



Madurai Symposium 2023

Advancing Development: New Social Order

23-27 September 2023



Bulletin

Day 2: 24 September 2023

The 11th edition of Madurai Symposium, a unique signature event of DHAN Foundation, got off to a start in Madurai on Saturday, 23 September 2023. Over 760 community leaders, development workers and students from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry have participated on the second day in the five-day event that carries the theme: 'Advancing Development: New Social Order.'

KNOWLEDGE BRIEF

Convention on Institutionalised Practices of New Social Order by Kalanjiam Women Members and their Family of Moved Out of Poverty (MoP) Declared Members

Individuals especially women when given appropriate exposure and space prove themselves and shine by exhibiting their innate talents and skills. The positive attitude, never diminishing ambitions/aspirations, self-Belief, Skill sets and discipline make every individual Kalajiam members in moving out of poverty. The real-life experiences of the member who moved out of poverty have shown Patience, integrity, leadership ability, concern for the peer members, entrepreneurial skill. These members felt elated and happy when their remarkable feat got recognised by their families. This instils the self-confidence of the members to attain great heights. Promoting women entrepreneurship skills with family enterprise create larger space for women for advancing livelihoods towards addressing poverty collectively. Success of women in economic sphere fastens the families' prosperity transformation. Being in people institution provides women with opportunities to promote development products that are accessible, appropriate and affordable. Institutions provides the scope for tapping the needful resources through localised community governance. Practising new social order by individuals bring in change at the family level get transpired into family identity thereby getting institutionalised in creating a society bound by virtues.

Convention on Building Local Food System for Nutrition Security among Adolescents: A New Social Order

The Adolescent Convention on Building Local Food Systems for Nutrition Security among Adolescents brought together 150 peer educators from various regions, government officials and healthcare experts at Madurai Symposium 2023. It aimed at addressing the challenges of practicing local food systems, primarily focusing on combating anaemia among adolescents, aged 10 to 19 years. Adolescents undergo rapid growth and development, making a balanced intake of macronutrients and micronutrients that are crucial for their health and well-being.

Local food systems involve production, distribution and consumption of food within a specific geographic area, promoting community-based agriculture and direct-to-consumer sales. However, the current scenario reveals concerning statistics, with a high percentage of adolescent girls suffering from anaemia and other nutritional problems like osteoporosis, underweight issues and delayed sexual maturation.

Challenges faced by adolescents include access to fresh, nutritious food and the ability to prepare it. Educational programmes can empower them to make healthy choices, emphasizing the benefits of local, fresh produce. Involving adolescents in local food systems through activities like community gardens and cooking classes fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility while contributing to sustainable agriculture.

To optimize local food systems for adolescents, declarations were made on ensuring food accessibility, providing nutrition education, involving adolescents in the food system, self-monitoring of health, research on nutritional needs and partnerships with relevant institutions. Affordability, food safety, and hygiene are also crucial factors in this endeavour, with adolescents playing a vital role in advocating for healthier food options and practices within their communities.

Workshop on Financial Inclusion through SCRIPT and its Role in Promoting New Social Order in Women Self-Help Groups

The New Social Order (NSO), inspired by figures like Gandhi, Buddha and Kumarappa, envisions a just, equitable and sustainable society. It addresses gender inequality, economic inequity, discrimination, apathy and poverty. Globally, the gender gap is 68.6%, with wider disparities in places like India (62.1%). The gender pay gap is a concern, and women bear the brunt of unpaid care work. Women are also underrepresented in leadership roles, hindering decision-making.

SCRIPT (Savings, Credit, Remittances, Insurance, Pension and Digital Transactions) is vital in advancing NSO. It promotes savings, empowering women for education and entrepreneurship. Access to credit drives economic growth. It enables seamless remittances, strengthens family bonds and ensures insurance protection. SCRIPT also offers pension schemes and extends digital banking to remote areas, benefitting underserved women.

SCRIPT contributes to economic empowerment, gender equality, financial literacy, women's leadership and closing the gender pay gap. Action is needed at the level of individual, family, institution and society for effective financial inclusion. Embracing SCRIPT aligns with NSO's vision of justice and transformation.

Seminar on Institutionalising New Social Order Practices at Individual and Family Level through Access of Multiple Services among Women SHGs

The best practices through experience sharing reflected that the access of multiple services among women SHG members have impacted their lives on multiple aspects and the services have transformed families in addressing poverty in a systematic way. The individual's approach and strategies of utilising these services act as an eye opener for the fellow members on the way the SHGs services could be made use of more effectively. The five prominent services financial, social, environmental, cultural and political have multiple dimensions in each one of it. The SHGs as a platform provide all the services to its members with no discrimination providing equitable access to the services. Effective utilisation of the services had given remarkable impact in transforming the lives of the members' families. Non-financial services and its relevance have made significant impression in the lives of the poor in

addressing poverty. Through the seminar it is found that Institutionalising new development interventions indeed make transformative changes in the lives of the member families.

