

Vanasiri Rural Development Society Ranebennur



ANNUAL REPORT - 2023-24



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From Executive Director Desk



Dear Sir

We have completed now 20 years of our existence. We are proud to share the impact from our various interventions through this annual report. We initiated variety of livelihood activities, skill development trainings, food security, linkages with government schemes, health, children continued education, child rights and protection etc. We focused on sustainable management of community based institutions like labor bank union, Bhoomika and Kantesha Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO). All are successfully running under the guidance and support by VRDS.

VRDS initiated the new concept of Labor Bank project, Natural Resource Management through Watershed project, Children continued education & livelihood promotion, Child girl education project and Children sponsored programme etc. Our innovative ideas drawn attention of the government and donor agencies.

VRDS connected with network of similar nature of organizations working across the State, National and International agencies. In the coming year we will see us work with more innovative and sustainable model with support of donors, government and corporate sectors.

We follow core values like social justice, equity and integrity. We are supporting our staff members to update their skills, subject knowledge by attending training programs from external resource persons and timely exposure visits.

VRDS heartfelt thanks to our donors, Government departments, Bankers and well-wishers for extending their support. From their financial support we carry out the projects most effectively in the district. And I take this opportunity to acknowledge my community leaders, volunteers, staff, who have made this task successful. And I acknowledge the support of our Board of Trustees for their efforts to mobilizing resources and providing timely suggestions.

S. D. Baligar,
Executive Director
Vanasiri Rural Development Society
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VANASIRI RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (VRDS) RANEBENNUR

Vanasiri Rural Development Society (VRDS) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit making organization. It was registered in the year 2004. VRDS is working with different programs on sustainable livelihood opportunities to the poor in rural and urban area. It is being implemented its programmes more than 120 villages in rural area and city slums in Haveri, Uttara Kannada and Dakshana Kannada district. It has been working with vulnerable communities more than 13-15 thousand families for the wellbeing of small and marginal farmers, labors, fishermen communities, women and other backward classes.

The board members from different fields like social work, education, development sector etc. The organization is working towards sustainable management of community based organizations. As a part of this motto, we promoted many community based organizations to continue our objectives and activities.

Our objective is to undertake preservation of the natural resources like water, soil, forest by maintaining ecosystem and to prevent exploitation of these resources by some section of the society. At present we are implementing very innovative projects like Labor Bank, Natural Resource Protection, Employment generation, Sustainable agriculture, Continued Children Education, Child sponsor programmes and Farmers Producer Organizations etc.

Vision: "Life with dignity for all marginalized, vulnerable communities-(SC/ST, Minorities & other backward communities), and children"

Mission: "Empower marginalized communities, including children, farmers and migrant workers by providing access to education, health care and sustainable livelihood"

Goal: Empower marginalized communities, especially Women, Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Minority and other backward communities, who are able to access, control and have ownership over natural resources, common property and open resources needed for a sustainable and dignified existence.

Our core values: Honesty, Integrity, Innovation, Commitment, Equity, Transparency and accountability.

Our focus: is mainly focussed on Environment, Agriculture, Livelihood, Education and Children rights.

VRDS is working with much focused people like Rural women from marginal community, SC/ST, Landless labors, Small and marginal farmers, Minorities, Urban Slum community and other economically backward communities. The target beneficiaries are selected by interaction, house visit and based on their needs. They will organize in to different groups and engage in sustainable livelihood activities under many programs.

Recognised by:

Awarded

1. 2009 -2010 NABARD Bangalore awarded best NGO in SHG's credit linkages and livelihoods promotion for poor agriculture and landless women.
2. 2014-15 best performers awarded by NABARD Bangalore on Livelihood activities through women, SHG's credit linkage

Received Appreciation

1. Deshpande Foundation Hubballi Appreciation and awarded best work in para vet service in the rural area. In 2011
2. Blue cross laboratories Mumbai awarded best rural community development work. Rs.1,00,000/- prize

Our donors

1. Andheri Hilfe Germany, 2, NABARD Bangalore, 3.Terre des Hommes Bangalore (Germany)
4. Azeem Premji Philanthropist, Bangalore, 5. Child Fund India Bangalore.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT- 2023-24

VRDS is being implemented various projects since last 20 years in the district. The operational area is Haveri, Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada districts of Karnataka State. It is covered an area of 120 village under 42 grama panchayat in 06 taluka namely Ranebennur, Byadgi, Hirekerur and Rattihalli and slums of Ranebennur city in Haveri district, Karwar city and rural in Uttara Kannada district and Mangalore city and rural in Dakshina Kannada district.

