing HIV/AIDS, helping old people etc. He has undergone training in social mobilisation and has an inclination to work for the poor and down trodden people.

---

### **14. Mr M Jai Ganesh (Jan-2006)**

C/o. World Corps India  
New # 57, Trunk Road Porur,  
Chennai -600 116,India  
Tel: + 91 44 24825384  
Mob: + 91 98401 71692  
E-mail: deepa@worldcorps.org

M.Jai Ganesh (26), a native of Kadepalli village, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, migrated with his family to Kuppam in 1995. Currently an undergraduate student, he is a dedicated youth, committed to the cause of rural development. He has participated in various welfare activities in the villages of Gudipalle Mandal and in many development projects of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on a voluntary basis. As a supervisor in "Akashra Tapasman" the Government of Andhra Pradesh programme for addressing illiteracy, Jai Ganesh was personally responsible for motivating and bringing several dropouts of schools back to the mainstream. He worked as volunteer for the eradication of child labour programme

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initiated by local NGOs and Government departments. He joined World Corps India, a non-profit and NGO working on ICT in Kuppam Constituency in 2002 and is playing an effective role in guiding and counselling the rural entrepreneurs.

Jai Ganesh has very strong communication skills and has been responsible for motivating and guiding women groups and youth group members to take up sustainable livelihood activities in both Chittoor and Cuddapah districts. He has helped in an intervention programme for more than 600 women in Kuppam to take up incense stick making as a livelihood and 100 women in Pulivendla in Cuddapah to take up papad making. He is currently involved in projects wherein he assists in social mobilization, SHG formation, capacity building of groups, conducting motivational training programmes, problem solving, liaising with coordinating organizations, and monitoring of the livelihood activities to ensure sustainability.

### 15. Ms S Jehera Begum (Jul-2005)

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45, year old S. Jehera Begum a graduate living at Vengal Rao Nagar in Nellore District is known in every household of five villages

as the one who is committed to public good and help for the poor women. She established her women's organisation namely "Janaki Mahila Mandali" in the year 1985 and is in the forefront for the emancipation of women suffering on account of oppressive life situations.

Now an active Member of PEN India she has undergone training towards facilitating different projects and programs sponsored by Government. To her credit she formed 60 self-help groups with 750 members and is running a tailoring and embroidery unit, a child development centre and an orphanage. She is very active in rural development initiatives and has organized training programmes for aqua farmers in the coastal belt and is at the door step of farmers who want any assistance in raising crops or getting support from various sources. She organized help for tsunami affected people.

With the help of her son who knows computer science, Jehera Begum took initiatives in ICT tools and started providing computer training to the rural people and is planning for the establishment of rural knowledge centres. Her hard work and enthusiasm to serve the most disadvantaged sections has carved a place for her in the community and she can be emulated by others as a role model.

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## **16. Mr Jyothendra Gunnam (Feb-2007)**

S/o G.M.K.R.V.Prasad,  
# 13-139/2, Ramachandra Road,  
Kuppam – 517 425.  
Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.

Jyothendra Gunnam aged 23 is a very committed and socially responsible young man from Kuppam, which has historically been one of Andhra Pradesh's neglected areas situated near the borders of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu . Due to his family's financial problems, Jyothendra could not pursue further education in a regular day college. So he decided to take up a job and continue his education in a distance mode, completing Bachelor of Commerce from Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Open University.

In 2002, he joined as a Volunteer in World Corps India, a non-profit and non-governmental organization working in ICT in Kuppam Constituency, Chittoor District and was promoted as a Project Coordinator to manage and supervise their Community Information Centres Project. With enthusiasm, talent and commitment to serve people, he has shown tremendous leadership abilities in guiding the lower income youth of Kuppam to take up sustainable livelihoods. He has been involved in training entrepreneurs in computers and internet and entrepreneurship development skills and in administrating training programmes. He has motivated and guided several young people who have taken up the business of setting up CICs in their rural areas.

Jyothendra is currently involved in the day to day monitoring and supervising of 13 CICs in Kuppam that are owned, operated and managed by rural unemployed youth. He also facilitates the incubation of new business opportunities for the CIC entrepreneurs by working with several partnering organizations.

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## **17. Ms Koru Sarojini (Feb-2007)**

BC 3<sup>rd</sup> Colony, Kolakalur, Tenali,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh  
08644 281727

35 years old K. Sarojini is from Kolakaluru Village in the coastal plain area of Tenali Mandal, Guntur Dist. Andhra Pradesh. She has 10th Std education and is a good organizer and a good motivator. She has been working as a Prerak since 1997, running night adult education centre. From 2001 she is running TCS- CBFL centre along with CEC centre. Now her village literacy rate is 78%. She proudly says that because of the CBFL-TCS computer, she was able to achieve this high percentage.

Sarojini not only actively participates in various social activities but also motivates her fellow villagers to take part in government - sponsored welfare activities like HIV / AIDS awareness programme, pulse polio campaigns, mothers' feeding campaign, and in distribution of T.B drugs to affected villagers. She received the appreciation of the Village President for active participation in various social activities.

**18. Ms P Lakshmi (Feb-2007)**

TCS Adult Literacy Program,  
TATA Consultancy Services,  
No.1, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,  
Vadapalani, Chennai – 600 026.  
Ph: 044 – 5550 5555  
E-mail: m.som@tcs.com

33 years old Lakshmi a Graduate from Nagarjuna University, is from Prathuru Village of Tadepalli Mandal, Guntur. She is the motivating Prerak for achieving literacy in her village.

In the night school that she started earlier, she educated 80 people through traditional, conventional method. In 2002 she was allocated one TCS donated computer to run the CBFL centre in her village. She says happily that motivating people has become easier for her, and more illiterate people are attracted to the CBFL centre. She is proud to have completed 9 batches and made 150 villagers literate.

Lakshmi is the leader of 10 Self Help Groups and helped group members to avail loan facilities from the banks to start small business. She is very active and enthusiastic to inspire women to participate in awareness programs like AASHA, HIV awareness or pulse polio programmes. She has organized income generating programs with the help of Jana Sikshana Samasthan by which many women started self employed schemes making washing powder, wax candles, and washing soaps, which benefited many of them.

**19. Mr S K Lal Ahamed (Aug-2006)**

Velaipalem,  
Railway Colony Road,  
Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 0861-2524004

52 year Old S.K.Lal Ahamed, a graduate in Arts, has been volunteering for the social causes since 1982 and rendered much humanitarian services to people in the coastal area of Nellore. He started a society namely Nehru Bharathi Educational Institution for education of children in the coastal belt.

Nellore District being prone to natural disasters like tsunami and cyclone, Lal Ahmed was a saviour of the affected people and the work he has done for their rehabilitation and livelihood is remarkable. He is appreciated by Government Departments as well as by the local people. During the 2004 tsunami, he organised relief for the affected people of Venketachalam Mandal and with the help of Government and Voluntary Agencies he helped the fisher folk to get boats, nets and other prerequisites to start a new life. He is also devoting much of his time for spreading computer literacy and Village Knowledge Centre concepts among the poor and marginalised sections. In all aspects, he is a true, committed social worker and good role model working for the betterment of the poor and down trodden people.

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**20. Ms Latha Gauri (Aug-2006)**

Marpally (Mandal),  
Ranga Reddy District,  
Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 0841-623 8508

A 26 year old graduate, Latha Gauri is a trained video producer and is a print and video reporter in her village. A community reporter with a difference, she works towards developing her village and bringing in attitudinal change, with the tool of a news magazine and video in her hand.

Having been married at a very young age and leading her life alone with her 5 year old son, she has been instrumental in stopping many child marriages in her village and helping young girls pursue further education. She informs her community about the health impacts to women because of child marriage, and also conveys to the mainstream information about the problems in her village. Development issues that have been captured by her camera are screened regularly for the benefit of the community and to influence public opinion through the "Namma TV" channel which features local news, farming information, health alerts and discussions with experts. (A monthly community magazine brought out by the SHGs gets her coordination also she highlights local issues to address the social needs and information that could be used by the community).

Latha Gauri had studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Standard when she had got married. Now with her

determination she has been able to complete her graduation through distance education. She is associated with SOCIETY FOR ELIMINATION OF RURAL POVERTY, Hyderabad, provides her with regular support and capacity building to carry out various programmes in her village. In recognition of her work and competency OWSA gave her an opportunity to express her concerns at the UN plenary at WSIS II in Tunisia. Her key motto is education and empowerment, to which she has sincerely dedicated herself.

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**21. Ms P Lilly Florence (Feb-2007)**

Piduguralla,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh

Lilly is an Intermediate qualified 29 year old from Piduguralla Village, of Piduguralla Mandal, Guntur dist, Andhra Pradesh. She is very active and dynamic, taking part in many social activities. She is involved in an organization for eradication of child labour in her village and in surrounding villages, and motivates dropout school children to attend school.

She conducts awareness programmes for a clean and green village, and organizes cleanliness projects every week. She is actively involved in programmes for empowerment of women through Jana Shikshana Samasthan, and Zilla Saksharatha Samithi and conducts training camps on stitching and embroidering for the empowerment of women.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Lilly started TCS- CBFL centre in 2003 and completed 10 batches of 15 learners. As a child labour eradication organizer and school dropout prevention organizer, she facilitates many children in attending her CEC and CBFL education centre.

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## **22. Ms T Manjula Devi (Jul-2005)**

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
Renigunta Road,  
Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone:(0877) 2280720,5577796  
Mobile:9246999897  
email:penindia\_india@yahoo.com

Manjula Devi aged 35 of Tandur village in Ranga Reddy District of Andhra Pradesh is a dedicated worker engaged in the betterment of rural areas. She has studied up to intermediate and spends much of her time to secure the rights of people. She has organised around 600 women into Livelihood and Ecological Security Groups - self help groups initiated with the twin objectives of acquiring livelihood security and ecological security for all. She is doing effective work in helping the community to solve their day to day problems. She has spearheaded an initiative to familiarize farmers with organic manure and environmentally friendly pesticides.

With the help of the mandal office Manjula Devi helped women to get various assistance to improve their living conditions. She took many steps to solve the drinking water problems of the locals, get pattas for the

homeless and help abandoned children get admission in school. She has shown keen interest in encouraging groups for income generation activities and milch animal rearing.

Manjula Devi has taken steps to learn computer operations and is keen to introduce ICT tools to the extent required for communications and feed back for sustainable rural prosperity initiatives. She works for public good and is trying to develop her abilities towards serving the community around her.

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## **23. Ms K Mary Saroja (Feb-2007)**

Kancherlapalem Post, Tenali,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh

Mary Saroja comes from Kancherlapalem Village of Tenali Mandal, Guntur Dist Andhra Pradesh. She is a Post Graduate in Commerce from Nagarjuna University Guntur and even though she is highly qualified, she preferred to do some social work for village upliftment.

She is working as prerak since 1998, teaching village illiterates in night schools, and in 2002, she started TCS-CBFL centre. With both these concepts she has achieved 80 % literacy in her village. She says most of the neo-learners are coming to the CBFL centre to sustain their reading and writing skills.

Saroja is the leader of 5 DWACRA groups in the village and she is continuously encouraging and motivating others in

formation of the SHG and DWACRA groups. She actively takes part in Pulse Polio programme, HIV-AIDS awareness activities, and also in Govt programmes like Prajapadam, Janmabhoomi, and Rajiv Rojgar Yojana.

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#### **24. Mr Mohammed Riyaz (Aug-2006)**

20-2-1750, Raveendra Nagar,  
Near Kondayapalem Gate,  
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

Mohammed Riaz is 25 and holds an MBA degree. With his knowledge of the application of ICT he has started motivating grass-root level people to learn modern technologies such as computer, internet etc. so that they can get empowered to solve many problems of their day to day lives. He has involved himself in social work out of compassion and sympathy for the suffering poor people. He used to spend much of his spare time by creating awareness among the rural people and slum dwellers and helping them in getting government help for housing, livelihood and other such assistance.

Mohammed Riaz has contributed much for the computer education of girls students and is seen as a good Samaritan for the poor. He travels in rural areas to prepare projects and estimates to help women Self Help Groups start small businesses and eke out their livelihood. In every aspect this sincere and honest young man is a worthy social worker, playing an excellent role for community development.

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#### **25. Mr B Mruthyunjaya Murthy (Feb-2007)**

Nadigaddapalem Post,  
Tsundur,  
Guntur Dist., 522 318, Andhra Pradesh

Mruthyunjaya Murthy, 40 years old, comes from Nadigaddapalem Village of Chundurur Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. He has a graduate degree in Education from Nagarjuna University Guntur. Working as nodal Prerak in association with Zilla Saksharatha Samithi, he started TCS – CBFL centre in 2003 through which he achieved 83% literacy rate in his village. The credit for this all goes to Mr. Murthy and his efforts. His CEC centre is helping neo-literates to sustain their reading skills.

He also motivated his fellow villagers to build individual sanitary latrines and involved himself in social service work such as helping the elderly village people to get old age pensions from government agencies and in assisting with issuing of photo identity cards for the elections.

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#### **26. Ms Mulamalla Sushmavardhan Reddy (Jul-2005)**

C/o. Knowledge Management and  
Sharing ICRISAT  
Patancheru 502 324, Andhra Pradesh  
Tel: +91 40 3071 3071

31 year –old Mulamalla Sushmavardhan Reddy holds a B.Com. degree from Govt.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Degree College for Women Mahabubnagar, Andhra Pradesh, and diplomas in PGDCA and DCA . For the past three years she has been associated with ICRISAT, Patancheru in its activities at Aadarsha Mahila Sahakara Samaikya Ltd, Moosapet, Addakal (Mdl), Mahabubnagar, collecting and providing useful data pertaining to agriculture. Using her software skills, she downloads daily weather forecast data from the Yahoo Weather Website, visualizes drought-related CDs to farmers and records their feedback and collects market rates from sandies from 3 villages every week. She also collects other agricultural data such as on diseases of crops and livestock, conducts needs analysis and distance education.

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**27. Ms Mummadi Reddy Sujatha (Jul-2005)**

C/o. APRPRP  
III Floor,  
Summit Apartments,  
Door No 5-10-188/2,  
Hill Fort Road,  
Hyderabad - 500 004  
Ph: +91-40-55660315/6

Mummadi Reddy Sujatha comes from a small village called Gurappareddipalli in the Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh. The 30 year old Sujatha studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> Class (+ 2). She has been involved with community activities since 1999-2000.

She worked as a tailoring teacher for poor women in a small NGO from 2000-2001.

After that she worked as a Mandal Resource Person (MRP) for Poorest of the Poor (PoP) survey work in Porumamilla Mandal of Cuddapah District for nearly one year, identifying PoP families in that area. During 2002-2004 she worked as SHG animator in her own village, strengthening the old DWCRA (Development of Women and Child Rural Area) groups and formation of new SHG groups in APRPRP Project.

Sujatha is a good communicator with grassroot women. She formed nearly 25 new SHG groups in 2 Panchayat areas and organized more than 500 members into SHGs. She solved many problems with her own ability or with the help of the women community.

In September 2004, she was selected as a Community News Reporter for Mahodayam News Magazine from Porumamilla Mandal area. She proved herself as a good communicator and collected many success stories from the community and was elected as Editorial Board member of Mahodayam News Magazine.

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**28. Ms V Naga Malleshwari (Feb-2007)**

Angalakuduru, Tenali,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh – 522211  
Ph: 08644-226862.

Mrs. Naga Malleshwari who comes from Angalakuduru of Tenali Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> class and is 39 years old . She is very enthusiastic and energetic in taking part in village social

activities. She started a night school in her village to educate the illiterate women and 100 people were made literate by conventional method.

After getting TCS- CBFL computer from Deputy Director Adult Education, Guntur Dist, it has become very easy for her to motivate, and educate village illiterates. Mostly women were attracted to this CBFL method, and she completed 6 batches within two years of time very easily. At present, the village literacy rate has gone up to 78%, and she said she was thankful to TCS. Without this CBFL, she could have not achieved this literacy percentage in her village.

Naga Malleshwari is the leader of SHG groups. Their yearly turn over is 40 lakhs. With her encouragement, 60% people in her village have achieved ISL facilities and her efforts in improving the literacy rate in her village has been appreciated.

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### **29. Mr N N Narasimha Reddy (Aug-2006)**

**Nandimandalam Village  
Pendimarri, Mondel  
Kadapa Dist, - 516 218  
Andhra Pradesh**

40 year old N.N. Narasimha Reddy is a graduate and experienced agriculturist who has been practicing SRI method of rice cultivation for the past 3 years. He is the first person to successfully adopt the SRI practice in the district. An innovative and dedicated farmer, Narasimha Reddy has been using biofertilizers for a long time. He has designed

new implements and helps the N.G. Ranga university to spread these technologies to neighbouring farmers for the betterment of the farming community.

In addition, he assists with conducting training programmes for farmers on various crops and is convener of Nandishwara Rythu Club. His social work includes organising medical camps and eye operations.

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### **30. Mr D H V L Narayana Murthy (Feb-2007)**

**Surepally Post, Bhattiprolu Mandal,  
Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh 522256  
Phone: 08648 248852**

Narayana Murthy comes from Vemavaram Village of Bhattiprolu Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. He is a 35 years old dynamic person with a commerce degree apart from Diploma in Computer Applications. He is a good singer and good organizer having leadership qualities to inspire village youth.

Since 2005 he is serving as chief organizer of Sri Satya Sai Seva Organization, and working as a coordinator of Repalle Zone Youth Association. He is the nodal Prerak associated with the Akshara Deepthi Programs. Till 2003 he had been running a night school, and in 2003 he started TCS-CBFL center in his village through which he completed 10 batches making 150 villagers literate.

Since Narayana Murthy is associated with many social organizations he became a role modal for young people of the village. He

## ANDHRA PRADESH

organized Medical and Veterinary camps and motivated the villagers to take part in pulse polio programme and HIV / AIDS awareness programmes. In his village and in surrounding villages no social program takes place without his involvement.

### 31. Ms Pemmasani Komala (Jul 2005)

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
Renigunta Road,  
Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone:(0877) 2280720,5577796  
Mobile:9246999897  
email:penindia\_india@yahoo.com

Born to an agricultural family in an interior village in Kaverirajapuram of Tiruvallur District, 41 year old Pemmasani Komala is an epitome of women's power in Tirupathi and surrounding rural Mandals, who transformed the lives of the most neglected and discriminated rural women, uplifting them with hopes of a dignified life.

Service to humanity irrespective of caste and creed enabled her to move among the families of dalits living in Uppangi Harijanwada, challenging the high caste feelings of her family members, and helped address many needs of the poor families, such as drinking water, roads to the colony, houses to the poorest of the poor, ration cards, old age pension and children's education. She was a pioneer in educating the poor woman for small family norms and

she was with them in getting health facilities. She could fetch with her SSLC studies a job as an Anganwadi teacher in the ICDS centre run by an NGO in 1994 and also got involved in NFE schools for many years. In 2001 she joined PEN India and established Livelihood and Ecological Security Groups (LES Groups), a self help group aiming for holistic development at the grass root levels and involved in creating environmental awareness. She guided the households in water harvesting and conservation techniques and encouraged them to adopt organic farming and promoted floriculture and horticulture in rural areas. She organised skill development and income generation programs like tailoring and embroidery for poor women and is also continuing her efforts for making the rural women literate.

Pemmasani Komala was given the NTR award for her dedicated services to the local community, and CEE Ahmedabad selected her community organisations for Model Eco System Management programs because of their environmental initiatives. She has taken special interest to enable ICT enabled developments and she organised free computer classes and internet operations for rural women in adjacent Mandals under the PENCIL Project of PEN and is keen to facilitate knowledge to rural people for better farming and solutions of their day to day problems through the 'every village a knowledge centre' theme.

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**32. Mr U Ramakrishna Charyulu  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. Hear

Marrivari Street, Main Road,  
Indukurpet, Nellore Dist  
Andhra Pradesh

Email: fakru\_nlr@yahoo.com

Mr. U.Ramakrishna Charyulu (34), a native of Purini village of Indupur, Andhra Pradesh, is a postgraduate in Computer Application. Professionally a teacher, he has also been a community worker for the last 10 years. After joining HEAR 3 years ago, he started a free computer education centre in Purini to educate poor and lower middle class people in computer software and hardware. He provides information about agriculture, aquaculture, cropping, seeding, saving schemes, self-employment etc.

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**33. Mr S A Raoof (Jul 2005)**

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP

19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,

Renigunta Road,

Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh

Phone:(0877) 2280720,5577796

Mobile:9246999897

email:penindia\_india@yahoo.com

48 year old S.A.Raoof is a community worker for the last 10 years and is striving hard for improving the living conditions of rural poor especially the agriculturists and the fishermen in the coastal Mandal of Indukurpet in Nellore District. With a basic degree in arts he took

to social service since 1990 and established the Polymer Education Society in Indukurpet village initially with an aim to develop the area and help the poor and needy.

He took an active interest in PEN India philosophy of networking with grassroot organizations and groups and spearheaded many projects in health, environment, education etc. through networking. Raoof could harness a number of programs from Government of India and established a women's hostel, two old age homes, and a technical training centre for computer, TV and radio mechanisms. He has formed a District Association of computer and other information technologists and opened up an institute for training to facilitate rural connectivity and development, and is well honoured in PEN India circles.

Raoof was also in the forefront for facilitating relief to tsunami affected people of Indukurpet Mandal and co-ordinated both government and non-governmental efforts and assisted the coastal fishermen to get nets, boats etc. to start a new life. He is a role model, working very hard towards the betterment of rural people.

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**34. Mr M Renukaraman  
(Jul 2005)**C/o. V. Gollapalli, Vasanadu P.O.,  
Kuppam Mandal, Chittoor District  
Andhra Pradesh.

Telephone: 08570-241055

M. Renukaraman belongs to Gollapalli in

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, and has studied upto Intermediate. He has learnt folk remedies from his father Vaidyam Muneppa, which he has been practicing for the last 10 years. A young and active health worker with an unquestionable spirit of service, he has been assisting in documentation and training of villagers and especially women village resource persons in the planning and implementation of Home Herbal Garden programme.

Renukaraman has been involved with community activities since 1994. He is a Progressive Farmer and has facilitated Home Herbal Garden programme at Kuppam Mandal and helped promote around 50 home herbal gardens. He organised village level training programmes on home remedies in 8 villages in and around Paipalayam, coordinated by the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions based in Bangalore.

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### **35. Mr S K Riyazuddin (Aug-2006)**

**Naryana Reddypet Village,  
Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.  
Phone: 098493 53898**

26 year old S.K.Riyazuddin has been involved in social welfare activity from a very young age. Being an Electronic and Communication Diploma holder he is taking special interest in spreading knowledge through internet and radio. He has motivated women in Nellore District and Naryana Reddypet to form Self Help Groups and arranged a number of

welfare programs for them. He was assisting Polymer Education Society in the maintenance of an old age home, women's hostel etc.

Riyazuddin has participated in many training programs and is trying to help the poor people in rural areas to develop skills. He is also providing computer training to poor children. He facilitates by identifying good market for farmers' products to save them from distress sales and suicides. In addition, he is taking active part in environment programmes, ground water recharging and health initiatives with special stress on TB.

His selfless service for the betterment of marginalised and neglected sections deserves admiration and he stands as a role model for the present day youth.

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### **36. Mr S K Sadiq (Aug-2006)**

**Naryan Reddypet, Nellore,  
Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 98868 92921**

26 year old Sadiq has special aptitude for working in rural areas and has been helping the coastal people since his school days thereby earning the good will of all people in Naryana Reddypet Mandal. Since coastal Andhra is prone to frequent cyclones he takes personal interest in helping disaster affected people and farmers when cyclones occur. At the time of the tsunami in 2004, he took up serious work for helping the affected people, procuring nets and boats for fishermen.

After his Computer Science education he

started training women and poor people in computer skills with the support of Polymer Educational Society whereby more than 200 students were given training. Though he has subsequently taken up professional work, he plans to spend all his leisure time and holidays to work for the poor women, children and neglected people. His energetic enthusiasm has helped many poor families to improve their living standard and educate their children.

Sadiq has organised youth activities and he has given the leadership for youth to work during times of disasters and other difficulties. His voluntary service and application of his ICT skills for the benefit of poor people makes him a good role model for younger generations.

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### **37. Mr S K Sajeeth (Aug-2006)**

**Indukurpet,  
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 0861-2341837**

After graduating in computer science, 23 year old Sajeeth, belonging to Nellore in coastal Andhra Pradesh, learned the importance of Information and Computer Technologies and the revolution it can make in rural areas for improving the opportunities for small and marginalised farmers, fishermen and women. He took up a mission to create awareness and sensitise NGO's to start training programmes and offered free services to many institutions. This benefited hundreds of boys and girls who were able to learn computer applications.

Sajeeth also helped rural women to form Self Help Groups and start micro credit activities and assisted youth in skill development. He helps the women's groups and social organisations in many ways with an aim to empower and bring change in the lives of poor people. His interest in community development and disaster management work and the sincerity and integrity of his actions make him a model for other social activists.

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### **38. Ms B Samrajyam (Feb-2007)**

**C/o. TCS Adult Literacy Program,  
TATA Consultancy Services,  
No.1, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,  
Vadapalani, Chennai – 600 026.  
Ph: 044 – 5550 5555  
E-mail – m.som@tcs.com**

A post-graduate in Sociology from Nagarjuna University Guntur, 25 year old B.Samrajyam comes from Ananthavarappadu Village of Vatticherukuru Mandal, an arid area of Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. She is the leader of the Young Women's Association of the village. With the help of the young village girls, she organized family planning camps, ophthalmic camps and blood donation camps in her village and surrounding villages. Her youth and energetic enthusiasm inspires the youngsters of the village.

Samrajyam started a CEC center with the help of Deputy Director, Adult Education Depot in 2001 and made 100 illiterate people literate. She was appreciated by the Mandala

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Praja Parishad President for her active involvement in Govt. Sponsored Programs.

**39. Ms T Sapna (Jul-2005)**

C/o PEN India, IITE, LES GAP  
19-3-1K/A, KCR COMPLEX,  
Renigunta Road,  
Tirupathi-517 501, Andhra Pradesh  
Phone:(0877) 2280720,5577796  
Mobile:9246999897  
email:penindia\_india@yahoo.com

Sapna, 23, a postgraduate in commerce was very interested in community related activities even during her studies. She used to help sick and poor and co-ordinate assistance towards their relief.

She is associated with PEN India and was instrumental in organising rural women into self-help groups namely Livelihood and Ecological Security Groups and assisted them in skill development activities. She sought assistance from the training officers of IITE and arranged IRME (Integrated Resource Management and Empowerment) programs for the skill development of rural women in mushroom cultivation, agricultural practices, livestock rearing, cottage industries, also tailoring and embroidery. She helped in getting bank assistance for starting various income generation programs for the poor and neglected sections.

Sapna has sufficient knowledge in computer operations and has encouraged women to undergo training in computer operations. She is keen to introduce ICT enabled service for dissemination of information to the grass

root level people. She is a promising Social Activist with the zeal to work and transform the community.

**40. Mr Shesha Rao Rathod (Jul-2005)**

C/o Centre for Collective  
Development (CCD)  
Indian Institute of Management  
Bannerghatta Road  
Bangalore 560076, India  
Tel: 91-80-2699-3285(O)  
Fax: 91-80-2658-4050

Shesha Rao Rathod is a native of Adilabad's tribal belt. His village got a road connection only last year. In childhood he and his family had to walk 8 kilometres to the nearest bus stop. His parents even today live in that village.

Shesha completed his elementary school in the Government school in the village. Later he got a scholarship to go to the residential High School in Utnoor, which is the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Headquarters in the District. He went on to complete his degree and an MBA from Kagaznagar. Shesha then joined the AP Government's anti poverty program, called Velugu as a community coordinator. He mobilized over 3000 women in Jainur Mandal, organized them into Self Help Groups, Village Organizations and a Mandal level Mahila Samakhyas. He successfully introduced soya marketing through these collectives. Later, he left and joined the Centre for Collective Development (CCD).

He says he felt stifled in the red tape in the Government project. He left a prize job and privileges including a jeep and financial powers to head the NGO at the District level.

Shesha has good understanding of rural development, social mobilization and agriculture marketing and finance. However, it is his commitment to development of the people that stand out. His passion extends much beyond his Lambada community and extends to other tribal groups there including the Gonds, Andhs and the so called Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) called Kollam. He has motivated and built an excellent team in this area and his work and results are outstanding.

In his own words "I belong to this place and I will live here and eventually die here. There is no need to go to big cities and so on. Where can we get such an opportunity to do satisfying work?"

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#### **41. Ms T Shobha Rani (Aug-2006)**

Dorathopu,  
Navalac gardens,  
Nellore - 524314  
Andhra Pradesh  
Phone: 0861-5531244

T.Shobha Rani aged 48 with Intermediate education, has actively participated in community Development Works in various rural mandals of Nellore District and is an ardent worker for the cause of women and children's welfare. She began to serve the community through Polymer Educational

Society and motivated women to form nearly 100 Self Help Groups including DWACRA. She imparted skill trainings to women with the support of DRDA and other agencies and helped a number of women to start self employment and earn a livelihood. She also took an interest in helping elderly women, destitutes and widows, and organised assistance for them.

Shibha Rani has played an effective role in HIV/AIDS campaign and in environment campaigns, for which she received appreciation from Government officials and local people. She is an excellent volunteer in the field of service to the poor and is worthy to be a guide for others

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#### **42. Mr P N Shivaraj (Jul-2005)**

jPaipalayam Village  
Kuppam Mandal  
Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh.  
Tel: 08570-259360,  
jassshivraj@yahoo.com;  
jassshivraj@rediffmail.com

Hailing from Paipalayam Village, Chittoor District. Andhra Pradesh, 38 year-old P.N. Shivaraj is a graduate and committed development worker with unmatched sense of conviction for the development of rural poor and especially for sustainable development of small and marginal farmers.

Involved with community activities since 1991, Shivraj worked initially as a team member in a local NGO, namely CORE, Kuppam as an animator and cluster coordinator and then since 1993, is working

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as Founder Secretary of an NGO, Jana Abyudaya Seva Samithi, a registered society he established. He has worked as Programme Coordinator of various programmes supported by local State Government Agencies in the areas of agriculture development, agricultural technology management, watershed programme and HIV/ AIDS awareness programme. He has also served on the PHC Advisory Committee of Paipalayam and Mallanoor and contributed to solving local problems through people's organisation namely Loksatta, as a President for the Kuppam constituency.

His latest work has been in the area of environment protection as community organiser for Vana Samrakshana Samithis under AP Community Forest Management programme, and since April 2004 onwards, as a Programme Coordinator for establishment of home herbal gardens under a programme implemented by Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions.

**43. Mr B Siva Reddy (Feb-2007)**

Nutakki Post, Guntur Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh – 522 303  
Ph: 08645-275462

Mr. Bhimi Reddy Siva Reddy, 45 years of age, has studied upto 10th class and comes from Nutakki Village of the arid Mangalagiri Mandal of Guntur Dist of Andhra Pradesh. Serving as the executive Member of the local Red Cross Society , P.H.C. Advisory Committee member, and S.C. Hostel Advisory committee member of the village,

he is a dynamic person and a role model in his village.

As the Nodal Prerak, he is associated with District Adult Education depot since 1995, pioneering the literacy needs in the villages. He believes in scientific knowledge for the prosperity of the villages and has organized science fairs in various villages.

Siva Reddy had made nearly 150 people literate through the conventional method of teaching. He started CBFL- TCS centre in 2002 and completed 10 batches through which 150 learners were made literate. He said that he never faced any difficulty in motivating and attracting illiterate people to the centre after he started CBFL programme. Through this innovative concept, he could easily complete 10 batches within a short period. People were very happy when they could read newspapers within 30 learning hours or within two three weeks. He said people could sustain their acquired reading ability through this concept.

Being an Executive member of Red Cross Society, he organized Blood Donation Camps throughout Mangalagiri Mandal and in his capacity as P.H.C member, he has organized family planning camps in surrounding villages. He is also very active in motivating women to form SHG groups. With this he has become a role model not only in his village but in surrounding villages also.

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**44. Ms G Sridevi (Feb-2007)**

Komerapudi, Sattenapalli,  
Guntur Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh

G. Sridevi is a B.A degree holder from Nagarjuna University, Guntur. She comes from Komirepudi Village in the arid zone of Sattenapalli Mandal, Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh. 35 year old Sridevi is associated with Zilla Saksharatha Samithi, working as prerak.

She was running a night school for adult women of the village and could make 50 villagers literate. Recently she started TCS-CBFL centre in March 2006. Since the concept was attractive, she said she could complete one batch of 20 learners and the second batch was running now.

Sridevi is also the leader of 4 SHG groups and organizing income generating camps with the help of Jana Sikshana Samasthan, which gives training in tailoring, embroidery and wax candle making to the village women.

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**45. Ms E Sujatha (Feb-2007)**

Pedakakai Luthur Giri,  
Guntur Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh

39 years old Emmella Sujatha is a postgraduate from Nagarjuna University, Guntur and has also done her M.Phil in history. With her academic background, she could get any government job easily, but she wanted to do some kind of social work in

her village which is in an arid area. So she started her social work by becoming Prerak and motivating the village illiterates by organizing Kalajatharas. By conventional method 50 people were made literate.

In 2003 Sujatha started TCS- CBFL centre and completed 7 batches of 15 learners. She said that this CBFL method is very attractive and very easy for learners to understand. She has participated in government social activities like Indira Awas Yojana, and pulse polio programmes.

She is the leader of 5 DWACRA, SHG groups, and encouraging other women to form SHG groups.

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**46. Mr K Suresh Babu (Feb-2007)**

Takkella padu post, Pedakakki,  
Guntur Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh

27 year old K. Suresh Babu of Takkellapadu Village in the arid zone of Guntur Dist, Andhra Pradesh is a Commerce graduate from Nagarjuna University Guntur. He believes only a knowledge society would bring drastic change in the villages, for which illiteracy should be eradicated.

He started TCS- CBFL program in 2003 and completed 5 batches through which nearly 80 people were made literate. With his computer knowledge, and education background he could run the CBFL centre successfully. He says even school dropouts

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are attending his education center which runs in the evening and neo-literates are attending to sustain their reading ability.

Suresh Babu is an active motivator in helping villagers to build ISL sanitary lavatories. Nearly 70% of the villagers have become the beneficiaries of this programme. He is fully engaged in advocating the awareness of HIV through AASHA, CHARKA programs not only in his village but in surrounding villages also, actively participates in Govt. sponsored welfare programs like Prajapadam, Gramina Rojgar Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana, helps the aged villagers to get pensions from the Govt. agencies.

### 47. Ms R Swapna (Feb-2007)

Pamkunta Post, Rajapeta Mandal,  
Kurrara Village, Nalgonda Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh 508105

Mrs Swapna aged 26 years is the resident of Kurraram Village of Rajapeta Mandal, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh. Having completed her Intermediate, she started a night school to educate the illiterate village women, and gradually she could attract school dropouts to attend her night school.

In 2002, she was associated with Zilla Saksharatha Samiti and appointed as Prerak by the Deputy Director Adult Education Nalgonda Dist. In 2003 she started TCS-CBFL centre and through this CBFL program, she completed 8 batches of 15 learners. In addition, she is teaching voluntarily in the village primary school. She was appreciated by the Mandal Praja Parishad President for

active participation in government-sponsored programs like the pulse polio programme and HIV awareness programmes.

### 48. Mr Taviti Bhavanarayana (Feb-2007)

Bhrugubanda, Sattenepalli,  
Guntur Dist.,  
Andhra Pradesh  
Ph:08641-243343

T. Bhavanarayana is a Commerce Degree holder, and a good drama artist and playwright, coming from Bhrugubanda village of Sattenapally Mandal in the arid zone Guntur dist, Andhra Pradesh. He is the leader of Rajiv Yuvashakti, and Raitu Mitra of his village. As a dramatist, he commands good respect not only from his village but also from surrounding villages. He sings motivating songs that encourage village youth to participate in village social activities.

He started TCS-CBFL centre in 2002 and completed 8 batches covering 120 illiterates who have become literate. He is also working as prerak for Zilla Saksharatha Samithi in the village and is running CEC centre to sustain the reading and writing skills of the neo-literates of the village.

With his artistic skills, Bhavanarayana is engaged in motivating people to participate in welfare work. Inspired by his songs, most of the villagers have benefited by participating in the government-sponsored welfare programmes.

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### **49. Mr Vanga Ram Reddy (Jul 2005)**

**The Koutla-B MACTS Ltd, Koutla B Village, Sarangapur Mandal, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh.**

Vanga Ram Reddy is a 36 years old farmer hailing from Koutla-B village, Adilabad district, and has studied upto SSC. He hails from a family which is respected by villagers for their social involvement and concern for others and has been working with community activities since 2001. By nature he is participative and a good initiator. These attributes acquired inherently and the desire to do something good to the village has put him in the forefront for taking the lead for doing substantial work in the formation of MACTS (Mutually Aided Cooperative Credit and Thrifts Society) and taking its performance to the new heights in this backward district.

Koutla-B village is known for commercial crops such as cotton and chillies and also known for good yields among other progressive villages in the district. However, the farmers used heavy dosages of pesticide indiscriminately to control the insect pests in cotton, at an average of 18-20 spray applications during the crop season, which is a costly investment accounting to Rs. 4000-6000/- per acre on pest management only. Though farmers are fairly aware of IPM and other crop management programs, due to lack of collectiveness among the farming

community and with internal competition encouraged by the pesticide dealers and distributors they couldn't implement any one of these to reduce the cost of cultivation.

Mr. Ram Reddy had played a key role in motivating the farmers to come forward and implement the IPM package at least one acre of each farmer. Despite high pressure from the local distributors and others he never succumbed to the situations but kept his commitment high for the cause. Mr. Ram Reddy's continuous efforts in making MACTS an all-important success has paved the way to other villagers in the district where the impact is very visible.

To day Mr. Ram Reddy is an accepted role model for all farmers in the area to gear up their techniques and learn more in the process of obtaining sustainability in their agriculture. He supported the initiative taken by BASIX to bring all the MACTS in to one form to negotiate better with the suppliers and buyers. He is the founder president of the MACTS and still continuing in the position as the members again elected him unanimously. He travelled widely after taking charge as the MACTS President to see different crops features and new innovations in the field of agriculture field as part of learning and also disseminating to others.

**50. Mr T Vijay Bhaskar  
(Jul-2005)**

AIF DE Coordinator  
Kuppam pin-517425  
Chittoor Dt, Andhra Pradesh

A resident of Kuppam in Chittoor Dt, Andhra Pradesh, 32 year old T. Vijay Bhaskar's has an M.Sc degree. His objective has always been to impart quality education to needy students in rural areas, to use ICT in the field of education as a powerful tool to enhance teaching and student learning beyond the classroom, and exploring local resources and traditional technologies for effective use for the benefit of the rural masses.

He has been involved during the past 10 years in (a) Educational training for underprivileged in rural areas, (b) Help in market interface with poor artisans, (c) Market networking of products produced by Ponduru weavers, (d) Development and implementation of hand made paper technology for tribal regions, to bring down the cost of paper, by using environmentally-friendly the local fiber materials like banana, used gunny bags and local shrubs (e) Marketing network for traditional vegetable dyed lac toys and (f) Development of web interfaces for some popular sports web pages.

At present he is working with the HP AIF-DE Project Kuppam: DE (Digital Equalizer) is one of the flagship programs of AIF a philanthropic organization working with an objective to accelerate social and economic change in India. The main aim of DE is to

provide opportunities for underprivileged children in India to enhance their learning through the use of Digital technology. AIF in partnership with HP, is working with the Govt of Andhra Pradesh in 10 Government schools in Kuppam area. Vijay Bhaskar is also involved with the Vidya Vahini project Kuppam, a central government pilot education project aimed to integrate technology in to classroom teaching and with the World Bank sponsored Andhra Pradesh 1000 Schools Project

In all the above activities, Vijay Bhaskar is a very effective team member, who will enthuse and motivate his team, even while performing his assigned task. He has a special liking to work for the poor and is a prime motivator in spearheading projects that would directly benefit underprivileged people. He is able to establish a very quick rapport with the common man, identify their needs and organize his own skills as well as his contacts, to conceptualize schemes that will be beneficial in enhancing the standard of living of the poor.

**51. Ms J Vimalamma (Jan-2006)**

C/o ICRISAT  
Patancheru 502 324  
Andhra Pradesh, India  
Tel: +91 40 3071 3071

Ms. J.Vimalamma (34), belongs to a small village called Janampeta in Addakal Mandal of Mehabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh. She is a dynamic and active social worker, having been part and parcel of all village community

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development activities from an early age. Her zeal and zest towards village development activities has elevated her from a humble member to the President of a women's federation called Adrsha Mahila Samaikhya (AMS) and recognition as a respectable and knowledgeable person. Her keen participation in various developmental programs of Andhra Pradesh Government such as "Akshara Kiranam", "Akshra Bharathi", "Indira Kranthi Pathakam" has resulted in improving the literacy level of the members of AMS.

Her training in MACS (Multiple Added Commercial Services) at Tirupathi has helped her to promote micro credit banking accounts in AMS and has enabled many villagers get the benefit of loans for improving their agricultural and dairy production activities. As a Village Network Assistant (VNA) of Janmpete Village Knowledge Center, Vimalamma underwent training at the Virtual

Academy of Semi-Arid Tropics (VASAT), ICRISAT, for acquiring online knowledge on improved agricultural and livestock practices, weather forecasting and market prices for crop produce. Her improved skills in operating the new IT system enabled her to facilitate in finding solutions to farmers' queries on production /storage/marketing issues (livestock/crop) by getting feedback from experts in ICRISAT. Being a farmer herself, she understands the importance of improved high yielding crop varieties and thus procures and distributes crops like castor and pigeon pea seeds to farmers through the AMS.

Additionally, she has been providing services such as daily educational programs for children, basic computer literacy training to youth and adults, especially for women of the surrounding villages and thus helping towards empowerment of rural women and youth.

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## 52. Mr Abdul Mokit (Jan-2006)

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Abdul Mokit (30), from Manashpara village, Goalpara district, Assam is a postgraduate with a Diploma in Computer Application. A good worker with competency in agriculture, he is associated with the CIC and is involved in community work for the past one year.

## 53. Mr Amal Sarma (Aug-2006)

C/o. Community Information Centre  
Udalguri Development Block  
Udalguri, Dist-Udalguri Assam  
Email: asm-udalguri@cic.nic.in  
Phone: 94351-84531

28 year old Amal Sarma is JE (Comp. Sc.) with experience in the field of computers for three years. He works at the Community Information Centre in his area where rural people come to collect information regarding agriculture market price, government plans etc. Since training in computer literacy is one of services of the CIC, he provides computer education for villagers and is also involved in socio-economic activities like ASFC.

Amal assists with other activities such as agricultural marketing through [www.assamagribusiness.nic](http://www.assamagribusiness.nic), micro finance

(specially for self- help groups) and tele-health programme through the CIC.

## 54. Mr Amitt Attreya (Jan-2006)

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Amitt Attreya (25), belongs to Akajan village, Dhemaji district, Assam, located in foothills region crisscrossed by numerous turbulent rivers and frequently prone to devastating floods, erosion and sand deposition over cultivable areas. Scheduled tribes and Schedule Castes comprise the major population of the area.

A graduate, Amitt Attreya has a Diploma in Computer Applications and three years work experience as a computer operator in Community Information Centre. He has competency in agriculture, health, micro finance and computer literacy. He served as a community mobiliser to make people aware of the benefits of IT and held 20 awareness camps for village students and teachers, training 260 students in computer applications and information technology.

He is hard working, and sincere and a competent worker having positive attitude to provide service to the people. During the floods in Sisiborgaon block, Amitt volunteered as an emergency control room operator.

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### 55. Ms Anjana Neog (Aug-2006)

Letekuphukhuri  
Narayanpur,  
North Lakhimpur, Assam

Anjana Neog has an Education Degree with PG Diploma in Computer Science. At the age of 26, she has been involvement with community activities since 3 years.

Since joining CIC Telahi as CIC Operator Anjana Neog has been working for the larger benefit of the rural people through various means. She has been actively working in the ASHA project to empower rural cultivators through technology, such as organizing mushroom training and organic culture in CIC Telahi during 2003 which was attended by a number of women SHGs. Anjana also works with rural students, helping them to learn computer and internet skills and has organized Environment Day activities with the high school faculty.

She is a talented poet and writer, contributing frequently to newspapers and magazines.

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### 56. Mr Anwar Hussain Chowdhury (Jul-2005)

C/o Drishtee Dot Com Limited  
A-11, Ground Floor,  
Sector -2, [Opp: PDIL Building]  
NOIDA- 201301, U.P.  
Ph. No. : +91 (120) – 2545968/69/70

Anwar is based at Balipara, Tezpur, Assam. A gentleman at heart, and humble by nature, he has the ability to strike an instant rapport

with all age groups in his village. However, he has inner fire and does not lack business acumen due to this soft nature. With minimal guidance from Drishtee staff, he is able to create and follow a path of least resistance towards profitability.

Anwar is not only running the Drishtee kiosk but also educating the locals on various issues such as education and literacy, sanitation, use of ICT etc. He feels that if the children are educated on these issues they can bring about a change in the surroundings.

He's the elder brother of two, and is a respected face due to his teaching profile at the nearby school. His punctuality and unconditional co-operation is to be appreciated and this is perhaps the reason why, out of respect and gratitude, he is referred as 'Anwar ji'.

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### 57. Mr Arnab Gogoi (Jan-2006)

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Arnab Gogoi (24), graduate comes from Naali Majgaon, Kadom, Assam. He is Secretary ,People Advance and Rural Technology, a Society working for the upliftment of the rural area, and has competency in EDP Water management.

He established e – service centre in the rural area and formed around 24 rural SHGs. He participated in the India International Trade

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Fair (IITF) 2004 promoting organic tea and organic rice. Arnab is a good organiser with leadership qualities.

**58. Mr Arun Bora (Jul-2005)**

C/o Drishtee Dot Com Limited  
A-11, Ground Floor,  
Sector -2, [Opp: PDIL Building]  
NOIDA- 201301, U.P.  
Ph. No. : +91 (120) – 2545968/69/70.

Arun Bora hails from a family of cultivators belonging to Boralimora in the district of Sonitpur (Assam). He is well educated (B.Sc., B Ed) with a vision and ambition to do something new and unique for the development of society.

About a year and a half back, while handling his brother's PCO and stationery shop business, Arun decided to join Drishtee family with a zeal to do something for his own village. He wanted to get some experience and exposure that would be beneficial in setting something more solid than his existing business. But today Arun Bora is a different and changed man - he wants to continue the Drishtee Business not only because he is doing good to society but also because he is earning money to support both his own livelihood as well as his family.

Due to the raising awareness of computers and its usage, more and more people are coming to the kiosk to avail its services. Many women are also coming to learn computer from him. The kiosk other than its service has also become a place for people to interact and share ideas on various issues. Arun is a

respected figure in his panchayat because of the work he is doing and contributing

**59. Mr Arup Goswami (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Arup Goswami (29), is from Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon district, Assam. A Fishery Science graduate, he is a District Co – ordinator in Assam Agriculture Competitiveness project, incharge of Micro Finance Programme and Fishery.

Arup is a good worker with previous experience working in a hatchery, and has been a Junior Research fellow under a World Bank Project Propagation & Culture of Indigenous Fish species of Assam.

**60. Mr Ashok Kumar Nath (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Ashok Kumar Nath (26), a maths graduate lives in Berabak village, Cachar district, Assam. He has undergone different types of training including computer science, typing and weaving and has competency in agriculture and functional literacy. Ashok

Kumar has been assisting the local people by serving as a Community Information Centre operator since 2003 .

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### **61. Mr Atul Chutia (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Atul Chutia (29), is H.S educated and comes from Kakaiyal village, Dhemaji district, Assam. Involved with community activities since 2002, he is currently working as a volunteer in connection with formation of SHG and health and sanitation campaign.

Atul has 3 years experience in SHG formation and one year's experience in the work cum training programme of UNDP. He is interested in helping rural flood affected people and ST/ SC communities and wishes to dedicate himself for the welfare of poor and destitute people.

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### **62. Mr Bijoy Kr Nath (Aug-2006)**

C/o Community Information Centre  
Sipajhar  
Development Block Sipajhar,  
Darrang - Dist. Assam  
Phone: 98641-90044

A graduate with PGDCA qualification, Bijoy Kr. Nath 32, is appointed as CICO at the Community Information Centre at Sipajhar which is near the district headquarter Mangaldoi of Darrang district, Assam.

