

Expected outcome

1. Sharing across best practices of mutuality in managing risks by poor households
2. Synthesize the knowledge gained out of practice for wider sharing
3. Identify challenges to be addressed collectively

Date & Venue

September 21, 2017 – Thursday at Thamukkam Grounds, Tallkulam, Madurai from 10 am

DHAN Foundation

DHAN Foundation works with over one million poor families in 14 states of India, striving to improve the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities by organizing them to reduce poverty and address their various development needs. The interventions are spread across urban, rural, coastal and tribal contexts. It works in different thematic areas including micro finance, tankfed agriculture, rainfed agriculture, information & communication technology for poor and self governance of local bodies.

People Mutuals

People Mutuals, the insurance initiative of DHAN Foundation, strives for safeguarding the poor from risks and vulnerabilities through collaboration with insurance providers and mutual solutions to reduce poverty. The poor are provided access to insurance company products that meet their needs. The gaps in the insurance company products are identified and mutual solutions are evolved and designed to ensure comprehensive risk coverage. At present over one million poor have been provided with access to different types of insurance including life, health, livestock, crop and micro pension.

For further information, please contact



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Building Resilience for Sustaining Development

Convention on Mutual Insurance for Building Resilience

Organized by



People Mutuals
Social Security Initiative of DHAN Foundation

Madurai Symposium 2017

Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai
September 21, 2017

Development Stakeholders gather biennially at Madurai in a development market place, Madurai Symposium” to share, learn from each other experience and practices and explore opportunities for collaboration. The symposium attracts diverse stakeholders in development: Community Organisations, Civil societies/NGOs, Government, Banks, Insurance Companies, CSR Foundations, Donors, Philanthropists and Academia. The Madurai Symposium 2017 seeks to engage with the critical element of challenges in building resilience to sustain development processes towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

Appreciating resilience in the development context

Globally, it has been recognized that development process would not be sustained, nay, stalled or even retarded due to lack of resilience. Resilience is the ability/capacity of the people, households, communities, countries to cope up with Shocks and Stresses through mitigation, adaptation and quickly recover in order to reduce chronic vulnerability and enable sustained development, inclusive growth and learning and transformative capacity. Building resilience is a progressive and long term process that goes beyond humanitarian relief and development investment by addressing a wider set of inherently connected challenges that collectively prevent communities from achieving and maintaining development gains. It is obvious sustaining Post SDGs hinges on inherent buildup of resilience. Among the SDGs, from the perspective of resilience having larger impact in achieving the goals, the themes such as Social Capital for building Resilience, Resilience in Agriculture eco-systems, Resilience to cope up with Climate Change and Resilience in Disasters rank high on the pecking order of priorities. These themes have been so closely inter-related in terms of cause and effect, the complementarities of resilience building among these interconnected themes presents interesting challenges and opportunities.

Social Capital for building Resilience

It is quite evident through ages that communities getting organized and pulling together have demonstrated greater coping capacity to meet the challenges stemming from natural disasters, hazards, catastrophes, etc. In relative terms, among the communities those endowed well economically have been able to show greater resilience to bounce back to normal. The poor being more vulnerable to shocks/stresses, the imperative of being organized and building larger social capital base cannot be overemphasized. Self- Help Group movement of poor women, for instance, has shown greater resilience in coping with risks and vulnerabilities in so many different ways in different contexts. These experiences when shared in Madurai Symposium would enhance our understanding of the dynamics and nuances of how these communities prepare themselves and build resilience through collective action.

Convention on Social Capital for building Resilience through Mutuality – An Introduction

Poor households are exposed to a variety of events beyond their immediate control that put them at financial risk. These events range from predictable life cycle events such as marriage, childbirth, education and death and to less predictable events such as droughts, fire, floods and catastrophic illness. To cope with these events, non poor households, resort to savings, credit, insurance and other financial intermediation mechanisms. The difference between poor and non poor households is in the ease of access to such financial coping mechanisms.

Until about a decade ago, the poor were considered “unbankable” and “uninsurable”. It was assumed that the poor living on a dollar a day cannot and do not want to save or contribute to insurance against risks. Consequently, few formal risk protection mechanisms were accessible to the poor. However, informal risk protection mechanisms through families, friends, and community networks have always existed. The steady expansion of the role of communities in operating savings, credit, and insurance services by and for the poor has gained prominence. Insurance became the graduated product after savings and credit in SHGs and Farmers Associations promoted by DHAN and its thematic programmes.

An exclusive entity, People Mutuals was promoted in the year 2003 to spearhead all the insurance related operations in the DHAN collective institutions. Since, its inception, People Mutuals has emerged not only as pivot for the social security initiative but also as a mutual reinsurer. Besides, it grooms the federation mutuals that are mutual entities at local level to facilitate and provide mutual insurance for the member families. As a result, about 1.2 million persons have got protection against life (death and longevity), health, crop, livestock risks through various insurance products.

In order to synthesize the 12 years of sustained contribution to the communities in fostering the mutuality practices, this convention is organized as part of Madurai Symposium 2017.

Objective of the Convention

The convention aims at facilitating sharing of best practices of mutuality in managing various risks, synthesize the knowledge areas that have proved effective for practice and to identify challenges that need to be addressed collectively involving different stakeholders.

Participants

The participants of the programme include the members, staff, the leaders of community based organizations, insurance companies and veterans in the insurance sector.