Workshop on Shared Responsibility in Restoring Commons for Generations: Role of Panchayat and People Institutions

Collaboration between panchayats and Vayalagam Water Users' Associations is highly indispensable in any form of water conservation work. According to the census of water bodies published by the Union Ministry of Jal Sakthi in May 2023, around 38,500 water bodies are entirely encroached and more than 95% of them are located in rural regions. This calls for a shared responsibility to protect the water commons against encroachment and related issues. A New Social Order for protecting the water commons for future generations is anticipated to be established as a shared responsibility between the panchayat and people institutions. The panchayats and Vayalagam have a shared responsibility agreement for the management of water resources and also for sharing of usufructs.

Sharing of usufructs between the panchayat and Vayalagam Water Users' Association sets an organic phenomenon in resource sharing through a significant management approach. Aquaculture in tank systems, tree upkeep in water spread and foreshore zones and related activities are handled by Vayalagam, which shares the revenue with the panchayat in a predetermined ratio. In addition to resource sharing, it enables the panchayat institutions to provide water security for needy families by utilizing the expertise of the Vayalagam Water Users' Association. The joint endeavours of the panchayat and Vayalagam institutions make it easier to direct MGNREGS funds towards NRM projects on private properties of the poor. Most importantly, the interface between Vayalagam and the panchayat system channelizes the benefits of various government entitlements towards member families, aiming at holistic development.

Workshop on Water Literacy for Youth

One of the pressing goals of the today's society is water conservation for future generations. Indeed, youth are more creative and vibrant section in the society and has high receptivity and sensitivity towards external factors. They have a strong sense of reciprocating to the external environment based on its influence they undergo. In today's scenario shaping the youth with basic values

systems is the need of the hour to safeguard them from anti-social elements and also to drive them towards ideal citizenship.

The characteristic features of youth belong to various contexts such as rural, urban, tribal and coastal are unique to each other across India. In the urban context, urbanization has progressively taken over traditional water bodies, erasing the profound connection between younger generations and water. In urban areas, this disconnect intensifies as water bodies suffer from inadequate management, neglect, and degradation caused by invasive species, waste accumulation, and the adverse effects of social elements like alcoholism. The estrangement from water in urban settings, combined with easy access for domestic purposes, fosters apathy toward water. Remarkably, traditional water conservation knowledge, passed down through generations, finds no place in educational curricula. It is vital to increase the commitment of youth towards environmental conservation via structured investment at different levels, including family, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

It is important to recognize that the youth display a willingness for collective action, as demonstrated during the drought period from 2014 to 2017. Given the youth's mobility due to factors such as education and employment, institutions can help preserve their legacy through youth groups, clubs, and volunteers to retain their interest. Social media and technology provide substantial platforms for youth to mobilize and raise awareness.

Workshop on New Social Order for Agriculture Productivity Enhancement- Perspectives, Practices, Challenges and Way Forward

Productivity enhancement involves increasing crop yields per unit area. This can be achieved through various methods of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). GAP comprises non-negotiable principles applicable to every stage of farming, from land selection to post-harvest practices. With the support of lead/resource farmers, the best practices can be documented, leading to the development of a Sustainable Agriculture Kit that serves as a comprehensive set of guidelines for farmers.

The precise usage of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals play a crucial role in enhancing productivity and maintaining soil fertility. Precision methods entail using inputs at the correct dosage and timing through

digital and technological interventions. There is an urgent need to orient the farming community about advisable quantum of inputs to be used especially the fertilizers.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is gaining popularity among farming communities because it offers various adaptation techniques for coping with changing climates. This includes the construction of stone bunds to reduce soil moisture loss and erosion, building farm ponds for irrigation water storage, promoting mixed farming, integrated farming, and agroforestry. Both CSA and GAP address economic viability, social sustainability, and food safety considerations. The New Social Order towards productivity enhancement calls for a comprehensive approach which includes showcasing the practices of progressive farmers and also to disseminate the emerging technologies at large.

Workshop on Redefining Development Education towards New Social Order

Development Education, unlike other branches of education, provides more scope for working for the welfare of the poor people and for holistic development with equity and justice. The essence of knowledge for teaching is drawn from community practices, behaviours and ethos. In that sense, a better understanding of the perspectives of New Social Order and its connectedness with the themes of Madurai Symposium 2023 gave an opportunity to shape the learnings of the students and alumni of the academy in promoting 4 Es viz. Equality, Equity, Empathy and Ethics, and the characteristics of the basics of development. Changes in the society are inevitable and the pursuance of New Social Order from self, family, institution and society levels will promote inclusive growth.