For the past three years he has been involved in facilitating computer education and services for villagers in his area. Rural people come to the centre to collect information regarding agriculture market price and agricultural marketing through [www.assamagribusiness.nic.in](http://www.assamagribusiness.nic.in) as well as on government plans and policies. Through the CIC he conducts tele-health programmes and provides training in computer literacy and micro finance for self-help groups.

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### **63. Ms Bijoya Bharali (Aug-2006)**

Bogamol Bharali  
Ghahi Gaon, Ghilamara  
Lakhimpur, Assam - 787053

A 25 year old graduate, Bijoya Bharali comes from an economically backward low lying rural area. Being an energetic person with commitment towards society, she was instrumental in setting up a knowledge centre in the Ghahi Gaon village and pioneered the setting up of a computer centre and screen printing centre in the village for the larger interest of village children and women. She took the leading part in forming around 20 women SHGs in the Ghilamara block and trained them in organic farming, vermicompost, as well as mushroom and orchid cultivation.

Bijoya's qualification in a 3 months computer certificate course has enabled her to be actively associated with all computer literacy programs undertaken by CIC Ghilamara such as organizing seminars or workshops and in

the farmers' training through ICT tools in the ASHA project done by ASFAC.

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#### **64. Mr Bimal Pradhan (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Bimal Pradhan (29), a postgraduate in science, resides Mugasong village, in Karbi Anglong district, Assam, located in a hill range, bordered by River Kopili.

Working with Community Information Centre since 2002, Bimal Pradhan has given computer training to more than 60 rural people including youth, children, ladies, and Govt. employees. He has conducted computer awareness camps in more than 10 High Schools. He also promotes self help groups for handloom products, and gives information on Govt. policies and schemes, assists NGOs and promotes Social Forestry.

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#### **65. Mr Debendra Hazarika (Aug-2006)**

Bapakhat, Panaigaon,  
North Lakhimpur - 787001

Debendra Hazarika ,26, who has JE (Electronics & Telecommunication) education, has been working for the larger benefit for the rural people by empowering them through technology for the past 3 years. Since joining CIC Telahi as a CIC Operator,

he has been teaching internet browsing for students and running special courses for women SHGs.

In addition, he organized training on mushroom cultivation and organic culture. A actively helps rural cultivators through the ASHA portal, and conducts functions like Environment day in schools.

A young and talented potential leader, Debendra is gifted with oratory skill. He writes poetry and is a frequent contributor to the newspapers and magazines.

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#### **66. Ms Deepanjali Brahma (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Deepanjali Brahma (26), a postgraduate in agriculture, belongs to Gosaigaon village, Kokrajhar district, Assam.

An industrious and innovative young woman, Deepanjali has rural agricultural work experience, experience as a Spot Journalist in a Local TV Channel for Gosaigaon, and is presently a District Coordinator of Discovery Club, Nodal NGO for Assam Agricultural Competitiveness programme. She is also involved in Micro finance and functional literacy.

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### **67. Mr Dhruva Jyoti Sarmah (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Dhruva Jyoti Sarmah (31), from Ghanhi village, Nagaon district, Assam, a graduate, competent in functional literacy and agriculture.

He has been a computer teacher at a Computer Education Centre for two years now, giving training in computer applications, personnel administration, manpower development training, marketing and administration, for the benefit of the local community.

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### **68. Mr Dipen Kanwor (Aug-2006)**

Socio-Economic Development  
Organization (Sedo),  
Dhemaji  
H.O.: Kuwafala  
P.O.: Do Khubolia  
Dhemaji - 787057 (Asom)

A 30 year old graduate, Dipen Konwar is a dedicated social worker, serving as Chief Co-ordinator of Socia-Economic Development Organization (SEDO), Dhemaji. He designs and plans and executes the programmes of the organization. As a volunteer he was committed towards forming SHGs and training them. Since the inception of SEDO, so many income generation programmes

have been conducted that Dipen Konwar stands out a role model for youths.

Apart from these he works to provide sanitation and safe drinking water for the rural poor. Mr. Konwar is responsible for forming various village level and panchayat level disaster management and flood control committees and is well-trained in this respect.

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### **69. Ms Geeta Magar (Aug-2006)**

C/o: Mr. Kanka Bahadur Magar  
Ulubari,  
P.O: Orang  
P.S: Mazbat  
Udalguri (BTAD), Assam

Though only 20 years old with HS education, Geeta Magar is already a veteran member of the NGO Society For Action & Rural Development (SARD). For the past five years she has been working for agriculture, rural area development and microfinance in her village where most people belong to ST, general category, SC and the minority.

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### **70. Mr Gobin Saikia (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Gobin Saikia (35), a graduate, is from Komalaboria, Lakhimpur, Assam, a low lying flood affected area. He has expertise in Traditional Medicine and alternative medicine. For 15 years, he has been involved

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with community activities in the field of rural technology.

Gobin Saikia is a Master trainer in mushroom production, vermi-compost, organic farming and orchid cultivation. A good organizer, he regularly arranges training for SHGs and seminars on food preservation and other topics.

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### **71. Mr Golam Mohammed Choudury (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Golam Mohammed Choudury (32), a graduate, comes from Hasanpur Karimkanji, Assam.

A dynamic, sincere and able man with outstanding integrity. He is involved in the development of coconut and spices and various socio economic activities since last five years. At present he is associated with the NGO Borak Vision.

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### **72. Ms Indrani Dowerah (Aug-2006)**

Community Information Centre,  
Morongi D. Block,  
Purabanagla. Doigrong  
Golaghat. Assam.  
Email: indranidowerah@rediffmail.com  
Mobile: 94350 53898

Indrani Dowerah, 31, has been working at

CIC in Doigrong, a tea garden area in Assam for the last three and a half years. She holds a B.A degree from Dibrugarh University & Advanced Diploma in Software and System Management from NIIT.

Active and dedicated to her job, she has made immense contributions towards providing IT-related services locally. A regular inflow of clientele comprising of students, research fellows, members of self help groups (SHG) and groups of farmers avail of information available on the Internet on agriculture or veterinary problems as well as examination results, online registration and distance education. Her aim is to develop the community by using resources which are available locally, and also through information technology and computer literacy.

Indrani maintains good relations with local NGOs involved in social activities and feels that working in CIC gives her a great chance to work for rural and technically undeveloped people and society.

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### **73. Mr Jadumani Borah (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Jadumani Borah (37), a graduate, lives in

Borpathari Bhutaigaon village, Nagaon district, Assam. Since the year 1997, he has completely devoted himself to social service and acts as a mediator between the poor farmer and the banks for micro finance.

Jadumani Borah shows the benefits of the formation of SHG to village youth and has participated in many training programmes such as self-employment training for educated youth. He is also creating awareness among the farmers through Pathar Pariechalana Samity, Rupaleem Krishak Sanga and Dairy Co-Operative society.

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#### **74. Ms Jesminara Begum (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Jesminara Begum (27), is from Jajanai village, Nagaon district, Assam. She is a graduate with qualification in computer software and Internet applications.

Since 2002, Jesminara Begum has been working with community activities providing information to the rural community, organising camps and seminars for the local people, as well as facilitating farmers' motivation camps and Himalaya Bigyan Chetana Yatra.

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#### **75. Ms Jhuma Neog (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Jhuma Neog (29), from Nakari village in Lakhimpur district, Assam, is a graduate with competency in agriculture, livestock, EDP, water management, health and micro finance. She has been involved with community activities since 10 years.

Jhuma is a CIC operator, and conducts training for SHGs on agriculture, vermicompost and other techniques.

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#### **76. Ms Jinti Deka (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Jinti Deka (25), a graduate from Rowta Chariali, Darrang district, Assam, has been working with an NGO since the last 5 years. A sincere and dedicated worker, her areas of competency are agriculture and micro finance, which she applies for the purpose of rural area development.

**77. Mr Jyoti Gogoi (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Jyoti Gogoi (40), from Chettia gaon, Lakhimpur, Assam is a graduate with expertise on agriculture, livestock, EDP water management, health and Micro finance. A good organiser with leadership qualities, he is involved in community activities since 10 years.

Jyoti Gogoi has assisted to constitute rural SHGs, organised awareness camps on Jatropa, sative and bamboo cultivation, and orchid cultivation and marketing. He promotes organic tea and organic rice and has prepared an eco – tourism project.

**78. Ms Kabita Saikia (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Kabita Saikia (27), B.Sc, B.Ed., hails from Daragia Chuk village, situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra in Sonitpur district, Assam.

Involved with community activities since 2002, she has competency in agriculture, livestock and in Information Technology. She takes interest in handloom and textile

development for the benefit of the local community.

**79. Ms Kakoli Nath (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Kakoli Nath (26), lives in Inathpur village, Karimganj district, Assam. Higher secondary educated, she is member of the Nabarun Sanga Community Centre and involved in different activities like training of the village women in handicrafts like stitching of cloth bags, jute ladies purses and many another such items. A dynamic person, she shows outstanding ability in all kinds of activities.

**80. Ms Kamala Borah (Aug-2006)**

Sonitpur, Assam - 784176  
Phone: 03715-247132 (R)  
Email: asm-bagamara@cic.nic.in

38 year old Kamala Borah is metric educated and has been involved with micro-finance, women & child care and other community activities since 1995. She has experience in promoting economic development in rural areas and wishes to mobilized the people for sustainable development of her area. Since 2002 Kamala has been associated with the Community Information Centre at Kamalpur, providing relevant information to the community.

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### **81. Mr Khaybor Ali Ahmed (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Khaybor Ali Ahmed (37), hails from Gutipara Part III, in Dhubsi district, Assam. He is a graduate and field coordinator for SHG, micro-finance and AACP programme since 3 years. He has competency in agriculture, livestock and micro finance.

Khaybor Ali Ahmed is very hard working and committed, and can communicate easily with a wide range of stake holders.

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### **82. Ms Mafida Begum Saikia (Aug-2006)**

C/o. Community Information Centre,  
Bechimari  
Development Block Bechimari,  
Darrang, Assam  
Email: asm-bachimari@cic.nic.in  
Phone: 94350-83726

Mafida Begum Saikia is 31 years old, holding a B.Sc in Agriculture and Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application. She is working as CIC operator under the ongoing Central Govt. project Community Information Centre at Bechimari Development Block comprising 10 gaon panchayat with 75 villages. People from the rural areas come to the centre to collect information regarding agriculture as well as

on agricultural marketing along with different cultivation practices and pest or disease control measures.

Mafida Begum gives computer education for rural youth, housewives as well as employed or unemployed persons, including internet browsing, printing with laser printer or DMP, CD writing, health consultancy through internet etc. She also provides information on different Government schemes & policies, micro finance specially for Self Help Groups, as well as on job opportunities for the unemployed.

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### **83. Ms Malabika Sut (Aug-2006)**

Gogan Sut  
Ghahi Gaon, Ghilamara  
Lakhimpur, Assam - 787053

25 year old Malabika Sut is a graduate from an economically backward rural area. After further qualifying with a 3 months computer certificate from the Community Information Centre, Ghilamara and undergoing training in other fields such as organic farming, screen printing, tailoring, etc, she has been involved with community activities since three years.

An energetic person with commitment towards society, Malabika is an executive member of Diana SHG for young women in the technology sector. She has been actively associated with all computer literacy programmes taken by CIC Ghilamara and has also been involved in the farmers' training in the ASHA project implemented by Assam Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium. She took a lead role in setting up of a

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**ASSAM**

knowledge centre in the Ghahigaon village and has pioneered the formation of around 20 women's SHGs through which training is imparted in the field of organic farming, vermi compost, mushroom & orchid cultivation.

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**84. Ms Manikha Gogoi  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Manikha Gogoi (25), is H.S. educated and comes from Machkhowa village Dhemaji district, Assam. Involved with community activities since 2004, she is an animator in Sabugram Sewa Sangha (NGO) in the village.

As an animator, Manikha Gogoi works to uplift the local downtrodden by enabling them to take up income generating activities and also economic development through small enterprises with the help of local raw materials.

She helps to form Self Help Groups, gives orientation training along with help to get bank loans and assists with management of projects.

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**85. Mr Manish Sil (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Manish Sil (30), belongs to Dharamnala village, in the hill Area of Karbi Anglong district, Assam. He has B.Com, PGDCA education and has been involved with micro-finance through the Rural Development Society (RDS).

Manish is a CIC Operator and has been associated with the organization for 3 years. He provides computer training and Internet facility to the communities Below Poverty Line computerization and agri- business service for the local village people.

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**86. Ms Manjeeta Kashyap  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

MANJEETA KASHYAP (26), is from Aulachowka village, Darrang district, Assam where the main economic activity is agriculture. A graduate, she has been working in the CIC for the past 3 years. Manjeeta provides computer education for villagers as well as information regarding Govt. schemes and policies and agriculture related information. She facilitates self - help

groups, tele - health programmes and is a good community.

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### **87. Mr Mintu Mahanta (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Mintu Mahanta (35), hails from Barangabari, Sonitpur district, Assam. She is a graduate with competency in the areas of micro finance, agriculture and health. A dynamic worker, he is serving as coordinator of SHGs since 2002. He has also received an award as a volunteer in rural areas, and as an effective coordinator between Government and the Community.

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### **88. Mr Nikhilesh Das (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Nikhilesh Das (26), belongs to Uttar Ganakari village in Barpeta district, Assam. A post-graduate with a diploma in computer application, Nikhilesh has been working as a Community Information Centre (CIC) operator for the last 3 years and has good technical knowledge as well as competency in agriculture, livestock & micro finance. A sincere and hard worker his previous community work experience includes

involvement with SEWA, a registered NGO, as well as serving as the Gen. Secretary of a registered Self Help Group.

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### **89. Mr Nila Gogoi (Aug-2006)**

Picholaguri, Dhalpur  
Assam - 784165  
Phone: 94350 06177

30 year old Nila Gogoi is a graduate with talent and vision. Having attended training on small scale industry and khadi village industries training at Mumbai and Guwhati, as well as agro - based industry training at Jorhat, he is the chief coordinator of Lakhimpur Farmers' Club, Dhalpur affiliated to Assam Gramin Vikash Bank Dhalpur Tiliali.

Involved with community activities since 3 years Nila organized training in organic farming, mushroom production, sugar cane and potato cultivation and alertness program for farmers on various schemes including new agro based technology. He has also taken part as a resource person in ASHA awareness programme at Narayanpur CIC on the usefulness of ICT in agriculture.

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### **90. Mr Nirmal Singh (Aug-2006)**

Dewnbasti, Near Nepali Mandir  
Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam  
Phone: 03671-271230  
Mobile: 094351-66143

Since 2002 Nirmal Singh 31 has been working as Supervising Officer facilitating the implementation of a community resource management project in Karbi Anglong

**ASSAM**

district and as a community worker. He is a B.Sc (Agri) degree holder with competence in agriculture, water management, health issues, etc, and has appeared for M.Sc in Eco. & Env. In collaboration with the CIC at Chinthong Block Hamren sub-division he is involved in promoting agri-Business services and is also a member of the district malaria control society.

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**91. Mr Pannalal Bhattacharjee (Aug-2006)**

C/o. Community Information Centre,  
Tapang Shrikona High School,  
Shrikona Silchar,  
Cachar, Assam

35 year old Pannalal Bhattacharjee holds a diploma in electronics & telecommunication engineering and is working as an operator in a community information centre at Tapang, a heavy rainfall area surrounded with ranges of hills. He is also qualified in information & system management.

Besides providing the normal services offered by the Community Information Centre some of the other services organized by Pannalal are training camps and awareness programmes on AIDS, cancer, family planning etc, as well as community based programmes related to agriculture. In co-operation with Apollo Telemedicine Centre, Silchar he organized telemedicine service (e-Sanjivani) at the Community Information Centre. Another initiative was to arrange for training in e-Parichay, an electronic address of village people opening e-mail accounts.

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**92. Ms Papori Kumai (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Papori Kumai (22) a graduate from Chakuripara village, in a hilly area of Kamrup (Metro) district, Assam, is actively working with "ASSAM Gandhi Smarak Nithi" a N.G.O in the district since 2004 . Her areas of competency are functional literacy, micro finance and craft training.

Papori Kumai has basic computer knowledge and has previous work experience in private companies in Guwahati.

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**93. Mr Phanidhar Gogoi (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Phanidhar Gogoi (41), a graduate, lives in Bongaon Vill. 2 No, Golaghat district, Assam.

He is general secretary in an N.G.O. since 1993, participating in all its activities like micro watershed management, environment education, biodiversity conservation, rural development, education for sustainable future and capacity building, vermi composting training etc.

Phanidhar Gogoi also takes interest in people's participation in natural resource management , bird conservation , capacity building of farmers, and National Green Corps self help group.

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#### **94. Ms Pinaki Doss (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Pinaki Doss (31), comes from Upper Pathori village, Nagaon district, Assam. She holds a BA degree with Diploma in Computer Application and is a dynamic and active person.

Pinaki is playing a very important role in her village in the formation of SHGs among the people who are below the poverty line, with an effort to promote income generating programmes. She is involved in various awareness generation programmes, capacity building and training of SHG groups in micro finance, health and craft training.

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#### **95. Mr Pranab Kumar Choudry. (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Pranab Kumar Choudry (28), is from Burkibari , Kamrup Dt, Assam. He is H.S educated and

is actively associated with PRAGATHI SANGA (NGO). A good grassroot worker, he is efficient in carrying out rural development work like organising health camps and spreading awareness on various health related problems. He is also competent in agriculture , livestock and micro finance.

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#### **96. Mr Pranab Saikia (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Pranab Saikia (31), from Solal village, Sonipur district, Assam, is a graduate, involved in community activities since 2002. He works at the Community Information Centre and is responsible for spreading Information technology in the rural areas. His other fields of competency are agriculture and livestock.

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#### **97. Mr Rabizul Haque Laskar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Rabizul Haque Laskar (30), from Matijuri, Hailakandi district, Assam, is B.A., CCC (DOEACC) and currently doing LLB. He has been involved for the past 11 years with the NGO Purbha Hailakandi Development Council (PHDC) working with community convergence action (CCA), community based

**ASSAM**

convergent services (CBCS), and promotion of SHGs.

Rabizul Haque Laskar works for upliftment of rural people, and holds training programmes for youth and SHG groups for socio economic development.

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### **98. Mr Rajib Lochan Borah (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Rajib Lochan Borah (28), lives in Saikhowa village, Tisukia district –, on the bank of River Brahmaputra in Assam.

He has a postgraduate degree and works in the Community Information Centre (CIC) located in Saikhowa which is in a remote part of Assam. The only means of communication there is by road, so it takes time for the students to get their examination results and access to job vacancies.

Rajib Lochan Borah's work with the CIC makes access easy for them, and also provides computer literacy and basic computer training. Since people in the area are very poor and it is a flood prone area, weather information and agriculture, sericulture & livestock related information that he gives through the CIC is helpful. Using the Internet facility, he also helps with tenders and getting proper market and price for products.

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### **99. Ms Rajoshree Das (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Rajoshree Das (22), is a resident of Moidoma, Lakhimpur, Assam. A graduate with Diploma in Computers, she is the President of Priya SHG. She is a good worker, having initiated computer training course, participated in the Horticulture and Medical plants displays where she got the best prize for mushroom. She is also involved in Land Record Computerisation and organises the Bihu festival in her area.

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### **100. Mr Raju Teron (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Raju Teron (30), hailing from Rongnihong, Karbi Anglong, in the hill area of Assam, has BSc, DTPM education. Employed with Rural Deveoplement Society (RDS) since 1999, he is a Supervising Officer with RDS since 2001 to implement Community Resource Management Projects (CRMP) in 20 villages in Karbi Anglong District of Assam. Raju has worked with the Taleem Research Foundation's Reproductive and Child Health Project sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Government of India. He

implemented the Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme, co-ordinated the Family Counselling Centre, and was involved in promoting Agri- Business Services.

His areas of competency include Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Rural Insurance, Micro finance and Functional Literacy.

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### **101. Mr Randip Gogoi (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Randip Gogoi (27), belonging to Borpathar Ramji Gaon, Dibrugarh Dt., Assam, is a B.Com, working with the NGO SEWA (Soil Educational Welfare Association) for the past 7 years. His areas of competency are agriculture and livestock.

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### **102. Ms Reema Bardoloi (Aug-2006)**

Surath Ch Bordoloi  
PO: Chapai (Mangaldoi)  
W No-7, Dist Darrang, Assam  
Phone: 03713-223720

35 year old Reema Bardoloi has an MA degree and is a veteran member of the NGO "SANJEEBANEE". In her village most of the people belong to general category, SC and ST, the economy activity being cultivation mainly of paddy, vegetables, ginger, fruits or pepper. For the past five years, she has been

involved with various community activities in the fields of agriculture, rural area development, microfinance and child and women development.

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### **103. Ms Rehana Shaji (Aug-2006)**

Bilasiparagaon (Baragua),  
P.O.: Bilasipara Bazar,  
Barpeta Dist., ASSAM - 781 315  
Phone: 03666-262784  
assamhortocietybarpeta@yahoo.co.in

20 year old Rehana Shaji has H S (Arts) education and has been involved in community activities since 2003-04, working in the fields of health, fruit preservation, and thrift among rural women. She has a natural drive for the cause of rural upliftment with potentialities of a leader and has served as Secretary of the Women & Child Welfare Society in her area and as Associate Member, Assam Riot Victims Unit Trust Society (ARVUTS).

Rehana has successfully organized eco-friendly horticultural plantations through rural women groups in Katajhargaon in Barpeta district, as well as free medical treatment camps with homeopathic medicines for rural people especially women in 35 nearby villages.

She has a special interest in helping women to create awareness on health & hygiene. She hopes to start an information kiosk for spreading need-based development messages among women, and to work as a

master trainer for the different women's groups.

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#### **104. Ms Ruli Buragohain (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Ruli Buragohain (23), comes from Parakata Gohaim Gaon village, Jorhat district, Assam. She is a graduate with competency in agriculture and SHG formation.

Ruli has been involved in community activities and voluntary work since 3 years, Associated with an NGO Samanay Atmasahayak.

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#### **105. Ms Rupjyoti Borah (Aug-2006)**

D/O , Late Profulla Kr. Borah Junaki  
Nagar Tini Ali  
(Near Warehouse) H.C.G. Path.  
Golaghat - 785621, Assam  
Phone: 03774-281146(R)  
9435053662(M)  
e-mail: jyoti\_rup05@yahoo.co.in

31 year old Rupjyoti Borah has a B.Com., degree and Diploma in Computer (DCO) under IGNOU. Coming from a village where most families are small farmers cultivating a variety of crops, she is caretaker of a small poultry and animal farm. Occasionally she also does weaving and embroidery at her home through her connection with some Self Help Groups in her area.

Rupjyoti has been involved with the Community Information Centre (CIC), Golaghat North Dev. Block, Dergaon since 2002 and has completed a training programme with the National Informatics Centre, Guwahati. Working as a CIC-Operator she has had the opportunity to establish contact with farmers and others community members. She trained over 350 people including a number of students who she assisted with preparing projects, conducting distance-learning education, making online registration or getting examination results. An active and hard-working person, she has gained the goodwill of the community of Dergaon.

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#### **106. Ms Sabita Devi (Aug-2006)**

C/o. Community Information Centre  
Kalaigaon, Old Nabodaya Vidyalaya  
building Campus  
Kalaigaon, Udalguri, Assam  
e-mail: asm-kalaigaon@cic.nic.in  
Phone: 98641-92520

Holding a post-graduate degree, 31 year old Sabita Devi is appointed as CICO under the ongoing Central Govt. project Community Information Centre at Kaligaon village where most people belong to the Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe, Nepali communities along with the minorities, mainly depending on cultivation and animal husbandry.

She provides computer education for rural youth, housewives as well as for employed or unemployed persons, and makes available a number of services and information such

as Govt. Schemes & policies or information on agricultural marketing along with different cultivation practices, pest & disease control. Micro-finance specially for Self Help Groups, internet browsing, printing, health consultancy through internet, weather report etc. are some of the services she provides through the CIC for the rural community.

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### 107. Mr Saurabh Das (Jul-2005)

C/o. Drishtee Dot Com Limited  
A-11, Ground Floor,  
Sector -2, [Opp: PDIL Building]  
NOIDA- 201301, U.P.  
Ph. No. : +91 (120) – 2545968/69/70  
Fax No. : +91 (120) - 2546386  
satyan@drishtee.com

Saurabh Das is 24 years of age from Village Kawaimari, of Sonitpur (Assam). He is completing his graduation side by side with his kiosk business with Drishtee. A former LIC agent, he says he has become more responsible and mature after joining Drishtee. He runs computer courses and delivers e-governance services through his centre.

This young man also has a flair for research and has conducted some surveys on behalf of Drishtee in the surrounding Gram Panchayats. According to the Drishtee training team he was a fast learner who wanted to learn and try new things in his village.

Saurabh has been promoting e-governance and its usage to the villagers which has benefited the villagers in more than one way.

People are able to save on cost and time of travelling to the district administration. They are also happy that their work is getting done faster and at no extra effort. He is aspiring to be a successful business man and wants to be a well known person in his locality.

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### 108. Mr Tankeswer Saikia (Jan-2006)

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Tankeswer Saikia (28), a graduate in Economics with diplomas in computer and English type writing, lives in Kothara village, Kamrup district, Assam. He is involved with a self help group named Lahari, working in the field of agriculture, horticulture, nursery, fishery development since 2003. With an interest in the field of scientific agriculture system, Tankeswer Saikia has dedicated himself to work for the prosperity of rural economy in Assam.

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### 109. Ms Tilottama Hazarika (Aug-2006)

2 Gosaipathar,  
Bihpuria, Assam  
Mobile: 94350 86745

A talented young woman, Tilottama Hazarika is a 25 years old Botany graduate with a Diploma in Computer Science. She has been involved with many community

**ASSAM**

activities for the past 3 years such as organizing workshops in CIC Bihpuria involving rural women SHGs in various economic developmental activities like mushroom cultivation, nursery and vermi-compost as well as ASHA workshops involving educated farmers, entrepreneurs, NGOs or SHGs. Through the ASHA portal, Tilottama has actively helped rural cultivators and has developed a database on rural SHG and entrepreneurs.

Using her IT skills, she has organized special training for rural students on internet, web browsing, email and other applications.

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### **110. Ms Tutumoni Gam (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Tutumoni Gam (22), from Chuklibhoria, Lakhmipur, Assam is a graduate with Computer Diploma. An active young woman with leadership qualities, she is the president of a Self Help Group, through which she has started computer training for functional literacy.

She also has competency in horticulture, medical plants, mushroom cultivation and vermi-compost.

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### **111. Mr Upen Horo (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus  
Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

Upen Horo (23), from Bor Patgaon village, Sonitpur, Assam has completed High School education and is an enthusiastic singer and sportsman.

He is one of the staff of Gana Chetana Samiji an NGO, working as an animator. His areas of competency include micro finance, livestock, agriculture and functional literacy.

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### **112. Mr Vaskar Narayan Misra (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Assam SFAC  
Agriculture Campus, Khanapara  
Guwahati, Assam 781 022  
Telefax: 0361-2333560

VASKAR NARAYAN MISRA (31), comes from Pailapool village, Cachar district, Assam.

Involved in community activities since 1996, Vaskar Narayan has a Diploma in Computer Applications and works in the Community Information Centre as an operator. He has conducted several awareness programmes and community based programmes related to Agriculture, AIDS and other topics relevant for the local people.

## CHHATTISGARH

### 113. Mr Chandra Shekhar Binjhar (Jul-2005)

C/o. Drishtee Dot Com Limited  
A-11, Ground Floor,  
Sector -2, [Opp: PDIL Building]  
NOIDA- 201301, U.P.  
Ph. No. : +91 (120) – 2545968/69/70  
Fax No. : +91 (120) - 2546386  
satyan@drishtee.com

24-year-old Chandrasekhar is from Bharni in Bilaspur district and has studied up to PGDCA. He was giving computer education in AISCP, which is a local computer institute and along with it working as a part time LIC agent. After joining Drishtee in 2004, He has organised many awareness campaigns for computer education and other services provided through Drishtee network.

Though Chandrasekhar is handicapped he has zeal to work hard for the self improvement. His father works in NTPC and always wants his son to do something for the betterment of Bharni where the total populace is around 5000-7000. So after completion of PG in arts and PGDCA he started the Drishtee kiosk for the fulfillment of his and his father's dream.

In Chandrasekhar's words, 'I feel empowered now, having changed from a helpless man to someone who works for the society and is in charge of his life.' The grampanchayat has benefited through his

developmental work. He has motivated other person to undergo various training programs and join organization like Drishtee where they can realize their dreams.

### 114. Mr Medani Sahu (Aug-2006)

Gram Bhanesar  
Dhaneli,  
Janjgir Champa  
Chhattisgarh.  
Mobile: 94252 30722

32 year old Medani Sahu has a post graduate degree in sociology and has been working for community development since 1995. He has organized many awareness campaigns for health and for watershed management. He has also participated in social activities such as youth summit and sports.

Presently, Medani is a project officer at DPAP watershed programme and also is part of the programme for assisting rural poor through self-help groups. He is involved in community micro-planning and in activating BPL and landless people towards self-employment. Through honest and hard work, he wishes to ensure that education, health and development technologies reach his village.

**115. Mr Murlidhar Chandram  
(Feb-2007)**

Dabhara Village, Dabhara Tahsil,  
Janjgir-Champa District,  
Chhattisgarh, PIN-495668.  
Telephone 07758-273336,284172

For the past 25 years, Murlidhar Chandram, a 50 year old graduate, has been working for a variety of social and development causes in his village Dabhara, which is located in an arid area. He has been involved in strengthening panchayat institutions, village micro-planning and networking SHGs, as well as in water management .

Murlidhar Chandram has contributed his efforts for tribal development through livelihood support and is serving in rural education. He has also participated in many social campaigns including health campaigns and Right to Information campaign.

**116. Mr Sanjay Kumar Yadav  
(Feb-2007)**

Seoni(Champa) Village,  
Tah-Champa, Janjgir-Champa District,  
Chhattisgarh, PIN-495671.  
Telephone : 07819-244792

A 28 year old having a graduate degree in maths (B.Sc), M.A. in Sociology and PGDCA from Guru Ghasidas University Bilaspur, Sanjay Kumar Yadav belongs to village Seoni in Janjgir-Champa district, which is in a semi-arid zone with no irrigation facility.

He has two years experience of teaching in NICETEC Computer Education Institute,

Champa, having taught different types of students like children, teenagers, housewives and government employees. Presently, he is attached with Watershed Area Development Programme in Janjgir-Champa district and is trying to bring B.P.L rural persons above poverty line by linking them to various self-employment schemes through group activities.

With his experience, Sanjay Kumar has the potential to act as a master trainer for rural economic and business activities.

**117. Mr. Suresh Kumar Dansena  
(Feb-2007)**

Kanwali Village, Kanwali-Post,  
Dabhara-Tahsil,  
Janjgir-champa District,  
Chhattisgarh.

Suresh Kumar Dansena is a 34 year old science graduate belonging to agricultural family, with competency in agriculture and water management. He has been involved with community activities since his student days and was associated with CAPART. From 2001 till now, he has been working with the watershed mission. He works in DPAP block with linkage to the watershed development programme in his area, which is a semi –arid zone.

Suresh Kumar motivates rural persons for self employment and helps them through group activity. He facilitates farmers and the poor and landless to derive the benefit of government schemes. He is well suited for spearheading the knowledge mission through village knowledge centres.

## DELHI

### **118. Ms Asha Sharma (Jul 2005)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016

Phone: 0091-11-61689000

Fax: 0091-11-51689001

veronica.peris@oneworld.net;

narendra.deo@oneworld.net

Asha has been working in the slum communities in the peri-urban areas surrounding the Indian capital for the last 14 years on health and sexuality issues. Overcoming strong opposition from the communities, many of which are inhabited by snake charmers and immigrants, she has successfully made women and girls aware of their health needs and sexual rights and about HIV/AIDS.

In her latest endeavour in association with OWSA, Asha has worked on a project that has used a traditional ICT – a phone line - to open communication between a slum community and a government hospital. Through this phone line, people have demanded from the hospital authorities, their rights and services due to them from the government hospital.

The result has been tremendous. There was once no water supply in the hospital and families of pregnant women, who had to go for delivery there, had to carry two buckets of water with them. Now thanks to the phone line and the demands made by the people, water supply was restored in the hospital.

Asha wants to share some of her perspectives based on years of her experience of working in the communities to policy makers.

## GUJARAT

### 119. Ms Aashaben Amrutbhai Parmar (Jul-2005)

Molipur Village, Vadnagar Ta,  
Mehsana Dist,  
Ph: 02764 -298824, 02764-273290

Aashaben is 33 and lives in Molipur village in District Mahesana. She has studied upto B.A. and joined SEWA in 2001. She is now a Spearhead Team Leader and has organized training for members and for the community for their capacity building. Her leadership skills resulted in women taking up savings SHGs very seriously, thereby taking SEWA's unique benefits to the grassroots. She is receptive to new technology and has undergone some basic trainings.

Ashaben has conducted Gram Sabhas in villages and organized agriculture related training for farmers. She helped provide identity cards to farmers and conducted surveys for identifying and arranging quality seeds for them. She has coordinated with IFFCO and also marketed agricultural produce directly.

With IFFCO Ashaben organized training programs for artificial insemination and other animal husbandry methods. Thus, she inspires other village women to be like her and develop themselves. She has motivated several women to step out of their homes and manage their lives better.

### 120. Mr Amitkumar N Suthar (Jan-2006)

At.pos.Sonasan, Ta. Trantige,  
Dt. Mahesana, Bhayatwas.  
Ph:02770-240592 /  
E-mail:umitsonasan@yahoo.co.in

Mr. Amit Suthar (28), lives in Sonasan village, an agricultural area in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He completed D.C.A from the nearest city Himatnagar and has knowledge of basic computer operations. He was unemployed and having a keen interest in starting Internet services and computer education in his village, he started a Chiraag Internet Center in his village in October 2004.

He concentrates primarily only on computer education courses for children. Nearly 50 students have got computer and Internet training in last 6 months. No one can believe that the small village has so many computer literate students. He also offers DTP services, photography, graphics and typewriting for generating income. By using Agri service of Chiraag, he finds solutions for agriculture related doubts and questions of farmers.

The Internet Center has changed Amit's life. He is happy with the service and encourages people to join in the process.

## 121. Ms Amrutaben Bhikhabhai Sabhi (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Amrutaben is 22 and comes from Malavan village in Dist. Surendranagar. She has studied upto 11<sup>th</sup> Std and joined SEWA in 2001. She is now an ICT user and SHG group member. She is involved in Jeevika activity, providing health training and selling medicine from village to village, and has organized saving groups and health groups in the villages.

*'I studied on my own, before I joined SEWA. Now I am a health spearhead team leader, I take care of all normal ailments in my community and am known as 'Doctor Didi', which fills me with pride. I wish to gain even more knowledge and serve my community'.*

Amrutaben has taken the lead in nursing and treating the sick in her village and surrounding villages. She also teaches the basics of literacy to the women. She faced many hurdles in her health training but has overcome them all, with grit and courage. She motivates other women to be literate and understand the role of science and technology in their life.

## 122. Ms Anishaben Shahu (Jul-2005)

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade, #2 Sardar  
Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Anishaben Shahu of Kanodar in Palanpur, Gujarat is 28 years old and has passed out of school. She came across the advertisement of n-logue and its services and the concept decided to undertake basic computer training and start a Chiraag center in her village. Anisha's claim to fame is that she's the first woman kiosk operator to have set up business in Gujarat. The presence of her kiosk in a small inconspicuous 5,000-strong village in north Gujarat proves that technology is not the urban man's prerogative only.

Married at 18 and a mother at 24, Anisha began her career as a teacher. The school timings being inconvenient, she quit the job to become a private tutor. The services provided by her kiosk are education, e-governance, agriculture, health, browsing, e-mail, voice mail, video mail, chat and video conferencing. She familiarizes her customers with the computer, explains its functions and teaches them applications like e-mailing, browsing etc. she already has six batches of two students each that come to her to learn the various nuances of a computer.

Most people who come to her center are college students who don't have any access

to a computer. On Fridays and Sundays, the kiosk does brisk business, courtesy such customers who flock to the centre to chat with their relatives abroad. She is the only woman KO in this area, so women feel a lot more comfortable coming to her kiosk.

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### **123. Ms Arunaben Dharmendrakumar Panchal (Feb-2007)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-51689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001  
veronica.peris@oneworld.net

Arunaben is 30 and has education up to 12th Std. She joined SEWA in the year 1999, before which she was fully engaged in housework. She now manages savings for the SHGs, maintains books of accounts and arranges for loans. She uses the computer for her daily work and being quite proficient, she trains other women on similar lines.

*'I am involved in savings and insurance activity. Recently I was a part of the decentralization of insurance MSI process in which I processed all the transactions for my district. Its challenging and I like it.'*

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### **124. Ms Arunabhen Parmar (Jul-2005)**

Hom T&O-1044c76, Gita Mandir Road,  
Ahmedabad - 22, Ph: 09925505739

Arunabhen gave up school to work as a screen printer, when she was barely 10, to

financially help her parents bring up her six siblings. Through sheer grit and determination, she managed to resume her studies. She joined India's largest women's trade union network, SEWA, in Ahmedabad. While there, she learnt to wield the camera and become a video producer to empower and to give expression to the needs and concerns of women in rural and peri-urban areas.

Today, Arunabhen wields the heavy umatic camera with confidence and travels extensively across the tough terrain of rural India to capture the travails and hopes of village women. Her teammates comprise of women like her who once worked as vegetable sellers, street vendors or as casual labour.

Arunabhen feels that all can use ICTs and not just the educated. Therefore, all she feels should have access to ICTs to improve their lives.

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### **125. Ms Atchhiben Dalaji Malek (Jul-2005)**

Taurlev, Santalpur, Dist. Patan.  
Ph: 9898657286 / 9924913480

Atchhiben is 38 years and lives in Bamroli village in Dist. Patan. She has studied up to 5<sup>th</sup> std and was a labourer before joining SEWA in 1994. She is involved in village development work under the Jeevika Programme, and organizes women in the village. She provides information related to SEWA and organizes training for them. With

her village development work she wants the community to become an ideal village.

*'At present I am involved in training activity as Spearhead team member. I took several trainings from SEWA like capacity building training membership training, kadam training, disaster preparedness training, savings, technical Training (TV, VCR, Fax, Phone, Video Shooting, photography) and computer trainings. I also learnt how to maintain and write accounts and I feel satisfied to teach these skills to others around me.'*

Atchhiben was trained in disaster preparedness and made others aware also. She uses video replay techniques to create awareness about significant matters related to health, childcare, etc in her community. She has learnt the basic uses of computers and prepares her reports on it. Thus, she is working for the development of her community and motivating more women to come forward.

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### **126. Ms Bairajba Karashanji Jadeja (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Bairajba has motivated other women in her area to take up crafts as a means of livelihood. The 35 year old 7th Std educated

wife of a salt worker was occupied with housework before she joined SEWA in 1992. She underwent training in insurance, craft, savings and Jeevika activity as well as in computer applications.

She now provides training to poor women for livelihood, conducts classroom training for artisans and helps provide income for survival. She also gives information on money saving methods for the rainy day.

*'I am proud of having learnt technology skills in addition to my homegrown crafts skills. I want to know more about what the world wants today so that I can do quality work and thus, help generate more employment for myself and my community.'*

Bairajba has built a home for her family (they did not even had one) from her crafts earnings. She is a source of inspiration and wisdom for everyone in her community.

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### **127. Ms Bhavanaben Bharatbhai Jadav (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

24 year old Bhavanaben is from Nandol in Ahmedabad district and has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> std. She used to do farming labour work hardly getting 10 to 15 days work in month, with no other occupation to survive. After

joining SEWA in 2004, she is now Agriculture Spearhead Team Leader and member of the SHG Trade group. She organised agriculture campaign meeting for members, organised farmers groups and provided farmers with training and awareness, and seeds for better crops.

Bhavanaben is a very good leader and she has good communication skills. She has organised more than 500 members into SHGs. In her own village she took the lead in solving drinking water problems. She also organized cleanliness campaigns in her village, with the help of Panchayat, along with other village development work..

*'I feel empowered now, having changed from a helpless woman to someone who works for the community and is in charge of her life. I have adopted a child and thanks to the support of SEWA, my family has accepted this decision of mine easily. I am happy today.'*

The community has benefited through her active work. She has motivated other women to undergo various training programs, offered guidance and need-based information to the farmers. She conducted a survey of the diseases plaguing crops in her region and accordingly, arranged for pesticides. She has undergone computer training and prepares her daily reports on the office computer.

## 128. Ms Bijalben

### Janakbhai Pandya (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Bijalben (21 years) from Kharaghoda, in Dist. Surendranagar has studies upto third year B.Com. She was a labourer and salt worker before she joined SEWA in 2001.

*'I have taken computer and crafts training. This helped me get income and some security. I now want to teach others and motivate more women to learn the new ways of working.'*

She successfully completed data entry of MIS transactions related to insurance processing and helped in decentralizing insurance processing for the first time in SEWA and trained others also. Bijalben has helped create awareness about ICT at the grassroots and inspired the youth and women to learn these modern technology tools. She urges women in her community to be literate and work for a living, to be self-reliant. She is now teaching computer operations to other women.

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**129. Ms Deenaben  
Ganeshbhai Rohit (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Deenaben is 25 and comes from Gana village in Anand Dt. She studied up to BA and joined SEWA in 1999. She is involved in Life School activity and as Spearhead team member, gives education to members who are between 18 to 35 years old. She focuses on education which will be useful in their practical life. She herself has undergone each and every kind of SEWA's training to share knowledge with others. Through this adult education for her community Deenaben wishes to make them understand that there is no bar to learning

*'I strongly believe that the only wealth is education which no one can take away from you. In fact it increases when we share it with someone. So I feel very happy to teach other women in my area and bring about awareness and empowerment of the women.'*

*I use the computer in my day- to- day work like preparing a list of school's members and assessment of their learning, keeping savings records of members, keeping expenses etc. I can use phone and fax also, very easily. I believe in imparting skills which are practical and can be used in life comfortably.'*

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**130. Ms Deenaben Jayantibhai  
Parmar Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

42, 10th pass Deenaben was a housewife with small children and in need of money to survive before she took up a job in SEWA in 1999. Now with her income by working with insurance she is giving education to her children. Today as a working woman, she is getting respect from her community. This gives her great pleasure and pride.

Deenaben is a team leader of the insurance activity with the responsibility of being cash in-charge. At the initial stage, she was afraid of handling money, but now she is able to handle thousands of rupees by herself. She is engaged in making her community aware of the benefits of taking insurance by knowledge sharing on savings, and makes them understand how it will help them in the future if they can save their money.

**131. Ms Gauriben  
Yogeshkumar Parmar  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Gauriben comes from village Dabha in Sabarkantha district. She is 22 and has studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> Std. She joined SEWA in 2003, and is a Savings spearhead team leader, collecting savings from village-to-village and provided loans to the needy members. She has been responsible for provided timely loans that helped women to be financially self-sufficient. Gauriben is also Research spearhead team leader, collecting member information, coding, and preparing reports. She helps solve problems of her village and her community through providing the needed information.

*'At present I am involved in Savings & Research activity as team member. I took several trainings from SEWA like savings, MIS Software Data Entry, District Management System (DMS) Data Entry, and Computer Training. I conducted awareness meetings from village to village and developed women's groups who in turn did the same.'*

Gauriben is a researcher who does survey work in villages. She finds out the information or knowledge needed in the community and asks SEWA for assistance.

Her work is much appreciated in the community as she has provided timely information on crops, health and so on. She motivates others to do similar work and use the information in an effective fashion.

**132. Ms Geetaben Nakabhai  
Rathava (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Geetaben who is 21 and has studied up to third year BA, has conducted many meetings for organizing women into groups for savings and creating awareness among them. She has also learnt to drive two wheelers and holds a driving license. She has undergone training for a variety of skills such as hand pump repair, food processing, bakery, photography, etc. Thus, she inspires other women in her community to come forward and make a decent living for themselves.

*'I can now prepare reports, letters, etc using computers. I am quite proficient in using the keyboard and hence much in demand in my office! While I can earn money from data entry activities, my aim is to strengthen my understanding of software and finally start using it for better purposes.'*

Geetaben was elected as Chairperson of savings activity SHG. She collects installments from members who have been given loans and has been responsible for considerable

loan recovery. The villagers in her area have begun to save money and take loans when needed and have derived benefit from their savings

### **133. Ms Heenaben Shaileshbhai Trivedi (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Hailing from village Kharaghoda (Navagam), Dist. Surendranagar, Heenaben is 39 and has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Std. A housewife before joining SEWA in 2002, she has undergone savings group formation training, health training and disaster management for the district. She recently learnt to use fax, TV and VCR comprehensively, as well as computer basics. Now she is involved in Jeevika Activity, maintaining villagers' fund accounts, collecting funds from village to village, and doing development work in the village. She has provided literacy skills to 50 to 60 women in CLC.

Heenaben has taught the women to read and write. It was challenging to get the women to learn the 3Rs but Heenaben persevered. Thus, she has motivated her community to be literate and learn technology skills for the betterment of their future. She has organized many awareness campaigns related to health, savings and membership.

### **134. Ms Hemaben Chandrakantbhai Purohit (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Hemaben comes from village Dabha in Sabarkantha district. She is 28 and has studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> Std. The wife of a daily wage labourer, she joined SEWA in 1996, and is a Savings spearhead team leader, collecting saving from village-to-village and provided loans to the needy members. She has been responsible for provided timely loans that helped women to be financially self- sufficient. She helps solve problems of her village and her community through providing the needed information.

*'At present I am involved in savings activity as spearhead team member. I took several trainings from SEWA like Savings, MIS Software Data Entry and Computer Training. After taking the training I did awareness meetings in village to village and taught more women through the same.'*

Hemaben has managed the savings SHG very effectively and is now the owner and manager of the activity. She helps others achieve the same too. She finds the work challenging but satisfying. She has used video replays and multimedia to spread the message of savings. She also uses the computer in her daily work.

### 135. Ms Ilaben Sevakbhai Mahida (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

36 year old Ilaben comes from village Nadiyad in district Kheda. She has passed 9<sup>th</sup> Std and was a bidi worker before joining SEWA in 1998. She is now a spearhead team member conducting awareness programmes on the importance of water to human life and how to use water without any waste. Having taken drip irrigation training, she arranges training for others in the community for them to acquire knowledge of drip irrigation to utilise water without waste.

*'At present I am doing public meetings for the awareness of water usage in my village as well as in schools. I also know to repair hand pump, so this way I become helpful to my community. I am also using computer in my activity and make others understand how this technology is helping me in my regular work.'*

Ilaben wishes to build the capacity of other members with the sharing of her knowledge and experiences and to make them aware that how waste of water can spread diseases.

### 136. Ms Jadeja Pavanba Vaghubha Feb-2007)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Before she joined SEWA in 2002, 40 year old Jadeja Pavanba Vaghubha used to eke out a living by working as a farm hand or domestic help. Sometimes she stitched quilts for which she received about Rs. 15 per quilt. Survival was difficult since the meagre sum earned by her husband who was a migrant contract labourer was insufficient for their family of five.

She now works with the trade group, crafts, savings and insurance activity and is on the Village Development Committee. She is the craft spearhead team leader as well as the water campaign spearhead team leader.

*'I have received training related to savings, health, ICT and water management . This has enabled me to build my capacity and confidence. I have conducted many awareness campaigns and covered about 1500 women in my community'.*

Pavanba has trained women in crafts and water savings activity in the village, educating the community to take up crafts activity for sustainable livelihood. On the water management front, her efforts have resulted in 45 water tanks being constructed for the community.

**137. Ms Janakben  
Kiransingh Mahida (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

32 year old Janakben from village Mogar in District Anand has passed 9<sup>th</sup> Std. She was a landless labourer and housewife before she joined SEWA in 2003 . She is now involved in SHG savings activities and is CLC in-charge at Mogar village and spearhead team member. She collects savings from SEWA members and maintains the whole channel of savings and loan.

*'I took computer training from SEWA team and I am giving computer training to other women members of SEWA as well as doing data entry in the software prepared by SEWA team. I am also giving details of other activities run by SEWA to village members. I wanted to learn more and more new technology and make my self helpful to my community.'*

Janakben builds other members' capacity with the sharing of her knowledge and experiences, and make others aware of how a woman can change her own life and be beneficial to society.