VRDS is focused on rural women from marginal community, SC/ST, landless labours, small and marginal farmers, minorities, urban slum dwellers and other economically backward communities. The primary constituents are the direct beneficiaries of the projects and secondary constituents are indirect beneficiaries of the targeted population. At present covered more than 13 thousand families of primary constituents and more than 30 thousand families of secondary constituents are benefits under different programs. It is being implementing the following ongoing projects at present.

1. Labor Bank Project - Labors and Small & Marginal farmers improved their living situation through their self-sustained community based organizations and their networks - is being implemented in 42 villages of 3 blocks in Haveri district
2. Education and livelihood promotion for covid-19 affected children and families in Ranebennur taluka in Karnataka” - is being implemented in 06 rural villages and 04 slums of Ranebennur city.
3. POPI- for establishing the 02 Farmer Producer Organization in Ranebennur and Byadagi taluka
4. Improve the living situation of SF/MF and landless labors through their community-based organizations in Haveri district- is being implemented in 17 villages of 3 blocks in Haveri district.
5. Child Fund India – Children sponsored programme at Karwar and Mangalore taluka of Uttara Kannada and Dakshina Kannada district.

VRDS has implemented above projects successfully under the guidance and support of various sponsors and in coordination with Zilla Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, Grama Panchayat and line departments, KVK and other stakeholders in the working area. The progress performed during the year 2023-24 is as follows

1. LABOR BANK PROJECT: “Labors and Small & Marginal farmers improved their living situation through their self-sustained community based organizations and their networks”

VRDS is implementing the labor bank continued project under the support of Andheri Hilfe Germany. The goal of this project is sustainable development of 5,000 landless labors, small and marginal families through their local community based organizations and its networks by the end of project period. The major high lights of the project during the year is

- Project is being implemented in 42 villages under 24 Grama Panchayats of 03 blocks, ie; Ranebennur, Byadagi and Hirekerur taluka.
- 121 labor groups at gross root level in 42 villages, 03 taluka union and district labor union are functioning in the project area. The district labor union is an autonomous body with active members of 5978 labors. More than 4000 labors become the member of labor union by paying Rs.250/- and renewal fee Rs.100/- per year.
- The trainings conducted on MGNREGA, Labor bank and on social security schemes at village level is 33, in which 1478 labor participated. After this 424 families availed new job cards from GPs.

- Data information collected in the project villages is 4800 Ashman Health card holder and e-sham card holder is 3040. Follow-up work of 477 children applied previous year for education scholarship, 25 labor families benefitted Rs.14.70 lakhs under labor card, and received Rest. 3.10 lakh by 10 families under Ashman Health card. 12 health check-up camps conducted at worksites, 839 laborers underwent health check-up.
- Employment generation under MGNREGA, 3800 labors of 2156 families worked 182863 man days earned wages of Rs.57764708/- , each family earned an average of Rs.26793/-. This will helps them to stay in their villages with dignified life



- Additional employment generated under the Labor Bank, 227 labors worked 1229 man days earned wages of Rs.375190/- and Rs.9380/- of 2.5% service charges. Due to drought no works in farm lands that affected especially on migrant/ landless workers, and suffered lot during this year.
- The taluka and district union meetings conducted regularly, self-functioning, MGNREGA and labor bank activities managed themselves. 11 taluka and 5 district union conducted in which 730 labors including committee members participated. The capacity building conducted to the selected volunteers and committee members on MGNREGA, Labor bank and Social security and government schemes, resource mobilisation etc, to sustain the labor bank activities in future. So for resource mobilized is Rs.1371932/-, this amount is being utilize for future sustenance of labor bank activities in the area.