Workshop on Community Radio: to Ensure Digital Equity in New Social Order

Community radio is a localised, non-commercial and grassroots-driven broadcasting medium that prioritises community engagement, participation and relevance. Community radio serves as an invaluable asset and platform for various important reasons, each contributing to its significance and relevance – Radio is Embedded in Rural Lifestyle from Birth to Death and Radio is Demonstrating the Democracy. Radio licence brings the legality for development communication by the people institutions. People Institutions run Community Radio stations to bring Sustainable

Behaviour Change Communication to the community. Community Radio also plays a very significant role in bringing the government entitlement schemes and programmes to the needy by creating awareness of the mechanism to avail them with ease. From more than a decade of experience of two community radio stations of DHAN Foundation, it is learnt that community radio stations pave the way to transform civic knowledge into civic action, strengthen the social bonds within a community, create a strong sense of civic engagement among the residents and keep poor communities informed, enabled and connected. Community radio is also well connected with the community listeners by broadcasting programmes specially aligned to the needs of different walks of people like students, farmers, labourers, grazers and women.

Workshop on Fostering Model Community School by People Institutions to Nurture New Social Order

About 24% of the loans taken by the SHG members are for school education. This shows that education is considered a powerful tool for poverty eradication. Though families from economically weaker sections depend heavily on government schools for educating their children, in the process of graduation, their investment in education moves towards private schools irrespective of their affordability. As the education investment towards private schools has become one of the prime leakages of poor families, the fall of student strength has adversely pushed the major chunk of government primary schools to single-teacher or two-teacher schools affecting the poorest of the poor who are dependent on those schools. To get rid of this vicious cycle, the people institutions promoted by DHAN Foundation which are in the process of empowering communities towards financial stability have realized the importance of collective investment towards education interventions. For this, the community envisages promoting a 'Model Community School', that would act as a resource centre to strengthen the government schools, supplementary evening centres, and open schooling. Experiences from Karunai DHAN school have motivated the people institutions that the community can run an affordable, transparent, quality education for children from economically weaker sections. With these inspirations, the people institutions have come up with the fundamentals of creating inclusive educational spaces with global perspectives, democratic, collective, and self-designed learning

processes for the holistic development of children as an individual, integral parts of society, and harmony with the ecosystem for building a better social order.

PROCEEDINGS

Convention on Institutionalised Practices of New Social Order by Kalanjiam Women Members and their Family of Moved Out of Poverty (MoP) Declared Members



As part of the second day's proceedings of the Madurai Symposium 2023, a people's convention on "Institutionalised practices of New Social Order in Moved Out of Poverty (MoP) declared Kalanjiam SHG members and their families" was organised by Kalanjiam Foundation.

Ms. A. Umarani, Chief Executive, Kalanjiam Foundation, in her inaugural address, highlighted that more than 4.5 lakh members in DHAN have declared themselves as MoP. Kalanjiam itself had 3.5 lakh members out of poverty. Though many efforts were made since independence for poverty eradication, very few among the poor felt that they had come out of poverty. She asked the Kalanjiam members to share their experiences, systems and self-discipline that made them to come out of the clutches of poverty and the significant changes witnessed at home in food, health, livelihood, family management and other aspects because of the interventions.

Mr. Sivanandan, in his lead note, said that the prime objective of Kalanjiam Foundation was poverty eradication and women empowerment. He appreciated the efforts of individual members and their family members for supporting them and the support services rendered by Kalanjiam Foundation that paved the way for the remarkable feat of lakhs of poor people declaring themselves as 'Moved Out of Poverty.'

Ms. Ramani, Shanti Nagar Kalanjiya Samakhya of Vishakapatnam Region, narrated how she was able to emerge as a successful homemaker and ensure education for her children, despite her husband being a physically challenged person, with access to credit provided by Kalanjiam. Because of the focussed interventions by her Kalanjiam group she was able to ensure a sustainable life without penury.

Ms. Rathnamma of Mysore Region spoke about how Kalanjiam members, who were dependent on their fathers or husbands, had gained independence in various aspects of their life. At the time of her marriage, she lived in a joint family but later moved out with a debt of Rs 1.5 lakh. Through prompt repayment of the loan, she received as a member of the Kalanjiam Self-Help Group, she was able to make her son an M.Sc. (Agriculture) graduate and was out of poverty now.

Ms. Revathi of Sellur Vattara Kalanjiam of Madurai Urban Region narrated her story of being one among five girl children for her parents. She got married after 10th standard to a drunkard who could not support her financially. She had to come back with her children to Madurai where she admitted them in a government school. With the credit services and a small tailoring unit, she had now admitted her son to a course in Engineering in Anna University with government scholarship and her daughter was studying B.Com.