**138. Ms Jashiben Pravinbhai  
Lauva (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

33 year old Jashiben has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std and has ICT awareness. A farm worker before she joined SEWA in 2002 , she is now a Spearhead team leader for insurance and SHGs.

Jashiben works with the grassroots to create awareness on insurance policies and schemes and motivates women to take up the same. They learn how insurance can be beneficial at the time of emergency or calamity. She strives hard, visiting village-by-village, doorstep-to-doorstep. Thus, her untiring efforts have benefited the women in her village, who are today more aware and wanting to work towards a secure livelihood.

**139. Ms Jomiben  
Jayarambhai Ayar (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

43 year old Jomiben has studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> Std and is from Madhutra village in Dist. Patan.

Working as a salt worker before joining SEWA in 1987, she involved herself in craft activity and is now a Master crafts woman of appliqué work. She has travelled to various exhibitions to show her skills and understand the demand for traditional skills Her efforts have reduced migration for work.

Jomiben is on the craft spearhead team , a JSM Member , executive committee member and federation president. She is also with Trade (Craft ) SHG groups, VDC Committee and DWCRA groups.

*'I feel so proud of being a women now. I have travelled to foreign countries like USA and France. Today I am known by own name in my community. I am completely interested in upgrading the livelihood of my fellow women by doing even better crafts , thus generating more and better quality pieces of work and income security for them.'*

Jomiben is a master in her crafts specialty of appliqué work and has won much recognition for this. She has helped other women in her community take up crafts work for livelihood security. She is deeply involved in getting orders and generating demand for their work and is a shareholder of the SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre. She is a strong pillar of the crafts work in her district.

#### **140. Ms Juliyaben Madhavbhai Khristi (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

45 year –old Juliyaben is from village Bharoda in Anand district and has passed 7<sup>th</sup> Std. Before joining SEWA in 1997 she was a housewife occasionally taking small jobs. She underwent training in many areas such as TOT, computer, drip irrigation and agriculture related topics, and is now agriculture activity spearhead team member, and involved in savings and insurance activity.

*'I have educated my daughter who is a nurse today. I have helped create awareness about savings, good farming practices, etc in my community. It has been a challenging task for me but I never gave up. I am satisfied with my work and look forward to doing similar activities in the future also.'*

Juliyaben has been giving agriculture related training to farmers in the village, getting identity cards for them, and trying to buy appropriate fertilizers for their crops. She sets an example for others to fight against all hardship of life and make others aware that different kinds of training and exposure will change any one's life.

### 141. Ms Jyotsanaben Kanubhai Solanki (Jul-2005)

Makhiyav Village,  
Sanand Tehsil,  
Ahmedabad Dist  
Ph: 02717-320380.

25 year old Jyotsanaben comes from Makhiyav in Ahmedabad district and has

studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Before joining SEWA in 2000 she was a farm worker and housewife. She is now an active ICT user, and involved in agriculture activity and trade groups. She helped farmers join in agriculture campaigns, created awareness regarding agriculture and solved the problem with them. She provided appropriate information related to farm and farming to the members and also provided certified seed and pesticides.

*'I joined SEWA as spearhead team leader. I conducted surveys in villages and took interest in their development. I am happy to work in agriculture, thus facilitating the development of my area.'*

Jyotsnaben has organized many meetings and campaigns related to agriculture. She has supplied need-based equipment and information to the farmers. The women in her community are inspired by her and she takes active interest in their growth and development. She is now using computers in her daily work.

### 142. Ms Jashiben Jethabhai Parmar (Jul-2005)

C/o. SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 26574349, 26576372,  
26579458  
Email: [bdmsa@icenet.co.in](mailto:bdmsa@icenet.co.in);  
[mail.sewatfc.org](mailto:mail.sewatfc.org)

Hailing from Simej in Ahmedabad district, .46 year old Jashiben has studied upto 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Earlier a housewife and farm worker, after joining SEWA in 2001, she is now an active ICT user and involved in insurance, membership & nursery activities and is part of the SHGs for trade.

*'I joined in SEWA as Aagewan. I changed after working for community development and even my husband is appreciative. I conduct various training programs for the women in my village.'*

Jashiben is able to draw women to participate in village meetings. She gives information to the members explaining about the importance of SHGs and insurance schemes and motivates others by talking about her journey from a helpless, depressed woman to being confident and working with pride. She organized 40 women into SHGs last year and got 400 women to take up insurance policies. She provided 10000 plants to members for nursery plantation. She is also getting accustomed to using technology in her work.

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**143. Ms Kalpanaben  
Rameshbhai Parmar (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Kalpanaben joined SEWA in 2004 and is now giving computer training to other members. 22 year old, 12th Std educated Kalpanaben was earlier just a daily wage earner. Within a short period, she became the CLC in-charge at her village Chikhodra. She is actively engaged in making more members aware of technology and its benefits to the community.

*'Being relatively new, I have only been involved at the Community Learning Centre in imparting computer training to other women. I first undertook training arranged by SEWA and am now designated as master trainer. I feel happy to make women more adaptable to technology.'*

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**144. Mr Kanubhai M Chaudhari  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Kanubhai M. Chaudhari (30), a graduate, lives in Unchamala village located near the Atomic Power Station in Surat district, Gujarat.

He is a farmer who has been involved with n-logue and community activities for the past one and a half years. He has set up a Chiraag Mahithi Kendra in his village where many students come to learn Computer operations. They are happy with his teaching at the computer learning center in the village. He offers photography, browsing, drafting, astrology and printing services for a fee and also charges for computer games, to generate income.

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**145. Ms Kokilaben  
Amrutbhai Makwana  
(Jul-2005)**

AT. Pisavada, Ta: Dholka, Dist.  
Ahmedabad.  
Ph: 982467921 / 02714-294123

35 year old Kokilaben belongs to Pishavada village in Ahmedabad district. An agricultural worker studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Std, she joined SEWA in 2004. She is now agriculture

spearhead team leader and belongs to trade group, other SHG groups and serves on the village development committee.

*'I built my capacity after joining SEWA. At present I am involved in Agriculture Spearhead team member. I took several trainings from SEWA like Agriculture, SEWA movement. I did awareness meetings from village to village and developed more women through the same.'*

In the initial stages, Kokilaben participated in member's education training and understood what SEWA is. She also underwent agriculture training when her community faced continued problems in crop failure due to disease. She also informed and actively facilitated farmers to obtain the "Trico Gram" card. Kokilaben created 7 farmer groups, conducted seeds surveys, provided 100 farmers cards, developed agriculture groups in Pisavada village, and provided pesticide that helped decrease the level of crop disease.

She has taken part in SATCOM programs and developed four Khedut Mandals in Pisa Wada village. She is also involved in preparing compost pits and starting a cleanliness campaign in village Kishori Mandal apart from nursery and insurance assistance. She helps other members to get employment through these activities. She is slowly becoming computer literate too.

#### **146. Ms Kokilaben Rajanikant Solanki (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

33 year old Kokilaben is from Bileshwarpura in District Mahesana. She is a graduate with D.P.C.S. and joined SEWA in 2002. She is now a spearhead team leader involved in trade group and savings activity. She creates more and more saving accounts for members and provides saving related guidance to them. She also organizes loans for needy persons and gets recovery from them (Rs. 30000/- has been loaned to members and recovered). She has provided insurance to members and now she is a Balawadi organizer.

Kokilaben involves maximum members through savings groups and ensures significant contribution. She provides information regarding savings, insurance and its help to the members. She also discusses SEWA's integrated approach with her community and village women. She has undergone computer training and has then taught others in her group. She uses the skill in her routine work too.

### 147. Ms Krishnaben Mohanbhai Chavada (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

25 year old Krishnaben has passed 9<sup>th</sup> Std and comes from village Jotana in Mehsana district. She joined SEWA in 1999 and now as insurance spearhead team member she has been instrumental in getting more women to take up insurance policies and providing them training on benefits and organizing meetings at the village level. She is able to manage the complete insurance activity at the district level effectively.

Actively involved in gram sabhas, Krishnaben conducts meetings for conflict resolution and has also educated the community on water savings techniques and its benefits. She works enthusiastically in the insurance activity. For this, she organizes various campaigns, village committee meetings and coordinates with different agencies. Consequently, more than 4000 women have taken up insurance policies in this district last year. She is hardworking, empathetic and open to new ways of doing things.

### 148. Ms Laxmiben Naranbhai Desai (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

A resident of Vadnagar village in Dist. Patan, Laxmiben is 35 and has studied upto 9<sup>th</sup> Std. Before joining SEWA in 1992, she worked as contract labourer. She is now president of a milk cooperative providing training and awareness and giving income security through milk collection, and also member of trade groups (Milk Cooperative) and other SHG groups.

*'I handle the milk cooperative, which is totally managed by us women. At present I am involved in Jeevanshala an adult literacy program of SEWA as Spearhead team member and in computer training. I undertook several trainings from SEWA like membership training, savings, technical training (milk fat testing, TV, VCR, Fax, Phone, Computers) and sewing.'*

Laxmiben never lost her courage in spite of all hurdles. She is involved in many activities like milk cooperative, giving adult literacy training to the community, and childcare services. She was actively involved in organizing and distributing sewing machines in her community. She runs childcare centers in her area and has motivated women to come out of their houses and take up community affairs.

### 149. Ms Leelaben Kantilal Solanki (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

43 year old Leelaben lives in Ganeshpura village in Mahesana district and has passed 6<sup>th</sup> Std. A landless labourer, she joined SEWA in 1986 and underwent food processing and market orientation training and also ICT training. She is now a Spearhead Team Leader and executive committee member, conducting meetings with the community regarding SEWA's activity and its advantages for the members. She organized savings groups, manages all accounts and continuous coordination with local government bodies efficiently. She also provided certified seed to the farmers at low rates, arranging for pesticides, and worked closely in coordination with IFFCO for crop disease reduction.

*'I participated in various training programs which have benefited my community and me. I took a loan for animal husbandry also, which supplements my income. I talk to my fellow women all the time and urge them to be self reliant.'*

Leelaben has organized many groups and explained the integrated approach of SEWA effectively. She has a solution-oriented approach and is ever willing to solve the community's problems, to the best of her

abilities.

In spite of being older and semi literate, she is very open to technology and is ever willing to learn new tools. She recently underwent video replay training, computer basics and so on.

### 150. Ms Leelaben Manajibhai Rathod (Jul-2005)

At. Dhangadra, Ghadi Ni Vadi,  
Ward No: 5, Dr. Ambedkar nagar,  
Ta: Dhangadra, Dist: Surendra nagar,  
Ph: 09925266621

29 year old Leelaben of Susvav, in Dist. Surendranagar was a housewife doing bit of craftwork and farm work before she joined SEWA in 2001. Having participated in several training courses at SEWA like insurance training, membership training, savings training, computer training, etc. she feels confident and would like to train others also.

Leelaben has organized women into SHGs. She learnt to handle accounts and then learnt the nuances of insurance also. She has motivated others to learn more and be open to new ways of doing things. She learnt computer well and using computer to enter data entry in MIS. She took membership from village-to-village and organized groups for savings. Her house to house visits to collect insurance premium from members enhanced their awareness regarding insurance.

### 151. Ms Madhuben Dineshbhai Soni (Feb-2007)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

40 year old Madhuben who is 10th Std educated, joined SEWA in 2000 as a member and now is in the spearhead team. Earlier working as a contract labourer she and her husband who earned a paltry sum of Rs. 13 per day found their income grossly insufficient to take care of their family's expenses.

Madhuben underwent training and is now working with trade groups, SHG groups and with the Village Development Committee. She educates the members for their capacity-building, thus increasing her own capacity. She undertook several literacy campaigns for the community, which has changed their way of thinking.

*'I am involved in imparting literacy skills to my fellow women as a spearhead team members of SEWA. I have undergone the literacy training myself, as well as computer training. Earlier I lacked the courage to even venture out of my house and life was a big struggle. But now I feel more confident and am happy to educate my children in a good school and help other women like me in my village and community.'*

Madhuben has grown in her stature and is

more active and involved in community affairs through her literacy campaigns and training programmes. She motivates others to seek knowledge and tells them about how science and technology can benefit them.

### 152. Ms Madhuben Harjivanbhai Makwana (Jul-2005)

C/o. SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 26574349, 26576372,  
26579458  
Email: [bdmsa@icenet.co.in](mailto:bdmsa@icenet.co.in);  
[mail.sewatfc.org](mailto:mail.sewatfc.org)

37 year –old Madhuben Harjivanbhai Makwana who has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Std joined SEWA in 2003. She had worked earlier on farms as a labourer and tried working at other small jobs, but was unable to support the needs of her family and children. After undergoing many training programs in SEWA she not only earns her livelihood but also empowers other women in taking up community welfare programmes. As the savings spearhead team leader she collects the savings and submits to the Head office, and as an SHG group member, she organized 400 members in the past year. She created awareness in her community on insurance and got 100 women to take up insurance policies.

Madhuben says *'I organized many women*

*into SHGs and always motivate more and more to join in. I undertook training on membership, water campaign and SEWA movement. I have built and developed myself through these training, thereby preparing and motivating others to do the same.'*

She is active, dynamic and a good influence in her village, utilizing her training to the fullest for supporting her community.

### **153. Mr Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman (Jan-2006)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman (22), comes from Vadani village, a farming area in Patan district, Gujarat, and has passed 12<sup>th</sup> std. He has been involved with n-logue and community activities for the last 6 months through the Chiraage Internet Centre. He provides services like photography, education, internet surfing, astrological services, etc. in the village itself. He also teaches the children computer education and raises their awareness through the internet. His centre is also a place where children can gather to play computer games.

Manasiya Hifjurbhai Raheman is a very hard working person and is ready to help the village people whenever they need assistance.

### **154. Ms Mayaben Mahendrakumar Patel (Jul-2005)**

At: Nandasan Navapura, Ta: Kadi,  
Dist: Mahesana,  
Ph: 09979092543 / 273859  
E-mail: maya\_mehsana@yahoo.com

26 year old Matyaben comes from village Navapura in District Mahesana, and has studied up to 9<sup>th</sup> Std. Before joining SEWA in 2000 she was a farm worker. She is now an ICT user and is involved in training activities. She provided membership training to members, organizes training for forming savings groups in villages and helps in SATCOM training. She has undergone Aagewan, Chalaval, Kadam, SATCOM & video replay training. She has also provided water conservation training to members.

Mayaben is methodical and has developed a comprehensive database of all trainees, aagewans, etc. She is result oriented and does not leave any task half-done. She has motivated women to join in trade groups for increasing their income and becoming more secure. Under her guidance and keen supervision, many members of SEWA have become team leaders and committee members. She makes use of word processing software for developing her reports and other work.

### 155. Ms Meenaba Paramshing Jadeja (Feb-2007)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Meenaba is an influential person in her village. She has organized several meetings and provides information on a need basis. She is actively working with the prestigious Jeevika project of SEWA, which provides livelihood security to the poorest of poor families. 35 year old 10th Std educated Meenaba guides and mentors these women to enter into livelihood activities, thus making them self-reliant. She coordinates with the Village Development Committee for development work and has organized about 350 women to join the Jeevika project. She is also the childcare activity leader.

*'I have received training related to savings, water management; health, childcare centres, computer etc. This has enabled me to build my capacity and confidence. I have also been doing craft work and provide craftwork to other members for livelihood security. Through the craft my earning capacity has also increased'.*

Meenaba informs women about the integrated approach and its benefits. She organizes many group meetings on her own initiative and spreads awareness.

### 156. Ms Meenaben Vishnubhai Rathava (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

A resident of village Pavi Jetpur in Vadodara district, 25 year old Meenaben has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> Std. She was a labourer living under very poor conditions without enough money for survival and was not able to send her children to school. After joining SEWA in 2001, she involved herself in savings activities and became a Spearhead Team Leader.

She conducting meeting with village people and provided information related to savings and linked them to the savings groups. She organises women to this activity and also connects them under the Santa project. She gives awareness regarding insurance to women and also helps to provide income security to the community.

*'I stepped out of my house, on my own, after joining SEWA. I go door-to-door to educate women about savings and insurance. I am also involved in Gokul Gram programs. I enjoy working like this, benefiting the community and myself.'*

Meenaben was selected for Academy training at Ahmedabad. She teaches well and is popular in training programs. She has also

created awareness about income security and insurance programs at the community level. She is now learning to use computers in her daily work.

### **157. Ms Meetaben Kantil Solanki (Jul-2005)**

Vankarvas, Village: Ganeshpura,  
Ta: Kadi, Dist: Mehasana-392705.  
Ph: 09824427103 / 9924410170

Meetaben Kantil Solanki is 26 and has passed 12<sup>th</sup> Std . A housewife living in Ganeshpura village in District Mahesana, she joined SEWA in 1999 and worked for membership training to provide appropriate training for capacity building. Involved in the Gokul Gram program, she conducts Gram Sabhas on regular basis, and her frequent coordination with the Sarpanch has resulted in a faster pace of development in her village.

Meetaben has been pivotal in organizing and conducting training programmes based on the needs of the community. She regularly meets local self-government agencies and works closely with them, providing reports and progress of schemes. Though not highly educated, she is able to confidently manage all types of accounts and liaison with senior government officials. Meetaben is an inspiration and a dynamic person working for the progress of her community.

### **158. Ms Nanduben Govindbhai Bariya (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

41 year old Nanduben has been with SEWA since 1996. She is an executive member of SEWA, saving spearhead team leader and president of Shukhi Mahila SEWA Mandal.

She holds regular meetings with village groups and has arranged loans for 10 groups, so far.

Formerly a landless labourer whose father's land was mortgaged, Nanduben single-handedly, fought the case in court to get justice. Encouraged by her, others in the community also took loans and fought for release of their mortgaged land.

*'I am more confident now and can take important decisions. I underwent many types of training at SEWA. When I began to learn computers, I was so scared. But slowly and steadily I understood how I can use it and today I rattle away (in Gujarati) on the keyboard and do all my routine work using the computer.'*

Nanduben has worked tirelessly in organizing savings SHGs and teaching women about the importance of savings. She leads through example, therefore community listens to whatever she has to say.

### 159. Ms Nirmalaben Jayantibhai Parmar (Jul-2005)

Nirmal Nagar Society,  
Raval Pura, Block  
Dist. Anand  
Ph:079-257048

Hailing from village Ravidapura in District Anand, Nirmalaben is 42 and has passed 10 Std. She joined SEWA in 1993, before which she was a landless labourer. She involved herself in training, savings and insurance activity, is a spearhead team member and on the board of directors for the savings activity. She tries to make more and more members join in savings and insurance and gives training to Aagewans for leadership, membership, kadam and SEWA movement.

*'After taking computer training today I am able to do all my work using computers, though I was scared of learning it in the first place! I have helped create awareness on savings and insurance in my village and surrounding areas. I enjoy doing this work and motivating fellow women to step out and be self-reliant. I now work with Gram Panchayat and take a keen interest in village development activities.'*

At present Nirmalaben is handling around 1200 members in insurance and handling 6 savings groups in the village. She is also handling two Life schools in the village and wishes to make the community understand and adopt the idea of SEWA's integrated approach. Conducting capacity building meetings, she wants to make her community

members aware of their own identity with confidence.

### 160. Ms Nirmalaben Jekabhai Parmar (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Hailing from Village Anand in Anand Dt., Nirmalaben is 39 and has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Widowed at a young age she joined SEWA in 2000. She took training of TOT, computer and photography and is involved in the Life School for adult education for the community. She has made a list of illiterate members and given them primary education and tried to make many more women members join SEWA.

*'I am giving education to mothers and daughters at one place. I am trying to get more and more members in SEWA and make them understand the other services of SEWA through meetings. I also try to provide loan from SEWA Bank to members who are keeping their money in SEWA Bank, this way I am trying to make more and more members benefit through SEWA Bank.'*

**161. Ms Niruben  
Vikramsingh Chauhan  
(Jul-2005)**

At: Mogar, Lal Darvaja Street,  
Ta: Dist: Anand, Ph: 09998286761

Niruben is 24 and comes from Mogar village in Anand district. She has passed 7<sup>th</sup> Std and was a landless laborer and housewife before she joined SEWA in 1998.

*'I took computer training from SEWA team, at present I am handling CLC center of SEWA in Mogar. I am giving computer training to other women members of SEWA as well as doing data entry in the software prepared by SEWA team .I am also giving details of other activities run by SEWA to Village members.'*

Niruben is savings activity and CLC in-charge at Mogar village and spearhead team member for saving collection from SEWA members and maintaining the whole channel of savings and loans. She has been designated as master trainer for computer training to other women in the surrounding areas. She has built other members capacity with the sharing of knowledge and experiences and made others aware how a woman can change her own life and bring benefits to the community. Having attended a conference on Information Technology in Goa, Niruben wants to learn more and more new technologies apart from computers and make herself more helpful to her community. She wishes to create more awareness about IT and savings in her area.

**162. Ms Nitaben  
Amrutbhai Chaudhari  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Nitaben was 6 months old when her mother died and had to stay at her uncle's house till she completed 10<sup>th</sup> std.. After that she went to her fathers village for further study, and completed her B.R.S. in Vidyapidh, Nardipur. She joined SEWA in 2004, and now 23 years old, she is agriculture campaign spearhead team member contributing to land surveys, and is part of the Trade group, SHG groups and Village Development Committee. She organized 400 women into SHG membership, made 90 women take up insurance policies last year, and was involved in imparting literacy skills to the women in her village.

*'I built my capacity and became confident after joining as an Agriculture Campaign Spearhead team member and undergoing various training programs like water management, education, insurance, computers, etc.I feel proud to have helped my community in water conservation programs and the fact that my being a woman has not come in the way of my work'.*

Nitaben has contributed to her village's development through active awareness and door-to-door dialogues with women. She motivated rural women to pick up literacy skills, cultivate a habit of saving and thus organized SHGs for savings. In addition, she is actively working in improving agriculture methods and generating awareness amongst the farmers.

### **163. Ms Paluben Manajibhai Jadav (Jul-2005)**

Hari Par Road, Old Kharavad,  
Ta: Dhangadra, Dist. Shu Nagar.  
Ph: 02754-282676

Paluben is 40 years old and comes from Rajagadha in Surendranagar district Gujarat. She has studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> Std. And was a housewife and laborer digging pits till she joined SEWA in 2001.

She joined SHG groups and became Insurance Spearhead Team Leader. She collects insurance premium from door-to-door, thus imparting knowledge and information to the women. She achieved the highest number of insured women in a district, single handedly. Last year it was 600 women. She also goes to farms to collect premium and so the community has benefited from this security.

Paluben undertook insurance training and since then has never looked back. She guides others and provides them with relevant and needed information. Her mentorship has resulted in more members joining in this

activity. She was chosen to represent her district at the national level insurance workshop. She was actively involved in MIS data entry related to insurance and shared her domain knowledge with others, so that their work would be correct.

*'I first worked in savings group and then realized the importance of insurance. I demonstrated how insurance can prove beneficial to women in times of distress or need. I was selected as Insurance team leader.'*

### **164. Ms Pinaben Jivanbhai Rathava (Jul-2005)**

At: Mogar, Ta: Dist: Anand,  
Lal Darvaja Street,  
Ph: 09998286761

Aged 26 Pinaben is from Mesar in Gujarat. She studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> std and was a farm worker and housewife till she joined SEWA in 2000. She conducts meetings with women and provides information related to savings and has helped form 25 SHGs.

She provides information in her community for development work, taking forward the integrated approach of SEWA.

Pinaben has developed into a confident woman, working for village development, with the Gram Panchayat She works extensively with the tribal community and motivates the women to overcome their fears and work together for their upliftment. She uses computers for preparing reports and statements of accounts and has undergone

other technical training like video replay, photography, etc.

*'I could not even say my name before joining SEWA. I have participated in several trainings like plumbing, membership, etc. After that I began to form SHGs. I also provide information on topics like health, insurance, agriculture, nursery, water management, etc. I feel empowered working for the development of the community.'*

### **165. Ms Poonamben Dalpatbhai Vaghela (Jul-2005)**

At. Valad, Rohit Vas,  
Opp. Kushkunj,  
Ph: 23277441

Aged 42, Poonamben is from Valad in Gandhinagar District, Gujarat and has studied up to 8<sup>th</sup> Std. Widowed at the time when her daughter was 5 years and her son was just 2, she worked as a labourer and earned 50 Rs. per month, and also had to do farm work to earn Rs. 25 per day. After joining SEWA in 2003, Poonamben has received extensive training in mid-wifery and is much in demand in her area. She conducts one training program every month related to health issues. She also helps in organizing women into SHGs, she is a Trade Group Leader, and serves on the Village Development Committee. Having received training on the SEWA movement and insurance schemes, she persuaded 200 women to take up insurance policies in the past year, and organized farmer groups and 600 members. She is now learning the use of computers.

*'I received training in mid-wifery and other health issues pertaining to women and children. This motivated me to work for my community and spread awareness about health and hygiene in my village. I am also an agriculture worker. I feel confident and want to work even harder –it is hard to imagine that I was too scared to venture out of my house, not so long ago!'*

### **166. Ms Pushpaben Fakirbhai Suthar (Jul-2005)**

Village Por. Suthar Vas,  
Dist. Gandhinagar  
Ph:9327951645

A resident of Por village in Dist. Gandhinagar, Pushpaben aged 48 has studied upto 7<sup>th</sup> Std. On joining SEWA in 1990, she underwent training programs like literacy skills, computer training, water campaign, SEWA movement, etc., and having a special interest in the area of women's health she took up the responsibility of midwives spearhead team leader. She explains about health issues to other women in her community and helps train more midwives in her area. Women are more open to sharing their health problems and actively seek solutions and remedies,

Pushpaben has been involved in water campaigns, creating awareness about water conservation and organizing groups for this. People are more aware and take up water saving methods seriously. She is also S.G.S.Y. executive committee member, and belongs to trade group, SHG groups and village development committee.

Pushpaben never gives up, she is ready to explain to the minutest detail for getting acceptance from the community and fighting myths related to health and hygiene. She is enthusiastic about water conservation as well, and has organized many meetings and groups on this issue. As a result, her village has benefited and they are more open and eager to solve such problems jointly.

### **167. Ms Pushpaben Jayantibhai Parmar (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony, Near Navrangpura  
Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

30 year old Pushpaben has passed 6<sup>th</sup> Std and comes from Village Sokhada in District Kheda. When she joined SEWA in 2001 she was a housewife and landless labourer.

She took computer training as well as training of Kadam, leadership, SEWA movement etc and uses SATCOM and video replay for making services very effective. She gives details on "Trade Assembly" to the village member to make them understand that why should they be members of this assembly and what are the benefits.

*'After join SEWA, I always attend all kinds of meetings held by SEWA and every time I learn some thing new from the meeting. Today I know the value of water. Earth gives us water and we never save it, in fact we*

*always waste it. Now after attending the meeting I am saving water in different ways. We are doing plantation for saving wasted water.'*

With the help of trade assembly she is giving knowledge on different small-scale trades like vegetable vendors. What are the reasons affecting this trade? How to get seeds and fertilizers for vegetable farming? Which kind of disease can occur in vegetable farming and what are the remedies they can use?

Pushpaben also takes help from consultants on different subjects. She wants to learn more and pass on this knowledge to other women in her community and encourage them also to come forward and be the masters of their own life.

### **168. Mr Rajubhai Patel (Jan-2006)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Rajubhai Patel (30), a Science graduate, hails from Majra village, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He has cable network in his village, is familiar with computers and Internet and also aware of the advantages of their use.

Wanting to provide hi-tech services in his village, he started the Chiraag centre in February, 2005. He is using I-see services in

his village to get medical advices from doctors, which the village people find very helpful . He also provides computer education which is much in demand among all students. He offers astrology services, which is very popular in the village scenario, and earns through browsing, games. He is very happy to provide the services which is making a difference in the lives of the villagers.

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**169. Mr Rakesh Jayantibhai Suthar (Jan-2006)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Rakesh Jayantibhai Suthar (21), comes from Kimbuva, a farming village in Patan district, Gujarat. He is 12<sup>th</sup> Pass from Patan with I.T.I diploma from Amirghadh and Mehsana. He has been involved with the N-logue Communications Pvt Limited for the last 6 months.

He offers the Chiraag services like astrology services, photography, education, surfing, games etc. in the village itself, facilitating easy access. He also teaches the children computer education which raises their awareness of the outside world through the internet. The children also come to his centre to play games on the computer.

He is very hard working, diligent and ready

to help the people any time when needed.

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**170. Ms Ramilaben Arvindbhai Parmar (Jul-2005)**

Limada Puera, Block  
Dist. Anand  
Limaderpuaa Road  
Ph:9327642203

Aged 28 Ramilaben comes from Limdapura village in Anand district of Gujarat and has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Before she joined SEWA in 1998 she was a housewife. At SEWA she became involved in nursery activities, joined SHGs and underwent ICT training. She is a Spearhead team member, and her work includes plantation, selling of ready plants, maintenance of prepared plants, seed collection and development work for wastelands. Through this she was able to build her capacity to make others understand the significance of plantations and nursery activity.

*'I was not eager to work with plants, in the initial stages. Gradually, I understood the importance of this activity and how I could motivate others in my community to nurture plants. Now, I work with the Sarpanch and others in the Panchayat and am fully involved in village development work. After two years of nursery work, I got the opportunity to undertake computer training from SEWA, I liked to learn new technology at this age. In future I will definitely learn more of new technology. I have become a more responsible person after joining SEWA and have even built a small house with my*

*savings.'*

### **171. Ms Ramilaben Ashokbhai Gohel (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Ramilaben from Lotiya Bhagod village in District Anand, is 25 and has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std. Before joining SEWA in 2000, she was a landless laborer occupied in animal husbandry.

*'I have taken computer training, hand pump repairing training, photography training, phone and mobile usage training. I am able to use technology competently, for which I feel proud of myself. I have participated in many programs and events of my district and community and helped raise awareness levels on water conservation and maintenance of water related equipments.'*

*'As a Water Campaign Spearhead team member, Ramilaben has been conducting awareness programmes on the importance of water in human life, and how water utilization can be maximised by the community with out wastage. She has learnt hand pump repairing and goes to different villages where their hand pump is not working to repair it and save water, and has also arranged training for others.'*

### **172. Ms Ramilaben Indravadanbhai Makvana (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

A double graduate with Hindi and History, 29 year old Ramilaben joined SEWA in 1998 where she underwent training. She is now designated as an organizer involved in SHG and child care activity.

Ramilaben gives Balvikas training to children in the villages and encourage members to attend SEWA's meeting. She informs them about other services of SEWA, and builds members' capacity through training.

*'Some time ago, no woman member would go to any village related meeting. After taking awareness from me there are so many women members who regularly attend the meetings, understand the agenda and also give their inputs. I am able to use phone, fax, computer and calculator. I have done my graduation but I was not conversant with technology at that time. Today I feel fortunate and happy to be able to take care of myself as well as help the community.'*

**173. Ms Ramilaben  
Robinbhai Khristi (Feb-2007)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

After joined SEWA in 2000, 10<sup>th</sup> educated 42 year old Ramilaben who was earlier fully engrossed in household chores, is now conducting programmes for the community related to savings and vegetable farming. She holds a “trade assembly” in the village every month and also makes the community understand the importance of an integrated approach for their benefit.

Ramilaben’s other community efforts include trying to address the problems related to water in the villages and giving training on SATCOM and different services of SEWA to the members and taking computer training from DDIT college.

*‘I have made 25 SHGs of vegetable vendors in my area. I collect savings from the members and deposit them in SEWA Bank. I am creating awareness about savings and the integrated approach of SEWA. We women have to be self reliant.’*

**174. Ms Ratanben  
Harilal Gadia (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Ratanben is 40 and lives in Dudapur village, Dist. Surendranagar. She studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> Std and was a housewife, farm worker when she joined SEWA in 2001. She underwent health training and helped the villagers in their health problems moving door-to-door to provides cheaper medicines and any other assistance. Now a health spearhead team leader and SHG group member, Ratanben compiled a list of patients suffering from life threatening diseases like TB and cancer and got them admitted to the hospital. She has also arranged guidance and appropriate information for them

*‘After joining SEWA, I have undergone health and mid-wives’ training. I also attended many conferences. After learning the basics of IT, I attended the Baramati conference where I spoke about the use of ICT at the grassroots. I feel happy to be involved in such work’.*

Ratanben has organized many health camps and works closely with government health agencies. During epidemics, she works tirelessly, providing relief and medicines to the disease stricken. She is a source of inspiration for others and has now begun to use technology in her work. She motivates

other women to live hygienically and use scientific methods for treatment.

**175. Ms Saritaben  
Mukeshbhai Rathava  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

27 year old Saritaben belongs to village Aleekherava in District Vadodara, and has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std and pre. P.t.c. When she joined SEWA in 2002 she was a housewife. She took membership training, health training, hand pump repairing training, leaf-cup training from SEWA, also took computer training in 2003 from ICT team of SEWA.

As spearhead team member and part of the board of directors for the savings activity, Saritaben encouraged more women to join in the savings and insurance groups. She gave training to Aagewans for leadership, membership, kadam and SEWA movement and made others understand the integrated approach of SEWA and how capacity building can make the community more confident and self-reliant.

Saritaben learns with confidence and teaches patiently. Thus, she has helped women in her community to learn livelihood skills. In addition, she has learnt basic computer usage and creates awareness about technology in

her village. At present she is handling more than 1200 members in insurance and handling 6 savings groups in the village. She is also handling two Life schools in the village and has changed from a simple housewife to being on the board of directors for the savings activity.

**176. Ms Sarojben  
Natubhai Gohel (Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

32 year old Sarojben has passed 7<sup>th</sup> Std and comes from village Tundel in District Kheda. She was an agricultural worker when she joined SEWA in 1990. She is now actively involved in water campaigns and is a spearhead team member. She conducts awareness programs on the importance of water in human life and how to use water without any waste. Build other members' capacity with the sharing of her knowledge and experiences, she makes them aware of how waste of water can spread diseases and arranges drip irrigation training.

*'I convened an assembly in my village for water campaign. In this assembly we are trying to solve the water related problems in the village. I am also giving knowledge related to water like, How to reuse water? What are the benefits of proper usage of water and danger of wastage of it? I am*

*giving training to villagers how to make their village clean.'*

At present Sarojben is holding public meetings for the awareness of water usage in her village as well as in schools. She is also a member of savings activity in which a group is made and enrolled in SEWA Bank. Because of this savings one of the team member had been able to get a loan from SEWA Bank and she purchased a machine for her livelihood. This way Sarojben is helping her community. She is also using computer in her activity and makes others understand how this technology is helping her in her regular work.

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**177. Ms Shobhanaben  
Dhirubhai Vadhela (Jul-2005)**  
C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Shobhanaben is 29 years old and comes from Visavadi (Navagam) in Surendranagar Dt. She has studied up to 11<sup>th</sup> Std and after joining SEWA in 2001, she is an ICT user and involved in Jeevika, agriculture and education activities. She provide appropriate knowledge regarding agriculture to the community and also does insurance and savings work and gives literacy training.

*'I work as a Vidya Gauri – a trainer for literacy skills. I have also worked on insurance*

*campaigns and motivated women to take up policies. I feel inspired, especially as I am contributing to raising the literacy levels in my community.'*

Shobhanaben has organized the village women into SHGs and maintains accounts for various groups. She is confident and is open to learning new methods of teaching and modern tools of technology. She motivates other women to learn to read and write and explains the importance of education in our life. She also teaches the children in the village.

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**178. Ms Sumitraben  
Amaratbhai Parmar (Jul-2005)**  
C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

30 year old Sumitraben has passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std and lives in Punasan Village, Mehsana District. A housewife, she joined SEWA in 2002 and actively involved herself in water harvesting and water conservation activities. She is now a spearhead team leader and has conducted various training programs related to membership, health, water, savings and insurance.

She has conducted various meetings at the grassroots to spread awareness about the importance of water and conserving it effectively, using simple tools like paintings

and wall posters on water saving methods in her campaigns. She also works with health issues and explains the significance of female and child health aspects to the women in her community. Sumitraben is pro-active and always on the move, talking to people and working towards the development of her community.

### 179. Ms Suryaba Madhuji Jadeja (Feb-2007)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Suryaba is a crafts- person who is utilizing her skills for livelihood generation and security. The 28 year old former salt worker is now ICT aware, having undergone training after joining SEWA. She encourages other women in her village to take up literacy skill programmes for a better life and future.

Belonging to SHG groups and craft trade groups, she is keen to understand the market and how she can respond to the ever-changing tastes and preferences of the customer. She provides craft training to poor women, thereby developing their capacity and is also a member of the village development council.

*'Like others in my community, I could not venture out of my home, let alone provide for livelihood for the family. But slowly I*

*started to understand the significance of income security and how I could use my traditional skills. After I received skill up-gradation training I am financially independent and learning new things each day.'*

### 180. Ms Urmilaben Vinodkumar Nayak (Jul-2005)

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building  
8, Navrang Colony,  
Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009  
Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

Hailing from village Sardhav in District Mahesana, Urmilaben is 35, and has passed 12<sup>th</sup> Std. A landless labourer before she joined SEWA in 2001, she is now a spearhead team leader working in savings activity. She has been creating many new saving accounts as well as insurance for members, and providing loan facility to needy groups and getting recovery.

Urmilaben provides information regarding savings, insurance and its help to the members. She also organizes training, imparts information regarding trade samiti and its roles, so more and more members come for attending these meetings.

She has taken several technical training courses like computer, photography, video replay training, SATCOM training etc. passes it on to others so that current trends in technology reach the grassroots. Also she uses this skill in her activity work.

**181. Ms Ushmaben Mevada  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited

5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020

Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Ushmaben Mevada (31), is a resident of Fatepur village in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat.

Ushmaben and her husband Prakashbhai are Ayurvedic doctors by profession. This couple is very much interested to know about advanced research happening in the medical field. As Internet is a good source to develop better knowledge in any field, they decided to set up a Chiraag Internet Centre in their village. Their main objective was to provide good services of computer education and better medical and other services in the village. They are running the Chiraag Internet Centre and providing medical consultancy to other kiosk operators through I-see software. As a result, many villagers are getting primary treatment in their Chiraag Internet Centre.

Ushmaben gets earnings from DDTP, typewriting, education, spoken English course, browsing, games and astrology services. Chiraag Internet Centre has changed her life, and she encourages people to join in the process.

**182. Mr Vimal Shastry  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited

5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020

Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Vimal Shastry from Mehmabad, Gujarat is around 30 years old. Once he has heard about Chiraag computer centres he wanted to be a kiosk operator and after few days he started the kiosk in his village. He is earning from education, browsing and games, astrology, chatting, downloading, etc. and earns more on photography services and computer education.

Vimal Shastry has more than 35 students in his centre. From the start to date about 500 to 600 members use these services. In his village maximum number of people are coming to know about government services and information.

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**183. Ms Vimalaben  
Bhanuprasad Chavada  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre  
III Floor, GramHaat Building

8, Navrang Colony,

Near Navrangpura Railway Crossing  
Navrangpura, Ahmedabad – 380 009

Tel: +91 (79) 22932235, 22932486

37 year old Vimalaben hails from village Langhanaj in District Mehsana. She joined

SEWA in 2001. As agriculture spearhead team leader she has arranged finance to buy fertilizers, vermicompost, etc for agriculture groups in the villages. She has encouraged and provided information on crop insurance and assisted land assessment. She organized training for farmers in collaboration with IFFCO and pro-actively the community became aware of water saving techniques and its benefits and began following the same. Now she has also initiated health and nursery training in the village .

Vimalaben has organized women and taught them about savings and health in her community. She takes decisions independently and also liaisons with government agencies effectively. She is constantly in touch with her people and arranges for workshops and trainings, based on the needs of the community. She has been involved in SATCOM, video replays and other such interactive exposure forums, which has motivated others to emulate her.

#### **184. Ms Vinaben Rajubhai Rathava (Jul-2005)**

At: Juni Bodell, Ta: Sakheda,  
Dist: Vadodara, Near Jain Derasar.  
Ph: 09825331033.

Vinaben is 25, has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> Std and lives in Juni Bodeli village, Vadodara district. She was a labourer living under too much poor conditions without enough money for survival. She joined SEWA in 2004 and is involved in savings activities. She conducts meeting with village people , provides

information related to saving. The community is encouraged to take up savings more vigorously and more women have formed SHGs

*'I save money and join in saving groups. Also I give information to the members to save money for any harsh condition comes you needs money. I have participated in several training like Aagewan, chalaval, savings, insurance, membership and crop insurance training, thus building my capacity.'*

Vinaben is confident and works closely with the Gram Panchayat for development of her village. She has also been exposed to the working in other districts, which have a better pace of development, and has shared her experience in her community. She has inspired women to form SHGs and spearheaded the savings activity in her area.

#### **185. Mr Yagnesh Kishorchandra Rindani (Jan-2006)**

Momai Nagar, St. No. 1, Opp.  
Kotecha's Clinic, Gandhi Nagar,  
Jam Nagar - 2, Ph: 09825990226,  
E-mail: de.Jamnagar@aifoundation.org

Yagnesh (36), is a B. Com graduate working in coastal villages in Jamnagar district of Gujarat. He has been involved in community development activities since 1992 and joined the American India Foundation's Digital Equalizer program in 2003.

From humble beginnings as a tuition teacher for primary students and a part-time employee in a construction company, he has

steadily grown in his professional life through his own effort. In 1992, when “computer” was still new to Jamnagar, he acquired computer skills with the help of a well wisher who owned a computer and mastered skills in Desk Top Publishing, to start a small business of printing visiting cards. Being always interested in rural prosperity and committed to the assist rural community, he thought of using his skill for social service.

He started a free computer education centre for poor students and taught DTP skills to equip them to find gainful employment. Many people have benefited from his support and are making a living out of their learning. In 2003, when American India Foundation (AIF) started its Digital Equaliser Programme in the Jamnagar District, Yagnesh joined as a coordinator. The programme was to digitally equalise the poor students in remote villages and bring them at par with the affluent students. He has also been responsible for getting a Mobile Medicare

Unit to providing free treatment and medicines to the villagers once a week.

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**186. Mr Zala Rajninh  
(Jan-2006)**

**Badodara Village,  
Sabarkantha District,  
Gujarat.**

Zala Rajninh (40), lives in Badodara Village, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. He has studied upto B.A. second year. He and his family attend to farming work on rotation basis. At the Chiraag Centre of n-Logue, he offers photography, education, typewriting and graphics services. By using Agri service of Chiraag he gives solutions to agricultural problems of farmers and the villagers discuss their doubts with him.

From start to till date he has taught around 63 students at his center and the village community has benefited by the low cost. He is a respected person in his village.

## HARYANA

### 187. Mr Arshad Hussain (Jul-2005)

C/o Sehgal Foundation  
Nagina, Haryana  
16 MDA Housing Board Colony,  
Nagina - 122108  
Gurgaon District, Haryana  
Tel : +91 1268 273 448

30-year old Arshad Hussain is a "Village Champion" of the Sehgal Foundation working in Mewat district of Haryana. He is trained in, and responsible for the grassroot implementation of the "Integrated, Sustainable Village Development" model. Arshad's work includes making sure that rainwater is harvested and conserved, and there is an increase in the villagers' income. Dissemination of knowledge on preventive health measures and effective curative health linkages as well as making sure that all the adolescent girls and boys go through the family life education curriculum are also his responsibility. For this Arshad has to create partnerships with the Panchayat, Government, Village Level Institution and the community.

Mewat is socio-economically an extremely poor region of India where mainly Meo-muslims and some scheduled castes live. In this challenging environment Arshad, a standard X passed Meo-muslim, has been dedicatedly working for the development of his native place. The youth of this community

respect him as a role model and enthusiastically work with him as volunteers to bring about positive changes in the villages. He has been involved full-time in social work for 5 years and his work has spanned across 11 Mewati villages. He formed successful SHGs which have sustained and are growing in scope. His forte is community mobilization where he stresses the sustainability aspect of projects and the key role of men in empowering their women folk. Arshad feels that a combination of ICT tools must be used: like wall paintings, village newsletter and charts, but the most important is face to face focused group discussions.

### 188. Ms Razia (Jul-2005)

C/o Sehgal Foundation  
Nagina, Haryana  
16 MDA Housing Board Colony,  
Nagina - 122108  
Gurgaon District, Haryana  
Tel : +91 1268 273 448

26-year-old Razia is from the Mewat district of Haryana. This area has some of the poorest socio-economic indices of the country. Literacy rate amongst women of this area is between 20% to a mere 2% in some villages. In this community women are hardly allowed out of the house, the average family size is 7, and their age at marriage is about 15 years.

In such a milieu, Razia continued her education and proceeded to fulfill her desire

to serve her community. Each year her family tried to stop her studies, but as she won prizes, they were proud and relented for another year, amid taunts from the strict community. She topped her college and got the “Best Woman Award, 1998” by Mewat Development Agency.

Now Razia has a Masters degree in sociology, 4 years of full-time experience in social work, plus 6 years of occasional community work. Currently she is Block Coordinator with the Sehgal Foundation, implementing the “Integrated, Sustainable Village Development” model, which has 4 components: Water Management, Income Enhancement, Rural Health and Family Life Education.

She is a community mobilizer par excellence and has been instrumental in getting women to step out of their homes to seek medical attention, training and participating in community work. She has also consistently achieved success in inspiring the male youth towards community work. So far Razia has found the old fashioned ICT tool of pictures on charts to be quite effective, however she feels the key is to initiate participatory dialogue. She says, “Mewat being a backward area I lost many opportunities. Now I want the youth of Mewat to have all that I had to struggle for so much”. She has attained the status of a role model in this community, who are now more open to educating their girls and having them earn.

### **189. Mr Subhash Chandra Saharan (Jul-2005)**

C/o Drishtee Dot Com Limited  
A-11, Ground Floor,  
Sector -2, [Opp: PDIL Building]  
NOIDA- 201301, U.P.

Ph. No. : +91 (120) – 2545968/69/70

Subhash, 25 years old, belongs to a poor farmer family. He is 12<sup>th</sup> Pass and has been running his Drishtee kiosk for the past 2 yrs in village Poharka, in Sirsa district. Through the kiosk he is providing various types of services to the villagers like digital photography, E-governance services, insurance, computer education etc. He has appointed a computer teacher who teaches basic computers to adolescents and children.

He is a very hard working person, actively involved in social activities. He conducts monthly group meetings with the villagers to know about their satisfaction with the services he provides through the kiosk, and how there can be enhancement of his service . He is very well known as a kiosk owner, not only in the local villages but also in all neighbouring villages. He always ready to take initiative for any kind of challenging job.

Villagers come to him to seek any type of help. He actively participated in the OKN project and motivated the villagers to give the world something unique about the villages which could be always remembered.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

### **190. Mr Dheeraj Arora (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Association of public Internet  
Service Access Providers  
9/B, Satyam, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
M.G.Road, Ghatkopar  
East Mumbai – 440077  
Tel: 09324033250 Fax: 022-25133250  
Email: [apiap@rediffmail.com](mailto:apiap@rediffmail.com)

Dheeraj Arora (23), lives in Solan, situated in the Shimla hills in Himachal Pradesh at a height of 1,350 metres [4,432ft].

Dheeraj was a 12<sup>th</sup> class dropout but again joined education and is presently doing graduation (B.Com) through correspondence from IGNOU. He is running his own business of computer hardware, software, cyber café, computer education since 3 years. Starting with one PC in 2003, he brought the internet

opportunity to the masses by charging nominally. Typical charges used to be Rs 180/- per hour; he charged less than half to make it more accessible to people. Currently it is less than Rs 30/-. He has been at the forefront in bringing internet facility to his small town by regularly meeting the BSNL officials and representing communication needs of his people.

Through the Rotaract Club, Dheeraj has been working on various projects like tree plantation, blood donation camps, etc. and the club has also adopted a school where computer education is provided to a group of children from a local ashram every Sunday morning at his cyber café.

Dheeraj is dynamic and has proved time and again that with the help of Internet, small town folks can achieve all that residents in large cities have easy access to.