- Under the associations of Small and marginal farmers community, 98 Farmers Interested groups (FIGs) are functioning in project villages, 1562 farmers in these groups and conducting meetings regular, 23 trainings conducted in which 763 farmers participated, 880 farmers development plans included under GPs action plan and 126 farmers adopted integrated farming.

- To promote organic and integrated farming various demonstrations were conducted in the farmer fields. 204 demonstrations were conducted in 42 villages. In which Jeevamrutha is 50, 06 vermicomposting, 50 fodder development plots, 10 agro forestry. 06 horticulture plantation, 54 mixed crops demo plots and 04 backyard poultry etc.
- 02 FPO are functioning in the project area, FPOs have Machinery Hire Centre (MHC) and millets processing unit. FIGs member are taking advantages of FPO services like agri inputs supply, tractor and equipment's services on hire basis, value addition and marketing services etc. 1243 farmer shareholders with share capital of Rs.11478983/-, This year business turnover is Rest. 12.50 lakh because of drought.. Rs.32.00 lakhs assets were created by FPOs and are managed FPOs.

2. TDH PROJECT -“Education and livelihood promotion for covid-19 affected children and families in Ranebennur Taluka in Karnataka”

VRDS is being implemented the Children Education and livelihood promotion project in 4 slums and 6 villages of Ranebennur Taluka. The project aims to focus on promoting continued education for children among the target group, promote livelihood opportunities for covid19 affected single women headed families, youth empowerment through skill development, ensuring government social benefits and improving infrastructure in Government schools in the target areas. The major high lights of the project during the year is

- 16 awareness programme / events conducted, 1757 children and stake holders participated such as teachers, SDMC members, PRI members, staff and parents.
- 10 Children Activity Centres (CAC) are functioning, 30-40 children in each centre attended daily at 5.00 -7.00 pm from Monday to Saturday. The children are being educated in 10 CAC centres with tuition /special teaching activities by qualified teacher. 384 children are learning with interest at CAC centres. The extra-curricular activities conducted for children are games and sports, singing and dance, drawing, quiz competition, moral storytelling, revision the school teachings and teach the tuition classes to the children learning behind.
- Celebrated the national important days and festivals like Independence Day, Republic Day, and Gandhi jayanthi, Dr. Ambedkar Jayanthi, World Environmental Day and World Earth day was celebrated at Children activity centre.



- The teachers training was conducted, 10 teachers and staff participated and are aware of Children acts and rights like POCSO, JJ Act, SARRA & CARA Act, Bala vikasa samithi, Child marriage, Child labor, Child line, NEP, right to education, Gender sensitising, food security and malnutrition etc

- 11 youth groups are functioning, each group is consisting of 10-15 youths with total 202 youth members. They were conducting meeting once in a month and discuss the social issues and involved in social works for the development of village and slum area. The life skill workshop conducted to motivate the youths by noted motivational speakers on opportunities and to find a way to the future. 25 young women over the age of 18 years from poor families under gone 45 days skill development training on tailoring and fashion designing, many of them get employed at garment factory and self-employed.
- 40 Young mothers/ pregnant women/ parents meetings were conducted, 844 members participated, in these meetings trained on malnutrition, anaemia, obesity, and NRC, MNRC, ICDS programme. The International Women's Day was celebrated at Ranebennur. 65 mothers and 53 children were participated, they known about children rights, law and acts, ICDS programme activities and women and child welfare schemes etc. The identified malnourished children admitted to hospital for recovery, young women those suffering from anaemic were supported under the ICDS programme. Apart from this young women were trained on various skill development programme, and are living independently.
- The school audit has been conducted, many of schools needs toilet facility, play grounds and construction of compound walls and shortage of teachers etc. This was noticed to SDMC members, memorandum was submitted to the CMC and concern grama panchayat. The advocacy has been done by SDMC members and works have been included their action plan and it is in process.