Ms. Gouramma of Gulbarga Region shared her story of coming out of poverty by availing education loans from her group to pay the college fees of her children and starting livestock-based business with another loan from the group.

Convention on Building Local Food System for Nutrition Security among Adolescents: A New Social Order

The second day of the Madurai Symposium 2023 featured a Convention on Building Local Food Systems for Nutrition Security among Adolescents: A New Social Order. Mr. Muthiah, who outlined the day's agenda, stressed the importance of integrating the activities related to the well-being of adolescent girls into the broader NSO framework.

Mr. Rajapandian, CEO of SUHAM Trust, said the convention aimed to address the concerns of the health sector. Ms. Thilaga, an adolescent participant, spoke about the significance of traditional, healthy and hygienic food, emphasizing the importance of traditional foods in our daily lives.



Mrs. D. Logamatha, who drew attention to the alarming statistics of the adolescent population in India, highlighted that one-fifth of the population comprised adolescents, with nearly 70 % of adolescent girls suffering from anaemia. She explained the far-reaching consequences of poor nutrition and compared them with the benefits of adhering to traditional foods that can significantly improve nutritional fulfilment. She also shed light on the detrimental effects of junk food and stressed the need to consume a healthy diet.

The objectives of the convention included review of the existing status of local food systems among adolescent girls, providing opportunities for self-development and showcasing best practices for building nutritional security.

Mrs. Shobana Kumar of the District Child Protection Unit, Madurai, highlighted the mental challenges faced by adolescents, including early marriage, sexual harassment and educational disparities. She affirmed that education and support for their rights would empower adolescent girls to overcome these obstacles. Ms. Amutha from the Department of Social Welfare underscored the need for adolescents to consume breakfast regularly, emphasizing that skipping meals deprived them of energy and stamina.

Four adolescent participants from various DHAN collective federations delivered speeches on the benefits of consuming drumstick and carrot juice regularly. They also highlighted the importance of including small millets like kuthirai vali, samai and varagu in daily diet. Ms. Madhusri spoke about the advantages of not using beauty products that had harmful effects and urged the participants to prioritize water intake and include more small millets in their diet.

The programme also featured impressive silambam, karate and dance performances by five adolescents. Mr. N. Saravanan advised the participants to avoid fast food

and instead focus on traditional foods. The convention proposed solutions to improve eating habits, including the inclusion of greens, small millets and other traditional food items in the diet. Learning to cook nutritious and delicious traditional foods and promoting kitchen gardens at individual households, along with regular monitoring and evaluation, were the other suggestions.

The adolescents committed themselves to the consumption of small millets at least once a week, monitoring haemoglobin (HB) levels, promoting kitchen gardens and serving as role models for the upcoming generation.

Workshop on Financial Inclusion through SCRIPT and its Role in Promoting New Social Order in Women Self-Help Groups



The Madurai Symposium 2023, centred around "Advancing Development and the New Social Order," featured a workshop on 'Financial Inclusion through SCRIPT and its role in promoting NSO in women Self-Help Groups' on Sunday.

In her keynote address, Ms. S. Ahila Devi, CEO of People Mutuals, highlighted the importance of SCRIPT (Savings, Credit, Insurance, Pension, and Digital Transactions) within the context of the New Social Order (NSO). For over 25 years, Kalanjams had served members' needs, with savings as a crucial element for financial security, she said and stressed the need for pensions and digital transactions while discussing the 4Es: Equity, Equality, Ethics and Empathy within NSO. She pointed out that Kalanjams' unique interest rate of 9% on savings was unavailable in traditional banks.

Dr. A. Madhan Kumar, CEO of DHAN HOPE, and Ms. Ahila Devi presented the Annual Report of Gangai Vattara Kalanjiam, which was received by Mrs. Chittu. Dr. Madhan Kumar explained the strategies to boost

savings by reducing expenses, increasing income and adopting cost-effective practices such as LED bulbs and water conservation.

Mr. S. Iyappan and Mr. K. Shankar Prasad spoke about the relevance of NSO in Financial inclusion through SCRIPT. They discussed global gender gaps, SHG history and the 1989 initiation of the first Kalanjiam. SCRIPT empowered economically disadvantaged women by promoting savings, boosting confidence and enabling access to credit. It emphasized tangible equity, leveraged bank funds and supported social security through interest on savings, they explained.

Mrs. Lilly Pushpam, with 23 years of Kalanjiam experience, shared her savings journey, accumulating Rs. 1,01,000 in regular savings and Rs. 1,13,000 in special savings. Mrs. Chittu, a 28-year member of Kalamman Kalanjiam, described her group's remarkable savings growth, with each member holding over Rs. 1.5 lakh, totalling Rs. 17.5 lakh, and generating Rs. 15,000 annually in interest.