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### 191. Mr Aadil Rashid Vaid (Aug-2006)

S/o Abdul Rashid Vaid  
C/O Late Haji MMohammad Abdul  
Kanue, Sadiqabad, KP. Road,  
Anantnag, J & K - 192101  
Phone: 01932-227378  
Mobile: 09419542338

19 year old Adil is currently studying in first year of college in Anantnag town in South Kashmir. He hails from a small remote village called Wullrhama, 32 kilometers from district Anantnag in Pahalgam Tehsil of Kashmir valley which has forested hilly terrain and experiences harsh winters with heavy snowfall. The village women are skilled weavers but their literacy levels are very low. A part of the village population comprise Gujjars who are very backward and are without education, living in poor conditions. Militancy is still active in some hilly regions and is the main reason for backwardness. The village has a health centre which is non functional.

For the past three years Adil has been working as a volunteer community worker at a "Samanbal" (Kashmiri word for a meeting place) opened by Athwaas in District Anantnag. As a part of the initiative which involves formation of women's self help groups for emotional, psychological and economic empowerment., he motivated young girls from nearby villages to visit the

Samanbal and form a group. It was a challenge to sustain the group but Adil was instrumental in developing and sustaining the group. Now while he continues to study in college, he devotes the rest of his time for engaging with the group.

Besides, Adil is actively engaged with Pulse polio programme in the villages. After the Kashmir earthquake in October 2005, Adil visited villages of the affected region. He participated in the initial relief work and is now engaged with rehabilitation work with a group called Yakjah Reconciliation and Development Network. The group is engaged in integrated learning for children in a village in Uri, District Baramulla, North Kashmir. Adil has participated in workshops for learning skills for personality development, social mapping of villages, and the art of making and using puppets for social mobilisation. He also has competency in environmental protection and networking at the grassroots level and is looking at the possibility of linking eco-friendly sustainable livelihood for women and their empowerment at the village level.

**192. Ms Saleema Ahad  
(Aug-2006)**

W/O Abdul Ahad Sofi

R/O Zoohama

Post Office Hanjoora (Chadoora) -  
191113

Budgam, J &amp; K

Saleema hails from Zoohama, a remote village of the hilly Budgam district where the bulk of the population is living below the poverty line and women are mostly illiterate. Though she has only primary education, 38 year - old Saleema is regarded as a role model in her village, being a dedicated social activist and a hard working woman possessing good leadership qualities Saleema has set up many income generation units in and around the adjoining villages which help many unemployed girls sustain themselves by doing various traditional crafts of Kashmir so that they are able to support themselves during hard times and have an assured source of income. She is also providing effective support to these young girls by helping them with the marketing of their products, on a no-profit no-commission basis.

She has been associated with Voluntary Health Association of India from 1994 and played an important and vital role in initiating VHAI activities in the rural areas. During times of turmoil and insurgency when health services were poor in the rural areas since doctors left the Valley for security reasons, she worked without fear and helped in building the confidence of the people in the area.

Saleema has undergone the health workers' crash training programme and was assigned the work of Village Health Worker. She has now been promoted as the Health Supervisor, on account of her dedicated service. She played an important role in the no-smoking campaign, effectively counselling many women and young boys regarding the ill effects of smoking. She has promoted community health, personal hygiene, sanitation and use of latrines in the villages by making house to house visits and canvassing for the environmental cleanliness and also assists the VHAI health teams to register pre natal and ante natal cases for further treatment and guidance. As a trained "Barefoot Counsellor" she has helped many people in the villages to deal with stress, tension and trauma. With her rich knowledge of the culture and heritage of Kashmir, and her commitment to upliftment, Saleema has won the trust of the women in her village.

**193. Ms Shahzada Geelani  
(Aug-2006)**

R/O Dadompura

Hanjoora (Chadoora) - 191113

Budgam, J &amp; K

Shahzada, 45, has matriculation education and hails from Dadompura, a remote village in a hilly area 22 kms from Srinagar city. She has two grown up daughters and a son, but the whole family has a hand to mouth living since her husband earns a meagre income.

Shahzada is well known in her locality for her craft skills. She is good at knitting and

embroidery and has been contributing to the family's income through her traditional Kashmiri crafts. She has formed various Self Help Groups (SHGs) in her locality, where young adolescent girls take up income generation activities. She has taught these young girls various arts and crafts so that they are able to support themselves in hard times. Her hard work and dedication has made her famous in her area, such that many vulnerable women-headed households with no source of income have also taken up these crafts under her guidance and thus have an assured source of income.

When the Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) first started its intervention in health and development activities in the villages of Budgam in 1994, Shahzada joined the association and was the first woman member recommended by the villagers, overwhelmingly by ladies to be on the Village Development Committee (VDC). Due to insurgency in the area the health scenario had received a serious set-back and people in the rural areas were suffering because the doctors and paramedics had left the Valley due to security reasons. Shahzada played an important and vital role in initiating VHAI activities in these rural areas. During those

turmoil years, when VHAI initiated Community Health Programmes in villages, they were looked upon with suspicion, so she helped to gain the confidence of the people in the area. She helped the women and the girl child to get equal treatment in the family.

After undergoing a health-workers crash training programme as well as a course on mental health counselling as a Barefoot Counsellor, she was assigned the work of the Village Health Worker Programme so that she could attend to the problems of women in backward villages. Shahzada promoted the schedule of immunization, care of Child & Mother at Birth programme in her village and has trained Traditional Birth Attendants (Dais) for conducting safe home childbirth. She has created awareness in her area regarding the effects of stress, tension and trauma and how to cope with it. She has also been instrumental in promoting community health, personal hygiene and sanitation in the village by making house to house visits and canvassing for the environmental cleanliness.

Shahzada possesses good skills of singing Kashmiri folk songs and is highly respected in her area, popularly known as "*Dedee*" (elder sister).

## JHARKHAND

### 194. Ms Sunita Kumari (Aug-2006)

Hariraydih, Sonaraitradi,  
Block - Sarwan, Deoghar,  
Jharkhand - 814150

22 year old Sunita Kumari hails from a village located in the hill area of Deogarh district in Jharkhand State. She has higher secondary (12<sup>th</sup> Std.) education and competency in the field of agriculture. For the past one year she has been involved with community activities through NEEDS.

Sunita Kumari is a committed social worker and leading self help group member. In addition she is an active member of a local youth club.

### 195. Mr Bijay Kumar Verma (Feb-2007)

Mrigbandhi Village,  
Pahria Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

An active, enthusiastic social worker, 22 year old Bijay Kumar Verma is a graduate, working in a literacy programme for the last one year. In his panchayat which is located in a forest area, he has already shown leadership qualities in the field of functional literacy.

### 196. Mr Dilip Kumar Yadav (Feb-2007)

Amgachi Village,  
Lakhoria Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

Hailing from a hill area in Deogarh district of Jharkhand, 22 year old Dilip Kumar Yadav has completed Matric (10<sup>th</sup> Std.) and is a member of a youth club. He has competency in animal husbandry with hands-on experience as a primary veterinary practitioner. He has been involved in community activities for the past one year and has already shown leadership qualities.

### 197. Mr Kamal Kishore Yadav (Feb-2007)

Khejurbona Village,  
Panchayat - Deopahari, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

22 year old Mr. Kamal Kishore Yadav is an active, enthusiastic social worker, leading his youth club for rural development. A graduate belonging to the hill area of Deoghar district, Jharkhand, he has competency in health and functional education.

One of the leading members of the youth club, Kamal Kishore has been involved in community activities for the past one year and has already participated in several programmes on sensitization and community

training for reproductive sexual health and literacy.

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### **198. Mr Manoj Kumar (Feb-2007)**

Gondalbari Village,  
Lakhoria Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

At the young age of 19, Manoj Kumar has been leading one of the youth clubs in the hill area of district Deoghar, Jharkhand. He is a graduate and a committed social worker involved in community issues for the past one year. He has competency in agriculture, health and functional literacy and is active in several community sensitization programmes and training on reproductive sexual health. Manoj Kumar is also working as a master-trainer in a literacy programme.

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### **199. Mr Niru Singh (Feb-2007)**

Bandajori Village,  
Munigari Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

Niru Singh, 22, has completed higher secondary (12th Std.) education and comes from block Sarwan, district Deoghar in Jharkhand. As secretary of one of the Self Help Groups she is a committed social worker and has already taken part in several livelihood related programmes and training courses.

Niru has shown leadership qualities in her involvement with community activities for the past 2 years and has competency in craft training.

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### **200. Mr Ranjit Kumar Yadav (Feb-2007)**

Pokhria Village,  
Nanidih Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

An active member of a youth club, 20 year old Ranjit Kumar Yadav, an undergraduate student has already participated in several health related programmes and training in his village. He is one of the leading members in his club, which is committed to work for development in tribal villages, and has been an active social worker for the past 2 years.

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### **201. Mr Tinku Yadav (Feb-2007)**

Hariraidih Village,  
Sonaraidih Post, Sarwan Block,  
Deoghar District, Jharkhand.

A 20 year old graduate, Tinku Yadav has hands-on working experience as a social worker in his village located in Deoghar in the hilly area of Jharkhand. He has participated in several community sensitizing programmes and training on health and livelihood. He is now working in a literacy programme teaching illiterate women and adolescents using Improved Pace & Concept of Learning (IPCL) method.

Tinku Yadav is one of the dedicated, hard-working club members of a youth club. His club is running a Knowledge Centre on health in a village and he himself has participated in several programs and training courses within and outside Deoghar, demonstrating his leadership quality.

## KARNATAKA

### 202. Ms P G Juliet (Jan-2006)

C/o. Centre for Environmental Education  
Neerkollie, Maggula Village  
Imangala Post, Virajpet – 571 218  
Kodagu District, Karnataka  
Tel: 08274 260519, 256483

P.G.Juliet (43), comes from Virajpet in Kodagu district, situated on the Western Ghats of Karnataka . She was running a handmade paper making and plastic recycling unit set up at Maggula village in Virajpet as a part of the Centre for Environment and Education's dry waste management project.

With her knowledge and skills, Juliet created awareness among women folk going on a door to door campaign just to motivate the people of this region. 15 women who were illiterate and most neglected in the community were given training in both handmade paper making and plastic recycling unit. Apart from training, Juliet transformed the lives of these women folk. She constantly encouraged them and showed the path to improve their quality of life. She helped the women to take up LIC policy and postal saving schemes to save their earning to live a financially secure and dignified life.

Juliet has formed many SHGs groups, educating them with income generating

techniques such as mushroom cultivation, paper bag making, vermiculture and other environmentally friendly alternative livelihood options for the upliftment of rural women. Besides just training, she assisted the SHGs in initial marketing as well..As any unit is fully functional only when it is self-sustained, Juliet conducted various awareness, skill and income development programmes on the importance of solid waste management, biodiversity, deforestation, conservation and alternative livelihoods. She is constantly training various SHGs and local NGOs of Ahmedabad, Tirupathi, Patna, Delhi and Ujjain.

Juliet's continued efforts along with her colleagues' dedicated services for the environment, resulted in CEE receiving the PLASTICON AWARD 2005 for the plastic recycling unit, in the category of Innovative Recycling Technology by PlastIndia. The polyloom helps create plastic- free areas and is also a cost effective technology.

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### 203. Mr A V Kumarswamy (Aug-2006)

C/o. Arehalli Coffee Growers  
Association,  
Arehalli Village,  
Belur Taluk,  
Hassan, Karnataka.

45 year old A.V. Kumarswamy is a graduate from a small village by name Arehalli in Hassan district Karnataka where the major crop cultivated is coffee. As the founder member & president of the Arehalli Coffee Grower's association consisting of small and medium planters, which was formed when the coffee industry was going through a crisis, and coffee growers were in distress due to low prices. With his leadership the group has assisted planters by offering specialist advice on pest control and has organized seminars, demonstrations and field trials in conjunction with the Coffee Board of India and the agricultural department to make planters aware of recent technological developments in plantation technology. An information centre has been started in the Arehalli village, where the community can get information about current schemes (plantation, financial, health etc) offered by the government, and scholarships are being given to deserving candidates of the local primary & secondary schools.

**Besides being the frontrunner in taking up welfare activities in his village Kumarswami has been involved with ITC IBD & e-choupal**

since 2003. Through the e-choupal kiosk, he has been disseminating prices to growers to help them make an informed selling decision and has made a significant contribution to agriculture as well as community development.

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### 204. Mr A N Praveen (Aug-2006)

Shivani,  
Masgod, Somwarpet,  
North Coorg - 571236

An Engineering graduate of Mysore University, 37 year-old A.N.Praveen is a cultivator of coffee specifically of Arabica variety. He provides advice and inputs on cultivation and processing to other small planters in the local villages of the hilly coffee growing region to which he belongs. Processing being his area of expertise, the produce of small planters is processed under his supervision to improve standards and to achieve better prices.

Praveen has been involved with ITC IBD since 1999 and with e-choupal since 2001. Through the computer installed at his kiosk he is able to communicate the latest coffee prices to the planters. This enables them to take informed decisions on selling their produce. He is also involved in local social activity such as helping to conduct marriages of poor couples and running a play home for poor children.

**205. Ms K Zarina (Aug-2006)**

Madikeri Bagamandala Road,  
Karugunda village (PO),  
Madikeri Taluk,  
Kodagu. Karnataka

Hailing from A small village by name of Karugunda in a hilly area where the predominant crop grown is coffee, 45 year old K. Zarina is a graduate who has made significant contributions in the spheres of agriculture and community development.

She is the founder member and president of the Rajarajeshwari Womens Self Help Group. The group provides market and price information to coffee planters through the ITC e-choupal kiosk with which she has been involved since 2003. This helps coffee planters to make an informed decision when

selling their produce. A grant has been received by the group from the Coffee board for the establishment of a mini coffee roasting & grinding unit. With funds from the grant, a small retail outlet has been established on the way to Talacauvery a location of tourist significance in Kodagu. The outlet helps the group promote homemade products by the women's group among tourists and generates employment for a few local girls. Part of the income generated from the sale of home made products is used to educate needy children at the local primary school and to give scholarships.

Led by it's pioneer Zarina an number of women SHGs take the lead in social causes in the local and surrounding villages for women's empowerment & community development.

## MADHYA PRADESH

### 206. Mr Hari Shankar Chourasia (Jul-2005)

C/o TARAhaat  
111/9-Z Kishangarth, Vasant Kunj  
New Delhi – 110 070  
Tel: 011 2612281, 26122882

Hari Shankar comes from a village called Teherka in the Tikamgarh District of Madhya Pradesh. The 25 year old postgraduate (M.A. Political Science) has been involved with community activities since 2003 as TARAkendra Coordinator.

Hari Shankar was exposed to computers while pursuing his graduation from Niwari, a Tehsil town of Teherka. He could have easily opted for a livelihood in a city or town but he decided to work for the development of his own village. In the initial years he was involved in community development programs. Today, as a Kendra Coordinator, he teaches the students computers and promotes Information Technology amongst his community members. As a part of TARAhaat's e- governance program, Hari Shankar assists the people of his and surrounding villages in registering their grievances with the government electronically through the internet. He has also been instrumental in conducting workshops in Teherka and surrounding villages and in keeping the community informed about the government schemes.

### 207. Mr Hemchand Kashyap (Jan-2006)

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Hemchand Kashyap (42), from Sankheda village, Hoshangabad district, M.P has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup>.standard. A medium class farmer, he is very active in social work specially health related work and he participates actively in rural health camps. He also has expertise in areas of agriculture and livestock. He takes the initiative to share his knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet, Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing.

### 208. Mr Kalyan Singh Lodha (Jan-2006)

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Kalyan Singh Lodha (55), lives in

**MADHYA PRADESH**

Ambaramchuk village, Guna district, M.P. This high-school educated agriculturist has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2000.

He is a very active social worker and has been selected by ITC in their Sunehra Kal project on livestock and watershed development projects. He is very well versed with the topography of the area and is a participant in agricultural surveys. He takes the initiative to share his skills and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.

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**209. Mr Pratap Singh Rajpoot (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Pratap Singh Rajpoot (32), from Furtala village, Hoshangabad district, M.P. is a highly qualified agriculturist. He has an MA degree and is pursuing his PhD. He is an expert on agricultural techniques as well as on livestock and water management. He advises farmers on good farming practices and has a very good social standing in his village.

Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he has obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer usage, Internet browsing, insurance, pricing and quality parameters of various agricultural commodities, which he shares readily with others in the community.

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**210. Ms Priti Sharma (Jul-2005)**

C/o TARAhAat  
111/9-Z Kishangarth, Vasant Kunj  
New Delhi - 110 070  
Tel: 011 2612281, 2612282

24 year - old Priti comes from Orchha, a very small village in the Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. She is a graduate, and has been involved with community activities for 2 years. In the year 2001 she used to travel from Orchha to Jhansi, a distance of 22 kms, to learn computers and another 40 kms to her college in Niwari (a Tehsil town of Orchha) to pursue her graduation. When TARAhAat opened its TARAKendra in TARAGram in 2002, she enrolled to study the Tally accounting course. Impressed by her commitment and sincerity, Priti was immediately appointed as an Instructor in the TARAKendra. She also continued to pursue her post-graduation in Sociology.

In the last two years she not only completed her post graduation but through sheer hard-work rose to the position of TARAKendra Coordinator and also took on the added responsibility of Community Coordinator in Bundelkhand. She is currently in-charge of implementing the Open Knowledge Network

(OKN) programme for information sharing across communities in the Bundelkhand region. Her TARAKendra is managed by an all girls team.

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### **211. Mr Ramsingh Rai (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ramsingh Rai (48), hails from Ghatara village in Vidisha district, M.P, and has studied upto 8<sup>th</sup> Class. He has been a Sarpanch, has good standing in the village and knowledge of best practices in farming. He obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. Associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002, he takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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### **212. Mr RatanLal Patidar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

RatanLal Patidar (28), a farmer from Borkheda village, in Ratlam district, M.P, has studied upto

Higher Secondary. He is an active Sanchalak in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes active interest in sharing his knowledge of ICT with other farmers of the village He has been actively working for rain water management in the village and was involved in making of a road under the prime minister's village road development program.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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### **213. Mr Ravi Malviya (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ravi Malviya (39), a graduate, belongs to village Gopalur, in the forested area of Sehore district ,M.P. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agricultural commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various fast moving consumer goods and products. He takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

He has good communication skills and leadership qualities, and has interest and

**MADHYA PRADESH**

experience in education and livestock management.

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**214. Mr Rishi Chaturvedi  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Rishi Chaturvedi (37), has an MA degree and comes from Sukheda village, in Ratlam district, M.P.

He has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as a Sanchalak since 2003 and is actively involved in development of his village. He has been able to put up a Bio-gas plant with the help of political contacts. Utja Vikas Nigam, organised cleanliness campaign in the village and introduced Vermi Compost.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**215. Mr Sadasukh Bisnoi  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Sadasukh Bisnoi (45), hails from Pratappura village in the hilly tribal area of Harda district in M.P. He is an agriculturist, has studied upto High School, is actively involved in social work and is the Vice President of "Goshala Society" in the village. He mobilizes villagers in cleaning of the village and gets them to devote some time and do "shram dan". He has expertise in agriculture and water management and takes the initiative to share this knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Sadasukh Bisnoi has been associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2000, and is trained in computer application, insurance, and also on pricing and quality of agricultural commodities.

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**216. Mr Satyanarayan  
Upadhyay (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Satyanarayan Upadhyay (40), lives in Bijapur village, Dewas district, an active Sanchalak

in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD, a forested region in Madhya Pradesh . He has studied upto High school and is associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2004.

Having obtained training on computer usage and applications, Satyanarayan readily shares his knowledge of ICT with other farmers of the village. He has very good communication skills and has worked for water management and livestock management in the village.

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### **217. Mr Suresh Jain (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India

Tel: + 91 9948077976

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Suresh Jain (40), from Garethia Dangi village, Bhopal district, M.P, has studied upto high school, associated with soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002. The sanchalak is also Sarpanch of the choupal village and contributes to his village through social service. He has also obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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### **218. Mr Virendra Singh Jat (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India

Tel: + 91 9948077976

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Virendra Singh Jat (37), hails from Sonkutch village, a dry area in Bhopal district, M.P. Educated upto 12<sup>th</sup> Std., he is associated with the soya choupal of ITC-IBD as Sanchalak since 2002. He is Sarpanch of the choupal village . He contributes to the development of his village through various social service activities, and in his capacity as Sarpanch. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

# MAHARASHTRA

## 219. Mr Balkrushna Ramkrushna Kathalkar (Feb-2007)

Village : Jamathi Dhanagaon,  
Murtijapur, Akola  
Maharashtra  
Phone: 07256-253062

Balkrushna Kathalkar is 43 years old and has an MA degree and Diploma in Electronics. He has competency in organic agriculture and water management. He has conducted experiments in IPM and INM on his field which is located in an arid area and demonstrated this low cost and sustainable farming system to the farmers of the adjoining villages. He also produces vermiculture on a large scale and distributes it to the other farmers.

Balkrushna has lead many co farmers towards organic farming system which has taken care of the soil health. His work in watershed management is prominent, for which he has received felicitation from WALMI Aurangabad. He also received a certificate for work in IPM from India Project, Hyderabad. The Government of Maharashtra has honoured him with Krishibhushan award.

## 220. Mr Bapusaheb Kadam (Aug-2006)

Kinhola, Taluka Manvath,  
Parbhani, Maharashtra  
Phone: 0-9371584909  
e-mail: bapusahebk1v1c@gmail.com

Bapusaheb Kadam is an SSC educated young man of 29 with very good understanding of almost all developmental issues in and around his village, and with leadership qualities oriented towards problem solving. He has been involved in social movements since year 2000, leading the youth and peasants in Kinhola village and surrounding areas.

Bapusaheb adopted computers and information technology as a tool for his work in year 2004 and looks for more IT tools for targeting issues with peoples' movement perspectives. He was the leader of an information drive for making a village web site, working on developing content for rural areas. With his expertise in operating computer he has trained youth, has worked to set up e-Chaupal's centre in his village and has been volunteering for better information dissemination on market rates of the crops.

Proficient in organic farming and a known leader of the organic farming movement, he has promoted organic farming in his own village and surrounding villages effectively

arranging CD shows on laptop to communicate all aspects of organic farming. He has worked on water distribution issues from canal as well as rainwater harvesting by participating in the government initiative “Jal Swarajya” as well as tried to implement water auditing and management software for drinking water.

His other initiatives include a cleanliness and sanitation campaign in Kinhola, building toilet and sewage facilities and networking on this issue with villages that have successfully carried out similar schemes and participating in implementing the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme for a number of years.

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### **221. Mr Dipak Vithalrao Shinde (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Commissioner Agriculture  
Maharashtra State  
2nd floor, Central Building  
Pune - 411 001  
Tel: 020-26123648  
Fax: 020-26126150

Dipak Vithalrao Shinde (51), is an organic farmer and B.Sc. graduate, residing in Nimkhed Bazar village in the hilly district Amaravati in Maharashtra.

On his farm many types of fruits, pulses as well as cotton are grown organically and certified. He demonstrated contour cultivation practices effectively on his farm and started an Organic Farming Home School in the year 2002, and started the first organic food processing centre in his village. He has

trained 600 farmers in his own district Amaravati and several more from other districts and States in organic farming techniques. He also undertakes organic certification and arranges for marketing of the produce. He demonstrated his work at the World Organic Trade Fair held in Germany in the year 2003, and is shown as one of the success stories given in ICAR website. A community worker for the past 25 years, he is always keen to participate in HRD programs and knowledge sharing.

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### **222. Mr Indrajit Shine (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Indrajit Shine (27), is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from Lamjana village, a dry area in Latur district, Maharashtra. This 10<sup>th</sup> Std educated innovative farmer has developed new techniques of making humus and also developed new types of fodder from waste namely, “Zatpat Khad” on the “BAIF” research base. He has donated books for the Krishi Vachanalay which he developed at his own house.

He obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and takes

initiatives to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

### **223. Mr Jagdish Madhukar Janorkar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,

Secunderabad-500 003

Tel: + 91 9948077976

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Jagdish Madhukar Janorkar (40), is a graduate from Mahan village, in Akola district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and has received ICT and agricultural training.

Jagdish is very effective in implementing village development measures. He is active in areas such as road development and management of irrigation water. He provides suggestions to farmers on how to increase their yield with minimum expenditure and participates in extension activities like Gramswachata Abhiyan (cleanliness campaign for the village), tree plantation and sewage disposal.

### **224. Mr Krishna Dake (Aug-2006)**

Mukkam Post Nitrud,

Mazalgaon, Bid, Maharashtra

e-mail: krishnad1v1c@gmail.com

22 year old HSC educated Krishna Dake belongs to Nitrud village located in Bid district, the most backward area of Marathwada where irrigation is completely

absent, and people live on non-irrigated farming. When the village suffered from lack of drinking water, the activism started by Krishna's group lead to successful rainwater harvesting.

Krishna has been actively pursuing the issue of rainwater harvesting from an early age since he joined a training camp arranged in 2004 under the Year of Scientific Awareness on water conservation. Then he took the agenda actively to his village and was the prime leader of community development issues there.

A reputed local speaker, he gives inspiring speeches that help him to communicate across the spectrum of village society. He understands the importance of networking and has created youth networks around his village. In addition he keeps on meeting local administration with delegations addressing issues concerning people. With his good understanding of the use of IT and excellent content development capabilities he comes up with new ideas that help to solve crises at the local level. He took charge as an IT trainer conducting mass IT training camps for the youth to get involved in constructive work and carries out campaigns on water issues using presentations and software. He has also worked on issues affecting students, mostly the lack of educational facilities and for policy change within colleges and universities.

Now Krishna is working in his own village on Employment Guarantee and hopes to stop the people in his village from becoming

migrant labourers. His team of youth is also conducting information drives on NREGS

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### **225. Mr Prabhu Wakade (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Prabhu Wakade (37), a graduate, lives in Talodhi ( Naik ) village in a forest region of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra.

A farmer by profession he is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD being associated with it since 2004, and takes interest in sharing his ICT and agricultural knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Prabhu Wakade has obtained training in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.

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### **226. Mr Prashant Khanorkar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Prashant Khanorkar (33), a farmer and a

graduate belongs to Naxi Village in a forest region of Nagpur district, Maharashtra. He has received training on computer applications, Life & General Insurance, and on the pricing and quality of agricultural commodities. Serving as one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from the year 2004, Prashant Khanorkar takes ample initiative for sharing his agricultural knowledge and interest in ICT with other farmers in the village.

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### **227. Mr Rajendra V Salave (Jan-2006)**

C/o Ashta No Kai  
P. O. Box 221, GPO Main Post Office,  
Pune 411 001

Rajendra Salave (32), comes from Khandale village, a dry and drought prone area in Pune District, Maharashtra. Inspired by his role models Mahatma Phule and Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, he obtained a Masters degree in Social Work in 1997.

During his junior college days he joined a Youth Mandal in his village, and participated in the activities of an NGO working for women's rights. After graduation, he worked in family counseling, health and training sectors in the fields of women's issues, HIV-AIDS and government schemes. He also worked as a Family Counsellor for three years and took active part in organizing morchas, and andolans to promote rights for Adivasis.

Ashta No Kai-India (ANK-I ) is an important milestone in his career, as it has given him

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the opportunity to work in the villages in his own area. Under ANK-I, he promotes literacy programs in villages and also coordinates 74 Self Help Groups as well as the project's Bicycle Bank.

As an example of his work in promoting village development by empowering women and guiding them in solving their own problems, he mobilized a women's committee to take some action regarding the great delay in the implementation of the Krishna Valley water scheme sanctioned more than 35 years ago, to alleviate the village's critical water shortage. Thanks to his efforts the village women gained courage to visit the local authorities and press for their demands.

Rajendra Salave's rural background gives him a good understanding of the situation in the village setting and the needs of rural people. He is a committed and dedicated social worker, good at oratory skills and public speaking and in addition, he is a good trainer and skilled teacher.

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**228. Mr Rausaheb Nathubaji Dagadkar (Feb-2007)**

Usadgavhan Village,  
Dhamangaon Railway Taluka,  
Amaravati District,  
Maharashtra State,  
Phone No.: 07222-238307

60 year old Rausaheb Nathubaji Dagadkar is very experienced in agriculture and human resource development. A science graduate belonging to a forest region in district

Amaravati in Maharashtra, he has additional competency in livestock and water management.

Rausaheb Nathubaji Dagadkar jointly manages a farm of 111 acres and promotes organic farming. He has trained more than 50 farmers in the neighbouring villages. The organic produce is exported to Germany and Switzerland. He also has a grading and packing unit for mangos and oranges.

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**229. Mr Rohidas Vishnu Vasave (Jan-2006)**

Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha,  
C/o Samaj Seva Kendra,  
Survey No. 4272, Behind Akurdi Post  
Office, Akurdi,  
Pune - 411 035,  
Maharashtra, India  
Tel: 020-27472851  
Fax: 020-27473398  
E-mail: [jbgvs@bajajauto.co.in](mailto:jbgvs@bajajauto.co.in)

Rohidas Vishnu Vasave (21), is from Pimpri Village located in a hill area of Pune district, Maharashtra. He is a SSC educated tribal youth, with tremendous spirit and zeal for education.

Presently, he is working as Assistant Centre Manager in the 'Rural Education and Information Networking' project supported by Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha and the World Bank. He is conducting classes for non-formal education for the weak students and non-school going children. He is assisting with management of the Centre as well as

with coordination of the activities of 7 villages and KIRANS. As part of his work, he organizes vocational classes at the Centre with the help of Center Manager, and organizes film shows in his village on various subjects for the farmers and women.

Rohidas has attended a number of training courses such as Organic Farming, bamboo craft training, creation and organization of street plays, non-formal and remedial teaching training and literacy class training. He is training himself so that he can further impart the same skills to his fellow tribals, and be a tool for the spread of education to the tribal community.

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### **230. Mr Santosh Pusaram Dhoot (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Santosh Pusaram Dhoot (35), is a graduate from Medshi, district, Washim, Maharashtra, associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 .

He is working very effectively for rural people for village development, and is a very active farmer in his village participated in extension activities. He gives useful suggestions to farmers on how to increase yield with low expenditure, gives suggestions for irrigation management, soil management, and fertilizer application in soil for farm practices.

Santosh Dhoot also participated in Gadgebaba Gramswachata Abhiyan and takes the initiative to share his ICT training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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### **231. Ms Saraswati Bhima Jambhulkar (Ferb-2007)**

Village: Bhoire,  
Block-Vadgaon Maval,  
Taluka- Maval,  
District-Pune,  
State: Maharashtra.

A very talented rural girl, Saraswati belongs to a village situated on the banks of Andra lake of TATA Power company, in the hilly Andra Maval area in Pune District which is a catchment area for a dam. A 22 year old graduate, she has undergone training in non-formal and remedial teaching, women empowerment and related laws and literacy teachers' training.

Presently, she is working as Centre Manager, Education and Training Unit for Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha, covering 17 villages of Andra Maval valley. Her work is to organize non-formal education classes for non-school going and weak children in order to increase attendance of children in primary school and reduce drop out rate. She also organizes vocational training classes for unemployed youth at the centre and provides internet information to farmers.

An excellent and experienced rural worker,

**MAHARASHTRA**

Saraswati despite being differently abled has tremendous zeal and spirit to work for backward areas.

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**232. Mr Shivaji Dagadappa Torkad (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Shivaji Dagadappa Torkad (35), and SSC educated, hails from Village-Yeli in a dry zone of Hingoli district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004, and has even participated in the Jalswaraj Yojna. He motivates and assists the village folks involved in water management activities like water filtration, tree plantation and refilling of common wells and shares his knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Through ITC-IBD he is trained in computer usage and Internet browsing, and takes the initiative to share his ICT experience .

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**233. Mr Shivaji Mane (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Shivaji Mane (32), a graduate, comes from Chatari village in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra. Associated with ITC-IBD as

Sanchalak of e-Choupal, he is trained in computer applications and on quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing. A farmer, Shivaji Mane has organised the agriculture fair "Kisan Melawa" for the last two years for the agriculture department. He is also a member of "Sambhaji Brigade" - a voluntary organisation involved in disaster management. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage and has indepth knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**234. Ms Shobha Genbhau Shinde (Jul-2005)**

C/o Ashta No Kai  
P. O. Box 221, GPO Main Post Office,  
Pune 411 001

Shobha is a frail and delicate village girl from Inglenagar (Village – Karanjawane), Pune district, whose higher education was sponsored through Ashta No Kai scholarship funds. Hailing from a family where her father deserted her mother when Shobha was a child, she and her mother now reside with her maternal uncle. Shobha has a slight handicap being stricken with polio as a child and walks with a limp. It is very creditable that despite her background and financial hardship, she completed her Master's degree in Social Work at Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune. During the senior year of her MA studies, she interned with Ashta No Kai for a year, and since she showed promise

and belonged to one of Ashta No Kai's project area villages, she was hired as a Program Supervisor.

In the two years she has been with Ashta No Kai, Shobha now 23 has grown up to be a mentally strong leader. Her position at Ashta No Kai and encouragement by senior staff and colleagues has helped her to mature. Realizing her potential as a leader, her self confidence has grown and found roots. She, who could not even ride a bicycle has learned to ride a moped, and today moves from one village to another helping women conduct meetings, guiding them in account keeping, motivating them to take up small scale business, access government schemes and participate in village Gram Sabhas. She accompanies women's groups to banks and introduces them to bank officials. Her house to house visits have made her a familiar figure in the villages she works in.

Shobha has got the village girls together to form Kishori Mandals. She has encouraged girls to attend school by taking advantage of Ashta No Kai's Bicycle Bank scheme which gives a bicycle to any school girl who lives more than 2 kilometers away from school. Shobha has attended several capacity building workshops, and participated in various training sessions and workshops with different NGOs to improve her field of knowledge. She attended a 9 month legal literacy course conducted by the local ILS Law College, SHG capacity building training and adolescent girls training. She keeps a check of all office work and records at the Ashta

No Kai field office in Ranjangoan.

Shobha realizes that to work for the improvement of village women in her area, she needs to spread information to the village women, encourage them to spare time to come together and debate ways and means to improve their lot. With her understanding of village women's psyche, her knowledge of professional social work and her desire to help the down trodden she has gained the confidence and support of women in her area who call her often to seek her advice. Shobha has a vision – to empower the women and girls in her village, and is happy to be instrumental in helping village women on the path to village development.

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### **235. Ms Shobha Umesh Wani (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Commissioner Agriculture  
Maharashtra State  
2nd floor, Central Building  
Pune – 411 001  
Tel: 020-26123648  
Fax: 020-26126150

Shobha Umesh Wani (47), is a matriculate belonging to Sakali village, in a hilly area and forested region in district Jalgaon, Maharashtra. Jalgaon district being the leading area in banana production, Shobha Umesh Wani, an innovative and progressive farmer, felt the need for banana processing. In the year 1998, she formed a women's organisation for household processing of banana.

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The organisation prepared a range of products from banana, which have become commercially viable and popular in the market. This organization participated in the National Banana Exhibition in 2000 where they demonstrated and displayed 35 products made from banana for which they received awards in five categories.

Actively involved in organising women folk in the rural area and empowering them by imparting training, skills and arranging study tours, Shobha Umesh Wani was awarded the prestigious Jijamata Krishibhushan award in the year 2002 by Government of Maharashtra for her contribution to agriculture and women's empowerment.

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### **236. Mr Subhash Sharma (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Commissioner Agriculture  
Maharashtra State  
2nd floor, Central Building  
Pune - 411 001  
Tel: 020-26123648  
Fax: 020-26126150

Subhash Sharma (53), is a B.Com graduate of Dorli Village, located in a dry area in Yavatmal District, Maharashtra.

He has experimented with various technologies on his farm and has been successful in achieving record yields in cotton, sorghum and wheat. After knowing the ill effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, he started experimenting with organic farming. His experiments not only made him

gain confidence but also benefited other farmers.

He demonstrated that reducing the production cost and adopting appropriate management practices, including water management, could also enhance production. He has received the Government of Maharashtra's prestigious award Krishibhushan in the Year 2002.

Subhash Sharma is an innovative farmer who is always engaged in new experiments, and has mastery in disseminating the agricultural knowledge to the fellow farmers.

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### **237. Mr Sudhakar Shinde (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Sudhakar Shinde (42), a postgraduate, lives in Gangapur village in a dry zone of Latur district, Maharashtra. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and also with the Village Level water harvesting Group, he is a very active person in his village.

After a severe drought in 2000 the villagers started working on the concept of "Shramdan". A water harvesting group, "Gangadevi Jal Sandharan Sahakari Sanstha" was formed under his leadership. Within 2 years, the water level increased

thereby reducing the dependency of the village on water tankers.

Sudhakar Shinde is trained in computer usage, Insurance and agri – commodities and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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### **238. Ms Sulochana Shivaji Bhoirkar (Feb-2007)**

**Bhoire Village, Block-Vadgaon Maval, Maval, Pune, Maharashtra.**

A budding social worker and teacher, 20 year old, SSC educated Sulochana has dedicated herself to the spread of education in her village located in the hilly Andra Maval area of Pune district, which is a catchment area for a dam.

*She has undergone several training courses including computer training and is presently working as 'Kiran' in a rural education and information networking project supported by Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha and the World Bank. She is conducting classes for non-formal education and remedial teaching to weak students and non-school going children.*

Sulochana also organises vocational classes at the centre with the help of the centre manager and organise film shows on various subjects for the farmers and women of her village.

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### **239. Ms Vijyantha Raut (Jul-2005)**

**C/o Ashta No Kai  
P. O. Box 221, GPO Main Post Office,  
Pune 411 001**

Vijyantha Raut is a 35 year old empowered village woman who has been instrumental in creating waves of change in the remote village of *Nimgoan Bhogi*. The village with 12 hamlets nestles among barren patches of land, deprived of water and the absence of green becomes obvious. Vijyantha got married at 14 years; she had just completed 7<sup>th</sup> class. She came to *Nimgoan Bhogi* as a child bride and soon settled into the hard life of a farm worker. She struggled along with her husband to feed her growing family. When Ashta No Kai started working in her village in 1998, and was looking for a community worker to promote their activities, the village elders suggested her name. As an OBC she was elected a member of the Gram Panchayat.

Working for Ashta No Kai fulfilled a long pent up desire of Vijyantha to do social work for her people. She saw a mission to be achieved and embraced it with all her energy. Vijyantha was always willing to do something for herself, her family and neighbourhood. Her friendly demeanour, bold ways and desire to help others won her many friends.

Vijyantha, although only a 7<sup>th</sup> class literate, showed far more depth and understanding of social issues than any trained MSW. A willing and eager learner she lapped up

whatever knowledge Ashta No Kai fed her through different trainings, workshops and exposures.

Vijyantha received literacy training and motivated village women to become literate conducting night classes in her village .

Vijyantha threw herself wholeheartedly into the women's micro credit movement that held the key for future economic prosperity of village women. Today, thanks to her, there are 21 savings groups in her village of 1800, each of the hamlets have at least one women's savings group. She was largely responsible for securing almost 3 lakhs in loans for her BPL group for cow and goat rearing.

Today if any outsider wants any information about Nimgoan Bhogi village, he/she is directed to Vijyantha Raut's two roomed hut. Vijyantha is the village development leader. She rides on her moped – a confident woman on the move. She never dreamed that she would own and ride a vehicle of her own – but the presence of an NGO and her own determination made it possible. Vijyantha is the new generation village social activist, who with her self motivation and vision has changed a whole village's outlook.

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### **240. Mr Vikas Giri (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India

Tel: + 91 9948077976

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Vikas Giri (24), a high school pass, resides in lyahari village in Nanded district, Maharashtra. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004 and is involved with the Nirantar Shiksha Yojana.

He conducts classes regularly for village children. The education material namely, books, maps, sports goods received from the Education Department are used by him to disseminate information and teach the children. He also takes the initiative to share with other farmers in the village all the training inputs he has obtained from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various FMCG products.

# ORISSA

## 241. Ms Anupama Mohanta (Jan-2006)

C/o OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-41689000

Anupama Mohanta (23), has studied up to +2 grade and comes from Nishaposi village in Mayurbhanj district, Orissa. The main occupation of the people is agriculture and they also depend on non timber forest produce since the village is located in a forest region where sometimes elephants are found.

She has keen interest in child rights related activities and is a child mentor, facilitating the child-rights programmes of the village. She manages the activities of the children's club - Bajrangbali Sishu Sangha, scheduling their meetings, organising children in the group and helping them to design the activities of the club.

She also involves herself in agricultural work, and is one of the active members of village level Self Help Groups. Although Anupama is new to these types of activities, she is organising and coordinating the assigned tasks in a proper manner. She has been involved with One World South Asia for the past 2 years and has received training on community communication skills.

## 242. Ms Chinnalu Kandagiri (Aug-2006)

C/o. World Food Programme,  
Orissa and Jharkhand,  
C-15, Forest Park, Bhubaneswar,  
Orissa - 751009  
Tel# 91-674-2533361/-86  
Fax# 91-674-2533879  
[dominique.frankefort@wfp.org](mailto:dominique.frankefort@wfp.org);

Belonging to a small tribal village 42 year old, 3rd Std educated Chinnalu Kandagiri is a tribal lady with a difference and is a very good community mobilizer. Since her family is landless, she and her husband cultivate paddy in leased farms in the neighbouring villages. The annual share of the yield is not sufficient for their consumption throughout the year, so to meet their basic needs, both husband and wife work on daily wages.

Chinnalu motivated three active Women's SHGs formed in her village to work in the Forest Department's nursery and earned a profit of about Rs 69,000/- in a year. Under her dynamic leadership, the three WSHGs are formed into a federation. The members of the federation are working in the nursery and are expected to earn more profit this year. As the spokesperson of the team, she represents the problems of the federation and village in all fora and demands justice and action. She plays a significant role in the empowerment of village women to achieve a better standard of living. A true village level

leader, Chinnalu is accepted by all as a committed worker.

### 243. Mr Jagdish Das (Jan-2006)

C/o OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-41689000

Jagdish Das (23), comes from Kundala village in Keonjhar district, located in the forest area of northern Orissa. A graduate, he has expertise in functional literacy and health issues. He is a good motivator and an organizer and is now working as a child rights mentor and village animator. He is actively involved in child rights activities of a children's club - Alokjyoti Child Rights Club, where he organizes the members and monitors children's meetings and activities. Through a consultative process he assists children in identifying issues.

He is also looking after the village development activities like coordinating village meetings, meetings of SHG, organising various activities, preparing the various reports of the village etc. He is also a good actor performing in different plays.

### 244. Mr Kanhei Charan Naik (Jan-2006)

C/o OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-41689000

Kanhei Charan Naik (25), of Gorandijodi

village, Keonjhar district, Orissa has studied up to high school. He is actively involved with the community activities since last 2 years in the areas of agriculture, health, functional literacy and child rights related activities

Kanhei is involved in child rights activities in the village and is the mentor of Dharmapada Sishu Sangha (Children's club of the village). He looks after the activities of club, conducts meetings of the children and helps them to identify issues and the role of different stakeholders to address the issues in a consultative manner. He motivates the children to be involved and organised. He is a good singer and also writes small stories reflecting on various issues.

### 245. Ms Laxmi Mandangi (Aug-2006)

Jhara, Penkam,  
PS - Ramnaguda, Rayagada

35 year old Laxmi Mandangi who has studied up to 7<sup>th</sup> Std. belongs to Jhara, a small tribal village in Rayagada District with just 61 households consisting of harijan and kandha tribes.

Though her family owns about two acres of landed property, both she and her husband have to work on daily wages to supplement their income, since the annual yield from the family owned land is not sufficient for their consumption throughout the year.

Laxmi is a dynamic lady with good communication skills and an excellent team leader. Despite the pressing work to fulfil the

needs for sustenance of her family, she devotes considerable time for strengthening of women's groups. She mobilizes and motivates village women to form groups of active WSHGs in order to take up enterprising income-generating activities. An advocate for the upliftment of village women, she raises her voice against injustice and as the spokesperson for the group and for the village, she presents their problems at all fora, demanding justice and action. She plays a significant role in the empowerment of village women and literacy for the children.

through photographs. During the 2003 flood, he took photographs of the marooned villages in Orissa and sent them to the government for rehabilitation and resettlement packages. OSDMA (an agency of Govt of Orissa) awarded him the best organiser on the eve of Disaster Day Observation & National Day for Disaster Reduction on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2004 at Bhubaneswar. Soumya Ranjan wishes to work for the voiceless in India.

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#### **246. Mr Soumyaranjan Pattanayak (Jul-2005)**

S/o Mr Pradyumna Pattanayak

AtIPo- Digidhar

Dist.Mayurbhanja ,Orissa, Pin 757038

mysorg@rediffmail.com

Soumya Ranjan comes from a tribal village called Digidhar in the Mayurbhanja District of Orissa. The 21-year-old who has studied up to + 2 and has a diploma in cinematography, has been involved with community development activities since 2002.

Soumya Ranjan was exposed to photography while pursuing his intermediate studies. Today, as MYS coordinator he teaches the students computers & photography and promotes Information Technology amongst his community members. As a part of the MYS program, he assists the people of his village and surrounding villages in registering their grievances with the government

## PONDICHERRY

### 247. Ms E Ambiga (Jul-2005)

C/o M S Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham  
PO, Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

- a social activist with a passion and commitment to the social and economic upliftment and empowerment of rural women.

Hailing from Kalitheerthalkuppam, Pondicherry, the 27-year-old social worker has been zealously acquiring computer skills and is a qualified computer educator in the village. She has shared her knowledge and experience with other members in the society. Exuding self-confidence and committed to empowering the women in her village, this knowledge-worker is now running computer-literacy programmes.

As the President of the Women's Welfare Savings and Self Help Group, she has taken several village development works such as provision of street lights and drainage system, building a compound wall around the grave yard, desilting of tanks and erection of water harvesting structures. Her group offered financial assistance to meet children's education, medical expenses and other family functions.

Mrs. Ambika has been helping the farmers

in the village by providing comprehensive information on indigenous agriculture for sustainable development, and helped the young women and the youth in getting suitable jobs in the government as well in the private sector.

With all these significant contributions in recent years, she enjoys a special status in the society. She has now been acknowledged as a "most respected and knowledgeable woman through her involvement as volunteer in MSSRF Knowledge Center".

### 248. Ms Amirtham Dharmalingam (Jan-2006)

C/o M S Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham  
PO, Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502, Tel: 0413  
2667861, 2666484

Amirtham Dharmalingam (37), is from Embalam village, Pondicherry. A dynamic entrepreneur, she has studied up to 9<sup>th</sup> class and proved herself as one among the best knowledge workers involved in community development activities through the Rural Knowledge Centre. She became self-innovative in running her own small-scale pickle production unit at home and generating considerable income. She also produces soap oil, phenol and detergent blue in a small scale as part of her income

generating activities. She is an active trainer for production of numerous such cottage industry products.

Amirtham helped several aged women and widows to get their monthly pension from the concerned departments. About 38 families were helped for training on scientific rearing of cattle by Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary Science with educational stipends from DRDA. She has trained about 30 Self Help groups to start their own enterprises.

As part of her contribution for village development, she became a participant of the health camps organized by the department of health on general health, dental care and eye care, directing the people to the concerned hospitals. Similarly she acted as an animator for AIDS, malaria and leprosy camps to make the people aware of the program.

She is computer literate and teaches her own children as well as other children. She is a good social worker and shares whatever knowledge she gains with fellow members of society.

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### **249. Mr M Arulselvam (Jan-2006)**

No.15, South st.,  
Nallavadu post,  
Pondicherr - 605 007

Arulselvam (27), hails from a fisher family in Nallavadu village, Pondicherry. He is a senior volunteer at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2003. He has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup>

class and has a Diploma in Computer Application. Being computer literate he has taken every step to promote computer literacy in his village through the Knowledge Centre.

The versatile experience gained as a Knowledge Worker enabled him to manage the Village Knowledge Centres set up by MSSRF in some tsunami affected villages of Tamil Nadu this year. With full zeal and interest he spends most of his valuable time for the development of the fishermen community.

As a volunteer Arulselvam guides youth in Nallavadu to apply for government jobs and has helped a few get government jobs in Pondicherry. As a trainer, he guides teachers and students to participate in computer assisted learning programme and also guides students to take up some courses relevant to fishery, He also takes responsibility for dissemination of coastal information to the fishermen on a day-to-day basis.

Apart from computer skills, he is proficient with wireless networking for data and voice transmission and was successful in using the public addressing system to alert his people at the time of tsunami in his village Nallavadu. He is also a good writer and has expertise in art and screen-printing.