- Poor family members got employment under MGNREGA like tanks desilting, diversion channel and forest pit digging and planting works locally, 1057 labors availed the work of 90530 man days under MGNREGA earned wages of Rs.28607480/-. Under the labor bank additional works availed locally like harvesting of vegetables like Garlic, Onion, chilly, weeding and planting etc. 332 labors availed additional labor work of 1575 man days earned wages of Rest. 423100/-, and didn't get sufficient works because of no rains in the area and declared as drought
- 49 poor women headed families of those affected by COVID 19 supported Rest. 10000/- each under livelihood promotion. All are get involved in income generating activities like rearing of sheep and goat, bangle vending, cloth business, vegetable vending, petty cash shops and tailoring etc. Now they become self-employed, earning, and leads a dignified life in the society.
- The poor girl child have got an opportunity to improve the educational status, sensitize the parents to continue their education. The girl child got educational support like learning education material kits and scholarship support by CIF Bangalore. It was noticed that academic performance of these girl child at school/college is good and continued their education.

3. POPI- FARMERS PRODUCERS ORGANIZATIONS (FPOs)

VRDS is working as POPI under NABARD to promote formation of FPO in Ranebennur and Bydagi taluka. It has promoted 2 FPOs in Haveri district, Bhoomika FPO in 2016 at Itagi villages in Ranebennur taluka and Kantasha Animal Husbandry FPO at Kadarmandalagi village in the year 2021 under guidance and supported by NABARD Bangalore. The Bhoomika FPO is registered under Society Act and Kantasha FPO is registered under Company Act. These are the independent bodies formed by the farmers and functioning in 10-15 villages. FPOs involved in share capital mobilization through farmers, organizing training and exposures to its stakeholders, direct purchase of agri produces like major and minor millets and involving agri inputs supply business etc. The Bhoomika FPO have a full pledged solar based millet processing unit at Itagi village, and processing the millets, producing value added products, packing, labelling and marketing the products with BHOOMIKA brand. Kantasha FPO is more focussing on Animal Husbandry activities. The FPOs have a Machinery Hire Centre (MHC) for providing services to its shareholders on hire basis. The major highlights during year is

- FPOs mobilised 106 new shareholders during the year with 1243 shareholders up to the end with paid up share capital of Rest. 14 .45 lakhs.
- Organized 03 training programme on FPOs to the shareholder and directors at KVK training centre Hanumanamatti, they trained on various opportunities to the FPOs in future, roles and responsibilities of directors, shareholders and CEO. The directors, shareholders, CEO and staff were participated and got knowledge.
- Organized 02 exposure training to 45 farmers including directors and members of Kantasha FPO to visit Buffaloes breeding farm Tegur and Killar breeding farm Bankapur under the support of Dept. of AH&VS Bydagi.
- Under the guidance VRDS, PUCHIMADDU bio pesticide production unit was established by Mehaboob Subhani women SHG member under the support of CIF Bangalore and Sahja Samdruddi. The unit was producing more than 500 litre of bio pesticide and it is branded and marketing by FPO. It has got very good response from farmers with good opinion. Now it is popular, demand in the area, in future similar units will be replicated in other blocks through



SHGs.

- 02 research demo plots developed by the shareholder farmer in the FPOs area under the support of RRA Network Hyderabad for conserving the indigenous 20 varieties of Ragi and 17 varieties of Okra. 02 field days organised for disseminating of these varieties and its importance in conserving the indigenous varieties. Nearly 250-300 farmers from nearby villages participated, Scientists from KVK, UAS Dharwad and departmental officers participated as guests/ resource persons.

- FPOs availed working capital loan of Rs.10.00 lakh from NABKISAN Bangalore, and it is being fully utilised for its business and repayment was done in time.
- FPOs involved in agri inputs business and machinery hire services, 342 shareholders/ farmers availed the inputs and tractor services from FPOs, and business turnover is Rs. 12.18 lakhs, it is less because of drought situation , and make a profit of Rs. 188400/- by FPOs .
- FPOs created assets worth of Rs.32.00 lakh and it is managed by FPOs.

4. LABOR BANK EXTENDED PROJECT: Improve the living situation of small, marginal and landless labors through their community-based organizations in the Haveri district.