Key takeaways included prioritizing special savings, exploring interest on savings as a premium for social security schemes/pensions and developing context-specific, income-based special savings policies.

Credit (bank linkages) was another topic taken up for discussion at the workshop. Regulated credit appraisal mechanisms and prompt recovery empowered women and granted access to government entitlements, it was noted. Mrs. S. Nagalakshmi highlighted loan appraisal processes.

The discussion on insurance centred on reducing life uncertainties and offering financial protection. Pension schemes ensured dignified retirement; the participants were told. Experts favoured digital transactions to extend financial services to remote areas.

The participants split into four subgroups, leading to declarations on leveraging savings, promoting credit, harnessing social security and enhancing SCRIPT within NSO.

Seminar on Institutionalising New Social Order Practices at Individual and Family Level through Access of Multiple Services among Women SHGs

Mrs. K. Rajalakshmi, Chief Financial Officer and Programme Leader welcomed all leaders and gave an overview on how Kalanjiam is providing space for access to multiple benefits, Mr. N. Janakiraman,



Programme Leader explained about the main five services i.e., financial, social, environmental, cultural, and political. Financial services include savings, insurance, and credit. Social services focus on education, health, and livelihood. Environmental and ecological services included agriculture and water. Cultural services included value, ethics and traditions. Political services emphasize become panchayat leaders and every group leader empowered to poverty eradication. SHG is the platform to provide all the services to the members.

Mrs. A. Umarani, Chief Executive Officer, Kalanjiam Foundation, said “Only financial service is not enough for members to move out of poverty, but every individual should have improved one’s health, education and livelihood. This will be possible once effective use of loan by individuals with a strong feeling that their respective group is similar to a place of worship. She discussed that the individual needs focus on shaping self by increasing the positive characters resulting in large scale good practices. Invited community leaders from Vishakhapatnam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka briefed their success stories by availing multiple benefits in the group and coming out of poverty.

Mrs. K. Rajlakshmi provided a comprehensive overview of multiple services in Kalanjiam. Multiple services are not only materialistic and financial but also related to soft dimensions such as culture, traditions, values, ethics, and behaviour change for societal constructs with new social order. DHAN has created an innovative network of people institutions with verticals for specialized services to impact the poor families to be out of poverty and make them part of a value-based society, she said.

Kalanjiam’s Multiple financial services are savings, credit, repayment, insurance, pensions, and transactions/technology. Civic services like health, education, and basic amenities; Housing, water, energy,

Welfare services: pensions, other entitlements, Behavioural change services include Awareness of education, training, exposure, literacy, building values and culture: seminars and workshops, Political services like leadership, decision-making, resolving issues, Services about gender issues like domestic violence, children, counselling, and moral support. common resources Services are domestic water, next-generation leaders, sharing with others, protecting and safeguarding resources, judiciously using resources, and exhibiting resilience.

Ms. Sailaja, Regional coordinator proposed vote of thanks.

Workshop on Shared Responsibility in Restoring Commons for Generations: Role of Panchayat and People Institutions



The significance of panchayat and people institutions in preserving natural resources was widely discussed at the workshop on ‘Shared responsibility in restoring water commons for future generations.’ K. Ilavarasi, Senior Team Leader, explained the connection between the workshop and the Madurai Symposium's theme of "Advancing Development: New Social Order". Dr. B. Bhakiyathu Saliha, KVK, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, outlined the different government benefits accessible to women and farmers, along with the ways to avail them. She stated that the workshop's structure was triangular, with the panchayat system, community organisations and stakeholders occupying respective roles and spaces for collaboration. There was a goal to reach out to 59000 rainfed farmers in each district and she favoured the production of millets as highly ideal for rain fed conditions. Her talk focused on three main topics: small millet marketing, connectivity through technology and promoting agriculture entrepreneurs with a special focus on women.

While briefing the expected outcome of the workshop, V. Venkatesan, Chief Executive, DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation, said that around 40 agreements had been executed between panchayats and Vayalagam institutions for usufructs sharing so far and the objective was to reach 100 agreements. Mr. Rajashekar, Project Executive, highlighted the impact of a check dam constructed in Kottampatti block with the involvement of 14 model panchayats.

Mr. B. Prahalathan, Senior Team Leader, made the audience to appreciate the means of achieving self-sustainability for panchayats. The workshop concluded with an appeal to expand agreements between panchayats and Vayalagam Water Users' Associations to scale-up usufructs sharing across various geographical contexts.