**PONDICHERRY****250. Mr A Baskaran (Aug-2006)**

29, Desamariyamman koil st,  
Embalam, Nettapakkam Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 106.

Baskaran, aged 40, is post graduate social worker with humanitarian attitude to help others. He established his own social service project named 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Rehabilitation Centre for physically challenged people' in his village, Embalam, through which he could help handicapped people to get tricycles, motor cycles and assistance to those belonging to BPL category . Through Women Development Corporation, he got old age pension for many women and financial assistance for widows and lactating women. Nearly 200 women belonging to his village were benefited.

Baskaran motivated the government to release housing loan facilities to the poor and needy people under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Housing scheme. His organization bagged the State Welfare Award from the Dept of Social welfare, Pondicherry and also a Certificate for successful recognition as 'Resource Centre for Non-Formal Education Programme' in Pondicherry.

**251. Ms K Bharathy (Aug-2006)**

13, Pillaiyar koil street,  
Karasur Village, Villiyanur block,  
Pondicherry - 605 110  
Ph: 9994865547

Since 2004 Bharathy, 33, has been involved with community activities. She is educated till 10<sup>th</sup> Std and is a Bio- village council member. She runs a crèche at village level for the benefit of working women and is a member of a school team in her village that assists school drop-outs to return to school and contributes towards maintenance of the school premises.

Bharathy's work with the Bio-village council includes organized SHGs, credit linked with State Bank and providing information about council meetings. She also participates in medical camps and cattle health camps as well as does service for water management as a member of the tank rehabilitation group in her village.

**252. Mr S Bharthidasan (Jul-2005)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research  
Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam,  
Thandamannatham PO,  
Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

Bharthidasan, aged 26 is an ITI professional, associated as a volunteer of the knowledge center of Koonichempet, a dalit village in

Pondicherry. He is an energetic youth participating in several village level development activities and member of an active youth association. He has contributed his services for a number of environmental protection and pollution control programs. Under his own initiative he planted more than 200 saplings around his village and tended them personally. He organized ozone related workshop in his village and created awareness on ozone protection. He also motivated 25 youths in his village to take an oath to celebrate Deepavali festival without using crackers to protect the atmosphere.

Bharathidasan has expertise in the area of health promotion as part of village development activities. He organized first aid camps for fire and vehicle accidents to create awareness among his villagers, and also organized eye camps. More than 165 persons from his own village – Koonichempet received eye treatment, and more than 300 village children received eye check up in eye camps in his village schools. He also organized an eye donation camp where about 50 person's names were registered by him as donors, and also organized a volunteer blood donor camp. Bharathidasan acted as a volunteer in polio drops immunization programs.

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### **253. Mr R Chandirasekaran (Aug-2006)**

**58, Kavalkaran Koil st, Kunichampet,  
Thirukanur Taluk,  
Pondicherry - 605 501.  
Ph: 9442396654**

A dynamic youth aged 25, R Chandrasekaran is a graduate in Chemistry, having the zeal and determination to uplift his dalit community in Koonichempet village, located 24 kms from Pondicherry Town. He is heading the youth movement called 'Ilamburakkal Youth Association' where he motivated a good number of youth from his community to work with unity to promote livelihood opportunities, through various services especially identifying the entitlement from the Government for the benefit of his fellow caste members. Being a teacher in a government school he also educates his students on promoting livelihood opportunities through voluntary services.

Chandrasekaran applied his services to his community on the area of health through various awareness programs like HIV Aids, polio vaccination, eye camps, BP camps and dental camps at schools. He encouraged people in his locality to get the benefit from the Dept of Agriculture by bringing social forestry schemes to his village. He also addressed the problems of women in his village by advising them on methods of scientific rearing of cattle through knowledge guidelines from M S Swaminathan Research Foundation , Rajiv Gandhi College of

**PONDICHERRY**

Veterinary Sciences and animal Husbandry Department.

For the last one decade he has rendered his services for the benefit of his village community with his humanitarian work such as helping the aged, widows and handicapped children by way of getting assistance from the Rotary Club.

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**254. Ms Dhanalakshumi Radhakrishnan (Jul-2005)**

19, Perumal kovil st.,  
Embalam  
Pondicherry - 605 106.

Dhanalakshumi Radhakrishnan aged 32 from Embalam village in Pondicherry, has school education up to 9<sup>th</sup> std. She is a senior volunteer in the Rural Knowledge Centre holding active membership as treasurer of a womens association, executive committee member in the Village Development Council and President of a self help group.

She is good trainer on formation of self help groups and maintenance of SHG accounts in digital format by using MSSRF-SHG accounts software. She promotes computer literacy as well as serves as a resource person for training on various enterprises such as production of incense, candles, phenol, washing powder, artificial seashell ornaments, pickles, etc. She is a member of the editorial board of MSSRF "Nammavoor Seithi" bi-monthly newspaper.

Dhanalakshumi has contributed much on

health promotion in her village and continuously for 2 years participated in Pulse Polio Immunization volunteer work in Embalam. She participated in health camps for HIV-Aids, malaria, elephantiasis and leprosy and about 100 patients benefited, including a few who were sent to Aravind Eye Hospital for cataract operation. She has been associated with the family counselling programme held in Kalitheerthalkuppam village and guided women on fundamental legal rights, and has also participated in watershed management and rainwater harvesting programme organized by the Public Works department. She motivated about 30 women and 10 SHGs to participate in mother and child health, nutrition programmes.

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**255. Mr R Elumalai (Jul-2005)**

36, South st.,  
Veerampattinam,  
Pondicherry - 605 007

R.Elumalai aged 31 is dynamic in every initiative he takes for his coastal home village Veerampattinam in Pondicherry. An insurance agent by profession, he is a senior volunteer of the Knowledge Centre in his village, associated with MSSRF since 1999. A diploma holder in Engineering (mechanical), he has taken every step to promote computer literacy in his village through the Knowledge Centre.

Elumalai has diverse experience as Knowledge Centre volunteer in a coastal village and the experience he gained helped

him to manage the tsunami affected village Knowledge Centre at Kovalam coastal village near Mahabalipuram which was established in early 2005 as immediate relief measure for the tsunami affected people.

As a volunteer Elumalai guided many youths in Veerampatinam to apply for government jobs due to which about 12 youths got government jobs in Pondicherry. He also guided students to take up some courses relevant to fishermen, which benefited a number of youths. As a trainer he guided teachers and students to participate in computer assisted learning programmes. His other services include identifying patients with cataract problems to get free treatment in Aravind Eye Hospital, centralizing the electricity department's services through the Knowledge Centre, and taking the responsibility for dissemination of coastal information to the fishermen on a day-to-day basis. With full zeal and interest he spends much of his time for the development of fisherfolk community.

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### **256. Ms Ezhilarsi (Jul-2005)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham  
PO, Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

Ezhilarsi aged 28 is a farmer's daughter and housewife, hailing from Kizhur village in Pondicherry. She is senior volunteer in the Rural Knowledge Centre with expertise in

training women in tailoring. About 9 women members from the SHGs were guided by her to own tailoring machines through bank loans, and to have their own tailoring centres to take on jobs they get from garment units.

Ezhilarsi trained more than 50 women members from SHGs in collaboration with Motilal Nehru Govt. Polytechnic in Pondicherry. Her programmes were chosen as a model, prompting the Polytechnic institution to take up similar training programmes in other MSSRF information villages. She is also good in documentation of indigenous knowledge of the village in areas of agriculture and health. She motivated students to have computer literacy, which made more than 100 students become computer literate by studying in the knowledge centre.

Ezhilarsi devoted much of her time in helping SHGs for financial record keeping and directing them to take up various training programs announced by District Industries Corporation and Women Development Corporation.

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### **257. Mr N Gnanasekar (Jan-2006)**

No:4, Mariyamman kovil st.,  
Poornakuppam,  
Pondicherry - 605 007

Gnanasekar (25), from Poornankuppam village, Pondicherry, has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> class and has a diploma in computer application and computer office automation.

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Hailing from a farmer's family, he is highly innovative and has taken the initiative to guide farmers of his home village. A senior volunteer of the MSSRF Knowledge Centre, MSSRF since 2000, he is computer literate and has taken every step to promote computer literacy in his village through the Knowledge Center.

In Poornokuppam, nearly 80% of the farmers are horticulturists cultivating vegetables and flowers. Gnanasekar is a farmer's friend and guide, helping them to do appropriate farming in their land, based on soil condition and season. Being a farmer's son, he takes personal care and guides them away from chemical fertilizer and pesticide, to opt for organic farming and inter-cropping, which fetches good profit.

Gnanasekar trains regular students and school dropouts to participate in the computer assisted learning programme. Every year he conducts free computer training program the students by using educational CDs and joins hands with Non – Formal education programme to given free computer training to more than 50 students. He helps other NGOs conduct health awareness programs like pre and post natal care of pregnant and lactating mothers, anemia, diabetics, child immunization practices, gynecological disorders, AIDs etc., to their villagers. He focuses on environmental sanitation and pollution issues in his village through community meetings.

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### 258. Mr V Innarasu (Aug-2006)

15, Mariyamman Koil Street,  
Thirukanchipet, Villiyanur,  
Pondicherry - 605 110.  
Ph: 0413-2660825

Innarasu,42, educated up to school level (SSLC) belongs to the village Thirukanchipet, a dalit area located 20 kms from Pondicherry town, and has an interest in promoting sports among the youth. In 1989 he established a youth club for sports and encouraged the students to get free sports related materials. He helped people in his community to get free land from the government and also moved the government to develop his village by bringing more sanitation facilities like construction of toilets and cremation ground.

In 2005 he prevented sand theft by the businessmen, in riverbanks around his village with the cooperation of men and women from his village. This good deed awakened the government to stop sand smuggling business in his area.

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### 259. Ms Janaki Vinayagam (Jan-2006)

Ambedkar st, Thirukanchipet,  
Kilijikuppam post, Villiyanur via,  
Pondicherry - 605110

Janaki Vinayagam (32), from Thirukanchipet Dalit village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> class and proved herself as one among the best of community development workers.

She is associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2003 and is a living example of how a woman can become independent to face the day-to-day challenges in life and how to solve them through timely attention. She inspired and empowered by seeing other women of similar calibre functioning as social reformers in her village, she came forward to be a volunteer and social worker to help her own fellow members.

Janaki became computer literate and became a qualified tutor to run her own computer-training centre. She was given training on soap oil, phenol and detergent blue production and is now an active trainer of the various enterprises. She is the first woman driver of the emission free "bijili" tempo, the peoples' transport vehicle owned by the twelve women Self Help groups of Thirukanchipet village.

She participates in health related camps organized by the department of health on general health, dental, eye care. Similarly for AIDs, malaria, leprosy camps she acted as animator to make the people aware of the programmes.

She is Secretary in Environmental Pollution Control Committee, Secretary for the Social Forestry Programme and a Member of the Tank Irrigation project in her village. Hailing from a very backward village community she works sincerely for upliftment of the member of her community, especially women.

## **260. Mr N Janardhanan (Aug-2006)**

**59, Villiyannur Road, Embalam,  
Nettapakkam Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 106.  
Phone: 0413-2645492**

Janardhanan aged 45 who has studied upto school level (plus 2) hails from Embalam village located in 20 kms from Pondicherry town. He is a farmer and an active social worker. A good communicator, he could help his fellow farmers to learn about the usage of various agriculture machinery and to get their seeds and agriculture machineries in a subsidized manner from the Government. He motivated the Banks to extend their financial help to the farmers to build their houses under Kamarajar Housing Scheme of the government.

When he was the President of the European Commission's Tank Rehabilitation Programme, Janardhanan effectively controlled people who encroached on riverbeds for their personal purposes. Through this effort, his village Tank Rehabilitation program stood the best among other villages. He received good appreciation for his actions to promote an environmental protection movement in his village and thereby became an Executive Member of the Farmer's Green Corp. run through farmers' Ulzhavar Uthaviyagam (farmers' market). He also planted several thousand saplings around his village.

**261. Mr G Jayakrishnan  
(Jul-2005)**

44, West st., Kizhur post,  
Nettapakkam, Pondicherry - 605 106

Jayakrishnan is a diligent 23 year old youth hailing from a farmers' family in Kizhur in Pondicherry. He has graduated in commerce with diploma in co-operation and has also participated in a vocational course in Scientific Agriculture. He is proficient in computer languages and has become a master trainer. He prepared excellent documentation based on the process and composed 100 case studies of the users of the Rural Knowledge centre located in Pondicherry by interviewing all the users personally.

As a technical person with training in system maintenance and wireless networking, he is helping all the knowledge workers (youth) in the rural knowledge centers located in 12 villages in Pondicherry to get trained in computer operations and wireless connectivity. He became a village resource person for technical guidelines.

As a trainer Jayakrishnan guided teachers, youth and students to participate in computer assisted learning programmes. He is good in documentation and content development based on indigenous knowledge of the village, in the areas of agriculture and health. Since 1995 till today he has rendered his services to youth development in his village and helping youth from other villages to become

knowledgeable in technical matters and change the quality of their life.

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**262. Ms Jayanthi Janakiraman  
(Jan-2006)**

50, Kavalkaran kovilst., Koonichempet,  
Thirukanur post. Pondicherry - 605 501

Jayanthi Janakiraman, (21), from Koonichempet Dalit village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> class and is a respected knowledge worker at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

She holds responsible positions in the village as a member of the group for village-level Environmental Pollution Control, a member of a Youth Association and a member of Rotary Club village level committee. Under the poverty alleviation program, she directed families acquire their own shelter through subsidy released by the Government, and directed many women members get their due government entitlements through Self Help groups. She is also an active participant in social forestry scheme introduced by the government for environmental protection.

For income generation, Jayanthi helps youth in her village join various training programs like learning jute bag making by machine, promotes women's tailoring enterprises at home, encourages cattle owners to get trained at the Veterinary College on scientific rearing of cattle and organizes training camps on fruits and vegetable preservation and preparation of nutritious food for children.

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**263. Mr P Jayaraman  
(Aug-2006)**

8, Thirukanchipet Main Road,  
Thirukanchipet, Villiyanur Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 110

Educated upto school level (SSLC) Jayaraman ,30 is a social worker from Thirukanchipet village in Pondicehrry . He was working as Volunteer in the Knowledge Centre for about 3 years, guiding all the fellow members of the society to get the maximum benefits from the government on various schemes meant for the dalit community. He directed a good number of students and youth to proper educational, training and employment opportunities.

Jayaraman joined the 'Sudeshimitran Youth Club' in his village and started his mission by helping people to get their updated land records from Revenue department and getting bank finance to the SHGs of his area. By becoming a member of the Biocentre Council, he helped the farmers in his area to get technical know how on different agricultural practices. He is now working as a compounder in a private doctor's clinic and in his spare time he helps students to get computer training in the Knowledge Centre.

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**264. Ms Kathanayagi  
(Aug-2006)**

36, Marriyamman Koil St,  
Sivaranthagam, Villiyanur Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 106.  
Ph: 9843683249

10<sup>th</sup> Std educated 40 year old Kathanayagi has been actively engaged in a variety of community activities in her coastal village for the past 13 years. She is a Bio-Village Council member and has been identified as a role model for mushroom production by the District Industries of Commerce, Pondicherry. Her work has included forming 23 SHGs, credit linking with nationalized banks, training on accounts maintenance and book-keeping, as well as assisting NABARD to organise enterprise training.

Kathanayagi always insisted that the village SHG men and women should repay the due amount to the banks and facilitated the SHGs to avail government subsidies for animal husbandry. She helped with organizing medical camps and cattle health camps and also enabled deserving women and handicapped persons to get government assistance.

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**265. Ms B Kasthuri (Jul-2005)**

w/o Bupathi,  
Balamurugan nagar, Embalam,  
Pondicherry.  
Phone: 0413 5542779

- a dynamic social worker with grit and determination to elevate the status of

**PONDICHERRY**

women in the rural societies.

A keen social activist Mrs. B. Kasthuri (36) from Embalam in Pondicherry is particularly committed to uplifting the rural women both economically and socially. Endowed with good leadership qualities, she has successfully mobilized women's forums and enlightened them with the social and welfare programmes of the government.

She has dispelled several taboos, myths and evils in the society working against the rural women through regular counseling and helped to solve several disputes in rural families. She has organized two micro-credit and savings groups for the women in the village and saved them from the clutches of usurious money lenders.

After gaining high levels of computer skills, she is popularizing the use of computers among the villagers. Exuding tremendous energy and lot of self-confidence, Mrs. Kasthuri is a role model for many women in the village, and she is today a much sought-after and a highly respected woman in the society. This simple housewife has won the distinction as a "most respected and knowledgeable woman through her involvement as volunteer in MSSRF Knowledge Center".

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**266. Ms V Krishnaveni  
(Aug-2006)**

6, Main Road, Melsathamangalam,  
korkadu (post), Villiyanur Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 110  
Ph: 0413-2644533 / 9362993307

From 1996 onwards 36 year old Krishnaveni who has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> Std has been working for various social and community activities. She has been actively engaged in training activities as well as in social welfare in her village. She assisted NABARD to organize enterprise training, organized women SHG members to do composite fish culture in community ponds and facilitated the SHGs to avail of Animal Husbandry Department subsidy for dairy development, goat and poultry rearing. She helps pregnant women to get government assistance and also arranges for old age pension, pension for widows and for physical disability assistance.

Krishnaveni protested against an arrack shop in the village and as a member of the education for all movement she assisted in sending school drop-outs back to school and in arranging for renovation of the school premises. She rendered service to the tsunami-affected people of the coastal Karaikal region as well as for relief in Gujarat.

She assisting the Government department to organize medical camps and cattle health camps and was also involved in forming SHGs and providing training on accounts maintenance and book-keeping.

**267. Ms Lakshmi (Aug-2006)**

17. Kamarajar Nagar, Keezhur,  
Keezhur (PO), Nettapakkam (via),  
Pondicherry  
Phone: 0413 2698590

Lakshmi aged 37 is an active Bio-village council member who has been identified as a role model for coir production by the district Industries of commerce, Pondicherry. At the time of the tsunami in 2004 she offered her services for the tsunami affected people of Chidambaram region and also gave coir production training to them for income generation.

As Bio-village council member she is responsible for giving information about council meetings, organizing SHGs and credit linked with banks, and as a member of the tank rehabilitation team, she is involved in water management in her coastal village.

From 1994 onwards Lakshmi has been doing social work including assisting the government department to organize camps for AIDS awareness, polio immunization and filaria control. She has taken initiatives to streamline transportation in her village and is a member of a cultural group that spreads awareness on various issues in the area.

**268. Ms S Malarkodi (Aug-2006)**

15, Sanniyasappan koil street,  
Sorapet, Mannadipattu Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 501.  
Ph: 0413 - 2680279

Malarkodi , 45 is 11<sup>th</sup> Std educated and is a Bio Village Council and NABARD VVV club member. She is a role model for successful use of organic biopesticide and she is engaged in facilitating women to adopt organic farming.

From 1996 onwards she has been involved with numerous community activities such as forming SHGs , arranging training in various enterprises, facilitating subsidies for dairy, goat or poultry, assisting with medical camps, facilitating pensions and aid for deserving persons and helping school children.

**Malarkodi took the initiative to resolve a communal caste conflict in her village, served the tsunami affected people of neighbouring Karaikal and did relief work for Gujarat.**

**269. Ms A Malarvizhi (Aug-2006)**

9. Main Road, Kilinji kuppam Po,  
Thirukanchipet, Villianur, Pondicherry  
Phone : 98652 64823

From 1996 onwards 32 year old 9<sup>th</sup> std educated Malarvizhi has been involved with many different community activities in her coastal village. As a Bio Village Council member her work included forming SHGs, credit linking with nationalized banks,

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training on accounts maintenance and book keeping as well as facilitating the SHGs to avail of government or Animal Husbandry department subsidy for dairy, goat or poultry.

Malarvizhi assisted the Government department to organize medical camps on polio, AIDS awareness and filaria, and as a member in the education for all programme she sent school drop-outs back to school. She also helped pregnant women to get government assistance as well as assisted the government department to give old age pension, widows' pension and physically disabled assistance. She rendered service to the tsunami affected people of Karaikal region and for Gujarat relief.

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### 270. Mr K Munian (Jan-2006)

75, Pillyar Kovil St,  
Thirukanur (Post), Koonichempet,  
Pondicherry - 605 501.  
Phone: 0413-2680540,  
Email: k.muniyan@yahoo.co.in

Munian (20) is a Dalit youth from Koonichempet village in Pondicherry, educated up to 12<sup>th</sup> class. With a desire to assist the young people in his village he joined as a volunteer in the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre, and proved himself as one among the best knowledge workers involved in community development activities.

He trained himself in computer literacy, became qualified to train the local youth and students, and helped youth in his village to join various training programmes. He has

contributed much for village development through participation in health services – diabetes prevention camp, eye health camp for general public and school children, blood donation camp, pulse polio distribution camp and general subjects like first aid to victims of fire and accident camp etc. Similarly he shares whatever knowledge he gains on health with other members of the community.

Under the poverty alleviation programme, along with other Knowledge Workers, he helped 10 families build their own shelter at a cost of Rs.55000, under the subsidy released by the Government. He also helped a physically handicapped student get his entitlement of a free tri-cycle from the government. He is an active participant in social forestry scheme introduced by the government for environmental protection, and holds several positions such as Member in the village-level Environmental Pollution Control committee.

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### 271. Mr K Murugan (Jan-2006)

#32, Kavalkaran kovil street,  
Koonichempet, Thirukanur,  
Pondicherry - 605 501  
Phone: 994193265,  
Email: k.murugan@rediffmail.com

Murugan (20), comes from a Dalit family in Koonichempet village, Pondicherry. He holds a Diploma in Computer Teacher Education, has proved to be one of the best knowledge workers at the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

He has attended numerous training camps on a variety of subjects such as diabetes prevention, eye health for general public and school children, blood donation, and pulse polio distribution; He has helped conduct dental camp, blood pressure checking camp, eye camp organized by Aravind Eye Hospital, awareness camp on oral cancer and tobacco and identification jointly conducted by MSSRF & JIPMER, ENT and Eye care camp, training on first aid to victims of fire and accident camp, traffic rules and regulation awareness program, Ozone environment awareness camp, Human Right awareness camp etc., He has contributed much for his village development by sharing whatever knowledge he gained through his training, with other members of the society.

Murugan is qualified to train the local youth and the students in computer operations and and helps them to get employment opportunity information from the rural knowledge center and is in charge of a Night School for the school dropouts and elders.

He directed many male members get their government entitlements and organized various training programs for youth on jute bag production, for women on tailoring, computer operation training, organic farming practices, rain water harvesting, handicraft training to students, scientific rearing of cattle for the farmers and cattle owners, and touch screen operation training for the farmers and cattle owner as the subject related to livestock management.

An active participant in social forestry schemes introduced by the government for environmental protection, he motivated people thorough youth associations not to pollute the air with fire crackers during festivals, for healthy environment. He holds positions as Member in the village-level Environmental Pollution Control Committee, Youth Association and Rotary club village level committee.

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### **272. Ms R Murugapathy (Aug-2006)**

**106, Murugan Koil Street,  
Keezh sathamangalam,  
Korkadu (PO), Villianur (Via),  
Pondicherry  
Phone: 0413-3292730**

32 year old Murugapathy belongs to a coastal village in Pondichery and has passed 8<sup>th</sup> Std. She has been actively engaged in training activities as well as in social welfare in her village. She assisted NABARD to organize enterprise training, organized women SHG members to do composite fish culture in community ponds and facilitated the SHGs to avail of Animal Husbandry Department subsidy for dairy development, goat and poultry rearing. She helps pregnant women to get government assistance and also arranges for old age pension, pension for widows and for physical disability assistance.

Murugapathy took the initiative to protest against an arrack shop which she succeeded in having shifted outside the village. As a

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member of the education for all movement she assists in sending school drop-outs back to school and in arranging for renovation of the school premises.

She rendered service to the tsunami-affected people of the coastal Karaikal region as well as for earthquake relief in Gujarat.

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**273. Ms P Packialoutchmy  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-61689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Her village in Pondicherry was among the first to be devastated by the deadly Tsunami, last month. Several lives were lost and many more houses, devastated. But far from feeling dejected, the tsunami only strengthened her resolve to use ICT to ensure that another such disaster does not wreak havoc in her village again.

Packialoutchmy works as a volunteer in an MSSRF project in a village in Pondicherry. She uses the Internet to download life-saving weather reports on the sea conditions and wave heights and then shares these through radio broadcasts, with the fishermen in the nearby villages. She also gathers, collates and disseminates information from government departments on health facilities, employment news and entitlement schemes and sends these to surrounding villages. With just a rudimentary knowledge of English, she uses

the English letter keyboard to create Tamil fonts.

Packialoutchmy hopes that the society of tomorrow will incorporate the needs and perspectives of people at the grassroots such as herself. This she feels is imperative, if the benefits of ICTs have to reach all, especially the voiceless, the marginalised and the poor.

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**274. Ms Prabuvani  
Ranganathan (Jul-2005)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research  
Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam,  
Thandamannatham PO,  
Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry - 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

Prabuvani Ranganathan aged 27, a dynamic young commerce under graduate with Postgraduate diploma in computer application promoted computer literacy programmes in her coastal village, Periakalpet in Pondicherry by using the rural knowledge centre. She is a senior volunteer at the centre and has guided a good number of fisher families to get their government entitlements and also helped widows and aged to get their pensions. She organized several training programs for fisherwomen - one of them was ornamental fish rearing conducted by the department of fisheries and fishermen welfare.

Prabuvani was also active in identifying cataract patients in her village and directing

them to the Aravind Eye Hospital in Pondicherry. More than 100 children from the middle school were trained on basic computer operations and she also trained the local school teachers to use educational teaching aids for improving the skills of the children by using the CDs of Azim Premji Foundation.

After the tsunami she played a major role in documenting in electronic format the life and property losses due to tsunami in Periakalpet, which helped the grampanchayat to present before the government to get full relief measures.

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### **275. Mr K Raja (Jan-2006)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham  
PO, Valudhavoor Road  
Pondicherry - 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

Raja (25), a sportsman from Kalitheerthalkuppam village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> class. He is an excellent knowledge worker involved in community development activities through MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre. Always wanting to improve the life and cultural activities of youth members of his society, he had the zeal to learn computer operations and become a qualified tutor.

He has become a good friend to farmers in his area by sharing information promptly about agriculture, stock market information on food grains like paddy, pulses and cereals

received from the regulated markets located in and around Pondicherry and also guiding them by proper weather warnings which saved the crops of many farmers. Similarly about 11 youth became government employees aided by proper and prompt guidelines and advice from Raja.

With the help of youth movements in his village and through Government and NGOs, he has solved several village issues like arranging for village roads, street lights, drainage pits and de-silting the tank bunds etc., and is a young reformer in his village.

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### **276. Ms O Rajalakshmi (Aug-2006)**

14, Marriyamman Koil St,  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Villiyannur Commune,  
Thondamanatham (PO),  
Pondicherry - 605 502.  
Ph: 0413 - 2903174 / 9344871945

From 1991 onwards 37 year old Rajalakshmi who is 12th Std educated, has been involved with community activities. As a Bio-village council president she organized SHGs and credit linked with banks and has become a role model for accounts management and book-keeping. Her responsibilities include conducting regular Bio-village council meetings and coir production training. Rajalakshmi works with Government departments to organize medical camps for polio immunization, AIDS awareness, filaria control and also cattle health camps. As a member of the tank rehabilitation committee she attends to water management in her

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village, and also takes an interest in making school drop outs continue their education. She has also been involved in assisting the tsunami- affected people of Chidambaram region when a tsunami struck the coastal area in 2004.

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### **277. Ms Rajalakshumi Manickavel (Jan-2006)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham PO, Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502, Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

Rajalakshumi Manickavel (22), from a fisher family in the coastal village of Veerampattinam in Pondicherry. She has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> class, and is associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre since 2004. Generally, women from the fisher community are always hesitant to come out and do public service, but Rajalakshumi set an example of being available always in the Rural Knowledge Centre to share information knowledge with other members of society.

She qualified herself by getting various trainings like primary screening of eye diseases through Aravind Eye Hospital, making sea shell ornamentals, mushroom cultivation and kitchen garden maintenance. She has been helping fisher community by providing their daily information needs like weather forecast and wave height, and information on employment opportunities to the unemployed youth and training

opportunities to the women in her village. She has turned herself as a public relation person to direct her village community to the right direction to get their entitlements.

Having become computer literate and qualified to train local youth and the students, she promotes computer literacy and encourages children to use the educational CDs in the Rural Knowledge Centre.

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### **278. Ms Rukmani Thangarasu (Jan-2006)**

38, Desamariyamman kovil st.,  
Embalam, Pondicherry - 605 106.

Rukmani Thangarasu (35), from Embalam village, in Pondicherry, is a senior volunteer in the MSSRF Knowledge Centre. Educated upto class X, she holds very active positions in community based institutions like Self Help groups, Block Level Committees and in the Village Development Council at Embalam. She is a good trainer in formation of Self Help group, computer literacy and various enterprises producing cottage industry products, pickles and ornamental crafts.

Rukmani has contributed much for health promotion in her village and was a Pulse Polio Immunization volunteer for two years continuously. She participated in health camps organized for HIV-Aids, malaria, filaria and leprosy, and conducted health survey in 200 households for Aravind Eye Hospital to detect cataract problems.

She has been involved in a watershed management and rainwater harvesting programme organized by Public Works Department, and is the best content developer for the Open Knowledge Network on identifying prevailing indigenous medicinal practices.

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### **279. Ms B Saraladevi (Aug-2006)**

54, Pillaiyar koil street,  
Sandaipudukuppam,  
Suthikeni (PO), Sandaipudukuppam,  
Vazhudavur- (Via), Pondicherry  
Phone: 0413-2674349, 2674175

Saraladevi 49 is a 10<sup>th</sup> std educated Bio-village Council member who has been involved with community activities from 2004 onwards. As a member in the tank rehabilitation group, she motivates the women members to do composite fish culture in community ponds and as a member in the education for all programme she helps school children, especially drop-outs.

Saraladevi assisted NABARD to organize enterprise training, formed SHGs, arranged credit linking with nationalized banks, training on accounts maintenance and book-keeping. She facilitates the SHGs to avail of government subsidies for animal husbandry or poultry rearing and assists the Government department to organize cattle health camps.

She also works with the government department to provide old age pension, assistance for pregnant women, widows and

the physically disabled, and organizes medical camps on polio eradication, AIDS awareness and filaria control.

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### **280. Ms D Saroja (Aug-2006)**

9, Pudhu Nagar, Murugan Street,  
Mangalam, Pondicherry.  
Ph: 9865941659

From 1993 onwards 53 year old Saroja has been working in different ways for the community. She has taken initiatives like solving community conflicts within the village instead of going to the police station, and protested against the dowry problem in her coastal village.

As a Bio Village Council member, she provided information about council meeting, formed SHGs, arranged credit linking with nationalized banks, arranged training on accounts maintenance and book-keeping and also made sure that the village men and women repaid all overdue amounts to the bank. Saroja has also worked with government departments for medical camps and cattle health camps and for providing assistance to the poor and disabled. She assisted NABARD to organize enterprise training in the village.

As a member of the education for all programme she helped school children. She has also worked for the tsunami affected people of Karaikal region and for Gujarat earthquake relief.

**281. Ms Selvarani Kandiban  
(Jan-2006)**

No. 3, North st., Embalam,  
Pondicherry - 605 106

Selvarani Kandiban (37), Embalam village in Pondicherry overcame her diffidence to become a volunteer in the MSSRF Rural Knowledge centre. A housewife with education upto class IX, she was inspired by seeing other women of her own peer group becoming social reformers in her village, to become computer literate and qualify as a tutor to run her own computer-training center.

She now holds positions in community-based institutions like the Village Development Council, Self Help Groups and Non-formal Adult Education programmes. With an urge to solve general problems in her village, she moved her women's Self Help group members to approach the Electricity department to find a permanent solution for erratic power supply in her village, arranging speed-breakers near the school by the Public Works department and set right a community water tank generator. She was innovative in procuring "power tiller" through her Self Help group savings for renting out to the small and marginal farmers for tilling their land at the time of cultivation, which fetched considerable income to the SHG.

Selvarani is an active participant and motivator in all the exposure and training programmes organized by the Dept of Health on pulse polio immunization, and eye

health surveys in her village. She is a resource person for training staff of an NGO – Volontariat, on soap oil, washing powder, phenol and detergent blue production. She directed many women members to get their government entitlements and several families to take up Life Insurance – Jana Raksha policy, and motivated alcoholics to go to the de-addiction camps. She advocates the message of rational usage of water for irrigation and household purpose in her village.

**282. Ms P Sengani (Aug-2006)**

36, Main Road, Mangalam Road,  
Uruviayuru, Villiyanur Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 110.  
Phone: 0413-2668444

40 year old Sengani is a Biovillage Council member living in Uruviayuru a coastal village in Pondicherry. From 1997 onwards she has been involved with different kinds of community activities such as working with the social work department to provide assistance to pregnant women and assisting the Government department to organize medical camps and cattle health camps. An important part of the Bio-village council activities was to organize SHGs and credit linked with the Indian Bank and to ensure that the village men and women repay their dues to the bank. She has also made efforts to streamline the transportation in her village and to renovate the school premises. Through the cultural group to which she belongs she expresses the experiences of the Bio-village.

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**283. Ms Sumathi Govindarasu  
(Jan-2006)**

22, Pillayar kovil st, Embalam,  
Pondicherry- 605 106,  
Phone: 2644224

Sumathi Govindarasu, (31), from Embalam village in Pondicherry has studied up to 5<sup>th</sup> class. Though she always feels that she has only primary school education, she became empowered by seeing other women of same caliber come forward. This prompted her to be a volunteer and social worker to help her own fellow members and she is today among the best knowledge workers associated with the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre.

She is self-innovative and runs her own small-scale production unit at home generating considerable income by producing rose milk, jam and juice varieties, soap oil, phenol and detergent blue and is an active trainer for Self Help groups for starting their own enterprises. As part of her contribution for village development, she became one of the participants of the health related camps organized by the department of health and acted as an animator to make the people aware of the various programmes. Whatever knowledge she gained on health was shared by her with her fellow members of society.

Sumathi is computer literate and a qualified tutor. She is a good social worker, assists the cattle owners to undergo enterprise training and training on scientific rearing of cattle from PONLaIT, and assists village people to access life insurance policies and entitlements.

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**284. Ms Sumathi Janardhanan  
(Jul-2005)**

45, Pillayar kovil st.,  
Kalitheeratal kuppam,  
Pondicherry - 641270

Sumathi Janardhanan is a housewife aged 37 having school level education upto 10<sup>th</sup> std. She hails from the village called Kalitheerthalkuppam in Pondicherry and is a senior volunteer attached with the Knowledge Centre since 2000. As a social worker she guided SHG members on various benefits they were entitled to from the government. She is good in e-commerce and innovated a method of publishing stock availability of food grains like pulses and cereals (black gram etc.), tender coconuts and coconuts for sale with the farmers in her locality in the wireless network established by MSSRF-Hub to various knowledge centres and developed e-commerce modality which fetched good response and increased farmers' business..

She guided many farmers and cattle owners to take part in awareness creation exposure visits to Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary Sciences in Pondicherry on scientific rearing of cattle. She helped cashew-cultivating farmers to identify solutions for various pest problems, which saved more than 2 acres of cashew cultivation. In addition to the above she became computer literate conducting computer literacy training programs to students.

### **285. Ms Sundry Krishnamoorthy (Jul-2005)**

28, Perumal kovil st, Embalam post,  
Pondicherry - 605 106

35 years old Sundry Krishnamoorthy is a mother of two children and house wife, studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> std from Embalam village in Pondicherry. A senior volunteer in the Rural Knowledge Centre she helps her fellow members in all walks especially women SHG members on various services like guiding them to get their entitlements from the government. She is good in documentation of many case studies of those who actually benefited by the knowledge centre. She became a computer literate after she joined as a volunteer in the knowledge centre, and developed skills for training others on income-generating activities like producing phenol, soap, oil, blue, washing powder, juices, soft drinks and ice cream production etc. She is a member of the Editorial board of MSSRF "Nammavoor Seithi" bi-monthly newspaper.

Sundry motivated 50 families to use smokeless chulas under the environmental protection program. She helped 10 widows to get their pension and guided many aged and below the poverty-line group women to get their entitlements from government agencies. She has been an active participant for four years continuously in pulse polio programme, and participated in HIV Aids, malaria and leprosy control and prevention camps by helping the health department. She

assisted in identifying people with cataract and eye problems, and about 25 persons got better vision when she sent them to Aravind Eye Hospital for treatment.

### **286. Mr M Suresh (Jan-2006)**

12, Mariyamman Kovil St,  
Thirukanchipet, Villiyannur,  
Pondicherry -605110

Suresh (929), Dalit family in Thirukanchipet village in Pondicherry, has studied up to 12<sup>th</sup> class. A knowledge worker involved in community development activities through the MSSRF Rural Knowledge Centre. With zeal to learn computer operations and become a qualified tutor and always wanting to improve the life of youth members of his society, he joined as a volunteer in the rural knowledge centre. He helps his fellow members to become computer literate and helps them get information on employment opportunities from the Centre.

Suresh always keeps track of various village level issues and helps solve them with the help of his friends in the Youth Club. At the Knowledge Centre, he helps people get applications for birth certificate, revenue certificate, resident certificate, job applications etc., He also found a solution for getting caste certificate for people who did not have the caste evidence according to the Government Gazetteer of 1964, by making the whole village certify that he/she belonged to particular caste and submitting to the revenue department which then accepted the evidence. In this regard he

arranged a meeting with the Legal Aid cell members to guide them.

He promotes education as a member of the Non-formal education group and conducts free tuition classes in the evenings. As a member of the Youth Association, his vision is to keep his village clean, developing more social forestry, preventing wastage of drinking water, keeping streets clean, and taking messages that are informative and good for community development to the door steps of the people.

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### **287. Ms G Syamalavathy (Aug-2006)**

15, Kizhaku Pudunagar,  
Sellipattu (PO), Vambupet,  
Pondicherry  
Phone: 94429 91787

Syamalavathy 37 is a Biovillage Council member living in a coastal village in Pondicherry. From 1999 onwards she has been involved with different kinds of community activities such as working with the social work department to provide assistance to pregnant women and assisting the Government department to organize medical camps and cattle health camps.

She organized SHGs and credit linked with the Indian Bank and ensured that the village men and women repaid their dues to the bank. She has also made efforts to streamline the transportation in her village and to renovate the school premises. She is a member of a cultural group spreading awareness in the villages.

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### **288. Ms Thamizhmani (Aug-2006)**

3, Marriyamman koil St,  
Pillaiyarkuppam,  
Villiyannur Commune,  
Pondicherry

10 Std educated 52 year old Thamizhmani is an experienced Bio- village council member who has been involved with community activities for the past 15 years. She is a role model for floriculture and vegetable cultivation. In addition, she is a member of the tank rehabilitation group doing service for water management in her coastal village and also assists the Government department to organize medical camps on polio, AIDS and filaria.

At the time of the tsunami in 2004, Thamizhmani gave her service to the tsunami affected people of Chidambaram and Karaikal region.

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### **289. Ms D Usharani (Jul-2005)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research  
Foundation  
Pillaiyarkuppam, Thandamannatham  
PO, Valudhavor Road  
Pondicherry 605 502,  
Tel: 0413 2667861, 2666484

- an expert in organizing health campaigns and eye-camps in the village. She has taught making shell-crafts to several women in the village to enhance their home income.

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An educated woman with good computer skills, Mrs. Usharani (34) from Embalam in Pondicherry, is an enthusiastic social worker focusing on empowering rural women. She is committed to organizing self-help and other groups to promote the use of indigenous herbal medicines in livestock disease management and other improved practices in dairy development.

She has shared her knowledge and experiences with other women in the village, and guided them to maintain a high degree of public and environmental hygiene. She has helped in mobilizing the people to create drainage system for the entire village, and enforce discipline in the use of public roads by forming speed-breakers near the school zone.

She has always championed the cause of the under privileged women and is tirelessly fighting for women's fundamental rights. A highly health conscious-person, Mrs. Usharani has organized scores of health campaigns. She is regularly conducting eye-testing camps in the village, and helped in guiding

over 100 patients to the Arvind Eye Hospital to get improved vision. Her work in spreading awareness among women on AIDS and de-addiction to alcohol is commendable. She has also won the recognition as a "most respected and knowledgeable woman through her involvement as volunteer in MSSRF Knowledge Center".

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### 290. Ms K Vijaya (Aug-2006)

Old No.9, New No. 12, East St,  
Keezhoor, Villianur Commune,  
Pondicherry - 605 106.  
Ph: 0413-2698099

Vijaya, 37 has completed 10<sup>th</sup> Std and has been involved with community activities from 1994 onwards. As a Bio-village council member she organized SHGs in her coastal village and arranged credit linked with banks . She assists the Government department to organize medical camps for polio, AIDS awareness, and filaria prevention as well as cattle health camps. As a member of the tank rehabilitation group in the village she is doing service on water management, and as a member of the school committee, she assists school drop outs to rejoin the school.

After the tsunami in 2004, Vijaya directly rendered service to the tsunami affected people of Chidambaram region, including giving training in coir production for income generation. She is also a member of a local cultural group that spreads awareness to the villagers.

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### 291. Ms Vimala Periandy (Aug-2006)

5, Bavani Nagar,  
Veerampattinam village,  
Ariyankuppam Block,  
Pondicherry - 605 007.  
Ph: 9894142118

Vimala Periandy is a very dynamic lady belonging to a fishing community in

Veerampattinam coastal village which is located 21 kms from Pondicherry town. She is aged 45 and has studied upto school level (10th class).

She brought good awareness among fisher women in Pondicherry by emphasizing women's empowerment and gender equity for equal rights on par with men. By nature, fisher women tend to stand behind the men for any action and depend on the menfolk to lead the situation. However Vimala encourages women to act independently without seeking assistance from men. This attitude helped her to form a Federation for fisher women in Pondicherry, which consists of more than 1000 women members from 15 coastal villages. Through the federation she could enlighten the Government and the public through various means like representation through petitions, meeting the higher authorities at the Ministers level, and even through dharna, rail roko and road roko.

Vimala is focusing in many issues such as reservations for women and for fisherfolk community, allocation of a fishing community legislator to be the member of the Ministry in the recent election, growing saline-resistance vegetation in the tsunami hit coastal belt to prevent sea erosion and to withstand future natural disasters in collaboration with the Dept of Forestry, and also to get employment opportunities for women. She conducted fisher women welfare meetings to bring to the notice of the government their problems and needs after disasters like tsunami, such as compensation for losses incurred and rice provisions for each family at the time of ban of fishing by the government.

Vimala is associated with the Knowledge Centre and the SHGs in Veerampatinam through which she brings awareness among women on various micro enterprises and women health.

## PUNJAB

### 292. Ms Karamjit Kaur(Jan-2006)

C/o. TARAHaat  
111/9 Z Kishangarh,  
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg,  
New Delhi 110 070  
Tel No: 91 11 26122881, 26122882  
Fax No: 91 11 2612 2986

Karamjit Kaur (22), a graduate in Computer Applications comes from Zira in Ferozpur district, Punjab.

Karmjit teaches the Microsoft Unlimited Potential course to thirty students at her TARA kendra.

In a very small town in northern India, where the mere thought of a woman working for a living, is considered a blasphemy, Karmjit runs her own business. An affliction of polio may have enfeebled her limbs, but certainly not her spirit. When she decided to set up her own TARAKendra (TARAhaat IT based community and learning centre), nobody in her neighbourhood believed that she would make it. But now, just after a year, the very same people send their daughters to the TARAKendra to be taught computers.

"I want set an example for other girls; I want to show everybody that girls are capable of more than they are thought of." says an enthusiastic Karmjit who believes that every girl should know computers, and wants to achieve a major headway in her efforts to

promote computer education amongst girls. She is also of the opinion that the fact of being taught by a female instructor has led many parents to shed their inhibitions in sending their girls to the TARA kendra.

### 293. Mr Manmohan Singh Bhari (Jul-2005)

C/o. TARAHaat  
111/9 Z Kishangarh,  
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg,  
New Delhi 110 070  
Tel No: 91 11 26122881, 26122882  
Fax No: 91 11 2612 2986

A graduate in Arts from Patiala (1994), Punjab University with zeal to educate the rural people and empower them with the knowledge of IT, Manmohan Singh Bhari started his career as an IT instructor. He worked with various organizations and later set up his own business by purchasing two computers on loan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna. He ran a successful IT related (education, DTP & EDP) business and returned the loan amount in time.

About three years back Manmohan came to know about Tarahaat and its endeavour to take IT to rural India. He decided to give it a try and joined the company-owned TARAKendra in Maur Mandi. Contrary to the general trend where people from Bathinda travel abroad for better career prospects,

Manmohan decided to move to a small Mandi. He took the initiative in establishing a TARAkendra in Maur Mandi. He has taught students from over 40 villages surrounding Maur Mandi. He is now popularly known as Tara Wale Sardarji.

Manmohan has been instrumental in

popularizing Information Technology and its applications in Government schools and colleges through presentations and road shows. He is currently involved in expanding the network of TARAkendras, thereby increasing the reach of Information Technology to the remotest areas of Punjab.

## RAJASTHAN

### 294. Mr Ashok Sharma (Feb-2007)

Urmul Trust, PO Box 55  
Sri Ganganagar road, Bikaner,  
Rajasthan.

30 year old Ashok Sharma has a post-graduate degree and has experience in women and child health development, education, health and nutrition and in employment programme for deprived people. He has been associated with URMUL for the past 10 years. He assists with Balika Shivir a 6-month residential camp for girls above the age of 12 who are deprived of education, which other than providing primary education, also includes activities that supplement the over all development of the child. Ashok involves himself in mobilizing the community for sending their girls to the camp, selection of teachers, and other related work. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight them.

He has worked with SHGs and is able to link them with income generation programmes to improve the status of women in livelihood as well as to save their earnings. He has also contributed in the DPIP project anti-poverty and anti-alcoholism programmes.

### 295. Mr Bhagirath Saran (Jan-2006)

Kalu Post, Lunkaransar Tehsil,  
Bikaner District, Rajasthan -  
Ph: 01528-243322, 9413658893

Bhagirath Saran (32), from Kagasar village in Bikaner district, Rajasthan, is educated up to 9th Std and works as a cluster coordinator in Kalu cluster under Urmul Setu Sansthan, Lunkaransar.

He is fully devoted for community development and has participated in improving the status of women and encouraging them to take up income generation programmes. He had managed various activities such as community training, plantation programme, advocacy for vulnerable women, education to adolescent girls and health facilitation training to community.

Hardworking, sincere and proactive, Bhagirath Saran has been working for the last 10 years and has helped the organisation with his advocacy and local leadership qualities for carrying out programmes. He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices His functions facilitate the villagers to communicate problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet media.

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### **296. Mr Chandan Singh (Jul-2005)**

C/o Teri

Uttam Urja, Bhutto Ka Chauraha

Bikaner 334001

09350516480

09314659441

Chandan Singh is a 32 year old Secondary pass agriculture worker from Chhila Kashmir, Bajju, Bikaner. Although he belong to a remote village with little access to information, but he says he gets magazines from Bajju and studies them in the village at his home and then shares the knowledge with other people. He is also working as knowledge worker and collects information from the village for the access point at Bajju. He is also working as local news provider for a reporter. Under OKN program he is working as volunteer.

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### **297. Ms Dhapu Kumari (Feb-2007)**

Chak 12 SLD Village,

Raner (post), Chhatargarh,

Bikaner, Rajasthan

19 year old Dhapu Kumari is studying in 10th and is a member of an adolescent girls forum "Prerana Manch" initiated by Urmul Setu, Lunkaransar. She has received training on community communication skills, using radio and internet in addition to writing on social issues, writing radio programme scripts and managing community web sites.

Her role is to facilitate the community to communicate their problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet media. Her efforts disseminate the information on health and hygiene, HIV, environment and problems of the men and women in her community.

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### **298. Mr Durjan Ram Poonar (Feb-2007)**

Urmul Setu Sansthan

Sri Ganga Nagar Road

Lunkaransar,

Bikaner, Rajasthan

A hard-working, sincere and proactive person, 27 year old, 12th Std educated Durjan Ram Poonar works as a cluster coordinator under Urmul Setu Sanasthan, Lunkaransar and is fully devoted to the development of the community in economic as well as in social terms. His knowledge and understanding has helped the organization in their education and women empowerment programmes. He has participated in improving the status of women and encouraging them in income generation.