VRDS is launched the labor bank extended project in the month October 2023 under the support of Azeem Premjee Philanthropist Bangalore. It is being implemented in 03 taluka in the Haveri district. The project aims to enhance the livelihoods of all landless, small and marginal farmers by adequate employment opportunities under MGNREGA schemes and increase the income of small and marginal farmers by reducing the inputs cost through sustainable agriculture practices, through this can reduce the labor migration. The major high lights of the project during the year is

- Project is being implemented in 17 villages under 09 Grama Panchayats of 03 blocks, ie; Ranebennur, Badge and Hirekerur taluka.
- 20% household base line survey was completed,1703 household covered from 17 villages,
- Project awareness has been created by conducting meetings, 1150 unorganised labors together formed 51 labor groups, and are trained on MGNREGA Act, labor bank concept and various government schemes etc.
- For Micro watershed development model under MGNREGA, in villages watershed area have been identified with an area of 100-200 acres, conducted net plan of this area, detailed project reports prepared and are submitted ZP via concern GPs for approval. These micro watershed will be implemented under MGNREGA works convergence through line departments.
- 08 labor groups worked 15153 man days of work under MGNREGA, earned wages of Rs.4788296/- each group earned an average of Rs.598537/-. A few labors worked under labor bank, labors didn't get works in farm lands because of severe drought in the area.
- Project awareness has been created by conducting meetings at village level, 854 SF/MF farmers together formed 41 Farmers Interested Groups (FIG), regular meetings conducted once in a month. Farmers trainings conducted on sustainable agriculture practices, 400 farmers participated from 20 FIGs.



- Farmer identification is under process for demonstrating the sustainable agriculture models in each FIG, and further it will be replicated by other members also.

- Identified the Guddadahosalli, Yelavadahalli and Masanagi village for establishing the Bio pesticide units, organised exposure training to 10 members at Thirta village where unit was successfully running by women SHG members, and all necessary inputs provided under the project. Similarly identified the Lingadevarakoppa, Billahalli and Masanagi village for establishing the community seeds bank provided with all necessary inputs, and are waiting for inauguration.
- 26 labor group leader/ meti` participated in the taluk union meetings. The labors issues was discussed and brought to the notice of the government officers, and 10 meti`s participated in district labor union meeting.

5. CHILD SPONSOR PROGRAMME

VRDS is implementing the project for the wellbeing of the children belonging to the fishing communities and other backward communities in 50 rural villages of two district headquarters of Karnataka State namely Karwar and Mangalore. The main objective is to ensure that the children from the most deprived, excluded, and vulnerable communities, live in conditions that are safe, which enable their optimum development and help realise their full potential in life. Children are deprived of necessities such as their rights towards quality education, safety and violence free proper environment. Youth do not have access to proper livelihood and opportunities for development and they tend to migrate to cities, converting to daily labors, earning low wages in unsafe environments.



VRDS working to address these issues that affect the children and youth through various interventions on Health, Education, Child protection, CCP and Livelihood programme at gross root level. The child sponsored under this project is 532 children (264 at Karwar and 268 at Mangalore). The children learning centres, 12 children clubs, 12 youth clubs, 25 SHGs and 21 VLCPCs are functioning in the project area. More than 31167 lives are benefitting through these interventions.

CONCLUSION:

VRDS used multi dimension approach for the overall development of Rural Community through community based approach with zeal and commitment. We initiated variety of livelihood skill development trainings, food security, linkages with government schemes, health, and children education, child rights and protection etc, The Community Organizers are staying in villages and are working professionally towards the development of SHGs, Labors group, Union and Federations. MIS system monitored and managed regularly. We are taking over all care, development and best utilization of available resources and man power.

VRDS continues to work with most vulnerable families driven by our core value. As we will see our programs are having more empathy, commitment, dedication and proactive reaching out to the poor and needy.

VRDS is also expressing thanking the donors, all Government line departments, Bankers and many other well-wishers for extending their unconditional support, timely advice and guidance, financial support and motivated us to carry out the project most effectively in the districts. We are fortunate to have donors who have given us their unstinting support. We will strive to be transparent and accountable.