Workshop on Water Literacy for Youth



Students from The American College, Madurai Kamaraj University, Sethu Institute of Technology, and Thiagarajar College are participating in an activity-based water literacy program. These 30+ urban youths are victims of urbanization, struggling to connect with traditional water bodies. Mr. Arumugam highlighted the significance of Thirukural, Purananuru, and other Sangam literature related to water. He related the symposium to a quote from Avvaiyar's literature: "Varupu Uyara.. Neer Uyarum." Each student introduced themselves to the forum by sharing a personal connection to a water body. This exercise brought forth various emotions associated with water, such as happiness, fear, joy, and geographical connections like the sea, river, and drylands.

To create an engaging forum, a quiz was designed covering topics like Water & Knowledge, Water & Tradition, Water & Folklore anecdotes, Water & Literature, and Water & Politics. The answers to the

questions led to comprehensive discussions about water resources, seasons, and traditional water conservation knowledge in the southern region. The story of Col. John Pennycuik was a focal point of interest for the participants. Discussions about the monsoon winds of the country mapped various dimensions of rainfall, livelihoods, and cultural relations. The oration program provided an opportunity for students to highlight their ideas. They discussed sustainable water consumption for future generations, the role of individuals in water conservation, and the need for proactive measures at the individual, family, and institutional levels. Star speaker Ms. Anees Fatima spoke about water bottles and their capitalist implications. Ms. Divyadharshini emphasized the importance of technology and social media in reaching a wider audience. Ms. Sylvia quoted, "Plenty of water without life, but there is no life without water." The poster presentation highlighted the themes of Water & Woman and Water & Youth.

In the special address, Mr. V. Venkatesan emphasized that conservation is a value, not just a skill. He related the positive impact of the Bhoomi Dhan movement to the interest of young like-minded people in conserving water resources. Mr. J. Mohan emphasized the city's role as a reservoir of sewage and the opportunity to utilize greywater for productive purposes. Later, the "Neer Aram" social media drive was launched by the panel members. This platform serves as a call to action and aims to sensitize the masses. The unique stories of Madiyar, Kudimaramathu, water culture, and oornais created personal and emotional connections with the students. The way forward involves developing educational modules for water conservation and strengthening college-level clubs for sustained associations.

Workshop on New Social Order for Agriculture Productivity Enhancement- Perspectives, Practices, Challenges and Way Forward

The workshop on New social order for agriculture productivity enhancement was a unique event envisaging the importance of agriculture and its current scenario at large. The introductory remarks from Mr. M. Palanisamy, Chief Programme Officer, DHAN Foundation has traced the history of Madurai symposium and its relevance to DHAN's mission, vision and values. While sharing his experience in rainfed programme, he insisted the Jeevidam integrators to



Workshop on Redefining Development Education towards New Social Order



identify resource farmers and position them as trainers to enhance productivity in the fellow farmer’s field.

Mr. Mohanalingam, Project Executive explained about the participatory varietal collection and distributed the Sustainable Agriculture Kit (SAK) to the participants. Ms. Thamaraiselvi, Assistant Director of Horticulture has outlined various schemes in horticulture department and also advocated for kitchen garden as a good source for nutrition and income. In his special address, Mr. Thimmi Raj, Director of Farmer's Training Centre (FTC) at Punjab National Bank mentioned that FTC offers both online and offline training on free of cost within a 50-kilometer radius.

Mr. Chandrasekaran, Programme Officer, DHAN Foundation has stated about various challenges faced by small and marginal farmers in India, such as productivity, marketing linkages, and processing. He also provided solutions and advised the Jeevidam integrators to work closely at the grassroots with adequate attention knowledge updation. The presentation given by Mr. Ganesh Kumar, Project Executive, DHAN Foundation has focused on two prominent agenda one on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and another on climate-smart agriculture.

Ms. K. Shanthi, Chief Executive, Jeevidham introduced the lead questions for discussion. The discussion delved around two major areas like declarations for individuals and declarations for institutions. The key areas like moving towards sustainable agriculture practices, preserving organic farming practices, technology dissemination through progressive farmers were deliberated as part of declarations for individuals. On the other hand, the aspects like integration with government departments, awareness creation on improved agriculture practices, and streamlining SAK were focused as major areas for declarations at institutional level.

The DHAN Academy, the host of the Madurai Symposium, convened a workshop on ‘Redefining the Development Education through New Social Order’ in hybrid mode to enable the participation of students pursuing education currently in the academy and also the alumni from different institutions across the nation. The workshop aimed at building knowledge and perspectives on the New Social Order (NSO) and bringing them to gain common understanding on the subject. They could, in turn, reflect the learnings from the workshop in their grassroot work and also the development education curriculum. Many branches of development knowledge constellations educate the students on subject-specific concepts, theories, systems and processes for application in the development world.