Durjan Ram has also managed various activities such as community training and advocacy to vulnerable women, education to adolescent girls and served as a health facilitator and trainer for the community.

**299. Mr Ghisu Lal Jat (Feb-2007)**

Gram Jashma, Tehsil Kapasan,  
Chittaud, Rajasthan

Ghisu Lal Jat is very active in environment management – he has initiated and taken part in many water management and waste management projects. Though the hilly area to which he belongs receives abundant rainfall, mismanagement of water and lack of storage effect the yield of crops. Taking appropriate steps, 33 year old 12th Std educated Ghisu Lal has been involved with the ITC-IBD e-Choupal since 2004 and welcomes with open arms new technology that saves water and increases productivity.

He was also involved in fund raising for construction of a road in his village and regularly interacts with the government officials to ensure supply of water, electricity, etc. Working for the development of his village, effectively using IT for knowledge dissemination, Ghisu Lal Jat has been felicitated by the Gram Panchayat for his efforts in bettering the life of the villagers.

**300. Ms Goga Rajput (Feb-2007)**

D/o Shri Narendra Singh  
Village: Khari, Kujati (post),  
Lunkaransar,  
Bikaner, Rajasthan

Goga whose age is 19, is studying in class 12. Besides pursuing her education, she is running a school for 5-6 years old children, which is an attempt by Urmul Setu Sansthan,

Lunkaransar to enrol young children to schools. Goga uses very simple teaching methods for these young children.

Having received training on community communication skills such as using radio and internet, she now organizes radio listeners' clubs, and facilitates discussions. Besides this she is also involved in writing on social issues, writing radio programme scripts and recording voices.

Goga facilitates the village community in communicating their problems and suggestions using various media, while also disseminating information on health, hygiene, and environment.

**301. Mr Habib Khan (Jan-2006)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-61689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Habib Khan (20), from Nure ki Bhurj village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, is studying for a BA degree. He is a social activist in Doosra Dasak Sanstha, Phalodi and works in various village development programs. Selected as Ek Duniya Kayee Kahaniya Fellow, he participated in several training programs including training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices His functions facilitate the villagers to communicate problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet

media and to disseminate information on health and hygiene and environment.

### **302. Mr Hanuman Prasad Nagar (Feb-2007)**

Gram Madhorajpur,  
Tehsil Kpatan,  
District Bundi, Rajasthan

One of the deserving sanchalaks contributing to the development of his village, 35 year old Hanuman Prasad Nagar, who is 10th Std educated, has been involved with the ITC-IBD e-Choupal since 2004.

At the time of shortage of water in his village, due to which the crops were totally rain fed and farmers could only produce one crop yearly, Hanuman Prasad Nagar took up this challenge and constantly petitioned the district administration to extend a canal. His efforts bore fruit when his petition was granted and now the village produces 2 crops in a year. He went beyond and with the help of nearby villages, which used the canal water, formed a committee to regulate the use of this water and minimise wastage. He learnt about optimal water use in farming and is now an active proponent of saving water. Due to his efforts, many people of his village and nearby areas have benefited immensely.

### **303. Mr Harchand Legha (Jan-2006)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-61689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Harchand Legha (26), from Ajitmana village, in Bikaner district, Rajasthan is 12th pass and participates in various state level programmes. He has been supporting Urmul Setu Sansthan's village development programmes for the last one year and is also working with government on total sanitation programme.

Having been selected as Ek Duniya Kayee Kahaniya Fellow by One World South Asia, he participated in several training programmes including on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight these through the media. His role is to organise radio listeners' clubs, facilitating discussions on the broadcasted programmes. Besides this, he is also involved in writing on social issues, radio programme script and recording voices and also managing community web sites.

**304. Mr Hari Singh Gurjar  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Hari Singh Gurjar (44), lives in Kherwal village, in Dausa district, Rajasthan. A Progressive landholding farmer, he has studied upto 8th Std, and has expertise in agriculture, live stock, functional literacy and health issues.

He has been a Sanchalak in ITC'S e-Choupal since 2004, working very hard for dissemination of knowledge on best practices of farming and bringing awareness among the farmers on how to get good prices for their produce. He uses the internet to gain knowledge about the latest and best agricultural practices, and on application of timely and adequate amount of manure and fertilizer for good results and economic farming. Always ready to adopt something new and setting an example for others, he is a trend setter and opinion leader in his village; Most of the villagers ask for his advice before taking any decision. He is always keen to do something for the betterment of the people and children of his village, and plays an important role in resolving disputes of the village families.

**305. Mr Jagdish Prasad Soni  
(Feb-2007)**

Village/Post: Kalu,  
Tehsil: Lunkaransar,  
Dict: Bikaner, Rajasthan

A volunteer with Urmul Setu Sanasthan, Lunkaransar, 22 year old Jagdish Kumar Soni who has B.A. and B.Ed degrees, has worked as a teacher in a private middle school since the last 5 years. He had already worked as a supervisor of an educational programme in Kalu Village under the Government literacy programme. In this education programme he had managed all the activities effectively and efficiently.

Jagdish had organised camps on advocacy programmes for vulnerable families. This advocacy programme provides the families with benefits and support. He had also worked for sanitation programmes and has succeeded in motivating the community to link themselves with mainstream sanitation programme. Under his supervision he was able to construct 125 toilets for BPL families.

**306. Mr Jayanti Lal Sutar  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Jayanti Lal Sutar (31), from Bhuwasiya village, Chittaurgarh district, Rajasthan, has studied

up to 12th Std. He is an active Sanchalak in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes keen interest in spreading knowledge of agriculture related information in his village . He regularly shares best practices which he tries to implement , and has helped many farmers increase the productivity of their fields. Having obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative Fast-Moving Consumer Goods(FMCG), he takes initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village.

### **307. Mr Kamlesh Kumar Daiya (Feb-2007)**

S/O Shri Bhura Ram  
Village: Maliyo ka Mohalla, Bap,  
Tehsil: Phalodi,  
Dict: Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Kamlesh Kumar has been involved as a volunteer with several community level programmes organized by an NGO, Doosra Dashak based in Phalodi. The 20 year old 12th Std educated young man has participated in a number of training programmes and is of the belief that it is important for the youth to examine their own views and work ethics. This will enable them to bring about change within society.

Kamlesh Kumar is fairly well educated and articulate. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight these

through the media. He participated in Workshops and has been selected as Ek Duniya Fellow.

### **308. Mr Karna Ram Poonar (Jul-2005)**

Urmul Setu Samsthau, Sri Ganganagar,  
Lunkaransar, Bikaner, Rajasthan  
Ph: 01528-272388, 272014

Karna Ram Poonar has been associated with URMUL Setu Sansthan in Bikaner District, Rajasthan for the past 15 years. His knowledge and understanding has helped the organisation to use information technology for program planning, analysis and design.

Well versed in computer skills, he has been responsible for organising computer training workshops for NGOs and women field workers, and has been involved in continuous advocacy with the Department of Telecommunications at all levels, demanding quality Internet services at Lunkaransar block of Bikaner district. Development of data bases for programmes of health, income-generation, loans & savings for the use of field workers at URMUL Setu Sansthan, impact assessment of the integrated rural development project of ActionAid India, Lunkaransar, PPM Peer Review (Plan India) at SBMA, Tehri Garhwal, Uttaranchal and analysis and documentation of Lok Jumbish programme, Lunkaransar, are among the wide range of his experience.

He organised relief activities for the benefit

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of communities of village Gheghara, tehsil Chatargarh, when a branch of the Indira Gandhi Canal collapsed in December 2003. A sincere and proactive worker, Karna Ram Poonar has the potential be an agent of change through the use of technology at rural grassroots.

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### **309. Mr Laxmichand Dhoriya (Feb-2007)**

s/o Pyaraji  
Bhagwanpura Village,  
post Bhagwanpura  
Tehsil Nimbahera  
Rajasthan

50 year old 6th Std educated Laxmichand Dhoriya is working very hard in the field of agricultural best practices and livestock development in his village located in the semi-humid southern plains of Rajasthan.

His income depends on 15 bigha irrigated land & 10 livestock. As a sanchalak who communicates ITC e-choupal benefits in the best way to the farmers, he takes initiatives for disseminating information by gathering together farmers at his house or e-choupal from time to time and showing them CDs or films of best farm practices of soya, maize, judicious use of pesticides, etc.

In addition, Laxmichand actively participates in social development of the village such as making cattle shelters, Samuhik Vivah, road construction etc . He is a member of a committee for reconstruction & managing the village temple where all the members of

this committee give two days income per month. He played an important role by providing labour and money for construction of a middle school in scheme of 'apna gaon apna kam' ( our village, our work) two years back.

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### **310. Mr Lumbha Ram Depan (Feb-2007)**

S/o Shri Chuna Ram Depan  
Aau, Phalodi,  
Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Lumba Ram had worked as an assistant teacher in a Higher Secondary School at Phalodi, Jodhpur and had also worked under the health project especially in the immunization and pulse polio programme. A 25 year old post –graduate, Lumba Ram motivated and disseminated information to villagers about the immunization and health programmes.

He also encouraged the village panchayat with the support of Village Education Committees (VECs) and various local committees. He played a vital role in the planning methodology of community mobilisation component in partnership with the community, and the project achieved its objectives with his support.

Lumbha Ram served as a field worker in Urmul Marusthali Bunkar Vikas Samiti, Phalodi, Jodhpur. Now he is selected as Ek Duniya Kai Kahaniyan Fellow.

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### 311. Mr Mahendra Kumar Sharma (Feb-2007)

Devan, Shahpura,  
Jaipur, Rajasthan

29 year old 12th Std educated Mahendra Kumar Sharma belongs to village Devan in an agricultural area where livestock rearing is the second major business of farmers. He has been working with the ITC-IBD e-Choupal since 2004 and is involved in many activities like disseminating best farming practices, organizing artificial insemination camps for livestock and running a dairy.

Mahendra Kumar Sharma also handles three self help groups for savings and does social service for the aged including elderly women in SHGs and helping them to get their pension.

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### 312. Mr Mahendra Singh (Jul-2005)

C/o Teri  
Uttam Urja  
Bhutto Ka Chauraha  
Bikaner 334001  
09350516480  
09314659441

34 year old Mahendra Singh is Secondary pass and a permanent resident of village Aladin ka Beda, Khajuwala. He has a shop in Khajuwala where runs STD booth.

He is a social figure for the area, participating in most of the activities relating to the common interests of the people. Being well

known in the villages people contact him for various problems such as problems in getting benefit from a government scheme, education of children or health issues.

Mahendra Singh has participated in the promotion for awareness generation program of Uttam rja and has conducted these programs at the village level through music shows, solar rallies, road shows etc. He has been involved for some time in the OKN program to collect information from the villages. He has collected various types of information related to the history of Khajuwala, its traditions etc., and has also covered current events.

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### 313. Mr Mangej Kumar (Jan-2006)

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-61689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Mangej Kumar (20), from Tankarda village in Jaipur district, Rajasthan, is studying for his BA degree. He had worked under National Service Scheme disseminating information on HIV/AIDS and STD to the community through local traditional methods. His programmes involve drama, puppet shows and songs. Since these media can easily communicate information to the larger community, he used them for awareness creation on HIV/AIDS for Balmanch, schools and adolescents and also for information dissemination to panchayat,

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VEC's and various other local committees. Mangej Kumar was selected as Ek duniya kai kahaniyan Fellow by One World South Asia and has received training on community communication skills.

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**314. Ms Meera Suthar  
(Feb-2007)**

D/o Ramlal Suthar  
Manchitiya, Phalodi,  
Jodhpur, Rajasthan

An 18 year old 12th Std educated young woman, Meera has been involved as a volunteer in different types of training activities and programmes in villages through her association with Doosra Dashak, an NGO working in Phalodi. She has received training on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices and is also involved in writing on social issues, writing radio programme scripts and managing community web sites. This facilitates the community to communicate their problems, issues and suggestions through a variety of media.

Meera has shown her interest in linking with the rural communities through community work. She is fairly well educated and has shown the confidence to undertake development activities.

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**315. Mr Mohan Kumar Kumawat  
(Feb-2007)**

Gram Badodiya,  
Tehsil Bundi, District Bundi  
Rajasthan

Mohan Kumawat has helped in formation of an electricity cooperative he now leads, that was formed in his village to stop thefts. He actively participates in social work and due to his leadership, no theft of electricity takes place and all the dues are paid on time. He is also very active in construction of hand pumps in his village and has taken up other challenges like cleaning of canals for water management.

38 year old , 8th Std educated Mohan Kumawat is one of the active sanchalaks working since 2004 in all fields of the ITC-IBD e-Choupal . He teaches children computers free of cost and has initiated schemes for widows and old people in which they get financial assistance from a common fund.

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**316. Mr Mohan Patidar  
(Jan-2006)**

Chokhla Post, Banswara Dist,  
Rajasthan Ph: 02968 - 240531,  
E-mail: 08000076@echoupal.com

Mohan Patidar (30), hails from Chokla village, Banswara district, Rajasthan. Educated upto 12th Std, he has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004. He is a very keen believer in using IT

to help small farmers. He is in touch with all the small farmers of his village and tries to improve their productivity by using scientific methods. His belief is in the fact that a village cannot progress until farmers participate. He has tried to use innovative and inexpensive methods of farming to bring benefits to the small farmers. Mohan Patidar has obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer and internet usage, Life & General Insurance, agri commodities pricing and quality. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village.

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### **317. Mr Mohar Singh Sikarwar (Feb-2007)**

VPO Banetha Khurd,  
Mania,  
Dholpur (Rajasthan)  
Phone : 09412894025

33 year old Mohar Singh's primary occupation is farming. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers.

Hailing from a village in the UP border where literacy levels are not good, Mohar Singh provides time to time information to villagers regarding improved cultivation practices of crops and rates of mandi. He forwards questions related to plant protection to the

hub team and acts as a helpdesk to assist his fellow farmers.

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### **318. Ms Murti Bishnoi (Feb-2007)**

J.K. House Umedpura, Phalodi  
Phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Murti has been actively associated with a number of training programmes and activities organized by an NGO, Doosra Dashak in Phalodi. She has received training on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet. She writes on social issues and also radio programme scripts.

Murti who is 30 and 10th educated, has been involved with community activities since two years. She is a keen observer of human behavior particularly of the youth who she feels has a lot of promise to bring about change in society. She would like to bring this to her writing skills. She has shown interest and the desire to put in efforts into development programmes.

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### **319. Mr Narayan Ram (Jan-2006)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-61689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Narayan Ram (33), from Kolu Rathora village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan has studied upto 8th Std. He has relevant experience in

several areas of community work and is involved with community work in Kolu Pabuji Gram Panchayat. Prior to this, he worked with programmes for upliftment of the dalit community in Urmul Samiti, Phalodi. In addition to this, he was active in promoting self help groups, afforestation drives as well as programmes for dissemination of relevant information on government schemes pertaining to BPL families. This involved working in association with local cooperative committees.

He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. He has shown sensitivity to social issues and a keenness to highlight these through the media. Having participated in the Ek Duniya workshop has aroused his interest and commitment to send stories on local issues; he has been selected as a Fellow by One World South Asia.

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### **320. Mr Narayan Singh (Feb-2007)**

**Village Naam, Tehsil Nadbai,  
Ditt. Bharatpur Rajasthan**

Narayan Singh is a dynamic Sanchalak of ITC who is also an active social worker. Apart from efficiently managing his day to day operations and livelihood, he manages to find time for community causes. He is attached to the women development department of the government and has volunteered for them a number of times. He also volunteers for many NGOs working for different social

causes. He conducted the annual echoupal 'Sanchalak Sammelan' smoothly and won accolades.

A graduate, 34 year old Narayan Singh puts his effort into different fields, be it working through e-choupal, government department or NGOs. He was awarded best volunteer by Health Department of the government.

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### **321. Mr Narsingh Singh (Jul-2005)**

**C/o Teri  
Uttam Urja  
Bhutto Ka Chauraha, Bikaner 334001  
09350516480  
09314659441**

Narsingh Singh is a 36 year old teacher with a post graduate degree from Charanwala, Bajju, Bikaner. Volunteering as a knowledge worker, he collects information from the village for the access point at Bajju. He is a social figure for the area of Bajju. He has been quite active at the time of pulse polio and its awareness program and also in a population control promotional activity named Goli ka Humjoli when with women volunteers he spread the programmes in the villages.

Narsingh Singh has been key person to take the program forward at the computer education center in Bajju run by Radhe Computer service. Under OKN program he started contacting the community to tell them about the uses of ICT. He has also started training volunteers.

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### 322. Ms Nisha Chauhan (Feb-2007)

Urmul Trust  
PO Box N. 55  
Sri Ganga Nagar Road,  
Bikaner.

Nisha Chauhan has been working with Urmul Trust, Bikaner for the past 10 years. She is hard working, sincere and proactive. She assisted with the opening of a Shiksha Karmi School in Thumbli village in the interest of the community, carrying forward the Shiksha Karmi project which was started in 1988 in areas where there were no government schools or only non-functional schools. Nisha inspired local teachers during training and appointment to keep in mind local aspirations with the main thrust on providing universal quality education.

30 year old, 11th std educated Nisha has received training on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. Her role is to organize radio listeners' clubs, facilitating discussions on the broadcasted programmes. Besides this, she is also involved in writing on social issues, writing radio programme scripts and also managing community web sites. She disseminates information on health and hygiene, HIV, environment and solves problems of the men and women in her community.

Nisha is very efficient in preparation of SHG groups where women learn how to save their earnings. Her knowledge and understanding

has helped the organization in their education and women empowerment programmes.

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### 323. Mr Pawan Kumar (Jul-2005)

C/o Teri  
Uttam Urja  
Bhutto Ka Chauraha  
Bikaner 334001  
09350516480  
09314659441

20 year old Pawan Kumar is a Secondary pass student living in a village near Khajuwala, Bikaner. He is working as volunteer and collects information from villages for the access point at Khajuwala. Although he is a student he takes a lot of interest in social work. He is member of Nehru Yuva Kendra and has also worked voluntarily for Urmul a local NGO working in Khajuwala. In OKN program he is a useful person and good volunteer. He regularly gives useful information related to income generation, health and education for the people.

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### 324. Mr Pira Ram Dehati (Jan-2006)

Dasodi Post, Kolayaat Dehasil,  
Bikaner Dist, Rajasthan.  
Ph: o1534 - 282084, 282053

Pira Ram Dehati (36), is a graduate with B.Ed., from Dasori village in Bikaner district, Rajasthan.

He has worked as a field worker in Urmul

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Trust, Bikaner for the last 8 years. Balika Shivar is a 6-month residential camp for girls above the age group of 12 years who are deprived of education. Other than providing primary education which is supported by Pira Ram, which is the primary objective of the shivar, it also includes activities which supplements the overall development of the child such as providing books and other educational aids. Pira Ram helps in organization of the shivar and in mobilizing the community for sending their girls to the shivar, selection of teachers, formulation of core committee to manage the activities etc. He works in close interaction between the girls and the teachers. Pira Ram received an award from the District Collector for his efficient and effective implementation of Balika Shivar. His main objective is to improve the quality of education and to improve the status of life in the village. He has laid his main emphasis on girls' education, gender sensitisation and empowerment of women.

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### **325. Ms Pushpa Vishnoi (Jan-2006)**

C/o. The School of desert sciences,  
109, Nehru Park, Jodhpur (PO).

Ph: 0291-2432033, 2654521,

E-mail: mlpc@satyam.net.in

Pushpa Vishnoi (23), lives in Soorsagar village in Jodhpur district, which falls in the semi arid zone of western Rajasthan. She is a graduate pursuing further studies, actively involved in community activities since the last three years.

She has expertise in the field of gender issues, micro finance, community mobilization and institution building. As she belongs to the same region she has a very good rapport with the community, particularly with the womenfolk. She has attended of the capacity building events on project specific and area specific issues and possesses good written and verbal communication skills. On some occasions she has represented the organization in different forums.

Sincere, hardworking and honest in her approach, Pushpa Vishnoi has good understanding of local conditions and is sensitive towards the local issues. Her NGO orientation has developed her vision to contribute painstakingly to improve the life of the underprivileged.

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### **326. Mr Rajesh Punia (Jul-2005)**

C/o Teri

Uttam Urja

Bhutto Ka Chauraha

Bikaner 334001

09350516480

09314659441

23 year old Rajesh Punia from Panchu, Nokha, Bikaner is a 9<sup>th</sup> pass agriculture worker. He is serving as a knowledge worker and collects information from the village for the access point at Nokha . He also collects information for Panchayti Raj and is working as local reporter for daily newspaper Rajasthan Patrika.

Rajesh is very active all the social work in the villages and is also involved in betterment of the infrastructure of the village.

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### **327. Mr Raj Kumar Singh Arya (Feb-2007)**

C/o Sh. Bhagawan Sahay Arya,  
V&Po- Lampuwa,  
via- Ringus, Distt.- Sikar,  
Rajasthan Ph. 01575-247625

Raj Kumar Singh Arya is the best user of internet facility provided by ITC. The 31 year old 10th educated Sanchalak shares information regarding e-choupal to farmers and also about market and improved agricultural techniques for their better future and good returns for agri produce.

His village which is in a semi-arid area, is in the interior and even the newspaper comes late, so he always reads the news websites in the morning and gives information to the other farmers. He teaches the students of the village about the basics of computers to improve their knowledge and provides information regarding examination results. He also gives information through internet regarding vacancies and recruitment process to unemployed youth in the village who aspire for a better future.

Raj Kumar Singh functions as a social worker for his village, involving himself in community development activities. He wants his village to be identified as one of the most important village through this e-choupal.

### **328. Mr Rambabu Patidar (Feb-2007)**

Gram Junakheda, Tehsil Jhalrapatan,  
District Jhalawad, Rajasthan

Rambabu Patidar is one of the leading farmers of his village. A progressive farmer active in most fields, he is actively involved in local developmental work

35 year old 10th Std educated Rambabu has been involved with the ITC-IBD e-Choupal since 2004. He regularly helps farmers to adopt best practices in agriculture and took the lead to construct check dams in the village – after realising that soil erosion is taking place in the fields. He took the lead in forming a committee and took all steps to procure funds from the government.

Rambabu's use of IT to help students is exemplary. He believes in fair treatment for all castes and has initiated 'Samuhik Sammelan' which organises mass marriages for the underprivileged.

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### **329. Mr Rambaksh Bhakar (Jan-2006)**

ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9948077976  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Rambaksh Bhakar (36), from Khera Narnolia village in Nagaur district in the arid zone of Rajasthan, has studied upto 10th Std and has expertise in agriculture, micro finance, water

management, health issues and craft training. He obtained training from ITC-IBD in computer and internet usage, insurance, quality parameters and pricing of agri commodities, information on various fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), etc. and has been a Sanchalak for the past one and a half years. He is a hard worker with good knowledge about agriculture and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village, giving the details

on usage of Information Technology to farmers on daily basis. He won the award of Best Sanchalak in this year's Sanchalak Sammelan

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### **330. Mr Ramesh Chand Sharma (Feb-2007)**

Village Chandlai, Tehsil –Tonk,  
Dist Tonk, Rajasthan

38 year old 12th Std educated Ramesh Chand Sharma is an active sanchalak of ITC echoupal working in the fields of procurement , agri-inputs and financial services since 2004. He is particularly competent in agricultural extension activities such as green manuring, crop rotation etc. both through the echoupal model and through the agricultural department. In addition, he has done work in the field of watershed development in his area.

Ramesh Chand Sharma's contributions have been impressive and are well appreciated.

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### **331. Mr Ramnivash Prajapat (Jan-2006)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-51689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Ramnivash Prajapat (32), from Bhojasar village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, studied upto Class XII.

He has been a field worker in Urmul Marusthali Bunkar Vikas Samiti, Phalodi, Jodhpur and has worked under the health project especially in immunization and pulse polio programme. Ram Niwas motivated the villagers and disseminated information to them about immunization and health programmes. He also encouraged village panchayat with the support of VECs and various local committees.

He had also worked with Self Help Groups, linking them with income generation programme to improve the livelihood status of women. He was efficient in setting up SHG groups consisting of 10-11 women who learnt to save their earnings.

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### 332. Mr Rau Ram Meghwal (Jan-2006)

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area  
New Delhi 110016  
Phone: 0091-11-51689000  
Fax: 0091-11-51689001

Rau Ram Meghwal (34), has studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> standard and lives in Kolu Rathora village in Jodhpur district, Rajasthan.

He has been involved with community work in Kolu Pabuji Gram Panchayat. Prior to this, he was involved with programmes organised by Urmul Samiti at Phalodi for the upliftment of dalit communities. His work has covered different aspects of community work like promoting self-help groups, afforestation drives, facilitating access to information on relevant government programmes for BPL families in association with village cooperative centres.

Ram Rau Meghwal has wide ranging experience in field work and is connected with a variety of issues. He has received training on community communication skills, writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. He has been selected as Ek Duniya Fellow by OWSA.

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### 333. Mr Santosh Kumar Tyagi (Jan-2006)

Sadikpur post, Dholpur district,  
Ph: 9414315526  
E-mail: 08000384@echoupal.com,  
08000384@echoupal.com

Santosh Kumar Tyagi (32), is a landholding farmer and a graduate from Sadikpur village in Dholpur district, a village located near the Chambal river in Rajasthan.

Santosh Kumar obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of computer usage, internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various FMCG products. He takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village, providing information to villagers from time to time regarding improved cultivation practices of crops and rates of mandi. He acts as helpdesk for farmers by forwarding questions related to plant protection and other problems to the hub team for expert guidance.

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### 334. Mr Shivraj Meena (Feb-2007)

Village & Post : Ghoomna,  
Tehsil Sikrai, District : DAUSA,  
State : Rajasthan

A progressive farmer who is always ready to adopt something new and keep setting examples for others, Shivraj Meena is a 30

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year old post -graduate. He has worked very hard in terms of dissemination of knowledge of best practices of farming and made the farmers aware about how to get good prices for their produce. Putting the Internet to good use, he spreads knowledge to farmers about new and better agricultural practices, in terms of application of timely and adequate amount of manures and fertilizers for good results and economic farming.

Shivraj was successful in motivating shopkeepers of his own as well as adjoining villages to keep good quality products so that quality products are available to the people of his village, which is located in the arid hills of the Aravali range near the Madhosagar Dam.

He has also undertaken social work for the village especially for schools and has been called the most active sanchalak of ITC e-choupal in Rajasthan.

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### **335. Mr Shyam Sunder Patidar (Feb-2007)**

**Gram Donda,  
Tehsil Jhalrapatan,  
District Jhalawad  
Rajasthan**

Shyam Sunder Patidar has been involved with the ITC-IBD e-Choupal since 2004. He has done commendable work for water management in the agricultural area to which he belongs. As secretary in the 'Swajal Dhara Yojana – which helps in equitable distribution of water in the village, he has

formed a committee called 'Nal Yojana' for consumption of water. He has also constructed a water tank in the village, which he is maintaining.

26 year old 12th Std educated Shyam Sunder's social service includes helping in maintenance and reconstruction of schools in the nearby villages including a primary school for his village, and other public welfare activities.

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### **336. Ms Sushila Bana (Feb-2007)**

**D/o Shri Rameshwar Lal Bana**

**Village: Bana,  
Tehsil: Sri Dungargarh,  
Dict: Bikaner, Rajasthan**

Sushila , a 20 year old post-graduate has been working as a 'Prerak' or Teacher in Shiksha Kendras (Educational Centres) run by an organisation Cocodecon for two years. She has a background in community work and she has received training on community communication skills in writing and using radio and internet to amplify community voices. Associated with OWSA-URMUL's Advocacy Centre, her role is to organize radio listeners' clubs and facilitate discussions on the broadcasted programmes. Besides this, she is also involved in writing on social issues, writing radio programme script , recording and also managing community web sites.

Sushila's functions facilitate the community to communicate their problems, issues and suggestions using print, radio and internet media. Her efforts disseminate information

on health and hygiene, HIV, environment and problems of the men and women in her community.

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**337. Mr Tarachand Malav (Jan-  
(2006)**

S/o. SH Radh Kishan Ji, Ramthal Post,  
Via Sisvali, Baran Dist,  
Rajasthan - 325 206  
Ph: 07457 - 270501, 9414650779

Tarachand Malav (31), belongs to Raithal village, Baran district, Rajasthan. An agriculturist with class XII education, he has done commendable work in helping the farmers of his village, by using the computer effectively to disseminate knowledge about the latest agricultural practices. He initiated the practice of soil testing in his village and spreads awareness of its benefits through field visits and demonstrations. He is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD from the year 2004 and is respected by his village community.

## TAMIL NADU

### 338. Mr E Altrin (Jan-2006)

Victoria Nagar, Thangachimadam,  
Ramanathapuram District - 623 529.  
Ph. 04573 - 251621 / Cell: 9994168623  
EMail: altrin0101@yahoo.co.in

E. Altrin (26), is a computer professional belonging to Victoria Nagar, a fishing hamlet in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu. Associated with the MSSRF Village Knowledge Centre at M.G.R.Nagar, Thangachimadam, he has been assisting a Handicapped Welfare Association for the past 5 years and is also a member and district secretary of All India Handicapped Association. He has organized several health camps for physically challenged people in co-ordination with district Health Department, and helps them to get medical certificates, train concession, tricycle etc from the government departments. He also organizes training programmes like ornamental shell craft making, tailoring, book binding etc. and he takes steps to market the products .

Altrin's occupation is fish trading, and he is an active self-help group member, through which he creates awareness on reasons for depletion of fish resources, importance of coral reefs etc. He is regular in attending the Grama Sabha meetings and raises the questions related to hygiene and infrastructure facilities in his village.

Now he is actively involved in village knowledge centre activities and motivates youth to become computer literate.

### 339. Ms Amalorpavamary (Jul-2005)

Theradi Main Road,  
Kuttalam (PO),  
Mayiladuthurai (Tk),  
Nagapattinam (Dt).  
Ph: 04364 - 325049  
theradi\_kiosk@tnmay.chirrag.com

23 year old Amalorpavamary from Theradi, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu is a student undergoing B.com through distance education. She did D.C.A (diploma in computer application) and was familiar with computer applications well before starting her kiosk. Through her own interest , she is taking care of the kiosk, and her brother also helps her to develop their business. She does typing work, DTP and photoshop and takes various basic computer courses for the students.

She has been involved in community issues like preventing frequent accidents at a critical turning on the road by communicating with the District Collector through Isee sessions and getting his approval for a speed breaker. Amalorpavamary's communication with the Collector has also helped a retired person to get his pension and other such assistance to the community.

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### **340. Mr A Annadurai (Feb-2007)**

S/o P.Andi

Peunkiraihatti

Semmedu Post

Valavadhinadu

Kolli Hills. 637 411. Namakkal.

Tamil Nadu. Ph: 04286 247599

33 year old A. Annadurai hails from South Kolli Hills, which is a forest and agro-biodiversity rich region. A versatile trainer, he is capable of absorbing new skills that he is willing to disseminate to others. Since 1996, he has been actively involved in various activities implemented in Kolli Hills such as millet demonstration and marketing, medicinal plant nursery maintenance, vermicompost preparation and has assisted with socio-economic surveys and with GPS survey on sacred forests.

10th Std educated Annadurai is skilled in Herbarium preparation, Trichogramma parasitoid production and digital photography and is also certified as Village Botanist by the Foundation for Research in Local Health Traditions. He has helped organize several training programmes and exposure visits and to develop models in nature clubs for school children. With his capability for mobilizing and executing assigned tasks, he is the backbone for strengthening community institutions to which he belongs.

Nominee's areas of competency.

Public speaking, Skill in Herbarium, Medicinal plant nursery, Vermicompost preparation, GPS survey, Socio economic surveys, Photography, Community Mobilization, Marketing

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### **341. Mr N Arun (Jan-2006)**

S/o. T. Natarajan,

Melappatti, Iluppur (post),

Pudukkottai District - 622 102.

Ph: 9443583197

N.Arun (27), from Melapatti Village, Pudukkottai district, TN, is DEEE educated. By occupation, he is a milk co-operative union Secretary, and also does electrical work on contract basis.

He is the leader of a SHG named Subash Ilangyar Narpani Mandram, and along with his team members he is encouraging school dropouts working in gem cutting units to attend school properly. He encouraged the Child Labour School, receiving an award for his sincere social work from the District Administration.

He helped reduce the water problem in his village by building small tanks to avoid wastage of water, motivated the community to use the tanks for water storage and also educates them in Rain Water Harvesting Techniques. One of his remarkable contributions is formation of Milk Society in Illupur for the benefit of the community. Now it has become a government undertaking and he and his friends are working as temporary employees.

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Arun has done excellent work for his community and he is a role model for other youngsters. Now he is actively involved in Computer Education for school students.

**342. Mr Arunkumar (Jul-2005)**

135/2, Arun Illam, Cumbam Main Road,  
Palasichettipatti,  
Theni District, Pin - 625531.  
Email: arungurusamy@gmail.com  
Phone: 04546-265280 / 9865535869

Arunkumar comes from the village of Palasichettipatti in Theni Dt, Tamil Nadu. He has completed DCE. He has good communication skills, runs an active kiosk which gives good performance. He has been involved during the past 6 months in DTP Works, Data Entry in rural areas. He mainly uses iSee service for agriculture related questions and he sends very useful solutions and thus helps his villagers in their main occupation of agriculture farming.

**343. Ms E Arunmoli (Aug-2006)**

1/151, Nadu St,  
Someshvarapuram,  
Pabanasam Taluk, Tanjur District.

Born in a traditional agricultural family E.Arunmoli who has completed S.S.L.C was a housewife till she attended a DANIDA-aided training programe conducted by the State Department of Agriculture. By virtue of the interest she evinced in learning new skills and disseminating them among farm women, she was selected as the farmers'

discussion group convener of the Farmers Training Centre at Sakkotai.

Arunmoli has been involved with community activities for the past ten years, maintaining a good rapport with Government Departments to help the people in her area to get government concessions. FAO experts who visited the village said the all-women farmers field school which she organized was first of its kind in Asia. She also formed a women's group with members from various communities to cultivate the habit of saving among farm women, while at the same time indirectly encouraging communal harmony among them. Such groups were formed by her even before the SHG concept was popularized. She is associated with the Village Resource Centre of MSSRF at Thirvaiyaru and conveys the benefits it provides to her village. Currently she is learning computer skills and is trying to establish a VKC in her village Somesvarapuram which is located on the banks of river Coleroon.

**344. Mr H Bagadoor (Jul-2005)**

C/o M.S. Swaminathan Research  
Foundation  
Door No.11-2-91F, Nachimuthu House,  
Opp. Govt.Higher Sec.School,  
Palani Main Road, Kannivadi,  
Dindigul-624 705  
Tel: 95451-2555147 / 2555160

- a graduate with sound knowledge on vegetable market prices and transportation.

He has good links with the growers of the region.

Mr. H. Bagadoor (33) is a progressive farmer from Srirampuram village in Kannivadi, and an active member of the Reddiarchatram Seed Growers' Association (RSGA). An economics graduate with sound training in computer applications, he is currently running a unique website focussing on the market information on fruits and vegetables grown in Oddanchatram belt. The website <oddanchatrammarket.com> is in operation for well over two years now, and it has helped in forging a sustainable alliance between the farmers and the traders, thereby benefiting both of them.

He has been actively involved in the seed village programme of the MSSRF, and has helped in spreading several eco-friendly crop production technologies and the fundamentals of precision farming using geographical information system (GIS) among the villagers in the region.

Mr. Bagadoor is an active social worker, and with a missionary zeal he has been propagating the spirit of cooperation among the growers and the traders in the region. He has contributed significantly to the growth of the knowledge center by gathering farm and market-oriented information periodically.

### **345. Ms Bagavathi Ammal (Jan-2006)**

**K1/53, Shanmugapuram,  
Veerapandiyanpattanam, Thuticorin  
District. Ph: 95461-246154**

Bagavathi Ammal (34), born in Veerapandiyanpattanam on the sea coast of Thoothukudi district, TN has been very keen and interested in promoting various aspects that are needed for rural development. She is + 2 educated and has undergone the 2 days CBFL ALP training conducted by TATA Consultancy Services before launching CBFL and also 2 days inservice training from Block Resource Centre on literacy through computers .

She has been associated with the government in implementing schemes. With the help of the rural development agency she motivated people to construct 332 individual household toilets. Through her efforts she has made people of her village aware about family planning and its importance and 33 cases have successfully undergone the surgery.

Bagavathi Ammal's commitment towards making people literate has made her facilitate the ALP classes and has covered 30 batches in which 496 people were trained to be functionally illiterate. She says that every human has the responsibility to not only develop their own selves but also to have concern and make efforts for the development of their fellow men and women.

**346. Ms K Baladevi (Aug-2006)**

84/4, North Street, Kurundi,  
Kariyapatti Taluk,  
Virudhunagar District - 626 106.  
Ph: 250130

K. Baladevi, 32, is an educationist with B.Ed degree. A good leader, she has been involved with community activities for five years and is the president of an SHG group in her village.

She has taken many initiatives in the fields of health and hygiene, as well as in agriculture and economic activity. The members of her SHG group conduct awareness programs on using public toilets, keeping the village streets clean and using clean drinking water, which has brought their village many awards. They also convey fundamental knowledge on AIDS/HIV and on polio eradication.

Baladevi helps the women in her village to open bank accounts, maintain small savings and utilize the savings to create new small enterprises to uplift their economical and social status, and trains farmers in natural agricultural methods.

**347. Ms M Banumathi (Jan-2006)**

Iluppakkorai, Vellalar Street,  
Ganapathy Agraharam(PO),  
Pabanasam block, Thanjavur district.

Banumathi (41), from Iluppakkorai, Thanjavur district, TN is a social activist with a passion

and commitment to the social and economic upliftment and empowerment of rural women. A widow, she has studied up to 9<sup>th</sup> standard and is a Treasurer of All Women Farmers Club of Iluppakkorai. The club got an International Award from World Women Summit Foundation, Geneva.

Born in a traditional agriculture family which restricts women from going out of the house, Banumathi somehow managed to attend a training programme organized by the state Agriculture Dept in 1995. This influenced her to develop income-generating skills for the farm women to enhance their economic situation. She was a pioneer in Psudomonas, Trichoderma viridi production in this area, and she also taught its preparation to a number of farmers. She also underwent coir making training and earns additional income to motivate others to do the same. She and few innovative farm women of her village are engaged in catering.

Endowed with good leadership qualities, Banumathi has successfully mobilized women SHGs and enlightened them about the social and welfare programmes of the Govt. She has participated in many All India Radio Programmes and shared her agricultural experiences. She has conducted many Sanitation Awareness Programmes and Awareness Programmes for adolescents and is a role model for many women in the village. Now she has started learning computer with the help of MSSRF and very soon she will emerge as a knowledge worker in her village.

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**348. Ms Barathisala (Jul-2005)**

C/o n-logue  
 Communications Pvt Limited  
 5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
 #2 Sardar Patel Road,  
 Adyar, Chennai 600 020  
 Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Barathisala is a graduate from Thirukolakudi, Sivaganga, Tamilnadu, a village where women are not encouraged to earn on their own. But at her own risk, she started the kiosk in her village. She went canvassing on her own with the help of n-logue people, explaining about all the services and convinced the villagers. Now all the people in that village say *'If we need anything, we just approach Chiraag and get it done'*.

Slowly the children in the village started attending the educational courses on computer. There is no hospital in the village, so Barathisala helps her villagers to communicate to the doctor through iSee . Many in her village use this opportunity. Barathisala is active, dynamic and a good influence in her village, utilizing her training to the fullest for supporting her village people.

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**349. Ms Bhavani Ganesan (Jul-2005)**

505, Anbagam, Anna Nagar 'A',  
 Okkur (PO), Sivagangai - 630557.  
 Ph. 04575-233315 / 9942337215

Bhavani comes from a village called Okkur in Sivaganga Dt, Tamil Nadu. She has been

involved with community activities since 2000 as Nehru Yuvakendra National Service volunteer.

She started a Chiraag information centre in 2003 where she teaches students about computers and promotes agricultural services in the village. She implements medical services as well as , agricultural services in and around her village.

Many of the villagers are working abroad, so the only contact with them was through postal services alone. She convinced the people to communicate through video/audio mail with their family members who are in abroad. She is also giving free education service for poor children.

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**350. Ms Bhavani Elango (Jul-2005)**

Merpanaikadu (west), Arandangi  
 Union, Pudukkottai District.  
 Cell: 9443424836

27 year - old Bhavani Elango, a graduate from a rural BPL background, has worked as an MSSRF - VRC volunteer since April 2004. She is a traditional agricultural farmer with a strong social commitment and has been actively involved along with her husband in social and development programmes especially for women in development, since 2000. Independently elected as President of Merpanaikkadu Panchayat, her concern was effective administration so as to be a role model Panchayat President. She became actively involved in developing micro level

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planning with a participatory approach for assessment, identification of problems and finding solutions for implementation.

Taking action for promoting a sense of self reliance in her Panchayat, she played a leadership role to remove malpractices, organize the community for development work and network with other Panchayats. She mobilized local leaders and formed "Makkal Mayyam", and encouraged SHG's and income generating activities.

She has worked for improving the environment by developing a model Green Village in Aranthagi Block, and has served as a Member of the District Rain Water Harvesting Committee and Member of the Block Level Committee's Total Sanitation Programme.

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### **351. Mr Chandrasekar (Jul-2005)**

C/o n-logue  
Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road,  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Chandrasekar from Kulamangalam south, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu is 25-years old and has finished 10th std from his village school. He had no prior computer knowledge, but after attending the SHG meeting in Aranthangi arranged by n-logue and after completion of the basic computer training he started a kiosk in his village.

He earns from DTP, typewriting, photo, education, spoken English course, browsing and games. In DTP work (school identity cards, invitations, visiting cards). iSee for agriculture is another service used by his villagers. This agriculture session is conducted on every Wednesday, and many farmers have had the opportunity to clarify their doubts through this session. Every week at least 5 to 10 farmers attend the session, so Chandrasekar is happy to provide these services to his village.

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### **352. Mr S Cinnathambi (Feb-2007)**

S/O Chellan  
Kalleri, Thirupuli Post  
Thirupuli Nadu, Kolli Hills  
Namakkal district  
Tamil Nadu. 637 411

+2 educated 29 year old S.Cinnathambi belongs to a backward hill area in Western Kolli Hills, which is a culturally rich forested region. The biggest sacred forest is located in his village and millet is cultivated in certain pockets near by.

Since 2002, he has been involved in various activities such as mobilising and monitoring SHGs, assisting with SHG grocery shop and accounts maintenance, as well as arranging for saplings from the horticulture department, water facilities through the Panchayat and other rural infrastructure facilities for his village.

Cinnathambi is good in marketing and in training millet farmers on improved

agronomic techniques, value addition and marketing. Being good in mobilising public support for village development, his efforts are beneficial for many remote villages.

### 353. Mr K David (Jul 2005)

4/2856, Saveriyar Nagar,  
Thangachimadam, Ramanthapuram Dt  
PIN- 623 529

- a dedicated advocate of the rural community with physical disabilities, he has been working hard in getting his group involved in all activities that will benefit the fishing community to which he belongs.

Hailing from Thangatchimadam village in Ramanthapuram district in Tamil Nadu, Mr. K. David (37) is a multi-faceted personality. He is a popular writer, contributing a regular column on sustainable fisheries development in a community newspaper "Namma Ooru Seithi", and a community development worker with special skills in training people in shell-crafts.

A physically challenged person, Mr. David has overcome several hurdles and has played a key role in establishing the information center in Thangatchimadam village. He is the founding president of the *Nesakkarangal*, an association for the handicapped, and through this voluntary body he is conducting several training programmes to economically empower the rural women and youth.

Being computer-literate, he is successfully organizing computer-literacy campaigns for the physically challenged persons in the

region. Mr. David, with a high degree of commitment and social consciousness, is actively involved in making the local people aware of the various entitlements and welfare programmes of the government.

### 354. Mr G S Dhanapathy (Aug- 2006)

1377, Kamban Nagar,  
Rajagopalapuram,  
Pudukkottai Dist - 622003.  
Ph: 04322-261139 / 94435-93339

Mr. G.S.Dhanapathy, (55), an Organic Farmer with an open university master's degree, has been working for the development of the farming community for the past fifteen years. Through awareness campaigns and training programmes, he shares his expertise on a wide variety of topics related to agriculture, livestock, water harvesting and environmental protection.

Dhanapathy promotes low cost farming methods like vermicompost, pest control with organic pesticides. Using C.Ds or power point presentation he explains crop production technology for several crops including major & minor millets, vegetables and fruit crops.

He practices ancient methods of healing for livestock ailments and disseminates information to farmers on how to prevent infectious diseases of cattle. He also advocates prevention of cruelty to animals. Working with the PWD he has adopted water harvesting technologies, and encourages

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youth, college students and school students to grow trees and protect the natural environment.

EID Parry arranged for Dhanapathy to undertake organic farming training in Thailand and Singapore. He conducts a number of training programmes for farmers in Pudukottai district with the help of several institutions such as Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Veterinary University Regional Resource Center (VURRC), Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Forestry Extension Centre, Department of Animal Husbandry, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, District Rural Development Agency, Department of Health, Rotary Club and NGOs. These services have won him many awards like "Best Organic Farmer", "Best Social Worker" etc., as well as a number of positions of responsibility in Pudukkottai District. Now he is working along with MSSRF for establishing a VKC and acts as a Resource Person for farmers' awareness and training programmes.

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### **355. Mr V Dheenadayan (Jul-2005)**

Nadu st, Umbalachery,  
Vedaranyam Block, Nagai-614711,  
Phone : 04369 239630

V.Dheenadayan studied up to 10 th standard. He is a 43 year old farmer in Umbalchery village, Vetharanyam taluk of Nagapattinam district.

He is an active volunteer and helps poor

people avail of Govt. Schemes. He promoted a people's group called " Tharasu Makkal Mandram" 4 years back. The members keep vigil of Govt. implementation and point out any lacuna in the programme. Now the people of that area have nicknamed him "Tharasu Dheenadayan" . With the help of an NGO he formed "Umbalcherry Indigenous Cattle Herders Association" to conserve the Umbalchery indigenous cattle. He is also honorary secretary of the association. Now he is promoting village level groups of indigenous livestock keepers in Aymur, Wattakudi , Umbalchery villages of Thalaignayaru block, Nagapattinam District. Through these groups calf rearing programme is being implemented by the NGO. He also advocate indigenous animal healing practices by using herbal plants.

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### **356. Mr Elango (Jul-2005)**

C/o Gandhigram Rural Institute-  
Deemed University  
Gandhigram -624 302, India  
Tel: + 91 451- 2452371-75, 2451775 (D)

Mr Elango, a Dalit youth heads the Kuthambakkam Gram Panchayat in Thiruvallur Dt., Tamil Nadu. An engineer by profession he was earlier working at a Central Govt Research Institute, and later started an industry with his own investment. In his area 52% of the population is Dalit, whereas 90% of land available is with the upper caste groups.

Having the firm conviction that of all the institutions , grassroots institutions are the

most powerful instruments to transform the lives of underprivileged people, he resigned from his job and contested in the election and won. Since 1996 he has been involved in community work. His objective was to protect the self respect of Dalits, creating awareness, upgrading their skills and link their economic activity with banks. He mobilized over one crore rupees for various schemes implemented in the panchayat which gave employment to local people and weaned them away from brewing illicit liquor which was ruining the lives of their families. He identified several technologies feasible for adaptation to the rural situation of his area such as mud block making, soap making, diary, bakery, thoor dal preparation, oil extraction, jute bag and handmade paper production, energy efficient lights, etc and created production units under the banner of a Trust he started called Trust for Village Self Governance.

Elango's vision is to make Kuthambakkam a model for total development using the Panchayati Raj system and to make it not only a learning center, but a doers academy or 'Panchayat Academy' for other Panchayats to replicate.

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### **357. Mr Gnanakulandhai (Jul-2005)**

S/O. G. Arulraj, D-225A, W-2, North St,  
Uppukkottai, Theni Dt. E.mail:  
uppuk\_kottai@yahoo.co.in

Gnanakulandhai from Theni District of Tamil Nadu is a 42 year-old postgraduate (M.A.

Political Science) who has been involved with community activities.

