

Meeting Minutes - 21st Dec 2014

Attendees - Ranga, Bharath, Mohit, Vikram and Sowmya

Siddamma's Fellowship - Vikram and Sowmya

A) Supporting 20-25 new Irula (tribe) villages

- 1) 20 to 25 new villages have contacted S for help
- 2) The support request generally falls under these specific categories
 - + Bonded labor, salary issues, slavery,
 - + Awareness of their rights and privileges as a citizen, ration, kids education
 - + Accidental death and injury, threats, legal cases and abuse cases
- 3) She is well known and is generally reach out for help. The specific issues will be known in the coming weeks/ months to then cater to the most urgent needs
- 4) She will send us the list of the villages by December 11
- 5) Generally she trains a bunch of self-starters and guides them to then take over their community and handle the local effort where it is possible.
- 6) It generally takes 2-4 years from the time a village approaches her.
- 7) However, the progress duration is getting compressed with experience
- 8) Some issues (that ASHA may be interested):
Sumangali Chitta: Young girls are sent for work with a promise of taking care of their weddings when they grow older. Leads to exploiting and child labor,

B) Un-Organized Worker's federation (UOWF)

- 1) Siddamma is an advisor to the UOWF
- 2) UOWF is membership based union that meets regularly to:
 - + Promote workers' rights
 - + Educate workers on government schemes
 - + Control human rights abuse
- 3) She to send out a report on social impact of the work done by them

C) Bharathi Trust Resource Center (Farm)

- 1) 2-3 officials from TN Agriculture Dept generally bring seniors and others to the farm to learn and observe the procedures
- 2) TN Agri Dept regularly buys 40-50 k INR worth of seems/ rice from BTRC farm
- 3) Last year's produce include Tuvar daal, Wheat and black gram
- 4) She has a man that tends the cows-which are essential for an organic farm. This has been a difficult proposition
- 5) She has been invited to the government Rice Research center in Thiruvur for a meeting on the 9th december
 - + It will be attended by scientists and farmers and industry officials to discuss issues, best practices and the likes
- 6) BTRC has been able to spread the Organic word to the local farmers
- 7) But regulations and incentives favor cash crops like sugar cane and dithers that rely on chemical pesticides
- 8) government is leaning towards GMO and mor epeople like Namalvar may be needed to do go

towards non-GMO organic future

9) TN (unlike Kerala and Karnataka) seems to have no strict zoning which allows only farmers to buy farm lands. This is leading to lesser farmers and farm land and more migration towards other sectors(crick , construction, etc

Questions/Comments -

1. How did Siddamma support herself in the past couple of years ?2. Generally, the fellowship is for personal expenses.

Meeting Minutes - 11th Jan 2015

Attendees : Ranga, Sowmya, Arvind, Mohit

Siddamma's Fellowship

Answer to earlier questions

1. How did Siddamma support herself in the past couple of years ?

Ans) Siddamma has not any fellowship support for the last two years, since Asha Austin discontinued her funding. Her son has resumed work in India and is supporting her personal expenses and her work at this point in time.

2. How much is the fellowship amount ?

Ans) Siddamma's Fellowship amount in 2009-2010 was Rs 20,000/month. In 2011, Asha Fellowship Program ([link](#)) revised the max cap to Rs. 25000/month. The chapter has the flexibility to decide what is the correct amount of fellowship. This should be based on the feedback from the fellow, project steward and the information chapter has about the cost of living in the geographic location etc. Since, Siddamma is now working with 20-25 new villages and is based in Chennai, Asha Austin feels Rs 25000/month is suitable for her fellowship.

Other Questions :

1) Has anyone done a site-visit ? Who will do the site-visit in future ?

Ans) Savitha met with Siddamma in Dec 2014 and the update on Dec 21st was based on that. Vikram or Sowmya plan to do future site visits.

Action item : Setup Poll

Mohit to setup an online poll to vote on Siddamma's Fellowship (amount Rs.25000/month).

Meeting Minutes - 25th Jan 2015

Attendees - Sowmya, Vikram, Ranga, and Mohit

1. Siddamma's fellowship program - Poll Results
 - a. Results : 6 Yes / 0 No
 - b. Poll results are available here - [link](#)
 - c. Feedback : Add option for Abstain and comments for future polls.
 - d. Question : The fellowship program mentions that the disbursal happens middle of the year. How does Asha Austin handle this. Sowmya and Vikram to find out from Rajeev.