Mr. Krishnan Jindal, former Executive Director of NABCONS, in his inaugural address, spoke about how development programmes were being implemented with a top-down approach without proper needs assessment among the beneficiaries. He emphasised the need to adopt a bottom-up approach by involving communities in programme development and design of financing the evolved programmes wherein the community could play a major role in mobilising savings.

Mr. A. Gurunathan, Director, The Dhan Academy, in his lead presentation, narrated the application of philosophies of Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi and J. C. Kumarappa’s economic models in the broader understanding of the New Social Order. He also highlighted the values represented by the 24 Spokes in Dharma Chakra and their connections with the perspectives on New Social Order. The learnings on New Social Order at Individual, family, institution and community levels enriched the courses linked to the

basics of development. He also underscored the need for students to pool the best practices in the society to showcase sustainable models of development with new social order integration.

Dr. M. Thiagarajan, Deputy Director, insisted that development education students should assign more importance to the purpose of serving the poor rather than looking for material benefits. The graduates of the academy should set a goal of emerging as role models through simplicity, unbiased behaviour, treating everyone as equal and mindfulness.

Dr. G.G. Loganathan, in his special remarks, highlighted the gap between the youth and development thinking and observed that the practice of NSO must start from the self and expand to the family, institution and community.

The student participants and alumni resolved to document the best practices from the field from individual to institution to community for knowledge development as part of the development management curriculum in the country.

Workshop on Community Radio: to Ensure Digital Equity in New Social Order



The workshop organised by the Information Communication Technology Programme on the topic, 'Community Radio to ensure Digital Equity in New Social Order', highlighted the role of civil society organisations in using the Civic Media, such as community radio. Mr. B. Muthukumarasamy, Programme Leader, recalled how 'Vayalaga Vanoli,' the community FM radio, was promoted to foster behavioural change communication among the listeners in and around Kottampatti of Madurai district.

Mr. J. Madhan Kumar, Project Executive, DHAN Foundation, said the community radio was a localised, non-commercial and grassroots-driven broadcasting

medium that prioritised community engagement, participation and relevance. It served as an invaluable asset and platform for various important reasons, each contributing to its significance and relevance. While comparing the community radio with other media, he said content validation was done by the community itself for community radio, which had informed listeners whereas the other media did not know who were their listeners. Since the broadcast of the community radio was in the language of the community it developed a sense of ownership among the community.

Pulavar Ku. Lakshmi Kanthan, one of the leaders of Kottampatti Vayalagam Federation, who shared the benefits of the Vayalaga Vanoli, said the Farmers' Producer Company of Kottampatti was effectively using the community radio for market information dissemination. The programmes of the Vayalaga Vanoli increased the productivity of the poor farmers by presenting success stories of promising farmers in the area. Information on the successful tank renovation work done by Vayalagams over the radio inspired young farmers in villages to get interested in preserving the tanks in their panchayat.

Mr. Sundarapandian of Vayalaga Vanoli FM station said its broadcast reached out to 360 villages in the Kottampatti panchayat. The workshop also had a live demo of DHVANI, web radio of DHAN Foundation.

Community representatives comprising farmers, women leaders and students favoured the addition of services like weather forecast, especially in coastal areas, water literacy, awareness of new agricultural technologies in the broadcast.

Workshop on Fostering Model Community School by People Institutions to Nurture New Social Order

Mr. S. Elamuhil, the anchor of the workshop, welcomed the DHAN regional coordinators, federation coordinators, and federation leaders from six blocks of Tamil Nadu. In his introductory remark, shared that the education initiative of DHAN Foundation has come up with five components for intervention, such as establishing 'Model community schools', strengthening learning processes in government single-teacher and two-teacher, supplementing Anganwadis, promoting supplementary evening schools for vulnerable children, and scholastic support for children from the economically weaker section who face the board exams. He also shared that the purpose of the workshop is to



co-develop the fundamentals and action plan for Model Community School as a resource hub for the rest of the above-mentioned components.

Mr. T. Ragavan, Coordinator of Karunai DHAN Nursery and Primary School, Nilakottai powered by DHAN Foundation, shared that the evolution of the school from 28 students to 400 students in a period of 15 years is due to the key principles such as affordable quality education, transparency in financials, creative in developing education modules, frugal management and student-centric educational processes. He motivated the participants that it is possible for every people institution to promote a self-sustained Model Community School, especially for the poor. He explained the basic formalities to establish a school and insisted on starting with a nursery school so that the school could grow along with building the capacity of the people involved in school.