He could have easily opted for a livelihood in a city or town but he decided to work for the development of his own village. In the initial years he was involved in community development programs. Today, as a Common Wealth Coordinator, he teaches students computers and promotes Information Technology amongst his community members. State Bank managers particularly appreciate his co-operation.

Gnanakulandhai has contributed to his village's development through active awareness and door-to-door dialogues with women, motivating rural women to pick up literacy skills, cultivate a habit of saving and thus organize SHGs for savings. In addition, he is actively working on improving agriculture methods and generating awareness amongst the farmers.

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### **358. Ms R Gnanasundari (Jul-2005)**

1/65, Sennamreddypatty (PO),  
Vilathikulam, Thuthukudi Dt. 628 905.  
Email: gnanasundariram@yahoo.co.in,  
Cell: 9942170136

Gnanasundari is 29 years old and working as a field officer in SEVA. She studied up to +2 and trained in computer operations. She has organized sheep herders group in 8 villages of Pudhur village of Thuthukudi district. She learned herbal healing practices for animals and organized animal health

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camp. She has so far organized more than 10 health camps with help from Government Veterinary Department. She also documented indigenous practices in agriculture, animal husbandry and herbal medicine in many villages of Thuthukudi district. She is trained in computer.

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**359. Mr P Irudhayaraj  
Duraisingam (Aug-2006)**

3/72, Jeyabhavan,  
Sithumoonradaippu, Kariyapatti  
Taluk, Virudhunagar Dist - 626 106.  
Ph: 9367796825 / 98421-54081

32 year old P.Duraisingam hails from a backward village called Sithumoonradaippu in Tamil Nadu. After completing his B.A and B.Ed, he started a youth group to help the poor and ill people in and around his village with the assistance of Madurai Meenakshi Mission Hospital. They have conducted many medical camps including eye camps through Madurai Aravind Eye Hospital. By collecting local funds, his group has helped rural poor children through free distribution of notebooks and study materials.

Duraisingam rendered free service to teach rural illiterates and is now training poor school children through evening coaching classes. He also makes regular visits to sick people in the government hospital. He and his group participate in community activities and celebrations, and with the help of local donors conduct various sports competitions. Local NGOs are also assisted in their awareness rallies and meetings.

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**360. Ms M Jeya (Jan-2006)**

W/o. Madasamy, Kizha St,  
Theethampatti, Pasuvandanai (Via),  
Achangulam (PO), Tuticorin Dt.  
Phone: 2910921

Jeya (34), from Theethampatti in Thoothokudi district, TN, has studied upto class XII. A physically challenged woman, with great will power to work for the development of society, she says even though she started to work for her society little late, she is happy that she can do something now and would like to learn more to build a developed model village .

She has undergone Special Two days CBFL ALP Training conducted by TATA Consultancy Services and attended the 3 days orientation and Self Help Group formation training conducted by Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation. She facilitated 2 batches of CBFL ALP in her Continuous education centre through which 95 men and women benefited. The people were also oriented on SHGs and 5 groups were formed. Her work has also helped to implement 150 individual household latrines. Her interest in the care of school dropouts made 39 students to rejoin school education. One of the groups she formed was specially for the physically challenged people.

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**361. Mr John Nelson (Jul-2005)**

No: 33, Neyveli main road,  
Vadalur - 607303, Cuddalore - 607303 ,  
Phone: 04142-260 242

John Nelson is a 29 years old graduate from Vadalur, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu. After graduation, he worked in Pondicherry in a small company, aiming to to be an entrepreneur and also to generate employment.

He feels that though cities were developing in infrastructure, the villages are far behind in facilities. He liked the concept that the digital divide has to be bridged, and since Chiraag was doing that and was also linked to IIT, he decide to be part of it. He says, "I am happy to be among the first few in Cuddalore-Dist., when it was introduced". He was the first person to talk with the District Collector when video conferencing was arranged in Cuddalore district and was impressed by the Collector's immediate action on the queries.

He got data conversion work from USA through his friend there, and could employ 18 poor girls who finished 12th Std, some of whom were breeding cattle prior to this work and were not always able to have 2 meals a day. He could see their life style improve after they became earning members, which was possible only with n-logue's connection.

He says, "People respected us since we talked about e-governance and also because

of the telemedicine session conducted with Arvind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry. We got recognition because of Chiraag". John is happy to be in the Chiraag family, and wants to do more good work which will improve the quality of life in rural India.

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**362. Mr S T Justin (Feb-2007)**

1/764 Sekadi Street, Pamban  
Ramanathapuram district  
Tamil Nadu

S.T. Justin is a fishermen association member of Pamban who is very interested in social service. He is an active self help group member and encourages other men to join to get the benefits.

39 year old 8th Std educated Justin is now a knowledge worker of Pamban VKC. Though he did not have any prior knowledge about the use of computers, after periodical training, he is very well aware of computer usage and other technical instruments. He is taking computer courses for a number of fishermen and students. He also trained local schoolteachers to use educational CD and databases.

He collects information from TNOU (Tamil Nadu Open University) and disseminates it through the knowledge centre. He also gives details about government schemes, health information to the rural poor and helps students join the higher studies.

Himself occupied in a marine spares parts shop, he guided many fishing labourers and fishing boat owners to take part in the

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technical training of modern fishing technologies and hygienic handling, fish preservation and processing training programmes conducted by Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Tuticorin.

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### **363. Ms Kalaivani Rajendran (Jul-2005)**

Vadakku Kadavarayar St,  
Kallar Pasupathy Koil (PO),  
Pabanasam (Tk)  
PIN - 614 206

A dedicated farm woman striving hard to bridge the gap between scientific know-how and field level do-how, she aims to foster an evergreen revolution in her small farm, and enhance productivity in perpetuity without ecological harm.

Kalaivani Rajendran, a woman farmer from a tiny village called Kallar Pasupathikovil in Thanavur Dt of Tamilnadu was born in 1961 and studied up to S.S L.C. She was only housekeeper till 1992 when she attended a training on Women in Agriculture, a Danida-aided Project. The training she received from TANWA and subsequent training programs conducted by the Agriculture University and the Agriculture Department has completely changed her outlook.

She is the contact farmer for both the University and the Agriculture Dept. She has laid out a number of demonstrations to bring knowledge from 'Lab to Land'. At present she is following the SRI method of paddy

cultivation which saves water, seed, labour and enhances the yield. She believes in organic farming, and produces many organic products and herbal pesticides in her own farm.

By virtue of her service to the farming community she was selected as the convener of the farmers discussion group of the Farmers Training Centre, is the recipient of the best discussion group award of the Govt of Tamil Nadu and the L.M.Patel National Award for best woman rice farmer in The International Year of Rice (2004).

Kalaivani Rajendran though a small farmer has shown the way to a remunerative rice based farming system through adopting modern technology.

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### **364. Ms Kanagavalli Rajendran (Jul-2005)**

Nadu St,  
Soorakkottai (PO),  
Thanjavur Dt - 614 904

A social activist with a passion and commitment to the social and economic upliftment and empowerment of rural women, Kanagavalli aged 42 is a widow who has studied up to SSLC. Born in a traditional agriculture family which restricts women from going out of the house, Kanagavalli somehow managed to attend a training program organized by the State Agriculture Dept 1995. The training influenced her to develop income generating skills for the farm women to help enhance of their economic

situation. She was a pioneer in vermicompost production in this area, taught a number of farmers in and around her village to produce this organic product to earn money and also thereby practice organic farming. Endowed with good leadership quality she has successfully mobilized women SHGs and enlightened them about the social and welfare programmes of the Govt.

She has dispelled several taboos, myths and evils in the society working against the rural women. By organizing micro-credit and savings through SHG she has saved farm women from the clutches of usurious money lenders.

The District Collector has praised Kanagavalli as a role model for many women in the village. Now she started learning computer with the help of her children and very soon she will emerge as a best knowledge worker using ICT for the empowerment of the farm women and development of the village.

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### **365. Ms Kasthuri Chandrasekaran (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Ekgaon Technologies  
C 2/6, 1st Floor,  
Safdurjung Development Area,  
New Delhi - 110 016 -India  
Tel: +91 (11) 51657166, 51657168,  
26534990  
vijay@ekgaon.com

Kasthuri Chandrasekaran (44), belongs to Pulvaikarai, Virudunagar district, Tamil Nadu. With only primary level education, she was

the first person in her village who understood the concept of self-help and mutual help for self-reliant and self-sufficient village development, and mobilised more than 1500 rural women into self-help groups. She is Community Leader of Covenant Centre for Development, President Mahakalasm Trust (Microfinance organisation) and President Community Enterprise Forum International.

Kasthuri Chandrasekaran is involved in capacity building of microfinance groups, promotion of local resource based enterprises for generating livelihood options and promotion of community centred development model in medicinal plants and herbal products. Her Trust analysed the consumption loan spending patterns of members and found that household medical expenses formed a major part of the consumption loans. Since simple ailments could be managed at the household level with simple remedies, the Trust decided to promote Kitchen Herbal Gardens (KHGs) that would cater to the primary healthcare needs of rural families. She documented more than 2000 cases of indigenous knowledge and grassroots level innovations in the field of medicine and livelihoods, and has taken many steps for value-addition of resources and encouragement of traditional skills.

Kasturi is a role model and has got international recognition for her pioneering work.

**366. Ms Kavitha (Jul-2005)**

C/o. n-logue Communications  
Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road,  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932  
sowmithiri.s@n-logue.com;  
siddick.a@n-logue.com

28-year-old Kavitha comes from P.C.Patti, a small village in the Theni district of TamilNadu. She is a graduate B.Sc in Maths, and has been involved with community activities for 1 year. She enrolled to study the Tally accounting course, travelling from P.C.Patti to Theni, a distance of 15 kms to learn computers. She is confident with good public speaking abilities.

She uses computers for preparing reports and statements of accounts and has undergone other technical training like video replay, photography, etc. Though she wanted to become a school teacher she was not allowed to go for further studies so she started a tuition center in her home teaching village children free of charge. And also she is running a Chiraag centre.

**367. Mr S Karuppasamy (Aug-2006)**

19/1, North Street,  
Arasakulam, Kariyapati Taluk,  
Virudhunagar - 626 106.

Educated up to Higher Secondary, S. Karuppasamy residing at Arasakulam village

is a 33 year old competent social worker. An excellent organizer, he has been involved in community activities since 1993, dedicating himself to social reforms in his village.

For the past 9 years, Karuppasamy has worked to remove illiteracy among his people and has also helped them to participate in medical camps conducted by various hospitals. At present he is serving as a village knowledge centre worker.

**368. Mr S Lenin (Aug-2006)**

South Street,  
Samiyarpettai, Chidambaram,  
Cuddalore - 608 502,  
Ph: 9843974618

After completing 10<sup>th</sup> Std, 19 year old S.Lenin underwent a computer training programme in Cuddalore. Since then he has involved himself in giving computer training to school students in his village which is located along the sea coast of Tamil Nadu, through the local village knowledge centre. He has also worked to spread awareness on health and hygiene among the villagers, including information on Siddha medicine. Environment and water management are his interests, for which he has participated in water awareness campaigns and helped with cleaning the water tank in his village once in two weeks. He also took part in relief work after the tsunami hit the coastal areas in 2004.

Lenin is a committed knowledge worker with a flair for the new technologies that he

wishes to promote among his peers. By acquiring newer skills he has enhanced his capacity to help his fellow villagers by collecting and disseminating information and by communicating their developmental concerns.

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### **369. Mr B Logidasan (Jan-2006)**

2/80, Posampatti Kizh Street,  
Inampuliyur (PO), Thiruchi Dt.  
Phone: 2618102

Logidasan (26 ), who was born in a agricultural labour's family at Posampatti village, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu. After completion of high school, he engaged himself in the family occupation - agriculture. During his leisure time he started to get involved and initiated himself in some social activities. He works to generate awareness on tree planting, small savings, anti – untouchability, evils of drinking etc.

He was appointed as a Prerak in Posampatti Panchayat because of his commitment to social activities. After assuming work, he under took a door to door literacy survey and identified 126 men and 161 women illiterates in the age above 15. Before the launch of Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) he was involved in teaching the adult illiterates and he successfully made 62 adults literate.

His work was enhanced with the introduction of CBFL with the donation of Computers by TCS. In the first batch, 18 women benefited and 20 are undergoing training currently. The

centre and the village was covered by the national news channel NDTV and telecast nationally.

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### **370. Mr T Mahadevan (Jul-2005)**

Veeralampatti, Mangalrevu (PO),  
Peraiyur (TK), Madurai District  
Phone: 9442463809

Mahadevan is 32 and has studied B.A. in Tamil. He lives in Veeralampatti Village, Madurai District, Tamil Nadu and is a volunteer of SEVA involved in eradication of infanticide in Usilampatti and Peraiyur Taluks. Over the last 8 years, he convinced many families to prevent female infanticide.

Mahadevan helped the NGO to recover earlier dues from the members and became instrumental in linking with banks for availing micro credit facilities. This process has convinced the local banks to give loans and credit facilities to the women SHGs, which was very difficult earlier. He has promoted 35 SHGs near his village and mobilized credit from banks to the tune of more than Rs.10,00,000/-.

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### **371. Ms S Mahamayee (Aug-2006)**

187/4, Kurandi Village,  
Kariyapatti Taluk,  
Virudhunagar District - 626 106.

28 year old S.Mahamayee is good communicator and enthusiastic field worker

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who is at present a village knowledge worker in her area. She has passed S.S.L.C and is the president of an SHG women's group for the past 4 years. As active social worker, she has been involved with the pulse-polio programme and other health campaigns. Her village has received many awards state-wide as a clean and healthy village.

Mahamayee also served as a volunteer in the "ARIVAZHI IYAKKAM" to help illiterate people to be educated, and with the help of the Panchayat President her group aspires to better development economically and socially.

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### **372. Mr C Manikandan (Aug-2006)**

3/13, Main Road, Konampattinam, Seerkazhi, Nagapattinam - 609 106 E-mail: mani\_kandan2006@rediff.com Ph: 04364-200678/9442419982

C.Manikandan, a 24 year old student pursuing his M.Sc studies in computer sciences through distance education, has been involved with forming youth groups to improve general knowledge and information dissemination in his coastal village. The son of a poor fisherman, he learnt to use the computer at a local computer centre. He then began to engage himself in voluntarily helping fellow villagers to learn computer applications.

Manikandan has been an asset to his village in promoting computer training. His other media skills and commitment to promote

new technologies in the villages motivate him to procure appropriate ICT infrastructure in his village. He hopes to manage a village knowledge centre in the future.

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### **373. Mr Manimaran (Jan-2006)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932  
Fax: + 91-44- 24455335  
sowmithiri.s@n-logue.com;  
siddick.a@n-logue.com

Manimaran (23), is a graduate from Rasingapuram a forest region and hill area, in Theni district, TN. A former LIC Agent he collected savings from village – to – village and provided timely loans to the needy members .

Manimaran has organized agriculture campaign meeting for members, organized farmers' groups and provided farmers with training and awareness, and seeds for better crops.

He has also organized cleanliness campaigns in his village with the help of the panchayat as well as other village development work. Through Chiraag, he is earning by offering DDTP services, computer education, spoken English course, browsing and computer games. He also provides services of project works, Internet search, photo for ration cards and other facilities for the village community.

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**374. Mr R Maniyan (Jul-2005)**

Kizha punavasal (PO),  
Thiruvaiyaru - 613 204  
Thanjavur District

Maniyan, a dynamic and dedicated social worker from Kizha Punavasal in Thanjavur District works hard in the field. He adopts and popularize new innovative agricultural practices for the benefit of the community.

Aged 46, Maniyan has studied only upto 8<sup>th</sup> standard but his knowledge of agriculture is great . He grasps all innovative ideas quickly and starts implementing it and extends to other farmers in and around his village. He has been a convener of the farmers' discussion group of the Farmers Training Center, Sakkotai from 1984 onwards. He has attended a number of training programmes conducted by both Agriculture University and Agriculture Department. He has attended 7 farm school on air conducted by All India Radio and won several prizes. He was responsible for introduction of a number of alternative crops like soya been, sunflower etc. He is popularizing organic farming and at present he is learning computer in the village resource center and he will be one of the volunteers in the forthcoming Rural Knowledge Center at Villangudy.

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**375. Ms K Mariammal (Feb-2007)**

W/o. C.Kalimuthu  
Muthaiahpuram East  
Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu

32 year old Mariammal who has completed

+2 education is a good facilitator for the TCS ALP . She comes from a village near the sea coast where most of the people are working in the salt refineries . She has been a successful SHG animator and leader in forming SHGs.

She has undergone computer training conducted by TATA Consultancy Services and also pre- service training on Continuing Education Programme. She was very regular in attending monitoring and review meetings conducted by the District Project Coordinator for the CBFL centres.

Several men and women were made literate in Mariammal's centre and with her efforts, they were also converted into self help groups that are now associated with Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation.

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**376. Mr T Mesiyam (Feb-2007)**

1/649-2 Francis Nagar  
Sethupathy Nedunsalai, Pamban  
Ramanathapuram

A science graduate, 39 year old T. Mesiyam's occupation is fish trade. He has sound knowledge of fishermen rights and issues. After the tsunami hit his coastal area in 2004, he coordinated with the district administration to get relief for the affected people of Pamban. He has the managerial skill to mobilize and organize the fishing community to work together. He coordinates with various government departments in getting fishermen identity card, ration cards and other entitlements.

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Mesiyan is an active member of the consumer federation of Pamban and is interested in social service. He has attended a number of training programmes conducted by MSSRF and other non-governmental organizations including on consumer rights and malaria awareness. Now he is a knowledge worker in the Pamban VKC, actively involved in several activities. He collects information from government departments to disseminate through the knowledge centre.

He has been an active participant in prevention and eradication programme of malaria and HIV AIDS in Pamban area.

**377. Mr R Murugan (Jan-2006)**

Selam main road,  
Anguchettypalayam,  
Banrutti, Phone: 9367633871

R. Murugan (36), from, Anghuchettipalyam, a tropical coastal area of Cuddalore district, TN, has a Diploma in Pharmacy . A progressive farmer, he is helping the local farming community in various aspects of modern crop husbandry.

Murugan provides Internet browsing at concessional rates at his village internet kiosk centre, to students. His role in helping the farmers avail financial facilities for raising crops, minor irrigation etc from banks is appreciable. Other services provided by him are Video conferencing with Department of Agriculture and TNAU scientists, organic manure sales, arranging farmers club

meetings and conducting rural medical camps and yoga classes.

**378. Ms Murugaveni (Jul-2005)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade, #2 Sardar Patel Road,  
Adyar, Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932  
Fax: + 91-44- 24455335  
sowmithiri.s@n-logue.com;  
siddick.a@n-logue.com

\Aged 35 Murugaveni is from Govindanagaram Village, Theni Dt in Tamil Nadu. She studied up to 10<sup>th</sup> std and was a farm worker and housewife till she started running Chiraag for the past 1 year. She conducts meetings with women and provides information related to savings through Chiraag which she joined in 2004, and also became involved in nursery activities. She is a Spearhead team member, and her work includes plantation, selling of ready plants, calculation and maintenance of prepared plants, seed collection and development work for wastelands. Through this she was able to build her capacity to make others understand the significance of plantations and nursery activity. She is a co-ordinator of Comman Wealth Association involved in COL project.

'I was not eager to work with plants, in the initial stages. Gradually, I understood the importance of this activity and how I could motivate others in my community to nurture

plants. Now, I work with the Sarpanch and others in the Panchayat and am fully involved in village development work. After two years of Nursery work, I got the opportunity to undertake computer training from Chiraag , I liked to learn new technology at this age. In future I will definitely learn more of new technology. I have become a more responsible person after joining CHIRAAG and have even built a small house with my savings.'

She provides information in her community for development work, taking forward the integrated approach of CHIRAAG. Murugaveni has developed into a confident woman; working for village development.

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### **379. Mr K P Murugesh (Jan-2006)**

S/o. Periyasamy, Kallar St, Kuvatupatti, Ilupur (PO), Pudukkottai Dist - 622 102

K.P.Murugesh (46), hails from Kuvattupatty, a hamlet in Pudukkottai District, TN, A traditional agriculturist and specialist in organic farming, he has studied upto SSLC. A demonstrator of herbal insecticide, vermi compost, rain water harvesting and recharging and of farm pond fish farming, his varied contribution towards community development is immense and he is an asset to community.

As a Secretary of farmers' discursion group (FDG) in Pudukkottai district and a member of the scientific advisory committee of KVK-TNAU, K.P.Murugesh has served on a

number of development projects. Now he is actively involved in establishing a Village Knowledge Centre his Panchayat.

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### **380. Ms R Muthumari (Aug-2006)**

43 North street,  
Arasakulam, Kariyapatti Taluk,  
Virudhunagar Dist - 626 106.  
Ph: 9842154082

R. Muthumari aged 38 years has finished IX Std and is at present working as a village knowledge centre worker with MSSRF. With her good communication skills and field work ability, she served as a catalyst in the polio eradication programme during the past few years she has participated in the NSS camp conducted by SIT college of Kariapatti.

Her other social work in the village includes serving the illiterate people in her community through the literacy campaign "Arivoli lyakkam" for 2 years as an evening schoolteacher, and helping people to participate in eye camps at Aravind Eye Hospital and Meenakshi Mission Hospital.

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### **381. Mr R Nalla Senapathi (Jul-2005)**

Nallampalayam (PO)  
Tharapuram (Tk),  
Erode District - 638 661 Ph. 04258 -  
241972

Nalla Senapathi is a 26 year old youth in Nallam Palayam Village, Erode District, Tamil Nadu. He studied up to +2 and he is looking

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after his farms and sheep. He uses his knowledge of traditional veterinary herbal healing practices for treating animals and is an active social worker during his leisure time.

With the help of SEVA, Nalla Senapathi has promoted two peoples groups for conserving Korangadu pasture land in two villages viz. Nallam Palayam and Palanikaundanvalasu in Erode District. . These two groups have savings account (savings up to Rs.30,000) and with their savings they loan money to the members for strengthening livestock development activities. With these members he is involved in the formation of village roads, providing drinking water for animals, planting fodder trees in farmers' land and treatment of animals by using medicinal plants and herbs. He has treated so far more than 2,000 sheep using herbal medicines.

Nalla Senapathi is helping the panchayat and the university by providing information on the Korangadu pasture land and the livestock population by conducting actual field surveys. He also trained 20 members on animal feed preparation to meet the day-to-day feed requirements of dairy animals.

**382. Ms A Neelaveni (Jul-2005)**

W/o A. Ashokan, Vellalar Street,  
Illupakkorai (PO),  
Papanasam taluk, Thanjavur Dist.

42 year old Neelaveni has completed SSLC and is secretary of the all-women farmers club of Illupakkorai in Papanasam taluk, Tamil Nadu. This club got an international award

from World Women Summit Foundation based in Geneva for their innovative approach in empowering women.

Neelaveni comes from a traditional agricultural family and assists her husband in all farming operations. She was responsible for the introduction of SRI Method of paddy cultivation in her village and also in adjacent villages. This method which reduces the cost of cultivation by cutting down inputs like seed and water is welcomed by all farmers and the department is also promoting it and advocating alternative methods of cropping due to water scarcity. Neelaveni was the pioneer in introducing and demonstrating to others this method of cultivation which is the need of the hour.

She also underwent coir making training and earns additional income and motivate others also to take it up .She and few innovative farm women of her village are preparing various food materials and supplying to those who are in need. She is also learning computer from the Rural Knowledge Centre of MSSRF at Thiruvaiyaru. She is a role model for empowering the farming community especially farm women.

**383. Ms K Parameswari (Jan-2006)**

Sandhavasal via, Irumparai,  
Pollur TK PIN-606 905.  
Phone: 04181 248279

Parameswari (20), is SSLC educated and comes from the Scheduled Tribes group from

Ganamalai Panchayat, Jawadhi hills, Thiruvanamalai district of Tamil Nadu. She belongs to an illiterate family of agricultural labourers.

In the year 2003, the village was surveyed by Srinivasan Services Trust (SST) of TVS group with the help of the Madras University and many community development activities were initiated. Parameswari works as an animator for the village and also as representative for the village. She personally requested SST that CBFL be implemented in the village since there where many illiterates and on her request it was initiated.

With the help of the computer, she mobilized and encouraged the people to join the classes. The classes took place everyday from 7 to 8 in the evening. She maintained regular attendance and motivated the people to come for the classes. She also mobilized some gifts for the completed learners and more people were willing to join. She also taught the learners to write their names with the help of the software component. With the help of the TCS software and her efforts, 65 women were taught to read and are now progressing on learning to write.

On the completion of training of her first batch, The Hindu newspaper covered the story of her village and also witnessed the learner's ability to read.

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**384. Ms Parasakthi (Jul-2005)**  
Sundararajapuram, Rajapalayam (Tk),  
Virudhunagar Dt. PIN- 626142

Smt.Parasakthi(47) is an agricultural labourer in SundaraRajapuram village near Rajapalayam. She studied up to +2.. Since her husband has abandoned her and living with another wife, she wanted to help ladies abandoned by men. She has so far taken up 14 cases and united the couples or arranged marriage. In addition she is instrumental in stopping illegal liquor production by many husbands in SundaraRajapuram village. She promoted 4 women groups during 1999 attached with TANWA and now functioning independently.

She is a good communicator and is known as an active social worker on all issues related with women. She recently volunteered to work for 8 days for Tsunami relief during Jan'2005 in Nagapattinam District.

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**385. Mr P Prabhakaran**  
**(Feb-2007)**

S/O K.Palanisamy  
Navakadu Post, Semmedu Via,  
Kolli Hills.Namakkal,  
Tamil Nadu. 637411

Young and enthusiastic, 19 years old P. Prabhakaran, who is D.T.Ed educated has basic computer knowledge and is willing to help people in remote places. Himself a resident of a hilly, forested region in North Kolli Hills, which is an agro-biodiversity rich

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area, he has been involved in community mobilization activities since 2005.

Prabhakaran monitoring about 10 SHGs in Roja cluster in the remote areas of North Kolli Hills and also conducted a millet survey. He is capable of absorbing new skills and disseminating them to serve the villager community.

**386. Ms P Preetha (Jul-2005)**

4/67, Main Road, Koduvai - 641 660,  
Thiruppur Via, Kovai District.

Phone: (R). 0421-2312592,  
(M) 98654 99234.

E-mail: preeroses@yahoo.co.in

23 year-old Preetha from Koduvai in Coimbatore has completed BCA. She had prior computer knowledge and was working as a teacher. She learnt about n-logue when she attended a self-help group meeting in Tirupur and started a kiosk in her village.

She is earning from from DDTP, typewriting, education, spoken English course, browsing and games. With her earlier experience as a teacher, she takes educational classes for her village students and is also doing project work for the college students.

iSee to Aravind Eye hospital, and veterinary doctors is another service on which Preetha concentrates. Villagers' doubts and questions in agriculture or veterinary problems are cleared through iSee to doctors. From the start to date many members are using Aravind services so she is very happy to provide these services to her villagers.

**387. Ms Rajeswari****Karthikeyan (Jul-2005)**

W/o. K. Karthikeyan, North St,  
Pasupathykoil - 614 206.

Phone: 04374 - 241304

A dedicated social worker with grit and determination to elevate the status of women in the rural societies, Rajeswari Karthikeyan (38) hails from a peasant family from Pasupathikovil in Thanjavur Dt of Tamilnadu. Though she wanted to become a school teacher she was not allowed to go for further studies so she started a nursery school in her home teaching village children free of charge. She created Barathi women's group through which she trains women in tailoring and educates them about their rights.

After participating in an all women farmers field school she became an IPM trainer. As a result she has eliminated the use of pesticide in the area ever since she attended the school. Spearheading a group of 30 women from the FFS they approached the police and were successful in eradicating the illicit sale of liquor in the village. She mobilized 100 women to provide micro finance through formation of self help groups to help women to start small business. In the year 2001 she won the International award from world women summit foundation based in Geneva for her commitment to empower rural women. She is now a role model.

**388. Mr S Rajakumar (Feb-2007)**

S/O M.S.Subramaniyam  
Perumapatty Colony  
Semmedu Post  
Valavandhinadu  
Kolli Hills.  
Namakkal District. 637 411.

S.Rajakumar is a 26 year old Plus 2, ITI MMV educated enthusiastic volunteer and has actively participated in the training programmes conducted in Kolli Hills which is a forested hilly region. His village area is in an agro biodiversity rich horticulture belt with many estates.

Since 2002, he has been involved in many community activities, such as training to farmers on organic cultivation, marketing and promotion, especially of minor millets, training on organic compost preparation and mapping farmers fields for getting the eco certificate. He is also involved in educating children in the village in the evening and is an active participant in the Nehru Yuva Kendra in Kolli Hills.

Rajakumar is a hard working young man who is able to learn and willingly disseminate his knowledge.

Nominee's areas of competency

Basic computer literacy, Organic farming, Vermicomposting, Teaching young children, Motor mechanics, Sports, Marketing skills

**389. Mr S Rajkumar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932  
Fax: + 91-44- 24455335  
sowmithiri.s@n-logue.com;  
siddick.a@n-logue.com

S.Rajkumar (33), Peravurani on the sea coast of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, has B. Sc. (Physics) DCA, D.I.M.E education. Wanting to help his village people through Internet access, he started a Chiraag kiosk in his village and is running the centre successfully.

Education is one of the best service (Red, Green Courses) offered, followed by Photoshop and DTP works. Browsing is the most popular service in his centre, bringing good earnings. He also provides agriculture services for the farmer community.

**390. Ms S Ramuthai (Jul-2005)**

Sunga Kavundanpatti,  
Uthappuram (PO),  
Peraiyur (Tk), Madurai Dt.  
Phone: 04552 - 246045

Ramuthai is 33 years old and has studied upto Xth Standard. She is a member and animator of a self help groups in Sanka kavundanpatti village in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu. She has promoted 20 groups of poor women agricultural labourers in Sanka kaundanpatti and nearby villages. She also struggled to

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get bank linkages and thereafter she helped in extending bank credits to 20 SHGs. She mobilized Rs.12,30,000/- as micro credit to provide resources to poor members for purchase of dairy animals, sheep and goats.

In close association with the Panchayat, Ramuthai was instrumental in construction of a community hall and toilet facilities for women. She relieved many members from the clutches of local money lenders and supported them through micro credit. She has also settled many disputes arising out of caste and creed and promoted dignity for women members.

**391. Mr Ravikumar (Jul-2005)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited

5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020

Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Fax: + 91-44- 24455335

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siddick.a@n-logue.com

Ravikumar of Ekkadu in Tiruvallur Dt., Tamilnadu is 50 years old. He attended the basic computer training conducted by n-logue, and on successful completion of the training he has set up a kiosk in his village.

He is earning from Typewriting, Education, Spoken English course, photos Browsing and games, astrology services, iSee to Aravind Eye hospital, etc. He has helped a drug addict to come out this menace through iSee consultation with Ramchandra Doctors.

Though he didn't have any prior knowledge about the use of computers, after the periodical training he is very well aware of how to use the computer and the other activities and services offered through the computer. Now he is managing his computer centre very well and is taking computer courses for a number of students. More than 30 children have studied online tutorial and 60% of students have passed their 10 th. Std. examination. He gives the online tutorial free of cost to the village students.

**392. Ms Revathi Selvaraj (Jan-2006)**

2/303, Agraharam,  
Thirupazhanam,  
Thiruvaiyaru - 613 204.  
Ph. 04362 - 260937

Ms.Revathi Selvaraj (40) from Thirupalanam village, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu, has been involved community activities since 1998 as a volunteer in Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture (TANWA) project.

She has studied up to SSLC and got involved in development work after receiving training from TANWA and subsequent training programmes conducted by agricultural universities, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation and State Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu. She engages her time in helping self-help groups in financial record keeping using modern accounting software and also taking computer programmes to help various nodal agencies.

Revathi Selvaraj is good in documentation and provides indigenous knowledge about agriculture for dissemination to the farming community. She is engaged as knowledge worker at Thirupalanam Village Knowledge Centre and is enthusiastic to train the farmers in the field of organic farming. She has also organised many health camps and works closely with government health departments. She is a source of inspiration for others and a good motivator.

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### **393. Ms Sagaya Shalini (Jul-2005)**

C/o. n-logue Communications Pvt Limited

5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020

Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Fax: + 91-44- 24455335

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siddick.a@n-logue.com

Sagaya Shalini is 22 years old, from Pinjavakkam in Tiruvallur Dist. Tamil Nadu and a BA graduate through correspondence. She is member of SHG of Tiruvallur District and was selected by the district administration to set up a kiosk in her village. She attended the basic computer training conducted by n-logue, and on successful completion of the training she has set up a kiosk in her village. Though she didn't have any prior knowledge about the use of computers, now after the periodical training she is very well aware of how to use the computer and the other activities and services

it offers. Now she is managing her computer center very well and is taking computer courses for a number of students.

She is earning from typewriting, education, spoken English course, photos browsing and games, iSee to Aravind Eye hospital and also through astro services, since the people in her village are keenly interested in astrology. She has also helped to consult with Aravind eye hospital doctors for the benefit of 10 villagers. When she represented to the district collector about her village road through iSee, the collector granted Rs.2 lakhs for the road. The Central communication minister came to her village to see how the kiosks works.

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### **394. Mr R V Sampath Kumar (Jan-2006)**

Ramanayakkanpet, Vaniyambadi,  
Vellore TK, Tamil Nadu, PIN- 635 801

Sampath Kumar (45) from Ramanayakkanpet village, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu, has studied upto 12<sup>th</sup> Std. His areas of competency are agriculture and livestock, and he has been involved with Chiraag since 2004.

.As an operator in the kiosk, Sampath Kumar works hard to implement the services provided by Chiraag, educating the village children to learn more about computers and taking classes in spoken English. He also does job work like Online photoshop and browsing and is interested in rendering agri services for the community.

### 395. Ms V Seethalakshmi (Aug-2006)

South street, Arasakulam village,  
Aruppukkottai block,  
Virudhunagar - 626 106,  
Ph: 250137

V. Seethalakshmi has studied upto XII Std and is serving her most backward village Arasakulam through the literacy programme of Arivoli Iyakkam for the past 10 years. She also served in the Aravind Eye Hospital's Vitamin 'A' plan by distributing vitamin 'A' liquid to children within 24 hours of birth, and also distributed iron tablets to adolescent girls, pregnant and breast-feeding women to help them in family health maintenance.

A good field worker and organizer, she also served for 3 years in the Family Educational Programme for 8 villages. The programme consisted of educating pregnant women and breast feeding women and providing medicines and vaccination. As a result infant birth weight was improved, and there was reduction in infant mortality.

Seethalakshmi teaches in the evening school of 'Valarkalvi Iyakkam' and maintains a village library. At present she is an agricultural project coordinator of Tamil Nadu Govt.

### 396. Mr J Senthil Kumar (Jul-2005)

C/o Centre for Rural Education and  
Development (CRED)  
301, Main Road, T. Vadipatty  
Madurai - 625 218  
Tamilnadu  
Phone No. 95 4543 254453

25-year-old Senthil Kumar - a graduate from T.Vadipatty in Madurai Dt, Tamil Nadu has been a volunteer in civil society organizations as a learning experience. After joining the Centre for Rural Education and Development (CRED) in 2003, attending several training programmes and workshops. He is now a programme coordinator and has organized Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) campaigns, environmental campaign meetings for rural women and school students and also cleanliness campaigns in villages, along with other village development work, with the help of Panchayat.

*'After joining CRED, I realized my potential for knowledge and experience in the field of social development particularly on health and environment. Now I feel I have a new meaning in my life to serve the poor as much as possible'*

The community has benefited through his active work. He has managerial skill to organize meetings and work together to attain the overall objective of the team. He has had good exposure in project formulating, implementing and executing,

and documentation analysis. He executes computer operations and prepares his daily reports on the office computer.

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### **397. Mr V Sethuramalingam (Aug-2006)**

Arasakulam, Kurandi (PO),  
Kariyapatty (TK),  
Virudhunagar District - 624 106.

V. Sethuramalingam, a hard working and committed 30 year old who has Higher Secondary School education, helps his family as an agriculture worker and serves society as a social worker in Arasakulam his native village.

For the past five years, he has participated in the pulse-polio program for children below five years for the eradication of polio and also helped in the eye and medical camps conducted by the Aravind Eye Hospital and Meenatchi Mission Hospital. Through these camps he has brought better health care to the local people.

Sethuramalingam takes the initiative to co-ordinate with the government Agriculture Department by bringing rural farmers to their agriculture meets and other programs and also participates in the NSS camps conducted by various colleges.

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### **398. Mr L Settu (Aug-2006)**

D/No. 578, Vaidheeshwaran Koil Street,  
Kariyapatti, Virudhunagar District - 624  
106. Ph: 04566-255790 / 09842154060

An active and responsible field worker, 33 year old L.Settu has been an enthusiastic social worker since 1993. A native of Orathanad, Thanjavur district, he has an MA degree in Sociology from Annamalai University and Diploma in Agriculture from Gandhigram Rural University.

For nearly three years Settu rendered his service to the Damien leprosy control centre at Nilakkottai that covers an area with 288 villages in Dindigul District. During this period he worked to provide healthcare services to poor rural patients suffering from leprosy, T.B, polio, mental or physical handicaps. Subsequently he was as a field supervisor in the Vitamin A research project conducted by Madurai Aravind Children's Hospital. He has also functioned as a social reformer covering rehabilitation work and conducting awareness and health education programmes for the youth.

In addition, Settu engaged himself in helping rural farmers with training in organic farming methods such as vermicompost and panchakaviya in and around his hometown, while also directing *mahila mandrams* of his area to develop socially and economically by distributing interest free loans among themselves. At present he works as a field supervisor in a family health and development research service foundation in Virudunagar District.

**399. Ms B Shanthi (Feb-2007)**

W/o.Baskar.

Ananthi Medu,  
Sathamangalam,  
Lalgudi Taluk.

Trichy District, Tamil Nadu

B. Shanthi, 35, was born in Ananthi Medu Village, which is 30kms away from Trichy. She completed her SSLC in a Government Higher Sec School, Lalgudi, Trichy District and also has a diploma in tailoring. After finishing her education, she started to serve as a volunteer and has successfully made 40 women functionally literate. The activities of the Computer Based Functional Literacy Centre at Sathamangalam where she worked was well appreciated and was also filmed by NDTV.

Shanthi aimed to make the women self employed which helps in improving the quality of their life style. She is engaged in conducting Tailoring Classes for the CBFL beneficiaries. It benefited more than 25 women in the same village Lalgudi, in Trichy District.

**400. Ms M Shanthi (Jan-2006)**

W/o. R. Mathiyazhagan,

0/31. Gandhi St, Jeeva Nagar, Trichi - 8,  
Cell: 9942258912

M. Shanthi (39), from Jeeva Nagar, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu, has completed 12<sup>th</sup> Std and has a Diploma in Tailoring. A prerak for the Continuing Education Program, Trichy

district, she is involved in conducting literacy program, tailoring program and organising self help groups activities.

She conducts Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) classes of TCS for two hours daily. She has successfully completed batches of more than 60 women who are now functionally literate, including 25 women prisoners from Trichy Women's Prison.

Through Shanthi's involvement in self help group activities, in the year 2004 -05 a sum of Rs.13, 000/- was saved in the group and they had annual turnover of Rs.70,000/- . Having a good skill in tailoring, Shanthi with the help of the funds from the government was able to start a tailoring unit in the Continuing Education Centre. Her main aim is to educate and help people generate self employment. She enrolled the Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) women to this tailoring training and at present 15 women are getting trained. Women who complete this training can earn Rs.90 to Rs.100 a day. Shanthi's initiative was very much appreciated by the District Collector and her Self help group exhibited their home made products at the "International Literacy Day" Celebration.

**401. Mr C Sivakumar (Jan-2006)**27/4, Mailadurai salai,  
Vaitheerswaran kovil, 609 117

C.Sivakumar (30), from Vaitheesvaran Koil, Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu, is B.Sc D..E.E.E qualified with competency in

agriculture and livestock. He was working as Principal in an ITI, and after getting introduced to Chiraag through a friend, he now runs a Chiraag center.

Sivakumar is conducting Online Tutorial for more than 30 students and educates the youth of his village. He provides all the computer and internet services and information including astrological services to his community.

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#### **402. Mr K Sivakumar (Feb-2007)**

Thotraya Kali

Kuchakiraipatti, Karayankadu Post,  
Valavandhi Nadu, Kolli Hills. 637411

Ph: 04286 247471 PP

K.Sivakumar is 34 with Plus 2 education and comes from Eastern Kolli Hills, which is an agro biodiversity rich, hilly forested region. He is a good facilitator and mobilizer and is sincere in performing the tasks assigned to him, such as training villagers and farmers on SHG, monitoring and managing a cluster of SHGs.

Sivakumar is skilled in millet processing and marketing and has been instrumental in strengthening the millet mill and developing a dehusking mill in Kolli Hills. He also possesses skills in public speaking, herbarium preparation and vermicompost preparation. He assists with surveys and documentation and has been helping the villagers in water supply to the village. He is an active member of Nehru Yuva Kendra.

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#### **403. Ms N Sridevi (Jul-2005)**

Samiarpatti, Sinthalagundu (PO),  
Bagampoor (Via), Dindigul - 624 002.  
Ph. 0451 - 2480409.

Email: samyarpattvkc@yahoo.com,  
spnsridevi@yahoo.com

- an innovative teacher specializing in adult literacy and functional literacy using computer technology.

Hailing from Samiarpatti village near Sinthalagundu in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu, the 21-year-old Ms. Sridevi is a dynamic social worker with great zeal and enthusiasm. Equipped with good computer application skills, she has used the modern communication equipment such as touch-screen, multi-media kits and web camera to run functional literacy programmes for the village elders and school dropouts. Her innovative approach to adult education programmes needs a special mention.

She has initiated several self-help groups to promote vocational training in screen-printing and other income-generating activities in the rural areas. She has organized programmes to adopt rural children and provide for their educational and health needs.

She has been helping the farmers by providing timely information on agricultural practices and market price. She has organized farmers' groups to learn more about floriculture, livestock management and public hygiene and sanitation. Her work

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among rural women and youth in creating awareness on entitlements and the various welfare programmes of the government is commendable.

**404. Ms T Sudha (Jul-2005)**

C/o Centre for Rural Education and Development (CRED)  
301, Main Road  
T. Vadipatty  
Madurai - 625 218  
Tamilnadu  
Phone No. 95 4543 254453

23-year-old Sudha, a graduate from a rural BPL background family in Vadipatty in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu belongs to a traditional agricultural farmer's family. She has a strong social commitment and has been actively involved in social and development programmes especially for women in development, since 2000.

Sudha is a volunteer of CRED for the past four years, in its child labour eradication programme and became actively involved in developing micro-level planning with a participatory approach for assessment, identification of problems and finding solutions for implementation. She has experience in organizing programmes and in report preparation and documentation. She has good ability for communicating and interacting with people and was involved in imparting literacy skills to the women in her village.

**405. Ms Suganya (Jul-2005)**

Chiraag Internet Illam, T.  
Ulagupitchanpatti,  
Thiruvadhavoor (PO), Melur (Tk),  
Madurai District - 625 110.  
Ph: 0452 - 2424350,  
Email: suganya\_sks@yahoo.com

Suganya from T.Ulagupitchanpatty, Madurai, Tamilnadu is 21 years old and has completed 12<sup>th</sup> std from a government school. Though she didn't have prior computer knowledge, she underwent computer basic training in Madurai and after completion of the training she started a kiosk in her village T.Ulagapichanpatty.

Suganya is earning from DDTP, education, spoken English course, browsing and games, iSee to Aravind Eye hospital, and veterinary doctors. From the start to date 150 members have used Aravind services. Agricultural or veterinary doubts and problems of the villagers are cleared by the doctors through iSee. For instance when a farmer came to her centre and told her about the disease that has affected the ladies fingers crop in his field, Suganya forwarded his case to the agricultural college. The professor sent the solution to that disease, so the farmer was able to earn Rs.1 lacs because of this remedial measure. Every Friday she has an iSee session through which her villagers are able to communicate to their relatives (both by video/audio) living abroad.

**406. Ms K Suguna (Jan-2006)**

C/o.TCS Adult Literacy Program,  
TATA Consultancy Services,  
No.1, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,  
Vadapalani, Chennai – 600 026.  
Ph: 044 – 6616 5555, 6616 5333  
Cell: 9994394754  
stalinmsw@gmail.com

Suguna (23), was born in the Jagannathapuram village, Thiruvallore district, TN. 20 of the Scheduled Caste families from the village were asked to vacate to a hamlet called Arunajothipuram due to caste issues. She is the only literate female in the village who is studied up to SSLC from the nearby Government school.

She aims to make her village a complete literate village and she is working hard to achieve this. She finds it easy to operate the Computer Board Functional Literacy (CBFL) Software which is framed for better understanding by the rural people. She motivates the village people to attend the CBFL classes regularly. She has completed 2 batches successfully and more than 30 people have benefited. She says, it was a challenging job for her because everybody speaks Telugu in that village, but now after the CBFL they are able to read and write Tamil letters and words. At the same time, she helps small children in their education in the village. She helps the women who are in Self Help Groups to maintain their accounts and monitors the self help group's progress.

Suguna attended EDP training programme

to prepare baking powder and is on the verge of starting her own unit.

**407. Mr J Sundar (Aug-2006)**

C/o M S Swaminathan Research  
Foundation  
Village Knowledge centre  
Bhajanai Koil Street, Kovalam  
Kanchipuram Dist.  
Tel: 27472017

At the age of 23, J.SUNDAR is already a well-known social worker in Kanchipuram district. Hailing from the coastal village of Kovalam, the DME educated young man has been involved with community activities since 2004 in association with a number of organizations such as Dhan Foundation, Rotary Club, Tata Relief Committee, Loyola Outreach etc.

With the help of all these organizations the youth group to which he belongs has distributed boats, outboard engines, nets, catamarans and other requirements to the local fisher community. Along with his group he has also assisted schools with furniture or study materials, and arranged for water and toilet facilities. The poorest children from all communities in his area are provided with school uniforms, footwear and often even school and college fees are paid for especially in the case of orphaned or physically challenged students.

Sundar's other social welfare activities include conducting health camps and awareness programmes and arranging loans for women's SHGs or for micro enterprises

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development. By organizing the youth groups in his area, he motivates them to work for public interest.

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**408. Mr P Suresh Babu  
(Jan-2006)**

Samandhipuram, Kesavapuram,  
Sandhavasal via, Polur TK,  
Thiruvannamalai Dt. 606 905.  
Phone: 04181- 248279

Suresh Babu (26), is 12<sup>th</sup> Std educated and lives in Samanthipuram village, Thiruvannamalai district Tamil Nadu which is located in the Jawadhi Hill area in the Western Ghats.

He works as an animator for organising self help groups and coordinator for the Adult Literacy Programme of TCS run by the Srinivasan Services Trust (SST) of TVS group. He underwent training for operating the computer and the CBFL software given by TCS. He motivates SHG women members to attend the adult literacy programme classes. At present he coordinates 4 ALP centers in which 105 learners are getting trained.

Suresh Babu maintains the attendance of the learners and verifies their progress and trains SHG women to maintain the books. He also trains them to access government schemes and bank schemes. His challenge now is to make 1500 people literate in the next 6 months.

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**409. Ms V Tamil Selvi (Jan-2006)**

W/o.S.Ulaganathan, N. Nedunkulam,  
Mudukkankulam (PO), Virudhunagar  
Dist-626106, Cell: 9842154068

Tamil Selvi (38), is a graduate from N.Nedungulam, Virudhunagar Dist, TN. Starting her career as a teacher in a school promoted by ASSEFA, she worked as an organizer in the same organization, served as health organizer for 3 years and formed a village committee on health issues.

Tamil Selvi is working as a coordinator in Aravind Eye Hospital. She was responsible for the health education program and has been serving the community in the FH&DRSF as Community Organiser.

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**410. Mr P Thangasamy  
(Aug-2006)**

222, North Street, Senthankudi,  
Keeramangalam Taluk, Alangudi,  
Pudukkottai District - 614 624.  
Ph: 04371-242583 / 9443065446

An innovative farmer, 68 year-old P.Thangasamy who has SSLC education, is an organic farmer, practicing ecological agriculture on a long term basis. When he found that conditions were not favourable for viable agriculture, he switched over to tree farming in his land. He has tried the agro-forestry models in his dry land for the past two decades, planting species like jack, mango, neem, subabul etc in the beginning and then successfully introduced important

timber species like teak, rosewood and red sandal as well as bamboo. By converting a part of his land as a good wood lot with about 200 trees of economically important species in 25 acres, he has developed his own farm as a model environmental farm.

