



:Aspiration in Siddi Community:

Summary: Siddi community are particular tribe community live with unique identify of their colour, language, art and culture in the project area of MANUVIKASA NGO. They are hard workers live inside the forest. They are discriminated from education and livelihood compared to mainstream society. MANUVIKASA is working with them to develop the living standards of the community. This story talks about the effort of MANUVIKASA.

Women meeting were conducted at Hunashettikoppa village of Yallapura taluk. We asked to sing a song. They informed each through eye contact and started singing. One person brought the Dolak-a drum beat instrument. They sung so nicely with the drum beat and claps in their own language. Small children to old age women gave corus for the song.



This is the cultural richness of the Siddi community and witness for their protected art and lovely life. Siddi community people live mostly in Yallapura taluk. As they are living in forest live in absolute poverty. They are devoid of education and live with low income and standard of living. Their life is dependent on forest produces and not much skilled on agriculture.

MANUVIKASA is working since 2021 for the development of this particular community. As most of Siddis are working as labourers in others farms they lack skills on setting up new livelihood ventures. MANUVIKASA introducing agriculture development, food processing, business skills for youth, micro enterprise facility, expansion of marketing, etc to the community people.

Organizing Siddis: MANUVIKASA is facilitating Siddi communities to form self-help groups. It has set forming 100 women self-help groups. As of July 2022, 50 SHGs are formed and within few months the balance will be formed with the support of the MANUVIKASA- said by Mohan who is working as Community Organizer with Siddi community.

Farmer Producers Organization (FPO) formation process is also initiated. The FPO will be having mandate for collection, processing and marketing of forest produces, mainly non-timber produces such as honey, wild turmeric, jackfruit and its value added products, soapnut, etc. Moreover, Siddi youth are provided tourism training. There is a plan to establish a big shopping complex for the Siddi community to trade and market their products.



Support to Micro-Enterprises: Little educated Siddi women and youth are provided support for establishing the business shops, photocopy centres, etc. As a first step Ms.Leena Francis established photocopy centre and Ms.Rekha opened a shop at Hunashettikoppa. They improved their business with the support of MANUVIKASA.

Value Addition: The Siddis who are living in and around the forest were using the Jackfruit profusely and wasting the remaining jackfruit as it is available abundantly. MANUVIKASA supported Siddis for value addition. Chips and papad are prepared and sold in the market now, after the training from MANUVIKASA. As it is started recently, they got Rs.15,000 income. After deducting Rs.3000 expenditure the net income is Rs.12,000. They are also planning to make banana chips in near future as business expansion.

Agriculture Development: Siddi community are having less knowledge and skills in agriculture as their main occupation is collection and marketing of forest produces. Due to changed forest policies they are not allowed to go inside the forests and stringent rules imposed by the forest department to protect the diminishing forest resources. Therefore, MANUVIKASA is motivating the youth to take up Agriculture activities through kitchen

garden, areca plantation, paddy cultivation, banana orchards, farm points for fisheries, backyard poultry, bee-keeping, tailoring training, woolen knitting, etc. Drip irrigation and pump set support is provided for those establishing horticulture, especially areca orchards.

Theresa Siddi who is beneficiary of the MANUVIKASA who taken up poultry has got Rs.4,000 income and also she planted 600 areca saplings in about 1.2 acres of land. Initially she use to water the plants manually now have set up pump set with the support of MANUVIKASA.

Rekha Siddi was running a business shop. She wanted to expand her business. She got Refrigerator from MANUVIKASA and now she can preserve the vegetables for long and sell it without spoiling. She also planted 100 areca saplings in 0.20 acres of land. She is rearing 4 honey bee boxes in the backyard. She obtained training bee-keeping. Areca plants are planted by Shanthi Siddi, Anila Siddi, Greycy Siddi, Anitha Pais, Maresh for planting in half acre land by each. Moreover, they got 100 chicken birds each to grow. These activities are being taken up recently and trainings are provided for proper management of the activity. There is growing demand by the Siddis to establish and grow areca orchards.



Inclusion: The SHGs formed by the MANUVIKASA now included under the Sanjeevini program of the state government livelihood project. SHGs are getting loan facility, economic literacy training and marketing linkages under the project.

Strategy: MANUVIKASA has appointed two youth from the Siddi community as Community Organizers. This helps the organization to understand the Siddis social norms, culture, necessities, interest, etc. It also become easy for proper communication with the community which is speaking a unique language. Mr.Ganapathi Bhat of MANUVIKASA say that this strategy made them to reach more and more Siddis easily with good results.

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