Mr. Karthikeyan, Co-Anchor of the workshop, and Mr. Yash, SBI YFI Fellow introduced alternative education spaces such as Marudham Farm school, Poovidham, Aarohi learning centre. They shared that each alternative school thrusts on the philosophies they believe in and are evolutionary in nature. They also

highlighted that these alternative spaces embrace the students that are expelled by the mainstream education system. They also shared that 'self-designed' curriculum, student-centric teaching-learning processes, multi-cultural environment, eco-sensitive approaches, Gurukul model and co-sensitizing the parents could be some of the elements that would fit better in the fundamentals of the Model Community School.

To add global flavour to the workshop Mr. A. Selvam, Education Consultant, virtually connected two school students from Norway and UK to share their schooling experiences with the participants. The participants asked questions on education models, examination, teaching methods, punishments, dream school, reading habits outside the school, cultural shock, subjects, school timings, and marking systems. Introducing cooking and theology as subjects for middle school students, building self-learning as a culture, self-aware about body and psych, 50-50 classroom and outdoor sessions, and learning through mother language, are some of the elements that excited the participants.

As learning of the workshop participants shared that their initial perspectives on Model Community School were about having good infrastructure and quality teachers at an affordable fee, but the session was an eye opener that there are multiple pillars, a model school thrusts on. They expressed that they have a huge responsibility that they would like to shoulder for the better future of their children.

As the action forward the federation leaders expressed that they would develop an education inception document for their block with key importance to one-teacher schools, hamlets without schools, and education necessities of children from economically weaker sections.

For more information, please reach us at

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NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

The theme of the symposium is 'Advancing development: new social order,' said DHAN Foundation Executive Director M.P. Vasimalai.

According to a press statement, the symposium will host 10 community conventions and over 35 workshops and seminars. Mahatma Gandhi opines 'Poverty is the Mother of Violence'. Therefore, the development must be all-

மதுரையில் தானம் அறக்கட்டளை முன்னேறும் வளர்ச்சிக்கான நெறியை உருவாக்குதல் என்ற தரங்கு நடந்தது.

கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதல் மினாட்சி சுந்தரம் பேசுகையில், உடர் செயலாக்கங்கள் மேலிருந்து கீழாக உள்ளது. 1952ல் கல்வி, விவசாயம், கால்நடை வளர்ச்சி, நீர்ப்பாசனம் போன்ற திட்டங்களை கிராமங்களை கலந்தாலோசிக்காமல் மத்திய அரசு அமல்படுத்தியது. அதனால் காலப்போக்கில் மக்களுக்கும் நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சிக்கும் தொடர்பு இல்லாமல் போனது" என்றார்.

அறக்கட்டளை தலைவர் பங்கேரா, நிர்வாக இயக்குநர் வாசிமலை, அவுரிக்க கண் மருக்காவ

DHAN Foundation will host a five-day knowledge development event called 'Madurai Symposium' from September 23 with a special focus on community development. DHAN set to host 10 conventions and over 35 workshops and seminars on

development

கிராம மக்களை ஆலோசித்து திட்டங்கள் வகுக்க வேண்டும்

கர்நாடக மாநில முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல்
 * மதுரை
 மதுரை மக்களை கவனிக்கிறது திட்டமிடும் போது நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சி வந்தால் மட்டுமே கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல். மதுரை மக்களை கவனிக்கிறது திட்டமிடும் போது நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சி வந்தால் மட்டுமே கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல். மதுரை மக்களை கவனிக்கிறது திட்டமிடும் போது நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சி வந்தால் மட்டுமே கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல்.



மதுரையில் தானம் அறக்கட்டளை சாலை நடைமுறைப்படுத்தும் போது கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல்.

திட்ட செயலாக்கங்கள் அமைக்கும் போது நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சி வந்தால் மட்டுமே கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல். மதுரை மக்களை கவனிக்கிறது திட்டமிடும் போது நிரந்தர வளர்ச்சி வந்தால் மட்டுமே கர்நாடக முன்னாள் முதன்மைச் செயலாளர் தகவல்.



S.S. Meenakshi Sundaram, former IAS officer, speaking at the inauguration of Madurai Symposium on Saturday, 6/9/2023

He was speaking at the inauguration of the 11th edition of Madurai Symposium organised by the DHAN Foundation. He said that initially development was viewed from top to bottom. However, it did not yield the desired results. The bottom-to-top approach will yield results and this was the new social

He pointed out that through CSR activities a lot of changes were achieved and people should use them to improve villages. Speaking about the need for an inclusive development, Executive Director, LAICO, Aravind Hospital, R.D. Thaisiraj, said that any organisation involved in social development should have inclusiveness. Nobody should be left behind. Accessibility to services and proactiveness to include everyone should be achieved through a proper mindset, he said. Vice Chairperson of Karanjiam Movement Padma Shri P. Chinnappillai, President of Vallayalam Mutual Movement V. Durairaj and President of Neithal Mutual Movement M. Sankar