Every year a large number of scientific workers, NGOs, officers of Agriculture and Forestry Departments as well as many people from the village and visit his farm and learn about the economics and the usefulness of agro-forestry. Due to his continuous effort he has now proved that tree crop is also a cash crop, and has enlightened some co-farmers around his village, making them plant trees along with their agriculture crops to improve their living status and economic conditions.

Thangasamy takes school children in and around his village to his farm on field visits to make them aware of the importance of planting trees to protect the environment. He has a large nursery where he raising seedlings that he distributes generously. This eco-development and tree cultivation work has won him many awards from Rotary, SPIC and other organisations including the Netherlands University. Now he is actively involved in NVA activities serving as a Resource Person for training programmes and for the establishment of a village knowledge centre in his area Keeramanagalam in Pudukkottai District.

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### **411. Ms R Thenmoli (Aug-2006)**

5/77, Gudiyath St,  
Poonjery, Pabanasam,  
Tanjavur - 614 202.  
Ph: 9842546046.

R.Thenmoli is a role model for women in Poonchery, a remote village situated on the banks of River Cauvery, where most of the people are below the poverty line. For the past five years ever since a Farmers' Club was formed supported by NABARD, she has been involved in a variety of activities for the benefit of her community.

Married to an alcoholic who was suspended from government service, SSLC educated Thenmoli had lost hope in the future. However, after undergoing training in goat rearing which is the main occupation for all the farmers of the village, she developed confidence and prompted the women in her village to adopt scientific rearing, which resulted in enhanced income for all. As president of The NABARD aided farmers club she brought the village under the preview of the DOT and made arrangements for phone connections and also a metal road and minibus service for her remote village. Until this initiative was taken by Thenmoli, the village was not connected to the outside world. She also formed a women's group among the farm women to cultivate the habit of saving. Taking the lead for creation of SHGs in her area, and is now associated with the VRC of MSSRF at Thiruvaiyaru.

### 412. Ms M Thilagavathy (Feb-2007)

w/o. RadhaKrishnan  
Middle Street, Nachikurichi,  
Somarasampettai post,  
Srirangam Taluk, Trichy District

Thilagavathy, who is a perak for the Continuous Education Centre at Nachikurichi village, Trichy District, is 30 years old and has passed 12th Std . This village has a population of about 5000, of whom more than 1,500 were illiterate. Her main aim is to accelerate the process of eradicating illiteracy. She says, through CBFL it is easy to educate people rather than following conventional methods which take a long period of time .

Thilagavathy's Centre is one of the first to introduce CBFL in Trichy District. After enhancement with the support of TCS, the centre gained more momentum and she took a very vital role in mobilizing the people for the classes after receiving training to operate the software and the computer. She has trained 60 women to become functionally literate and 67 are on the process now. She is also well experienced at present with the software and the computer and has become the trainer for trainers for CBFL methodology.

With her good knowledge in tailoring, Thilagavathy has trained 18 women from her village with the collaboration of "JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN" and helped in arranging loans to get sewing machines which has made them self employed.

### 413. Mr S Thinakarasamy (Jul-2005)

Koolaiyankadu, Vennavalkudi (PO),  
Pudukkottai District - 622 201. Ph:  
04322 - 251056, 290601, Mobile:  
9443647109

53 year old Shri S. Thinakarasamy residing at Kooliyankadu Village, Pudukottai District of Tamil Nadu is a dedicated farmer, obsessed with a strong inclination towards attaining self- sufficiency in the farm front of Pudukottai District. His contribution towards rural development is immense and he is an asset to society and to the nation.

As a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and National Pulses Research Centre (NPRC), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, in Vamban, Pudukottai District, Shri Thinakarasamy has focused on the real training needs of unemployed rural youth and aspiring young women of Pudukottai District and has helped prepare a vision document. He as supplied quality seedlings of fruit and coconut trees to needy fellow farmers of Pudukottai District and has helped the District Administration to solve the real issues raised during Farmers' Grievance Day. He has been instrumental in greening and converting more than thousand acres of wasteland to economically viable lands.

The issues on farm development, rural credit, marketing of produce, subsidies on inputs etc, raised at grass root level were debated and brought to the notice of the concerned

officials under the leadership of Shri. Thinakarasamy. His acumen while performing rural development activities towards self-employment, wasteland development, rural resourcefulness, establishing rural nursery, frontline demonstrations and community development, has impressed the District Administration and MSSRF. Now he is actively involved in establishing a Village Resource centre (VRC) of MSSRF.

#### **414. Mr G Thiyagarajan (Jul-2005)**

2/295, North st., Perambur,  
Mayiladuthurai-609406,  
Phone: 04364 257438,  
perambur\_kiosk@tnmay.chiraag.com

G.Thiyagarajan from Perambur, Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu has done his diploma in Electrical and Electronics. He was running an electrical shop and servicing electronic items, and joined the Chiraag family to educate people in his village and help them by using the services. His father is the president of Perambur village, doing social service in his village.

His major revenue earning service is DTP and photoshop. He is currently doing DTP and photo works for Perambur police station and is also earning well from photos taken for family cards. He takes computer courses for students. He also does work for the community by sending communications to higher authorities about village development works like roads etc, and getting their response and sanction.

#### **415. Ms K Vasamalli (Jul-2005)**

4/11 F, Karsh mandh,  
Toda tribal Village,  
Tamilagam Road,  
Ooty- 643 001.  
Phone : 0423 – 2452119

Smt.Vasamalli is a 45 year old woman who is the first woman graduate from the Toda tribal community in Nilgiris. She has organized a buffalo-keepers association by involving Toda community members. She coordinates with various Government departments in getting community certificates for the members, title rights for land ownership, conservation of native buffalo breed and removal of eucalyptus plantation. She is very articulate on the issue of Toda tribes and she is a well known personality in Nilgiris. By seeing her involvement she was invited to attend the international workshop on participatory conservation organized by United Nations at Durban during 2004. She has been trained in computer. She is taking steps to preserve Toda culture, Toda language and revive nature worship and prayer performed by the original Toda peoples. She is also a governing committee member of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP).

**416. Mr Velmurugan (Jul-2005)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt Limited  
5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020  
Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

Velmurugan from Periakulam in Theni, Tamilnadu is a 25 year old BSc graduate. He was very interested in having a computer centre, so when he attended the Chiraag meeting in Theni, he was very happy to know about the n-logue services. He attended the training course, after which he started the kiosk in his village. He is earning from DTP Works, Data Entry in rural areas.

Velmurugan is a very active member. He has a special liking to work for the poor and is a prime motivator in spearheading projects that would directly benefit underprivileged people. He is able to establish a very quick rapport with the common man, identify their needs and organize his own skills as well as his contacts, to conceptualize schemes that will be beneficial in enhancing the standard of living of the poor.

**417. Ms V Vijayalakshmi (Jan-2006)**

Mundalmunai, Pampan (Po),  
Ramanathapuram Dt. PIN- 623 521  
Phone: 04573-231203

V.Vijayalakshmi (34), from Mundalmunai, a small fishing hamlet located in Rameswaram

Island, 15 km away from Rameswaram town in Ramanathapuram district, TN.

A member of the Ramanathapuram fish worker trade union, though educated only till 9<sup>th</sup> Std, she has sound knowledge of conservation of marine biodiversity and bioresources of Gulf of Mannar. She gives information to the members of the union about the important of marine biodiversity, fishermen rights and the issues related to fishing.

She is a good communicator with a strong social commitment and has been involved in social and development programmes especially for women in development She is a good writer, contributing a regular column in a community newspaper on SHG concepts, micro enterprises, women rights etc.

Vijayalakshmi is now actively involved in the MSSRF Village knowledge Centre activity and motivating women's groups and adolescent girls to learn computer, accounting software training. Apart from that she has motivated rural women to step out of their homes and manage their lives better. She is a role model for empowering the fishing community.

She is an Executive member of the village marine council formed by Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Trust in Therkuvadi village, and also a Leader of Namathugramam Thittam in Pamban panchayat.

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**418. Ms S B Yoganandhi  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o n-logue Communications Pvt  
Limited

5th Floor, Gokul Arcade,  
#2 Sardar Patel Road, Adyar,  
Chennai 600 020

Tel: + 91-44-2445 5212, 39181932

33-year-old S.B.Yoganandhi is in Theni district, and has studied upto B.E, which she discontinued. She is a leader and member of the SHG Trade group. She organised agriculture campaign meeting for members, organised farmers groups and provided farmers with training and awareness, and seeds for better crops.

She is a very good leader and she has good communication skills. She has organised more than 300 members into SHGs. She provides very useful service of spoken English, teaches how to operate the computer along with data entries.

## UTTAR PRADESH

### 419. Mr Ajit Singh (Jan-2006)

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ajit Singh (42), from Kurthiya Village, Chandauli District, U.P is one of the active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD and takes interest and initiative in sharing the knowledge of ICT with other farmers in the village. Educated upto 10<sup>th</sup> Std., helped in making a road in the village. According to others in the village, he has a helping nature and is always ready to solve the problems of other farmers in the area of agriculture and others if any.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.

### 420. Mr Akhilesh Kumar Singh (Jan-2006)

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Akhilesh Kumar Singh (35), Karahipurwa

village, Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh, is a farmer with Intermediate level education Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004, he shares all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Akhilesh Kumar has done a good job by providing seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and fast moving consumer goods directly to the farmers at reasonable rates. He also gives information to the farmers about the weather and about ways of effective farming. He always downloads all the information of farmers' interest from Choupal Site and gets it printed and distributes the same to the farmers. ITC has also awarded him for the second Best Sanchalak of UP branch in 2004.

### 421. Mr Ashok Singh (Feb-2007)

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

55 Years old, Graduate (Hindi medium) Ashok Singh hails from Baradih Village, Kalikabara Post, Varanasi District (U.P). He is active in information and knowledge dissemination. He tells the villagers about the benefits of bio fertilizers & insurance. Besides that, he also provide good quality agricultural

inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and by using these quality inputs, the yield of farmers in that area has increased. He also helps schools of his village by providing facilities and funds to them from Government.

He is keen to serve the society and plays a prominent role in social and economical development of the village. He educates the farmers about recent developments in agriculture and other fields. He also assists them to take informed decisions for their benefit

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#### **422. Mr Ashutosh Dixit (Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

35 years old, Graduate (BA Hindi Med) Ashutosh Dixit hails from Ichhanapur Village, Sursa Post, Hardoi Dist, Uttar Pradesh. He is performing a good role in terms of information dissemination to his fellow village men on Weather forecasting & best agricultural practises through the Internet usage.

He organised a health camp in his village last year in which about 125 people were present and could get themselves checked by reputed doctors absolutely free.

Ashutosh keeps himself always ready to accept challenges, and is capable of meeting

the challenges. He puts all his efforts for any social initiative. ITC has awarded him as the second Best Sanchalak of Hardoi hub for wheat procurement in 2004 and 2005.

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#### **423. Mr Dheerendra Raj Singh (Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

33 years old, B.COM. A/C HON. Dheerendra Raj Singh is involved in providing education especially on farming to the youth and children of his village (Majhwara, Mayang Sultanpur, UP), by using the internet. He has taken initiative to provide electricity in many households in his village and has been involved in providing water harvesting techniques to villagers and in giving water drainage solutions to retain ground water level at village level.

He has worked in all fields by providing quality products through e choupal network. He has benefitted local farmers by giving them higher rates than mandi in wheat purchase.

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**424. Mr Devendra Dutt Mishra  
(Jan-2006)**

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31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Devendra Dutt Mishra (42), comes from Pure Dhirja village, Gonda district, UP, and has an M.A. degree. Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002, he won the best Sanchalak award in Rural Distribution of qualitative FMCG & non-FMCG for 2004-2005, received the best Insurance awards in 2003-2004 and contributed highest wheat Procurement during 2003-2004 and enabled farmers to get remunerative price for their produce.

Devendra Dutt Mishra gives education to villagers about internet and usage of computer. He actively participates in all social activities and is known as a very good sanchalak amongst all the e-choupals.

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**425. Mr Jay Singh (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Jay Singh (27), belongs to Kapathua village, Allahabad district, UP Associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002, he gives knowledge to villagers on

internet usage and weather and mandi rates of wheat and other agricultural commodities. He organises meetings of villagers and gives information on how to improve their situation through ITC e-choupal.

Jay Singh has training on Computer usage and pricing of agricultural commodities and various FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village and has won best sanchalak award of Allahabad Hub at the 2005 Sanchalak amsmelan.

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**426. Mr Jitendra Narayan Singh  
(Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Jitendra Narayan Singh (33) B.Ed., LLB, actively disseminates information and knowledge to the people in his village (Village & Post: Basantpur Distt – Varanasi, U.P.) on the benefits of bio fertilizers & insurance. He is using websites like echoupal.com, Naukari.com, Railways.com, results.com, etc for the villagers. He is also involved in social-development activities like helping the villagers with their education, medical treatment, legal problems and panchayat.

Jitendra is carrying out rural distribution i.e. fast moving consumer goods and agri-products.

He plays a role in social and economical development of the village and educates the farmers about the recent developments in the farming and other fields and influences decisions for their betterment.

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**427. Mr Jitendra Singh  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Jitendra Singh (27), comes from Ladpur Chhinava village, in Auraiya district, UP. Intermediate sducated Jitendra Singh educates the farmers about the benefit of e-Choupal in terms of agri-extension, procurement, rural distribution and financial services and ensures regular distribution of FMCG products in the village. He explains the usage of internet in farming and best agriculture practices to the villagers and finds answers to their problems through mail from the hub. Jitendra Singh is a Principal in a Junior High School. He also financially supports the education of poor children of the village. Recently he won the "Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005" award.

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**428. Mr Manoj Kumarr Tripathi  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Manoj (35), belongs to Sikandarajeet pur village, Maharajganj District, U.P, and is a M.A., B.Ed. He disseminates information and knowledge of new agricultural technology. He is involved in agri extension and in giving full support to villagers on insurance and other facilities. He also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and the crop yield of farmers in the area has increased. He has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002 and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**429. Mr Manoj Kumar Dixit  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Manoj Kumar Dixit (27), comes from Wasaina village, near the bank of the river Ganga in Unnao district, in U.P. A biology graduate, he has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2004.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

Manoj Kumar runs a secondary school in the village and plays a very active role in the social development of the village. He is performing a good role in terms of information dissemination to his fellow village men on weather forecasting and best agricultural practises through the internet usage. He plays an active role in distributing good quality products at right prices to the retail outlets. Having been trained in the areas of computer application and agri-commodities, he takes an active interest to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**430. Mr Pradeep Mishra  
(Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

33 year old Pradeep Mishra completed his bachelor of education degree and then decided to give his service to improve the education standard of primary schools of his village Holagarh in Allahabad district in the northern plains of central India. Therefore, he accepted the job of Shiksha Mitra and now works for education in rural areas. He also takes interest in micro-finance and micro-enterprise development activities and is a resource person for development activities, playing an active role in empowering women by forming several women's SHGs.

A development oriented young man Pradeep can set an example for others to follow towards the cause of rural development.

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**431. Mr Pradeep Singh  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Pradeep Singh (32), from Rampur Rewti village, Santkabir Nagar district, UP hold a B.Sc degree and has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. He mobilised a youth group "Nav Yuvak Mangal Dal" for doing social development work in the village.

Pradeep Singh is trained in Computer application and quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**432. Ms Priti Parmar (Jul-2005)**

C/o. TARAHaat  
111/9 Z Kishangarh, Aruna Asaf Ali  
Marg,  
New Delhi 110 070  
Tel No: 91 11 26122881, 26122882  
Fax No: 91 11 2612 2986  
rkhanna@tarahaat.com

Belonging to the most illiterate and poorest area of India, the Parmar sisters would normally have got married at an early age.

But they chose to bring the benefits of Information Technology to their village in Uttar Pradesh and also earn revenue for their family. Rajmani is 25 years old with an M.A in sociology, and Priti is a 24 year old graduate in sociology and economics.

The sisters used their foresight and decided to open a TARAKendra at Punawali Kalan, a small village in Jhansi with a population of 4000. For the last four years, they are successfully running the TARAKendra against all odds such as power cuts, lack of connectivity, poor infrastructure etc. In these years they have successfully managed to overcome all social barriers that come along with the tag of a female entrepreneur. The Parmar sisters have not only taught students IT courses but have also spread a mass awareness about the benefits of Internet in their own and neighbouring villages. They conduct sewing classes for young girls under TARAhaat's Meljol Program, which provides an interactive platform for young girls and women to learn new skills. Rajmani and Priti have become role models for the young girls of their community. Their efforts in changing a male dominated committee, which was set up for managing community water management system to an all women committee and thereby rejuvenating the water system, has been truly amazing.

### **433. Mr Raghavendra Mishra (Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India

Tel: + 91 9949994146

E-mail: [narayana.rao@itc.in](mailto:narayana.rao@itc.in)

Mr. Raghavendra Mishra (27) is a competent farmer and has done front line demonstration of wheat sown by zero till seed drill in his village for the first time. He has motivated his fellow villagers to use this technique to not only increase productivity but also help timely sowing thereby reducing cost of cultivation. He demonstrated to his fellow villagers the methods for user soil reclamation by using gypsum and adopting resistant varieties. He also took part in rural distribution by supplying good quality agric-inputs such as certified seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. He has received special recognition for active participation in front line demonstrations and rural distribution by ITC Ltd.-I.B.D.,

Mr. Raghavendra Mishra is SSLC and he is a lead farmer of his village. He has a pleasing personality and shares a good rapport with fellow villagers.

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**434. Mr Rajendra Mishra  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Rajendra Mishra (35), comes from Jamurawan village, RaeBareli district, U.P. He is a graduate and has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Rajendra Mishra actively participates in rural distribution activities, knowledge dissemination through frontline field demonstration and gave the Best Field Demonstration of Paddy in UP conducted by ITC Ltd, IBD RaeBareli.

He has fair knowledge of internet usage, having obtained training on Computer usage and Internet browsing. He is also trained in quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and has knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

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**435. Mr Ramdayal Verma  
(Jan-2006)**

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31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ramdayal Verma ( ), from Umari, Sulthanpur, UP, a graduate and a farmer, is one of the

active Sanchalaks in e-Choupal network of ITC-IBD who takes interest in sharing the knowledge of ICT with other farmers in the village. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products.

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**436. Mr Ravindra Pal Singh  
(Jan-2006)**

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31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ravindra Pal Singh (36) is from Gauriyakala , an interior village of Unnao district, UP. He is a graduate, associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2003. He has obtained training in the areas of computer application, importance of life and general insurance, quality parameters of various agri-commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

Ravindra Pal Singh educates the farmers about the services/benefits of e-Choupal and elaborates the uses of internet in information gathering, farming and marketing amongst his fellow villagers. Through the hub team, he finds answers to the questions of farmers

in his village. He contributes to social causes, and has won “ Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005” award.

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### **437. Mr Ritesh Katiyar (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Ritesh Katiyar (30), from Tajpur village, Unnao district, UP, is educated upto high school level. He is a one of the best contributing sanchalak of Bangermau hub. He provides weather information, current Mandi and ITC rates and best practices of agriculture to the villagers. He also inspires the farmers to adopt new agriculture technology. He regularly provides quality products in his village and nearby villages. He also serves the people through insurance. All this is not just a business for him as he finds e Choupal a tool for social service.

Ritesh Katiyar elaborates the uses of internet in farming, marketing and information-gaining to the villagers. He also usually consults the Hub team for agriculture problems faced by his fellow village men through mail. He has won the “Best Performing Sanchalak of Hub for 2005” award.

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### **438. Ms Rajmani Parmar (Jul-2005)**

C/o. TARAHaat  
111/9 Z Kishangarh, Aruna Asaf Ali  
Marg,  
New Delhi 110 070  
Tel No: 91 11 26122881, 26122882  
Fax No: 91 11 2612 2986  
rkhanna@tarahaat.com

Belonging to the most illiterate and poorest area of India, the Parmar sisters would normally have got married at an early age. But they chose to bring the benefits of Information Technology to their village in Uttar Pradesh and also earn revenue for their family. Rajmani is 25 years old with an M.A in sociology, and Priti is a 24 year old graduate in sociology and economics.

The sisters used their foresight and decided to open a TARAkendra at Punawali Kalan, a small village in Jhansi with a population of 4000. For the last four years, they are successfully running the TARAkendra against all odds such as power cuts, lack of connectivity, poor infrastructure etc. In these years they have successfully managed to overcome all social barriers that come along with the tag of a female entrepreneur. The Parmar sisters have not only taught students IT courses but have also spread a mass awareness about the benefits of Internet in their own and neighbouring villages. They conduct sewing classes for young girls under TARAhaat’s Meljol Program, which provides an interactive platform for young girls and

**UTTAR PRADESH**

women to learn new skills. Rajmani and Priti have become role models for the young girls of their community. Their efforts in changing a male dominated committee, which was set up for managing community water management system to an all women committee and thereby rejuvenating the water system, has been truly amazing.

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**439. Mr Sanjay Dubey  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Sanjay Dubey (35), lives from Kakraha village, Mirzapur district, UP, is a land holding farmer with a graduate degree. He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, and takes the initiative to share all his training inputs with other farmers in the village. He regularly shares knowledge on weather and crops which he obtains through internet with the farmers. He is a generous social worker, always helping the poor people in the village including giving financial assistance for poor girls' weddings. He received the 1st prize in Insurance at the 2005 Sanchalak Sammelan.

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**440. Mr Sanjay Kumar Pandey  
(Jan-2006)**

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31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Sanjay Kumar Pandey (28), hails from Bazar Deeha (Pure Badal) village, Gonda district, UP. The Intermediate educated farmer has been associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Having obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products, he shares his knowledge with villagers about internet and computer usage.

Sanjay Kumar Pandey explains the benefits of agri inputs to farmers in his village and participates in all social activities. He has won awards for his good work with distribution.

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**441. Mr Sanjay Singh  
(Jul-2005)**

C/o. NEFORD  
1, Dev Lok Colony, Church Road,  
Vishnupuri, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.  
Phone: 0522-2323463  
Email: rksingh@neford.org;  
info@neford.org

Sanjay Singh is a village youth from Faizabad District of Uttar Pradesh. The 30-year old

graduate has been involved with community development activities for last 8-9 years as an active social worker.

He is working as a facilitator cum worker in the community development works especially in organizing agricultural training, extension and knowledge spreading programs of the university and other agencies working in the area. He has been instrumental in bringing a number of on-farm programs of the university and motivated farm men and women to participate in these programs. He was at the forefront of the IRRI-NDUAT shuttle breeding and farmers participatory varietal selection programs. Sanjay organized the seed production of these new selections through farmers' cooperative and made them available to others including farmers of the neighbouring villages. Sanjay conducted surveys to identify the agricultural needs of the farmers in the areas, which ranged from varietal choice to the needs for fodder and fuel. NEFORD, an NGO working in the area, has helped him connect with World Agroforestry Centre regional office in Delhi and an on-farm testing programme has been initiated to find out the appropriate fuel and forest species to meet the dual needs.

Sanjay Singh was exposed to various training programmes organized by the Agriculture University and participated in field visits to different parts of Uttar Pradesh in a knowledge sharing program organized by NEFORD. Sanjay could have easily got a job in a city or town, but he decided to work for the development of his own village. He keeps

himself abreast with new technologies and techniques in the field of agriculture. He has also won the confidence of his fellow farmers and helps them to test, verify and adopt new technologies.

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#### **442. Mr Shiv Bux Singh (Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003, India

Tel: + 91 9949994146

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

45 year old 12th educated Shiv Bux Singh hails from Seri Village, Kundanganj Post, Harchandpur, Tehsil, Rae Bareilly district, U.P. and he is a competent farmer and has done front line demonstration of modern agro-techniques for wheat and rice on his own land on a large scale as well as motivated other farmers to adopt the same. Currently around 200 acres of land in his village is under modern agro-techniques adopted by 120 farming families thereby raising their productivity level upto 40%.

Mr. Singh has successfully demonstrated the use of bio-fertilizers such as Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria and low cost organic manure such as vermi-compost, its preparation technique and use. He has also demonstrated methods for user soil reclamation by adopting resistant varieties and water management techniques with judicious use of irrigation water, which helps in reclamation of about 50% of the affected fields in his village.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

He participated in activation of several ponds in his own and nearby villages. He also took part in rural distribution by supplying good quality agri-inputs such as certified seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and has received the Best Sanchalak Award -2005 for active participation in front line demonstrations and rural distribution by ITC Ltd.-I.B.D.

Being a lead farmer, he enjoys respect and confidence of fellow villagers.

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**443. Mr Sunil Kumar Rai  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Sunil Kumar Rai (31), from Gathia Village, Ghazipur District, U.P is a Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science). He disseminates information and knowledge on new agricultural technology, awareness about insurance to the villagers with the help of e-Choupal. He takes an active part in agri extension activities like conducting demonstrations of new agricultural technologies. Besides it, he also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and has helped increase crop yield.

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**444. Ms Uma Singh (Jul-2005)**

C/o. NEFORD  
1, Dev Lok Colony  
Church Road, Vishnupuri  
Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P.  
Phone : 0522-2323463  
Email : rksingh@neford.org;  
info@neford.org

32-year old Uma is a graduate from village Chandpur in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. While residing in the village, Uma started her career in the field of rural development as a school teacher. She initiated her own school in 1995 and started taking interest in rural women and children's health and sanitation programmes in the village. She also got associated with the NDUAT, Faizabad and participated in their gender-sensitive programs. She played a key role in the study on male migration and its impact on agriculture.

Her association with the NEFORD – an NGO working in the fields of rural development and education, gave her a strong base to expand her education and health awareness programmes. Now she regularly organizes health camps and teaches young girls about pregnancy management and provides them with the current information on such diseases as HIV/AIDS etc. She strongly believes that only knowledge can empower rural women. NEFORD has also helped her to run an out-of-school education programme for the girls and elderly women who cannot afford to attend regular schools.

NEFORD helped her to conduct surveys on rural drop out girls and provided them the opportunity to continue their studies in the out-of-the school courses. She also conducted surveys on food and nutrition status of women and children in the rural areas. Mostly girls were found to be the sufferers. Her team keeps a strict vigil on programmes such as mid-day meal programme of the Government.

*'I am satisfied with my work. Many people from the neighbouring villages now approach me to extend my work in their villages. I feel proud that I am doing something for my community', says Uma.*

She has motivated a large number of farm women to form associations and work as a "pressure group" for the Panchayat to develop and implement a well chalked-out programme that benefits all. Uma has excellent leadership qualities and power to motivate illiterate women to move forward.

#### **445. Ms Urmila Mishra (Feb-2007)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

30 year old Urmila Mishra who has completed matric education belongs to Baraiharak, a very traditional village where women were expected to be conservative housewives. She broke the restriction to start

a vocational training centre where the village women learn different vocational courses such as dress making, soft toys making etc.

When LAKSHYA approached the village to form self help groups, Urmila took the lead in the project and convinced other women to form their own self help groups, which in turn became inspiration for more women to start SHGs, micro-credit and micro-enterprise activities according to the training they received from her training centre. Through her hard work, she set an example for the women of her village.

#### **446. Mr Vijay Bahadur Singh (Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD  
31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India  
Tel: + 91 9949994146  
E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Vijay Bahadur Singh (34), from Karamajeetpur village, Deoria District, U.P, a graduate and is associated with ITC-IBD as Sanchalak of e-Choupal from the year 2002. Active in information and knowledge dissemination, he tells the villagers about the benefits of bio fertilizers, insurance, Internet usage, etc. Using the website like e-choupal.com, Naukari.com, Railways.com, results.com, he assists the villagers. Vijay Bahadur Singh is participating in rural distribution of Fast Moving Consumer Goods and Agri-Products. His social-development activities include helping the villagers in their education, medical treatment, problems

**UTTAR PRADESH**

related with court, and assisting the Panchayat.

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**447. Mr Yogendra Rai  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. ITC-IBD

31, Sarojini Devi Road,  
Secunderabad-500 003,India

Tel: + 91 9949994146

E-mail: narayana.rao@itc.in

Yogendra Rai (42), a resident of Nishan Village, Jaunpur District, U.P is a landholding farmer with B.A. degree.

He disseminates information and knowledge of new agricultural technology, awareness about insurance to the villagers with the help

of e-Choupal. He takes active part in agri extension activities like conducting demonstrations of new agricultural technologies. Besides, he also provides good quality agricultural inputs to the farmers of his village and adjoining villages and by using these good quality inputs, the crop yield of farmers has increased.

He has obtained training from ITC-IBD in the areas of Computer usage, Internet browsing, importance of Life & General Insurance, quality parameters of agri commodities and their pricing and knowledge on various qualitative FMCG products. He takes initiative to share all his training inputs and knowledge with other farmers in the village.

## UTTARANCHAL

### 448. Ms Archana Raturi (Jul-2005)

C/o Himalaya Trust  
274/2 Vasant Vihar,  
Dehra Dun 248 006, Uttar Pradesh.  
Tel: 91.135.773081

24 year old Archana a resident of Khadi, Tehri Garhwal, Uttaranchal discovered her hidden skill as a broadcast announcer at a training workshop for community radio in 2001. She has since become a tremendous asset to *Hevalvani*, the community radio service of which she is an active member.

Archana is an emerging youth leader, having several years of social work, particularly in health and literacy camps to her credit as a member of the *Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan*. But she feels that the social service groups have developed a style and manner which has become stale and they were all looking for a fresh way of getting people to participate, of getting their messages across. Community Radio provided her with the ideal platform, and Archana has been a very creative contributor to the popularity of Hevalvani in Tehri Garhwal district.

Archana has set an example to her fellow radio enthusiasts by doing the IGNOU diploma course on creative writing, and writes regularly for local magazines and *Amar Ujala*, a daily. She also takes part in street theatre dramas to spread social messages.

She has participated in a media "Needs" survey conducted by Equal Access in her area. and has also made programmes for NABARD and for local schools and colleges. She organizes and participates in events to promote local products and handicrafts, and campaigns for local issues through *Hevalvani Samudayik Radio*.

### 449. Mr Gabbar Shing Rawat (Aug-2006)

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area,  
New Delhi 110016,  
Phone: 0091-11-51689000,  
[veronica.peris@oneworld.net](mailto:veronica.peris@oneworld.net)

Gabbar Shing Rawat, 24, was brought up in a small agricultural village surrounded by dense forests in Garhwal hills at 5000ft in the Himalayas. His parents are farmers.

While studying in school Gabbar Shing used to attend Bal Panchayat - a children's organisation promoting child rights in the village, and would lead the group to mobilise people to talk about various issues affecting children. He is now studying in undergraduate course in Arts and using his excellent communication skills acquired while working as volunteer community communicator, he participates in various campaigns to address child rights in his villages.

**UTTARANCHAL**

Using a variety of interactive media like street plays and songs he led his group to campaign on health and environmental issues in many villages. Since the year 2003, he has been continuously involved in various communication programmes for addressing development issues.

After joining as a community reporter in 2005, he has turned into a young journalist writing about his village problems. His articles contribute to the open Knowledge Network powered by open enrich software. Lately he has been exposed to radio and internet, and is now undergoing training to use these mass media for the benefit of the people.

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#### **450. Ms Padma Rawat (Aug-2006)**

Paturi Gairsain (P.O)  
Chamoli (Dist.) Uttaranchal - 246 428

20 year old Padma Rawat belongs to an agricultural family in a rural community of Garhwal Hills in the Himalayas. Born and brought up in a small village surrounded by dense forest at the height of 5000 ft. above sea level, she is now studying an undergraduate course in Arts.

Padma possesses excellent communication skills that she has acquired while working as a volunteer community communicator. She participated in various campaigns to address child rights in her villages and more particularly on immunization and sanitation. Through a variety of interactive media like street plays and songs she campaigned for

universal birth registration in 43 villages to ensure not a single child goes unregistered and unnoticed. Similarly she lead a campaign on health and environmental issues in 33 village. Using her good community leadership qualities, she formed BAL PANCHAYAT - a children organisation promoting child rights in the village, which she now heads.

After undergoing training and being exposed to radio and Internet to hone her communication skills, she has turned into a young journalist writing about her village's problems and addressing development issues. Her articles contribute to the open Knowledge Network powered by open enrich software.

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#### **451. Ms Partima (Jul-2005)**

C/o. OneWorld South Asia Office  
C5, Qutab Institutional Area,  
New Delhi 110016,  
Phone: 0091-11-51689000,  
[veronica.peris@oneworld.net](mailto:veronica.peris@oneworld.net)

Partima is a coordinator with Rural Litigation Entitlements Centre and hails from the newly carved Indian state of Uttaranchal. A tribal woman, belonging to the Kolta tribe, Partima was born in a poor but large family of seven siblings. She had to drop school at 5th Std. owing to financial constraints. Undeterred, she managed to take up non-formal education to complete her graduation. Today, she is sharing and imparting her knowledge and skills to the 'Van Gujjars' a roving shepherd community in the hills of Uttaranchal.

Partima uses the wireless to educate and train hundred of Gujjar children and women and to provide them life saving information. Thanks to the wireless technology she uses to empower the tribals, many pregnant tribal women were able to receive timely medical attention for their deliveries.

Partima, who herself has overcome discrimination, as a woman and as a tribal, feels that she has a lot to contribute and feels that development decisions must be sensitive to grassroots realities and concerns.

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#### **452. Ms Uma Dhaundiyal (Aug-2006)**

Rikholi, Gairsain (P.O)  
Chamoli (Dist.)  
Uttranchal - 246 428

Uma Dhaundiyal ,24 , is the daughter of farmers hailing from a rural community living in the hilly and forested Garhwal area of Uttaranchal. A second year B.A. student , she possesses good community leadership skills in organising people to talk about health, environment, social concerns and on various issues affecting children. Her special areas of competency are functional literacy and health.

Since 2000, Uma has been active in these fields. When she was in school, she used to attend Bal Panchayat - a children's organisation promoting child rights in the village. She is still associated with this organization, through which she conducts campaigns in numerous villages on universal

birth registration, immunization and various health problems like diarrhoea, using the interactive medium of street plays and songs. She has also participated in campaigns to address child rights in her village.

Uma joined as a community reporter with SBMA-Plan Gairsain, Uttaranchal. Her articles contribute to the open Knowledge Network and she writes about problems and issues in her village. Lately she has been exposed to radio and Internet, and is now acquiring new skills to use these mass media for the benefit of the people.

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#### **453. Mr Vipin Joshi (Jul-2005)**

C/o Himalaya Trust  
274/2 Vasant Vihar,  
Dehra Dun 248 006, Uttar Pradesh.  
Tel: 91.135.773081

29 year old Vipin a resident of Tallihaat, Bageshwar district, Uttaranchal, is an unusual young man with a dream. Unlike most of his contemporaries in rural Kumaon, he believes that migrating to the plains in search of lucrative employment will not solve anything for his village or his people. Vipin became an active social worker from an early age, and also thoroughly involved himself in the cultural life of his area.

While still in high school he organized young students to form a social service group, the Nav Prabhat Yuva Samiti. They began to help with the organization of health camps in their village, provide clean drinking water to patients and their attendants, and arrange

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for facilities for hospital stay for patients' attendants. Through these simple beginnings they began to extend their work to include literacy camps for elderly and economically deprived persons.

Three years ago Vipin joined SIDH (Society for Integrated Development of the Himalaya) in Mussoorie where he helped research and implement an appropriate educational

system for hill students. He is an eager and participative member of Pradeep Samudayik Radio, keen that this unusual method of communication and its participatory potential should be used for intellectual and social awakening for his people. His research papers on Ethnographic Action Research on ICTs commissioned by UNESCO through the Himalaya Trust were highly appreciated.

## WEST BENGAL

### 454. Mr Apurba Saha (Jan-2006)

C/o. Grasso  
336 SDF Building.  
Salt Lake Electronics Complex  
Salt Lake Sector V,  
Kolkata 700 091  
Tel: 033 2357 7075  
Fax: 033 2357 7076

Apurba Saha (34), is a B.Com from Kunuri.village, not far from Shantiniketan in Birbhum district, West Bengal. He has been involved with the organization GRASSO for more than 2 years and has experience with telecommunication information system while working as staff of Grasso. He has also taken training in social service, and has a good background of computer expertise.

### 455. Ms Pinki Chakraborty (Jan-2006)

C/o. Grasso  
336 SDF Building.  
Salt Lake Electronics Complex  
Salt Lake Sector V,  
Kolkata 700 091  
Tel: 033 2357 7075  
Fax: 033 2357 7076

Pinki Chakraborty (25), hails from Bhoalrdabri village, Jalpaiguri district, WB, an area where some parts are forested, and tea industry is well developed, but water management and health care systems are very poor.

She has completed a master's degree in arts under North Bengal University and is a social worker involved with a society whose activities are to develop the rural area. She also works with the society for health care and literacy, and has experience in rural field work organized by Govt of India.

### 456. Ms Ranu Saha (Jan-2006)

C/o. Grasso  
336 SDF Building.  
Salt Lake Electronics Complex  
Salt Lake Sector V  
Kolkata 700 091  
Tel: 033 2357 7075  
Fax: 033 2357 7076

Ranu Saha (25), is a graduate living in Andaran Fulbari village, an agricultural area of Coochbehar district, WB. Having completed her graduation with English honours from North Bengal University, she is studying computer basic course. Ranu has 3 years experience of social work. She and her group have formed a society for development of their local area.

**457. Mr Samarendra Nath  
Bhattacharjee (Jan-2006)**

C/o. Grasso  
336 SDF Building.  
Salt Lake Electronics Complex  
Salt Lake Sector V  
Kolkata 700 091  
Tel: 033 2357 7075  
Fax: 033 2357 7076

Samarendra Nath Bhattacharjee (45), belongs to Jalpesh Mandir village, Jalpaiguri district, WB, an area with many tea factories. He has an M.Com. degree, and is involved since 2 years with GRASSO as a beneficiary. A helpful, hard working, energetic person, he completed his graduation and master degree in commerce under North Bengal University. He has been engaged with an NGO whose activities promote rural development. He has some knowledge about computer operation and good experience with rural connectivity.

**458. Mr Soumen Middey  
(Jan-2006)**

C/o. Grasso  
336 SDF Building .  
Salt Lake Electronics Complex  
Salt Lake Sector V  
Kolkata 700 091  
Tel: 033 2357 7075  
Fax: 033 2357 7076

Soumen Middey (19), from Batiswar village, south 24 Panganas district, WB, passed HS in the year of 2005. He is continuing his education for graduation and is also doing a diploma course on Computer Hardware. He has already been attached with rural Sanitation programme through Panchayat organised by UNICEF & Pulse Polio Tikakaran organised by WHO, and is doing various kinds of social work in his village area.

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	179	195	198	227	305	345

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	453	455				
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	234	239	250	251	256	260
	263	264	266	267	272	276
	279	280	282	287	290	308
	346	370	390	412		

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	131	133	155	164	165	166
	174	178	188	192	193	197
	198	200	201	251	253	254
	264	266	268	269	276	279
	280	282	287	288	290	297
	300	305	308	310	312	320
	323	329	331	336	347	348
	349	359	367	368	371	376
	380	396	397	398	403	407
	409	422	444	448	449	450
	452	453	455			

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	201	253				
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	23	30	41	47	91	112
	227	254	267	269	276	279
	285	288	289	290	297	313
	336	346	376	444		
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	269	276	279	285	288	290
	310	321	331	346	371	380
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	305	346	347	396	403	444
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	280	406	408	417		
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	391	393				
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	122	133	182	189	206	254
	255	256	284	391	247	265
	353					
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	72	82	83	85	98	99
	106	110	116	120	123	136
	143	144	153	168	169	181
	185	186	190	220	224	249
	271	277	281	292	372	373
	399					
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	35	37	39	49	50	55
	56	58	72	84	105	109
	113	122	125	127	128	131
	137	140	146	148	149	150
	159	160	161	175	180	181
	224	246	255	263	274	293
	308	321	327	339	339	341
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	366	368	378	382	391	391
	393	393	403	414	414	416
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	372	403	453			
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	56	58	80	82	83	91
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	189	201	203	204	205	224
	231	234	238	247	249	252
	254	255	256	257	259	261
	262	263	265	270	271	273
	275	277	278	281	283	284
	285	286	289	292	295	298
	301	303	338	342	343	344
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	301	302	303	304	306	307
	309	310	311	313	314	315
	316	317	318	319	320	322
	325	327	328	329	330	331
	332	333	334	335	336	337
	362	373	376	389	394	401
	415	419	420	421	422	423
	424	425	426	427	428	429
	431	434	435	436	437	439
	441	442	443	446	447	454
	457					
Traditional dissemination methods	45	48	238	243	244	248
	309	313	314	318	322	327
	336					
VRC	6	46	51	52	60	64
	75	78	85	86	96	98
	112	207	208	209	211	212
	213	214	215	216	217	218
	222	223	225	225	226	229
	230	232	233	237	240	299
	302	304	306	309	311	315
	316	317	320	327	328	329
	330	333	334	335	337	419
	420	422	423	424	425	427
	428	429	431	434	435	436
	437	439	441	442	443	446
	447	454	457			
<b>Microenterprises / income generation</b>						
Agri business	90					
Agricultural practices	39					

Bakery	136	356				
Banana products	235					
Candles	254					
Cloth bag	79					
Coffee roasting, grinding	205					
Coir making	276	290	347	382		
Photography	124					
Seashell ornaments	254	277	289	353		

### Organic farming

Biofertilisers	29	354	442	421	222	
Biopesticide	379	268	354	442		
Biovillage	251	264	268	269	279	280
	282	287	288	290		
Green manuring	330					
Organic farming	22	31	363	374	70	77
	221	257	379	55	63	65
	83	89	220	251	268	346
	354	398	219	228	388	402
	442					
Sustainable farming	219					
Vermicompost	63	70	75	83	93	109
	202	214	219	340	354	364
	379	388	398	402	442	

### SHG

SHG for physically challenged	360					
SHG formation	4	8	23	24	27	28
	41	44	45	47	57	61

	68	77	84	94	104	119
	127	142	150	152	184	187
	192	193	194	227	235	254
	264	268	280	343	350	355
	362	375	408	411	430	445
SHG strengthening	4	5	6	8	9	18
	20	43	64	65	86	115
	123	131	134	139	145	151
	152	158	160	162	172	173
	191	194	199	205	241	251
	256	272	276	279	282	287
	290	311	319	322	331	332
	338	346	350	352	362	364
	370	371	375	385	389	400
	402	406	418	445		
SHG training	75	94	97	110	138	158
	202	235	248	262	278	

### Social welfare / awareness / services

Anti- arrack shop	272					
Anti- dowry movement	280					
Anti- poverty campaign	294					
Birth registration	450	452				
Child labour eradication	10	12	21	404		
Child marriage prevention	20					
Child related issues	243	244	449	450	452	
Child rights	241	243	244	449	450	452
Community certificate	415					
Community development	292	320	324			

Community facilities construction	247	390				
Community mobilization	40	50	80	187	262	270
	271	310	324	325	340	
	352	376	385	412		
Community welfare programmes	152	203	350	415		
Cremation ground	258					
Dalits and caste discriminations	31	61	187	268	280	332
	356	369	390			
Drainage system	247					
Electricity cooperative	315					
Equality for women and female child in family	193					
Family counseling	227					
Female infanticide preventing	370					
Fisherman rights	417					
Gender equity / rights	291	325				
Government schemes / subsidies / policies / welfare programs	12	17	23	24	25	38
	48	53	62	64	82	87
	106	117	262	265	270	312
	319	326	332	353	362	376
	403	421				
Hand pump construction	315					
Handicapped assistance	250	269	272	279	280	398
Handicapped children help	253	266				
Illicit sale of liquor eradication	387	384				
Land for landless	258					
Land records	263					
Legal rights of women	245	254	387	289		
Mass marriages for underprivileged	328					

Mid-day meal programme	5	444				
Minorities	187					
Pattas for homeless	22					
Pension for old age / widows	25	31	248	266	268	269
	272	279	285	311	339	
Phone connections	411					
Pregnant women assistance	279	282	287			
Road development	31	212	223	275	289	309
	381	411	414			
Riverbed encroachments control	260					
Sand theft preventing in riverbanks	258					
School premises renovation	282	287				
Society formation	426	456				
Socioeconomic survey	340					
Sports promotion among youth	258	359				
Street lights	247	275				
Tank bund	275					
Title legal rights land ownership	415					
Toilet facilities	1	12	25	192	220	258
	305	345	346	360	390	
Transportation streamline	267	282	287	411		
Tribal groups development	40	115	164	200	227	229
	415	451				
Water facilities	352					
Water tank	335					
Widows, elderly women destitutes help	41	250	253	266	279	315
Women / Counseling	384	265				

<b>Technical Training</b>						
Fax	125	129	133	148		
Hand pump repair	171	175				
Mobile phone usage	171					
Phone	125	129	148	174		
Photography	125	160	164	171	180	182
	189	246	351	366	391	414
Plumbing	164					
Radio mechanism	33					
SATCOM	183					
Typewriting	386	391	393			
TV	33	125	133	148		
VCR - video playing	125	133	148	149	154	164
	180	183	366			
Video shooting	125	134				
<b>Traditional Medicine</b>						
Alternative medicine	70					
Ayurveda	181					
Herbal medicine	289					
Homeopathic medical camps	103					
Siddha medicine	368					
Traditional Local medicines	34	70	278			
Training programs on home remedies	34					
<b>Water</b>						
Check dams	328					
Cleaning of canals	315					

Drinking water	22	31	68	127	220	346
	368	381	453			
Drip irrigation	135	140	176			
Ground water	35					
Waste water treatment / recycling	176					
Water auditing software	220					
Water campaign	152	171	178	136		
Water filtration / purification	232					
Water harvesting and conservation	31	154	166	171	187	212
	220	224	237	247	254	354
	379	423				
Water management	57	90	115	135	136	147
	162	164	171	176	178	183
	188	209	215	220	232	237
	267	276	288	290	299	302
	315	329	368	432	438	442
Watershed programme	42	93	114	116	117	208
	219	254				

### Women empowerment / skill development

Community development	205					
Personality development	191	192	193			
Self employment	41					
Skill development	102	191				
Women empowerment / skill development	242					

## List of Main Topics for Fellows' Competency Keywords

Agriculture and related science and techniques  
Agriculture technologies / development  
Agriculture training for farmers  
Agroforestry  
Animal husbandry  
Capacity building  
Child care  
Cooperative credit and thrift  
Cottage industries  
Disaster relief / management / early warning system in the VRC / VKC  
Ecosystems / Environment / Nature  
Education  
Employment  
Field crops and their production  
Finance, savings and insurance / microcredit  
Fishing / Fisheries  
Health care and sanitation  
Horticulture  
ICT enabled services  
Indigenous knowledge  
Information / dissemination  
Microenterprises / income generation  
Organic farming  
SHG  
Social welfare / awareness / services  
Technical Training  
Traditional Medicine  
Water  
Women empowerment / skill development

## Organisations that nominated NVA Fellows

1. Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU)
2. American India Foundation (AIF)
3. Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project (APRPRP)
4. Ashta No Kai
5. Assam Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium
6. Association of public Internet Service Access Providers (APIAP)
7. BASIX India
8. Centre for Environment Education (CEE)
9. Centre for Rural Education and Development (CRED)
10. Department of Agriculture, Maharashtra
11. Drishtee Dot Com Limited
12. E.I.D. Parry (India) Limited
13. Ekgaon Technologies
14. Family Health And Development Research Service Foundation
15. Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI)
16. Grasso
17. Hear
18. Hewlett Packard
19. Himalaya Trust
20. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
21. ITC-IBD
22. Janakidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha (JKVHA)
23. Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha (JBGVS)
24. LAKSHYA for Sustainable Development
25. M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

26. Maharashtra Foundation India
27. MYS Orissa
28. National informatics Centre (NIC)
29. NEEDS
30. NEFORD
31. N-logue Communications Pvt Limited
32. OneWorld South Asia
33. PEN India
34. Polymer Educational Society
35. Sehgal Foundation
36. Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
37. Socio-Economic Development Organization (SEDO)
38. Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Voluntary Action (SEVA)
39. TARAhaat
40. TATA Consultancy Services (TCS)
41. Teri
42. URMUL Setu Sansthan
43. Urmul Trust
44. World Corps India
45. World Food Programme